



Regional Office for West Asia

West Asia Region

a meeting place and a transitional area between various phytogeographic and zoogeographic regions of the world. Floristic elements of five floral provinces exist in the region representing the Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian, Saharo-Sindian, and the Sudano-Deccanian



West Asia Region

The spectacular terrain and various climatic conditions that prevail in west Asia region, along with the diverse biogeographic origins of the species, contribute to the diversity of flora and fauna at the species level, particularly to the endemism of these taxa.

The number of plant species varies among the sub-regions of the Arab region, reaching up to **4,000 species** in some countries. A large number of endemic taxa also occur in the region; the total number of known endemic flora is about **3,397**





Our Thematic Programmes

Focused on the major priorities that draw all of the region's countries together:

- Water and Climate Change.
- Drylands, Equity & Gender Programme.
- Protected Areas, World Heritage, Business & Biodiversity Programme.
- Marine & Coastal Zone Programme.

This thematic method, allowed IUCN ROWA to share knowledge in order to develop new models for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.





ROWA's engagement

- Promote **collaboration and partnerships** with organizations to develop relevant programmes to respond to the needs of the region.
- Focus on the **priorities** of regional and sub-regional Ministerial Sessions (e.g. League of Arab States and GCC)
- Supports members and state members with **technical/advisory support**.
- Establish **networks tackle** transboundary emerging issues: IAS, degraded river basins, illicit wildlife trade, endangered migratory species...
- **Bridge the gap** between sub-regions resources, economic conditions and infrastructures
- Implement mixed and **innovative projects** combining conservation, policies, gender and livelihood
- **Supporting state members** to develop their national biodiversity reports such as the CBD and NBSAP reports





Threats in Region

Natural resources are under pressure from :

- Population growth and unbalanced economic growth.
- Weak environmental institutions.
- Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing and hunting.
- Wildlife crimes
- Invasive Alien Species.
- Loss of coastal lagoons due to ever growing coastal development.
- Wars and political instability.
- Ever growing fossil fuel extractions.





Biodiversity & Ecosystem priority issues

- Water scarcity.
- Wetlands loss .
- Marine ecosystem degradation.
- Land degradation .
- Desertification .
- Biodiversity loss.
- Dust Storms .





Critical Habitats

- Coral Reefs and Vermited Reef.
- Coastal Lagoons and Mangrove Forests.
- Cedars and other coniferous forests.
- Mediterranean Basin Fresh Water.
- Marshland.
- Wet Lands.
- Sand Dunes.
- Deep sea canyons and escarpments.



Emblematic & Charismatic Species

Terrestrial Mammals:

- Nubian Ibex (*Capra nubiana*).
- Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*).
- Caracal (*Caracal caracal*).
- Gray Wolf / Arabian Wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*).
- The rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*).
- Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*).
- Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*).
- Goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*).
- Striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*).
- Arabian tahr (*Arabitragus jayakari*).
- Blanford's fox (*Vulpes cana*).
- Botta's serotine – white bat - (*Eptesicus bottae*).





Emblematic & Charismatic Species cont'd

Marine Mammals

- Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)
- Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
- Indo-Pacific finless porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*)
- Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*)
- Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*)
- Common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*)
- Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)



Emblematic & Charismatic Species cont'd

Reptiles

- Persian leaf-toed gecko (*Hemidactylus persicus*)
- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Common sandfish (*Scincus scincus*)
- Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
- Arabian horned viper (*Cerastes gasperettii*)
- Annulated sea snake (*Hydrophis cyanocinctus*)





Emblematic & Charismatic Species cont'd

Fish

- Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*).
- Mediterranean bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*).
- Dusky Grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*).
- Manta rays (*Manta birostris*) / giant devil ray (*Mobula mobular*).
- scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*).



Emblematic & Charismatic Species cont'd

Birds

- Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)
- Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
- Common sandfish (*Scincus scincus*)
- Syrian Serin (*Serinus syriacus*)
- Arabian horned viper (*Cerastes gasperettii*)
- Annulated sea snake (*Hydrophis cyanocinctus*)

