

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	<b>Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon</b>
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Photographic guide to wildflowers of Lebanon with emphasis on the three priority KBA's in Lebanon</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>22 February 2015</b>
<b>Report Author and Contact Information:</b>	<b>Nisrine Machaka-Houri Email: <a href="mailto:nmachaka@gmail.com">nmachaka@gmail.com</a> Mobile: +961-3-439734</b>

**CEPF Region:** Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot

**Strategic Direction:** 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas

**Grant Amount:** \$19,920

**Project Dates:** from June 1, 2013 to February 28, 2015.

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

Attempts have been made to collaborate on data gathering for the Upper Litani and Anti Lebanon KBAs but there were no data on the upper Litani River KBA and no additional data on the anti-Lebanon KBA than what I have collected from the literature and my own field work.

There has been collaboration with USJ after the completion of our project by sharing all the data I gathered with Dr. Magda Bou-Dagher Kharrat.

### Conservation Impacts

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

With the completion of this project, a field guide to the plants of the 3 KBAs in Lebanon is made available to all people aiming to raise awareness (priority 3.3) of the richness of the biodiversity of the priority key biodiversity areas and promote the conservation importance of these areas on the national and international levels.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

This project resulted in the publication of a field guide to 372 plants present in at least one of the KBAs with high quality photos featuring important information to help identify the plant and appreciate its importance. In addition the field guide highlights the importance of the biodiversity of the KBAs and the importance of their conservation. It also forms a baseline study for future biodiversity work in these areas.

***Please provide the following information where relevant:***

**Hectares Protected:** N/A

**Species Conserved: N/A**

**Corridors Created: N/A**

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

The challenges of the project were the relative lack of detailed data available in the literature specifically in the upper Litani and western anti Lebanon Mountains. Major security issues prevented field surveys of the upper Litani river and western anti Lebanon mountains KBA's.

As for the successes, this project raises awareness on the importance of understanding the botanical nature of Lebanon. In addition, the data gathered in this relatively small study sets a baseline for future more in depth studies, which is very important for the long-term goals of understanding plant biodiversity in Lebanon and it's therefore a step toward identifying threats and solutions for conserving these areas and biodiversity in Lebanon.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

N/A

## Project Components

***Project Components: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.***

**Component 1 Planned:** Compile a list from the Literature of the plant species (terrestrial and aquatic) present in the three priority KBA's in Lebanon namely the Chouf Cedar Reserve, upper Litani River and Western Anti Lebanon Mountains.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:** a list (**from the Literature**) of the plant species (terrestrial and aquatic) present in the three priority KBA's in Lebanon namely the Chouf Cedar Reserve, upper Litani River and Western Anti Lebanon Mountains. The planned component specifies to compile a list of plant species from the literature. There was an attempt to do field visits to the upper Litani River and Western Anti Lebanon Mountains which would have been a plus to the intended plan but the security reasons didn't allow these activities. Therefore the component 1 was completed as intended in the proposal but there is definitely a need to continue this survey in another project when it is safe to do field surveys to these two areas.

**Component 2 and 3 Planned:** Produce a photographic field guide to the wild flowers of Lebanon present in at least one of the priority KBA's. The guide will include 300-400 plant species and will follow the same standards of previous field guides published by the principal investigator (Nisrine Machaka-Houri). The guide will include important details about the plants, their flowering season, and status, in addition to others. The guide will include a description of the KBA's and their present protection status to raise awareness to the importance of the areas and their conservation.

**Component 2 and 3 Actual at Completion:** a photographic field guide to the wild flowers of Lebanon present in at least one of the priority KBA's titled "Wild flowers of Lebanon with special focus on key biodiversity areas" was produced. The guide includes 372 plant species and follows the same standards of previous field guides published by the principal investigator (Nisrine Machaka-Houri). The guide includes important details about the plants, their flowering season, and status, in addition to others. In the introduction, the guide includes a description of the KBA's and their present protection status to raise awareness to the importance of the areas and their conservation.

**Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?** No

**Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results. Please find attached**

- 1- the excel file with the list of plants featured in the field guide with all their info
- 2- a pdf copy of the book cover
- 3- few sample pages from the book in pdf format
- 4- Book introduction in pdf format

## **Lessons Learned**

**Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.**

**Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)**

The extensive previous experience of the authors have resulted in a rather efficient approach to the development of the field guide based on readers' feedback regarding what additional items should be included.

**Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)**

The implementation proceeded well despite some unexpected delays in the printing stage.

The security situation was expected to deteriorate on the time of applying this project, for this reason the planned component were based on literature review only and the budget was calculated accordingly.

Even though a couple of field trips were included in the original budget in case the security situation allowed them, the project was not based on field survey as it would have required much higher budget. For that reason, this project constitutes the baseline for future studies which should include field surveys as we have gathered all data available in the literature.

**Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:**

We learned that the 2 KBA's Upper Litani River and Western Anti Lebanon mountains are understudied and need more extensive botanical surveys.

Most of the plants present are not assessed according to the IUCN Red List categories. Thus there is a need to do red list assessment to the flora of Lebanon.

There is a need for a field guide to every KBA separately because they are unique in their ecosystem and biodiversity.

## **Additional Funding**

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**\*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

**Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.**

The field guide can be easily replicated for any other area in Lebanon and other countries.

The data that resulted from this project can be disseminated through a website that targets all audience.

This is another project which needs another grant. This website would be open for all.

The results of this project are now a baseline for any further studies on these areas.

In addition the project was introduced to a number of organizations such as the Shouf Cedar Reserve and schools and a number of them are planning to use it. A couple of schools have actually acquired few copies of the book for their libraries. AUL has distributed copies of it to University presidents and professors during a conference which is raising the awareness of these people and institutions of the importance biodiversity of Lebanon and its conservation. There are attempts to collaborate with the Shouf Cedar Reserve to use it in their workshops for raising awareness.

The book was printed in English because English has become the science language in this country and a large audience of these kinds of books are tourists. However, following feedback from people through the past years, we added Arabic and French names of the plants included in the guide. As a matter of fact we have focused on the use of symbols to represent information making this guide accessible to speakers of all languages.

**Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.**

### Safeguard Policy Assessment

**Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.**

N/A

### Additional Comments/Recommendations

Few important recommendations that result from this project:

- 1- There is a need to assess the threat status of the flora of Lebanon according to IUCN standards
- 2- There is a need to extensively study the flora of the 2 KBA's "Upper Litani River and Western Anti Lebanon mountains".
- 3- We recommend a continuing project that proposes raising awareness workshops for the target communities where we teach the locals about plants, their importance, status and how to conserve them and benefit from them.

## ***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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.**

**Please include your full contact details below:**

**Name:** Nisrine Machaka-Houri

**Organisation Name:** Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon

**Mailing Address:** Beirut – Cola

Borj Abi Haidar Street

AUL University building

Facing the Department General of Urban Planning

Beirut, Lebanon 113-7504

**Tel:** +9611708309 or +9611708308

**Fax:** 009611819905

**Email:** nmachaka@gmail.com

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

### CEPF Global Targets

### (Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

