

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal	Sweimeh Association Charity (SAC)
Project Title:	Libyan exchange experience visit to Jordan
Date of Report:	18 Sep 2016
Report Author and Contact Information:	This report was prepared by: Project manager Mr. Tahseen alaja'arat (sweimehk@gmail.com)

CEPF Region: Mediterranean basin/ Middle East

Strategic Direction: The project is falls within the strategic direction (1)

Grant Amount: US \$15.554

Project Dates: 1 May2016 to 31 July 2016

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

## Conservation Impacts

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

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

The project worked at three main levels as identified originally during the proposal stage:

1. Building technical capacity of newly established conservation NGOs in Libya
2. Building partnerships between conservation NGOs in Libya and Jordan and;
3. Guide newly established conservation NGOs in Libya into proper CSOs set ups, roles and responsibilities, mandate and their strengths being grass route and membership based entities.

SAC has worked with 2 CEPF grantees ( USDWE & RSCN) to ensure delivery of these objectives.

For the first objective, the SAC has worked closely with RSCN through their headquarters and protected areas managers and staff at the site level where Libyan colleagues met and introduced to conservation values of the network of

protected areas. the Libyan team were introduced to the protected areas in Jordan and enrolled in an intensive training course covering main themes: management of PAs, research and monitoring, engagement with local communities and socioeconomic approaches implemented by RSCN within their network of PAs.

Participants from LWT and Oxygen have established great working relationships with SAC, USDWE and RSCN ( staff at headquarter and PAs staff) and communications between Libyan colleagues and their counterparts in Jordan is continuing to date, leading to strengthening of the partnership created to achieve greater benefit of better conservation of nature in Libya.

Participants were also introduced to small scale NGO ( SAC), to medium ones ( represented by USDWE) to large scale national NGOs with great mandate to establish and manage PAs in addition to act as the national entity to implement international conservation agreement and enforce hunting legislation ( RSCN).

This has introduced the participants to a wide spectrum of civil society scale and impacts ranging from local to national scale, with proper introduction to the setup of each NGO ( which is similar in many ways), and a thorough introduction was given to a proper set up of an NGO, roles and responsibilities to achieve their mission and vision and ability to act as a democratic movement that represent the interest of their members and supporters.

A cross cutting component that Libyan colleagues found, is that all three NGOs they met in Jordan have strong working relationships with local communities where they operate, which is a major factor for a successful operations.

Participants were also introduced to basics of conservation approaches implemented by the three partner organizations in Jordan. This is a starting point for both LWT and Oxygen to engage more and seek further advance courses in neighbouring countries and elsewhere to build a strong science based conservation approach in Libya.

Overall, the exchange visit was a success in building the capacity of LWT and Oxygen at the level of institutional and technical capacity, and building strong partnership and working relationships with key conservation organizations in Jordan to exchange ideas and share benefits and guidance for future conservation work in Libya.

This clearly speaks to the CEPF overall vision and strategy for their conservation investment in the Mediterranean. The future conservation of Libyan KBAs depend on LWT and Oxygen, and through developing their capacity to take this role, this exchange visit was critical to help them contribute to the CEPF ecosystem profile outcomes.

*Please provide the following information where relevant:*

Hectares Protected: NA

Species Conserved: NA

Corridors Created: NA

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

No challenges were met to achieving the short term impacts of this project. The long term impact (involving CSO capacity in developing nature based tourism) as written in the project document is a challenge to LWT and Oxygen due to the current political situation in Libya. This is something for LWT and Oxygen to evaluate in the near future, but we believe that it can be feasible knowing that both organizations are now equipped with the know how to engage in such efforts when the political situation allow to do so. ‘

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

The exchange visit coincided with the Middle East regional partnership meeting of BirdLife International, where the Med RIT invited us and introduced us the Middle East partners of BirdLife, BirdLife HQ CEO, global director of network, and global director of conservation, in addition to BirdLife International Chair. That was a positive unexpected impact that boosted LWT and Oxygen members enthusiasm and motivation to reach a stage where they can be part of this network.

## 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:

- **Organise the exchange visit from Libya to Jordan for 6 persons.**
- Activity No: 1.1 Contact partners / local rangers in the protected areas.
- Activity No: 1.2 Hire expert for local workshops in protected area.
- Activity No: 1.3 Prepare logistics.
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Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Completed successfully. All pre visits arrangements were coordinated by SAC and contacts with RSCN and USDWE were made and arrangements were thoroughly met.

Component 2 Planned:

**Conduct the exchange visit for 4 days in Jordan.**

Activity No: 2.1 Conduct the exchange visit.

Activity No: 2.2 Share photographs and summary of lessons learned during the visit for a news story.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Completed successfully

The group arrived on the evening of 3 May 2016, travelled directly and stayed in Ajloun forest reserve cottages.

In the second day, they met Ajloun forest Reserve Manager and lead the session to discuss with the Libyan group Ajloun forest Reserve Conservation Plan, Environmental Education program in Ajloun and Ajloun forest Reserve Tourism Plan. Then the group had a field visit to the Nature Royal Academy and Socioeconomic projects (soap house) after that we had local food in the local community house which had an agreement with the reserve to prepare local food for tourists that visit the area.

At the end of the day, they travelled to Azraq Wetland Reserve.

On the third day, we met with Azraq wetland manager brief about the protected area and the ecotourism program and cooperation with the local community, then we had a bird watching tour after that we moved to Shaumari wildlife reserve and had a group discussion with rangers team about inspection tours details in and around the reserve and by the end of the day they travelled to mujeb biosphere reserve to try adventures trail as a kind of ecotourism program.

The last day we finished the program with a small ceremony in the BirdLife office in Amman.

The exchange visit to Jordan provided a wonderful opportunity for six staff members from Oxygen Society and the Libyan Wildlife Trust to learn new approaches about ecotourism and exchange information with Royal Society for the conservation of Nature RSCN team and Sweimeh Association to initiate development of ecotourism in Libya and take it to the next level. The visit provided excellent working relationships and valuable experience for those involved.

During the visit, Oxygen Society and the LWT staff spent five full days visiting protected areas and attending training session to fully understand the ecotourism concept and components. They have been introduced to Jordan's experience in establishing protected areas and promoting eco-tourism in addition to developing socio-economic projects to benefit and engage local communities around the PAs.

The following is a brief on what has been achieved:

- 1- Support the development of learning and understanding the ecotourism concept  
Oxygen Society and the LWT staff gained an insight into the PAs management and ecotourism work of the RSCN. They visited Ajloun forest reserve, Azraq wetland reserve, Shaumari reserve, Mujeb reserve and they engaged with and met the local communities to form a clear idea about the relationship between reserves and communities. The trainees were shown a number of socio-economic projects, handicraft workshops and nature shops in PAs: (soap house, biscuits house, ostrich egg dotting, sewing workshop). In addition to understanding the role of rangers and site managers and how these roles play an important role in ecotourism success.
- 2- Understand organizational setup of a successful conservation NGO model  
The trainees introduced to CEPF grantees in Jordan and understood their setup (bylaws, organizational structure, membership, roles and their conservation strategies). They were attended training sessions about PAs establishment in Jordan, learned how to write a conservation plan and gained a wider knowledge of conservation efforts and environmental education experience in Jordan.
- 3- Understand NGOs roles and responsibilities in nature conservation  
The trainees gained a comprehensive knowledge about Protected Area management, special conservation areas management, mainstreaming, advocacy and socio-economic projects through attending training sessions and meeting reserves managers and local Jordanian organizations. Bringing together people with similar roles allows the trainees and the NGOs representatives to share their experiences and ideas and promote joint and two-way learning.
- 4- Create a network between Jordan-Libyan NGOs working on similar thematic projects and share lessons learned and successful conservation stories  
Oxygen society, LWT, RSCN and Sweimeh Association staff had a great networking opportunity during this visit and shared several successful conservation stories. This visit provided the trainees with a valuable source of information, an opportunity to explore options and formulate ideas about conservation work. This participatory process enabled the cultural interaction and empowered the trainees to improve their work.

*Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?*

Non

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

## 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)*

It is important to understand applicant's capacity, their mission and vision prior to engage in developing a capacity development event. Understanding these elements, with support from RIT, enabled us to identify key partners that are able to deliver what is needed and expected.

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

For such dedicated event, it is important to keep trainees away from distraction and the optimum environment to deliver such an event is in well-established protected areas. Keep trainees away from cities, give them time to enjoy nature and interact with reserve staff and surrounding communities.

NGOs bring an important element to conservation efforts because they can provide capacity building programmes for communities, raise environmental awareness and have the expertise to do research and monitor impacts.

*Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:*

For PAs to be successful conservation models, they should be established with an integrated approach and good structure for operation so that the local

communities are involved from the beginning and as a result, they have a strong commitment to conservation.

Small NGOs can play major role in conservation planning and agenda.

### 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 exchange visit was very important as the participants gained valuable experiences and knowledge in addition they shared their institutions' vision, experiences in conservation. All parties got value each other overcome from dialogue and communication. Continuing dialogue and communication is valuable for further implementation of conservation plans.

During the visit, it concludes that the both teams of Oxygen society and LWT found good results in:

- Gaining knowledge and sharing experiences on PA's establishment and management, ecotourism, socio-economic projects, conservation plan, local communities' engagement.
- Sharing lessons learnt on integrated conservation concepts, social and economic factors for community benefit.
- Agreeing on continuing cooperation and information share for better NGOs management and successful ecotourism projects.
- Agreeing on mutual benefit of the exchange visit between all parties' experiences and lessons learnt.

All gained experiences by Oxygen and LWT can be shared with Libyan NGOs and they can act as a catalyst between different NGOs in the country for capacity development exchange and transferring the Jordanian experience and NGOs role in Jordan to others in Libya.

*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.*

NA

#### *Additional Comments/Recommendations*

#### *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:



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## 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.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

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



Visit programme agenda

Exchange visit schedule	
Day 1	<p>Travel from Libya to Jordan                      Arrival Jordan                      Meet RSCN Director General                      Lunch meal in Amman                      Travel from Airport to Ajloun Reserve                      Dinner meal in Ajloun                      Overnight stay in Ajloun cottages</p>
Day 2	<p>Presentation by Ajloun Reserve Manager                      Presentation by Ecologist ( Conservation Plan )                      Environment education program in Ajloun &amp; Nature young ranger.                      Visit Academy and Socio-economic projects (soap house)                      Lunch ( in Local community house)                      Travel to Azraq Wetland Reserve                      Dinner meal in Azraq                      Overnight stay in Azraq lodge</p>
Day 3	<p>Tour in Azraq Reserve                      Presentation by Azraq reserve manager                      Tour in Azraq wetland reserve                      Visit Shaumari reserve                      Safari trip in Shaumari reserve                      Visit Socio-economic project                      Lunch meal in Azraq lodge                      Travel to Mujeb reserve                      Dinner meal in Mujeb reserve                      Overnight stay in Mujeb reserve chalets (Dead Sea)</p>

Day 4	<p>Presentation by Mujeb reserve Manager Visit local communities in the area Open discussion with local communities (reserves and local communities relationship) Lunch meal with local community Return back to chalets Visit Dead sea Dinner meal Overnight stay in Mujeb reserve chalets (Dead Sea)</p>
Day 5	<p>Meet Rangers Visit water trail (tourism site) Lunch meal in Mujeb Travel back to Amman Tour in Amman Overnight stay in Hotel in Amman</p>
Day 6	<p>Travel bakc to Libya</p>