

Mediterranean ecosystem

Restoration sites



Forest

Forest landscape restoration in Lebanon

The Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR) is a mountainous landscape extending from about 1100 to 1900 meters in the southern extension of Mount Lebanon. The climate of this area is characterized by a bio-climatic gradient from the Supra-Mediterranean type at the lower altitudes, with fresh to cold temperatures and sub-humid conditions, to the Oro-Mediterranean type at higher altitudes, characterized by sub-humid to humid conditions and cold to very cold temperatures. In the eastern slopes of West Beqaa there are drier conditions with less annual rainfall.

Goals

Restore the ecological, socio-economic and cultural resilience of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve landscape.

General information


Organisation
Shouf Cedar Reserve


Type of organisation
Local or subnational NGO or
Community-Based Organisation (CBO)

Contact person
Nizar Hani
nizar@shoufcedar.org

Website
<http://shoufcedar.org/>

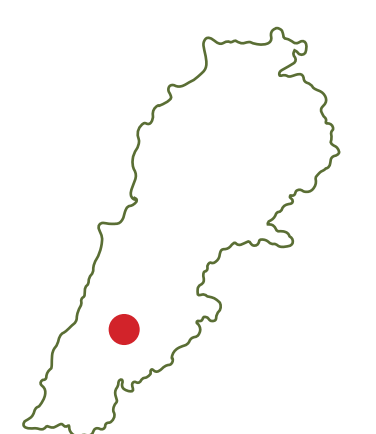
 **Implementation area**
50 000ha

 **Hiking trails**
+ 250 km

 **Duration time**
Jan 2012
→ Ongoing

 **Restored terraces**
250 ha

Site location



Latitude
33° 41' 23.54"N

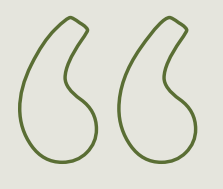
Longitude
35° 42' 4.57"E



Scan the code
for full description



LEBANON



We are farmers. Two brothers from Ain Zhalta, one of the villages of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve. Despite trying our best, we had a very modest income and could barely make ends meet. Since we started working with the Shouf Biosphere Reserve some 4 four years ago, we have developed a very successful business in agriculture and agritourism. The team came to us with practical and theoretical knowledge related to sustainable agriculture. We learned how to produce our own seedlings using original species that proved to be resilient to diseases and we are now doing our own compost using any remains from agriculture or cleaning forests, in addition to animal manure from our own animals. We learned that the forest surrounding us and our farm are one entity. We have visitors who want to see our work, so we are engaged in agritourism. We have farmers who want to learn and share experiences and the SBR established a “Sustainable Farming School” on our premises. And we now have a nice hall to use for the workshops and for receiving our visitors. We have been able to earn a decent living and look forward to an even better future.

Ramzi and Wajdi Abou Saab



Type of restoration intervention

- Assisted natural regeneration
- Tree planting
- Fencing
- Livestock control (grazing plans)
- Soil restoration by mulching
- Soil restoration by green manure
- Silvicultural practices
- Integration of timber or fruit species on cropped fields (agroforestry)
- Introduction of wildlife
- Value chain development
- Development of production protocols for high quality seeds and seedlings of a wide range of native trees, shrubs and herbs.

Main drivers of degradation

- Grazing land management
- Croplands and agroforestry management
- Forests and tree plantation management
- Non-timber natural resource extraction
- Fire regime changes
- Extractive industry development
- Infrastructure and industrial development and urbanisation
- Demographic
- Economic
- Science, knowledge and technology
- Institutions and governance
- Cultural

What is the practice about

- Nursery production of climate-adapted, high-quality seedlings
- Increase soil water availability and seedling survival
- Planting interventions
- Establishment of fenced plots
- Reintroduction of the Nubian ibex
- Combined management of agriculture waste and wood for bioenergy and compost production
- Effective governance of short-distance transhumance
- Value chain development
- Development of nature trails
- Participatory process to define the boundaries of buffer zone
- Organised visits with different public and private stakeholders
- Adaptive management monitoring methods to evaluate performance

Achievements and impact

- Restoration of 200 hectares of degraded forests and pastures
- 70% of survival rate for restoration without additional field water supplies
- Decrease of forest restoration costs from USD 10 per planted seedling to USD 2.5-3
- Empowerment and professionalisation of the staff in plant production and field planting
- Reduction by 2/3 of the energy cost of locally produced briquettes
- Reduction of the forest fires
- Production of 400 tons per year of high-quality organic compost
- 250 hectares of restored terraces put into organic production



Scan the code for more information about Mediterranean Ecosystem Restoration sites



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
2021-2030