As a civil coalition of individuals and nongovernmental organizations invested in the safeguarding of Beirut's livability, we have come together to advocate for the protection of the city's sea-front facade as a shared-space, open access zone to be used by all city-dwellers and visitors in a civil, yet unscripted form. We are propelled by a shared love of the city in its social and ecological diversity but also an uncontrollable urge to enshrine democratic and inclusive processes of decision-making in the production and organization of the everyday spaces of Beirut. We take issue with those calling Beirut an ugly city and mourning its once beautiful face. Instead, we perceive current disfigurations as momentary embodiments of the greed that has motivated building processes in the city. Our message is directed to all city dwellers; we invite everyone to join us in struggling for her/his right to the city, a city where private capital cannot trump the desires of the urban majorities in enlarging and improving the city's shared commons.

The Civil Campaign to Protect THE DALIEH OF RAOUCHE

## Dalieh of Raouche<sup>\*</sup>...

In Arabic, Dalieh refers to any plant that hangs down, typically used to roof terraces where families, neighbors and friends gather to mark the end of the workday. In Beirut, Dalieh refers to a vast terrain that extends from the city's emblematic Sakhret el-Raouche, and slopes gently towards the sea.

For decades, Dalieh has acted as an **'open** access shared space' for a wide variety of city dwellers. Families and friends had found in this space a **natural destination** for weekend picnics, lovers a quiet and idyllic setting, sea-goers a strategic swimming and fishing destination, and communities an adequate setting for the celebration of their festivities.

This urban commons has also hosted a vibrant informal economy of boat touring, fishing, popular restaurants, peddlers, photographers, and others who have animated the life of this unique area of the city.

The site has also been recognized for its ecological wealth, a unique landscape ensemble extending naturally from/to the monumental breakaway rocks that have granted their name to the city district "Raouche".

It includes a rich diversity of topographical and geological features: coastal cliffs on the landside and rock islands, protruding stone terraces and natural pool enclaves, all valuable habitats for native plants, insects, birds and marine fauna in an uncommon ecological equilibrium, prompting many scientists and researchers to identify it as a prime area for protection in Lebanon.

This communal space survives amidst the private takeover of the city's coast that has turned lush sandy and rocky beaches into enclosed, high-end resorts. These transformations are primarily facilitated by the history of property formation in the city as well as changes in the zoning and building regulations.

Since the mid-1960's, pressure by building developers and the propertied elite have reversed the full provisions against building in this zone. It facilitated increasingly intensive building coefficients that have reached up to 60%, and allowed for the privatization of areas typically used as public spaces.

Thus, city dwellers are increasingly confined to the four-meter-wide sidewalk of Avenue de Paris, the main artery that runs along the city's seafront, while access and visibility to the sea is obscured by **private developments** consistently serving high-heeled urban dwellers and visitors at the expense of the urban majorities.

in French rocher meaning rock, in Aramaic rosh and ras meaning head

## ... threatened by development

Dalieh does not escape the threat of development: Since summer 2014, rapid transformations have abruptly interrupted Dalieh's social and economic life: fishermen were evicted, their stalls and restaurants demolished, replaced with stacks of large cement blocks highlighting further reclamation of the sea, and a new fence now limits access to the area (and the sea) and obstructs the view.

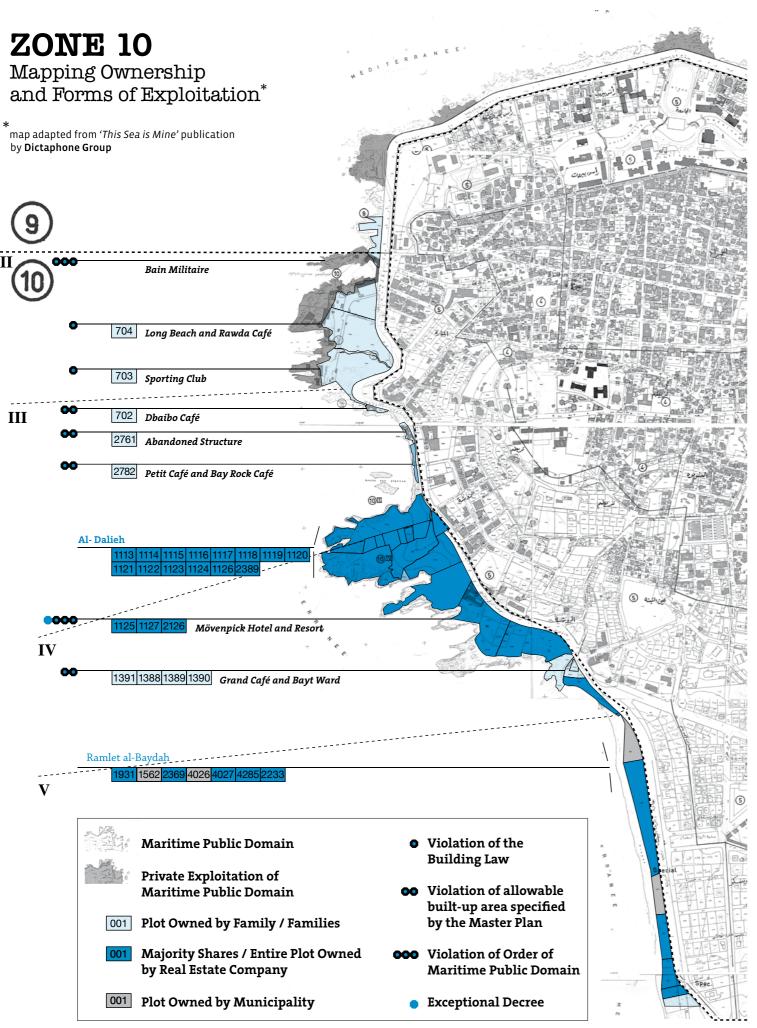
All these clues point towards the looming threat of the real estate tycoon. Ironically, the **Municipality of Beirut** (that had never overseen public practices in the site) has recently set-up a security booth that actively monitors and constrains the activities of those who choose to defy the fence and reclaim their access to the sea – a right in fact enshrined in the Lebanese law.

In the meantime, **several offices have** been commissioned by private parties to propose urban and building regulations for the area, conduct impact studies required by the law, and formulate actual recreational and commercial developments.

Meanwhile, **building and zoning regulations** were altered yet again in April 2014, making it possible to build most of the area.

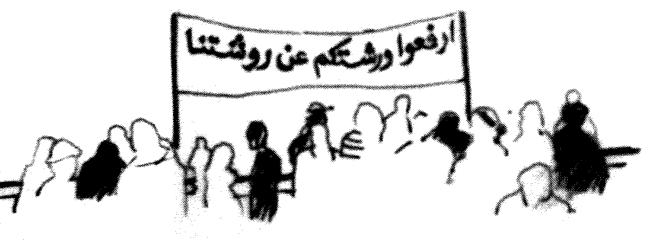
Finally, a dubious process of privatization has concentrated ownership since the mid-1990's into the hands of two private companies, both held by the same high-profile politician. Private land holdings have also encroached over the public maritime domain through questionable processes that are obscured by missing property records.

In short, the "growth machine" is unleashed, rendering claims over the public nature of this space urgent.



#### **2** Introducing the **CAMPAIGN**

## The Civil Campaign to Protect the Dalieh of Raouche



The campaign emerged in March 2013 to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the role of Dalieh as an open-access shared space for all city dwellers and visitors. It is a coalition of individuals and non-governmental organizations who share a strong commitment to the preservation of Beirut's shared spaces, ecological and cultural diversity as the pillars of the city's livability. The Coalition encompasses civilians, parents and children, young and old, who are committed to the protection of Beirut's shared spaces, particularly its seafront façade as the asset to maintain the livability of the city. It includes individuals, environmental, cultural and civil groups working through legal and civil means to protect the Dalieh as a shared. free and unrestricted area for the people.



The campaign launched in November 2013 through a petition that was published on social media. This evolved into a campaign **under the slogan** *Lift your* construction site off our *Raouche*. Throughout this past year, we have worked on sending official letters to relevant ministries, organizing activities in Dalieh, preparing legal and environmental research and producing slogans, visuals and videos to promote this space. We've also archived old photographs of the site, published press releases and filed lawsuits, among other interventions.

## TIMELINE

direct action against restricting access to Dalieh

## DEMONSTRATIONS against notices

2013

**SEPT** Urgent court cases were filed against the fishermen to evict them from their informal houses in Dalieh.

OCT 2013

Fishermen and their families protested several times with slogans such as: "The sea of Dalieh is no longer found, only on maps", "We are not drug dealers, nor money smugglers, all we want is to make a living: poor fishermen" and "We don't want speculators negotiating over our children's wellbeing".



## CAMPAIGNING after evictions



MAY

2015

**MAR** Most of the fishermen homes were demolished after negotiations over compensation were settled. Some fishermen received exuberant sums from the real estate companies that have laid claims on Dalieh. Other cases are still in court.

The "Civil Campaign to Protect the Dalieh of Raouche" 13 MAR began to form. 2014

NOV A petition entitled "Dalieh all what remains of Beirut's shore" 2014 was launched.



## **FORCED** evictions

A second round of forced evictions was carried out in Dalieh at 4:30 a.m, a day after Labor Day . The remaining fishermen kiosks belonging to the Itani family were raided unexpectedly and without prior notice. Dozens of police forcefully expelled the families without giving them the chance to empty their homes. Some were detained, injured and handcuffed while bulldozers destroyed their shacks with everything in them.

During her regular morning yoga session in Dalieh, Najat - one of our campaign volunteers - witnessed the bulldozing, filmed it and sent it to the rest of the campaign members. An urgent call for journalists coverage was subsequently launched. The campaign holds the Mayor of Beirut accountable for issuing a permit to destroy kiosks on public domain to serve the interests of the private owners of Dalieh. At the same time, the municipality has refrained from serving the public good by removing the fence that obstructed public access to Dalieh and the concrete blocks harming the natural site.



## OBJECTIONS to the **fencing**

**APR** Real estate companies began installing a 377 meter fence **2014** along the corniche promenade, stretching from the Mövenpick Hotel to the pigeon rocks of Raouche. Two layers of razor wire were added to the fence.

In protest, the campaign organized an event at Dalieh under the JUNE slogan "An Encounter to Reclaim Public Space", where a statement 2014 was issued to the press, which had gathered on the site. In parallel, objection letters were sent to the municipality, the governor, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation.

## **INTERVENTIONS** on the Accropodes

**2012** Dozens of massive concrete blocks known as accropodes were offloaded on the Dalieh site by Ministry of Public Works for the purpose of enlarging the fishing port. The project was discontinued when the companies that own plots of Dalieh intervened, but the blocks remain occupying a large surface area of Dalieh. 15

JUNE 2014 Artistic Intervention: the Doulose Army.

## CHALLENGES to Security Measures

**JUNE** The mayor of Beirut had repeatedly declared that municipal 2014 authority ends at the beginning of the Corniche rail. Yet curiously, a municipal security booth has been installed within the Dalieh area on 'private property' to safeguard the fence installed by real estate developers.

During an event organized in front of Raouche on the 8 JUNE International Day of the Ocean, and in the presence of Beirut's 2014 head of municipality and major media outlets, a huge banner was put up from Dalieh.

2014

**JULY** A roadway barrier was installed by the Internal Security Forces on the main vehicle entrance to Dalieh next to Mövenpick.



A group of activists intervened during a live recording of an episode of LBC's Kalam al-Nas talk show at the Beirut real estate and construction exhibition known as Dream Real Estate Expo. Four campaign members walked behind the show's guests holding a banner that read: "The dream of our city does not lie in real estate development, but rather in public spaces and open access to the sea / The dream of the 3% are producing nightmares for 90% of the people / 80% of the Lebanese households don't even earn the minimum salary required to obtain a subsidized bank loan".











## How is the **coast** being **privatized**?

54 1450/5/10	الجريدة الرسمية ملحق خاص للعدد ٣ ١
وتستئنى العقارات الواقعة ببن الاملاك	هذه الادنة او بايداع او رد المبلغ المطوب،
العامة البجرية والكورنيش البحري بين نهر	حبب مقتضي الحال ، ما لم يوأفق البنيك
الموت شمالا ومثلث خلده جذوبا ، ألقي تنص	على خلاف ذلك -
قوانين البناء والتنظيم المدني والمراسيــــم التنظيمية فيها على بقاء سطح البناء ادنى	(ب) اذا تحقق للبنك في اي وقت عدم
من مستوى الكورنيش من اي من الاحكام	الحاجة الى أي رصيد متبق في الحساب الخاص لمداد مدفوعات أخرى خاصـــــة
الخاصة بزيادة الارتفاعات -	بالمصروفات المعتمدة ، يلتزم المقترض فسور
ويشترط للاستفادة من احكام هذا انقانون:	استلاعه اخطارا من البنك برد هذا الرصيد
۱ – ان لا يتعدى عامل الاستثمار الاقصى	المتبقى الى البتك -
في العقار بعد الزيادة الاستثنائية الخمسة	(ج) يجوز للمقترض ، بعد اخطــــار
ولا يتجاوز مرتين عامل الاستثمار الاساسي المنطقة -	البنك ، أن يرد للبنك كل المبالغ المودعــة مـــالــــابــالخامـــامــام جزء منها
تعطى العقارات الممتفيدة اصلا من	
الحد الاقصى للاستثمار العام نسبة اضافية	ترد الى البنىك Law 40
مقدارها ( ۲۲۰) عشرون باللة على المسوح لها شرط ان تكون مساحتها خمسة الضعساف	من هذا الملحق في حساب القرض للسحيب
الساحة الدنيا للافراز المسموح في المنطقة.	منها فيما بعد او الغائها طبقا للاحكام ذات
۲ - في المناطق التي يقل معدل الاستثمار	الصلة في هذه الاتفاقية ، بما في ذلــــك الشروط العامة -
السطحي آلحدد في نظَّام المنطقة عن ( ٢٦٠ )	
ستين بالثة يمكن زيادة عامسها الاستقمار	
السطحي لغاية (٦٠٪) سنين بالمئة على ان لا يزيد عن ضعفي عامل الاستثمار السطحي	
الاساسي للعقار ويعتبر كل من عامل الاستئمار	قانون رقم ۲۰۶
العيام الاقصى ومعدل الاستثمار السطحي	استثناء انشاء الفنادق من بعض احكسام
المذوه عنهما اعلاه العامل الاقصى بما فيت الزيادات عند وجود عقارات واقعة عليسي	المرســـوم الاشتراعي الرقــم ١٤٨ تاريــخ ١٩٨٣/٩/١٦ (قانون البناء) ومن الانظمــة
اکثر من طریق •	المتخذة عملا به
٣ – يتم الاستثناء بمرسوم يتخلف في	-
مجلس الوزراء بعد موافقة المجلس الاعلسي للتنظيم المدنى ويتضمن الشروط التي يجب	اقر مجلس النواب وبنشر رئيس الجمهورية القانون الثالي
فرضها على صاحب العلاقة سواء لجهيسة	ن <u>م</u> ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
تصميم المشروع أو لجهة ضمان تحقيق	الثادة الاولى _ يمكن زيـــادة عــــامل
والتأكد من صحة تنفيذه وعدم تحوير وجهة استعماله -	الاستثمار اذاكان اليناء المظلوب اقامته من
لا يصبح هذا المرسوم تافذا الا بعـــــد	الفنادق آلتي تتوفر فيها الشروط المنصوص عليها قانونا لانشاء واستثمار الفنيادق
الحصول على رخصة البناء التي تقوافر فيها	السباحية وذلك مع مراعاة احكام فيسانون
الشروط القانونية والفنية المتصوص عليها في هذا القانون ودفع رسوم الرخصة > كل ذلك	النيناء (المرسوم الأشتراعي الرقم ١٤٨ تاريخ
وفقا للاصول •	١٩٨٣/٩/١٦ والمرسوم التطبيقي الرقـــــم ١٩٩٢/٢٧٩١) والاحكام القانونية والمراسيم
وفي حال تحوير وجهة استعمال الفندق	التنظيمية العائدة للتنظيم المدني باستثناء ما
في المنقبل ومهما كان توع هذا التحموير	يتعلق منها بشروط الارتقاعات
وفي اي وقت حصل، تعتبر جميعالاستثناءات التي أعطيت للغندق بمثابة مخالفة للقانون	· تستثنى العقارات التي تقل مساحتها عن
اللي اعطيت تقددي بمتابة محافظة تقامون يصار الى تسويتها كمخالفة بذاء -	عشرين الف متر مربع الواقعة بين الامسلاك
المادة ٢ = يتوجب على صلحب العلاقة	العمومية البحـــرية والطـــرق الساحليـــة الرئينية من الاستقادة من اي من الاحكـا،
الذي يرغب في الاستفادة من الاحسكام	الخاصة بزيادة الارتفاعات .

## Exceptional Regulation

In parallel to the land purchases that took place in Dalieh by real estate companies, law 402 was issued in 1995 to enable land owners with a plot larger than 20,000 square meters to double their total exploitation factor and quadruple their surface exploitation if a hotel is to be built.

The so-called «exceptional» law was valid for five years, and was accompanied with long debates in parliament. It was prolonged again in 2001 for another 5 years.

However, on April 24 2014 the effect of Law 402 was prolonged for 19 years and was passed without any objection from any parliamentary member.



## Theft of Public Land

Historical and contemporary property records and maps (such as the French Plan Danger de Beyrouth) demonstrate that property boundaries in Dalieh have been modified to encroach on the maritime public domain, in contravention of the law. In other words, a large section of Dalieh has been illegally privatized, including the fishermen port that until recently secured the livelihood of over 75 families.

The official French 1926 cadastral map was not found in the official land registry in Beirut. If revealed, this document would act as an ultimate proof to the theft of public property and cadastral forging.

## Commissioning Designers for a Private Exclusive Development

There have been indications that several design offices have been commissioned to develop a design for a projected development in Dalieh, the most recent being the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA). No matter the design, any project in Dalieh within the existing usurped legal framework will serve the interests of a handful of policy-makers/propertyowners who are blatantly manipulating the law to their own advantage, at the detriment of the city, its natural environment, and its dwellers.

# How to preserve **Dalieh** as a **Shared-Access Open Space**?

## Debating the DGU

In two television debates with Dalieh activists (Tele Liban and LBCI during November 2014), the head of Lebanon's *Directorate General of Urban Planning* (DGU), Elias Tawil, declared that he will not permit any exceptions to the law for a project development in Dalieh. He also called upon the mayor of Beirut, Bilal Hamad, to propose a framework to protect Dalieh as a public space so that the DGU can implement it.

The Higher Council of the DGU has the power to decline any legal exception drafted for a specific site. It is also capable of proposing new legislation and area planning to preserve a site.

## Ministry of Environment drafting a decree to categorize Dalieh as a natural site

After several meetings with the ministry, the minister of Environment announced a draft decree in order to categorize Dalieh as a natural protected area. This means construction on the site would be strictly regulated by the ministry and subject to an environmental impact assessment. The Ministry would reserve the right to decline the project based on the results of the study.

## Legal challenge at the Shura Council

Through two of its member NGOs, the Dalieh campaign filed a lawsuit at the high administrative court known as the Shura Council against Decree 169 of 1989 which removed state protection from **Zone 10** of Beirut's master plan (**Zone 10** is the last stretch of undeveloped coast in Beirut that encompasses the Dalieh area).

However up until 1989, **Zone 10** had been exempt from any development by the 1966 decree 4810.

The decree had allowed exploitation of maritime public domain by property owners who held land adjacent to the sea, but it exempted Zone 10 from such development, protecting the space as a coastal area. Such protection was removed with Decree 169, which was passed during the middle of the civil war and not ratified by other government bodies such as the municipality and DGU. The decree was also not published publicly, preventing citizens' from exercising their constitutional right to oppose it.

## Ideas competition for alternative visions

In an effort to solicit alternative visions for Dalieh, and to advocate for inclusive, ecologically responsible, and socially diverse urban futures, the campaign organized an ideas-competition inviting professionals and/ or citizens to put forward visions for possible spatial and institutional arrangements in the area of Dalieh. The proposals seek to open a debate about public space and act as advocacy tools.

## University Talks

In an effort to widen the scope of public engagement in the cause to reclaim Dalieh, the campaign organized a series of seminars at universities across the country. Each seminar revolved around three talks: the social and property history of Dalieh, the legal framework, and landscape features of the site. The seminars took place at:

American University of Beirut | 6 November 2014 Lebanese University Hadath | 7 November 2014 Lebanese University Furn Chebbak | 11 December 2014 Notre Dame University | 12 December 2014

## Rallies on Site

With the aim of engaging the public in the physical site of Dalieh, the campaign organized a numbers of rallies, activities and interventions. These include covering the fence with protest canvases while organizing a press conference on the corniche sidewalk; hanging a large banner over the Dalieh cliffs during the mayor's speech on the occasion of Oceans Day and organizing regular music performances and children's activities on Sundays, when the largest crowds visit the Dalieh area. These Sunday events helped rejuvenate a truly festive atmosphere on the site, as the campaign collaborated with artists and food vendors, and also provided movable wooden benches for the public to further enjoy the show and the space. Additionally, the campaign collaborated with long-standing community celebrations such as the Nowroz Kurdish festival by creating a bonfire gathering and supporting local fishermen in their mobilizations against eviction.

## **Guided Site Tours**

The campaign organised a number of guided tours of the site, which proved hugely popular with the public. Participants gather on the Corniche, at a spot overlooking the Raouche and the cliffs of Dalieh. The group then descends walking along old paths

traditionally used by the Beirutis to reach the shore. As participants explore the space, they are informed of the site's many natural and historical characteristics, including a thorough explanation of the evolution of land ownership in the area and of the shifting legal framework governing property along the coast. The tour concludes with a visit to the traditional port. A local fisherman takes participants on a boat ride along dalieh's coast, sailing under Raouche's arches, entering beautiful hidden caves and sharing his knowledge of the area.

## Outreach and Communication

The campaign created slogans, visuals and videos to communicate messages widely and promote Dalieh as a public space.

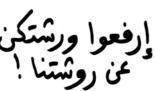
The narrative peddled by developers and authorities was confronted by visuals and public interventions that celebrated Dalieh as an open shared space. The visuals were based on old and new photos of Dalieh, gathered from members of the local Ras Beirut community, that in themselves hold a narrative of communal appropriation . As for the public interventions, these included banners on site, interventions on the fence (that obstructed the sea view) at the level of the corniche and on the Accropodes (cement blocks). Posters and leaflets were also designed and widely distributed to call for actions and spread information.

Various design studios and artists took part in designing material that supported the campaign. One is a creative intervention on an old Lebanese currency note whereby a barbed wire fence was superimposed in front of the Raouche and Dalieh rocks, which appear on the 10 Lira note as a symbol of national pride. Others include posters for the Nawruz festivity and for the Call for Ideas launched by the campaign.

Moreover, the campaign's website and the booklet at hand include a thorough documentation of the research, analysis, and mapping that members of the campaign worked on.















## Background / Reality of Public Spaces in Beirut

According to a recent report by the World Health Organization, Beirut has 1m2 of green open space per person. The recommended area is 40m2 per person.



Aside from the very few public gardens in Beirut (Sanayeh, Sioufi, Jesuites, Hasan Khaled Garden, Hawd El Wilaya),

the city's largest public park, **Horch Beirut**, has been **closed off** for the last twenty years.

The Lebanese waterfront is also turning to an inaccessible zone.

It is estimated that one-fourth of **seafront property** was privately **developed in violation of zoning regulations**,

mostly during the Lebanese civil war (1975-1990)

A report commissioned by the World Bank and the Lebanese government (dated 1997) indicates that

capital holders, some holding political office, own eighty-one percent of the coastal areas between the Jounieh Bay and Beirut International Airport - that is a stretch of land approximately fifty-one kilometers in length.

## Situating Dalieh in relation to **the Corniche**



Today, private beach resorts, hotels, and exclusive marinas, with walls, gates and entrance fees, punctuate the entire coast of Lebanon, and hinder the access of the public to the sea.

In Beirut, the Corniche is a linear public space available for Beirut residents, stretching along 4.8 kilometers encircling the city's promontory from the Saint George Bay on the northern coast of the city, into the continuous Avenue de Paris and Avenue du General De Gaulle all the way to Ramlet el Bayda. The Corniche includes urban and landscape landmarks such as the Saint George Hotel, the lighthouse [old and new] and the Ferris wheel to cite a few.

## Dalieh and Ramlet el

Bayda are the only two rocky and sandy sites that remain of Beirut's natural untamed landscape heritage, still accessible to the public. Compared to the Corniche, which has since the 1920s evolved as a highly frequented shared space, Dalieh has always been appreciated for its untamed, wild character though situated within an urbanized modern district.

It is a meeting place for a wide variety of visitors and tourists, who flock to enjoy the view from the city towards the sea, but also from the sea towards the city's skyline.

Dalieh cannot be dissociated from the two monumental rock formations of Raouche, the natural landmark or 'Pigeons' Rock' located at Beirut's westernmost tip.

Dalieh is the place where Beirutis celebrate feasts and holidays. It has always been a place for swimming, promenading and fishing that is engraved in the memory of Beirut and the Beirutis, a landmark and a landscape heritage ensemble that is of ecological and social significance.

## Situating Dalieh in relation to **Ras Beirut Urban Growth**

According to urban historians, the growth of Beirut happened in a radiating manner starting towards the end of the 1880s, following the enlargement of the port, thus transforming Beirut from a walled provincial harbour town in the Eastern Mediterranean to an open, commercial city of regional importance in the Levant. The urban geography of the city was evolving with the onset of mass rural exodus triggered by sectarian unrest in the mountain's hinterland during the 1860's. Until the construction of the Corniche [Avenue des Français], the sea was merely used as infrastructure for trade and small fishing ports.

The French Mandate [1920-1943] planned a series of urban renewal projects in Beirut, one of which was creating the first seaside promenade, the Avenue des Français. Chic hotels such as the St Georges built in 1932 and restaurants spurred in Minet el Hosn, setting the tone for the character of the area.

Compared to Nice's 'Promenade des Anglais', with its broad sidewalks and palm trees, Beirut's Corniche Maritime [meaning French seaside promenade] became the preferred esplanade for the city's prominent bourgeoisie. Printed postcards featured the Corniche to promote French tourism in the Levant. The esplanade offered framed views of the Mediterranean and summits of Mount Lebanon to the East, casting Beirut's heritage image of sea and mountain, and adding another layer to the relationship of the city to its waterfront.

Until the 1940's, the land use of areas adjacent to the Corniche, Ain el Mreisseh, Jal el Bahr, Manara and uphill towards Raouche can be characterized as coastal agricultural and vegetables orchards, with orange groves, mulberry trees, cacti, palm trees and rural 'hakurats'. The density of these areas increased in the 1930's and the 1940's as those areas neighbored the American University of Beirut in Ras Beirut.

In the early 1950's another wave of urbanization forged the character of the Hamra district, which was until then displaying rural 'Khoukh' housing typologies and agricultural fields adjacent to Bliss Street and the American University of Beirut. Hamra became the centre of the intellectual activity in Beirut during the 1960's and the 1970's, with its numerous sidewalk cafes and theatres, frequented by the Arab region's most prominent writers, intellectuals and artists. This effect seeped downhill and southwards towards Manara and Raouche. The location of these neighborhoods down the steep ridge of Hamra, spatially peripheral to the American University contributed towards forming the community of Ras Beirut.

Lebanese, Palestinians but also American and Europeans sought to invest in the flourishing areas and thus modernist buildings by prominent architects were constructed such as the Federal Hotel, the Ghandour building, the Shams building, the Shell Building and the Carlton Hotel, setting a modern character to both areas and punctuating its skyline and streetscape. With increasing demand from the servicing sectors, Raouche became a mixed-use area including residential units but also a strip of office buildings, restaurants, and furnished apartments, pubs and clubs, showcasing modern lifestyle.



#### 4 Landscape Features of **DALIEH**

## Geomorphology

Dalieh is etched with features and inscriptions that could trace back the geological history of Lebanon. Considered as the backbone of the city's visual landscape heritage, both Raouche and Dalieh may be the last remaining coastal karstic outcrops on the coast of Beirut<sup>1</sup>.

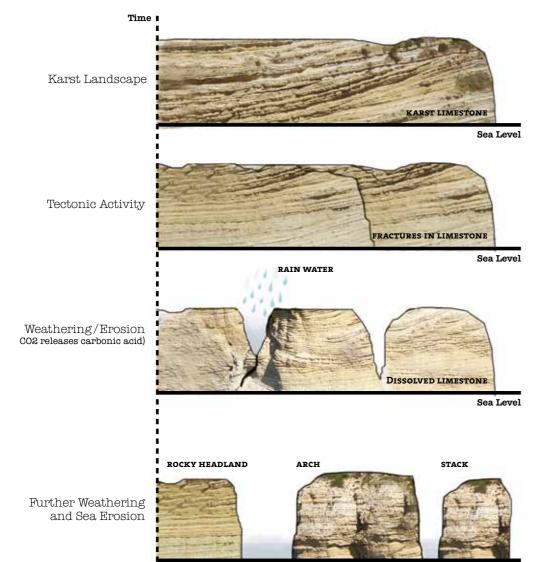
Geologically, it is of high importance since it shows all the different types of processes that have helped shape the Lebanese coast.

1 RIF, 2000 **a** Breen, Forsythe, O'Connor, Westley 2014; 8

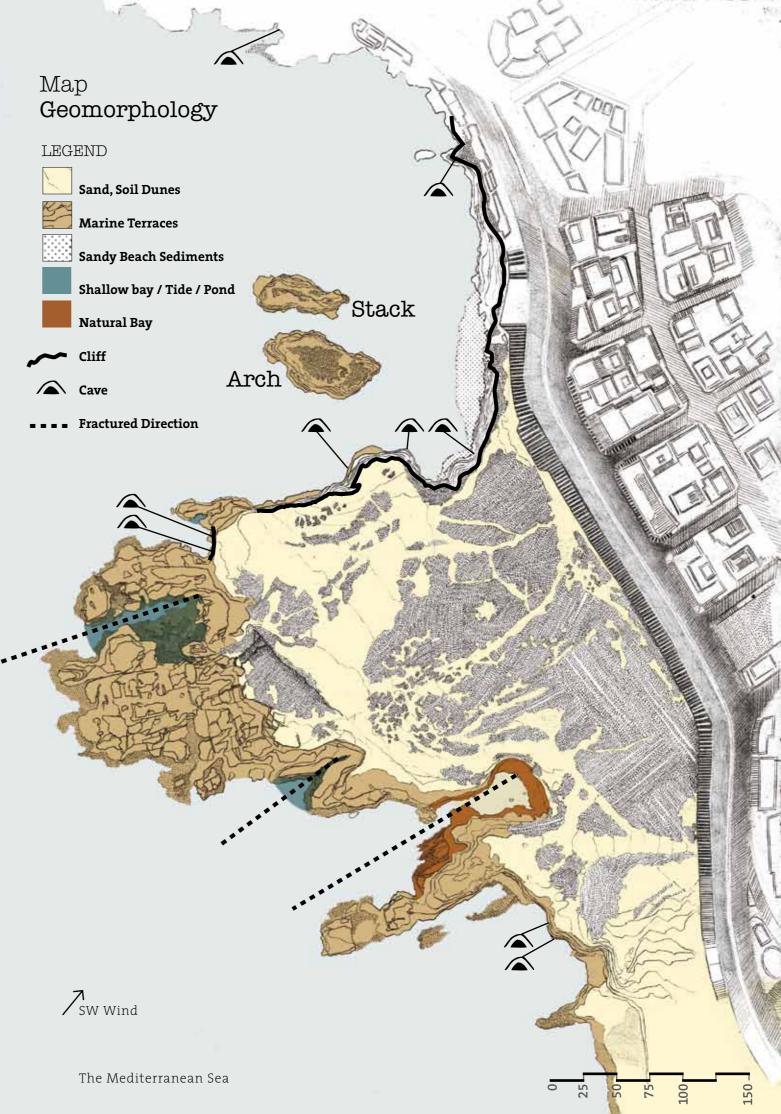
Geological

Timescale

Ras Beirut is formed by a limestone headland that protrudes from the west side of Beirut. The shoreline to the north is comprised of vertical limestone cliffs 30 to 40m high with two prominent stacks forming the Pigeon Rocks<sup>2</sup>. The headland known as 'Minet el Dalieh' dips southwest forming a series of rocky platforms at the shoreline and another potential terrace is located at the top of the headland, southeast between 20 and 40 m including sand dunes and vegetation. The uplifting fluctuation of the sea level and slow dissolution of rain was one of the factors that aided in creating this peninsula.



Sea Level



#### 16



White Cliffs layered 30 - 40 m, the result of wave action, indicator of present coastline.



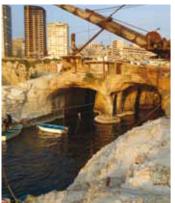


coastal karstic feature is unique in the Mediterranean. Evidence of slumping during geological times. Provides isolated sanctuary for marine avifauna. Stratification

Alteration of marls, limestone and marly limestone associated with chert bends and nodules.



Caves Coastal karstic arch shaped caves. Unique habitat for terrestrial fauna (birds & bats) and marine fana (fish, turtles, seal).









Sandy beach Sediments along Dalieh coast, naturally protected zones provides protected habitat for mammals and birds.



Shallow Bay, Tide, Pool & Pond developed from wave action on fractures & faults providing warm sheltered waters for marine fauna.

Marine Terraces Indicator of old coastlines, resulting from regression and fluctuation of sea level.





Dalieh is the only remaining coastal karst outcrop in Beirut.



**Natural Bay** elongate and narrow; unique feature of karstic shorelines of Lebanon and the result of erosion along fracturing.

Traditional fishermen's port

#### 4 Landscape Features of DALIEH

## Biodiversity

Dalieh is a site rich in its biodiversity, harboring both marine and terrestrial species.

#### Flora

Dalieh is one of the last remaining patches of semi-natural vegetation that is classified as an Important Plant Area (IPA) of significance to the entire Lebanese marine ecosystem. The flora found in Dalieh comprises 6 % of the Lebanese flora<sup>2</sup>.

The site shelters the last remaining coastal native plants, critically endangered stenoendenic species that are restricted to small areas in Lebanon.

Tidal ponds host common algae species in addition to other sea grass systems, which once destroyed, require several decades to recover<sup>3</sup>. Dalieh's vegetation is mainly low stand shrubs or ground covers dispersed in patches between the rock formations<sup>4</sup>.

1 Bariche, 2010 / Itani, Yazbeck, Zein, 2014 a Itani, Yazbeck, Zein 2010; 155 3 Bariche, 2010 4 Chmaitelly. H, 2007 **5** Bariche, 2010; 8 678 wildlebanon.org

#### Fauna

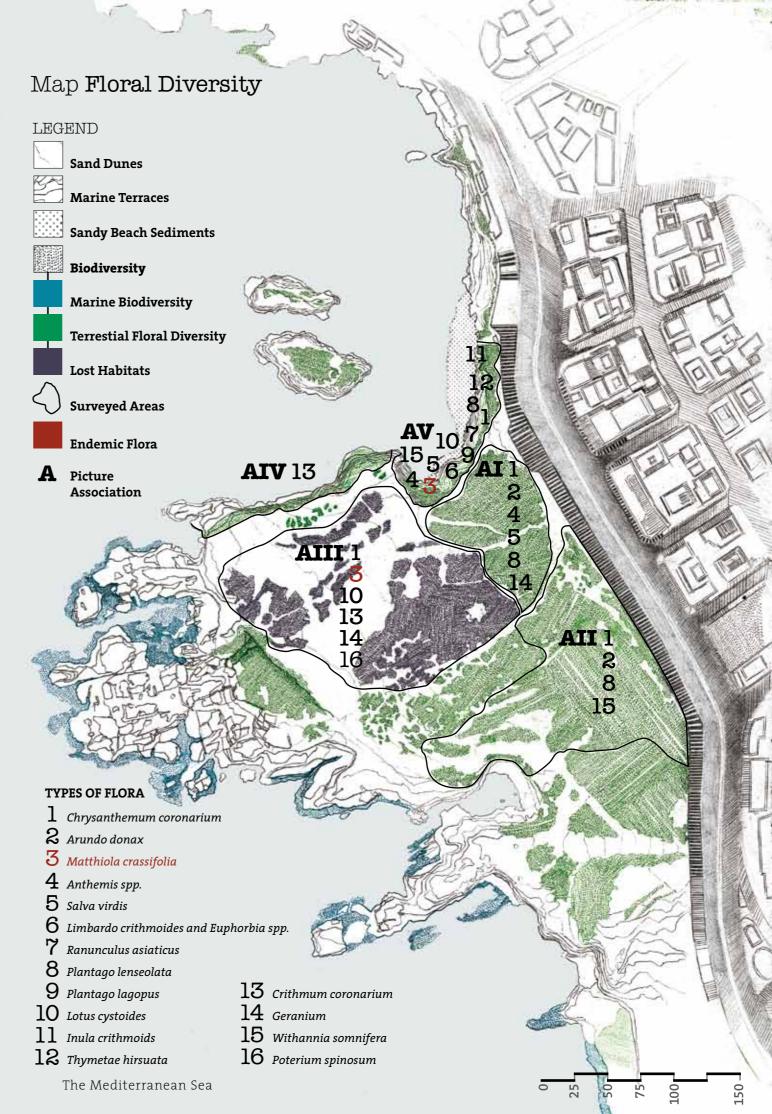
Dalieh hosts a wide range of ecosystems mainly vermetid reefs which are biogenic platforms situated exclusively in the Levant coast and underwater caves. The vermetid reef is formed at intertidal levels and built by attached marine snails. Tidal ponds are found within the vermetid platforms offering suitable habitats for fish species and several invertebrates, fire worms and sea urchins.

A small community of Mediterranean monk seal has taken refuge in the caves of Raouche. Threatened by hunting activities, entanglement in fishing equipment, it is one of the most endangered species in the world; and usually lives in areas where it can be seen<sup>5</sup>. It is rare, but bottlenose **dolphins** have also been observed close to the shore as they hunt fish<sup>6</sup>.

The caves found in the Raouche area nurture a large community of **fruit bats**, which are common species in coastal cities, thriving around gardens with fruit trees?.

Lebanon is situated on the second most important route for bird migration in the world. In the winter, **gulls** are commonly observed and often gather in huge flocks feeding off schooling fish that approach the shore. In spring and fall, migrating pelicans, grey herons, egrets and cormorants can be observed<sup>8</sup>. Following winter storms marine species such as gannets and shearwaters can be spotted from headlands.

### Map Floral Diversity



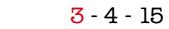




AIV/AV



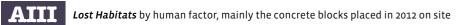








AIII



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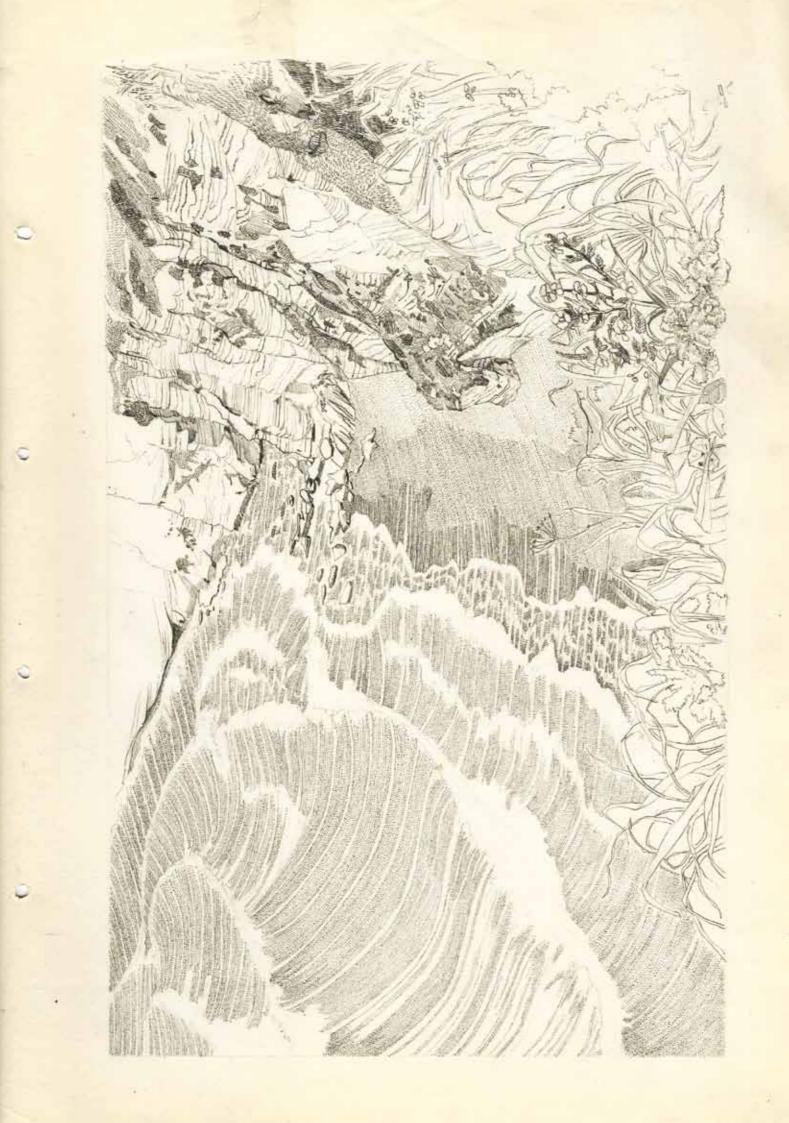




**3 AIV** 

13





# Endangered Flora

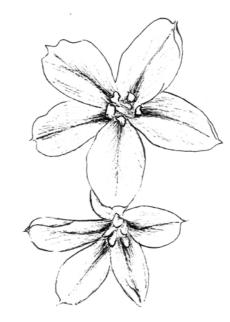


Figure 1 European leadwort (Plumbagoeuropea L.; Plumbaginaceae), a regional endemic

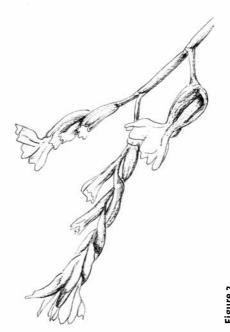


Figure 2 Twiggy sea lavender (Limonium virgatum (Willd.) Fourr, Plumbaginaceae), a regional endemic that went extinct in Dalieh in the past five years.

Figure 3 Beirut's thick-leaved stock (MatthiolacrassifoliaBoiss. &Gaill; Brassicaceae) a Lebanese stenoendemic



#### **4** Landscape Features of **DALIEH**

## Archaeology

Dalieh is the second headland located on the 15 m marine terrace, rising abruptly from the sea to 45m, forming a rocky cliff that is connected to the Beirut sea-front Corniche<sup>1</sup>. Originally a rocky cliff island, covered with sand dunes separate from the Beirut peninsula, the site transformed during the middle Paleolithic Age (date), when this part of Beirut became joined to the mainland<sup>2</sup>. Known for its prehistoric finds, it is believed that Ras Beirut was occasionally utilized for different uses from the lower Paleolithic (2,000,000-12,000BC) to the Byzantine Period<sup>3</sup>.

In 1914, Father Raoul Desribes of the Jesuit Church discovered many tool fragments scattered in Dalieh, but few products were found. 80 of the pieces found by him are part of the collection of the *Musée des Confluences* in Lyon today, originally donated to the *Musée de Lyon* in 1925<sup>4</sup>.

It has been proven that Minet el Dalieh is one of the richest flint (hard grey rock, used to make tools) areas in Lebanon⁵.

## This site is the earliest known factory on the coast of Lebanon,

heavily utilized until the Iron Age, when metal replaced stone for producing tools, which resulted in the abandonment of the site<sup>6</sup>. It is possible that Ras Beirut coast could have been used as a burial ground during the Bronze and Iron Age.

1 Jidejian 1993: 28

- **2** Cheikho 1993: 18
- 3 Jidejian 1993:21
- 4 Bodet, 2007
- **5** Saidah, 1970
- 6 Jidejian, 1993



Small bay on the 15m terrace. Cavity was filled with soils, the upper layers of Levallois and micro-Levallois industries, marine fauna and beach deposits. Levallois includes medium-sized flakes of fine workmanship. The micro-Levallois has smaller, elegant little shinny flakes with grey patina, made into points, flakes blades and racloirs.



The site is in a gully on the southern cliff or south-east ABOUT 15M. It was studied by Fleisch(1954 & 1956). Brecciated beach deposits in the gully-section contained a Levallois industry and a sparse Micro Levallois with marine shells, pebbles perhaps an offshore bar.

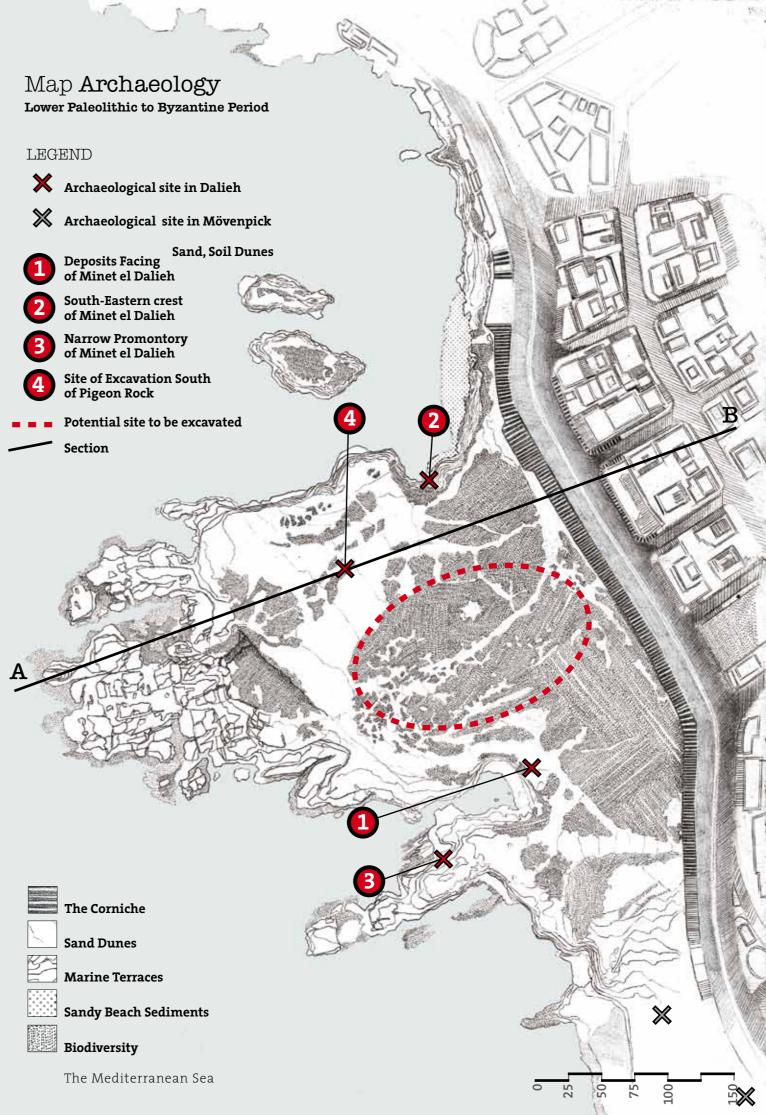


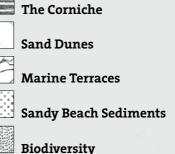


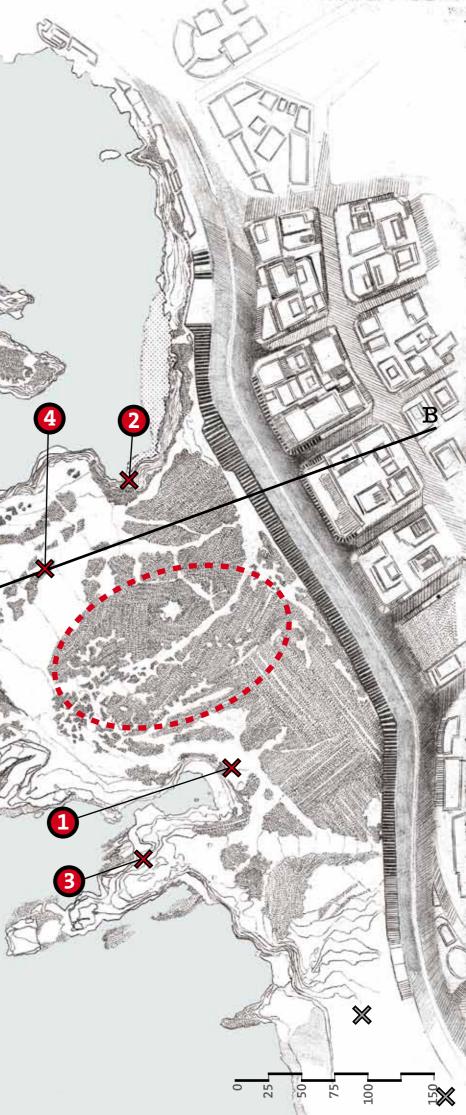


A cultivated \_eld on the larger headland directly south of the bay of Pigeon rock. An industry called "Golden Mousterian" found in the black earth. The flint is shiny golden yellow and forms include broad and large Lev. flakes and cores, medium sized points, racloirs and flake-blades.

LEGEND







#### 5 The users of DALIEH

# Socio-cultural significance

Over the years, Dalieh has been used by a wide variety of social groups who have animated the life of this area while providing a form of sustainable livelihood for many low-income city-dwellers.

Until recently, the appropriators of Dalieh included Beiruti fishermen who managed and organized the recreational life of the site through boat tours and restaurants, city dwellers and tourists of multiple interests, national and religious belonging. Visitors came from the city proper but also further away, from the suburbs. Pedestrians accessed the site through a makeshift entrance that had been carved in the Corniche balustrade, while cars made their way through an untreated road next to the nearby Mövenpick hotel entrance.

There are countless stories about the social significance of Dalieh as a renowned family picnic site and an outing destination. It was one of Beirut's *manateq at-tanazuh* [promenade sites] and a destination of siran - an activity which involves strolling, promenading, recreation, and the preparation of food (especially barbecue) in natural sites. People brought their food, beverages and arghileh, while a family member played the 'oud, bozog or tabla<sup>1</sup>. According to many accounts, the activities of **tanazuh** and **siran** were not restricted to designated parks, but took place in sites characterized by openness and lack of ascription and whose names refer to spaces from nature: forest, vineyard and plantation<sup>2</sup>.

Until the 1960's, Dalieh occupied a central space in popular imaginary both as the site of regular recreational visits and the location of repeated rituals.

#### Arb'at-Ayoub [Job's Wednesday]

The yearly celebration associated with the miracle of prophet Ayoub [Job]. To heal from his pains, Ayoub was advised to reside on the coast of Ouzai, 1km South of Dalieh, and to swim seven times in Ramlet el-Baida (the city's public beach), and to repeatedly bathe in the fresh waters of the Dalieh<sup>3</sup>. In commemoration of Ayoub's miracle, Beirutis marched yearly from their homes to Dalieh or Ramlet el Baida on the last Wednesday of April. Those who used to celebrate the event recount how women used to serve their traditional Beiruti dish (mfatqa) while children flew their kites<sup>4</sup>. They also recounted how they used to buy green peas and sit at the top of Dalieh, then pick seven different types of flowers and put them in water overnight and use them to wash their faces and eyes in the morning<sup>5</sup>. Today, Dalieh still maintains its historical connotations. There are numerous old place names for the site that are still referred to by their users.

1 Fakhouri, 2003 2 Saksouk, 2015 3 www.yabeyrouth.com 4 Dictaphone Group, 2012 5 The Ras Beirut Oral History project, AUB

#### Nowroz

Since the 1980s, Dalieh has hosted yearly the grand Nowroz festivities celebrated by the Kurdish community living in Beirut, a sizable social group that has resided in Lebanon for several decades – and whose numbers increased throughout the 1990s. Members of the Kurdish community have gathered in Dalieh on the 21st of March every year, transforming the site with thousands of users setting up food kiosks, a music stage and dance all day carrying their national flags.

#### Fishermen

Dalieh encompasses two traditional fishermen's ports that have been functional since the 1950s. In 1995, Maritime Authorities official recognized one of these ports (in the southern part of the site) and 75 fishermen and their boats registered in the Ta'awniyyat el-Sayyadeen [fishermen cooperative]. In conjunction with the port, there are a few rooms where the fishermen put their nets and clothes, and a space where they weave their fishing nets. Ten of these fishermen's families also lived in kiosks on Dalieh. They were recently evicted and their houses bulldozed with the exception of two families. Nonetheless, all fishing boats remained in Dalieh after their eviction. The kiosk of one of the two remaining families is located at the southern end of the site and houses male fishermen. The other is located on the northern side of Dalieh and is occupied by the Itani family who also runs the café and restaurant that offer fish, beverages and arghile (water pipe). Being the only operating kiosk on site, their customers today comprise a combination of social groups, including Iraqis, Kuwaiti tourists, Syrians, Lebanese, and others.

#### Swimmers Club

Apart from the general swimmers, there is a group of old men who swim every morning in the sea of Dalieh and enter its caves.

#### Boat riders

Many Lebanese and Arab tourists come to Dalieh to take boat rides with the fishermen along the coast and into the caves of Raouche. They also stand and take pictures in front of the Pigeon Rocks. The tourism boat rides are the major income and source of livelihood for the fishermen of Dalieh.

#### Divers

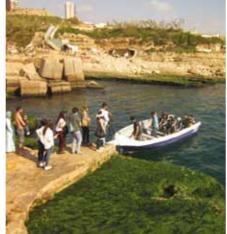
Historically, diving competitions used to take place from the rocks of Dalieh (although these were promoted as diving from the Raouche Rock). Today, a lot of divers are young unemployed men who live in different parts of Beirut.

#### Yoga Group

A yoga group has been practicing every morning at 6 am for the past fifteen years.



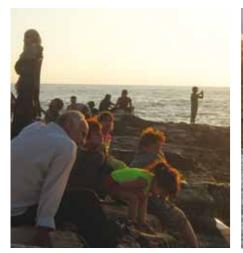
































#### 5 The users of DALIEH

## In Mythology<sup>\*</sup>

#### In the beginning there was BEROE ...

There, where time saw her first appearance, Born with the earth, She is her contemporary, She dissipates the darkness that fills the emptiness She is the City **"Beroe"** 

"Blessed Beirut" stands firmly over the sea, With magnificent islands and green pastures, The port of every love, The magic of human life

#### Nonnos **"The Dionysiaques"** – Roman Period

It's the Epic of Beirut. It includes "Facts" called Myths of Creation.

Eternally transmitted by generations from East to West until the nineteenth century, specifically the year 1830, when the West intended to colonize the East, removing legends and historical facts and replacing them with a new myth: the *civilized* west in opposition to the *barbarian* east.

All Near East and Far East Civilizations : Sumer - Babylon - Akkad - Elam - Canaan – The Pharaons - the Hittites – Hind and Sind ... were no more considered as primary foundations of History but placed under "barbaric" category.

And the new "History" was re-written as the first and only legal origin was the Greco - Roman Civilization (and later the Judeo – Christian civilization).

#### Some of these legends / facts of Beirut that was intentionnaly erased even from the memory of its own citizens (by this colonial point of view) :

\* text by Najat Naimeh Nassif translated from Arabic. It was first published with photographs for Hoda Kassatly exhibited at Galerie Alice Mogabgab in 2014

- 1. The birth of the city *Beroe*, as old as dawn itself, in the sea of Beirut. Its immortal citizens the first to appear in what called the golden season.
- The birth of Aphrodite the goddess of pure love, the eternal bride; the birth of her son, Eros, the god of desire and reproduction; Both born in Beirut's eternal port and its Dalieh, and not in Cyprus as rumored.
- 3. The birth of the nymph Beroe, the daughter of Aphrodite and Adonis, in *Beirut* her mother's sea. The Goddess Aphrodite deciding to design for her daughter *Beroe* a great city in her name.
- 4. And thus later, the Greco-Roman city of *Beroe* came to be: that *barricaded city of unshakable laws*.

Other facts also revealed in the Epic of Beirut:

- 5. Beirut's ancient *Assyrian* lineage emerging from the Near East ancient civilisations.
- 6. Beirut's *Cananean Cadmousian* heritage and non interrupted cultures.
- From the Canaanites : the Hyksos and the Great emperor "KHIAN" in Thebes (Egypt) - To the great house of Agnor and the Danean in both of Tyre, Thebes, Argos and Cadiz -To Cadmus:

Phoenix his brother; Europa his sister; Telephassa (cf. Tirfilsa village in Tyr) his mother; Harmonia his wife (daughter of Aphrodite - mother of all Cadmia kings, sons and successors of Cadmus in his new greek city Thebes built by him - and even mother of Semele Dionysus' mother.

 7. The civilizing project of Cadmus:
 The year 1300 BC - 22 characters that changed everything. Cadmus introduced the Phoenician Alphabet in Greek Writing. He gathered between the silent and phonetic letters, designed the forms of the characters as he had learned in his homeland, then taught the secrets of words starting from Thebes the city he builts, and spreading to the rest of Greece.

8. Orphism: the Religion of Salvation. Who at it's heart Dionysus - Zagreus, the Canaanite grandson of Cadmus. It is the religion of unity and harmony between all beings. Orpheus had trained wisdom and mysteries of Dionysus in Thebes, on Cadmus' descendants hands. It was Orpheus, after

Hermes (god of wisdom and knowledge), who influenced Pythagoras and Plato as well as Buddhism and Jainism religions.

9. Roman *Beryts* the mother of laws, one city to become for all cities of the world.

Since the birth of the nymph *Beroe* on Hermes hands in Beirut Sea, she was breastfed by wisdom, poetry and eloquence. Aphrodite saught prophecies on the fate of the city, established for her daughter, to be realized only as *Beryts* '*City of laws*' in the Roman era.

"Before, violence never left peaceful cities, until there was Beirut, imposing justice to the land and sea." That city has become one for all cities of the

world.

## Why a brief on the mythological heritage of Beirut?

1- To Re-focus on the exceptional history of Beirut ignored from Myths of creation
2- To write off Beirut from the genealogical map of the emergence of nations
3- To save it and all of its geographic and historical features, From Raouche until Ashour real estate project on Ramlet el Bayda, from the exceeding amount of private investment projects, private development firms, globalized capital, technology and profiteering.
4-These projects are permanently destroying not only the geographical topography, but the ecological and civic network of the city that have been in existence for ages. 5- The most dangerous is by eliminating its marine geology we eliminate the mythological memory of the emergence of the city, and the movement of its people through human history.

These are the remnants of the foundations of knowledge, science and unique philosophies, tested by the peoples of the region in different epochs, in these sites.

## Is the destruction of Beirut a prophecy come true today?

"Then I will make the city a different form, I will not let it near the sea, but I will flatten its hills with my weapons, Fill the blue sea near, **'Berytus'** Turning the fertile water, into rock and stone, Leveling its roads with a flat sharp spear."

Is this prophecy by *Dionysus* the god of land, jealously longing to marry *Beroe*, being fulfilled today in Lebanon's Sea: extending Beirut's borders to its once green hills creating greater Beirut; the current land reclamation projects extending development to its shores; the concrete blocks on the Raouche; and the wall of buildings on the Ramlet al-Bayda beach. All of these changes to the map of Beirut are underestimated and these concrete construction projects are all for naught:

*"Your opponent is a most powerful sea"* said Poseidon the god of the sea to Dionysus. While he was speaking, *"the sea rose to space, bathing the thirsty Big Dipper in the ocean. The lower depths of the water rose waves like towers; Where the dolphin of sea met the dolphin of space in the midst of the streaming currents".* 

"This see is mine" - said Mahmoud Darwish! "Lift your construction site off our Raouche" - said the civil campaign to protect the Dalieh! "I got my blood from the sea and the air And I will plant the sky on earth near the sea, that is my mother" - said Aphrodite!

Doesn't 'Beroe' the eternal legendary capital of the nation deserve to be redeemed?!

#### 6 Property and regulation in DALIEH

## Existing Legal Framework

Like most of the western coastline of Beirut, Dalieh properties were the result of the visions of Ottoman and later French authorities to entrust the city's commons to the main families of the city. The official cadastral property records indicate that since the 1920s up until 1995, these properties had multiple owners, who were all members of the so-called "old families of Beirut."

#### However, **these property titles did not** contradict with Dalieh as the site of the

city's collective commons. Urban and building regulations had relatively protected Beirut's seafront for decades, making of the promenade along the coast a landmark communal space in the city. On one level, Order 144 issued in 1925 defines what constitutes al-Amlak al-'Oumoumiyyah (public property) and categorizes the sea as an inalienable maritime public domain. On another level, the 1954 Beirut Master Plan prohibited construction of any kind in Zone 10 where Dalieh lies.

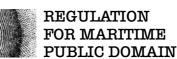
As of the mid-1960s, pressure by real estate developers and property owners has resulted in a few laws and decrees that reversed the initial legislations against building in this zone. Such legal changes allowed increasingly intensive building coefficients, allowing for the privatization of areas typically used as public spaces. Decree 4711 / 1966, for instance, permitted building activity in parts of Dalieh, allowing a 15% surface exploitation and 20% general (refer to next page).

The gradual private take-over of Beirut's coast that started in the 1960s did not initially affect Dalieh. Yet an investigation into contemporary property registry records reveals a dubious process of land agglomeration. In 1995, three

private companies, all held by the same high-profile investor, managed to buy these property shares, consolidate single private ownership and expand it over what was the city's collective commons. This take-over operation has been represented as a defacto reality that overshadows the historical communal practices in Dalieh and represents them as illegal squatting of private land. In parallel to the land purchases, a law 402 / 1995 was issued to enable land owners with a plot larger than 20,000m2 to double their total exploitation factor and quadruple their surface exploitation if a hotel is to be built. Additionally, another decree was issued 7464 / 1995 to allow for the exploitation of the maritime public domain in Zone 10. The last alteration (April 2014) to the building and zoning regulations governing Zone 10 prolonged the effect of Law 402/1995 for 19 years.

In addition to the above-mentioned transformations, old cadastral maps show that private land holdings have also encroached over the maritime public domain. Historical and contemporary cadastral maps demonstrate that property boundaries in Dalieh have been modified to illegally privatize a large section of the coast.





#### 1920's 1925

COMMONS **ENTRUSTED** TO MAIN FAMILIES THEN REGISTERED AS MULTIPLE **OWNERSHIP** The official cadastral property records indicate that Dalieh has been owned by members of several Beirutee families: Chatila

Baydoun Itani Matar Afif Mawad Murr

THE FURTHEST HIGH-WATER POINT ON THE BEACH. ALONG THE SAND AND GRAVEL SEAFRONTS ARE INALIENABLE MARITIME PUBLIC DOMAIN

#### ORDER 144

in effect until today, defines public property and formulates right of access to natural resources.

#### 1966

ALLOW TO EXPLOIT THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ALONG ENTIRE LEBANESE COAST, EXCEPT ZONE 10, WITH CONDITIONS SET TO PRESERVE THE COMMON GOOD.

#### **DECREE 4810**/1966

a main condition obliges owner to give 25% of property to municipality to transform it into a public garden

#### 1989

ALLOW TO EXPLOIT ZONE 10 WITH MINIMAL CONDITIONS A NOTORIOUS LEGISLATION FOR THE Mövenpick **DECREE 169**/1989 is being challenged in front of the court.

#### 1995

ALLOW AGAIN TO EXPLO **ZONE 10** DECREE 7464/1995 similar to decree 169/1989, howe published in more legal condition

THREE **REAL ESTATE** COMAPNIES **BOUGHT THE** PLOTS OF DALIEH





REGULATION FOR LAND ALONG THE COAST

ZONING REGULATION PROHIBITS

CONSTRUCTION OF ANY KIND

ALONG THE COAST

**BEIRUT MASTER PLAN** 

#### 1954

#### AMMEND ZONING REGULATION FOR ZONE 10 AND PERMIT MINIMAL BUILDING ACTIVITY

DECREE 4711/1966

in Dalieh, the current zoning is in part non-edificande and in part an allowable 15% surface exploitation and 20% total.

IT	HIGH EXPLOITATIONS
	EXCEPTIONS GRANTED TO
	OWNERS WITH LARGE PLOTS
ever	OF LANDS WISHING <b>TO BUILD</b>
ns.	A HOTEL
	LAW 402/1995 owner with a plot larger than 20,000m2 can double their total exploitation factor and quadruple their surface exploitation. The periodical law had expired in 2000, but it WAS RENEWED AGAIN FOR 19 YEARS IN 2014.

#### 7 Roles of Institutions in Preserving DALIEH

## The Governor and Municipality

The Mohafez (Governor of Beirut) shares administrative responsibilities with the Municipal Council and its President. The council of 24 members holds the decisionmaking capacity, and is locally elected every 6 years. The Mohafez is appointed by the national cabinet, can remain in his post up to 10 years, and holds the executive capacity: all decisions, national, regional, and local fall under his jurisdiction. This includes all permits (construction, demolition, access, etc.) and the adoption of zoning plans. Accordingly, the Mohafez carries a significant weight when it comes to protecting natural and heritage sites endangered by private development.

The Municipality of Beirut is the primary responsible for the organization and management of the city in coordination with other government departments. It has full authority to approve or disapprove any building permit for a project in Dalieh, in accordance with Article 13 of the Lebanese Building Law. The Municipal Council can also opt for the acquisition of Dalieh lands through a process of expropriation.

## Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the establishment, protection and management of protected sites. The MOE can propose the recognition of a site as a "Nature Reserve" or as a "Natural Site to be Protected" based on a literature review and field assessment. Once the scientific studies, base maps, and necessary documents are developed, the MOE develops the draft law establishing a specific site as a nature reserve. After consultation with, and approval by, the main stakeholders, the MOE submits the draft law to the Council of Ministers to be approved and transmitted to the Parliament for endorsement.

In the case of Dalieh, the MOE has prepared such a draft law for the protection of the site, which is pending approval by Council of Ministers. Additionally, the Ministry can rally and lobby other Ministries to adopt its proposal to protect Dalieh based on its inclusion in several plans and studies previously commissioned by different Lebanese governments. It can equally reject any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the project based on the importance of the site. This is possible by adopting the basic principles of EIA.

## Ministry of Public Works and Transport

The mandate of the Ministry of Public Works includes the implementation of the legislation and regulations related to transport and marine public properties; the maintenance of primary roads and the railway right-of-way, as well as the public maritime domain including its ports and marine terminals, as per Law no. 2141993/.

Hence, in the case of Dalieh, the ministry can reject any request to "exploit" Public Maritime Domain in the area; a feature that will be key for any project development. It can also protect the officially registered fisherman port in Dalieh.

## Directorate General of Urban Planning (DGU)

The DGU falls under the authority of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. Its mandate is to develop urban regulations and coordinate urban planning activities. The DGU is also involved in the protection of archaeological and cultural heritage.

As such, the DGU can reject any request to grant exceptional building exploitation through law 402 in Dalieh. It can equally propose entirely new legislation and zoning for zone 10 of Beirut, protecting it as a breather and public space for the city, by reverting back to the 1954 Beirut Master Plan that prohibits any building activity in all of Zone 10. The DGU is in fact a key player is stopping any future building development in Dalieh.

## Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR)

Reporting to the Council of Ministers Moreover, acoording to the **Law for** (COM), the CDR is a public institution Cultural Property #37/2008, the Ministry whose mandate is to establish "the general of Culture can protect a natural site framework for urban planning" in Lebanon of archaeological, cultural and social and to submit it to the COM for approval. importance if its protection is in the interest of the Lebanese general public. In 2002, a National Physical Master Plan for the Lebanese Territories was issued by the CDR. It proposed a unified set of land use categories covering the entire territory, and in it, delineated the Raouche area as a zone to be protected due to ecological and patrimonial importance.

Five years later, the COM approved the Master Plan through Decree 2366 dated 20/06/2009.

The Master Plan is a reference document for several administrations including the DGUP and ministries, and they should refer to it when making decisions related to urban development and environmental heritage conservation.

## Ministry of Culture / DGA

The Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) falls under the authority of the Ministry of Culture. It is responsible for implementing the provisions stipulated in regulations related to antiquities (Decision No.166/L.R. dated 7/11/1933 and its amendments), and other legal and regulatory provisions related to archeological remains, antiques, as well as traditional and historical monuments.

The ministry can use Law 166, instituted back in the 1930s for the protection of archeological sites and architectural landmarks, to protect Dalieh as a natural landmark. Here are some ways average citizens can get involved in the campaign to protect Dalieh and Beirut's last untouched shoreline.

## Spread the word

Use your networks on social media to talk about Dalieh, whether if it is to post pictures, tell stories or even to pose questions.

#### #SaveDalieh

use the hashtag so that we can keep track of these conversations

## Share stories about Dalieh

Ask your friends, relatives even strangers about their memories of Dalieh and share your own. Post stories, videos, as well as old or new photos on your social media networks.

#### www.facebook.com/dalieh.org

share a link on our facebook page to spread those memories to an even wider audience

## Join our mailing list

Attend our meetings and/or volunteer for events. All types of volunteers, from professionals to concerned citizens, can be very useful in this campaign. Keep up to date by joining our mailing list.

> info@dalieh.org send an email

## Rally for Dalieh

Talk to your friends and colleagues about the issue of Dalieh and the seafront, and contact us to set up a meeting. Let us know if you think your workplace or institution would be interested in hosting us for a presentation and discussion about Dalieh.

## Share this booklet

This booklet documents the research and activities carried out by the campaign. Its purpose is to spread knowledge about Dalieh and pressure authorities to keep it as an open shared space. Ask for copies to distribute.

www.dalieh.org or download online

## Visit Dalieh

Discover one of the last remaining open spaces on Beirut's coast. Take your friends and relatives for fishing, swimming, diving, picknicking, walking, and on a boat ride. Members of the campaign are also organizing occasional site visits. Get in touch if you want to take part.

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