

**Dure (IQ003)**

Dohuk – 37.225556°N 43.509444°E

KBA Criteria: **V**IPA Criteria: **A4, B1, and C**Area: **2310 ha** - Altitude: **755-1890 m**Ecoregion: **Zagros Mountains Forest Steppe (PA0446)**Status: **Unprotected**

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**Site Description:** This site is an open area of valleys, springs, agricultural fields and woodland in the Zagros Range. The Sari Darishk, Sari Zer and Shirani Mountains form a chain close to the site. It was called Dori Serguza (IBA002) by Evans (1994), who provided incorrect coordinates for its location. The main habitat types surveyed here were mountain forest vegetation (primarily oak forests) and mountain riverine forest. *Quercus*,

*Juniperus* and *Pinus* trees dominate the woodlands and the slopes are rocky, with grasses and isolated *Quercus* scrub. The geology is siltstone and limestone, and the soil type is sandy clay. The villages of Sarizer, Duskan and Barbuire and a church, which is a potentially important cultural and religious heritage site, are located near Sari Zer.

Key Biodiversity Area Criteria	Notes
<b>V. Vulnerability Criteria: Presence of Critically Endangered and Endangered species – presence of a single individual or Vulnerable species – 30 individuals or 10 pairs.</b>	
<i>Capra aegagrus</i>	No direct observation, reported by the border police based in the area.
<b>Important Plant Area Criteria</b>	
<b>A4. Site contains national endemic, near endemic, regional endemic and/or regional range restricted species or infraspecific taxa</b>	
Endemics are <i>Centaurea longipedunculata</i> and <i>Linum velutinum</i> ; <i>Linum velutinum</i> along with three others ( <i>Dianthus asperula</i> , <i>Gladiolus kotschyanus</i> , and <i>Quercus macranthera</i> ) are nationally rare species.	
<b>B1. Site is a particularly species-rich example of defined habitat type</b>	
Forest Vegetation-Mountain Riparian-Forest and Mountain Forest Vegetation- Oak Forest- Medium and Highest sub-zones	
<b>C. The site is identified as an outstanding example of a globally or regionally threatened habitat type.</b>	
Globally important <i>Pinus</i> woodland. This represents the most easterly distribution of what was once a widespread forest.	

**Additional Important Bird Observations:** During the surveys 44 species were observed. Although this site does not qualify as an IBA, the following threatened species were observed: Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* (Vulnerable) on passage and Eastern Cinereous Bunting *Emberiza semenowi* (Near Threatened) breeding. The site also held in the breeding season four Mediterranean, one Irano-Turanian and one Eurasian Steppe and Desert biome-restricted species but these did not trigger inclusion under criterion A3

Grey Wolf *Canis lupus*, Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, and Persian Squirrel *Sciurus anomalus*. One near-endemic reptile Zagrosian Lizard *Timon princeps kurdistanicus* was observed. No fish surveys were performed at this site.

**Additional Plant & Habitat Information:** This site contains a good population of *Pistacia eurycarpa*, *P. khinjuk* and *Crataegus azarolus*, which are economically and culturally important.

**Other Important Fauna:** Mammal data were collected in 2010. According to border police officers, animals in the area include: Wild Goat *Capra aegagrus* (Vulnerable), Striped Hyena *Hyaena hyaena* (Near Threatened), Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*,

**Conservation Issues:** Human intrusion was the only issue considered a high threat at Dure. Other impacts come from farmland near the villages of Sari Zer, Duskan, and Sari Zer, hunting and pollution from picnickers.

## KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS OF IRAQ

**Recommendations:** The vegetation cover at Dure was very high (95%) and it is considered important for endemic and rare species of plants. It warrants some form of protected area designation and more active conservation management to reduce any threats.

