



# IDENTIFYING, ADVANCING AND REPORTING OECMs

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***PRE-WORKSHOP CASE STUDY OF A POTENTIAL OECM  
The Case of Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve (Lebanon)***

WORKSHOP ON OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES IN NORTH AFRICA AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. *Tunis, 10 and 11 February 2020*

with the support of:



Convention on  
Biological Diversity





# SITE DETAILS

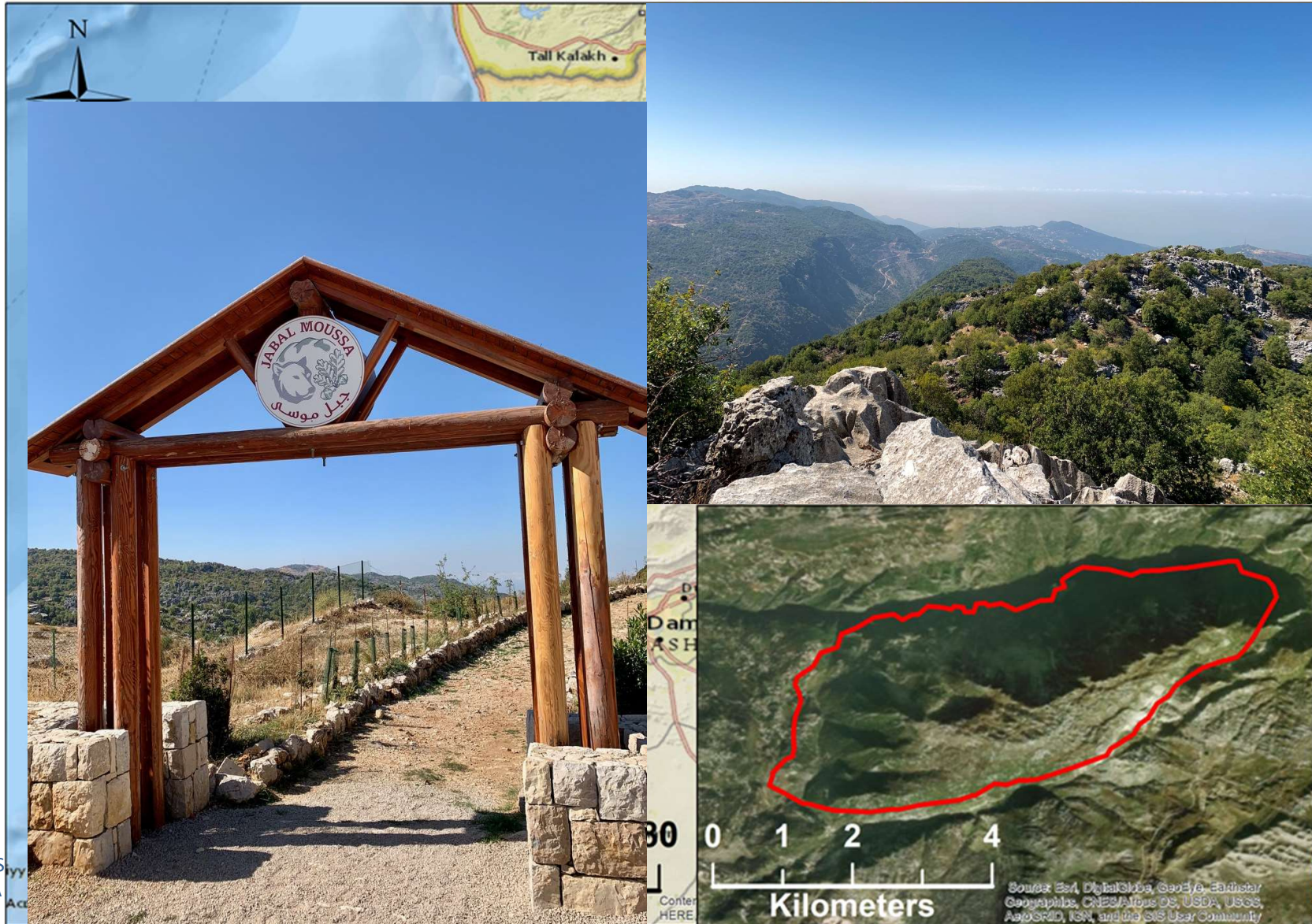
*What is the name and location of the 'potential OECM'?*

- **Name:** Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve
- **Location:** NW Lebanon
- **Governance authority:** Private





# SITE DETAILS



## Criterion A: NOT A PROTECTED AREA

*Is the area recognized as a protected area?*

- *Partly:*
  - Not in the Lebanese Law on PAs or the country's Ministry of Environment's website (<http://www.moe.gov.lb/ProtectedAreas/categories.htm>).
  - It has an international designation (UNESCO MaB Programme) and it has been reported to the WDPA.
  - A part of Jabal Moussa's core zone was designated as a Protected Forest by the Ministry of Agriculture & a larger part of its core zone was designated as a Protected Natural Site by the Ministry of Environment (<https://www.jabalmoussa.org/designations>), although they are not included in the country's PA coverage figures.

Thus, the potential OECM could encompass the non-protected part of the core zone plus the buffer zone and transition zone.

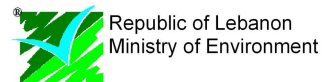


# Criterion B: Governance and Management

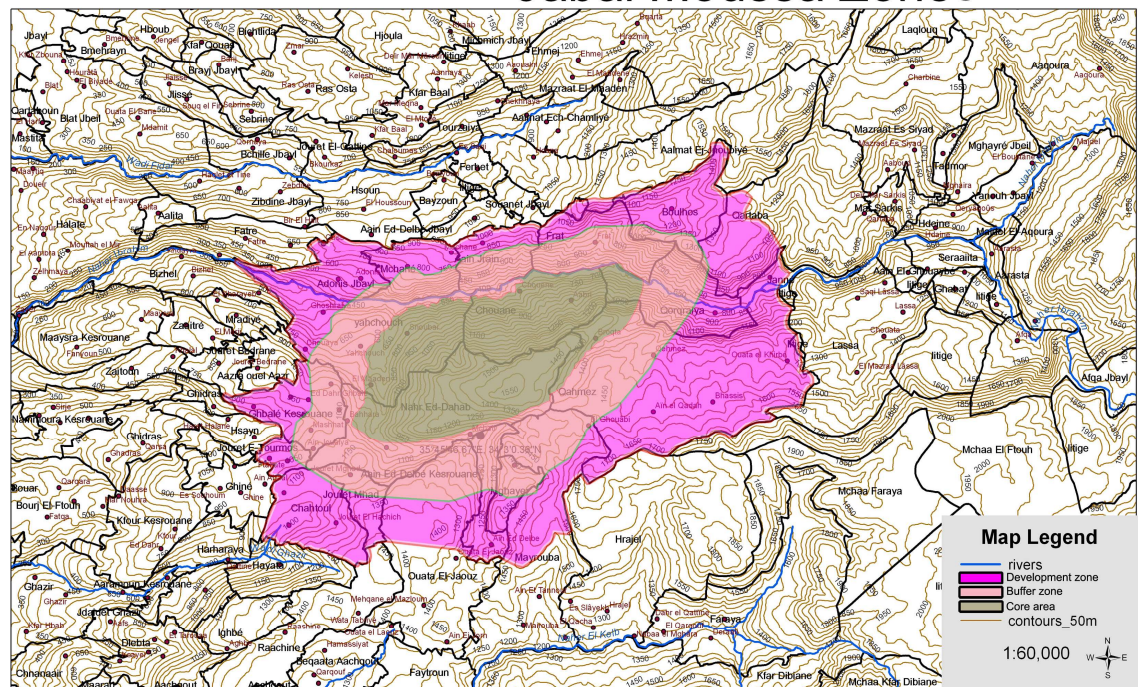
## B1. GEOGRAPHICALLY DEFINED

*What are the area's boundaries, or  
How will you ascertain the area's boundaries?*

- Geographically defined Boundaries (plus BR zoning)



### Zonation Map Jabal Moussa Zones





## Criterion B: Governance and Management

### B2. GOVERNED

*Who are the governance authorities? Are they government, private or Indigenous peoples/local communities?*

- By private and public land owners, mostly the Lebanese Maronite Patriarchate. Managed on a lease agreement by an NGO (APJM).

*Do they have rights to govern the area, or are the governance, land and/or natural resource rights contested?*

- Partly. They are land owners of part of the site. There is some contestation by local farmers because of cattle loss due to predators

*Is the area equitably managed? Are any rightful governance authorities being marginalized?*

- TBA?





## Criterion B: Governance and Management

### B3. MANAGED

*What are the management objectives?*

- Improvement of human livelihoods and nature conservation (BR)

*How are the management objectives contributing to the conservation of biodiversity?*

- Positive biodiversity outcomes are suggested:

“Jabal Moussa is today a safe haven to a remarkable biodiversity, most notably endemic and threatened flora species, such as the *Salvia peyronii* and the *Cyclamen libanoticum*” (APJM).

“The extent of biodiversity disturbance is less if compared to other sites in Lebanon and this probably due to the difficult landscape, inaccessibility of the area, and the surrounding un-urbanized mountainous area” (Abi Said, 2009), though monitoring data seem absent.





## Criterion C: Effective and sustained conservation

### C1. BIODIVERSITY VALUES

*How will you assess the biodiversity values of the area?*

- Some studies by the APJM: <https://www.jabalmoussa.org/reserve>

*What kinds of biodiversity values does the area have?*

- *26 plant species with populations in Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve are endemic to Lebanon such as *Salvia fruticosa libanotica*, *Origanum libanoticum*, or *Origanum ehrenbergii*, and 6 are endemic to the BR among which *Pentapera sicula*, *Cyclamen libanoticum*, *Salvia peyronii*.*
- *Jabal Moussa was declared an IBA (Important Bird Area). In total, over 130 species of migratory, seasonal and resident breeding birds have been observed in the area.*
- *More than 20 wild mammal species among which common ones like the fox, squirrel, wild boar, but also species limited to the region of the Middle East or North Africa, e.g. the rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis syriaca*), or the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*). Jabal Moussa is a confirmed breeding site for the wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*).*
- *Around 30 species of amphibians and reptiles.*
- *A range of Lepidoptera species and even led to the discovery of two new species: *Neuratelia jabalmoussae* and *Micropterix jabalmoussae*.*





## Criterion C: Effective and sustained conservation C2,3,4. Effective Conservation

*How are internal threats addressed? How are external threats addressed?*

- Qualitatively in internal reports: Threats include: hunting, deforestation, urbanization, over-grazing, quarries, logging, forest fires, wildlife poisoning and potential human disturbance due to visitation.

*Is the management regime intended to be sustained over the long-term, or subject to change?*

- Long-term designation as a Biosphere Reserve is expected, though active management is undertaken by a mid-term lease agreement with landowners which might cease at some point. Designation under a national protected area category is expected in the medium term.



## Criterion C: Effective and sustained conservation C2,3,4. Effective Conservation

*Is the area large enough on its own, or as part of an established and integrated conservation network, to conserve biodiversity in-situ over the long term?*

- 6,500 ha.

*Is the management regime in place year-round, or on another basis?*

- Management on a yearly basis but medium-term through renewable lease agreement with landowners (APJM).

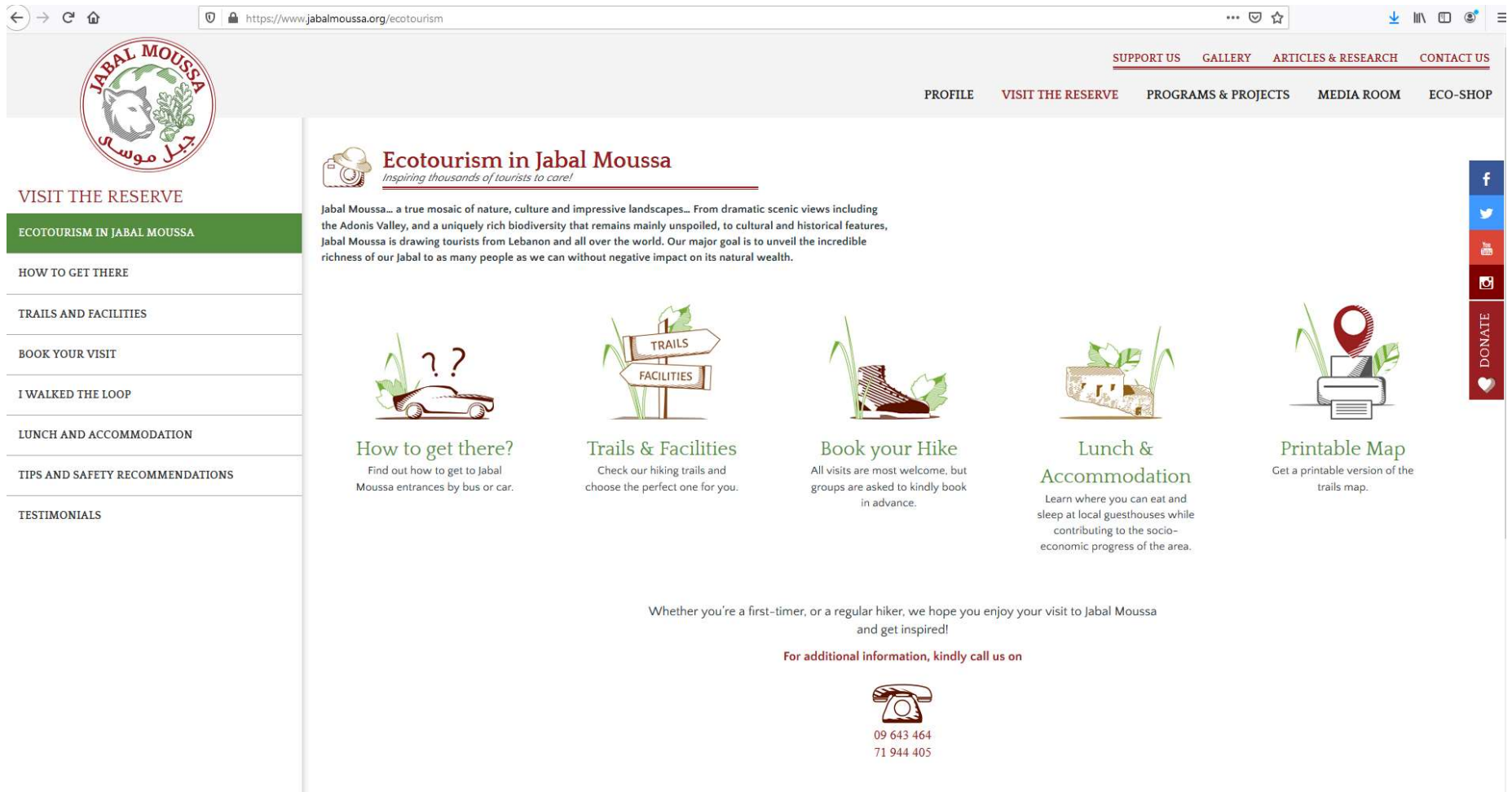
*Is the biodiversity outcome being monitored?*

- A number of baseline studies exist. There seems to be some biodiversity monitoring data, but they are not readily available: “Biodiversity assessment and monitoring in the Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve (2012)” (<https://www.jabalmoussa.org/articles>)



# Criterion D: Effective and sustained conservation

## D1. Associated Functions



The screenshot shows the website for Jabal Moussa, specifically the 'Ecotourism in Jabal Moussa' page. The page features a navigation menu with options like 'SUPPORT US', 'GALLERY', 'ARTICLES & RESEARCH', 'CONTACT US', 'PROFILE', 'VISIT THE RESERVE', 'PROGRAMS & PROJECTS', 'MEDIA ROOM', and 'ECO-SHOP'. The main content area is titled 'Ecotourism in Jabal Moussa' with the tagline 'Inspiring thousands of tourists to care!'. Below this, there is a paragraph describing the area as a mosaic of nature, culture, and landscapes. Five main sections are highlighted with icons: 'How to get there?', 'Trails & Facilities', 'Book your Hike', 'Lunch & Accommodation', and 'Printable Map'. Each section has a brief description. At the bottom, there is a call to action for additional information, including a phone icon and the numbers 09 643 464 and 71 944 405. A vertical sidebar on the right contains social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and a 'DONATE' button.





Thank you

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## PART B

# CONSENT

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# CONSENT TO BECOME A CANDIDATE OECM

*If the area meets the criteria of a ‘potential OECM’, how will you engage with the legitimate governance authority/ies to discuss OECMs and whether they would like to be involved in an assessment of their area?*

**TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE WORKING GROUPS**