

## Did you know...

... Palestine is one of the Middle East centres of wild and crop plant diversity.

... In the state of Palestine there are over 2000 plant species, 373 birds, 297 fish, 92 mammals, 81 reptiles and 5 amphibians.

... There are 48 protected areas in the West Bank of Palestine with a total area of 700 km<sup>2</sup> include Um Al Tut, Al Qarn, and Wadi Al Quff.

... Forested areas occupy only 79 km<sup>2</sup> (about 1%) of the total area of the West Bank of Palestine. The expansion of forests will contribute to the reduction of soil erosion while reducing Palestine's carbon footprint.

... In the West Bank of Palestine, Palestinian residential areas occupy almost 400 km<sup>2</sup>, and Israel colonies and the annexation and expansion wall occupy about 250 km<sup>2</sup>.

## Biodiversity

The natural environment is already compromised by the land fragmentation resulting from the annexation and expansion wall and from the building of roads. The overuse and mismanagement of natural resources make matters worse. Low forest cover leaves the land more vulnerable to extreme weather events, and reduces the amount of carbon captured from the atmosphere and stored by trees. Climate change intensifies the pressure on fragile ecosystems and the resident plants and animals. People can help wild nature by making their own environments greener and cooler, and by supporting conservation efforts.

## CREDITS & SOURCES

### Online information sources

Palestine Museum of Natural History: <https://www.palestinature.org>  
 Environment Quality Authority of Palestine: <http://environment.pna.ps>  
 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch>  
 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: <https://unfccc.int/>

### Selected publications

National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change in Palestine (2016). Environment Quality Authority  
 Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2016). Environment Quality Authority  
 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Programme of Action for the Palestinian Authority (2010). UNDP and Environment Quality Authority  
 Atlas of Palestine (2015). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
 State of the Environment in Palestine (2016). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
 Analysis of the climatic variability and its environmental impacts across Palestine (2012). The Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
 State of Palestine. Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2015)



**Protect wetlands for their rich biodiversity**

**Keep honey bees**

**Protect key biodiversity areas and agricultural land from construction**

**Build shelters for insects**

**Visit the museum of natural history!**

**Join and support environmental protection organizations**

**Leave wild plants in place**

**Plant native trees and other native plant species**

**Plant vertical, rooftop and urban gardens**

**Save the trees**

**Show respect for nature**

## Solutions

## Problems

**Land fragmentation due to annexation and expansion wall**

**Overgrazing**

**Invasive species**

**Living organisms dying from pesticides**

**Biodiversity loss**

**Land fragmentation in the West Bank due to settlements construction**

**There are many ways you can protect nature and wildlife**

# Biodiversity

Protecting nature from human interference and climate change

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN PALESTINE