

# AL HOUBARA

## TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREA FACTSHEET 2023



NAME  
AL HOUBARA  
PROTECTED  
AREA

AREA  
2492 km<sup>2</sup>

ESTABLISHED  
In 2007

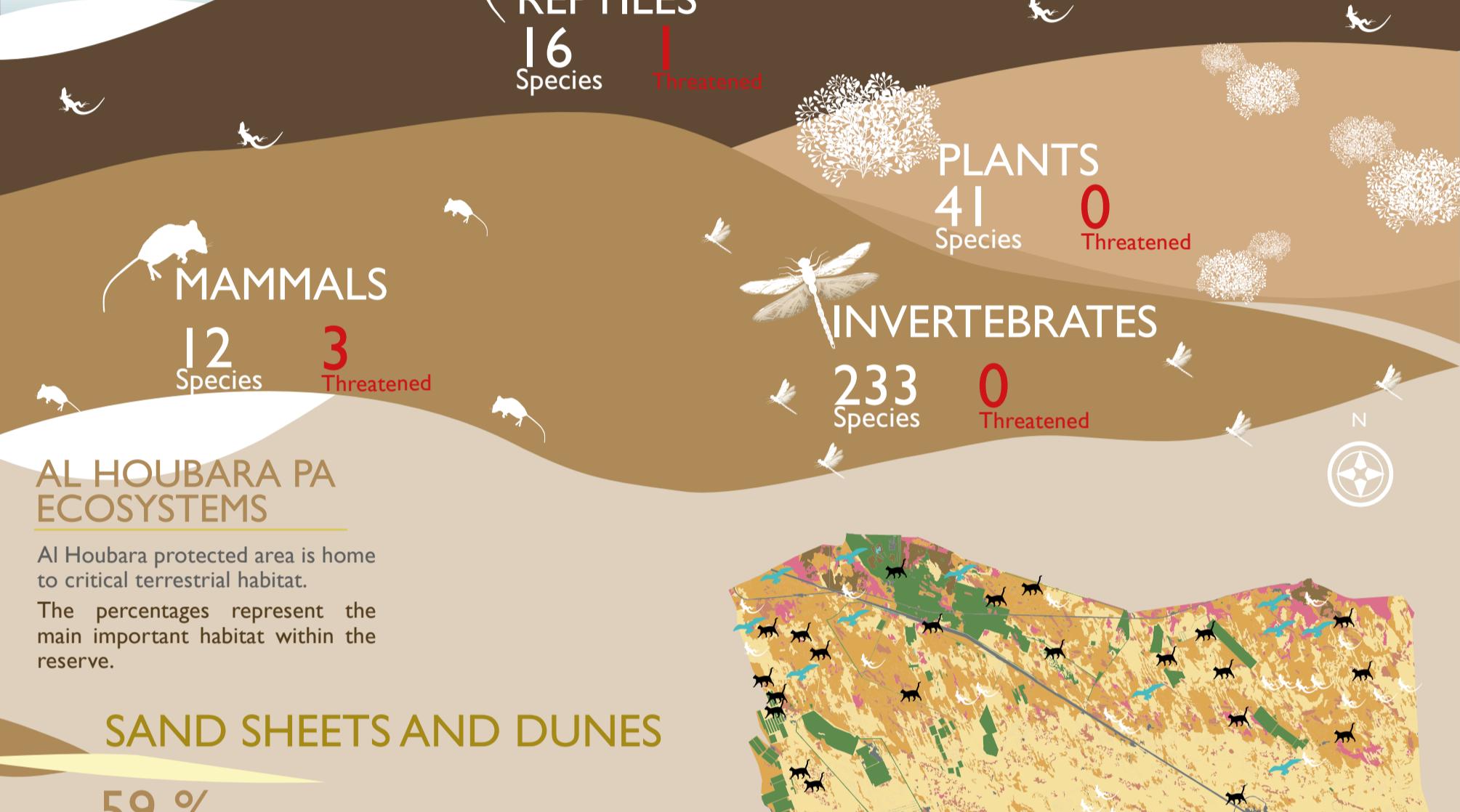
DECLARATION  
In 2017

LOCATION  
AL DHAFRA REGION  
BETWEEN AL MIRFA  
CITY AND AL RUWAYS

### AL HOUBARA PA FEATURES

Al Houbara protected area is home to one of the most significant Houbara reintroduction programmes in the region, and houbara bustard is released in this protected area by International Fund for Houbara Conservation. This protected area is one of the richest reserves in biodiversity, and it is the only location where the sand cat was recorded after a long interruption.

Environment Agency released a group of Arabian Oryx in the Houbara Nature Reserve. This release represents an important step for the reintroduction of the Arabian Oryx within the framework of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Arabian Oryx Reintroduction Programme.



### AL HOUBARA PA ECOSYSTEMS

Al Houbara protected area is home to critical terrestrial habitat.

The percentages represent the main important habitat within the reserve.

### SAND SHEETS AND DUNES

59 %  
1475 km<sup>2</sup>

### MOUNTAINS, ROCKY TERRAIN AND WADIS

5 %  
122 km<sup>2</sup>

### OASES, FARMLAND AND FORESTRY

6 %  
144 km<sup>2</sup>

### GRAVEL PLAINS (ALLUVIAL AND INTERDUNAL)

25 %  
621 km<sup>2</sup>



0 3.25 6.5 13 19.5 26 Kilometres

### WILDLIFE IMPORTANCE

#### 1. Hosting important mammals species:

- Sand Cat (*Felis margarita thomasi*)
- Lesser Jerboa (*Jaculus jaculus*)
- Arabian Sand Gazelle (*Gazella marica*)

#### 2. Hosting important birds species:

- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)
- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

#### 3. Hosting important plants species:

- Jointed glasswort (*Haloxylon salicornicum*)
- Bean caper (*Tetraena qatarensis*)
- Cyperus (*Cyperus conglomeratus Rottb.*)

#### 4. Hosting important reptiles species:

- Arabian toad-headed agama (*Phrynocephalus arabicus*)

### GENERAL REGULATION



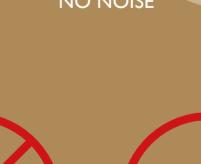
NO FIRES



DO NOT FEED  
THE WILDLIFE



DO NOT COLLECT,  
UPROOT OR WALK  
OVER ANY PLANTS



NO NOISE



NO LITTERING



WALK ONLY ON  
THE MARKED TRAIL



NO POLLUTING  
SOIL/WATER



NO PETS ALLOWED

\*This activity requires a permission from Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and the concerned Authorities

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[www.ead.gov.ae](http://www.ead.gov.ae)