

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Center for Protection and Research of birds-CZIP
Project Title:	Mediterranean Mid-term Assessment Regional Meeting
Date of Report:	30 th July 2015
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CEPF Region: Mediterranean

Strategic Direction: 4

Grant Amount: \$33,940.06

Project Dates: 1st April 2015-30th June 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot provided guidance for the meeting arrangements. Association Les Amis des Oiseaux (AAO) were co-hosts of the meeting cooperating with CZIP during the preparation and meeting itself.

Conservation Impacts

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

CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot began in 2012 and in the mid-term of the programme occurs in 2015. The investment to-date were evaluated through the Mid-Assessment, comprising of a series of participatory exercises to gather feedback from all stakeholders within the programme.

These exercises are compromised of an online questionnaire, national meetings and a final regional meeting. These different platforms have given the opportunity for all CEPF grantees and other stakeholders to feedback on areas such as: granting processes, CEPF RIT support and updates to the Ecosystem Profile.

Information gathered through the online questionnaire and national meetings will feed into the regional meeting discussions and the final Mid-term Assessment report. The outcomes from the Mid-term Assessment report will provide CEPF with recommendations for changes to processes, targets or the overall strategy, where appropriate. This will ultimately improve the efficiency of CEPF investment and increase the likelihood of positive conservation outcomes in the Mediterranean basin.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The Regional Meeting provided the platform for CEPF grantees; Advisory Committee members, RIT, CEPF, Secretariat and other stakeholders to assess the CEPF Investment regionally, from feedback for the national meeting. Also, the meeting has given the opportunity to discuss major challenges and the future of CEPF investments on a regional scale. After the meeting, a regional report summarizing the discussions and decisions taken collectively was created, which will be fed in the overall Mid-term Assessment.

The meeting provided the opportunity for the Mediterranean stakeholders, made up of grantees from a variety of institutions and countries, to assess the investments made-to-date. Solutions to challenges were discussed, lessons learned shared, and made contact across the region.

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

The civil society in the Mediterranean develops a common vision and works collectively towards conserving natural ecosystems and maintaining the livelihoods of people dependent upon natural resources in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

1. Gathering more than 60 grantees from Mediterranean basin on the Meeting ensured exchange of practices and experiences what will lead to strengthening of cooperation as well as improvement in their future work in the conservation of Mediterranean basin.
2. Creating and defining of long-term vision and goals of CEPF strategy directions in different areas was succeeded by participating of all CEPF grantees in active discussions.

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

The Regional Mid-term Assessment meeting will provide the platform for CEPF grantees, Advisory Committee members, RIT, CEPF Secretariat and other stakeholders to assess the CEPF investment regionally, from feedback from the national meetings. It will give the opportunity to discuss major challenges and the future of CEPF investment on a regional scale. The Regional Mid-term Assessment report will summarize the discussions and decisions taken collectively, which will feed into the overall Mid-term Assessment of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Participants from 19 countries, representing CEPF grantees, Committee members, RIT, CEPF Secretariat were gathered on the Meeting that led to the discussion and joint conclusions on steps which should be taken to meet major challenges and the future of CEPF investment on a regional scale.

Discussions and work in group were organized with aim to provide platform for future work on three Strategic Directions.

All decisions and conclusions were gathered and will feed into the Regional Mid-term Assessment report what will ensure better cooperation and practice exchanges of participant.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: N/A

Species Conserved: N/A

Corridors Created: N/A

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

This meeting established the basis for the planning of future CEPF work where investments to-date were assessed, and shared lessons learned between CEPF grantees, Advisory Committee members, RIT, CEPF Secretariat and other stakeholders.

Outcomes from the meeting included recommendations for the the Long-term Strategic Vision (a long-term tool for CEPF investments) and solving challenges in conserving natural ecosystems and maintaining the livelihoods of people dependent upon natural resources in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. The regional meeting notes will feed into the overall mid-term assessment report for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Assessment of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin investment, based on the current biodiversity situation and threats in the hotspot area, from Mediterranean stakeholders.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Regional Mid-term Assessment Meeting to assess the investment to-date, understand the challenges faced and any changes to the conservation priorities in the region was implemented with participation of 60 participants from 40 different organizations from 19 countries. Meeting notes summarizing the discussions and suggestions were prepared and shared with CEPF.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

N/A

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Agenda, Participant list, Mid-term Assessment Regional Meeting notes and conclusions

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

At the beginning of the process of event organization, it is important to determine leading person who will be in charged for overall coordination of the event planning. It is also important to decentralize the tasks which each person involved in organization should do. The additional help in event organization was provided by engagement of travel agency which arranged the travel for all participants. The process of event preparation should start timely and include local stakeholders.

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

Regarding the many years of CZIP experience in organization of various events, especially in Ulcinj, the location which provided ideal conditions for peaceful work was selected, which is very closed to the KBA such as Ulcinj salina, Šasko lake, Ada Bojana etc. which were visited by participants of the meeting. Selection of this location emphasized at the purpose of the meeting, conservation of biodiversity hotspots on Mediterranean.

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

The participation of many various stakeholders from the Mediterranean region encouraged the exchange of experiences and creation of new ideas in order to preserve the Mediterranean basin.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

CSOs working in the Mediterranean are facing many issues which are common and it is needed to build a sense of ownership within organizations that are implementing the projects granted by the CEPF.

Additional Funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)***

B *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*

C *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The outcomes of the meeting will lead to a greater understanding of the conservation priorities, potential partners and the civil society capacities in the Mediterranean, and therefore will be used to plan for effective future investment.

The logistical approach and implementation of the meeting will be used as an example for future CEPF mid-term assessments.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

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