

PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme
Damascus, Syria

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'Memorandum of Understanding agreement reached between Small Grants Programme "SGP" and Nature Protections Society of Tartous'

Damascus, 23 December 2009. Within the framework of the GEF Small Grants Programme, the United Nations Office for Project Services UNOPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The document was signed by the UNDP Resident Representative on behalf of UNOPS and Nature Protection Society (NPS) in an effort to increase carbon storage capacity & the conservation of wild forest species in the Tartous governorate. The project will be funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme with a contribution of 50.000 USD, payable over a period of three years (January 2010 to December 2012) and co-financed by the Nature Protection Society of Tartous with an in-kind contribution of 39.650 USD and a cash contribution of 10.000 USD.

The project's main objectives are to address climate change mitigation & adaptation through CO2 capturing and conservation of local wild forest species. The project will work to increase the forest carbon storage capacity through the establishment of a wild forest species nursery programme. This will not only increase forest area but will also conserve 15 local wild forest species in the costal area of Syria particularly that of the Tartous governorate. The network will include a collection of 35 home gardens and nurseries within the region coordinated and managed by the Nature Protection Society in close consultation with local and national stakeholders.

The project aims to :

- 1) An increase a forest carbon sink and storage capacity;
- 2) Conservation of important wild local forest species in the costal area of Syria (Tartous governorate);
- 3) Knowledge sharing and awareness about current local and global environmental challenges.

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UNDP is The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).