

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: Al Shouf Cedar Society

Project Title: Reviving Traditional Agricultural Practices in Al-Shouf Biosphere Reserve-Lebanon.

Grant Number: CEPF-113769

Date of Completion of this Report: November 24

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 3

Grant Amount: USD 19,956.92

Project Dates: December 1, 2022 till October 31, 2023.

PART I: Overview

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

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO): sub-contracting partner. They were responsible for the promotion and marketing of the products being produced in the ateliers as well as their branding. From a commercial point of view, specific marketing and branding strategies were developed and implemented for the sales channels. UNIDO's input was necessary for the progress of a marketing plan that included, where needed, the selection and development of products from the point of view of intrinsic quality, packaging, branding and compliance with fair and organic and biological regulations, a definition of the launch price, an assessment of the various distribution channels and the articulation of a promotional campaign.

- Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM): common vision with ACS, exchanging expertise related to conservation, restoration of abandoned terraces and nursery cultivation techniques. Complementary will be the experience achieved with the work of APJM in promoting locally the cultivation of wild herbs, mainly the *Origanum syriacum* grown in its

nurseries, as alternative to the limited and in decline wild populations of it and of the *O.ehrenbergii* and *O. libanoticum*, and the ongoing partnership with local communities to provide agro-food products linked to the community-based ecotourism program in Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve (JMBR). Moreover, it is a harmonizing activity to the awareness-raising activities undertaken with the CEPF-funded project, that focus on enhancing the appreciation of the local communities of their endemic and economically important species. In addition, SBR shared its experience in ecosystem conservation and sustainable agriculture development strategies with APJM within the two meetings conducted within this project including the restoration of old dry stone walls (terraces), promotion of cultural and traditional practices and local products, active participation of the local communities, etc. In turn, the work of APJM on promoting alternatives to the harvest in the wild of native and endemic species was disseminated with the SBR. This project is a form of a partnership between the two reserves for a replication of this working scheme applied in the SBR also to JMBR, especially in regards of the monitoring of biodiversity and the stonewall restoration programmes held at the SBR.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

ACS was able to deliver the below results within this project:

1. **The habitat of the native species in the restored lands in Maasser, Khreibeh, Boutmeh and Jbaa villages is preserved:** project through the revival and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices in the SBR. 100 copies of the “Guidelines for Sustainable Conservation and Use of Wild Species” that were written and prepared based on the 4 workshops conducted with farmers on the sustainable use of native species within CEPF-111666 (in the year 2021- 2022) were published, released, and distributed by the project coordinator to key farmers and stakeholders. Also, within CEPF-111666, ACS restored and cultivated 10 hectares of abandoned terraces in the above mentioned villages. Before this project, those terraces were completely abandoned by their owners and their habitats were destroyed and deteriorated. Land restoration activities implemented by ACS such as reforestation, plowing, cultivation, organic matter addition and removing invasive species lead to the enhancement of the structure of the habitats, leading to the survival of many species that rely on specific vegetation types or landscape features. Land restoration played a crucial role in the recovery of endangered species by creating suitable habitats and addressing the threats that led to their decline. Therefore, and after implementing restoration and conservation actions, the habitats of the native species in the restored lands in Maasser, Khreibeh, Boutmeh and Jbaa are now preserved, and the species demonstrate good survival rates and good health conditions. Ongoing management is taken by ACS to ensure the sustained health of the species. This is manifested in the monitoring activities and field sheets and surveys during monitoring, and in the excel sheet that includes the results of monitoring in 2022 for comparison (those results are a baseline to compare with the results of the year 2023) the comparison validated that those species are still present in the year 2023 with better amounts and good conditions.
2. The pressure on the collection of *Cyclamen libanoticum* ,*Origanum libanoticum* ,*Salvia peyronii*, *Origanum ehrenbergii* in the SBR is decreased by the end of 2023

through enhancing the production of native, wild and aromatic species in the SBR's nurseries. In reference to the monitoring field sheets and database conducted by ACS field team during the monitoring of biodiversity activities in the SBR, 10 ha in the buffer zone of SBR show a decrease in the pressure of the 4 species. The exchange of knowledge on monitoring and efficient nursery management practices was shared with other Protected areas in Lebanon such as JMBR. In addition 4,000 certified seedlings were given to 1,300 farmers, such as *Origanum syriacum*, *Malus trilobata*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Crataegus azarolus*, old local varieties of grape (*Vitis vinifera*) "Obeidi" and "Merweh", figs (*Ficus carica*), pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), jujube (*Ziziphus jujube*), Damascus rose (*rosa x damascena*) in the aim of reviving the production of traditional native species in the restored terraces and promoting the use and dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices. The plantation of these species in the agricultural lands and having access to them will lower the pressure of their harvest in the wild. This was also demonstrated in the monitoring field sheets and database conducted by ACS field team during the monitoring of biodiversity activities in the SBR within this project in the selected lands.

3. The two women's lead production workshops and food processing units are enhanced and supported and their sales increase by 30% by the end of the project. In reference to the sales records of the ateliers (here attached to the report), 2 traditional products (tomato paste and pomegranate molasses) have shown a positive market trend in 2023 and an increase in demand and sales, thus increasing the profits and revenues of the workshops. Three newly processed traditional products: the tomato paste, the pomegranate molasses and the vine leaves produced by the food processing units see a positive market trend this year. Those products were not produced before this project. This was demonstrated in the sales records of the ateliers and the amounts of products resulting from those units. We noticed an increase in the number of products and jars being produced from one year to another, thus an increase in the sales. Two women were hired seasonally to take part in manufacturing due to the high demand of the customers on those products. Those products were not previously produced by the ateliers and the ateliers had only 3 working local ladies. In conclusion, and after the implementation of this project, the number of products increased in the workshops, the sales records by the ateliers were higher in comparison to previous years, and new job opportunities were created for local women.
4. The elaboration and implementation of a "Manual of Procedures" for the policy of human resources is developed and is planned to be immediately implemented by ACS administrative department. ACS team had their capacities built on the implementation of a mechanism to monitor the use of supplies and the movement of vehicles at the SBR through a capacity building session conducted at the reserve park house to all the ACS team to better explain the use and importance of these mechanisms and the necessity to have all employees abide by them.

7. 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>Contribution to the biodiversity conservation in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve (SBR) through encouraging traditional agricultural practices in partnership with local communities (community-based approach).</p>	<p>Promoting traditional agricultural practices in the SBR was the main objective throughout this project. We promoted these practices by implementing several activities and disseminating promising results to the local community. We fostered new sustainable economic opportunities and protected local natural resources by protecting the biodiversity through the restoration of 10 ha of old terraced areas and enhancing traditional agricultural techniques (in CEPF-111666 (2021-2022)) while ensuring the conservation of the environment and the monitoring of the hosted species; boosting local production chains through the development of local products and marketing them in the national farmers’ markets; enhancing local tradition through awareness raising on the environmental, cultural and economic value of the sustainable agricultural practices. Instead of relying on modern or intensive agricultural methods like the massive use of pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, excessive tillage, no crop rotation, overgrazing, etc. that have negative impacts on the environment and lead to soil loss, water scarcity, habitat degradation and crop health, the project emphasizes the promotion of traditional agricultural and sustainable practices. This includes sustainable methods that are more in harmony with the local ecosystem and involve the intensive use of indigenous knowledge, traditional tools, natural resources, organic fertilizers and cultural beliefs of the farmers. We aim to increase this percentage as much as possible in the Shouf by emphasizing best practices, encouraging farmers to go back to implementing these practices and by assessing the maintenance and sustainability of the traditional land use practices that are favorable for biodiversity. By encouraging these practices among the local community, the project not only aims to support biodiversity conservation but also recognizes the cultural heritage of the local communities that were not revived and spoken of</p>

	<p>much before the implementation of this project in the Shouf region. This leads to the preservation of habitats, the protection of native species, and the overall enhancement of biodiversity within the Shouf Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Partnership with Local Communities (Community-Based Approach): To ensure the success and sustainability of the project, it adopts a community-based approach. This means actively involving and collaborating with the local communities in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve. This project emphasized the idea of working with the people who live in and around the reserve, to better understand their needs, and incorporate their knowledge and practices into the project design and implementation. That is, ACS long before worked with the local community, but this project was a means of strengthening the relations and cooperation with the local community by involving them in fieldwork, exchanging knowledge, creating new job opportunities, etc.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>The population of four globally threatened plant species increased in 10 ha in the buffer zone of the Shouf Biosphere reserve</p>	<p>Through monitoring of biodiversity and conducting scheduled visits to the sites from May till October 2023, and after comparing the results of the monitoring done in previous years, it has been proven that the numbers of <i>Origanum libanoticum</i>, <i>Salvia peyronii</i>, <i>Origanum ehrenbergii</i> in the selected sites demonstrate a slight increase of 5% in 2023. Their conservation was a result of the preservation and protection actions (activities mentioned above) taken within this project.</p>
<p>The economic well-being and livelihoods of the local farmers and producers demonstrate an increase by opening new niche-market channels and opportunities</p>	<p>One of the main problems farmers are facing is marketing their products. Before this project, limited access to marketing channels was a major challenge for farmers in the Shouf, leading to wasted produce and lower incomes. Farmers used to struggle to connect with buyers without proper marketing. They used to rely on middlemen and intermediaries who take a significant cut of the profits, leaving farmers with a smaller share of the actual market value of their produce.</p>

	<p>The project envisions not just economic growth but a transformation in the way local farmers and producers engage with markets. By exploring and leveraging niche-market channels, the SBR seeks to enhance economic opportunities, create sustainable livelihoods, and empower local communities. We created direct-to-consumer models, Farmers' markets, and community-supported agriculture initiatives that connected farmers directly with consumers and increased transparency and profitability.</p>
<p>The administrative capacity of Al Shouf Cedar Society is increased</p>	<p>By developing the manual of procedures that in turn helped ACS enhance its administrative and human resources policies, and by preparing a mechanism for monitoring the use of tools and vehicles, the ACS administrative unit was heightened especially after building the capacities of the team on these procedures and mechanisms and successfully implementing them within the reserve policies and daily work. This year, ACS was able to open the Destination Management Organization Department (DMO), a new department related to eco-tourism and to develop a new accounting system. Having their capacities increased, ACS team was able to submit a proposal to the Global Environmental Fund. This shows that the team is handling more tasks and implementing more projects. This has also been proved during the employee evaluation. At the end of each year, the HR department evaluates each employee including questions and self-assessments relevant to each's scope of work. Based on the feedback it got, all employees agreed that their capacities have been built and that they are more aware of the administrative and managerial policies and are now able to better implement them within the organization than they used to in previous years.</p>

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

The local women of the Jbaa atelier were able to add new products to the production line noting that these products are made from endemic and native species and are now sold at the ateliers.

In addition, and to meet the demands of the local women and farmers, the project helped identify and capitalize on niche-market channels. Three farmers markets were launched at three villages of the SBR (Bater, Barouk and Warhaniyyeh) in response to the work done in the

ateliers. The localized distribution of goods minimized the environmental impact associated with extensive transportation nowadays and packaging. This was not planned for this project. By opening new channels within these niches, farmers and producers can access markets easily and the reach of local products is expanded. It was concluded that the direct link between producers and consumers not only supports local economies but also enhances the overall well-being of individuals and the environment. This direct interaction enhances transparency and fosters a sense of trust as consumers can learn about the products, farming methods, and even build relationships with the farmers.

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
	<p>The habitat of the native species in the restored lands in Maasser, Khreibeh, Boutmeh, and Jbaa villages is preserved .</p>	<p>ACS Has been conducting restoration activities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices since 2016. CEPF funded the restoration of 10 hectares in 2022 in 4 villages of the SBR: Jbaa, Maasser, Boutmeh and Khreibeh. Restoration activities conducted by ACS include habitat reconstruction and soil conservation actions, that is restoring stone-wall terraces by using the stones in the land and placing large stones underneath and smaller ones on top without using any cement. In addition to cleaning and plowing the land and conducting muti cropping, crop rotation, minimum irrigation, thinning and planting aromatic species as well Organic fertilizers and compost being produced by the ACS field team were placed around the seedlings planted or within the soil while plowing to enrich the soil with organic matter and increase its micro-organism content. The plantation of native plant species and helping them better withstand the challenges posed by a changing climate and the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices increased the resilience of the land to climate change considering its potential impacts on habitats and species. The ecological renewal and the restoration of the Shouf landscape serves in the conservation of natural environments thus preserving the habitats of native plant species.</p>

		<p>Plants that are endemic to Lebanon and that do not need much treatment and much water. For example, Merwi and Meksaasi grapes, white and black figs, pomegranate, walnuts, lavender, rosemary, oregano syriacum, pine, etc.</p>
	<p>The pressure on the collection of <i>Cyclamen libanoticum</i>, <i>Origanum libanoticum</i>, <i>Salvia peyronii</i>, <i>Origanum ehrenbergii</i> in the SBR is decreased.</p>	<p>ACS distributed 4,000 certified seedlings to 1,300 vulnerable farmers of all the villages of the SBR, such as <i>Origanum syriacum</i>, <i>Malus trilobata</i>, <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, <i>Crataegus azarolus</i>, old local varieties of grape (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>) "Obeidi" and "Merweh", figs (<i>Ficus carica</i>), pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i>), jujube (<i>Ziziphus jujube</i>), Damascus rose (<i>Rosa x damascena</i>) in the aim of reviving the production of traditional native species in the restored terraces and promoting the use and dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices. Planting those species in their lands made them accessible to farmers, thus decreasing the pressure of their collection in the wild. This was also enhanced through the production of native, wild and aromatic species in the SBR's nurseries.</p>
	<p>The two women lead workshop production and food processing units are enhanced and supported and their sales increase by 30%</p>	<p>Throughout the year, ACS was continuously following up with Boutmeh and Jbaa ateliers in terms of production, food processing, needs, equipment and product labeling and branding. ACS's support was a motive for the local women, their commitment resulted in improvement of the products quality and facilitation of the work. Jbaa atelier produced and sold more than 100 mouneh jars in 2023. ACS offered labeling and branding services and the opportunity for the ladies to take part in 6 farmers markets organized by ACS in 6 villages of the SBR: Bater, Warhaniyyeh, Barouk, AinZhalta, Maasser and Boutmeh.. Hence, a 30% increase in the sales of these workshops was attained in 2023. (attached is the Excel sheet showing the types and amounts of the products produced during each month of the year 2023 in each of the Shouf's ateliers. This sheet was not developed before this project. The ateliers did not have a well-organized database due to low</p>

		<p>production and sales. After the promotion of the products, opening farmer's markets, enhancing the skills of the women, and thus the increase in the demand for the products by the consumers and buyers, the women developed this sheet to validate, organize and track the production and sales in the workshops. ACS is planning on enhancing this sheet and training the women on proper data entry in the future).</p>
	<p>A mechanism of monitoring the tools and vehicles, and a "Manual of Procedures" for the policy of the human resources is developed and implemented by ACS administrative department and the team's capacity has been built on this policy</p>	<p>The elaboration and implementation of a "Manual of Procedures" for the policy of human resources is developed and implemented by ACS. The team's capacity is built on this policy through conducting 2 staff meetings to further discuss the manual and explain the terms of use. The ACS team had their capacities also built on the implementation of a mechanism to monitor the use of supplies and the movement of vehicles at the SBR.</p>

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

1. Within this project, ACS was able to develop 2 mechanisms (attached to this report) that enhance its managerial and administrative strategies. These mechanisms are tools to monitor the use of vehicles and use of tools in the storage room/ warehouse. They include all aspects that help ACS monitor the amounts and types of equipment, inputs & outputs, tools that need maintenance, the tools present at each restoration plot, and all issues concerning the supervision of ACS vehicles. As a result, and to make the process sustainable, ACS hired a supervisor at its warehouse in charge of the supervision and management of the tools and equipment present there. He submits daily reports on the inputs and outputs of the warehouse and ensures that all tools are safely placed, maintained and are used sufficiently in the field.

2. A survey (through a questionnaire attached to this report) to assess the local knowledge on cultural practices and the links to biodiversity was conducted. It was based on the assumption that farmers performed experiments (interventions and consequent observations) long before modern science, and that they have inherited some or most of their knowledge from their ancestors. The survey wanted to know if they were aware of any cultural practices. If yes, what they were and whether they implemented them, and if these practices are linked to livelihoods. And finally, whether they were aware of any link between these practices and biodiversity. The questionnaire included 29 questions covering 10 themes about crops, soil, insects, fertilizers & pesticides, tilling, irrigation, alternative management, livestock, production and self-evaluation, and

biodiversity. These surveys were not requested within this project but were developed in the process of reviving traditional agricultural practices in the Shouf.

3. Two questionnaires including all necessary information on food processing of local products were tools used to evaluate the knowledge of the local women at the workshops prior to the preparation of action plans. These questionnaires were not requested within this project but were prepared as a reference and baselines to build upon while developing the action plan.
4. The Monitoring of Biodiversity Programme at the Shouf Biosphere Reserve served as a tool to assess the evolution of the ecological and cultural values of the agro-silvopastoral systems and traditional practices, the natural habitats, and key species populations. The programme generated the scientific knowledge needed to understand the links between biodiversity and cultural values that is critical to inform, implement and monitor all actions towards the preservation and restoration of the ecological functionality and cultural heritage of the landscape. It defined the baseline data to monitor the effectiveness of the restoration, sustainable management and effective governance interventions.
5. Other Publications and Studies prepared and/or compiled by the Shouf Biosphere Reserve helped contribute to the results of the project, some of which are:
 - a. Restoration of Historical Agricultural Terraces, Assessment, Cost-Benefit Analysis and Marketing in Shouf Biosphere Reserve
 - b. Stonewall Terrace Restoration Guidelines
 - c. Road Map for Sustainable Agriculture
 - d. Forest and Landscape Restoration Guidelines
 - e. Reference Guidelines on Forest Management Laws in Lebanon (Arabic)

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>.

1. When transferring the knowledge to farmers to promote and revive traditional sustainable practices, it seemed that integrating ecological, social, and economic components is essential. Conservation projects that consider the well-being of both the environment and the communities depending on it tend to have more significant and lasting impacts.

2. While developing the project proposal, the civil society tracking tool given by the CEPF helped structure where ACS stands in terms of management and policy regulations. This tracking tool is fundamental for organizations to regularly track key indicators that allow for adaptive management, ensuring the project can adjust to changing conditions. Organizations should be prepared to adjust strategies based on continuous learning and changing circumstances.
3. Engaging in partnerships can also provide access to additional resources and expertise.

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.**

Sustainability:

The sustainability of the project will be guaranteed since it fits harmoniously in actions on which the Shouf Biosphere Reserve is already working and where it developed a strong experience. Therefore, it is already a solid foundation that allows this project to contribute to the general impact that it is intended to have.

This project intersects and enhances the work in the SBR of promoting ecosystem conservation and sustainable agriculture development strategies through its several conservation and reforestation projects. For example, this project enhanced the work of the SBR in terms of restoration of old dry stone walls, promotion of cultural and traditional practices and local products, active participation of the local communities, eco and agro tourism activities, etc. as well as promoting alternatives to the harvest in the wild of native and endemic species. Monitoring of biodiversity allowed the demonstration of the success of such interventions and will instigate its replication and scaling up. The existence of a nursery in the SBR, and the strengthened knowledge in propagating native species, will allow the growing of seedlings for the use of farmers after the project ends.

All the above-mentioned models will allow easy replication in the region by other institutions and farmers and contribute to the ecological, social and cultural sustainability of the protected area and its surroundings (*"Ecological restoration for Protected Areas"*, IUCN, 2012).

Sustainability is also ensured by developing action plans that include a marketing strategy for each atelier. This improved the marketing of the products in addition to designing compliant labels for those products and will allow access to market opportunities to farmers directly.

Moreover, sustainability is guaranteed through the adaptability of the approach, through intensive training and capacity building that will remain after the project, the organizational stability, and the community support that is inherent in both reserves.

Challenges:

It is difficult to fully evaluate the extent to which traditional practices are being implemented because of the variety of scales and contexts involved and the absence of data and appropriate assessment methods. Although countries generally indicate that the impacts of the biodiversity - focused practices on diversity are positive, they emphasize the need for more research in this regard, even for practices where research on production issues is well established.

Enabling frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture urgently need to be established or strengthened. Policies addressing food and agriculture are reported to be increasingly based on ecosystem, landscape and seascape approaches. However, legal and policy measures explicitly targeting wild foods or components of associated biodiversity and their roles in supplying ecosystem services are not widespread. There is a large knowledge gap in terms of how existing policies are affecting these components of biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide. Diverging interests among stakeholders hamper the development and implementation of laws, policies and regulations, as do shortages of human and financial resources.

Success:

DMO: The Destination Management Organization (DMO) that the SBR established will take the strategic approach to link-up what could be very separate entities for the better management of the destination. This unit will support in marketing the destination and in coordinating all activities in addition to establishing partnerships and networks. It will oversee and manage the resources rationally and serve as the data analytics for the necessary information structure ensuring that all stakeholders can benefit in the long term.

The DMO will play an important role in the dissemination of this report, sharing the knowledge with other similar practitioners, leading to sharing the findings and to the replication of the practices.

Innovative techniques and the respect of cultural practices at the SBR have been the key elements that guaranteed the success of the projects. The work was done in a participatory approach, involving local authorities, farmers and small-medium size businesses, in addition to other players in the region. In addition to adopting successful organic management practices where and when applicable and implementing sustainable interventions for biodiversity conservation; establishing links with endemic flora and fauna; maintain/improving habitat connectivity for species and maintaining/improving landscape connectivity.

Furthermore, municipal forest committees, the SBR staff, local farmers and shepherds agreed on land management practices supporting a successful combination of protection (e.g. enclosure to protect against livestock and bushfire), management (e.g. thinning operations to select the best stems; rotating management in a division of forest parcels; controlled grazing/fuelwood collection during rainy season and grazing restrictions for at least 18 months in logged forests; banning the lopping of fodder trees), and active restoration (e.g. enrichment by direct seeding using local farmer's techniques for cereal sowing).

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.

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.

a. Total additional funding (US\$) **none**

b. Type of funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

None.

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
4.5_Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available'. Do you agree?	2	A plant survey to the area was conducted. Data collected confirmed the

		existence of endemic species: <i>Himantoglossum caprinum</i> and <i>Salvia sclarea</i> , which was discovered and seen for the first time in site 1 within this project
3.2 Number of traditional products that demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity, seeing a positive market trends	3	Three newly processed traditional products: the tomato paste, the pomegranate molasses and the vine leaves were produced by the food processing units this year through this project. Those products were not within the production line of the workshops. Keeping in mind the need of using native species of the Shouf farms and adding innovation into the recipes of the women, those women were able to come up with 3 new products and add them to the list of products of the ateliers. The women sold those products in the farmer's markets that they participated in and demonstrated a good demand by the customers and high sales.
2.3 Number of men and women with improved economic well-being in relation with traditional practices	9	Two new job opportunities were created for local women thus improving their economic status. Two women from Jbaa village were hired seasonally to take part in manufacturing due to the high demand of the customers on the products produced by the workshop. The ateliers had only 3 working local ladies before the implementation of this project. Now, they

		are five women, and they are expected to increase if the production continues in this promising way. In addition, this year the women purchased the crops and raw materials from 4 farmers which is also a way of marketing the production of the farmer and improving his economic well-being.
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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
5 men: 4 field workers of ACS (Yehya Fayyad, Dani Temraz, Nael and Fidaa Bashnak) and 1 warehouse keeper (Issam Bitar) hired after the establishment of the storage room/warehouse within this project		Within this project, ACS was able to develop 2 mechanisms that enhance its managerial and administrative strategies. The field workers were trained on the use of these mechanisms and on the proper method of submitting daily reports on the inputs and outputs of the warehouse and ensuring that all tools are safely placed, maintained and are used sufficiently in the field.

**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
5	4	Two new job opportunities were created for local women thus improving their economic status. Two women from Jbaa village were hired seasonally to take part in manufacturing due to the high demand of the customers on the products produced by the workshop. The ateliers had only 3 working local ladies before the implementation of this project. Now, they are five women, and they are expected to increase if the production continues in this promising way. In addition, this year the women purchased the crops and raw materials from 4 farmers which is also a way of marketing the production of the farmer and improving his economic well-being.

**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**	# of Hectares Newly Protected		Year of Legal Declaration/ Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude***

* 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	# of Hectares Improved *
<i>Sannine-Rihane Slopes and heights</i>	LBN15	<i>10 Ha [already counted in previous project]</i>

* 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.

A total of 10 hectares in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve were restored within the previous project and continued to be improved during this second project. Most of these lands were abandoned and are now restored and are being monitored with the help of CEPF. *[already counted in previous project]*

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
Maasser	0.9	33.676336°	35.669918°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Maasser	0.9	33.676182°	35.662437°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Maasser	1	33.674228°	35.666276°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Khreibeh	1.2	33.659042°	35.647891°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Barouk	1.5	33.700351°	35.674712°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Barouk	0.75	33.701042°	35.675436°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Maasser	0.65	33.672788°	35.667681°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Khreibeh	2	33.658174°	35.645202°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)
Khreibeh	1.1	33.663983°	35.654992°	2022 (restoration)/2023 (monitoring)

* 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 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 production landscape, use googlemap, 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 benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
Local community Barouk village	X	X						Lebanon		X					X		X	200	110

Local community in Maasser village	X	X						Lebanon		X					X		X	200	90
Local community in Boutmeh village	X	X						Lebanon		X					X		X	200	40
Local community in Khreibeh village	X	X						Lebanon		X					X		X	300	100

*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

None!

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	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
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		MM/DD/YYYY		
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	None		
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	Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa	2022	No.	Lebanon (Shouf and Keserwan regions)	- network was launched in the framework of CEPF-111666 project and an MOU was

					<p>developed and signed by both parties including all interventions, partnership terms and activities to be done in collaboration of both parties. This networking continued even after the project ended and strengthened during this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Having a cooperation aimed at building capacities and exchanging expertise between the two Biosphere Reserves and their various constituents.- Exchanging information in various fields to serve the development of the Biosphere Reserves, namely:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The revival of ecosystem services, traditional agricultural practices and restoration of abandoned agricultural terraces• Biomass management through thinning, pruning, and compost and briquette production• Biodiversity monitoring for
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					<p>measuring the impact of conservation and restoration on biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness on the importance of revitalizing sustainable practices in land management • Enhancing the role of the local communities in the practices of the two Biosphere Reserves, in biodiversity conservation and protection of important heritage sites
2	Environment for Life	2023	Yes	Lebanon (Shouf and Rashaya districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting environmental awareness in broader project areas - Exchanging knowledge on traditional land use practices necessary for the conservation of olive biodiversity in Mount Hermon Area - Collaborating on awareness projects and bird monitoring programmes in

					Mount Hermon region
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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

*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 (reported in the biodiversity monitoring report)

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)

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: Al Shouf Cedar Society (ACS)

Generic email address:

General manager: Nizar Hani nizar@shoufcedar.org

Project coordinator: Lara Kanso lara@shoufcedar.org