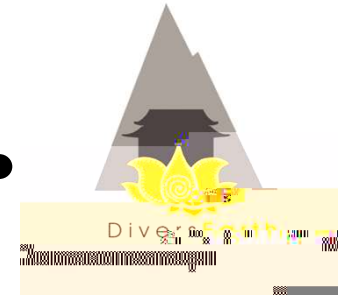


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Before we start.



- **DiversEarth/Mava funded project**
- **A study of Sacred Sites that benefit nature in the Mediterranean (underway – initial report for CBD CoP)**
- **Impact/ mapping typology, understanding – not all OECMs**
- **In this presentation variety of examples to show scope and potential in this region and beyond**





SACRED SITES

Typology in brief

Key findings

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

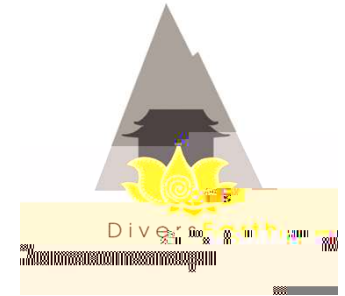
- **Name:** Variety of names
unknown number
- **Location:** Sacred Sites occur
**in various forms in all
countries of North Africa,
and Lebanon**
- **Governance authority:**
**Religious authorities /
community governance**







Sacred sites and conservation



- **From the CBD decision document (annex 3):**

“Areas conserved for cultural and spiritual values and governance and management that respect and are informed by cultural and spiritual values, often result in positive biodiversity outcomes”





Sacred sites and conservation

- **Sacred sites (or Sacred Natural Sites) are of conservation value:**

—





Criterion A NCA PROTECTED AREA

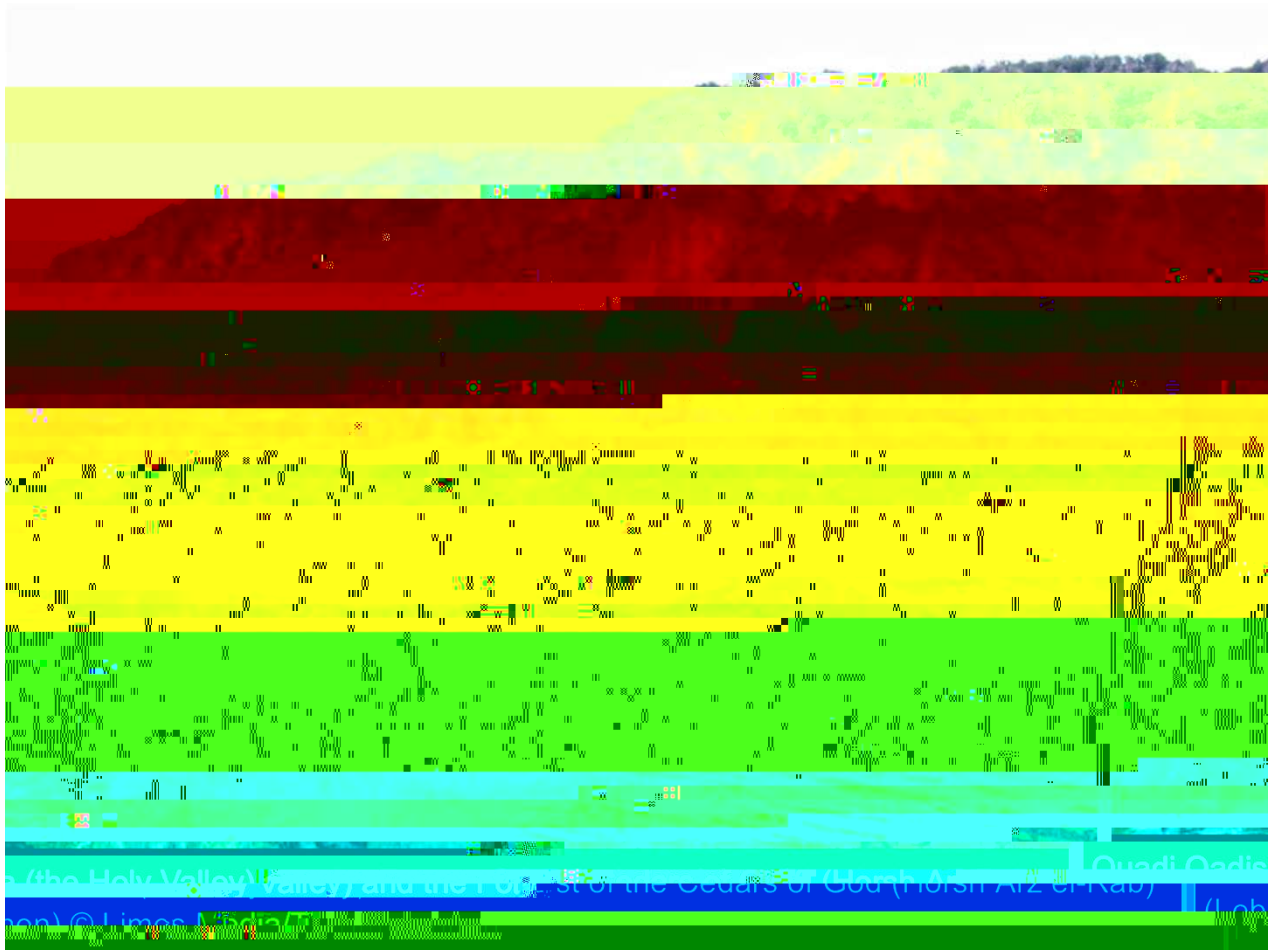
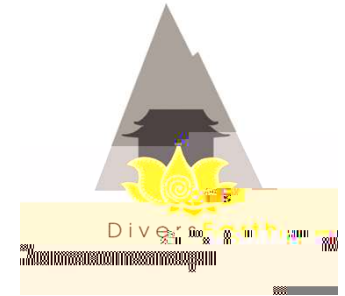
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- **Sacred Landscape (Maronite Christian)**
- **Many sacred sites**
- **Includes forest reserve**
- **Active governance**
- **UNESCO**

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Sacred grove with overaged Cork Oak (

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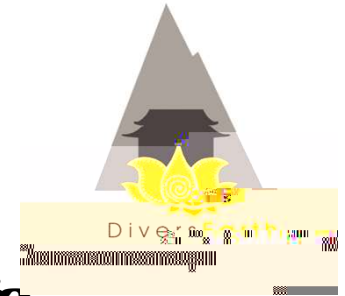
Who are the governance authorities? Are they government, private or Indigenous peoples/local communities?

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

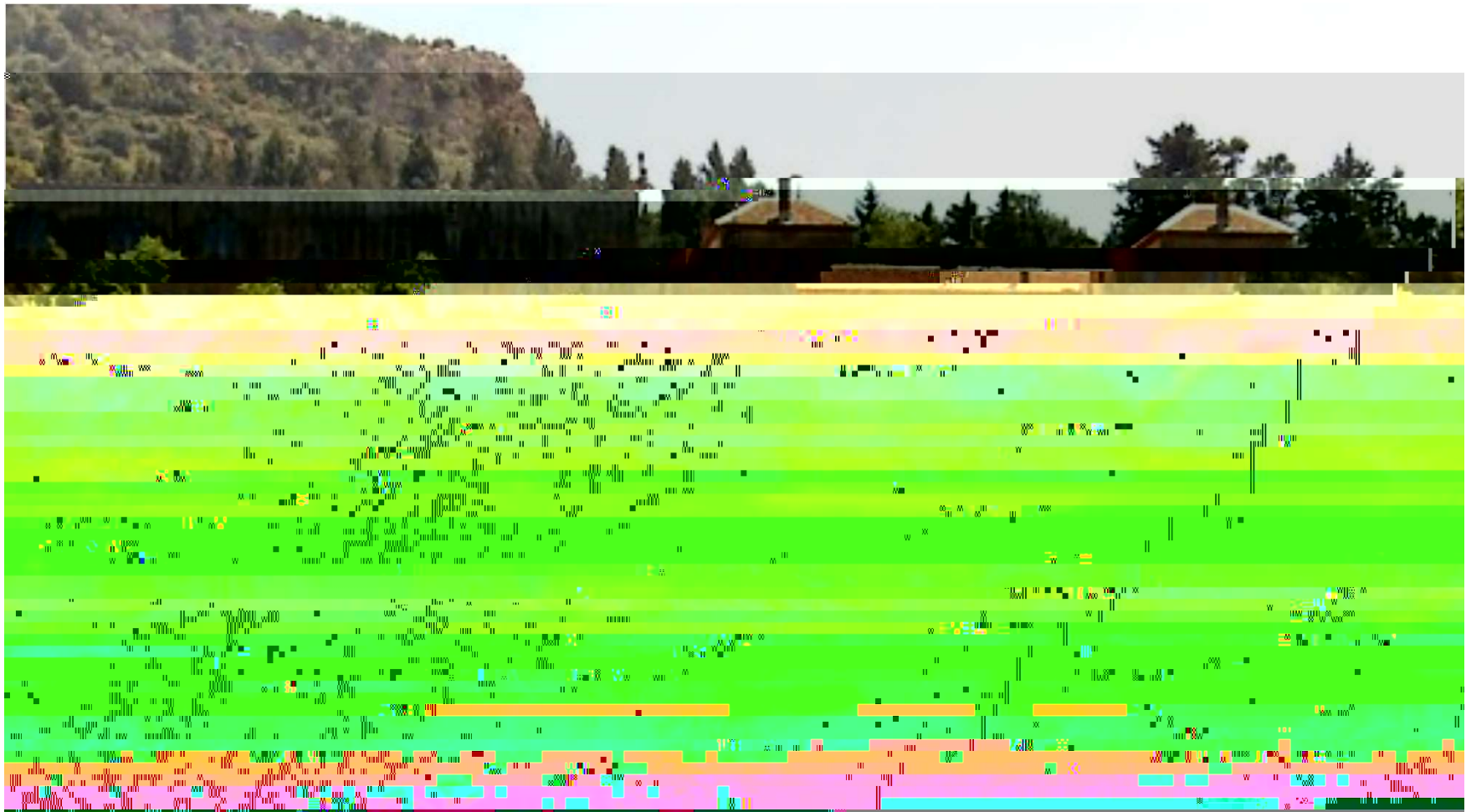
Is the area equitably managed? Are any rightful governance authorities being marginalized?

- **Context specific**
- **Eg in Lebanon religious tenure is often dear**
- **Marabout sites / sacred groves etc community governance, rarely tenure**





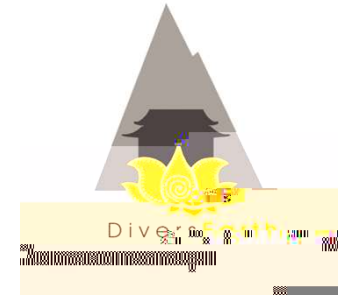
Monastery of Tibhirine, Roman Catholic Monastery of Trappists, nr Médéa, Algeria, 8ha/ 374 hasurrounding forests





Criterion B Governance and Management

B3 MANAGED



What are the management objectives?

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

- **1st- Reserve values of why it is sacred**
- **Pilgrimage and other visitation is often managed (in Morocco estimated 750 1000 pilgrimages to Maabouts every year (Beniane))**
- **Longevity- generational protection**
- **Community service (baaka)**
- **Resulting biodiversity conservation**





Saydet el Nourieh

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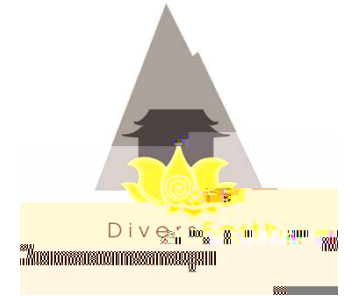
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Criterion C Effective and sustained conservation

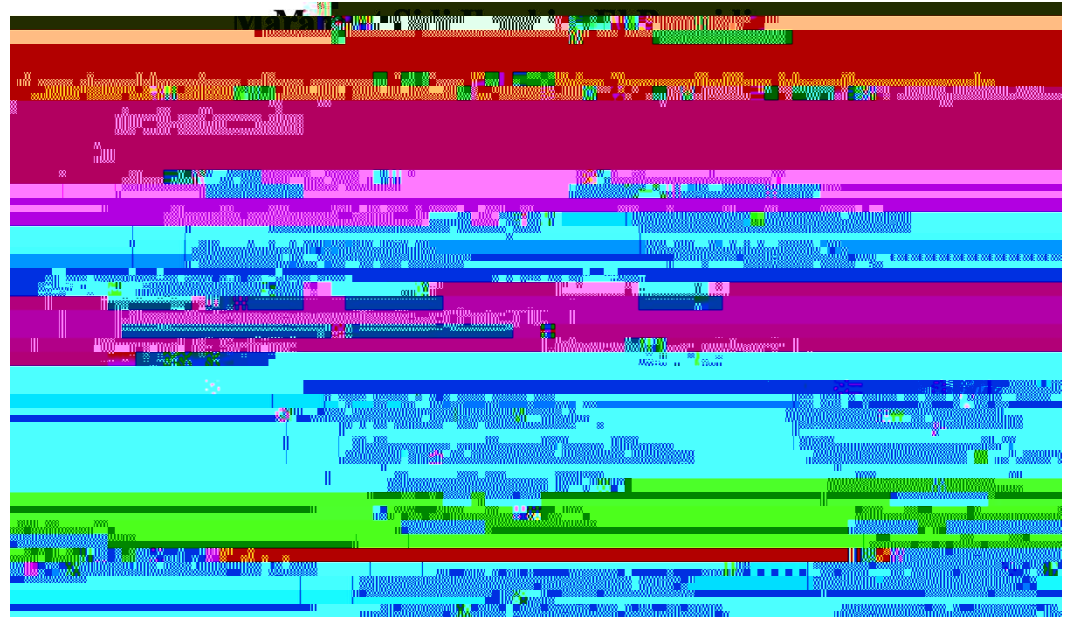
C1. BIODIVERSITY VALUES



How will you assess the biodiversity values of the area?

**What kinds of biodiversity values does the area have?
(Please see next page)**

- **Marabouts, Tunisia (initial study)**
- **Tanger peninsula, northern Morocco (University of Freiburg)**





Criterion C Effective and sustained conservation

C234 Effective Conservation

How are internal threats addressed?

How are external threats addressed?

Context specific (remember these are not PAs – spontaneity)

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

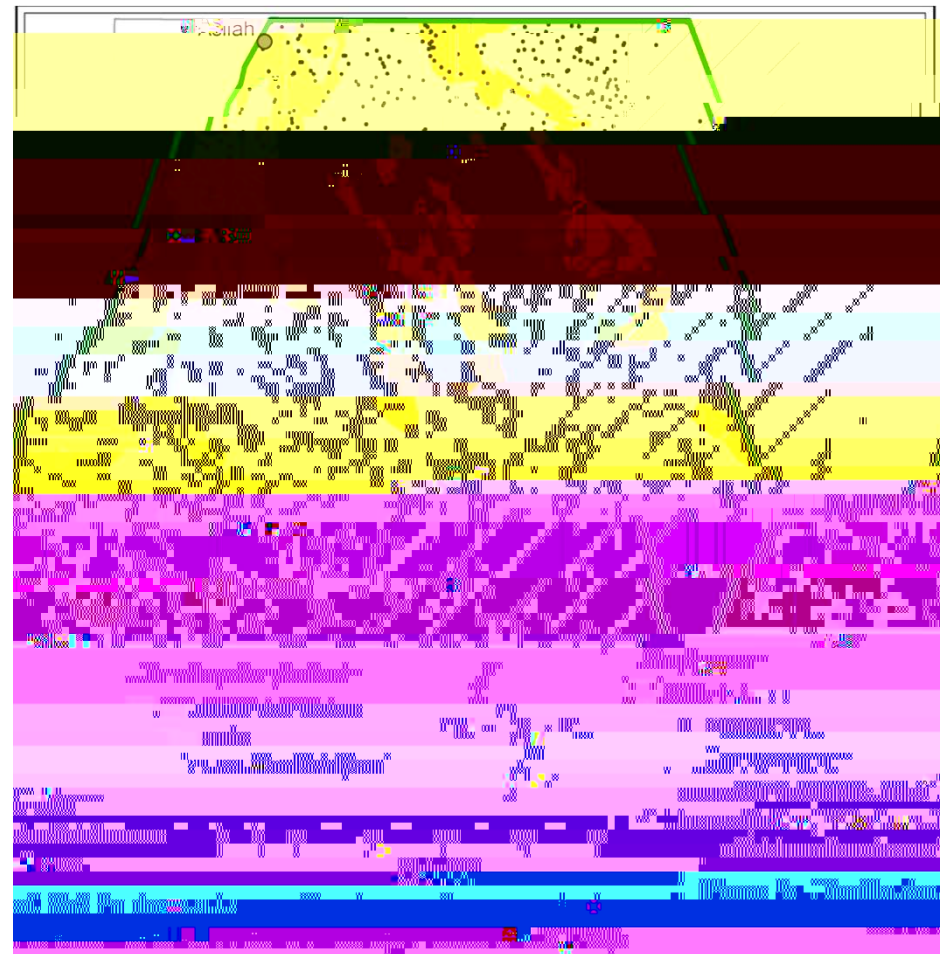
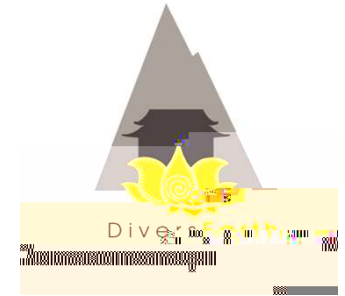
Is the management regime in place year round, or on another basis? Usually year round

Is the biodiversity outcome being monitored? Almost never

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?

Sacred sites can be small in size





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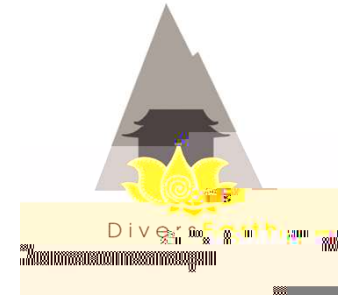


Are there any associated ecosystem functions and services?

Are there any spiritual, socioeconomic or other values associated with the area?

- Many ecosystem functions and services including climate change mitigation, watersheds, soil stabilisation and so on – the same as protected areas**
- Culture, spirituality, community, tourism/recreation**





Marabout site, with Veteran tree, Cap Bon Turisia

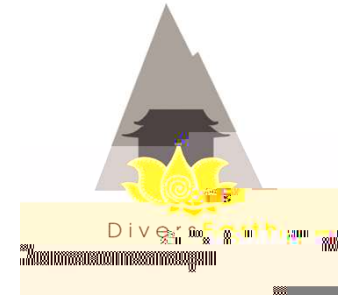
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