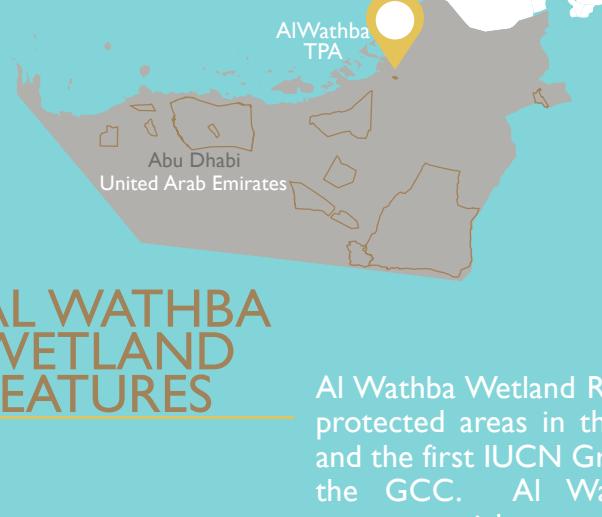




AL WATHBA WETLAND RESERVE

TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREA FACTSHEET



NAME
AL WATHBA
WETLAND
RESERVE
AREA
5 km²

ESTABLISHED
In 1998

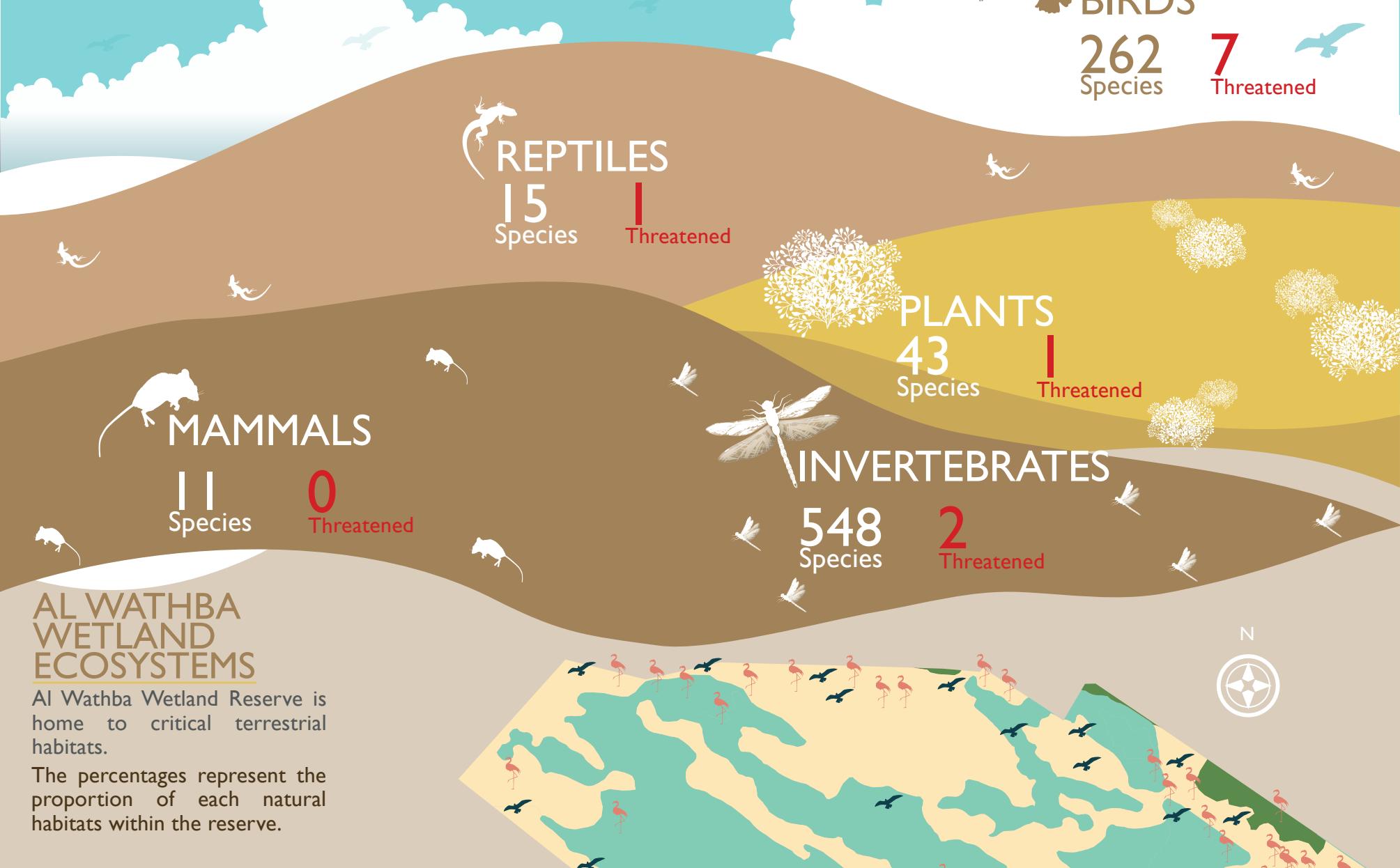
DECLARATION
In 2017

LOCATION
40 km
SOUTHEAST OF
ABU DHABI ISLAND

AL WATHBA WETLAND FEATURES

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is one of the first protected areas in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the first IUCN Green list protected area in the GCC. Al Wathba Wetland Reserve supports a rich array of wildlife and some of the typical wetland species. A largely man-made wetland, the Reserve lies at the edge of a dune system intergrading into a sabkha. In the north and northwest are dunes of 15–10 metre high, at

the northern most end of it is the Mafraq Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Wetland is one of the first sites in the Abu Dhabi to apply ecotourism in the winter season (from November to March).



AL WATHBA WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve is home to critical terrestrial habitats.

The percentages represent the proportion of each natural habitats within the reserve.

SAND SHEETS AND DUNES

42.7 %
1.9 km²

INLAND STANDING WATER HS AND HABITATS OF MOIST GROUND AND DUNES

40.4 %
1.8 km²

COASTAL SABKHA, INCLUDING SABKHA MATTI

15.5 %
0.7 km²



WILDLIFE IMPORTANCE

1. The only site where migratory flamingos regularly breed in the Arabian Peninsula, where the population reaches 4,000 birds in autumn until spring.

2. The discovered insect species are the first of its kind in the world:

- Hedychridium anithae
- Gasteruption alwathbaense
- Drapetis wathabiensis

3. AlMafraq Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on the eastern side of the reserve and supplies the reserve with the necessary water. This led to the difference in salinity between the lakes, from fresh water to brackish to the salinity of sea water, to the diversity of species of birds and insects that live in the reserve.

GENERAL REGULATION



NO FIRES



DO NOT FEED
THE WILDLIFE



NO PETS
ALLOWED



NO NOISE



NO LITTERING



WALK ONLY
ON THE MARKED TRAIL



NO HUNTING



NO POLLUTING
SOIL/WATER



DO NOT COLLECT,
UPROOT OR WALK
OVER ANY PLANTS



NO BIKING/
NO ATVS



DO NOT
CUT TREES



CAMPING NOT
ALLOWED WITHOUT
PERMISSION*



DRONES NOT
ALLOWED WITHOUT
PERMISSION*