
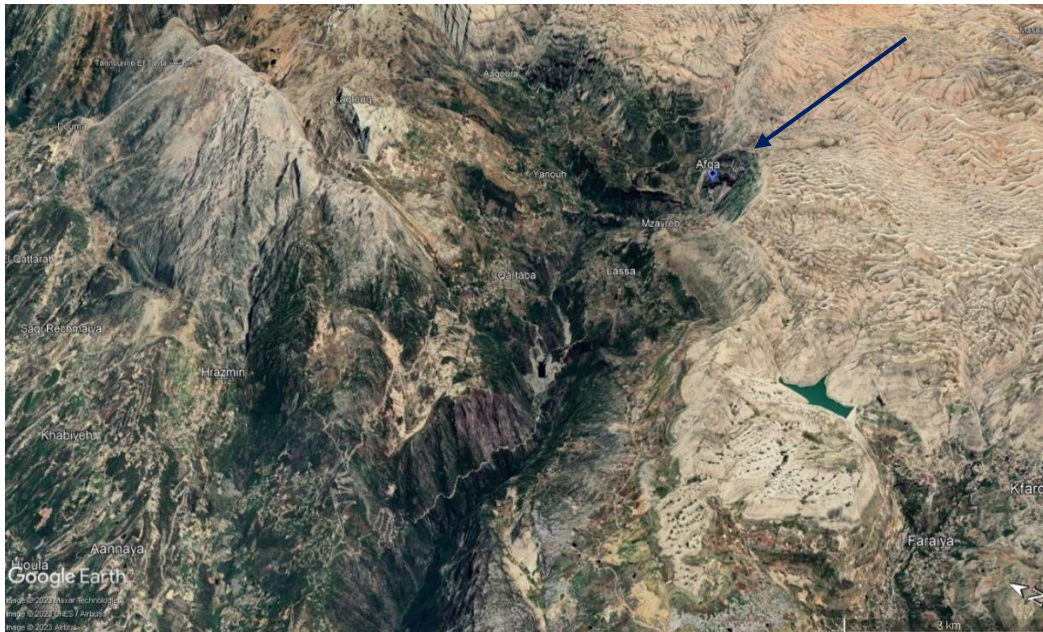




Country	MIKAS springs	Coordinates / Nearby City	Spring discharge (Q in l/s,min/av/max) / tapped or not	Criteria* in order / Main justification */ H-historic, A-aesthetic, S-scientific, E-Economic, Ec-ecologic	Data collected by
Lebanon 	1. Afqa spring	N 34°04'2.18" E 35°53'36.96" Z = 1300 m asl Kersrouane, Afqa	2500/5000/25000 Tapped for potable water supply of Seraaita, Janneh, and Qamez	H, A, S, E, Ec <i>The origin of the word is Apheca/Greek-meaning source. The Afqa Cave is located upstream to a roman temple (Aphrodite - Aphantikis; in arabic Ashtarout). Legend has it that Adonis (Adoun) was born and died at the foot of the Afqa falls. He was killed by a bore and his blood flowed into the Adonis River. This legend explains mythologically the red color of the river, which is in fact due to suspended clays and marls and high turbidity after snowmelt. The Afqa cave is unravelled through a spectacular entrance; visited by thousands of tourists per year and is an important source of tourism income; the spring consists of a series of water falls and a large chamber. The spring, one of the largest Lebanon is used for water supply and more downstream for irrigation and domestic usages in surrounding villages.</i>	Joanna Doummar
	2. Jeita spring	N 33°56'37.22" E 35°38'38.57" Mount Lebanon Jeita village	1000/8000/25000 Tapped for potable water supply of capital Beirut (min 1m ³ /s, max 4 m ³ /s)	A,S, E, H, Ec <i>This spring, one of the largest in Lebanon, is the main source of potable water for Beirut. Its catchment mostly of Middle Jurassic limestones, covers c. 150 km². Spring is associated to one of the most spectacular and longest caves in Lebanon. The cave is 10,5 km long and has two levels: a dry and a saturated level, with passages and speleothems of all types. The spring has been long investigated scientifically, but is also tourist attraction by hosting numerous concerts and thousands of tourists per year. The spring overflow is responsible of keeping Nahr El Kalb River active between April and June.</i>	Joanna Doummar

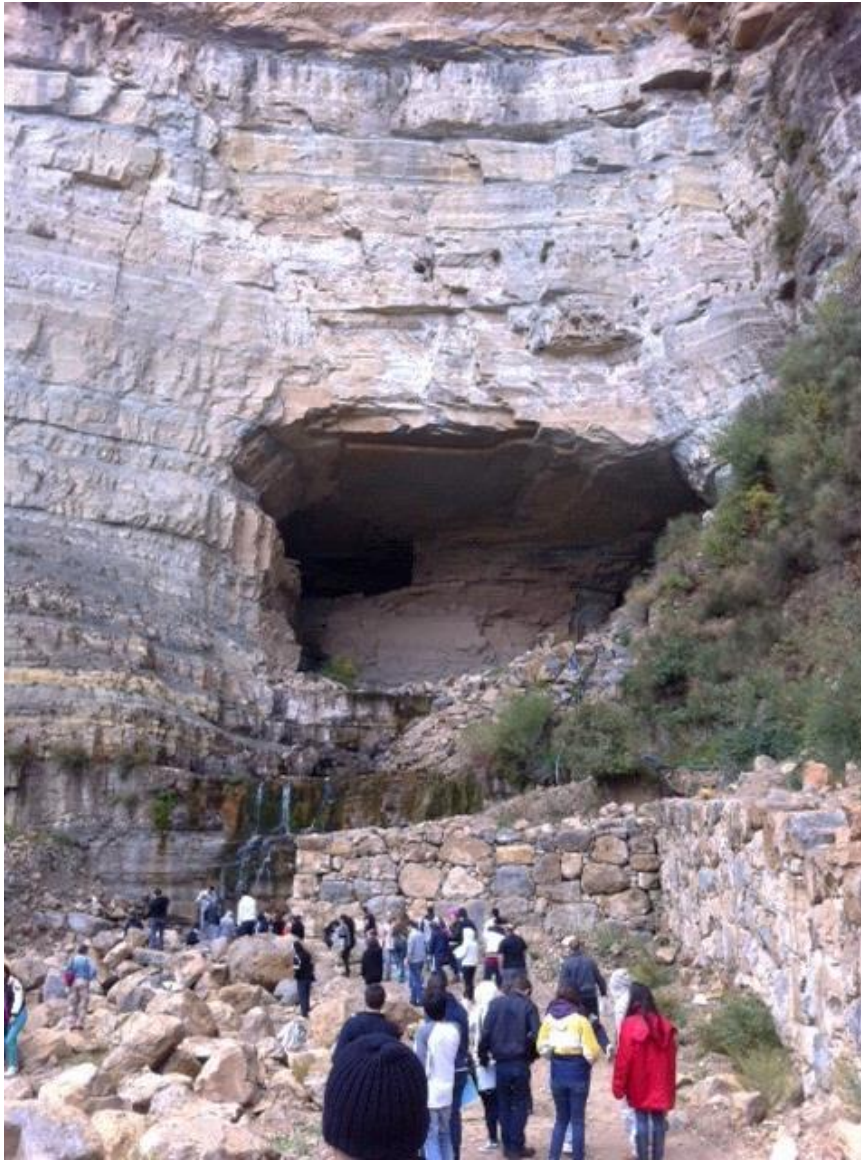
MIKAS - Afqa spring



The catchment area of the Afqa spring extending northeast. Google Earth



Afqa Spring during high flow (May- July) (Photo courtesy of Joanna Doummar)



*Afqa Spring during low-flow (August-February) depending on snow melt
(Photo courtesy of Joanna Doummar)*

MIKAS - Jeita spring



The original spring entrance (February, 2011) (Photo courtesy of Joanna Doummar)



The lower cave (Photo courtesy of Joanna Doummar)



The lower cave (Photo courtesy of Joanna Doummar)