

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

February 2020

CEPF Grant 111430

Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS)

***Safeguarding Wadi Al Quff and Al Khalil North Region through
Innovative Approaches***

Hebron, West Bank, Palestine

Grant Summary

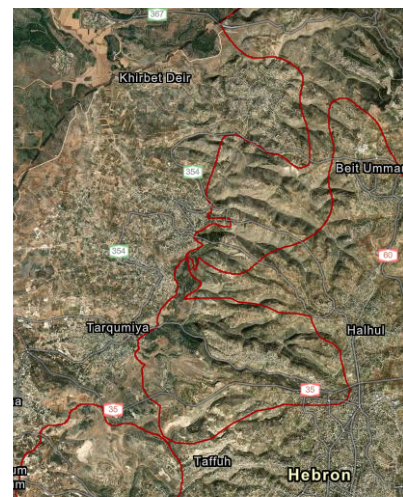
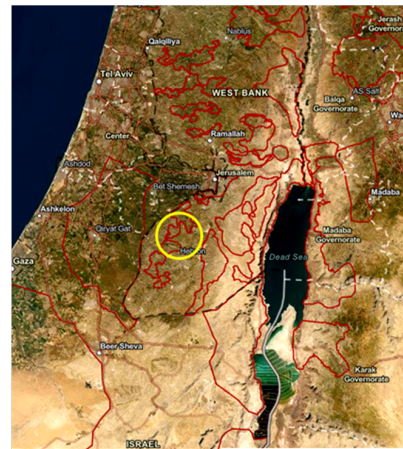
1. Grantee organization: Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS)
2. Grant title: Safeguarding Wadi Al Quff and Al Khalil North Region through Innovative Approaches
3. Grant number: 111430
4. Grant amount (165, 390 US dollars).
5. Proposed dates of grant: 01 April 2020 – 30 September 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Palestinian territories, Occupied
7. Date of preparation of this document: February 2020

8. Introduction:

Biodiversity and the natural and traditional cultural heritage have had a significant importance for the Palestinian people for many decades and most recently since the formation of the Palestinian Authority in 1994. The first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Palestine was released in 1999, recognizing the enormous importance of biodiversity for the national, regional and global communities and vigilance with regard to safeguarding biodiversity and conservation of natural resources at the local and national levels. The project targeted areas are designated as key biodiversity areas (KBAs) namely Wadi Al Quff KBA and Al Khalil North Region KBA located in Hebron Governorate in the southern part of the West Bank. Both sites encompass a number of significant biodiversity, natural landscape and agricultural values and are part of the Global Biodiversity Hotspot Mediterranean Basin. Both sites also embrace a number of intrinsic and authentic values of beautiful traditional landscapes remaining for thousands of years with a wealth of cultural heritage and human activity around water springs and rich natural landscapes.

However, considering the long years of Israeli occupation to the Palestinian territories, the areas remained relatively undiscovered or even unprotected by the Palestinian population regarding the biodiversity of flora and fauna species due to lack of public awareness and absence of conservation regulations where a deterioration of the environment and ecosystem was witnessed also due to unsustainable human activities such as quarrying, pollution, hunting, which still constitute a major threat to these resources.

In Palestine, The Environment Quality Authority (EQA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) are the key players in the management of biodiversity and agricultural areas and are making good efforts with other Palestinian nongovernmental organizations, civil society institutions, and the private sector to reduce the adverse effects on the Palestinian environment and ecosystem in addition to addressing the threats affecting nature and biodiversity conservation. Devoid of appropriate management and conducive political decisions taken by policy makers, and practical positive interventions, species, habitats and fragile ecosystems will be lost in the long term. Without this project, intervention, biodiversity conservation and land use will remain a low public policy priority among policy makers at the local and national levels. Biodiversity provisions will not be well considered by the local communities or reflected in government policies and legislations governing agriculture, wildlife species and their habitat, the



natural traditional landscape, and biodiversity. The project will not have any adverse social and environmental impacts on stakeholders and communities or on the project staff.

The project will help and encourage the communities in Jebal Al Khalil North and Wadi Al Quff regions to act positively in the maintenance of their production landscape and sustaining the significant biodiversity and wildlife species through a multi disciplinary, integrated and innovative approaches that will link between conservation, traditional agricultural practices, landscape production and socioeconomic development.

Summary of Project Components:

1. Identification and promoting best friendly land use practices and options for biodiversity conservation,
2. Protection of globally endangered and locally decreasing species,
3. Implementing friendly land use practices, positive harvesting and marketing of traditional agricultural production aiming to generate economic benefits for the 2 local KBAs communities,
4. Mainstreaming the conservation recommendations and traditional land use planning into national development plan.

The project aims to achieve the following main objectives:

1. The project shall promote and identify friendly land use practices that shall revive the traditional landscape and agricultural practices and defines options for biodiversity conservation through improving the communities' awareness and understanding of their responsibility towards a better management of the natural landscape and resources, meanwhile protecting and sustaining their significant biodiversity,
2. The project aims to directly and indirectly conserve, preserve and protect the globally endangered and threatened wildlife species in addition to locally threatened and rare species in the 2 targeted key biodiversity areas,
3. The project will contribute in maintaining and enhancing the production of traditional agricultural practices aiming to generate economic benefits for Wadi Al Quff and Al Khalil North region KBAs communities, and encourage business actors in the trade chain to support marketing the traditional biodiversity products.
4. The project shall guide decision making through mainstreaming the best practices, conservation actions and plans, the project findings and recommendations into the biodiversity responsible development, conservation, traditional land use planning, policy formulation, local and national government plans.

All activities will be implemented within 1800 hectares linking 2 key biodiversity areas in Al Khalil district.

The project will be managed and implemented by the Palestinian Wildlife Society (PWLS) through its technical experts, administrative and financial staff and through the engagement of specialized technical Palestinian consultants for specific activities. A project Advisory committee shall be established from relevant stakeholders and authorities mainly the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority (EQA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to provide needed advice for the project. In addition, guidance and advice throughout the project will also be requested and provided by BirdLife International and CEPF technical staff.

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, in what form (e.g., oral, brochure, reports, posters, radio, etc.), and how it was disseminated;
 - The locations and dates of any meetings undertaken to date;
 - Individuals, groups, and/or organizations that have been consulted;
 - Key issues discussed and key concerns raised;
 - Grantee response to issues raised, including any commitments or follow-up actions; and
 - Process undertaken for documenting these activities and reporting back to stakeholders.

PWLS has undertaken several activities and consultations related to the project:

1. **September 2, 2020:** Discussion and consultation meeting between Mr. Imad Al Atrash and Dr. Nael Salman from PWLS with Dr. Issa Adwan, Director of Palestine Environment Authority (EQA) at Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS) Headquarters in Beit Sahour city, West Bank.

The discussion meeting focused on the CEPF call for proposals for large grants and the guidelines of the grant. Considering the importance of grant guidelines EQA and PWLS showed interest as there is a crucial need to promote biodiversity conservation in Jebal Al Khalil KBAs and explore best land use practices in a productive traditional landscape and at the same time helps the local communities in Al Khalil KBAs. It was agreed between PWLS and EQA to further discuss the options and cooperate in developing and submitting a proposal to CEPF. PWLS was requested by EQA to do a desk review about Al Khalil KBAs, the species in its habitat and the needs for biodiversity conservation.
2. **September 8, 2020:** A discussion meeting at EQA Directorate in Hebron city.
Participant: Dr. Issa Adwan, Dr. Nael Salman, Mr. Imad Al Atrash, Mr. Ibrahim Kuka,
A presentation was made on the data available about Jebal Al Khalil KBAs. Discussion focused on the problems and challenges facing Al Khalil KBAs. A presentation was made by Dr. Issa Adwan showing the data base of EQA regarding the KBAs problems and challenges.
3. **September 10, 2020:** Consultation meeting at **EQA Directorate with EQA and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)** key Staff in Hebron Governorate responsible for the KBAs in terms of environment and biodiversity and agriculture. The discussions were focused on 7 main issues:
 - a. The types existing in-situ flora (trees and plants) that are threatened, decreasing in quantity, and those that are becoming rare in Jebal Al Khalil KBAs and Wadi Al Quff KBA. The 2 authorities provided information about these species in the KBAs.
 - b. The types existing in-situ flora (trees and plants) that are threatened, decreasing in quantity that productive and can be useful to farmers in generating income and possibilities of cultivation and marketing the agriculture products in the trade chains. Useful information was provided by MoA experts and considered vital in the development of the proposal,
 - c. The fauna species observed in the area and those that are becoming rare. Information was documented by PWLS staff to be checked in the IUCN Red list
 - d. The government protection measures taken in the 2 KBAs,
 - e. The cooperation with the KBAs farmers and acceptance to the proposed activities.
 - f. The challenges faced and risks in the KBAs.
 - g. The traditional agricultural practices in the traditional landscape.

The experts of EQA and MoA provided that the proposed activities will be welcomed by the farmers and landowners and agreed to provide all necessary data, information to PWLS and provide full cooperation for the project successful implementation.

4. **September 12, 2020: meeting with Hebron chamber of commerce and in Industry of Hebron:** Discussion and consultation were undertaken regarding the trade chains and cooperation in marketing the agriculture production from trees and certain types of plants. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hebron agreed to provide all required information and cooperation with PWLS and in making links with the trade chains for marketing the agricultural production.
5. **September 15, 2020:** Meeting with the **Union of Agriculture Work Committees (UAWC).** Consultations and discussions regarding the cooperation in the development of traditional agriculture practices in the KBAs traditional landscapes and cooperation in securing the seeds and seedlings of plants and trees. UAWC agreed to provide information and cooperation as much as possible.
6. **October 7, 2020: Meeting with Bent Al Reef Women Charitable Society (Bentalreef):** A cooperative in Hebron District. The consultation and discussions with the society director focused on the marketing process of agricultural products and farmer women encouragement to actively participate in the project activities. **Bentalreef** agreed to participate in future discussions and cooperate with PWLS upon request.
7. **December 4, 2020: Meeting with Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) in Hebron:** Discussions were undertaken regarding land use planning and future plans and cooperation with the local authorities (Municipalities and Village Councils) in the 2 KBAs. MoLG provided to extend all necessary information and cooperation that would be needed from PWLS, EQA, and MoA.
8. **February 18, 2021: A Stakeholders Engagement Meeting** at EQA in Hebron: PWLS and EQA invited all stakeholders for a meeting at the EQA Directorate. PWLS presented the proposal submitted to CEPF with all its components. A consensus and approval was obtained on the project components. All participants showed full cooperation with EQA and PWLS as the implementing agency. The stakeholders requested to receive updates regarding the project's acceptance by CEPF and on progress regarding the project. Stakeholders demonstrated no key concerns about project implementation or risks, except a doubt regarding COVID19. All participants wished luck to PWLS for a successful implementation.

10. Project Stakeholders:

Name of Stakeholder

1. Beit Kahel Village Council including Haska communities
2. Al Khalil (Hebron) Chamber of Commerce
3. Nuba village council
4. Kharas town Council
5. Surif town Council
6. Palestine Environment Quality Authority (EQA),
7. Palestine Ministry of Agriculture (MoA),
8. Surif Village Council (Local Government Authority),
9. The Palestinian Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC),
10. Women in Hebron - Fair Trade cooperative/ Dura Bint Al Reef women Charitable Society - cooperative
11. Farmers from the Wadi Al Quff and AlKhalil north region KBAs

- 12 The Media in Hebron and in Palestine
- 13 Academic institutions in Hebron

11. This section will list the key stakeholder groups who will be informed and consulted about the project. These should include persons or groups who:
- Are directly and/or indirectly affected by the project or have “interests” in the project that determine them as stakeholders; and
 - Have the potential to influence project outcomes (examples of potential stakeholders are affected communities, local organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government authorities. Stakeholders can also include politicians, companies, labor unions, academics, religious groups, national social and environmental public sector agencies, and the media).

Stakeholder	Area of Influence	Frequency
Environment Quality Authority (EQA)	Regulatory compliance / monitoring	Very frequent
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Agricultural components, planting, seeds and seedlings	Frequent
Local Government Units	Regulatory compliance, land-use /Local Impact. Socioeconomic cooperation with farmers	Less frequent
Area expert Farmers	Land use, Local advice/'Local impact, Socioeconomic and opportunities	Frequent
Union of Agricultural Work committees	Local	Occasional
Chamber of commerce and Industry	Marketing	Occasional
Women Associations	Marketing, women encouragement, packaging	Occasional
Media	Awareness	Occasional
Academia	Training of student	Less frequent

12. **Stakeholder Engagement Program:** This section will summarize the purpose and goals of the program. Briefly describe what information will be disclosed, in what formats, and the types of methods that will be used to communicate this information to each of the identified groups of stakeholders. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:
- Newspapers, posters, radio, television;
 - Information centers and exhibitions or other visual displays; and
 - Brochures, leaflets, posters, non-technical summary documents and reports.

Stakeholder	Area of Influence	Engagement approach	Engagement Method	Frequency
Environment Quality Authority (EQA)	Regulatory compliance / monitoring	Consult	Face to Face, emails	Very frequent
Ministry of Agriculture	Agricultural components, planting, seeds and seedlings	Consult	Face to Face, emails	Frequent
Local	Regulatory	Consult,	Face to Face,	Less frequent

Government Units		compliance , land-use /Local Impact. Socioeconomic cooperation with farmers	involve	emails Brochures	
Area expert Farmers		Land use, Local advice/'Local impact , Socioeconomic and opportunities	Consult, involve, empower	Face to Face, phone/ mobile Brochures Media	Frequent
Union of Agricultural Work committees Chamber of commerce and Industry		Local	Consult, collaborate	Face to Face, phone/ mobile	Occasional
Women Associations		Marketing, women encouragement, packaging	Consult, Involve in Marketing	Face to Face, emails Brochures	Occasional
Media		Press		Face to Face, phone/ mobile	Frequent
Academia		Training of student		Face to Face, phone/ mobile Brochures Media	occasional
Farmers in the 2 KBAs		Information Participation	Consult, Involve in all activities	Face to Face, phone/ mobile Brochures Media	frequent

13. Consultation methods: This section will describe the methods that will be used to consult with each of the stakeholder groups identified in previous sections. Methods used may vary according to target audience, for example:

- Interviews with stakeholder representatives and key informants;
- Surveys, polls, and questionnaires;
- Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group;
- Participatory methods; and
- Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making.

Stakeholder	Engagement approach	Engagement Method
Environment Quality Authority (EQA)	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups • Consultations and decision-making. • Face to Face, emails

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Public meetings, workshops • consultation and decision-making • emails
Local Government Units (LGUs)	Consult, involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Surveys, polls, and questionnaires; • Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group; • Participatory methods; and • Other traditional mechanisms for consultation and decision-making. • emails
Area expert Farmers	Consult, involve, empower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Surveys, polls, and questionnaires; • Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group; • Participatory methods • Emails • Face to face
Union of Agricultural Work committees	Consult, collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • focus groups • Consultation and decision-making. • Emails • Face to face
Chamber of commerce and Industry	Consult, involve in Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Consultation and decision-making. • emails
Women Associations	Consult, Involve in Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Public meetings, workshops, participatory methods; • Consultation and decision-making; • Emails
Media	Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Public meetings, workshops, • Phone calls
Academia	Involve in training and survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with representatives and key informants; • Surveys, polls, and questionnaires; • Training seminar • Participatory methods; and • emails
Farmers in the 2 KBAs	Consult, Involve in all activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys, polls, and questionnaires; • Public meetings, workshops, and/or focus groups with a specific group; • Participatory methods; and • Phone calls

14. **Other Engagement Activities:** This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.

Stakeholder	Other Engagement Activities
Environment Quality Authority (EQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint decision-making • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Training
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint decision-making • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Training
Local Government Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint decision-making • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Training
Area expert Farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint decision-making • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Training
Union of Agricultural Work committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Training
Chamber of commerce and Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint decision-making on marketing issues • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Marketing
Women Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives • Marketing
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and public awareness
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community development initiatives • Training • Field surveys
Farmers in the 2 KBAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnerships with local communities • community development initiatives

15. **Timetable:** This section will provide a schedule outlining dates and locations when various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be incorporated into project design.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder engagement activity	Schedule		Location
Environment Quality Authority (EQA)	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. land use maps and discussion of training materials and work invitation	05/01/2021	05/07/2021	Hebron
	4. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
	5. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
	6. Mainstreaming and Policy issues	08/01/2022	08/15/2022	Hebron
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. land use maps and discussion of training materials and work invitation	05/01/2021	05/07/2021	Hebron
	4. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
	5. selection of MOA Rangers trainees on observation and survey	7/20/2021	8/01/2021	Hebron
	6. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
	7. Mainstreaming and Policy issues	08/01/2022	08/15/2022	Hebron
Local Government Units	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. land use maps and discussion of training materials and work invitation	05/01/2021	05/07/2021	Hebron
	4. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
	5. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
	6. Mainstreaming and Policy issues	08/01/2022	08/15/2022	Hebron
Area expert Farmers	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. land use maps and discussion of training materials and work invitation	05/01/2021	05/07/2021	Hebron
	4. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
	5. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
Union of Agricultural	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron

Work committees	3. land use maps and discussion of training materials and work invitation	05/01/2021	05/07/2021	Hebron
	3. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
	Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
Chamber of commerce and Industry	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
Women Associations	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Set up the advisory committee	04/10/2021	04/15/2021	Hebron
	3. Field visit by PWLS staff and stakeholders to the 2 KBAs	07/25/2021	07/30/2021	Hebron
Media	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Media Campaign	07/20/2021	08/20/2021	Hebron
	3. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
Academia	1. Project inception	04/01/2021	04/30/2021	Hebron
	2. Selection of university students trainees on observation and survey	07/15/2021	08/01/2021	Hebron
	Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	Hebron
Farmers in the 2 KBAs	1. Public campaign for planting trees in the targeted KBAs	01/03/2022	02/15/2022	KBAs
	2. Engagement in field activities	07/01/2021	12/30/2021	KBAs
	3. Engagement in field activities	02/15/2022	06/15/2022	KBAs

16. **Resources and Responsibilities:** This section will indicate what staff and resources will be devoted to managing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Who within the project team will be responsible for carrying out these activities? What budget has been allocated toward these activities?

1. Imad Al Atrash
2. Dr. Nael Salman
3. Ibrahim Odeh

The three persons above will bear the responsibility for the engagement of stakeholders. Tasks and responsibilities will be distributed as per activity requirements.

17. **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.

The project will provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with the means by which they may raise a grievance with PWLS, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities will be informed of the objectives of the project and the existence of a grievance mechanism. The email address, telephone number, and physical address of PWLS, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, and the CEPF Grant Director will be made publicly available through announcements at public meetings, through notices placed on community bulletin boards, and via announcement on community radio. We will share all grievances – and a proposed response with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. 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. 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.

18. **Monitoring and Reporting:** This section will describe any plans to involve project stakeholders (including affected communities) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders as well as broader stakeholder groups.

PWLS will inform the CEPF through Mr. Sharif Jbour (CEPF PO) in monthly and midterm reports and as may be needed.

The project will be monitored through the following bodies:

1. PWLS senior management and PWLS administrative Board,
2. Palestine Environment Quality Authority (EQA),
3. The Advisory Committee that will be setup and selected from the stakeholders.

Results of stakeholders' engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders through emails and released PWLS newsletters during a period of 1 month after the implementation of the activities and consideration of the stakeholders' recommendations. Broader stakeholders will receive regularly the PWLS newsletters during and after the implementation of the project to ensure follow up, sustainability of best practices and achievement of project impacts in addition to replication possibilities in other areas within the targeted KBAs by the communities' farmers or by other new initiatives.