

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Conservation International (Conservation Stewards Program)
<b>Project Title:</b>	Introducing the Conservation Agreement Model for Community-based Conservation to NGOs in Tunisia and Algeria
<b>Date of Report:</b>	October 30, 2014
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**CEPF Region:** Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot (North Africa)

**Strategic Direction:** SD1, "Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors ...", with a focus on the Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia corridor, and Investment Priority 1.1, "Support civil society involvement in development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the advancement of best practices in integrating nature conservation with the tourism sector".

**Grant Amount:** \$19,798

**Project Dates:** June 1 – October 31, 2014

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):** No implementation partners in this Project. CEMAT proved to be an excellent contractor to assist with workshop logistics. We are optimistic that we will partner in future projects with some of the institutions represented among workshop participants.

### Conservation Impacts

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

Our project entailed a workshop held in Tunis on June 17, 2014, to introduce the Conservation Agreement (CA) model developed by Conservation International's Conservation Stewards Program (CSP). The CA model is a tool that local NGOs and other civil society organizations can use to implement community-based conservation and development. The tool is especially relevant in settings where conservation and economic activity need to be integrated, behavior change on the part of local communities is needed to achieve this integration, and incentives are needed to elicit that behavior change.

Representatives from several institutions participated in the workshop, which involved an introduction of the CA model and a focused session on feasibility assessments, with exercises that drew on sites where the institutions are active. Thus, the contribution to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile consists of creating awareness and understanding of the CA model among Algerian and Tunisian civil society organizations. Moreover, the CSP team invited the participating organizations to express interest in collaborating with CSP to collaborate on fundraising for and implementing the CA model at their sites. Consequently, the impact of the project was to strengthen local capacity and lay the foundation for future partnership, both on the theme of community-based conservation.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project against the expected results detailed in the approved proposal.***

The expected results were the following:

- Conservation Agreement model introduced to Algerian and Tunisian NGOs
- Conclusions regarding suitability of the CA approach in the Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia corridor
- Collaboration between CSP and local NGOs on next steps and fundraising plans for applying the CA model in at least three priority sites

As described above and in the accompanying workshop report, the first expected result was achieved through a successful one-day workshop held in Tunis on June 17, 2014. The institutions with participants in the workshop were Association des Fans de la Chebba, Association des amis de la mer de Béni Saf, Association promotion des femmes rurales de la wilaya de Skikda, Université de Badji, Association de Protection du Littoral de Maâmoura, l'Association de l'environnement pour le développement durable d'elguettar, Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux" (AAO), Université d'Oran ES-Senia, and l'Association des Sports Subaquatiques et de l'Environnement de Bizerte.

The second expected result was achieved in the course of the workshop, through the group exercises that focused on applying CSP's feasibility assessment framework to participants' project sites. The sites discussed were Parc National Ichkeul and Haouaria in Tunisia, and L'Île de Rachgoun and Parc National El Kala in Algeria. Discussions considered the suitability of the CA model for each of these sites with respect to economic, ecological, legal, political, and resource rights factors, as well as stakeholder conflicts, implementer capacities, and financing opportunities. Breakout groups as well as the full group of participants agreed that the CA model has great potential in Algeria and Tunisia in general, as well as at the specific sites examined.

The third expected result was partially achieved with an ongoing exchange between CSP and the local NGO Association promotion des femmes rurales de la wilaya de Skikda. CSP provided them with a set of materials in French to assist them in the process of conducting a more thorough feasibility assessment. The site concerned is the wet zone of Guerbes Sanhadja. Threats identified are uncontrolled water withdrawals, use of chemical fertilizer, overgrazing, and forest clearing. Ecotourism development offers a potential alternative to alleviate these threats. The conservation agreement model seems to be an excellent tool for this project, and offers an innovative new solution to propose to potential funders. CSP has also initiated contact with AREA-ED (Association de Réflexion, d'Echanges et d'Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement). Although the goal of three active collaborations has not yet been met, we are confident that this will happen in due course.

***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 project successfully achieved its short-term impact objectives as described above. A challenge we encountered was identifying and reaching NGOs to invite to the workshop, but with input from the RIT, reaching out through personal networks, and concerted effort on the part of the consultant contracted to aid in logistics, we were able to compile a suitable invite list. We also invited representatives from potential donors (World Bank and the African Development Bank),

but they canceled at the last minute. Although we would have been delighted to host a larger number of participating institutions to widen the reach of our awareness and training effort, we found that the size of the group was very conducive to active discussion and participation.

Our longer term objective is to see local NGOs in Algeria and Tunisia using the CA model to achieve community-based conservation. Although this workshop provide a good start to setting this in motion, we believe that investing in active collaboration to demonstrate the model on the ground will be the best way to generate additional interest and commitment to using the approach. Therefore we are eager to pursue the initial partnerships that are emerging, and building on those to generate additional momentum. The key to making this happen will be to secure financial support for on-the-ground application of the conservation agreement model.

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

We did not see any unexpected positive or negative impacts as a result of our project. We were somewhat surprised that we did not get more active engagement from some participants after the workshop, given that they participated in a very dynamic, interested and enthusiastic way during the event itself. This may be attributable to timing of the workshop (a couple of weeks before the beginning of Ramadan, followed in Tunisia by Séance Unique and then elections not long thereafter).

## **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 design of this project drew on a previous set of similar workshops held in the Caribbean region. Thus, the design process itself was relatively straightforward. That said, a key part of the design process was to reach out to CEPF and RIT staff to solicit input that would help tailor the project to the specific context in the North Africa region of the Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot.

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

A key aspect of project execution that contributed to its success was the selection of a highly capable contractor to arrange workshop logistics, issue and follow up on invitations, and take notes to draft a workshop report. We found that the consultant did not need to be from the conservation sector per se, but more importantly had access to facilities, preferential rates for hotels and catering, and a demonstrated track record in effectively making arrangements and ensuring smooth event execution.

A second contributor to success was having two CSP team members present in the workshop. Although the Caribbean workshops alluded to above were each conducted by a single CSP team member, having two people allowed for more exchange with workshop participants and enhanced the level of participation and interaction. In addition, having the team consist of one woman and one man also gave participants who might be more comfortable with one gender or the other the option to approach and interact directly one on one with us depending on their preference.

A third contributor to success relates to the workshop content itself. Although one of our main goals was to introduce to people a conceptual model, the effectiveness of the presentation relied

on ample use of concrete practical examples. The model is easily described in general terms, but showing how it is adapted to real world situations is essential to conveying a meaningful sense of its utility as well as its limitations. Reinforcing this by having participants go through the thought exercise of applying the model to their own project sites is particularly helpful.

One challenge for project execution lay in timing. We were determined to hold the workshop before Ramadan, so as not to delay the work until the autumn. This resulted in a fairly small window of time between signing of the CEPF grant and suitable workshop dates, with time pressure further increased by the need to first contract the consultant who handled workshop logistics.

A second challenge related to identifying and inviting workshop participants. This in part may have been attributable to timing (short window, and the period just before Ramadan being one with various demands on people's time), and in part may reflect the fact that civil society in the conservation sector remains somewhat constrained in the region.

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

The main lesson learned in the course of this project is that the Conservation Agreement model may offer great potential in the North Africa region as a way to secure local community participation in biodiversity conservation. The key to unlocking this potential will be to identify sources of funding to support next steps, including full feasibility assessments at promising sites, and additional events to provide further training to interested NGOs and introduce the approach to more institutions throughout the region.

A related lesson is that conservation actors in Algeria and Tunisia clearly are eager to learn about new tools and approaches, and welcome the opportunity to work with new partners. The presence of motivated institutions with deep local knowledge is evident; given additional financial and technical support, they will redouble their efforts to take on the challenges facing conservation in the region.

**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.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Mulago Foundation	A	\$5,796	Supported additional CSP staff time on the project, and Indirect Costs

***\*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.***

At this stage, it is difficult to determine the sustainability and replicability of the project results. The best indicators of sustainability will be whether some of the workshop participants continue to work on applying the CA model, and the longevity of collaborative relationships between CSP and some of the workshop participants. A specific demand for replication of the workshop itself came from Algerian participants, who requested that we conduct the same workshop again in Algeria. In any case, reinforcement of the workshop impact through continued engagement, and especially through on-the-ground demonstration, will be essential components of a strategy to achieve sustainability and replication.

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

No 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**

An interesting question relates to how long a workshop of this kind should be. Over the years the CSP team has tailored the training contents to various different formats, ranging from a one-hour session to a three-day course. When engaging active practitioners with busy schedules, we are often told that a one-day workshop is about as much time as we can expect people to commit. However, a survey of participants at the Tunis workshop indicated that several people would have appreciated an additional half day or so, to further process the material and reinforce the overall learning experience. Although we do not have a specific recommendation in this regard, we simply observe that length of an event bears careful consideration of the amount of material to cover, learning styles, participant availability, and more, with a strong role of local learning styles and practice in a given cultural context.

## **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.

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**\*\*\*please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***

**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved for project from inception of CEPF support to date</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved during project period (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
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.**

