

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment  
and  
Environmental and Social Management Plan**

**Date 15/01/2025**

**CEPF Grant 115420**

**Grantee** Alhayat Organization for Protection of Wildlife and Organisms

***Project Title* Strengthening Wadi Naqa Reserve through  
Involvement of Local Community, Libya**

**Project Location** Wadi Naqa , Derna

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: Alhayat Organization for Protection of Wildlife and Organisms
2. Grant title Strengthening Wadi Naqa Reserve through Involvement of Local Community, Libya
3. Grant number. *115420*
4. Grant amount (US dollars).
5. Proposed dates of grant: 40000US\$
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken Libya
7. Summary of the project [copy and paste Project Rationale and Project Approach from proposal].

Wadi El-Naqa Reserve is a newly created reserve in April 2023 in the eastern part of Jabal Al-Akhdar and is considered the most important biodiversity area in Libya. Al-Hayat Organization has implemented various projects in this field over the past decades. The organization benefited from two projects supported by the PPI-OSCAN initiative that contributed to the establishment of the "Libyan Center for the Protection of Natural Diversity" and the "Naga Valley Resource Development", in addition to the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Libyan Ministry of Environment. The Libyan center was established to host wild animals coming from the border and confiscated from illegal trafficking operations. Al-Hayat benefited from the small grants mechanism provided by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to improve knowledge about the Egyptian tortoise and develop an action plan for this species in partnership with an Egyptian team from Hemaya Consulting Company. These efforts contributed to the establishment of the Wadi Naqaa Reserve.

The recently established Wadi Naqaa Reserve lacks information on several levels. To prepare a management plan and implement a long-term management action plan, it is necessary to carry out an inventory of the fauna and flora to understand the potential of the site. Therefore, this project can help us improve knowledge of the Naga Valley to start developing a management plan. Many studies were conducted in the 1980s or more recently by students of the University of Derna or the University of Tripoli. It would be important to conduct a bibliographic study combining published studies and doctoral dissertations. Gaps will be filled through field visits. A report summarizing the biodiversity at the site will be used to begin developing a management plan. In fact, the main species important in the area are: *Falco cherrug* (EN) and *Testudo Kleinmanni* (EN) that will benefit from the survey.

Life has always worked in collaboration with local people, involving them as key actors. As we pave the way for the management of the reserve, supporting local people is a priority for us. Recently, a subtropical storm named Daniel reached northeastern Libya, where it dumped 414 millimeters of rain in one day. Floods and mudslides resulting from the collapse of Derna's dams led to the deaths of more than 11,470 people and the loss of at least 10,000 others. The storm severely affected Derna and its surrounding areas, including the Wadi Naqaa Reserve, changing the entire landscape. The neighboring community of Wadi Naqaa was also severely affected. Some of them lost their sources of income. In some areas, roads connecting residents to the city were disrupted due to floods. It will be important to redevelop these trails that help local residents and employees reach some of the more remote locations.

We aim to continue raising awareness about the reserve using different tools. Of course, celebrating international events is important, but to reach young people and teenagers, it will be interesting to use short videos and images for communication. Unfortunately,

there is no other initiative in the region that is considered an assumption and an opportunity at the same time. The Life Organization aims to sustain work in preserving the reserve. However, due to the team's limited language skills, it is difficult to reach a large number of donors. Through this proposal, CEP Fund can support Al-Hayat Company to improve its English language ability by appointing a private tutor for the team for at least 3 months.

#### Project Approach:

- Improving knowledge in the WAN Reserve: In this area and in the entire region, data on biodiversity are comprehensive and very outdated. We recently obtained information regarding the Egyptian tortoise through the Biosystem Partnership Fund project, although we are convinced that everything changed after Storm Daniel. This project will collect bibliographic information and supplement it with surveys on different taxa to fill gaps. This effort will contribute to creating a database for the reserve.

- Supporting the local community on the borders of the Wadi Naqaa Reserve: A different family lost its source of income after the storm and became completely isolated due to damaged roads (15-21 km). Through this project, Al-Hayat will work to rehabilitate some paths to improve accessibility to the area, in addition to providing beehives. Supporting local communities is important to begin the process toward establishing a local group to support WAN reserve management.

Awareness and Communication: It is important that Life continues to raise awareness about wildlife conservation through various aspects. The database will contribute to decorating the connectivity map with a clear division of important aspects of the area such as water points, historical area, caves, etc. This tool will help communicate the importance of the area. In addition to publishing short awareness videos on social media. Awareness campaign will also be ensured through our team by organizing project launches and celebrating international events.

- Organizational capacity building: Although it was founded in 2012 and has managed some projects, our organization still needs capacity development. We participated in various sessions with PPI-OSCAN and CEPF to develop the project which improved our understanding of project preparation and planning. We believe that it will be very important for life members to improve their English language abilities. This is important to reduce the barrier with donors and other organizations.

8. Date of preparation of this document. 15/01/2025

9. **Legal and regulatory framework:** This section will analyze the legal and institutional framework for the project, within which the environmental and social assessment is carried out, in compliance with Safeguard Policy 1 on Environmental and Social Assessment.

10. **Status of area to be impacted:**

Wadi Naqa is about 5000 ha, it was designated in 2021 to be a National Park. It is actually forest domain belonging to the government. The area is located near Derna city. Local community are mainly based in Derna however they use wadi naqa for different activities such as grazing and beekeeping. Consultation was conducted with local

community to establish the protected area prior this project. Local community and local stakeholders give their approval for the conservation of the area.  
The Daniel storm affected heavily the path that connect the Derna city to the Wadi Naqa. The Path initially covered 15 km where locals can reach the area using cars or on feet.

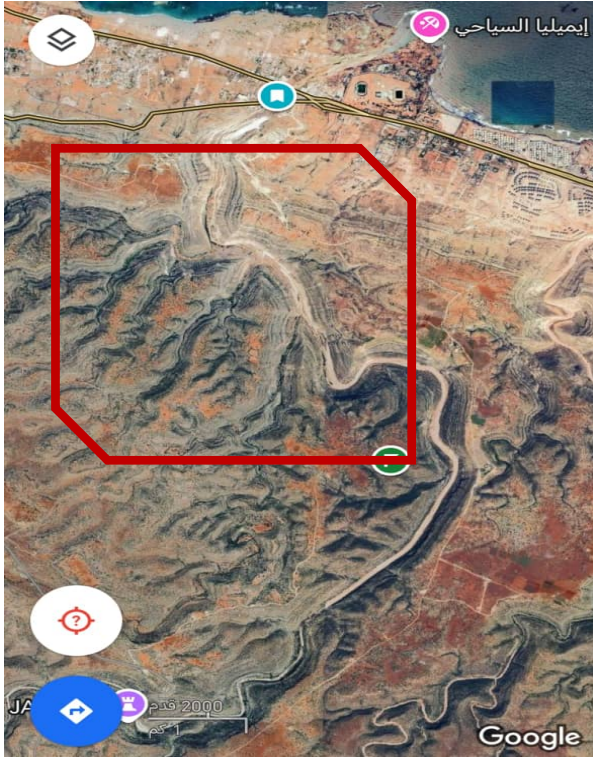


Figure 1: Wadi Naqa area



Figure 2: The Path before the Daniel Storm

The storm affected partially the Path in some area, and completely in other area figure 3 and figure 4)





Figure 3: the path partially destroyed after the storm



Figure 4: few parts are completely destroyed

The project aim to rehabilitate the path to ensure connection between the protected area and local community. Few householders are based in the protected area. They also will benefit from the path to connect with Derna city.

#### 11. **Baseline data:**

**12. Anticipated impacts and risks:**

The rehabilitation of the path is considered as a support for local community to anticipate social impacts and risks

**13. Mitigation measures:**

Although the project interventions will have environmental impacts of digging and filling back there will parallel be taking mitigation measures such as no tree will be cut to ensure the new path

The path will make sure the support of local community to biodiversity conservation in Wadi Naqa. Al Hayat organization consider that supportin local community will have good impact for conservation on long term.

**14. Actions to ensure health and safety:**

The project will preliminarily be ensured to secure workers safety during the project activities implementation. The planned project activities are of not any risk of workers health or safety. One enterprise is hired and they will ensure the safety of workers

**15. Monitoring and evaluation:**

The project team has continuous monitoring of the path and will report on any negative impact detected during and byond the CEPF project implementation

**16. Timeline and resources:**

July2024	Consultation with local community
August 2024	Consultation with relevant stakeholders
September 2024	The municipality of Derna deliver the permission
October 2024	Hiring an enterprise for the rahabilitation
November 2024	Rehabilitation of the path

**17. Permission of the landowner:**

Alhayat got permission from the municipality of Derna to rehabilitate the path

**18. Participatory preparation:**

A series of consultation meetings were conducted with local community and relevant stakeholders during July and August 2024

**19. Disclosure:**

Upon implementation of the project there will be a disclosing from ALhayat Organization the original documentation of the entire project of wadi Naqa will be disclosed on June 2025