

Conserving wild plants and habitats for people in
the **south and east Mediterranean**

Important Plant Areas

2016
C A L E N D A R

**You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot
keep spring from coming**

Pablo Neruda



Middle Atlas landscape. Photo: WWF / Morocco



Important Plant Areas or IPAs are internationally significant sites for wild plants and fungi.

Many Mediterranean IPAs contain plants that support people's livelihoods and help to assess the effectiveness of conservation activities.

Plantlife



Plants add colour to your life Colour yours today with petals, fragrance and spice!

January
2016

Morocco

How many plants can you use in one day? Every day, thousands of plants are being used everywhere.

Moroccan markets showcase how this diversity and abundance of useful plants is at the core of an important economic resource for local communities.

Sustainable plant collection is essential to ensure the compatibility between plant uses and their conservation.

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Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature

Gérard de Nerval

February
2016

Lebanon

The Tyre - Naqoura IPA is home to characteristic sandy and rocky coast flora and habitats all along the largest beach in Lebanon.

These habitats also shelter important nesting areas for birds and sea turtles.

This IPA is located within the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve which helps to combine nature conservation and tourism activities.

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve. Photo: N. Lobartolo // *Pancretium maritimum*. Photo: N. Lobartolo // Lebanon.

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Every breath you take depends on plants

March
2016

Turkey

Ahir Dagı IPA is a limestone mountain dominated by steppe and grassland communities.

The flora is spectacular with endemic species like *Salvia marashica* growing on rocky slopes and blooming in spring.

With no formal protection, the site's designation as IPA provides a framework to minimize threats like fuelwood collection, overgrazing, construction of summer housing and orchards.

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Care for the Rare

April
2016

Montenegro

Vrsuta IPA supports one of the only two populations of the beautiful Balkan endemic *Gymnospermium scipetarum* species.

This thriving plant population relies on the shade cast by low oak and beech trees and is monitored by volunteers.

Major threats today include fuelwood collection and recent road construction. A spatial plan is under preparation by the local municipal authorities to promote its formal protection.

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What is a bee without a flower? You can't have one without the other

May
2016

Algeria

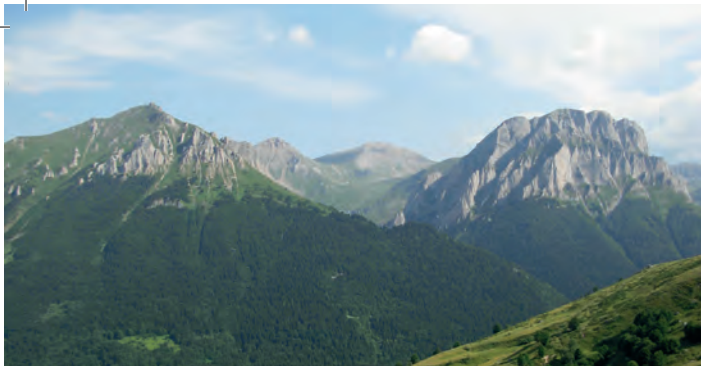
The **Gouraya National Park** and IPA harbour exceptionally rare flora on vertical limestone rock faces overlooking the sea.

The ***Erodium battandierianum***, an endemic plant, can be admired in this part of Algeria.

The official protection of this IPA helps to limit threats like fire, visitor pressure and quarrying.

Gouraya National Park. Cap Carbon. Photo: R. Khellaf // *Erodium battandierianum*. Photo: R. Khellaf // Algeria.

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Green spaces are nature's playground Get out and connect with plants!

June
2016

Macedonia

Found in central mountains of the Balkan Peninsula, *Androsace hedreantha* is a tiny endemic plant growing in the **Shar Planina** IPA.

The Alpine grasslands above the mountain tree line provide wonderful outdoor resources for visitors and locals. Botanical excursions to enjoy and learn about its flora and the natural area take place in collaboration with local communities.

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Shar Planina IPA. Photo: L. Melovski //

Androsace hedreantha. Photo: L. Melovski- Macedonian Ecological Society // Macedonia (FYROM).



Look deep into nature,
and then you will understand everything better *Albert Einstein*

July
2016

Montenegro

Lake Scadar - National Park and IPA - is the largest lake on the Balkan Peninsula. Surrounded by karst mountains, it hosts a myriad of wildlife and is renowned for its natural beauty.

One of its most striking features is the extensive amount of submerged, floating and emergent water plants like the *Trapa natans*.

Its National Park status protects the flora against threats such as unplanned tourism development, water eutrophication due to pollution or the spread of invasive species.

Lake Scadar National Park. Photo: Green Home // *Trapa natans*. Photo: Green Home // Montenegro.

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Ancient forests are our heritage Will they be our grandchildren's too?

August
2016

Algeria

Chelia Aures IPA has a beautiful forest of *Cedrus atlantica*. A high number of endemic plant species like *Catananche caespitosa* grow in it.

This area remains unprotected to date. Its official designation as an IPA can provide the framework for actions to stop the present decline of cedar forests.

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Cedrus atlantica forest at Chelia Aures IPA. Photo: A. Briki // *Catananche caespitosa*. Photo: Y. Beghami // Algeria.



Plants are good for our economy Let's make sure our economy is good for plants

September
2016

Morocco

A rugged mountain massif forms the **Eastern High Atlas National Park** and IPA, sheltering a variety of endemic flora species like *Vella mairei*.

The variety of plant resources is vital for local communities and their daily activities, such as sheep and goat farming, timber harvest and honey production.

Buying products from sustainable sources is the natural choice to ensure those activities are not exerting pressure on the local flora and vegetation.

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Though a tree grows so high,
the falling leaves return to the root *Malay proverb*

October
2016

Macedonia

Osogovo IPA supports some of Macedonia's most ancient and diverse beech forests, and contains endemic plant species like the remarkable *Genista fukarekiana*.

This area remains unprotected to date and is threatened by a decline in biodiversity relevant farming systems, an increase in timber extraction and related industries.

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Osogovo IPA beech forest. Photo: Despina Kitanova //

Genista fukarekiana. Photo: Despina Kitanova-Macedonian Ecological Society // Macedonia (FYROM).



There are thousands of plants in the Mediterranean waiting for you to discover them

November
2016

Turkey

The Berit Dagi IPA massif harbours an array of forests, montane cushion-steppes and endemic alpine rock communities.

An example of the rich flora sometimes confined to this site is *Astragalus dumanii*, an endemic plant growing in calcareous alpine steppes, screes and rocky slopes in South Anatolia.

The degradation of the forest cover could be slowed down through more controlled tree cutting activities by the local rural population.

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The life of trees is in our hands, and our life is in theirs

December
2016

Lebanon

The **Shouf Biosphere Reserve** and IPA are rich in threatened, endemic and restricted-range plant species.

Shouf's famous Lebanese cedar forests of *Cedrus libani* are doing well thanks to protection against excessive grazing and other threats.

The endemic *Cyclamen libanoticum* flourishes among rocks and tree roots in the shade of shrubs and trees.

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Psephellus goeksunensis // Drawing: Gulten Yegenaga // Rubicon

Nature is not a place to visit. It is home
Gary Snyder



www.iucn.org/mediterranean • www.plantlife.org.uk