

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

Organization Legal Name	<i>Sustainable Development for Agricultural Resources (SDAR)</i>
Project Title	<i>Capacity Building on Environmental Safeguard and EIA Process for Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Yemen Environmental Authority within EAM eco-region in Yemen</i>
CEPF GEM No.	64766
Date of Report	July 1, 2016
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CEPF Region: Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3: Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors

This is under SD2: 2. Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.
IP 2.2

Grant Amount: US\$146,020.0

Project Dates:

Start date: July 1, 2014

End date: June 30, 2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project)

- **Applicant : The Sustainable Development for Agricultural Resources (SDAR)** which was named before as The United Society for Developing Water Resources & Environment (USDWE); is Non-profit Making NGO based at Amman, Jordan. It has been registered officially under the umbrella of Ministry of Social Development on May 3, 2011.

This NGO was the applicant. It led the implementation of the different project activities, supervised its technical and financial aspects, ensured overall successful delivery with full compliance with CEPF policies, roles and procedures, ensured coordination between the different involved partners and stakeholders, ensured meeting the scheduled deliverables and led the submission of the different needed reports.

- **Partner: Enviromatics;** which is a Jordanian company with profound track record, at company and staff level, in delivering environmental services in many countries in the region including Yemen. ENVIROMATICS team of experts have been heavily engaged in projects targeting compliance with internationally accepted environmental safeguard

policies and using respective safeguarding tools in Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Enviromatics provided the technical knowledge and experience needed to develop and deliver professional training services on environmental safeguard policies and tools including the preparation of technical materials (technical reviews, training manual and the trainers) and delivery of two training courses to CSOs from Yemen.

Moreover, Enviromatics supported SDAR in completing the needed technical reports for CEPF.

- **Partner; National Foundation for Watershed Management and Services (WAM);** which is a Yemeni CSO with good reputation and motivated team, aims mainly to enhance the local dimension of the project while developing and delivering the training programme.

WAM handled the following activities

- Supported the coordination of the project activities at local level – at Yemen.
- Contributed to the review of the draft training materials to ensure its convenience to Yemen local context.
- Maintained post-project mentoring and support to CSOs on the training subject on little or no costs with technical support from the other two partners.
- Handled the Social Media account to ensure programme continuation post to the Project.

- **Partner: Mr. Ahmed Yehia rom Yemen**

Mr. Yehia is a professional botanist with excellent training from Yemen. Mr. Yehia is implementing another CEPF funded project in Yemen which involves training on protected areas management and ecological survey methods. Both parties engaged and joined forces to deliver comprehensive training as the training subjects and learning objectives targeted by the two parties are strongly related. Mr. Yehia provided part of the first training program.

- **Partner: Dr. Mohamed Shobrak from Suadi Arabia**

Dr. Shobrak is a professor in ecology and regional trainer from Suadi Arabia. He has joined the project first training program as a co-trainer and as guest speaker, and he contributed to the learning process by delivering presentations on ecological surveys and on birds captive breeding and re-introduction to the wild, and on the importance of environmental safeguard polices for nature conservation. He provided part of the first training program for free as a support to the program. Dr. Shobrak contribution was of great value and much appreciated by all participants.

- **Partner: RIT**

Ms. Maaïke Manten and Mr. Sharif Jbour from RIT program who joined the first training program and provided training session on fund raising for nature conservation programmes by Ms. Manten, and on safeguard aspects related to KBAs from international arena perspective. The trainees showed much appreciation to including this training session in their programme, benefited from the vast experience of the training partners. The Participants mentioned that they are interested in knowing more

about fundraising, and accordingly Ms. Manten kindly authorized the Project to translate her book on this aspect to Arabic, sharing it with the participants on flash disks and through the Project training website.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The project succeeded in providing the trainees with the knowledge and skills needed to (1) advocate biodiversity in economic agenda, (2) raise community and government awareness about the value of environmental safeguarding to socio-economic development and people welfare, (3) implement particular conservation actions within their geographic actions areas, with particular attention paid to actions environmental and economic sustainability, and also (4) enhance the coordination and collaboration between the created network of active CSOs.

Such improved capacity of CSOs supports wider community engagement in mainstreaming KBAs biodiversity conservation priorities in all development sectors, supports improving national practice and enforcement of EIA processes that pay full attention to biodiversity and other sensitive environmental and social receptors at site and sector levels, and overall to promote improved environmental safeguarding and on-ground actions to address ongoing and emerging threats to all terrestrial KBAs, and priority freshwater KBAs.

The above are strongly related to Strategic Direction 2 of the CEPF investment strategy, and specifically investment priority 2.2. It is also strongly linked to investment priority 3.4.

The training also provided the trainees with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the targeted CSOs and NGOs technical and financial capacities to implement biodiversity conservation actions/projects, in particular their capacity to assess potential impacts of their proposed project on ecosystems, habitat and species within the EAM region in Yemen, and to develop and implement sound fund raising programmes. Overall, the above has positively contributed to helping CEPF support to sustainable financing and related actions for conservation of priority KEPAs and corridors.

The knowledge shared is also available from the Project website (www.eiay.org) and will be maintained for their future reference.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

1. The capacity of up to 20 professionals from Yemeni CSOs and organizations, minimum of one CSO from each governorate from the EAM region, enhance and strengthen with regard to the application of best international practice in EIA as a safeguarding tool for conservation friendly sustainable development in the context of the EAM investment strategy to conserve KBAs of the EAM ecosystem of Yemen.
2. Improved capacity of Yemeni CSOs with regard to environmental safeguarding tools, especially EIA, efficiently and effectively employed in achieving (1) enhanced mainstreaming of KBAs conservation requirements and KBAs biodiversity values into national development plans and policies, (2) wider engagement of CSOs in EIA processes (i.e. scoping, EIA review, mitigation planning, etc.), and (3) strengthened CSOs role as key players in monitoring development impacts and mitigating impacts imposed on natural habitats and local communities living in and around the Eastern Afromontane ecoregion from any development even when implementing conservation projects.

Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

Total of 27 participants took part in the two training programmes. The first training programme was attended by 16 professionals from Yemeni CSOs and NGOs, minimum of one CSO from each governorate from the EAM region, and one trainee/trainer from KSA. The second programme was attended by 11 professionals from Yemeni CSOs and NGOs (4 of them attended the also the first training programme). The participants also included representatives of academia and research centers from Yemen, specifically from Aden University.

The participants in the two training events successfully gained knowledge and skills needed for advocating wider community engagement in environmental safeguarding, application of EIA best international practices in KBAs, mainstreaming biodiversity in the EIA system, DPSIR analysis for strategic environmental assessment, and fundraising for conservation programmes.

Networking between Yemeni environmental CSOs was initiated by the programme, and email groups and social media are being used for information sharing (monitoring), lobbying for conservation causes and awareness raising. The project website is operational and accessible by CSOs and is providing the knowledge shared with the participants during the two training events.

The enhancement of CSOs networking and supporting wider engagement in in EIA processes (i.e. scoping, EIA review, mitigation planning, etc.) is moderately successful due to the fact that EIA system is not fully operation in Yemen during the time of project implementation due to war. However the CSOs capacity to enroll in related actions and to contribute to improved EIA processes and mainstreaming biodiversity is improved, and CSOs are expected to have bigger role in this process for the best interest of KBAs protection.

It is also important to mention that the recently launched CEPF funded project for the development of biodiversity database system came into action based on CSOs interest to have real-time access to trust-worthy biodiversity data which they can use to advocate biodiversity causes in the EIA system, and to support informed decision making with regard

to conservation priorities and to the authorization of economic developments likely to impose additional threat on biodiversity in KBAs in the EAM region in Yemen.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

1. Training materials and booklet (training manual in Arabic language) produced, made publicly available (through the Project webpages/site and social media account) and shared with at least 25 stakeholders in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. This includes making available an Arabic version of the World Bank safeguard policies.
2. Training delivered to up to 20 professionals representing CSOs from the EAM region in Yemen on EIA systems, process and international safeguard policies (mainly focusing on biodiversity aspects, and based on World Bank Operational Policies and the IFC Performance Standards) using the materials developed by this Project.
3. Network of nature conservation and environmental safeguarding professionals established and maintained to constitute at least 10 specialists from Yemen especially those trained on the processes of conducting safeguard assessments according to the World Bank standards, and encourage/support the maintenance and future expansion of the network.
4. Regional cooperation, at least at CSOs/NGOs level, stimulated and enhanced within the EAM region (Saudi Arabia and Yemen), and Jordan with regard to the environmental safeguarding within KBAs'.
5. Stakeholders awareness of the importance of environmental safeguards and the need to efficiently use/employ its tools in Yemen (a country of mega biodiversity value) is raised and stakeholder accessibility to information and tools related to best international practice concerning EIA is improved.

Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

This project was designed to address priority training needs by Yemeni environmental CSOs active in the EAM region in Yemen. These training needs were identified based on the outcomes of a CEPF funded training needs assessment project which was implemented by Enviromatics. The achieved short-term impacts to date are:

1. Training materials (training manual in Arabic language) as soft copies and hard copies have been produced and shared with the trainees. This included distributing 27 copies of the Arabic version of the World Bank safeguard policies. Electronic copies of the training material for the first training course has been distributed on flash drives in addition to hard copies of the handouts and reading materials. Moreover, the training materials and manuals have been uploaded on the project website (www.eiay.org).

Moreover, the project completed translating the CEPF Institutional Fund Raising for Conservation Projects Manual and it has been uploaded on the project website to be a good reference for interested professionals. The importance of this manual rose during the fundraising training as most of the attendees didn't have strong English skills and they showed a lot of interest in the training and the manual.

Gratitude is due to Ms. Manten for her support to the Project, for authorizing the to translate it to Arabic, to distributed hard copies to the trainees during our events and to upload the Arabic version to the Project Website. Ms. Manten was very kind to also help the project obtaining the authorization from the Co-author of this important reference.

This translated Manual is a great resource. So, the project has shared it through its website and RIT has shared it with the Mediterranean grantees to give the opportunity for the largest number of grantees to benefit from this resource.

Additionally, the project completed and launched the project website successfully (<http://www.eiay.org>).

2. The project managed to complete the first and second training programs which contributed to establishing the Network of nature conservation and environmental safeguarding professionals. The training was started with (16) trainees who attended the first training program (15 funded participants from Yemen and one self-funded from KSA) as they proved their commitment to the program and trained on the processes of conducting safeguard assessments according to the World Bank standards. The second training programme was implemented with the participation of 11 participants, four of them attended the first programme as will.

The main results of the delivered capacity building programs in this project on the targeted CSOs and relevant stakeholders are as follow:

A. Educational and learning results

- a. All participants in the first training programme became aware of environmental safeguard polices and tools, have been introduced to the World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguard Polices, and the IFC Performance standards.
- b. All participants were introduced to EIA process, its main stages and activities, its governance system in Yemen and by the World Bank.
- c. All participants in the first training programme participated in exercises related to EIA screening, scoping, development of TOR, planning for stakeholders consultation, assessment of anticipated impacts and development of mitigation and monitoring measures.
- d. All participants in the first training programme participated in the review of sections of sample sections of EIA reports. They were introduced to priority aspects to pay attention to while undertaking the

review if EIA reports, including the understanding of impacts causality analysis.

- e. All participants in the first training programme actively participated in the discussion of possible impacts from different project types on biodiversity, and how such impacts shall be investigated and assessed prior to the commencement of respective projects.
- f. All participants in the second training programme discussed key concepts, definitions and processes related to environmental (particularly biodiversity) safeguard policies and tools.
- g. All participants in the second training programme were educated about the concept of mainstreaming, its main stages and activities, expected outcomes, and the value of CSOs networking and lobbying to achieve mainstreaming objectives.
- h. All participants in the second training programme attended presentations about mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the tourism sector in Jordan, including mainstreaming biodiversity in land use in the buffer zones of protected areas, strategic EIA, EIA for tourism projects, green tourism programmes for biodiversity conservation, and other issues.
- i. All participants in the second training programme attended presentations about soaring birds mainstreaming projects, including mainstreaming soaring birds protection in the hunting, waste management and renewable energy projects.
- j. All participants in the second training programme were educated about the need to have all KBAs clearly demarcated in governmental land use plans, and the value of having KBAs recognized by development sectors as priority and sensitive receptors which require particular attention during all development stages, including the planning stage.
- k. All participants in the second training programme took part in exercise's for undertaking Driver-Pressure-State-Impacts-Response analysis (DPSIR) approach (promoted by UNEP) to enhance their ability to identify and characterize priority conservation actions required to be mainstreamed into national and regional development strategies.
- l. All participants in the two training programmes were educated, through presentation and discussions, about the importance of outreach and awareness programmes for environmental safeguarding, and need for information for relevant and effective management interventions against biodiversity conservation priorities, and the value of environmental safeguarding tools.

B. Mentoring and technical support results

- a. All training materials were provided to all participants at the time of the training events. In addition, these materials have been uploaded to dedicated website¹ which is still active and operational. This website include training materials in Arabic language, and was promoted through CSOs social media and networks to other CSOs in Yemen, and through the Project Local Expert to EPA.
 - b. Mentoring was offered to all participants in the training programmes, and perhaps due to the current political and security situation, few information inquiries were received from the participants toward the learning subjects. However, the participants established national network through virtual communication (email exchange group and social media accounts) which continued sharing news about conservation issues, and undertook virtual awareness campaign about/against shooting the Arabian leopard and other wild life. The Project partners are part of these groups, and we are optimistic that once security conditions improves, the same group will commence activity toward enhancing Yemen undertaking of environmental safeguard policies toward the conservation of biodiversity within the EAM region in Yemen.
 - c. It is important to mention that requests to attend the second training programme were received from a number of students (Arab, none-Yemeni) studying for post graduate degrees in Malaysia, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. This reflects the eco gained from the successful first training event.
3. With regard to CSOs networking and collaboration, and as mentioned above, participants in the training established national network of their CSOs and other local professional to advocate and support wider community engagement in nature conservation and environmental safeguard polices. Other Yemeni CSOs have also joined the network and are engaged in its discussions and activities especially in the second training program.

The members are currently witnessing difficulty in having on-ground action and in-person meetings due to the security condition in Yemen, however they have adapted to this situation and are communicating through virtual communication (email exchange group and social media accounts) which continued sharing news about conservation issues, and undertook virtual awareness campaign about/against shooting the Arabian leopard and other wild life. The Project partners are part of these groups, and are engaged in related discussions.

¹ The website is <http://www.eiay.org/>

Given current situation in Yemen, development of projects and implementation of varied economic activities are on-hold, and accordingly the EIA system is not necessarily being implemented. Therefore trainees' ability to practice skills and knowledge gained from the two training programmes is hindered, at least temporarily. Still, the information available on the project website will be available for them to return to whenever needed.

It is important to note that there is a need for future follow ups with the participants once the war is over and security conditions are improved. The follow ups are needed to encourage wider application of the knowledge and skills gained from the training programmes, most importantly within the EAM region in Yemen, as it is expected to see several large-scale projects for post-conflict infrastructure development and rehabilitation in the country.

Supporting CSOs networks and maintaining future mentoring and expert advice for the post-conflict stages is essential.

4. Through the open communication channels between Enviromatics and the participants', continuous follow up and mentoring especially after completing the training on the processes of conducting safeguard assessments; the project ensured having a Network of the trained participants who represent nature conservation and environmental safeguarding professionals in Yemen. Moreover, these professionals have been encouraged through the project to further expand such important network to include other professionals in relevant fields in other areas in Yemen.

The communication with the CSOs network during and after the training events identified the need for biodiversity information management system to be open to environmental CSOs in Yemen, in particular in the EAM region, to scientist and researchers, and Yemeni decision makers thus to support informed decision making with regard to nature conservation and with regard to environmental safeguarding in KBAs by economic developments.

This need have been translated into a new CEPF funded project which is currently under implementation by ENVIROMATICS with the participation of Yemeni CSOs and scientists. This new project will continue to technically support the established network and will build on their improved capacity to mainstream biodiversity conservation and environmental safeguarding tools in development sectors in the EAM region and Yemen in general.

5. The project contributed to establishing the regional cooperation, at least at CSOs/NGOs level, stimulated and enhanced within the EAM region (Saudi Arabia and Yemen), and Jordan with regard to the environmental safeguarding within KBAs'.

Also, the discussions related to the biodiversity database system were extended to KSA. This idea was discussed by ENVIROMATICS with Dr. Mohammed Shobrak and both parties agreed to explore possible engagement of Saudi experts and organizations in the process as part of the database sustainability plan by early 2017.

6. The project through the first and second raining programs contributed to raising the awareness of Stakeholders of the importance of environmental safeguards and the need to efficiently use/employ its tools in Yemen (a country of mega biodiversity value) is raised and stakeholder accessibility to information and tools related to best international practice concerning EIA is improved.

The Project local officers presented CEPF and the project activities and progress to EPA Director General. He also explained to EPA the need to enhance Yemen EIA system and procedures, and that engagement of Yemeni CSOs in EIA processes is essential. The main outcomes from this effort include having KEPA agreeing to expand CSOs engagement in EIA scoping and review, in particular when a developmental project is implemented within a KBA, and also to get EPA support to the biodiversity database system project.

Evaluation of the training programmes

A. First Training Programme

The first training program that was conducted in Amman for the (16) Yemeni professionals has contributed successfully to Improving the capacities of Yemeni CSOs with regard to environmental safeguarding tools, especially EIA, aiming to have gained knowledge and skills efficiently and effectively employed in achieving (1) enhanced main-streaming of KBAs conservation requirements and KBAs biodiversity values into national development plans and policies, (2) wider engagement of CSOs in EIA processes (i.e. scoping, EIA review, mitigation planning, etc.), and (3) strengthened CSOs role as key players in monitoring development impacts and mitigating impacts imposed on natural habitats and local communities living in and around the Eastern Afromontane Eco-region from any development even when implementing conservation projects.

We managed to measure this impact through the pre and post survey, which showed clearly the improvement in the participants' level of knowledge about the topics of the training such as basis for Environmental safeguards, World Bank Operational safeguard policies and IFC Performance Standards.

For example, the answers for some of the main questions before and after training are as follow:

1. Do you know the basis for Environmental safeguards

In the Pre-survey, 47% of participants said that they don't know the answer, while 33% of them said that they know the answer some how

In the Post survey, 66% of the participants said that they know the answer and even 33% of the participants supported their answers by examples and definitions

2. Do you know what the World Bank Operational safeguard policies are

In the Pre –survey, 67% of participants said that they don't know the answer, while 20% of them were not sure about their knowledge

In the Post-survey, 66% of the participants said that they know the answer and even 30% of the participants supported their answers by examples and definitions

3. What are the examples of other Performance Standards and Environmental Safeguard Policies?

In the Pre –survey, 87% of the participants said that they don't know the answer

In the Post-survey, 66% of the participants said that they know the answer and even 30% of the participants supported their answers by examples and definitions

The results of the pre and post surveys are attached.

B. Second Training Programme

The second capacity building program that took place also in Amman during February, 2016 due to the armed conflict in Yemen has contributed significantly to improving the capacities of Yemeni CSOs with regard to environmental safeguarding tools and biodiversity mainstreaming in EIA systems and developments planning.

It's worth mentioning that the project team made their best to ensure that same trainees will attend both training workshops which was very difficult to achieve due to the critical security situation in Yemen.

The improvement in the capacities of attendees after the second training program was measured using a post survey that triggered the participants gained knowledge and skills and recommendations.

Main skills are:

1. How to develop the EIAs studies at the time of designing the projects
2. Merging the biodiversity in the EIAs studies
3. Merging the biodiversity and ecological systems in the legislations and national policies
4. Knowing the mechanism for merging the biodiversity in the development projects.
5. How to develop the proposals for environmental projects
6. Raising the awareness of local communities of the importance of protecting the biodiversity and engaging them in the process of development projects planning

Main recommendations are:

1. Include Practical training in Yemen
2. Increase the communication and networking between the civil society organizations in Yemen

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

The political situation in Yemen has affected the implementation of the first and second training program in Yemen. However the challenges related to the implementation of mentoring were more serious.

The project managed to secure CEPF approval to move the first training program from Sana'a to Amman due to the following reasons:

1. The current political situation in Sanaa could cause some inconvenience to some of our planned field work;
2. There is a need for a number of site visits to demonstrate the value and need for environmental safeguard policies and EIA (i.e. examples where lacking such policies and tools caused damage to priority biodiversity areas, and examples where such policies and tools succeeded to eliminate or at least reduce development-induced damages to important and sensitive habitats/ecosystems); and
3. There is a need to give the trainees the chance to meet experts from CSOs, NGOs and government from Jordan who went through environmental safeguarding procedures.
4. The programme for this five-day course will include in-room lectures and activities following adult learning theory, in addition to site visits to demonstration areas (such as Ajloun Academy, Russifah, and Mining Area/Zarqa River) to deliver short presentations by environmental leaders from Jordan which will be over a reception in Amman
5. We conducted a detailed analysis for the needed expenses due to this change and the number of attendees accordingly. We found out that we can manage the planned training with the originally allocated budget and with total number of participants 15 - 20 as maximum.

Accordingly, the training was conducted in Jordan from Nov 22 - 26, 2014 for (16) Yemeni and Saudi Arabia professionals who managed to travel to Jordan. The participant from Saudi Arabia joined the training as self-funded, and he paid his costs directly to the providers of services (e.g. hotel, airline ticket, etc.).

But the security Situation at Yemen was escalated after December, 2014 and put on hold the majority of the project activities and it is currently the main risk especially that evens the lives of the selected professionals is in danger.

So, this situation is beyond of our controls and the only solution, based on CEPF recommendations, was putting on hold the project activities until further notice. Meanwhile, we focused on the activities that didn't need any travel to Yemen such as completing and launching the project website, and translating the fund raising manual.

But, the project team managed during December, 2015 to communicate with the Yemeni partners and take necessary arrangements with some of the previous participants from Yemen and others who are staying currently at Amman in order to conduct the second training program in Amman.

The second training program took place in Amman in February, 2016 which supported the successful completion of the project activities. The participants in the second training included participants from Yemen, and other Yemeni participants who were abroad at the time of the event for education or training. The event was very successful and engaging, the feedbacks from the event evaluation were very good.

With regard the mentoring, and as discussed above, it witnessed unexpected challenges mainly due to the security conditions. Given that the base of developmental project is very slow, if any, since the war started, therefore the implementation of EIA processes are not being practiced. Accordingly, the participants could not practice the skills and knowledge they gained from the programme.

b. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project beneficiaries, i.e. environmental CSOs in the EAM region in Yemen, became aware about CEPF programme in the region, their targeted conservation priorities and contact details. Their appreciation of CEPF contribution to capacity building of Yemeni CSOs increased substantially as the feedback from the trainees about quality of training was shared among wider group of Yemeni environmental NGOs and CSOs.

The project contributed to enhancing communication and networking between the CSOs from different areas in the EAM region in Yemen. The participants established email group which include the trainers and CEPF-RIT office (Mr. Sharif Jbour) and also a Facebook group through which they share news about conservation issues, priorities and successes. The most active discussions were mainly related to increased hunting/shooting threats of the Arabian Leopard, the impacts of war on people and biodiversity, and the challenges facing the protection and feeding of animals kept at Ta'ez Zoo.

An important negative unexpected impact is in fact the limited ability of many trainees to benefit from mentoring by the trainers, mainly due to the security and political unrest in the country which significantly reduced CSOs ability to implement conservation actions in their respective critical ecosystems, and to mainstream biodiversity in development. Though the discussions between the trainers and the trainees have been kept alive to-date, however the trainees could not yet undertake serious on ground actions of what they have learned.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 1. : Project Kick-off and Preparations

1.1. Review study of country safeguard systems and summary on benchmarking EIA process in Yemen against World Bank and IFC performance standards.

1.2. The end product of this activity will be a brief (summary) document summarizing national EIA-related legislation compliance with most practical and international accepted safeguard policies and performance standards. As such, this would help them to understand which regulations need to change to comply with such best practice, how it should look like, and how to address it.

c. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

1.1 Product/Delivery: Review study of country safeguard systems and summary on benchmarking EIA process in Yemen against World Bank and IFC performance standards.

The result of this product is: our technical partner Enviromatics have conducted previously an assessment of the capacities of the Yemeni NGOs and authorities in the field of EIA. In this project, Enviromatics built upon that assessment and made a comparison between the Yemeni available and applied Safeguard policies and the World Bank international standards. Also a review of national Yemeni environmental regulations related to safeguard policies and tools was undertaken and reported on. The results of this review were used in training events and provided to the trainees.

1.2 Product/Delivery The end product of this activity will be a brief (summary) document summarizing national EIA-related legislation compliance with most practical and international accepted safeguard policies and performance standards. As such, this would help them to understand which regulations need to change to comply with such best practice, how it should look like, and how to address it.

The result of this product is: A brief document discussing environmental safeguard systems in Yemen, in particular EIA, were produced, distributed to the training participants and uploaded to the Project Website.

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 2. Development and Delivery of the training programme

2.1. 25 hard and soft copies of the training package (manual and supporting materials including brief project background, illustrations and exercises) prepared, produced in Arabic language and distributed to attending trainees

2.2. Up to 50 hard copies of the project off-shelf handouts developed and distributed to targeted CSOs, EPA and other related stakeholders

2.3. Training package and off-shelf materials made publicly available through the Project partners websites and through a dedicated social media account

2.4. The training programme delivered in Jordan for up to participants trainees over two, 4-day each, training events (workshops

d. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable

2.1 Product/Delivery: 25 hard and soft copies of the training package (manual and supporting materials including brief project background, illustrations and exercises) prepared, produced in Arabic language and distributed to attending trainees

Result: (16) Soft copies have been distributed to participants at the end of training program on Nov 26, 2014. The training material has been modified several times to suite the current capacities of the trainees which proved to be weaker than it was expected. Accordingly, the material was modified to fill their shortcomings and enhance their skills using comprehensive approach. Accordingly, hard copies have been postponed to second training to ensure that the trainees will have the most updated version of the material.

The second training program took place early February, 2016 and 11 training Packages were distributed to the participants and were uploaded also on the project website.

All training materials shared with the trainees are uploaded to the project website and it is open to all interested.

2.2 Product/Delivery: Up to 50 hard copies of the project off-shelf handouts developed and distributed to targeted CSOs, EPA and other related stakeholders

Result: Materials for the first and second training programs have been distributed in each of the conducted training programs and a soft copy was uploaded on the project website.

2.3 Product/Delivery: Training package and off-shelf materials made publicly available through the the Project partners websites and through a dedicated social media account.

Result: 50 hard copies were produced and distributed by the Project Local Officer to CSOs and KPA in Yemen. The project uploaded on the website the materials of both the first and second training programs, in addition to the Arabic translated “Institutional Fund Raising for Conservation Projects Manual” and the legal review brief to be a valuable reference for the Yemeni professionals

2.4 Product/Delivery: The training programme delivered in Jordan for up to participants trainees over two, 4-day each, training events (workshops)

Result: The project team in cooperation with Yemeni partner managed to take necessary arrangements to organize and deliver the first and second training programs in Amman.

The political situation in Yemen has affected the implementation of the first and second training program in Yemen. The project managed to secure CEPF approval to move the first training program from Sana'a to Amman. The training was conducted from Nov 22 – 29, 2014 which included some site visits.

The eruption of the political situation in Yemen put on hold the majority of the project activities which was beyond of our controls. But, the project team managed during

December, 2015 to communicate with the Yemeni partners and take necessary arrangements with some of the previous participants from Yemen and others who are staying currently at Amman in order to conduct the second training program in Amman.

The second training program took place in Amman in February, 2016 which supported the successful completion of the project activities.

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 3. Mentoring and On-job Support

3.1. MOU with WAM to maintain the project webpages and social media account for a minimum period of three years, and to coordinate networking and collaboration between the CSOs within the EAM region on issues related to the training subject

3.2. Project webpages on the Project local partner website (or new dedicated website) developed and maintained for the project with hosting services for a period of three years, and handing it to the local (Yemeni) partner organization for post project maintenance and update.

3.3. Social media (Facebook) account created and maintained for the project, and having its administration and updated regularly coordinated by the local part-time local coordinator for a minimum period of one year thus to use it's a platform for trainees mentoring, networking and on-job support during and after the Project.

3.4. Trainers mentoring trainees development/implementation of pilot projects/activities (e.g. legal review studies, regulatory reform causes, awareness activities, project concepts/proposal, etc.) on the training subjects addressed in the first training event (after Activity 2.4 and before Activity 2.5) and producing brief document on training evaluation and lessons learned as input for the second training event.

3.5. Trainers mentoring trainees and providing them with virtual on job support for the remaining period of the project and post to the delivery of the second training event (to be coordinated by the local part-time local coordinator and supported by the Project Coordinator and an expert in EIA)

3.6. A network of at least 10 conservation biologists in the EAM region in Yemen who have the skills to implement safeguard policy according to the World Bank standards

3.7. A strong network of engaged relevant CSOs and conservation focused stakeholders engaged in the process of implementation of World Bank safeguards

3.8. Communication between stakeholders from within the EAM region (Saudi Arabia and Yemen) and Jordan stimulated jointly with WAM to encourage regional cooperation with regard to environmental safeguarding within KBAs'.

e. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable

3.1 Product/Delivery MOU with WAM to maintain the project webpages and social media account for a minimum period of three years, and to coordinate networking and collaboration between the CSOs within the EAM region on issues related to the training subject

Result: an MOU was signed with WAM detailing its roles and responsibilities over the project duration to facilitate coordination with Yemeni Participants and sustainability of results.

The MOU also governed handing over of the Website and the Social Media account to WAM to ensure programme continuation post to the Project. WAM hired an active employee to follow these communication tools (website and social media) on weekly basis and played the role of mediator among all participants for the initiated forum.

3.2 Product/Delivery: Project webpages on the Project local partner website (or new dedicated website) developed and maintained for the project with hosting services for a period of three years, and handling it to the local (Yemeni) partner organization for post project maintenance and update.

Result: The Project dedicated Website is maintained, updated and promoted to users from CSOs and local government. All training materials, translated Fundraising Manual, useful resources and links were uploaded on this website to constitute a useful continuous resource for comprehensive information which could be used any time regardless of the political situation in Yemen. The website is being administrated by ENVIROMATICS and the company is planning, as part of its environmental and social responsibility programme, to produce and upload new training materials and share it with the CSOs in continuation of the capacity building programme in year 2017.

Here is the Project Website Link: <http://www.eiay.org>

3.3 Product/Delivery: Social media (Facebook) account created and maintained for the project, and having its administration and updated regularly coordinated by the local part-time local coordinator for a minimum period of one year thus to use it's a platform for trainees mentoring, networking and on-job support during and after the Project.

Result: The project Facebook promotion is being undertake by WAM and it is being used to disseminate news about the project, project partners' activities, and other CSOs news and information. It was on hold for some time due to the war at Yemen, but it resumed currently its activities.

For future sustainability of the social media network, and for establishing linkages with Enviromatics new CEPF funded project, an additional Facebook page was established by Enviromatics (Nature Yemen) which will be used for promoting the Capacity Building Project website, dissemination of educational and awareness messages, and also to promote their

under development database system. The Social media (Facebook) account is periodically updated, and will be maintained for the project and promoted to users from CSOs and local government. Enviromatics will be using paid advertisements and visitors likes to promote the page and the website.

3.4 Product/Delivery: Trainers mentoring trainees development/implementation of pilot projects/activities (e.g. legal review studies, regulatory reform causes, awareness activities, project concepts/proposal, etc.) on the training subjects addressed in the first training event (after Activity 2.4 and before Activity 2.5) and producing brief document on training evaluation and lessons learned as input for the second training event.

Result: All trainees were encouraged to implement pilot activities in practice of the lessons learned during the first and second training programmes. Communication with the trainees was maintained by Enviromatics and the Project Local Officer, however due to the war in Yemen the trainers could not make on-ground actions. However, the trainees and other representatives and members of the CSOs maintained communicating (by group emails mostly, and to less extent through social media) about alerting conservation subjects like the indiscriminate shooting of wild animals, especially the Arabian Leopard, and the unsustainable wood cutting which escalated during the last few years due to war.

The Project website contain information needed to support future implementation of pilot environmental safeguard activities, and the Project partners contact details are available on this website for those in need for advice on this regard.

Overall, mentoring could not be effectively implemented as was planned for due to the before mentioned security conditions and war.

3.5 Product/Delivery: Trainers mentoring trainees and providing them with virtual on job support for the remaining period of the project and post to the delivery of the second training event (to be coordinated by the local part-time local coordinator and supported by the Project Coordinator and an expert in EIA)

Result: It was unfortunate that the war affected the trainees ability to benefit from on-job support and mentoring as working conditions have been significantly less productive and somehow on hold. We remain optimistic that the trainees and other CSOs will return to our website to get more information and to ask for our advice and support in the future with regard to biodiversity mainstreaming, environmental safeguard policies and tools.

3.6 Product/Delivery: A network of at least 10 conservation biologists in the EAM region in Yemen who have the skills to implement safeguard policy according to the World Bank standards

Result: This was possible for months of December and January after completing the first training program, but it was out on hold until December, 2015, and this activity was resumed as the second training program took place during the period January 31 – February 4, 2016. During this training, focus group discussions took place with the network members

concerning EIA application in development and project planning in Yemen, identification of mainstreaming needs and drawing lessons learned (back to back with products 3.7 and 3.8).

Currently a network constituting Enviromatics, Mr. Abdul Hakeem Rajeh, Dr. Salm Busais, Ms. Afrah Abu-Ghanem, Mr. Ahmad Yehia, Dr. Othman Al Haoshabi, Mr. Waleed Saeed, Abdulwahab Ali Wahshan and Abdullah Al-Hindi is involved in discussions related to the CEPF funded biodiversity database system project. Also, an email group constituting several people from Yemeni CSOs is active and being managed by one of the trainees, Mr. Naser Al Saidi, who took the initiative and maintained live communication and discussions about conservation issues during the times of war in Yemen.

3.7 Product/Delivery: A strong network of engaged relevant CSOs and conservation focused stakeholders engaged in the process of implementation of World Bank safeguards

Result: As discussed above, currently a network constituting Enviromatics, Mr. Abdul Hakeem Rajeh, Dr. Salm Busais, Ms. Afrah Abu-Ghanem, Mr. Ahmad Yehia, Dr. Othman Al Haoshabi, Mr. Waleed Saeed, Abdulwahab Ali Wahshan and Abdullah Al-Hindi is involved in discussions related to the CEPF funded biodiversity database system project. Also, an email group constituting several people from Yemeni CSOs is active and being managed by one of the trainees, Mr. Naser Al Saidi, who took the initiative and maintained live communication and discussions about conservation issues during the times of war in Yemen.

3.8 Product/Delivery: Communication between stakeholders from within the EAM region (Saudi Arabia and Yemen) and Jordan stimulated jointly with WAM to encourage regional cooperation with regard to environmental safeguarding within KBAs'.

Result: Project news were prepared and circulated by the Project and WAM to regional stakeholders in Yemen and the region (via emails, website and social media account). As the second training program will take place end of January, 2016, the project will resume this activity. Also it is important to mention that Enviromatics, and since it is already undertaking actions under its new CEPF funded project, is willing to maintain further support to Yemeni trainees for any potential reconstruction plans for Yemen. USDWE and Enviromatics are also planning to enrich the website with additional readings and training materials which are likely to be of high value to Yemeni CSOs.

Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 4. Enhancing CSOs visibility and marketing skills

4.1. The project webpages and social media account used, under controlled conditions, for sharing CSOs news, success stories, activities and awareness materials.

f. Describe the results from Component 4 and each product/deliverable

4.1 Product/Delivery: The project webpages and social media account used, under controlled conditions, for sharing CSOs news, success stories, activities and awareness materials.

Result: The website is launched, and updated by the project activities and different materials. A new Facebook page was recently launched and will be maintained by ENVIROMATICS at least for the duration of its new CEPF funded project for the development of biodiversity database system. The Project Local Coordinator/officer maintained regular update of the website/web page and the social media account, and making viable discussions on social media with regard to environmental safeguarding within KBAs in Yemen.

Component 5(as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Component 5. Project Evaluation and Sustainability Framework

5.1. Programme/project evaluation report describing its approach, methods and activities, witness's constraints, achieved results, lessons learned and recommendations for future interventions.

5.2. Concept paper for incorporation of environmental safeguard policy into existing project/s

5.3. Project Sustainability and reliability framework prepared and submitted long with the evaluation report

g. Describe the results from Component 5 and each product/deliverable

5.1 Product/ Deliverable: Programme/project evaluation report describing its approach, methods and activities, witness's constraints, achieved results, lessons learned and recommendations for future interventions.

Result: The evaluation report has been completed.

5.2 Product/ Deliverable: Concept paper for incorporation of environmental safeguard policy into existing project/s

Result: This activity was on hold due to the war in Yemen, and related discussion with the trainees was resumed as the second training program took place during the period January 31 – February 4, 2016. Given current security conditions it was found less practical to develop such a concept paper and therefore it was discontinued.

5.3 Product/ Deliverable: Project Sustainability and reliability framework prepared and submitted long with the evaluation report

Result: As the project was on hold for almost one year, this activity was postponed to June, 2016. The framework is completed and provided in Annex XX to this report.

h. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

Although the project team faced several challenges and obstacles, but they managed to complete successfully all the project activities and components, with exception on on-job trainees support. As discussed elsewhere in this report, almost all trainees could not undertake their responsibilities and work as they regularly used to before the war, this situation was reflected on this activity and accordingly the on-job support was very limited.

i. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

- Review study of country safeguard systems and summary on benchmarking EIA process in Yemen against World Bank and IFC performance standards.
- Brief (summary) document summarizing national EIA-related legislation compliance with most practical and international accepted safeguard policies and performance standards.
- training package (manual and supporting materials including brief project background, illustrations and exercises) made publicly available through the Project website and through a dedicated social media account
- Project website developed and maintained for the project with hosting services for a period of three years,.
- Social media (Facebook) account created and maintained for the project
- Arabic Translated CEPF “Institutional Fund Raising for Conservation Projects Manual” and it has been upload on the project website to be a good reference for interested professionals.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

j. Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project? Yes/No

If yes, please be sure to submit the final CSTT tool to CEPF if you haven't already done so.

No, we didn't complete this CSTT for this project as we completed for another project funded also by CEPF.

k. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project

This is mostly not directly relevant to the project. However it is important to note that the training programme was implemented successfully, however the trainees could not take on ground actions which would contribute to the conservation of species with less favored conservation status. Still the participants maintained certain level of attention of the threats facing some of these species, most importantly the Arabian Leopard and the increased threats from hunting and shooting by locals.

Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
1. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	N/A	<i>List the name of each protected area</i>
2. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	N/A	<i>List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)</i>
3. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	N/A	<i>List the name of each key biodiversity area</i>
4. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation	N/A	<i>List the name or describe the location of the production landscape</i>

** Include total hectares from project inception to completion*

5. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

N/A

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

6. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

N/A

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
1. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions				
2. Adults for livelihoods or increased income				
3. School-aged children				
4. Other	19	4	23	Capacity building programs for on Environmental Safeguard and EIA Process for Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Yemen Environmental Authority within EAM eco-region in Yemen. Total of 23 beneficiaries in the two courses. The First Course was attended by 12 males and 4 females from Yemen, and one from KSA as self-funded. The Second Course total 11 participants from Yemen, of whom 1 female and 10 male trainees. Four participants attended the two courses. One female trainee could not make it to the second training. 4 trainees (3 males and one female) attended the two training programmes.

5. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country

Population size

N/A

Lessons Learned

7. 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

Based on our experience in this project, the following lessons learned have been raised

1. There is should be more flexibility in the project plan in terms of human and financial resources in order to address any unforeseen incidents as happened in Yemen.
2. There is should be a risk management plan for political stability especially with the current unstable situation in the Arab World. Though the security situation in Yemen was and still not safe as it used to be, however the participants in the training, and others who could not make it to the training, were very interested to attend the second training course, especially after the excellent eco of the first training. We received requests for participation from many CSOs in Yemen, and from Yemeni graduate students studying in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.
3. Include in the training programs Yemeni participants who are living abroad because it will encourage them to go back home and benefit their countries.
4. CSOs representatives demonstrated committeemen to the training courses and expressed their interest in attending and taking part in other training programmes focusing on environmental planning and management, EIA systems, environmental awareness and education, research and projects management. Observing their learning curve going up on every day and hearing their views about their eager to learn more was very interesting, and we believe that more training is truly needed to build the capacity of Yemeni CSOs, in particular for young professionals who are active in the field.
5. It was obvious from delivering the training that there is differences in the level of capacity and knowledge between the participants. A well designed training programme, allocating enough time for group activities for specific learning objectives, and encouraging all participants to present and discuss training subjects to/with other participants brings almost all participants up to speed with the others and ensure having all participants deceiving their learning objectives.

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

The project design has contributed significantly to the success of the project due to the following reasons:

1. It was designed based on the results of the need assessment that was conducted for the CSOs and NGOs in Yemen in the EIA and safeguards policies field.
2. It was designed in compliance with CEPF strategic directions and priorities for Yemen.
3. It was designed to address the actual needs of the country and to suite its peculiarities.
4. The structure of the project consortium which included Jordanian NGO that have relevant experience , training company that have strong relevant experience in Yemen and the Yemeni

NGO which facilitated the recruitment of participants from Yemen and coordination of activities especially when the war erupted in Yemen.

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

The project implementation methodology has contributed significantly to the success of the project due to the following reasons:

1. The structure of the project consortium has the major role in the success implementation of the project. This is because it included Jordanian NGO that have relevant experience , training company that have strong relevant experience in Yemen and the Yemeni NGO which facilitated the recruitment of participants from Yemen and coordination of activities especially when the war erupted in Yemen.
2. The presence of the Yemeni NGO has facilitated the interaction between the involved participants and the project. It even facilitated the follow up of the different activities.

10. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

None so far.

Sustainability / Replication

11. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

Although the eruption of the war in Yemen was not expected, the project managed to ensure its sustainability through the following

1. The strong coordination between the different consortium members facilitated the implementation of the planned first and second training programs.
2. These training programs have built the capacities of the involved participants who used such knowledge to apply in their country based on their positions and authorities.
3. The initiated and maintained website that includes all the training materials and different project documents will contribute to the sustainability of the project results.
4. The initiated and maintained Facebook that includes the project different activities and lessons learned, and exchange of experiences will contribute to the sustainability of the project results.
5. The different documents and case studies resulted from the project
6. The initiated network of professionals will contribute to the sustainability of the project results

USDWE and partners are committed to guide Yemeni NGOs in future work and safeguarding KBAs in the aftermath of the political unrest, and when reconstruction plans are in place for the country. This is arranged through the Project website which constitute "Contact Us" bottom, and also through "Nature Yemen" Facebook page. ENVIROMATICS is also planning to maintain this website and continue updating it with case studies, additional readings and training materials in the coming two years as part of their implementation of their new CEPF funded project for the Biodiversity Database System.

12. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

Having the Project technical partner, ENVIROMATICS, implementing a new CEPF funded project for the development and sunning of biodiversity database system for the EAM region in Yemen is considered as important sustainability factor which would contribute to increasing the sustainability of the project website and the replication of the training in Yemen directly by ENVIROMATICS or by the trained Yemeni professionals by this project.

Discussions with UNDP Yemen and GIZ Yemen with regard to the importance of such training was commenced, and we are planning to continue building on reached common grounds with both organizations to replicate this effort.

Safeguards

13. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations

14. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

The project went through challenges imposed by the eruption of war, a situation which was not taken into consideration during the project design phase. There should be a risk management plan for political stability especially with the current unstable situation in the Arab World.

This plan should include the remedial actions and necessary measurements that could be taken to remedy the impact of War eruption as happened in Yemen.

This project will benefit from its actual experience in this project in developing such a plan as the project team managed to remedy the impacts of the political situation in Yemen, complete the completion of project activities and continue mentoring beyond project timeframe to ensure sustainability of achieved results

Additional Funding

15. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

None so far

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this 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 funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

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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