

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

9 October 2018

CEPF Grant 108784

Friends of Nature

CONSERVING LEBANON ENDEMIC FLORA THROUGH COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Also serving as Stakeholder Engagement Plan for

CEPF Grant 108497

Université Saint Joseph

CONSERVER ET VALORISER LE PATRIMOINE BOTANIQUE UNIQUE DU LIBAN

Orontes Valley and Levantine Mountains

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: The Friends of Nature
2. Grant title: CONSERVING LEBANON ENDEMIC FLORA THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND CONSERVER ET VALORISER LE PATRIMOINE BOTANIQUE UNIQUE DU LIBAN
3. Grant number : CEPF-108784 & 108497
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 154,860 + 135,035 = 289,895 US\$
5. Proposed dates of grant : October 2018 – October 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Orontes Valley and Levantine Mountains
7. Date of preparation of this document : 9 October 2018

8. Introduction:

The two projects address the conservation of 7 priority sites in 3 KBAs where critically endangered floral species and endemic plants of restricted distribution ranges occur.

The type of activities vary from one site to the other, and call for different approaches.

- Bcharri – Makmel region : the project will explore the feasibility of conservation and the study of conservation measures through a community participatory approach. An action plan and a management plan will be prepared within the framework of this project for the eventual creation of a micro-reserve or other innovative forms of conservation measures; however, no restrictions are foreseen within the project mandate.
- Kneisseh summit : the project will explore the feasibility of conservation and the study of conservation measures through a community participatory approach. An action plan and a management plan will be prepared within the framework of this project for the eventual creation of a micro-reserve or other innovative forms of conservation measures; however, no restrictions are foreseen within the project mandate.
- Ehden Forest Nature Reserve: the reserve is under the management of the Horsh Ehden Nature Reserve Committee in collaboration with the Friends of Horsh Ehden; the natural resources of the reserve are not utilized by the local community. The amelioration of the reserve management plan with respect to plants will not lead to any restrictions on local community activities.
- Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve : Enhancement of the reserve management plan may lead to restrictions on seasonal transhumance of local shepherds. Transhumance routes may need to be redrawn in collaboration with the local shepherds, to keep the most vulnerable habitats and species protected. No compensation is foreseen as the divergence of transhumance routes will be the result of a participatory approach and would not lead to a loss of revenue for shepherds
- Sarada : un Cadre fonctionnel a été préparé lors de la phase précédente (Projet CEPF # 63257 USJ) et sera suivi dans la cadre de ce projet. Les limitations d'accès sont limitées puisque le site n'est pas utilisé par les habitants de la région. L'action de pâturage occasionnelle est pratiquée illégalement par des bergers de passage avec leurs troupeaux.
- Sites archéologiques: aucune utilisation des ressources naturelles par les communautés n'a lieu, sites clos et gérés par la DGA, pas de restrictions d'accès attendues.

9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities: If the grantee has undertaken any activities to date, including information disclosure and/or consultation, provide the following details:

- Type of information disclosed: conveyed verbally in direct contact the interest of Friends of Nature to study the plants unique of the sites and help in their protection with the stakeholders because of the importance of the species as heritage, assets and pride of the regions.
- Individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have been consulted: heads or members of municipalities, some figures (Mr. Hashem, Dr. Tawk, Mr. Murkos)
 - Key issues discussed and key concerns raised: the importance of the endemics as heritage and their future existence

- Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow- up actions: till now the concepts and disclosed information were welcome and favored,
- Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders: negotiations will be closely held during project activities.

10. Project Stakeholders :

- Central authorities: Ministries of Environment and Agriculture (rural development)
- Local authorities: Municipalities
- Local NGOs: scouts, cooperatives, etc.
- Influential figures: politicians (ex. MP Mrs Jeajea, MP Mr Tawk in Bcharri)
- Herdsmen
- Schools
- Private owners
- Local communities and natural resources users in the different sites.
- Subgrantee Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa.

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program:

Information to be disclosed: 1- general about the project objectives and goals; 2- the significance of the project objectives nationally and to the stakeholders; 3- results to be accomplished in collaboration with stakeholders; 4- how the results will serve for the betterment of the village, and stakeholder socio-economic state

Formats of disclosure and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information: these will include person-to-person interactions through meetings and visits as to politicians, lectures and presentations to local community, training to stakeholders to be involved in implementations, field hand-on to local pivotal community members (youth, schools, NGOs, herdsman,..) as well as publications for youth, schools, NGOs. Other methods to be probed as deem effective during project implementation.

A participatory conservation planning approach will be adopted at engagement of stakeholders, since it provides better, faster and more sustainable results.

- Local authorities: The project will first target local authorities (municipalities, mayors,..) to inform them of the significance of their biodiversity and natural heritage, to engender their support, and to activate their sense of responsibility for their resources and communities. Local authorities are essential to be well informed and engaged from the beginning in order to pave connection with the local community and to follow on all the progress of the project, so we would collaborate on gradually enhancing their capacities to respond to the public views and complement with effectiveness in undertaken actions. Municipalities will be individually approached at this stage.
- Key influential stakeholders: such as local politicians, prominent figures, religious entities, and other will be addressed and engaged to facilitate collaboration with the community, impact social views, and modify behavioral trends, since these stakeholders have their own platforms to infuse information and trends to their communities as alternatively to respond to community needs and feedback. They will be individually approached to endorse the project and take part in its activities and outcomes.
- Local communities: they will be engaged through several means including dissemination of information, sensitization, enlightened to the endangering threats, and acceptance of their role in biodiversity preservation and abating damage as individuals and collectively as communities. These approaches are important at generating community acceptance and confidence in our

involvement, so the community would positively react to our mission. Different community segments will be targeted differently through the appropriate sensitization tools and several times if need be, until local community becomes conscious enough to advocate species conservation. Definitely all segments will be first contacted to set the platform for a first engagement.

- i. Schoolteachers and students will be addressed at schools through lectures.
- ii. Local NGOs, CSOs, youth and general public will follow common lectures.
- iii. Threat inducers: who depending on the site might be farmers, shepherds, loggers,..., need to be befriended, individually engaged and rendered confident to the objectives of the project and conservation outcomes that will equally benefit them. Alternative use modules need to be envisaged in collaboration, and adopted to curb behaviors and threats. They may produce innovative means for the coexistence of their activities and biodiversity.

The results of studies undertaken in different sites will be shared with communities during restitution meetings.

A PF has been prepared for sites where projects might result in a restriction of access to natural resources:

- Makmel region in Mount Makmel and Upper Kadisha Valley KBA
- Kneisseh summit in Sannine-Rihane slopes and heights KBA
- Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve in Keserwan KBA
- For Jaj Nature Reserve and Ehden Forest Nature Reserve No need for a PF since they are already protected legally

12. Consultation methods:

- Interviews/meetings with local authorities and politicians
- Public lectures and workshops for local community pivotal members
- field and private visits to stakeholders who could negatively influence or have misconceptions about project
- Participatory methods include collecting feedback on diffused information, workshop discussions, private consultations like with landowners if any.

13. Other Engagement Activities:

not provisioned at this stage.

14. Timetable:

The detail of the stakeholder engagement activities is provided in the project proposal, and for specific sites in the process framework.

15. Resources and Responsibilities:

The whole project team will be responsible and will be trained for this purpose, because all the team will be in contact with stakeholders through trainings, workshops and fieldwork.

The budget allocated toward these activities is approximately 20,000\$.

16. Grievance mechanism: All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

During the first weeks of implementation, meetings will be organized to disclose the objectives and detailed activities of the project to the local communities. The contact information of FoN and USJ, as

well as of the Middle East Program Officer from Regional Implementation Team (Sharif Jbour) and the CEPF Grant Director (Pierre Carret) will be provided. The grievance mechanism will be explained to stakeholders in the one-day workshop dedicated to build their capacity to recognize conservation measures and to engender their participation at tailoring best conservation approaches. From previous experience, opening grievance and complaint mechanisms prior to establishing a well commanded understanding of the project and its perpetual benefits would inspire the rise of unlearned complaints assuming forfeiting of social rights when they are not yet prepared to make a discerning decision. The timing of this issue is very delicate; mistakes would be detrimental for we could end up quelling fears rather than creating objectivity toward conservation. A list of all contacts will again be provided to local stakeholders. A poster will thereafter be placed in the municipality of Bcharri explaining the complaint mechanism and providing the contacts.

The conflict resolution follows a four steps approach:

- a- Any complaints would be addressed first by FoN and USJ. Upon reception of the complaint, the project lead would organize a meeting with a representative of the municipality and the person complaining, to find a solution.
- b- If no satisfactory solution is found, the complaint will be raised to RIT Programme Officer (Sharif Jbour) and Grant Director for mediation.
- c- If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail.
- d- If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

Grievances raised by the grantees will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF (Birdlife International) and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.

17. Monitoring and Reporting:

FoN and USJ will report on the stakeholder engagement as part of the semi-annual performance report.