

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Sweimeh Association Charity
Project Title:	Rehabilitation of the Eco-park in Sweimeh
Date of Report:	September 2015
Report Author and Contact Information:	This report was prepared in a participatory manner by: Project manager Mr. Tahseen alaja'arat (sweimehk@gmail.com) Project consultant Dr. Maher Tadros (maher.tadros@gmail.com) RSCN representative Mr. Hussam Alawadat (hussam.alawadat@rscn.org.jo)

CEPF Region: Mediterranean basin/ Middle East

Strategic Direction: The project is located within the strategic direction (3) the program: improving the quality of protection for 44 major area of biodiversity, areas under sub-programmes 3:2 and 3:3.

Grant Amount: \$19450

Project Dates: 12 months starting August 1st ending 31st July of 2015 extended to End of September 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

1) The Sweimeh community represented by the Sweimeh association charity:

Is the stimulation of community participation in the formulation of a project document with the participation of representative from the Sweimeh association charity members of governing bodies and the public held several meetings with teamwork area redness ma'en environmentally important for preparing the project document and show up the

priorities and needs of the region It is important to supervise the implementation of the project, and will inform the public body and the community on the project, its objectives and activities and methods, benefit and participation before launching of project activities on the ground. It will involve the community and targeted guidance and training programmes and awareness-raising activities carried out under the project to stimulate the level of participation and information exchange and capacity-building for all segments of society, with a focus on the beneficiaries' category of this project.

2) The Royal society for conservation nature (RSCN): represented by the Unit of homret Maeen - Important Ecological Zone and the important bird area. They will monitor the project the give recommendations as required. Also, will provide technical support and supervision and follow-up, represented by team red zone ma'in environmentally important area in addition to the use of the halls and the means available in red zone management unit two environmentally important to participate in the success of all programs required by the process of the implementation of project activities

3) The Jordanian Company for development zones: The contribution of the company in the Eco- Park expenses worth up to \$10,000 a year, and who work to monitor and protect the Park from any threats or attacks to ensure the safety and success of rehabilitation programmes and sustainability without exposure to any threat.

4) Group of tourist hotels in the area:

Several hotels do exist in the area and a group visit will be conducted to each hotel to set a goal of opening communication and work to raise awareness of the importance of this region and increase the local environmental awareness in the process of participating in the protection programme during the implementation of the project.

Conservation Impacts

The main project objectives and achieved results :

The rehabilitation of the park in the area Sweimeh in partnership with the local community through Sweimeh Charitable Society, which in turn will preserve the biodiversity of the ecosystem and as well as the forest trees such especially the native ones such as Tamarix and two others native to the area such as Salvadora and Ziziphus.

The project aims share the reduction of degradation of forest land in the region, especially trees using modern techniques in terms of agriculture and irrigation such as Water Boxes compared to the local planting methods. This will increase in the green areas through planting trees in the Eco-park with community participation in the planting process and also work to raise the efficiency of Sweimeh Charitable Society staff in the management and improvement of degraded areas in collaboration with the local community.

The main project activities :

The activities that were applied during this project :

- 1- The process of developing a plan for rehabilitation of biodiversity in the area and increase green areas in the park.
- 2- Conducting workshops especially in the practical part of the project in the field .
- 3- The use of the new planting technique such as Groasis Water Boxes and encourage the participation of the local people in the area as well as the school students to help in the planting process

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

1- The rehabilitation of the Eco-park in the area of Swemeh and improve the plant biodiversity and protect the area from overgrazing and unjustified cutting.

2- The green areas increased and this that will contribute to the preservation of the ecosystem as well as to prevent the deterioration of biodiversity in the whole area and extended all over the region.

3- The existence of such a project in the region help raise the level awareness to the area residents as well as raise the efficiency of the environmental knowledge. The training and development of the knowledge of the local population in the area is an ideal to be placed were the Eco-park is established and is considered a starting point to include the entire region.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

A- The reforestation (Plantation and rehabilitation) process using the water boxes technique

The plantation using the water boxes were successful until the mid of August and the results were presented as following:

The planting with different plant species adapted to the site were successful compared to the Tamarix that was planted earlier and the status check were conducted as well as the evaluation for each plant species planted in the water boxes. One of the measures was the morphological measurements such as plant height and the survival rate. Most of the species planted showed a well performed growth based on the following measures undertaken in the field. Two main species planted beside Tamarix and were studied:

Ziziphus spina-christi السدر and Salvadora persica الاراك

Ninety four (94) water boxes were planted with *Ziziphus spina-christi* السدر (12) and *Salvadora persica* الاراك (82) . The evaluation was conducted based on three main criteria: Plant height, vigor and survival. The *Salvadora persica* showed more vigorous and survival rate compared to *Ziziphus spina-christi* (Figure 1A&1B).

Salvadora scored the highest average plant height in all vigor categories. The max plant height was around 88 cm compared to 25 cm in *Ziziphus*. The overall heights in *Salvadora* were 62.3, 32.5 and 18 cm in very good, good, and weak classes, respectively compared to 19.4 cm only in the Good class in *Ziziphus* this is well presented in Figure 1A and 1B.

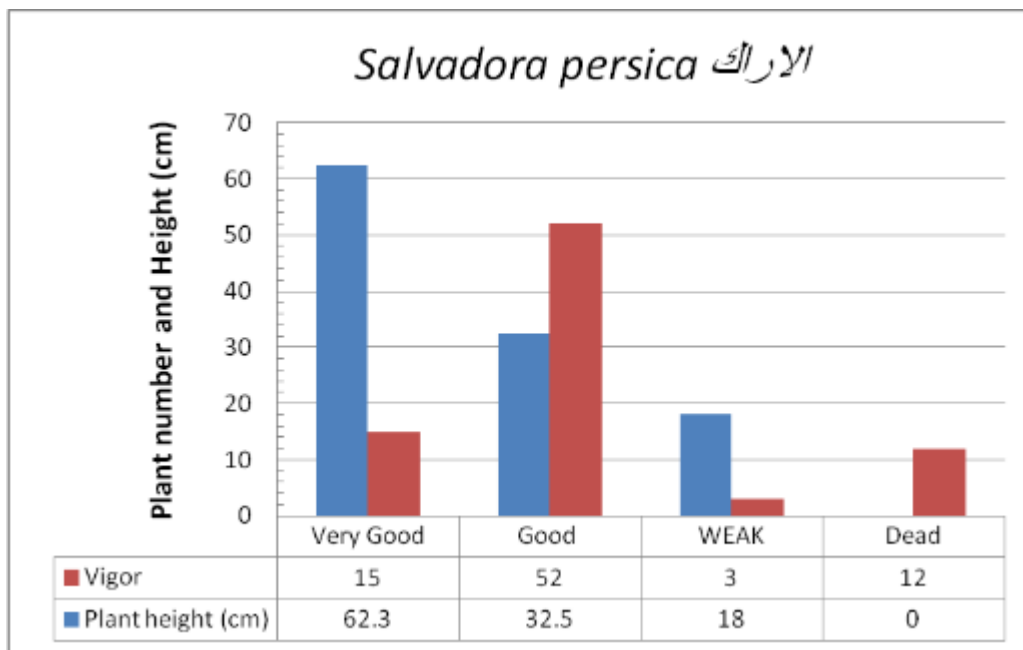


Figure 1A

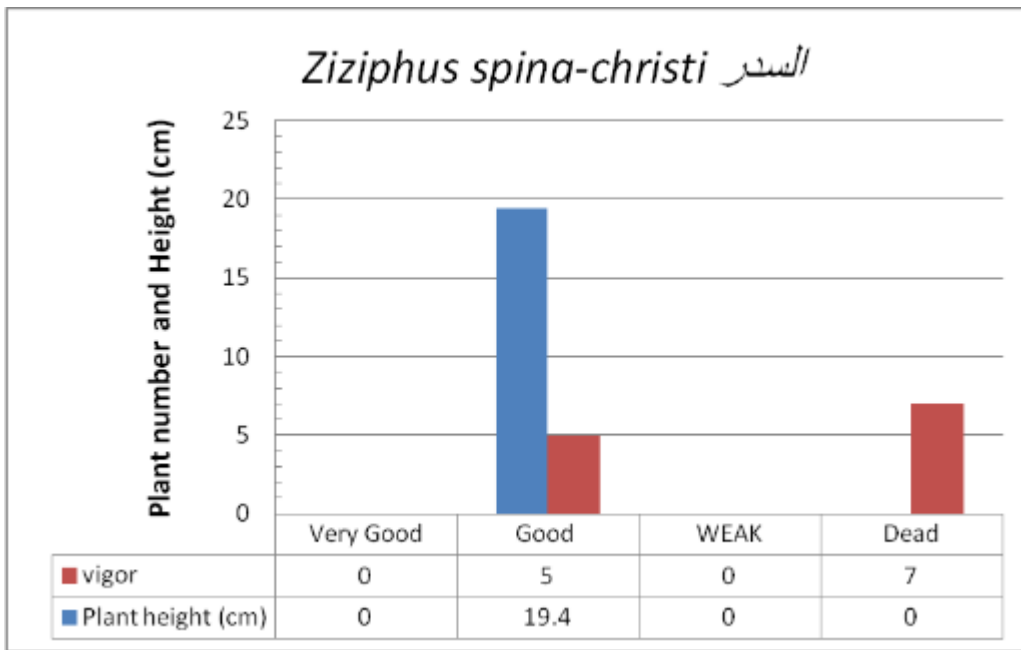


Figure 1A

Most of the *Salvadora* and the *Ziziphus* were successful in a higher percentage compared to the *Tamarix* species.

After the Mid of August 2015 a heat wave of hot front affected all over Jordan and the Temperature was used to be around 35 to 40 °C average in that time of the year, was recorded over 53 to 55°C within three days that cause the huge water loss and evaporation from the plants planted in the area as well as the soil and the water boxes too and that cause the killing of several *Tamarix* planted in the area compared to the other species. (Figure 2). This was harsh on the vegetation all over the area in unusual weather.



Project Components

Project Components:

Component 1 Planned: Contribute to reducing the degradation of vegetation in the region using modern agricultural techniques (water boxes) in the rehabilitation of the target area.

Component 1 Actual at Completion: Successful plantations in the site and increase in the species biodiversity as well as in the wild life especially the Dead Sea Sparrow the long term objective of this project.

Component 2 Planned: Upgrading of local partners in the management of important regions for biodiversity and rehabilitation with the use of modern technologies

Component 2 Actual at Completion: The project reach to a point that the local knowledge is important especially in protecting the ecosystem through increasing the biodiversity and rehabilitation process

Component 3 Planned: Capacity building the Sweimeh association Charity and as well to the local community.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: Achieved though different workshops and continue awareness campaigns to the locals and especially the youth in schools.

Additional Funding

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Sweimeh Association Charity	A	4000	
RSCN	B	7000	
Jor Develop Zones	B	10000	

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

A) Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)

B) Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)

C) Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

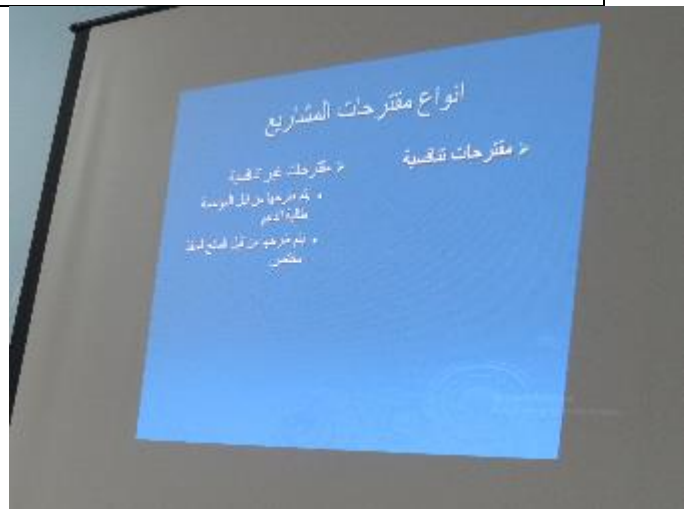
This project is considered important in increasing the greening of the area especially when planting naïve species adapted to the area. Planting for one year is not considered enough to consider this as success to the project unless it is followed up for another two years of monitoring the plantations to ensure that the overall objective is achieved and the green population is increasing and the wild life in that

area is increasing as well. The big challenge in this area is to withstand drought and salinity in the same time and using a new technique of planting such as “water box” is one way to achieve the objectives of this project. The drought and salinity are a big problem in this area and planting a native plant species that withstand such conditions is also a challenge. The last two month of the project life time, the area experienced an unexpected weather forecast were the temperature increased within a range of 50 to 55°C. This high temperature was a challenge to the vegetation survival causing many of the Tamarix to die while the Ziziphus and Salvadora are the least affected since they stand more drought at the least.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

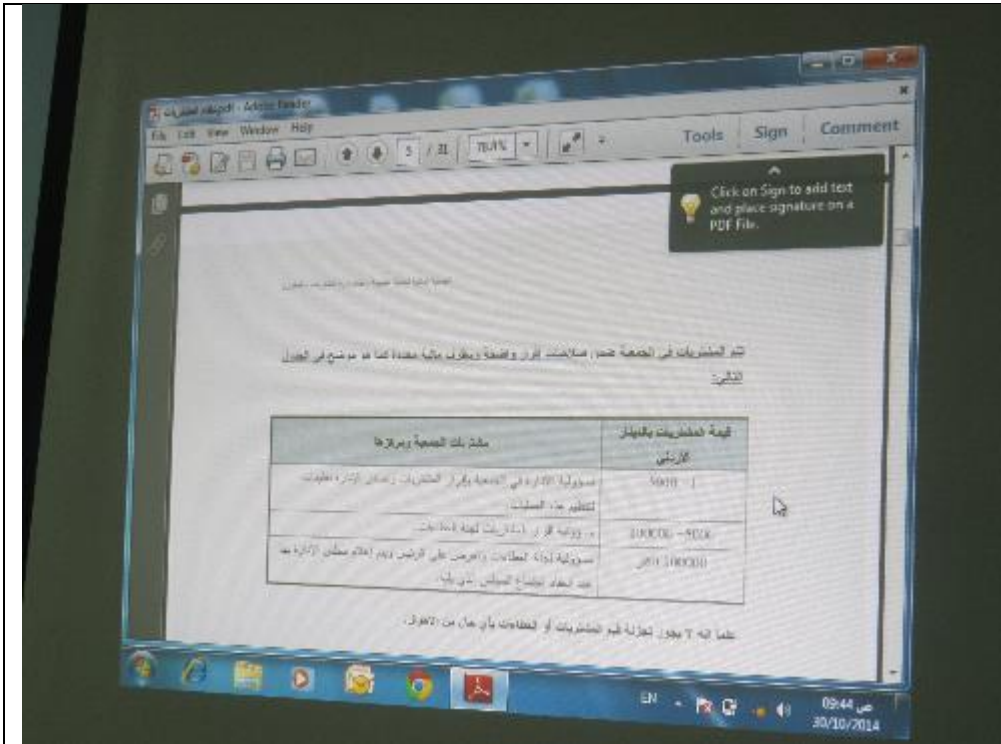
In stage one:

The capacity building of the Sweimeh Society and the local community as an objective: Working with local people and training is one of the most important objective in this matter a workshop was held in the Sweimeh to disseminate the knowledge and train the local on the project and its application and its influence on the local community as a future capacity building. In collaboration with RSCN directed a workshop in Sweimeh municipality meeting hall with the local community. The objective of the workshop was training and capacity building for Sweimeh local community.



In stage two:

In collaboration with RSCN directed a workshop in Sweimeh municipality meeting hall with the local community. The objective of the workshop was training and capacity building for Sweimeh local community.





In stage three:

Training workshop on the Sweimeh Biodiversity for both Flora and Fauna.

The comprehensive workshop was conducted for Sweimeh local community and project team in Sweimeh association Charity. The workshop objectives were as follows:

- 1- Introduction to Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora)
- 2- Introduction of the different plants and wildlife species available in the site.
- 3- Introduce and define the importance of the biodiversity in the area and the ways to improve it and apply the conservation measures with focus on the threats facing the species in the area as well as the disadvantages of the disappearance of the local native species.
- 4- The role of the invasive species in controlling and masking the local native species and the methods to control and decrease the effects of the invasive species in the ecosystem.

This workshop was conducted in Sweimeh through Dr. Maher Tadros (the project consultant and natural resources expert) and the Mr. M Omar (fauna expert).



Biodiversity - Flora presented by Dr. Maher Tadros



Introduction to Biodiversity



The Sweimeh locals and the Sweimeh association charity members sharing discussion on biodiversity with the expert Dr. Maher Tadros



The Fauna expert Mr. Oamr explains to the Locals and Sweimeh association Charity members about Fauna Biodiversity.



Workshop atmosphere : explanation and discussions

The local community and project Team attendance

Capacity building and infrastructure for the Sweimeh association Charity

The project supports the society through improving the head quarter office and from this point of view, the furniture was bought for the office and the headquarter is much more organized:

The meeting was always held outside the Society headquarter as in the picture below



And as a result the situation is changed to a new direction with the new office as seen below:



The furniture: Office, cupboard, and chairs



Mr. Tahseen Jarrat the Project director working in the new office

The Head quarter of the bird life international visit to the site

A visit from the director of the Birdlife International- Jordan office to the site upon completion of the project mission in the rehabilitation of the site with the different plant

species. This visit was full of hopes that the rehabilitation will be successful, as the sustainability will continue with the future supports from all donors.



Lessons Learned

First Phase:

As a results of the activities achieved during the first phase: a training workshop were held successful to enrich the knowledge of the local community and the project team of Swemeh. The Local community as well as the collaboration with RSCN as a powerful partner especially in the capacity building is a plus.

One of the best lessons learned in this phase was the collaboration and interaction between the local community and the project staff in rehabilitation of the Eco-park. The reforestation of the empty spots in the site using the new techniques in the rehabilitation process.

Second Phase:

The continuation of the capacity building Sweimeh society and the awareness campaigns to the locals about the ecosystem and the services it provide as well as the methods to

save the environment from hazard dangerous activity carried out by human such overgrazing, cutting and fire. All will affect the biodiversity and native plant species in the area. This will reflect the effect not only on the flora but also on the fauna in the site such as the mammals and bird species.

Third Phase:

The best lesson learned in this stage is the patience in dealing with the environmental conditions such raising temperature and high humidity that affect the plantation and keeping up with such changes such as replanting and refilling the water boxes as a results of the adverse effects. All with nonstop activities to keep this project running in this site and was successful.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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