

## **CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report**

<b>Organization's Legal Name:</b>	Environment for Life
<b>Project Title:</b>	Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-109215
<b>Hotspot:</b>	Mediterranean Basin II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	3 Promote the maintenance of traditional land-use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$280,238.18
<b>Project Dates:</b>	April 01, 2020 - October 31, 2023
<b>Date of Report:</b>	December 14, 2023

### **IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**

Jabal Al Sheik Federation of Municipalities & Municipalities:

- Cooperating with EFL on the proposed scope of work and supporting CEPF and EFL initiative.
- Issuance of any related Municipal decisions to translate the results of the project into actual steps.
- Improving the use of traditional methods and good agricultural and manufacturing practices in the olive sector.
- Acting as a communication hub between the project and all the other stakeholders.

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA):

- Presenting any kind of any related statistics in the fields of Good Agricultural Practices.
- Study Project recommendations to possibly improve on agricultural schemes.

Ministry of Environment (MOE):

- Presenting any kind of any related statistics in the field of Biodiversity, hunting regulations, and olive oil waste Management.

Farmers owning olive lands:

- Attending all project activities and participating to discussions.
- Allowing site visits for the experts when needed to adjust their studies.
- To form a belief that adopting traditional plantation methods and GAPs will help in developing the olive sector.
- Benefit from the potential support of the Project.

Olive Oil Mills owners:

- To form a belief that adopting the traditional plantation methods and good agricultural practices will help in developing the olive sector towards future international markets
- Benefit from the potential support of the municipalities' Federation in Mount Hermon KBA, MOA and other stakeholders.

Associations & NGOs:

Establishing partnership networks for the benefit of information and awareness dissemination.

Remote Sensing Center:

- Representing all the maps with layers in the area for the sake of developing the designation file to declare Mount Hermon as an IBA.

Analytical and Testing Laboratory:

- Testing activities related to Olive Oil, Soil, olive leaves and water.

## CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>“Traditional, biodiversity-friendly, olive farming practices are maintained (declined stopped) on the project area (covering an area of agricultural lands equivalent approximately to 6000 ha, among which 320 ha as an olive owned farms in the KBA). 80% from the total 6000 ha are seasonal agricultural land (around 4800 ha), where 50% from it (2400 ha) are potential for olive plantation”.</p>	<p>Pilot project 2, definitely impacted the behavior of the 53 farmers that benefited from the conservation actions. Their position was expressed in the project workshops and brainstorming meetings reflecting their belief in further adoption of conservation actions in their lands. Their readiness in maintaining the land in a good shape, protect the birds and help in their re-production was obvious. The contributions covered construction of 400 meters stone walls for terraces, Long wooden sticks to branches that merge above of olive trees for the Flycatcher birds to control harmful insects in the grove, Planting Hedges in various areas between groves to attract insectivorous birds, a necessity for organic production, Combs for harvesting to ensure Raking of olive during autumn instead of hitting them with sticks, Planting Evergreen and deciduous trees in glades of olive groves to attract insectivorous birds, Hanging Small water points every 100 meters that can double the number of species and individual birds within the olive grove, Distribute Mini Irrigation system in the olive Lands will help to irrigate olive trees in case of week rain fall. The beneficiaries expressed their belief in a signed charter (collaboration announcement) (Annex 1).</p>
<p>The population of at least 4 globally threatened species dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level, are stabilized and improving and make from the study area a</p>	<p>Due to difficulties in surveying lizards on Rachaya slopes, our knowledge on the discovered <i>Parvilacerta fraasii</i> (Lehrs, 1910) (EN), and <i>Phoenicolacerta kulzeri kulzeri</i> (Miiller &amp; Wettstein.</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>true IBA. The species are: <i>Acantodactylus schreiberi syriaca</i> Bijttger, 1879 (EN), <i>Parvilacerta fraasii</i> (Lehrs, 1910) (EN), <i>Phoenicolacerta kulzeri kulzeri</i> (Miiller &amp; Wettstein, 1932) (EN) and Syrian Serin <i>Serinus syriacus</i> (VU).</p>	<p>1932) (EN) populations is very limited. Instead, the populations of the nesting birds, the Syrian Serin <i>Serinus syriacus</i> and Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> appeared to be stabilized and improving and make from the study area a true IBA (attached is the nomination file of Rachaya as an IBA, (Annex 6). Following our studies, Ramadan-Jaradi et al. (2023) (Annex 27) showed an important improvement in number and distribution of individuals of the Syrian Serin. Also, during 2023, it appeared, through a study conducted in all the protected areas of Lebanon under the overall supervision of UNDP, that the population of the Turtle Dove has increased in number of couples and nests, particularly in the olive groves where the best practices positively improved the surrounding conditions for the breeding pairs.</p> <p>Adopting conservation actions such as building and restoration of stone walls, banning hunting and minimize the illegal killing of birds through related decisions issued by the local authorities, will definitely help in protection of bird species.</p>
<p>EFL capacity is built.</p>	<p>Since the beginning of the project EFL Raised Capacity in the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of staff raised from 2 to 4.</li> <li>- Number of volunteers is varying between 2 and 4</li> <li>- EFL now provides occasional (at least annual) monitoring or training for most of its staff.</li> <li>- EFL is able now to run more than one project at the same time, better prepare projected proposals with realistic goals and objectives, measurable indicators and well-developed logical frameworks. Two tenders were won by EFL with international donors (DRI &amp; EU) during the project Implementation.</li> <li>- EFL is systematically monitors and evaluates now the impact of its projects and uses the results to guide management and design of future projects.</li> <li>- EFL Raised its ability to manage the implementation of projects, set priorities for conservation action, conduct a participatory appraisal with local stakeholders, communicate conservation messages and participate and advocate changes to public policy.</li> <li>- EFL has now an audited international financial policy.</li> <li>- As an obligation, EFL in considering now the gender balance in all implemented activities.</li> </ul>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	All the above capacity building guidelines were mentioned in CSTT and GTT.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
The knowledge of Mount Hermon KBA biodiversity, in particular in relation to farming activities, is better known and a monitoring system is in place.	<p>The area put under study for its IBA designation and will help in attracting new projects and new investments for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>In an earlier preparatory CEPF project "Assessing the Biodiversity Value of Olive Sites in Mount Hermon KBA and Identifying the Environmental Impacts of Various Agricultural Practices" a list of birds, mammal, and reptile species, in addition to important plant species, have been studied intensively and identified in the area, which made Mount Hermon among the highest important to be considered for the national and global biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>A Monitoring Protocol for Biodiversity in the Mount Hermon Natural Reserve Development Zone &amp; a Monitoring Protocol for Illegally Killed Birds were presented to the local authorities and stakeholders during the series of brainstorming meetings undertaken in 2023. Also, a Monitoring protocol for globally threatened lizards was presented to the local authorities and stakeholders- The protocol was developed to guide local community on monitoring methods of reptiles and on ways to conserve them through useful information and observation.</p>
Mount Hermon KBA is recognized and declared as an Important Bird Area.	The local authorities and civil society are ready now to work in the aspect of attracting donors and build projects to benefit from this declaration upon occurrence. The IBA designation file have been prepared and submitted to CEPF/BirdLife partner in Lebanon for further endorsement, in order to declare Mount Hermon KBA as an IBA. AS per SPNL, it will be declared in the soonest.
The local authorities, in particular the Municipality of Rashaya, Kfarmishki and Kawkaba are aware of the importance of traditional land-use practices and take measures and incentives to promote their maintenance.	<p>The local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Received all reports issued by the project</li> <li>- Participated to all workshops and brainstorming meeting issued by the project.</li> <li>- Organized board meeting to discuss the project results and requested the project to support the Mills owners and farmers with conservation actions and equipment (decree 38/2021-Annex 2).</li> <li>- Issued a decision to ban hunting in Mount Hermon district (Decision 37/2021 - Annex 3).</li> <li>- Accordingly, the local authorities in the above-mentioned sites have become aware of the importance of the traditional olive farming</li> </ul>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	techniques and their socio-economic impacts on the farmers and biodiversity sustainability. The Pilot projects helped in maintenance of stone walls (terraces) and shaded the light on its importance in addition to another technical support.
At least 2 cooperatives and 2 olive mills are engaged in the promotion of traditional olive oil from Mount Hermon	Three mills benefited from the pilot Project 1 through receiving technical support in Tanks, steel trays and stacks of filter type disks. Kfarmishki agricultural cooperative was also involved in dissemination of the project results among the farmers and attended the final workshop. Also, the project met previously the cooperative of Bakifa and the cooperative of Kfarmishki which declared its readiness to cooperate in promoting the traditional olive plantation methods. This will definitely lead to improve Olive Oil quality and thus a better marketing access.
At least 6 farmers engaged in improving their practices and following the Good Agricultural Practices guidelines, covering 15 ha of olive orchards.	53 farmers are already involved in the project activities. The total of their lands is around 37.6 ha. The main practices are oriented towards conservation actions such as maintaining the terraces in a good shape, planting evergreen trees, enforcing the hunting law ban, planting hedges between groves to attract birds, minimize the use of herbicides and pesticides, hanging water drippers etc.
A brand for biodiversity-friendly olive oil, from traditionally managed land of Mount Hermon area, is developed and recognized in Lebanon, opening new markets for local production	The success of this activity was related to the impact of the pilot project 2 and the recommendations of the Marketing expert. The marketing study was done on the level of strategy but not branding. It is important to clarify that the phrasing of this activity was not proper since the beginning of the project. The project is not a private company to implement the marketing strategy on local or international levels. This should be done by the community through their trading chain.
Illegal Killing of Birds is reduced in the project area through awareness raising and advocacy, and plan for a hunting ban in the area is in process.	It is obvious that illegal killing of birds is less reported to the authorities. The project motivated the federation to issue related decisions to ban hunting and minimize violations (Annex 2 & 3). The project continued monitoring these issues till the 30th of September 2023 in cooperation with the municipality federation in Mount Hermon.
At least 20 farmers (10 male & 10 Female) and 20 persons from women and youth (10 male & 10 female) will be trained to understand GAPs, and acquire the needed marketing tools to promote olive oil including new brands in Mount Hermon Area.	All the 53 farmers that benefited from the projects are well trained. The GAPs book was distributed among all the farmers of the region. 46 Males and 7 females both attended the sessions and final workshop in July 2022.
At least 20 Municipal police guards are well trained to monitor the enforcement of the	Around 47 Municipal police guards from the 14 municipalities are well trained to monitor the

Impact Description	Impact Summary
hunting law in Mount Heron area, and 20 olive farmers are aware of birds' association with olive farms and their role in pest control.	enforcement of the hunting law in Mount Heron area List of attendees were submitted in previous reports), and hundreds of olive farmers are now aware of birds' association with olive farms and their role in pest control. The GAPs book is covering this association between birds and olives as a first initiative and first reference in the middle east and Lebanon.

### Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Positive impacts of the project:

- The interest of Democratic Reporting International (DRI) and the European Union Commission (EU) through Shouf Nature reserve to continue working with EFL in a fastest manner, to set a stakeholders' awareness plan in the PA development zone, is a proof of the positive project impact.
- The cooperation of both the Ministries of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment with the project added confidence to the local stakeholders about the concern of the Government in protecting the biodiversity independent of the very hard economic situation in the country and lack of governmental financing.

## PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

### Overall results of the project:

- The designation file (Annex 4, 5, 6)

It appeared that 221 taxa, from it 24 are narrow endemics and 12 mammal species occur in Mount Hermon KBA. The resulting list of birds comprised 95 species, 36 old records, 93 new records, 6 globally threatened species, 1 near threatened species, 14 biome restricted species, 1 amphibian and 10 reptiles, from which three species are classified as endangered and globally threatened (endangered) in accordance with the IUCN criteria. Declaring Mount Hermon as an IBA, as a result of the designation file, is in its final progress. SPNL Informed EFL that the IBA will be declared in the soonest.

- Sampling of olive from different farming techniques & Physico-chemical analysis of the quality of the olive oil samples (Annex 7, 8)

The Testing results in 2 consequent olive seasons for the Olive oil, irrigation water, soil and leaves showed that the quality of Olive oil in Mount Hermon meets the international standards, where all acidity tests were below 0.8, which meets the international olive oil council (IOOC) standards for extra virgin oil.

- Document and analyze traditional inherited olive farming techniques (Annex 9, 10)

A stakeholders' database was created. It is the first from its type as a field data. It comprised 941 farmers that are involved in farming activities (from them 670 farmers in Olive farming), in addition to 6 Olive Oil pressing mills, 5 Cooperatives, and 6 NGO's involved in agricultural and environmental activities, and marketing of national agricultural products. The total entries in the database is equivalent to 1069 stakeholders.

- Drafting the GAPs guidelines (Annex 11, 12, 13)

The valuable part of the Guidelines GAPs book is the identification of birds' species associated to olive cultivation and their role in Pest control. This part is considered to be the first study in the Middle East and from the few in the world. It includes an agricultural part related to Preparation of lands for olive plantation, plantation, tillage, irrigation, pruning, harvesting and transportation to olive mills. The industrial part includes information about olive oil pressing mills, their advantages and disadvantages, extraction of olive oil process,

bottling and storage, it also includes hints related to waste management of olive by-products.

- Drafting an action plan to improve farming practices (Annex 14)

In the Action plan High priority was assigned to the gaps related to the protection of the biodiversity, mainly birds and reptiles. The AP was updated in 2023, monitored and adopted by the local authorities to bridge Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) through updates and re-prioritization of actions.

- Scanning, surveying and selecting Cooperatives & Olive oil industries from the charter list that are potential to benefit from the project incentives through pilot project (Annex 15, 16, 17)

In Pilot project 1, 3 olive oil mills benefited from Oil tanks, Filter type disks and metallic disks. In Pilot Project 2, 53 farmers benefited from direct contributions in line with conservation actions.

- Assessing the existing olive oil market in Mount Hermon KBA (Annex 18)

The existing olive oil market in the project area was properly studied. The farmers are convinced that the adoption of conservation actions, GAPs and GMPs in olive oil processing will definitely help in international markets access.

- Conducting an awareness campaign on the importance of GAPs and campaigns against Illegal killing of birds in Mount Hermon KBA

Awareness campaigns on the importance of GAPs and campaigns against Illegal killing of birds in Mount Hermon KBA were conducted. 47 Municipal police guard (45 males and 2 females) are ready now to identify birds and introduces to the hunting law in Lebanon 580/2004.

- Socio-Economic Valuation of Rashaya PA Development Zone (Annex 19, 20)

A new PA was created in Mount Hermon under the law 202/2020. It was a must to measure the readiness of the residents to accompany this fact and to be introduces to the importance of the newly established PA. This led to the necessity of a socio-economic survey as an assessment of the existing situation. The questionnaire was prepared and distributed to farmers and various social layers through Google. The number of replies reached 301, which constitutes 1.12% of the population in the 14 municipalities, members of the Mount Hermon Federation. The analysis showed the need for a detailed awareness plan for the stakeholders to sense the importance of the PA development zone in improving the socio- economic situation in the area. The report covered the following chapters such as: Demographics, Household, Professional Status, Biodiversity conservation and assessment of participation in the hunting sector, Involvement in the Tourism Sector, General information about the PA, Evaluation of the behavior of Mount Hermon Nature Reserve Specific to the Practices of Olive Landowners and Recommendation Summary.

- Assessment of Ecosystem Services (Annex 21)

The report identifies the ecosystems service in the PA development zone and explores each ecosystem with its related biodiversity, together with the local community needs.

- Monitoring Protocol for Biodiversity in Mount Hermon Natural Reserve Development Zone (Annex 22)

Proposed Approaches for the monitoring protocols of biodiversity in the development area of Mount Hermon Nature Reserve are divided into four main tasks: Desk Review (mammals - including bats-, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects), Methodology and approaches, Field work (rapid fauna assessment during the four seasons (for one year) for ground truthing including implementation of capture techniques) & Assessment and Integrated Monitoring Plan (design a site/species-specific conservation and an integrated monitoring plan (IMP) for the development area of Mount Hermon PA).

- Monitoring Protocol for Illegally Killed Birds (Annex 23)

The objectives of the IKBs monitoring protocol for Development Zone is to set the methodology to: (1) estimate the illegally persecuted bird community composition and species richness through illegal hunting, (2) track trends in the relative abundance of

killed/non-killed species, (3) promote reduction of the illegal hunting of these birds, (4) promote the sustainable community-based practice of bird conservation, (5) inform concerned authorities about locations of most significant offences.

- Monitoring protocol for globally threatened lizards (Annex 24)

The local community was guided towards monitoring methods of endangered lizards such as: *Parvilacerta fraasii* (Lehrs, 1910) EN & *Phoenicolacerta kulzeri kulzeri* (Miiller & Wettstein, 1932) EN. reptiles and the ways to conserve them through useful information and observation.

- Association between "Olives" and "Birds" (Annex 25)

The hunting season and the olive seasons are coinciding from September till February. The role of birds in pest control and treatment is proofed in all the project reports. The undertaken surveys showed that the olive groves host seventy-three bird species including breeding resident birds, breeding summer visitors, wintering and passage migrant species. An article: "Olive Groves' Avifauna in Lebanon: The Composition of Bird Species and the Importance of the Inter-Relation Olive Ecosystem and Bird Diversity", was published in *Jordan Journal of natural history*, 8, 2021, pages 23-28. The article refers to the project and the writer was EFL expert Dr. Ghassan Jaradi.

- Workshops and Brainstorming meetings during 2023 with topics:

- Results of the Socio-economic Valuation study.
- Monitoring guidelines to the Action plan.
- Project achievements, launching the Strategic media plan.
- Training guidelines for local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces.
- Birds associated to olive plantation, and a bird identification session for the municipal police.
- Future of biodiversity in Mount Hermon.



**Results for each deliverable:**

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Designation of Mount Hermon as Important Bird Area -IBA.	1.1	Mount Hermon IBA designation file prepared.	The designation file was submitted to BirdLife Partner in Lebanon (SPNL). The designation file consisted of several excel sheets covering Site Professional details, IBA assessment details, Population needs for site assessment, Site Habitat, Site Land use and Ownership, Protected Area (N/A) and Site Contacts (Annexes 4, 5, 6).
1.0	Designation of Mount Hermon as Important Bird Area -IBA.	1.2	Mount Hermon IBA designated and featured in BirdLife website.	Declaring Mount Hermon as an IBA, as a result of the designation file, is in its final progress. EFL delegated EFL Expert Professor Ghassan Jaradi to follow this particular issue with SPNL and BirdLife International. BirdLife International sent a special format to SPNL to be filled. Dr. Jaradi assisted SPNL to fill the format, and reconfirmed the Importance of IBA declaration in Mount Hermon due to the promising number of birds' passage that makes this area eligible to be declared as IBA. SPNL Director Mr. Asaad Serhal Informed us that the IBA will be declared in the soonest.
2.0	Determine the factors of environmental effects in 3 sites of Mount Hermon KBA (technical Laboratory tests).	2.1	A report on the quality of olives and olive oil produced.	The project team and some farmers collected the Soil, Irrigation water and leaves samples of olive, and also olive oil from different farming techniques (traditional and non-traditional /conventional pressing Mills). These samples were collected in two consequent olive seasons (2021-2022) and the results were analyzed and presented in July 2022

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				final workshop. The Results showed that the quality of Olive oil in Mount Hermon meets the international standards, where all acidity tests were below 0.8. As per the International olive oil council (IOOC) Acidity below 0.8 defines Extra Virgin olive oil that can compete in the international markets (Annexes 7, 8).
3.0	Definition of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of olive farming in Mount Hermon KBA.	3.1	Summary report on best international agricultural practices produced.	The report was accomplished and submitted to CEPF. The report was based on EU experience and the adopted standard by International Olive Oil Council (IOOC). The report will serve a basis for the national GAPs report that should be set in way to consider the international experience to draft and refine existing GAPS standards in Lebanon, in particular in the project area (Annex 13).
3.0	Definition of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of olive farming in Mount Hermon KBA.	3.2	Brief report on national olive agricultural practices produced.	Was incorporated in the GAPs book (Annex 12).
3.0	Definition of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of olive farming in Mount Hermon KBA.	3.4	Report on Good Agricultural Practices of olive farming in Mount Hermon KBA produced based on laboratory analysis results and best international agricultural practices.	Was incorporated in the GAPs book (Annex 12).
4.0	Setting an action plan for improving positive environmental effects in Olive farming	4.1	Action plan for adoption of good agricultural practices, designed through a participatory process, and	The Action plan focused on the gaps mentioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and those reported in the phase I of the project that is: "Assessing the Biodiversity Value of

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	(implementation of the developed GAPs).		Charter of Good Practices produced and presented to local farmers, list of farmers having signed the charter documented.	Olive Sites in Mount Hermon KBA and Identifying the Environmental Impacts of Various Agricultural Practices.”. Similarly, we assign a high priority to the gaps that are related to the protection of the biodiversity, mainly birds and reptiles. The action plan tackled the constraints, solutions, actions to be taken, responsibility, and prerequisites (Annex 14). A Charter for GAPs was signed and adopted by 56 stakeholders and farmers (Annex 1).
6.0	Marketing strategy for the olive oil in Mount Hermon KBA.	6.1	A strategy for branding and marketing of Mount Hermon Olive Oil prepared.	The existing olive oil market in the project area was properly studied (Annex 18). It is important to clarify It is important to clarify that the phrasing of activity 6.4.1 was not proper since the beginning of the project. The project is not a private company to implement the marketing strategy on local or international levels or brand any product. This should be done by the community through their trading chain. Based on that We approached CEPF in July 2023 to reformulate activity 6.4.1 to be as: “Present to the local community an olive oil sector strategy on how to access local and international markets, and we sought again the CEPF approval to change the name of the activity 6.1.4.
7.0	Dissemination of results of the associated biodiversity value of traditional	7.1	Photos of Workshops and Social Media reports on awareness and advocacy	All photos for all project activities, workshops, brainstorming meeting and contribution activities were previously attached to progress reports since the start of the project in 2020.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	agricultural practices in Mount Hermon KBA.		work on Illegal Killing of Birds.	More than 50 media agencies and sites participated to dissemination of project activities.
8.0	Capacity building on conservation skills of EFL team	8.1	CSTT and GTT at the beginning and the end of project produced .	Attached to CEPF Portal.
8.0	Capacity building on conservation skills of EFL team	8.2	PowerPoint presentation and report of the exchange mission with other CEPF grantee or CEPF event.	The Mission Was cancelled. It is necessary to mention that the EFL Project Manager attended the Brussels CEPF meeting during the 2023 photo exhibition.
3.0	Definition of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) of olive farming in Mount Hermon KBA.	3.3	Socio-economic report on the olive oil production within Mount Hermon KBA produced.	Was incorporated in the socio-economic valuation activity related to the Mount Hermon PA development zone (Annexes 15, 19).
5.0	Pilot Projects for the farmers	5.1	Report on Local pilot projects for farmers signing the Charter, with photos of the projects implemented.	The report for both Pilot projects 1& 2 were submitted to CEPF (Annexes 15, 16, 17). In Pilot Project 1 Oil tanks, filter type disks and metallic disks were contributed to 3 olive oil mills. during the reporting period June – December 2021. In Pilot project 2 the project identified the needed to be adopted conservation actions and 53 farmers benefited from contributions such as: - Construction of 400 meters stone walls for terraces - Long wooden sticks to branches that merge above of olive trees for the Flycatcher birds to control harmful insects in the grove

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hedges to be planted between groves to attract insectivorous birds, a necessity for organic production</li> <li>- Combs for harvesting to ensure Raking of olive during autumn instead of hitting them with sticks</li> <li>- Evergreen and deciduous trees in glades of olive groves to attract insectivorous birds</li> <li>- Small water points (shallow bowls of 5 gallons capacity/drippers) every 100 meters that can double the number of species and individual birds</li> <li>- Mini Irrigation system in the olive Lands will help to irrigate olive trees in case of week rain fall</li> <li>- 6 hand tractors for non-deep tillage were bought to be used by the municipalities. Farmers and stakeholders signed a charter for cooperation (Annex 1).</li> </ul>
5.0	Pilot Projects for the farmers	5.2	Pilot projects successfully Implemented, as demonstrated by photo reports and satisfaction survey	Both projects were successfully implemented through set mechanisms. Photo reports and satisfaction surveys were periodically attached to progress reports.
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.1	Socio-Economic Valuation report	A questionnaire was prepared and will be distributed in February to farmers and various social layers. The report in the form of a power point presentation, based on the analysis of a related excel sheet, covered the following chapters such as: Demographics, Household, Professional Status, Biodiversity

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				conservation and assessment of participation in the hunting sector, Involvement in the Tourism Sector, General information about the PA, Evaluation of the behavior of Mount Hermon Nature Reserve Specific to the Practices of Olive Land Owners and Recommendation Summary (Annexes 19, 20).
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.2	Report about monitoring the Action plan including GAPS and the hunting law.	The report objective was to make sure that the action plan is correctly implemented and shaded the lights on the action plan weak points, adapting the updated AP to bridge Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) through updates and re-prioritize the actions. Updating the Action Plan for the conservation of olive groves is an essential step towards ensuring the proper management of these orchards and their associated biodiversity. In the absence of application decrees of the Law 130, that was issued in 2019, and in the absence of enforcement of the hunting Law (580) that regulates the hunting of migratory birds, the action plan was the substitute and replaced missing decrees (Annexes 21, 22, 23).
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.3	Minutes and participants' list of Workshop about the birds associated to olive plantation	All workshops were registered and documented in the form of an attendance sheet (attached in previous progress reports). After the workshops, a media declaration was always given to the press about the minutes of the workshops.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.4	Protocol is prepared and signed by the Federation's President and or Municipalities' Presidents	All Protocols were agreed with the President of the Jabal Al Sheik Municipalities Federation in Mount Hermon (Annexes 21, 22, 23, 24).
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.5	Brainstorming meetings with Al Shouf Natural reserve are conducted (minutes/presentations)	All the 4 Brainstorming meetings and 2 workshops that were run during the project amendment phase were attended by the Bioconnect Project associated to Al Shouf National reserve. The Project Manager and experts from Al Shouf National reserve participated in giving presentation in all the mentioned activities.
9.0	Socio-economic valuation of the Rashaya PA Buffer Zone & Monitoring the Project Impacts	9.6	A report on the monitoring of the endangered Lizards such as Fraas' Lizard (Parvilacerta, Phoenicolacerta) and Schreiber's Fringe-fingered Lizard (Acanthodactylus) prepared.	The protocol was developed to guide local community on monitoring methods of reptiles and on ways to conserve them through useful information and observation. A full scientific and technical report on monitored endangered lizards was elaborated and submitted. The target species represents the species of greatest conservation concern as chosen by the project. Our target species are two globally endangered taxa: Parvilacerta fraasii (Lehrs, 1910) EN & Phoenicolacerta kulzeri (Miiller & Wettstein. 1932) EN (Annex 24).
10.0	Ensure the sustainability of traditional practices in favor of biodiversity in Hermon buffer zone	10.1	Proposal is prepared and submitted for relevant donors	Final report is attached to the CEPF portal.

**Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:**

- The methodology for Setting the Mechanism of surveys and creating the stakeholders' database.
- The workshops methodology during showed an impressive result in getting to participants minds, in terms of setting the proper agenda, selecting the targeted groups, dissemination of agenda to the groups and selection of the right experts.
- The adopted methodology in refining the eligible candidates to benefit from CEPF donations helped in fair choices that resulted in maximum beneficiaries.
- The GAPs book is a very helpful tools for any farmer or olive oil mill's owner.

## PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1.0	Number of initiatives with private sector resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices			1	This initiative involves 3 cooperatives in Rashaya, Bakifa and kfarmishki attended the project several workshops and are involved now in distribution of Olive Oil with better knowledge about the quality. Also, 3 Mills improved their quality of Olive Oil production through improving the pressing techniques and storage tanks. All the three mills received from the project 6 stainless steel tanks with a capacity of 1000 liters and 500 liters for each, in addition to Filter type disks and metallic disks. The role of the Mills was very important in promoting the GAPs to the farmers as bridge between farming



Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					practices and the trading chain.
2.0	Number of KBAs under improved management and number of hectares covered			37	The 37.6 ha is the sum of land area for all the 53 farmers that benefited from the project direct field contribution and adopted conservation action. All the 37 ha are in the KBA Villages (Annex 17).
3.1	Number of threatened species dependent on traditional land-use or agricultural practices, seeing status improved (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success)			7	During the project the Federation of Jabal Al Sheik Municipalities issued a decree to ban hunting in its district (Decree 37/2021). Since that time, less hunting violations were reported to the local authorities benefitting the following endangered bird species such as the Syrian Serin, Sociable Lapwing, European Turtle Dove, Steppe Eagle and spotted Eagle. Adding the Sociable Lapwing to the list of birds recorded in Rachaya will not benefit this report as the Syrian Serin or the Turtle Dove does. The Lapwing was mentioned because it was seen by the Scientific Advisor of SPNL himself and approved by the Lebanon

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					Rarities Committee and published in Sandgrouse (Annex 27). With regards to the endangered Lizards such as Fraas' Lizard (Parvilacerta frassii (VU)), and Kulzer's lizard (Phoenicolacerta kulzeri (EN) a set of measures were undertaken Such as awareness raising, monitoring, and adoption of ecological farming practices. Thus, these species of reptiles are expected to benefit from project – even if it's too early still to measure improvements, Training guidelines for local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces took place during the project.
3.2	Number of traditional products that demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity, seeing a positive market trends			2	Olive Oil & soap. Soap manufacturing practices are undertaken on domestic level using the traditional methods. The Olive oil that is used for soap is mainly from previous season or with high acidity.
3.3	Number of local authorities in 3 priority corridors			8	The project could track only in 8 municipalities (mainly maintenance and

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	who recognize the importance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices and engage in supporting their maintenance.				restoration of stone walls - terraces). The municipalities are: Aiha, Ain Ata, Al Acqaba, Dahr Al Ahmar, Kawkaba, Kfarmishki, Rashaya and Tanoura (Annex 17). Nevertheless, All the 14 Municipalities were informed about the importance of traditional land-use practices and take measures and incentives to promote their maintenance.

## GLOBAL INDICATORS

### Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the 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 Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
------------------------	----------	----------	-----------	---------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--

\*World Database of Protected Areas

\*\*If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

\*\*\* This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

## Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Mount Hermon	LBN08		37

## Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
Mount Hermon Olive Groves	33.47	35.81	37	EfL worked directly with farmers to change practices, including agro-ecological practices, preservation of birds, restoration of stone walls etc.

## Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
116	47	<input type="checkbox"/> Training for the Olive Oil Mills owners on Good Agricultural and Manufacturing practices (GAPs & GMPs). <input type="checkbox"/> Training guidelines for local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces. <input type="checkbox"/> Birds associated to olive plantation, and bird identification sessions including combating the illegal killing of birds (two workshops). <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting the Monitoring guidelines to the Action plan should (GAPs, Hunting Law).

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		<input type="checkbox"/> Presenting the Monitoring protocol to follow-up on biodiversity conservation in the area. <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting the Monitoring protocol of the endangered Lizards such as Fraas' Lizard (Parvilacerta, Phoenicolacerta) and Schreiber's Fringe-fingered Lizard (Acanthodactylus). <input type="checkbox"/> Training guidelines for local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces. <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic guidelines for Biodiversity in Mount Hermon training and recommendations.

• **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
56	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 meters stone walls for terraces with minimum filling of cement or clay, <input type="checkbox"/> Long wooden sticks, <input type="checkbox"/> Hedges. <input type="checkbox"/> Combs for harvesting <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen and deciduous trees <input type="checkbox"/> Small water points (small water shallow bowls of about 5 gallons capacity/drippers) <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Irrigation system in the olive Lands will help to irrigate olive trees in case of week rain fall. <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Hand Tractors for non-deep tillage were bought to be used by the municipalities.

## Benefits to Communities

View the <b>characteristics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the <b>benefits</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Rashaya Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	15	0
Aiha Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	2	0
Olive Oil Mills Owners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	9	0
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	10	10
Hotels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	3	1
Trade Chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	49	7
Kfarmishki Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	7	4
Ain Ata Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	4	0
Ain Hershi Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	2	1

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Al Acqaba Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	6	1
Al Haoush Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	1	0
Dahr Al Ahmar Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	0	1
Kawkaba Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	6	0
Kfarkouk Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	1	0
Tanoura Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lebanon	2	0

**Characteristics of "Other" Communities:**

- Rashaya Municipality: Local Authorities
- Aiha Municipality: Local Authority
- Olive Oil Mills Owners: Private Sector
- NGOs: Social-Association
- Hotels: Tourism
- Trade Chain: Private sector
- Kfarmishki Municipality: Local Authority
- Ain Ata Municipality: Local Authority
- Ain Hershi Municipality: Local Authority
- Al Acqaba Municipality: Local Authority
- Al Haoush Municipality: Local Authority
- Dahr Al Ahmar Municipality: Local Authority
- Kawkaba Municipality: Local Authority
- Kfarkouk Municipality: Local Authority
- Tanoura Municipality: Local Authority

## Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the <b>topics</b> column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics														
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	Municipality Decree 37.2021	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Monitoring Protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) for illegal killing of birds	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Monitoring protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) for Lizards	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Monitoring protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) to follow-up on biodiversity conservation in the area.	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### “Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

- Municipality Decree 37.2021: Hunting Ban



No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Lebanon	July 09, 2021	Combating illegal killing of birds and enforcement of hunting law 580/2004 in Lebanon.	- Training sessions to the Municipalities and Municipal police on how to enforce the law - Introducing the local community to the importance of species - Bird identification sessions
2	Lebanon	June 01, 2023	Species protection and hunting regulation	Report
3	Lebanon	June 01, 2023	Species protection	Report
4	Lebanon	June 01, 2023	Improve Species protection	Report

### Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

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.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Cooperative and farmers (not all farmers organized in cooperatives)	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction and res stone walls for terraces with minimum filling of cement or clay, <input type="checkbox"/> Long wooden sticks to branches that merge above of olive trees for the Flycatcher birds to control harmful insects in the grove <input type="checkbox"/> Hedges to be planted in various areas between groves to attract insectivorous birds, a necessity for organic production	Lebanon

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
	<input type="checkbox"/> Combs for harvesting to ensure Raking of olive during autumn instead of hitting them with sticks to improve the quality of oliv	
2 Olive Mills in Kfarmishki and 1 Olive mill in Ain Hershi	Olive Mills are registered Companies or establishments. Their knowledge, as a bottle neck in the mill, helped definitely in leading the farmers to deliver the olives to the mills in good conditions according to GAPs. Following GAPs means adopting biodiversity friendly practices. In addition, the olive mills owners are also professional farmers.	Lebanon

## Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Shouf Natural Reserve	2023	Lebanon	Yes	<p>Bioconnect is the Name of the project funded by EU and implemented by shouf reserve team. Bioconnect Project management experts attended all 6 workshops and brainstorming sessions that were conducted by EFL project team in Mount Hermon. Both EFL and Shouf Nature Reserve cooperated together in presenting their vision related to the future of biodiversity in Mount Hermon and trained the attendees on biodiversity friendly practices.</p> <p>A contract was signed with Bioconnect to define the stakeholders and determine the</p>

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				<p>baseline levels of awareness among them and obtain their input on the topics to be discussed and the actions that could be undertaken. The project will document all strategies, approaches, processes, objectives, and suggest activities that can be replicated beyond the duration of the project.</p> <p>The project will develop and educational programmes for schools, locals, community and compile all actions and programmes into an awareness plan including environmental education programmes and policies, strategies and training activities to be implemented in Mount Hermon beyond CEPF project duration.</p>
Jabal Al Sheik Municipality Federation	2020	Lebanon	Yes	Minimize the use of conventional practice in the olive sector, promote Good Agricultural Practices, protect Biodiversity and monitor properly, combat illegal killing of birds and raise awareness.

## Sustainable Financing

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 services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
-------------------	---------	------------------	-------------	-------------------	----------------------	--------------------

## Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Serinus	syriacus	Syrian Serin	VU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipal Decree 37/2021 to ban hunting in the project Area.</li> <li>- Training for the Municipal Police on how to identify birds and coordinate with the Internal security forces to enforce the hunting law 580/2004.</li> <li>- Distribute brochures among the stakeholders to promote the protection of the red list species in Mount Hermon including the Syrian Serin.</li> <li>- Promote the GAPs, to minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides.</li> </ul>	Decreasing
Streptopelia	turtur	European Turtle Dove	VU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipal Decree 37/2021 to ban hunting in the project Area.</li> <li>- Training for the Municipal Police on how to identify birds and coordinate with the Internal security forces to enforce the hunting law 580/2004.</li> <li>- Distribute brochures among the stakeholders to promote the protection of the red list species in Mount Hermon including the Turtle Dove.</li> <li>- Promote the GAPs, to minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides.</li> </ul>	Decreasing
Phoenicocerta	kulzeri		EN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 400 meters of stone walls were built or restored in the project area.</li> <li>- Training the local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces.</li> <li>- Distribute brochures among the stakeholders to promote the protection of the red list species in Mount Hermon including the Kulzeri Lizard.</li> </ul>	Decreasing
Parvilacerta	fraasii	Fraas' Lizard	EN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 400 meters of stone walls were built or restored in the project area.</li> </ul>	Decreasing

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training the local farmers on biodiversity monitoring in dry stone walls and terraces.</li> <li>- Distribute brochures among the stakeholders to promote the protection of the red list species in Mount Hermon including the Fraas' Lizard.</li> </ul>	

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Project Design:

- The project design considered the essential need to confirm the biodiversity value of the mount Hermon area as a KBA. This introduction to biodiversity is the key approach to future projects that can assist the local community in adopting any agricultural and/or environmental reforms to alleviate the socio-economic situation in Mount Hermon KBA.
- the project design targeted one of the most critical and important sectors in people's life, such as the olive and olive oil sector. The selection of this sector, that lacks serious and profound attention from both the Lebanese government and international community, motivated the local authorities (Jabal Al sheik "Mount Hermon" Municipality Federation (JSMF), municipalities etc.), stakeholders and beneficiaries to react positively towards the right choice of project components and activities.

### Project Implementation:

- The project contracted experts with extensive experience in biodiversity, agriculture, marketing, testing and media. All these experts delivered successful reports that respond to the set project objectives.
- The signed MOU between EFL and Jabal Al Sheik municipality federation (JSMF) facilitated meetings (the final workshop) in Rashaya district, and supported the project with earlier performed studies, and with the needed available information about the local stakeholders (landowners and Mills Owners) who benefited from the project results.
- The belief in the project motivated JSMF to contribute in-kindly to the project implementation though offering offices and federations' staff to support the project.

### Coordination among stakeholders:

- The Project coordinated during its implementation period with the ministry of Environment (MOE), as well as MOE is the responsible party for the hunting sector in Lebanon (Law 580/2004). Also, at MOE, and under the direct supervision of the Minister of Environment, the Higher Hunting Council is very active in issuing all the rest of decrees needed for the law to be fully implemented. Direct connections were also established with the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the GAPS book, that was issued in full coordination with the MOA. The representative of both the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture attended the final workshop with speeches.
- In conclusion, a mutual understanding and agreement was sensed among the stakeholders and the civil society in tackling the issue of illegal and random hunting in Mount Hermon KBA. This will effectively put into practice the hunting law and its related decrees through organizing hunting in Lebanon. The issued 37/2021 decree about hunting ban in Mount Hermon is a proof and a learnt lesson about the productive coordination.
- Effective participation and cooperation between the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Interior and Environment for Life association will serve as a model for future cooperation between the public and private sectors.
- The strong participation of the Federation President and 14 municipalities Mayors and the district Governor in some cases can be considered as a success story in the Lebanese community regarding enforcement of hunting law and dissemination of GAPS. This active participation and follow up came after intensive coordination between the local authorities and project management, in which useful awareness information was shared. Therefore this "success story" can and will definitely be repeated with other municipalities in other Lebanese districts.

### Gender Balance:

- The Gender balance was respected during the implementation of the project.

#### Media:

The belief of the community in the project and the project reputation on national level encouraged the excellent media coverage, where more than 50 media agencies accompanied the project activities.

#### Conservation Community:

The conservation community from all the stakeholders (farmers, mills owners, officials, NGOs, etc.), helped in developing a huge database from 1069 person , understanding the conservation community needs for Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices in the olive and olive oil sectors.

The cooperation of the conservation community encouraged the project to contribute to support 53 farmers and three mills' owners who benefited from various conservation actions.

The main learnt lesson, relevant to conservation community, was that no solution for the hunting confusion in Lebanon without involving all the sector players, though transferring the hunting issue to be on the level of a national concern. It was obviously understood that responsible hunting could be a replacement for disorganized hunting. It is also clear that it is not too hard to take initiatives, similar to this particular CEPF-EFL project, towards a responsible hunting activity though a future modification of the Lebanese hunting law, where Public hunting areas could be a solution.

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

#### Sustainability / Replication:

The used methodology in designing and implementing the project might be replicable in any surrounding area in Mount Hermon, or in Lebanon.

#### Methodology

The adopted methodology in achieving the results of the project will serve as a model for similar projects in terms of:

Setting the Mechanism of surveys and creating the stakeholders' database.

Specialized programs and training courses to raise the level of knowledge of the stakeholders in approaching the essential needs for GAPs & GMPs and combating the illegal killing of birds and enforcement of the hunting law 580/2004.

Mainstreaming the standards for the protection of birds, which will enhance the presence of Lebanon in the system of countries interested in the protection of birds and conservation of species, through a series of bird identification sessions.

The adopted methodology during the workshops showed an impressive result in getting to participants minds, in terms of setting the proper agenda, selecting the targeted groups, dissemination of agenda to the groups and selection of the right experts.

The adopted methodology in refining the eligible candidates to benefit from CEPF donations helped in fair choices that resulted in maximum beneficiaries.

#### Management Benefits:

Gained experience in the management of this kind of projects, where it has become possible for municipalities and nature reserves and other associations to work on the construction of similar projects, in order to achieve the goal of enforcing the hunting law 580/2004.

On the other hand, EFL Association benefited from indicating some exceptional cases that should be taken into consideration in the case of implementing this type of project, such as the subject of lead poisoning which was not included in the project document. This

is a basic need to educate the people by referring to such risks. In addition, the participants pointed out some gaps in the hunting law which the Ministry of Environment is currently working on, such as the inclusion of the municipal police in the law and giving it the authority to monitor and control the violations.

Having A model of cooperation between CEPF, the federation of Municipalities in Mount Hermon and "Environment for Life" as a criterion for the ability of competent Lebanese association to integrate into the global visions for bird protection and disseminating GAPS standards in the Olive sector.

The Project Management successfully managed all the political, economic, security and administrative risks that faced the project.

New Developments:

In the GAPS book, the association between "Olives" and "Birds" are the first innovative approach in projects. A list of Birds associated to olives is included in the GAPS Book.

An article: "Olive Groves' Avifauna in Lebanon: The Composition of Bird Species and the Importance of the Inter-Relation Olive Ecosystem and Bird Diversity", was published in Jordan Journal of natural history, 8, 2021, pages 23-28. The article refers to the project and the writer was EFL expert Dr. Ghassan Jaradi (Annex 25). The hunting season and the olive seasons are coinciding from September till February. The role of birds in pest control and treatment is proofed in all the project reports and in this particular publication. The undertaken surveys showed that the olive groves host seventy-three bird species including breeding resident birds, breeding summer visitors, wintering and passage migrant species.

Shedding light on the subject of lead poisoning and the impact of shooting on hearing is a relatively new subject.

Trying to find future financing to complete the project and expand its activities.

Two projects are implemented with Democratic reporting International (DRI) (already done), and Shouf Nature Reserve (in Progress), were as a result of this particular project financed by CEPF.

Challenges:

The holding of the parliamentary elections in Lebanon in May 2022 prevented some training workshops to take place on time, as the municipal police was helping the Internal security forces in providing security for the voting stations.

The Ministry of Agriculture did not respond to the training of forest keepers as required.

The project duration was insufficient to train the needed number of controllers who wish to supervise hunting activities at the municipal police level, security forces, reserve guards and forest keepers.

Actions taken to solve them:

To work in the future with the Ministry of Agriculture to intensify training.

Continue trying to find financing to train the Internal security forces and municipal police on the enforcement of hunting law.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS**

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**



#### On Community and Local Authorities Level:

- To keep the stakeholders involved in every minor detail to overcome altogether any obstacles. Being transparent with all the stakeholders will give a push to any project and give the opportunity to re-design some activities during the implementation of the project.
- Since all the work that has been done requires a certain level of community awareness in order to be sustainable, it is important to mention that EFL is still in contact with Mount Hermon Authorities and the efforts that have been done during the workshops are now still progressing.

#### On Hunting level:

- The approach used in Mount Hermon can be replicated in other Mount Hermon Area (such as Hasbaya Casa) in which illegal hunting is taking place by going through the same procedures, knowing that this approach involves the whole community including controlling parties (ISF, forest rangers and municipality police) and on the other hand, it also holds the citizens of this village responsible of sustaining biodiversity.
- The questionnaire and discussions which took place during the final workshop showed that there is still a crucial need to combat the illegal Killing of Birds and regulation of hunting.

#### On Olive Mills Level:

- Control measures should be implemented by the government and private agencies involved in the olive oil pressing to guarantee that all quantities of vegetable water produced in the mills be removed and sent to the assigned landfills.
- Despite the fact that the three mills are located far from the residential areas in Mount Hermon and the season of olive pressing is short (2-2.5 months), the odder problem shouldn't be ignored. Taking into consideration that odder comes mainly from the waste (liquid and solid), any measures that help to remove such wastes daily (to avoid accumulating them in the mill site) will minimize the problem of odder.
- Serious and tough measures should be taken by the governmental institutions to avoid providing licenses to new established mills on random bases.
- Any mill to be established in the future should be located far from water sources or residential areas. Rather, they should be located in industrial areas to benefit from the existing infrastructure and provided facilities, and avoid provoking adverse tangible and intangible environmental impacts.
- More attention should be given to the problem of vegetable water. Removal of this waste at present is costly. Thus, if treatment measures are adopted (in the form of recycling), this may help to reduce incurred costs and thus, a significant improvement in the economics of olive pressing in Mount Hermon could be achieved.
- It is important to unify various legislations and regulations related to olive oil mills to avoid having multiple fines for the same violation. Such unification is expected to improve procedures and strengthen fines on environmental violations and assure that they will be in harmony with extent of violations.
- Introducing cleaner production options, prevention measures and control & treatment options to the olive oil production sector (including demonstration actions).
- Setting / updating relevant environmental quality standards as well as developing and implementing an efficient monitoring strategy.
- Undertaking financial and economic analysis to identify incentives for improvement.
- Implementing institutional strengthening and capacity building programs.

#### General Recommendations:

- The Project should be extended in the future to cover the Hasbaya Area, the remaining area from Mount Hermon, with a replicated approach of the same project. The

cost of the project will be definitely less as well as the GAPs and workshops should be only disseminated.

Now there is a PA in Mount Hermon. Based on this new fact the establishment of a conservation center in this area could help in giving the right consultancy for the stakeholders.

The cooperation between EFL and the Shouf Cedar Reserve's should be the typical model in implementing similar projects.

An earlier submitted application to CEPF included suggested components for future pilot projects and actual incentives that will guarantee sustainability of actions in the olive and olive oil sectors. An example for these suggested pilot projects is related to:

- Olive Oil Mills upgrade.
- Terracing.
- Traps and harvesting tools.
- Branding and Packaging.
- Organic fertilizers.
- Water Tanks for irrigation & stainless-steel Oil tanks
- Irrigation systems.
- Registration of intellectual property rights for creative ideas in Olive sector & manufacturing of Pilot Samples.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

<b>Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)</b>	\$16,500.00
<b>Breakdown of Additional Funding</b>	<p>Funding organization: Democracy reporting International (DRI)</p> <p>Project name: "Promoting Community Policing in Lebanon/Strengthening the monitoring capacity of the Municipal police and internal security forces in Jabal Al Sheik Municipality Federation District to minimize violations"</p> <p>Project main Objective: Installation of Solar Street lighting to Minimize night hunting violation, trees cutting and street violations.</p> <p>Funding Amount (USD): 5,500</p> <p>Funding organization: European Union -managed by Shouf National Reserve</p> <p>Project name: "Ensuring effective management and governance in Sites of Ecological Importance and expanding Biodiversity protection in Southern Lebanon"</p> <p>Project main Objective: Develop an Environmental Awareness Plan aimed at local stakeholders in Mount Hermon</p>

	Funding Amount (USD): 11,000
--	------------------------------

**INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Environment for Life (EFL), [saleem.hamadeh@gmail.com](mailto:saleem.hamadeh@gmail.com)