

Small Grants –Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF’s global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: *Center for Regional Initiatives (CRI)*

Project Title: Habitat Enrichment and In-situ Conservation of a Rare Endemic Species of Birthwort, Albania

Grant Number: CEPF-110694

Date of Completion of this Report: 31/03/2022

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.

Grant Amount: USD 7,866.34

Project Dates: 01 June 2020 – 28 February 2022

PART I: Overview

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

Stakeholders involved in the project:

RAPA Kukes – Representatives of RAPA Kukes joined meetings to discuss measures needed to be taken for the Merxmüller’s Birthworts conservation.

Representatives of the Genetic Bank and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment – Supported the project by suggesting the most effective measures that could be taken for the conservation of the species.

Geological Services Laboratory of Tirana – Soil analysis were conducted in this Laboratory.

Botanical Garden in Tirana- Supported project by providing place for planting and ex-situ conservation of the *Aristolochia merxmulleri*.

Institute for Agriculture -

Local community of Kukes area – During the project implementation residence of Kukes gained general knowledge of Merxmüller’s Birthworts plant species, geographical characteristics and importance of its preservation through various meetings organized.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

A Report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmüller’s Birthworts was created. More than 30 people part of local community, representatives of Genetic Bank of Albania, rangers from regional administration of protected areas Kukes etc. gained new knowledge on *Aristolochia merxmulleri* ecology, status, distribution and on the measures that needed to be taken for conservation as well as on their role towards protection of *A. merxmulleri*. In total, three biology students have gained new knowledge as well as practical skills on *Aristolochia merxmulleri* conservation measures. Ex-situ conservation of *Aristolochia merxmulleri* was done at the territories of Botanical Garden in Tirana. An action plan ‘*Aristolochia merxmulleri* conservation action plan’ was created as the final product of this project proposal.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Attaining a larger and more stable population of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> species in the area of interest, and increasing its area of occurrence.</p>	<p>Since the attempts for in situ conservation of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> in the area of interest were not successful, the ex situ conservation of the plant was considered. 10 bulbs of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> have been planted at the territories of the Botanical Garden in Tirana.</p> <p>Although ex situ methods are not the best methods for species conservation compared to in-situ methods they are a good solution and are often used when species numbers are critically low or when in situ methods aren't working. <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> can be grown successfully in the Botanic Garden of Tirana because there it is actively managed to provide the species with the best resources to grow, such as the provision of soil nutrients, sufficient watering and the removal or prevention of pests. This method will help to protect the <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> in a controlled environment where external factors that threaten the species can be managed more easily.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Raising awareness of the status of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> as a critically endangered (CR) species</p>	<p>Several meetings have been organized with representatives of RAPA Kukes, Genetic Bank of Albania, other local and national authorities as well as with local community with the aim to raise awareness on the status of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> and to discuss measures needed to be taken for its conservation. These meetings helped us to strengthen the cooperation with the stakeholders with the common goal of preserving <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i>. Representatives of the Genetic Bank and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment suggested the most effective measures that could be taken for the conservation of the species as well as expressed their willingness to give special protection to the area where the plant grows or to suggest policy change / enactment with regards to legal protection of CR species.</p> <p>Furthermore, a report “<i>Aristolochia Merxmulleri</i> Report” has been prepared and distributed to local community and relevant authorities with the aim to give them more information regarding botany, ecology, distribution, protection status assessment, threats and conservation measures of Merxmuller’s birthworts.</p>
<p>Taking direct action aimed at the conservation of the plant</p>	<p>Those actions include:</p> <p>1- Ex-situ conservation action. Since planting a plant with seeds, during the period of 15-16 October 2020, did not result in success, Professor Shuka suggested planting bulbs. 10 bulbs of <i>A. merxmulleri</i> were collected during 21-22 May 2021, which then were planted at the Botanical Garden in Tirana on May 25.2021.</p> <p>2- Implementation of thinning measures. A group of young biology students conducted thinning measures, including clearing the bushes in order to clear their roots and provide more space for <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i>. The cleaned area had a perimeter of 4 ha, since the plant is scattered.</p> <p>3- Quantitative and Qualitative Soil Enrichment Techniques</p>

	<p>Quantitative soil enrichment techniques (soil addition) in some of the samples to compare the results with unenriched ones were practiced.</p> <p>Qualitative soil enrichment techniques (soil nutrient saturation) in some of the samples to compare the results with unenriched ones were practiced.</p> <p>The main of those activities were to collect data for soil analyses (period October 2021 - January 2022). The soil samples were analyzed in Albanian Geological Laboratory on January 2022.</p> <p>Both activities described above about soil enrichment techniques took place at the same time.</p> <p>Merxmüller's Birthworts (<i>Aristolochia merxmülleri</i>) occurs only on serpentine substrate. It is known that this substrate where distinct for lacking of nutrients, potassium, phosphorous and low concentration of calcium and high concentration of magnesium. The ratio Ca/Mg is also key factor in determining plant survivorship. Most of plant species that are growing in serpentine substrate have adapted mechanisms which tolerate the high Ca/Mg ratios and other trace elements such as Cr, Ni, Co and Mn. The above mentioned soil analysis are very important to know the substrate where the <i>Aristolochia merxmülleri</i> is grown with the aim to provide the species with the best resources to grow, such as the provision of soil nutrients at the Botanic Garden of Tirana where she is planted.</p>
<p>Establishing the critically endangered plant species as a natural asset worth preserving</p>	<p>An action plan '<i>Aristolochia merxmülleri</i> conservation action plan' was created. It contains specific measures and action for the conservation of <i>Aristolochia merxmülleri</i>. The proposed measures targeted the Ministry of Tourism and Environment-Albania, the Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA Kukes), local authorities such as Kukes Municipality, and NGOs that operate in the field of environment protection as the most relevant and adequate institutions that can take under their work the implementation of the proposed measures.</p>

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

During the implementation phase of the project the in-situ conversation measures (seed planting) resulted unsuccessful. Due to that fact the project team considered ex-situ conservation measures

such was the planting 10 bulbs of *A. merxmulleri* at the Botanical Garden of Tirana. The second attempt, even that was not initially planned, to be done resulted successful.

On the project proposal the team has considered the in-situ conservation as the most appropriate way of conserving *A. merxmulleri* and the preservation of the areas where population of this species naturally exist. But despite the importance of the in situ measures, during the implementation phase of the project their full application remained far from being widely achieved. To prevent the extinction risk of the threatened species *A. merxmulleri* and to improve their conservation status, we considered translocations as the most ideal scenario in this case.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1.1	Knowledge of the exact number of plant population, extent of its habitat, altitude, conditions, and threats	One report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmuller’s Birthworts prepared by Professor Lulezim Shuka. The report contains photos and information regarding the plant, its habitat, co-occurring vegetation, risk category assessment, and other characteristics. The report has been published on August 2021.
1.2	Local community aware of the plant and the importance of its conservation	More than 11 citizens, residents of the Kukes area received more knowledge about protecting the plant from the threats (human or natural, fires, livestock, grazing, etc) as well as for plant ecology, threatened status and what they could do as part of local community to protected the species of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> . This is achieved through the distribution of the published report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmuller’s Birthworts to local community. Throughout the implementation phase of the project, there were held also meetings with local representatives to discuss of the problem identified as well as the solutions suggested by the project. The first meeting was held on 15.07.2020 and the second one on 05.06.2021 where more than 11 residents of the Kukes participated.

		<p>The following issues were discussed with the above mentioned stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for the Local Environmental Directorate in Kukës to give special protection to the area where the plant grows. • Extensive discussion of other endangered species and plants. It was brought to their attention that <i>A. merxmulleri</i> is not the only critically endangered species that grows in the area. Another co-occurring species is <i>T. albanica</i>, whose status is the same. • The following steps will be taken to protect this and other endangered species. <p>Furthermore we were assured of future communication and collaboration potential. Such leads are vital for the further development of this project, especially its managerial component. The communication with local community was face to face.</p>
1.3	Central/Local government authorities aware of the plant and the importance of its conservation	<p>The report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmuller’s Birthworts had been distributed to representatives of local government authorities- Regional Administration of Protected Areas (RAPA Kukës) and the relevant central government body – Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania. At least 10 copies of the report have been distributed (physically) to the above-mentioned stakeholders.</p>
2.1	The establishment of a team dedicated to the conservation of the plant	<p>An expert of plant physiology and eco-physiology with great knowledge of the area and its plant species (has first identified <i>Tulipa albanica</i> as a separate plant species) has been recruited. – The expert conducted field studies and implemented conservation efforts.</p> <p>Also, 3 students (Ilda Prifti, Regina Veshi, Shilda Dulaj) from Biology field, University of Tirana, participated in some of the activities organized in the framework of this project such was planting bulbs of <i>A. merxmulleri</i> at the Botanic Garden of Tirana on May 25.2021. They received more knowledge about plant</p>

		<p>population, habitat, growth conditions, altitude, and population threats. Also they gained practical skills on ex-situ conservation methods, how to collect bulbs and how to plant them.</p>
2.2	<p>Implementing in-situ conservation practices for at least five months</p>	<p>During the period of October 2020 some in-situ conservation practices had been conducted. They involved performing site visits to implement thinning measures, as well as plant relocation. Another activity including implementation of thinning measures was held during the period of April 28 -29 2021.</p> <p>During this phase we have engaged a group of 3 young biology students (Ilda Prifti, Regina Veshi, Shilda Dulaj) conducted thinning measures, including clearing the bushes in order to clear their roots and provide more space for <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i>. The <i>Aristolochia Merxmulleri</i> is found in between shrubs, dominated from <i>Forsythia europaea</i>, <i>Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus</i>, <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> and <i>Quercus pubescens</i>. The first activity happened during 15- 16 October 2020 and the second one during 28 -29 April 2021. They did the process according to the required standards without damaging the plant and only by using shovels and gloves for their hands. The cleaned area had a perimeter of 4 ha, since the plant is scattered.</p>
2.3	<p>Attaining sustainable levels of plant population, effectively bringing it to the attention of IUCN's Global Red List category of Critically Endangered (CR) plant species</p>	<p>Since the attempts for planting with seeds of <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> at its area of occurrence were not successful, the realization of this deliverable has not been possible. Instead, the plant was planted with bulbs in the Botanical Garden of Tirana. During field trip in the areas of Kukes where <i>A. merxmulleri</i> is grown we noticed that habitat types of <i>A. merxmulleri</i> distribution in Albania are under the high impact of uncontrolled mineral excavation, overgrazing and fires, without mentioned the negative impacts of increased temperatures and habitat quality. It is in such instances that the project team considered ex-situ measures as the most appropriate measures for the conservation of <i>A.</i></p>

		<i>merxmuelleri</i> as habitats continue to decline or alter and become increasingly unsuitable.
3.1	The plant's extent of occurrence will have increased by at least 10%, whereas it's area of occupancy by at least 20%;	Since the attempts for planting with seeds of <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> at its area of occurrence were not successful, the realization of this deliverable has not been possible. Instead, the plant was planted with bulbs in the Botanical Garden of Tirana. During field surveys, carried out by project team during May-June 2021 a decrease of the mature individuals with ca. 120 mature individuals were noticed. It is in such instances that the project team considered ex-situ measures as a preparation for reintroduction or assisted colonization if and when feasible in the future.
3.b	Devising a plan for the management of the plant and the unprotected area where it grows.	Publication of <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> Conservation Action Plan. It contains specific measures and action for the conservation of <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> . Those action are divided in 4 overall objectives: O1. Improve <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> protection and conservation. O2. Improve Regional Administration of Protected Areas knowledge about <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> habitats and populations. O3. Improve community and other stakeholder awareness about <i>Aristolochia merxmuelleri</i> . O4. Foster the cooperation among CSOs, local authorities and institutions.

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

1. Report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmuellder's Birthworts.
2. An action plan '*Aristolochia merxmuelleri* conservation action plan' on conservation measures of the species.

Methodology:

Ex – situ conservation

According to the suggestions of Professor Lulezim Shuka, The territories of the Botanical Garden with coordinates Latitude: 41o 18'39.50`` N and Longitude 19 o 48'27.72``E have been identified for ex-situ conservation of the plant. Since planting a plant with seeds did not

result in success, Professor Shuka suggests planting bulbs. The bulbs were taken by Professor Shuka in May 2021. The trip to Kukes took place on May 22, 2021 and the field work lasted two days (22-23 May 2021). 10 bulbs of *A. merxmulleri* were collected, which then were planted at the Botanical Garden in Tirana on May 25, 2021. Participant in the planting of bulbs was prof. Shuka and students from Biology Faculty.

Soil analysis

The soil profile was described and samples were taken from the two horizons identified in the field (0–20 cm, 20–35 cm). Soil samples were taken from the upper horizon at a depth of 0–20 cm where possible, near the roots of the *A. merxmulleri* plants. Soil samples were air-dried and sieved to 2 mm. Samples were mineralized with a microwave digester. Conditions for mineralization were 6 ml HCl, 2 ml HNO₃, and 3 ml H₂O₂, per 0.5-g soil. Total major (Ca, Mg, and Fe) and trace elements (Co, Cr, Ni, Zn) were measured in mineralization solution by atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS) in the Geological Services Laboratory of Tirana, Albania. Nickel availability in different soil samples was characterised by the DTPA-TEA method. DTPA-extractable Ni was determined using the method of Lindsay and Norvell (1978). Concentration of Ni in soil extracts was also determined by atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS). Soil Ca:Mg ratios were calculated and soil pH (in water) was also measured.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

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.

“Lessons learned” are experiences you have gained that you think would be valuable successes worth replicating or practices that you would do differently if you had the chance. Consider lessons that would inform project design and implementation, and any other lessons relevant to the conservation community. CEPF Lessons Learned Guidelines are available here: <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-lessons-learned-guidelines-english.pdf>.

The team worked efficiently to reduce the workload of information and associated practical suggestions on different types of conservation, in order to concentrate on the distinct tools and methods for ex-situ conservation of the Critically Endangered species (*Aristolochia merxmulleri*) in the area of Kukes. Meanwhile, working with specific and measurable indicators was a difficult task as it meant devising relatively new strategies and a plan for the management of the plant and the unprotected areas where it grows. Moreover, not only it meant to raise sensitivity on this issue to the relevant authorities, but also to introduce follow-up procedures, so that additional work and/or replicable instances for the protection of the plant can become mainstreamed to the necessary extent, given the real-time involvement of all project partners as a starting point. Therefore, any strategies not fully devised during the implementation of the project (mainly due to the urgent nature of protecting the endangered plant), will be able to follow from the main interventionist practice and be advocated by the local stakeholders as a supportive feature at all levels.

By contacting multiple other sources, such as in our case the Local Directorate of Environment and the Agricultural University of Tirana, we received relevant feedback on the future examination of the plant conservation practices relative to the proportion of the plant's extent of occurrence and area of occupancy. This was a comprehensive approach that helped the relevant actors in replicating initial steps based on the results and findings from the project intervention. After the publication of the Report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmüller's Birthworts, it became evident that all preparatory work was consistent and useful for possible future practices even in the form of independent approaches by the locals, for restoring and protecting the Critically Endangered species based on the conservationist practices for future generations.

Sustainability / Replication

- 8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.**

Through this project we aimed to achieve sustainability at the environmental, social, institutional and financial levels.

Environmental sustainability is an elusive concept that is difficult to measure. But one thing is certain – that Kukes's area where *A. merxmulleri* is found is very dynamic and ever changing. Sustainability in this respect will come when stakeholders and local community people are able to apply practical ecological models to anticipate change and manage anthropogenic impacts accordingly. This is why through this project we aimed to raise awareness of the status of *Aristolochia merxmulleri* as a critically endangered (CR) species.

Regarding social, institutional and financial sustainability, this project considers the capacity building of biology students that were involved on the field surveys. Furthermore, the initial reports about *Aristolochia merxmulleri* as well as the action plan will be a useful tool to raise institutions' knowledge to further help them in the decision-making process and to implement conservation measures. Over the life of the project, we have focused our efforts also on strengthening the cooperation among the local community, RAPA, local authorities and other institutions that work in area as an important element in ensuring sustainability.

Safeguards

- 9. If not listed as a separate Deliverable and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.**

This project did not trigger any safeguard.

Additional Funding

- 10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.**
 - a. Total additional funding (US\$) 706**

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
CRI	Counterpart	706

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

During our field trip in the area we learned that the in situ protection of the species is impossible without cooperation of local community. Education and awareness of the local communities on the necessity of environmental protection as the property of many generations and the home of many living organisms, including and humans is very important for the conservation of *A. merxmulleri*. On the other hand biodiversity conservation is in close relationship with habitat protection and conservation as far as with conservation planning. Before preparing of species conservation plan is important to know and involve the capability to assess and predict the effects of dynamic, stochastic, and interacting natural and human-influenced processes throughout ecosystem. Specie and habitat protection within the context of interacting ecological, altered with human disturbance presents significant management challenges, so impact calculation and prediction of each threats are needed to resolve these types of conflicts and prevent further habitat fragmentation and loss.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available	1	1 published document “Report on Botany, Ecology, Distribution, Protection Status

		<p><i>Assessment and Threats and Conservation Measures of Merxmüller's Birthworts</i>" with photos and information regarding the plant, its habitat, co-occurring and vegetation, risk category assessment and other characteristics.</p> <p>2. Action plan for the conservation of <i>Aristolochiamerxmulleri</i></p>
<p>Number of KBAs for which information on plants is improved</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>ALB15, code name for the Munella Mountain – Oroshi Mountain – Lura Lakes KBA -</p> <p>After several field trips in the area the following information has been collected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plant's population status; 2. An analysis of the plant's eco-geographic distribution and its genetic structure; 3. An assessment of the population's value and potential for genetic resources; 4. The habitat's availability and quality, including habitat requirements and breadth; 5. The plant's biological and ecological characteristics; 6. The identification of relevant biotic and abiotic factors found in the natural ecosystem and their actual status; 7. Threats to the species, their causes and intensity.

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project.

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training*	# of women receiving structured training*	Topic(s) of Training
0	3	Fieldwork Biological surveying Ex situ conservation methods

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original	# of Hectares N	Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***
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		# ofHectares* *	ewlyProtect ed			

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas", and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# ofHectaresImproved *

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

* If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.

**Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shape file to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use google map, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)							Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)								# of Beneficiaries	
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*		Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Report on policies, laws and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. “Policies” pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included.

18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)																
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*	
1																					
2																					
...																					

* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				

2				
3				

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1			
2			
...			

20. Networks & Partnerships

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1					
2					

...					

21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

22. Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)
<i>Aristolochia</i>	<i>Aristolochiamerxmulleri</i>	Birthwort	CR	Ex-situ measures. Planting 10 bulbs of <i>A. merxmulleri</i> at the Botanical Garden in Tirana. Prepared an Action plan.	Decreasing A. <i>merxmulleri</i> has a very narrow distribution range, respectively 24 km ² in Albania. A survey, carried out during May of 2009 in Albania by Prof. Shuka have assessed ca. 818 individuals. The monitoring of mature individuals of <i>A. merxmulleri</i> in May-June 2021 showed a decrease of the mature individuals with ca. 120 mature individuals.

Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Center for Regional Initiatives (CRI)

Generic email address: projektemjediore@yahoo.com