

SPNL
DARWIN PROJECT ‘Strengthening scientific capacity’
ACTION PLAN

Activities	Targets (as developed at start of project)	Progress/notes
Milestones 2006		
Workshops/ Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Inception Workshop attended (Sept 06) 	Presentation made to SPNL staff in September after participation in inception workshop to share information, documents and decide on a demo project
Training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training needs identified for internship 	Training needs identified as follows: - Making maps using GIS software to locate IBAs - Software to analyze and present results of newly identified IBAs to advocacy personnel, and scientific report writing phases
Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Demo Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo Project identified & agreed • Demo project started 	Demo project = The Identification and Conservation of New “Important Bird Areas” in Lebanon
Datasets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st press information on Darwin Project launch produced 	Link to the SPNL website news section , www.spnlb.org , http://www.spnlb.org/news.php?nid=10&p=

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Milestones 2007	
Workshops/ Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials produced for Darwin Workshop at Middle East Partnership Meeting • Darwin Workshop organised & facilitated at Middle East Partnership Meeting • 1st National Seminar organised
	<p>- Presentation in Yemen Regional Birdlife International Meeting, Nov 06 by Soumar Dakdouk</p> <p>- Arabic Field Guide Launching Ceremony, 16 Jan 07. (a) Briefing of SPNL projects including Darwin Projects by SPNL Director General, Mr. Assad Serhal, host of the event. (b) Slides were flipping on a background screen to display SPNL numerous donors, while Assad was thanking those who have contributed for the guide as well as our partners and other donors, and briefing on projects.</p> <p>- Community Training in Ammiq where key SSG members from the newly identified IBAs in year 2006 were introduced to basic bird identification skills, conservation issues, and IBA monitoring. This training was implemented through the IBA research project funded by MAVA where the Darwin project was introduced also by Bassima Khatib, SPNL Assistant Director General, Feb. 07. Another community training was organized within the IBA project on 27/28 October 07 for the newly declared IBAs during year 2007 in Kahhaleh village. This workshop included an introduction about SPNL, its aims and projects. Special stress was given to the IBA programme and the Darwin scientific project.</p> <p>- Hima Regional Workshop March 07. During the discussions of the need to improve the scientific status of the researches conducted in various sectors i.e. biodiversity (species, habitats, IBAs, Himas) / local community work / policy etc in the region; SPNL team highlighted that the improvement of scientific reporting is going to be achieved in SPNL by year 2008 via the Darwin Project, and this could be disseminated among the region as a way to improve the region’s scientific status in Himas/IBAs.</p> <p>- The Sustainable Hunting Project implemented two awareness workshop in Ammiq addressing law enforcement officers on 9/10 May and 5/6 June 07. They included representatives from: 1- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities - Officers of Interior Security. 2- Ministry of Agriculture - Forests and Hunting Guards. 3- Ministry of Environment - Guards of Protected Areas. The workshops covered bird identification skills, introduction about SPNL, IBA programme and the Darwin project, conservation issues, and the hunting law.</p>

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Training needs	•	
Internship	• Internship undertaken	<p>SPNL nominated two people: Sami Tarabay & Nada Farah to represent SPNL in the internship at the BirdLife main office in Cambridge. Only Nada was able to attend the internship due to visa problems for Sami. The internship extended for two weeks from 25 October to 7 November 2007. The internship covered introduction to the IBA programme, Darwin project, IBA monitoring and the WBDB, introduction to GIS and digitization techniques, in addition to an overview on the regional projects and initiatives in the Middle East region.</p> <p>The internship was planned directly before the regional IBA training workshop organized in Jordan from 7-9 November 2007 in parallel with the Middle East Regional meeting (11-15 November 2007) whereby Nada attended the whole program.</p>
Demo Projects	•	
Datasets	• National IBA datasets developed	SPNL is continuously updating their national database on the IBAs, especially through the IBA MAVA funded research project. This project ends by March 2008, where national IBA datasets are expected to be produced.
Web	• Web-WBDB	<p>SPNL team has been trained on the use of the web based WBDB. SPNL would be the first partner in the ME to be trained on the web based database, and this was achieved by SPNL special request to have it and start working on it before the official launching, in order to meet the Darwin deliverables. https://www.globalconservation.info/ . The real data from previous years are being put on the live system by Birdlife personnel; in the meantime SPNL team had access to the training site to get acquainted with it. During year 2007, SPNL had invested tremendous efforts to upgrade the data on the 11 declared IBAs in Lebanon on the Live WBDB.</p> <p>Further, SPNL is the first in the ME region to insert information on the Hima-LCGs module where information on the local conservation groups in the 3 Himas in Lebanon was inserted during Nov.-Dec. 07 (namely: Ebel es-Saqi, Kfar Zabad wetlands, and Qoleileh marine site).</p>
Reports	•	Reports on the sites under study are produced on annual basis.
Press	•	
Advocacy	•	The map highlighting the sites under study as proposed IBAs has been used for advocacy on national basis. For example: during the planning for the National Master Plan for Land Use Management, and for the Quarries national plan.

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Milestones 2008	
Workshops/ Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Partnership Meeting attended (Sept 08) • 2nd National Seminar organised <p>The BirdLife International conference held in Buenos Aires – Argentina between the 22st and the 29th of September 2008, was attended by Nada Farah (SPNL) and Sami Abou Rjeili (Coordinator for the Site Support Group in Hima Anjar/Kfar Zabad). Nada Farah had interventions in three workshops: (1) The IBA monitoring experience in Lebanon; (2) Delivering conservation for IBAs – Local Conservation groups; (3) Investing in Individuals.</p> <p>SPNL (Nada Farah, Sari Serhal, and Yasmine Khayrallah) attended the “9iemes Assises Jeunes & Mediterranee) which took place in Villefranche –sur-mer (France) and Genes (Italy) from the 31st of March till the 5th of April 2008. The SPNL team was representing the Lebanese delegation. The theme of this year’s programme was about the impact of climate change on the Mediterranean. The team provided a presentation on the organisation and its achievements; including the IBA programme and its online Database (WBDB). The SPNL is planning to join the Mediterranean Network created by the CDMM (Centre de Découverte du Monde Marin) working on the protection of the marine biodiversity and on environmental education and awareness (especially with youth). http://www.decouvertmondemarin.org/</p> <p>Also Nada Farah attended the “Gap-filling and Monitoring Workshop for Middle East in Amman, from the 15th till the 18th of April 2008 organized by the WOW project. The first aim of the this regional workshops was to fill the gaps in knowledge about migratory waterbirds in the Middle East Region and in the existing site network by identifying new sites that should be surveyed for waterbirds and prioritising them first nationally, then at the regional level. The second aim of the workshops was to evaluate the status of IBA/IWC monitoring schemes, and develop national action plans to improve site coverage of these schemes and the coordination of IBA and IWC monitoring. The regional workshop aim was to promote better coordination between the different networks at national level. National training needs in waterbird monitoring were assessed and equipment requirements were identified.</p> <p>As a part of the project titled “Creating Dialogue and Cooperation Schemes between Anjar & Kfar Zabad villages through shared environmental concerns”, funded by OTI Lebanon, bird identification training course was held on the 23rd, 24th, & 25th of June 08 with the presence of 22 participants from Anjar/ Kfar Zabad villages (4 participants from KZ SSG & others members were from Anjar SSG). The following course introduced the physiology of bird, how to identify birds, the aspect of bird migration and the importance of wetlands as habitats for migratory birds, the importance of birds as key biodiversity species etc. Further, the course introduced the IBA programme, research, database and monitoring. The training course included two field visits to Ammiq and Hima Kfar Zabad wetlands in order to practice bird identification and bird watching. The field visit to Hima Kfar Zabad wetland was effective where it gave an idea to Anjar SSGs about the roles that they can practice in Hima management and protection.</p> <p>On behalf of SPNL, two people (Tala Al Khatib and Nada Farah) attended a capacity building workshop on Project Design and Proposal writing held on June 28 & 29 and July 26 & 27 organized by the International Management and Training Institute (IMTI), under USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) umbrella. IMTI on behalf of the OTI Lebanon project also organized an important workshop on volunteer outreach, recruitment & management on August 9 & 10, 2008, which was also attended by two of SPNL’s team (Dalia Al- Jawhary and Nada Farah).</p>

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Training needs	•	
Internships	•	
Demo Projects	•	<p>The field research activities for the Demo Project “The Identification and Conservation of New “Important Bird Areas” in Lebanon” has ended on 28 February 08, and its final report submitted. The results of the field assessments on the declared IBAs are being incorporated into the World Bird Database.</p> <p>SPNL is working with the local authorities-municipalities for the conservation of IBA sites through the Hima approach.</p> <p>Following the declaration of Mansouri coast as a Hima on the 16th of February 2008, a project is under study to expand the conservation of the southern coastline, by merging the Mansouri Coast to the Qoleileh Marine Hima with the aim of reaching Naqoura at later stages. Accordingly, the SDC team made a visit to the site on the 13th of March 2008 for the purpose of monitoring the outcomes of the project in Qoleileh Marine Hima and considering the possibility of starting a new one. Another project was launched in Qoleileh Hima aiming to empower women involvement in the Hima conservation and promote job creation.</p> <p>The FFEM (Fond Français pour l’Environnement Mondial) project -“Support to the Nature Reserves in Lebanon”- has been launched in August 2008. This project covers 6 protected areas in Lebanon including Hima Kfar Zabad. The project will bring financial support for the conservation, and socio-economical valorisation of the site. Therefore a habitat survey and an ecological assessment will be established as well as a management plan. Also the project will be dealing with methods to raise environmental awareness as a cross-cutting issue for all the involved sites.</p> <p>The Soaring bird project Launching ceremony on the 23rd of June 2008.</p>
Datasets	• National IBA dataset further developed	<p>SPNL worked on updating the World Bird Database specifically on the “IBA monitoring section” stressing the three components: Threats/Conditions/Actions. Some have been totally updated and even assessed twice for two different years (namely: Ras Baalbek, Ammiq Wetland, Kfar Zabad -Anjar, Qaraoun Lake, and Tannourine Nature Reserve). On the other hand, some have their “Condition (State)” section incomplete due to the lack of data resources or their unavailability (namely: Beirut River Valley, Chouf Cedars Nature Reserve, Ebel El Saqi, Horsh Ehdén Nature Reserve, Palm Island Nature Reserve, Qaa El Rim –Sannine). However, the two other parts have been totally completed.</p> <p>SPNL is working on data entries and corrections for the 3 new proposed IBAs which are namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Upper Mountains of Akkar Donnieh comprised of 4 regions: Fneideq, Mechmach, Qammouaa & Wadi Jouhanam (Criteria: A1, A2, A3, A4iv) 2- Bentaël (Criteria: B1iv of the IBA Middle eastern criteria) 3- Ramlieh (Criteria: B1iv of the IBA Middle eastern criteria)
Web	• Website & web material developed	A draft proposal has been developed to renovate and upgrade the SPNL website.

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Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Final reporting on the Demo project has been finalized & submitted. All relevant data on the declared IBAs is being incorporated in the World Bird database.</p> <p>A bird survey was made on Jabal Moussa by A Rocha Lebanon and a report submitted by SPNL to Birdlife International, recommending its designation as an Important Bird Area under the A4iv criteria. (Year 2008).</p>
Scientific papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>SPNL & A Rocha organizations are currently preparing collaboratively scientific papers in order to disseminate the outputs of the IBA scientific project.</p>
Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd press information produced 	<p>It is planned to disseminate the results of the Demo project through the production of an updated pamphlet including all declared IBAs in Lebanon. The pamphlet is currently under graphic design to be distributed during the Final ceremony for the IBA project planned end of March 09.</p> <p>A press release / articles in the daily newspapers are expected in order to target wide dissemination about the results of the IBA scientific project.</p>
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>The inventory of IBAs produced during the IBA scientific project will be used to advocate for their conservation in the national plans.</p>
Follow-on activities & workplans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-on activities & workplan being developed through e.g. BirdLife Regional Programme (Sept 08) 	

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Milestones 2009		
Workshops/ Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd National Seminar organised 	<p>Under the Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme, SPNL is organising – in collaboration with A Rocha Lebanon - a training workshop on February 7th and 8th 2009 on (the basics of ecology, bird identification, nature conservation and IBA programme and monitoring). The training will take place at the campus of the American University of Beirut-AUB. Confirmed participants include representatives of the newly declared IBAs in addition to interested people from other key biodiversity sites, conservation NGOs & AUB staff.</p> <p>Final ceremony for the IBA research project is planned around end of March hosted at the Ministry of Environment in order to address the scientific community & conservation NGOs & relevant ministries. The aim of the ceremony is disseminate the scientific results of the IBA research project to a wide audience who would benefit from it.</p>
Training needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Training on Geographic Information System (GIS) will be provided for 1-2 people from SPNL staff through the FFEM-AFD project.
Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Demo Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Datasets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National IBA datasets further developed 	WBDB will be updated with all the data provided through the IBA research project, especially regarding the 14 declared IBAs in Lebanon.
Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	The Website of SPNL is planned to be renovated
Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National IBA reports produced – policy relevant 	A pamphlet on the 14 IBAs of Lebanon will be published end of February 2009, to be distributed on a wide scale on national basis. It will be developed in two languages (English & Arabic versions) for wider dissemination & benefit.
Scientific papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper submitted for peer review 	Scientific papers highlighting the results of the IBA research project are currently under development (expected to be finalized in the coming period).
Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd press information produced on termination & results, recommendations etc. 	In parallel to the Final ceremony, efforts will be done to ensure wide media coverage & press releases about the project results & recommendations.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy plan developed & started 	The results of the IBA research project would be used as a basis for a national advocacy plan for their conservation.
Follow-on activities & workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-on activities & workplan developed 	