



**Mediterranean Basin Hotspot
(Phase II)**

**Annual Portfolio Overview
Fiscal Year 2018**

(covering October 2017 to June 2018)

I. Introduction

The Mediterranean Hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world, at 2,085,292 km², and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. It stretches from Cabo Verde in the west to Jordan and Turkey in the east, and from Italy in the north to Tunisia in the south. It also includes parts of Spain, France, the Balkan States, Greece, Turkey, and the nations of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as around 5,000 islands scattered around the Mediterranean Sea. West of the mainland, the hotspot includes the Canaries, Madeira, Selvagens, the Azores and Cabo Verde.



In 2012, CEPF launched a five-year program of investment in the hotspot, which resulted in the award of 108 grants to 84 different organizations in 12 countries, with a total value of US\$11 million. In 2016, the updating of the Ecosystem Profile was approved by CEPF donor council, and subsequently implemented by a consortium led by BirdLife International and IUCN. The updating process, to which participated more than 500 stakeholders, took into account the dramatic political changes in the region since the original ecosystem profile was prepared in 2010, and the large amounts of new information available on the hotspot's biodiversity, in part as a result of work funded by CEPF during the first phase. The new profile defined the strategy for CEPF investment for 2017-2022.

Annual Portfolio Overviews (APOs) aim at providing an update on progress of CEPF's investment strategy. This APO covers progress in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot from October 2017 (start date of Phase II investment Phase) to June 2018.

For information concerning the progress of the first phase of CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin (2012-2017), please refer to the Final Assessment, available on www.cepf.net

II. Niche and Strategy for CEPF Investment

1) Strategic focus for the program, 2017-2022

Four strategic considerations shape the overall program:

Supporting local and national organizations in a regional context. CEPF will focus support on local and national civil society, with granting to international organizations limited to actions that either require specific expertise not yet available in the eligible countries, or have the main objective of transferring skills and capacities to local or national partners. Capacity building will be delivered as part of specific project grants, and through 'north-south' and 'south-south' exchanges between sites and CSOs.

Strategic engagement with the private sector. Lessons from Phase 1 are to: start at the local scale, with businesses that are rooted in the community and landscape; seek opportunities to promote the image of the industry/business at the same time as delivering conservation benefits; gather data that demonstrates to business the financial benefits of the action; and be more creative in seeking opportunities for in-kind support from business. The growing market for fair trade and sustainably produced goods may provide opportunities to incentivize farmers and land managers to adopt biodiversity-friendly approaches, although the limitations of eco-labeling are recognized and dependence on achieving a price-premium needs to be avoided.

Building on local actions to achieve policy impacts. There is a need for specific actions to build on site-based projects to address the wider policy, funding and programmatic issues, with roles for the RIT, partners and grantees. The program will facilitate links between grantees and decision makers, contribute to partnerships and on-going processes of planning and reform, and promote the role and acceptance of the value of CSOs more generally.

Managing risk. Two important risks for the program are committing resources to too many projects, and the volatile political and security situation in several countries of the hotspot. The profile proposes to manage these risks by: focusing on a limited set of high priority sites; focusing on site-based action; spreading the geographic risks by investing across the eligible countries; and creating opportunities for synergy among grants.

2) CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic direction	Investment priorities
1: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas .	1.1: Engage local stakeholders in conservation actions that address threats to key elements of biodiversity in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.2: Engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.3: Support civil society to engage with local or national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into integrated coastal zone management, land-use and development planning processes.
2: Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity .	2.1: Enhance the knowledge base on freshwater biodiversity and the importance of freshwater ecosystem services.
	2.2: Take action to reduce threats and improve management of selected sites in priority freshwater catchments with the participation of local stakeholders.
	2.3: Engage with government, private sector and other stakeholders to support integrated river basin management practices that reduce threats to biodiversity in priority CMZs.
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 .	3.1: Support local communities to increase the benefit they receive from maintaining and enhancing traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use and agricultural practices.
	3.2: Promote awareness of the value of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices among local community and government decision makers, to secure their recognition and support.
	3.3: Encourage business actors in the trade chain to support and promote traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.
4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.	4.1: Increase knowledge and skills to support assessment and planning for the conservation of plants, and foster the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation.
	4.2: Support integration of plant conservation into the management of protected areas.
	4.3: Support innovative actions for the conservation of important populations of plants, working with land owners and managers.
5: Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.	5.1: Support regional and thematically-focused learning processes for CSOs and stakeholders.
	5.2: Support grantees to understand and engage with international conventions and processes.
6: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team .	6.1: Build a constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile.
	6.2: Act as a liaison unit for relevant networks throughout the Mediterranean to harmonize investments and direct new funding to priority issues and sites.

3) Eligible Countries for CEPF investment

CEPF support is available for conservation action within the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot in those countries that are signatories to the CBD and also World Bank client members, excluding de facto EU Member States and their territories and several independent countries of Mediterranean Europe (Andorra, San Marino, Monaco, etc.). The security situation in some countries also currently precludes effective grant making to civil society, although this may change during the coming five years. Finally, the national governments, represented by the GEF Focal point, should endorse the CEPF Ecosystem Profile to allow for CEPF investment.

The following table summarizes the eligibility of hotspot countries for CEPF support as of June 2018.

Mediterranean Countries	CEPF Eligibility	Endorsement Date	Comments
Albania	Yes	September 2017	
Algeria	Yes	-	Investment not yet possible, pending endorsement. Discussions on-going with authorities. Algeria endorsed and was eligible during Phase 1.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Yes	January 2018	
Cape Verde	Yes	December 2017	
Egypt	Yes	-	Investment not yet possible, pending endorsement. Discussions on-going with authorities.
Jordan	Yes	October 2017	
Lebanon	Yes	October 2017	
Libya	Yes	October 2017	Security situation has reduced CEPF investment in the country since mid-2013
Macedonia	Yes	September 2017	
Montenegro	Yes	December 2017	
Morocco	Yes	November 2017	
Syria	Yes	-	Current investments impossible due to political and security reasons.
Tunisia	Yes	October 2017	
Turkey	Yes	-	GEF focal point informed CEPF in January 2018 that the profile would not be endorsed. No investment planned for Phase 2.
Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain...	No	-	Not eligible as EU member States
Monaco, Andorra, San Marino...	No	-	Not eligible as not World Bank client

While dialogue is currently open with the authorities of Algeria and Egypt (with good prospects for an Egyptian endorsement in early FY19), the Turkish authorities, after several meetings and exchanges, have decided not to endorse the Ecosystem Profile, therefore preventing CEPF investment in this cornerstone country for Mediterranean biodiversity.

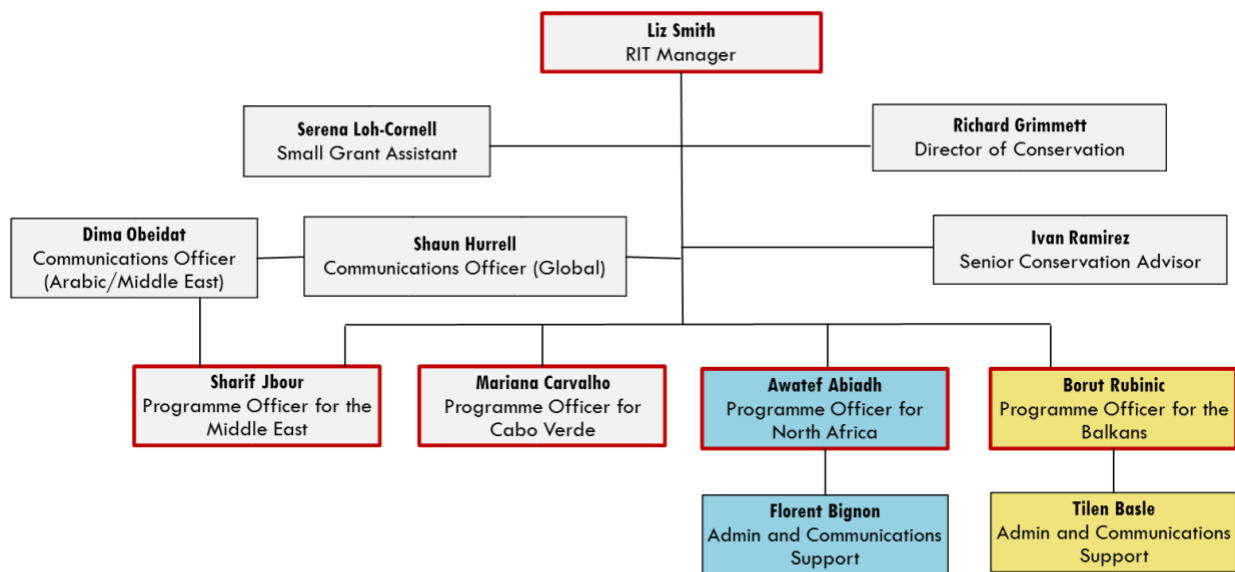
4) Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

The CEPF Secretariat, upon approval of the Ecosystem Profile, launched in February 2017 a process for recruiting a Regional Implementation Team (RIT). The Donor Council approved in July 2017 the proposal of a consortium of organizations led by BirdLife International. The contract became effective in October 2017, marking the start date of the 5-year investment phase.

The RIT was initially comprised of BirdLife International including its Middle East Office, la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (BirdLife in France; covering North Africa), DOPPS (BirdLife in Slovenia; covering the Balkans), and Proje Evi, covering Turkey. As the government of Turkey refused to endorse the Ecosystem Profile, preventing CEPF from investing in the country, this last organization has been de facto excluded from the RIT consortium.

Most of the RIT members were already part of the RIT during the first phase, namely Liz Smith (RIT Manager), Borut Rubinic, Awatef Abiadh and Sharif Jbour (respectively Programme Officer for the Balkans, North Africa, and Middle-East), as well as Serena Loh-Cornell (Small Grant Assistant) and Shaun Hurrell, who already contributed to the communication effort in the first phase. Richard Grimmett also continues to provide line management and strategic support to the RIT Manager. New RIT members are Mariana Carvalho, programme officer for Cabo Verde and Ivan Ramirez, on a new, part-time position as conservation advisor. The Programme Officers also each have part-time support in their respective office to provide translation and other admin support.

A workshop was organized in October 2017 in Rochefort, France, to train the team on new CEPF policies, to have refresher on safeguards and gender policies, and to plan activities for the first year of CEPF investment.



■ BirdLife International ■ LPO (BirdLife France) ■ DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia) ■ Core RIT Staff

III. Portfolio Status to Date

1) Calls for proposals

Since October 2017, CEPF launched three Calls for Proposals, one being open at the time of reporting. The first call received a total of 118 Letters of Inquiry (Lols) for Large Grants, which is a lot more than initially expected, based on the average response to Calls for Proposals in Phase I. This demonstrates that CEPF is now a well-known and well-established funding mechanism, and that funding needs are high in the region.

In particular, it is important to note the high level of response for the newly established Strategic Direction 4, focusing on plant conservation, with 60 proposals (50%). When this strategic direction was included in the Ecosystem Profile, there were concerns about the interest it would raise from civil society, noting that only about 6 projects (on 108) focused on plants in the first phase. This demonstrates either a growing interest in plant conservation among civil society organization, and/or the potential that a specific "window of funding" brings in steering conservation efforts.

CfP	Release	Deadline	Specifications	Countries	Lols received	Approved to Full Proposals	Approved Projects
1	Dec. 2017	Feb. 2018	Large Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	118	19 (16%)	N/A
2	June 2018	Sept. 2018	Large Grants SD 2 & 3	All eligible countries	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	June 2018	Sept. 2018	Small Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Calls for Proposals for Large Grants have been launched in:

- English,
- French and
- Portuguese.

The Call for proposals for Small Grants (June), has been launched in:

- English,
- French,
- Portuguese,
- Arabic and
- Serbo-Croatian.

2) Portfolio Overview

As of June 2018, only one grant had been signed (the one for the RIT), 19 proposals were under preparation (full proposal stage), and two calls for proposals were on-going.

Strategy	Estimated Budget (\$)	Contracted Grants			Budget Balance (\$)	Percentage Contracted
		Total Amount	Large Grants	Small Grants		
Coastal Areas	2,400,000	0	0	0	2,400,000	0
Freshwater	2,270,000	0	0	0	2,270,000	0
Cultural Landscapes	2,350,000	0	0	0	2,350,000	0
Plant Conservation	900,000	0	0	0	900,000	0
Regional cooperation & Networks	430,000	0	0	0	430,000	0
Regional Implementation Team	1,650,000	1,649,786	1	0	214	100
TOTAL	10,000,000	1,649,786	1	0	8,350,214	16.5

IV. Performance Assessment

The main objectives of the Fiscal Year 2018 were:

To contract the Regional Implementation Team, following a competitive and transparent process including external reviews and approval by CEPF Donor Council;

- The team was recruited, and contracted as of October 1st, 2017.

To train the RIT, as regards new procedures of CEPF and changes in the Mediterranean Strategy, and to develop an annual workplan;

- An initial training and strategic meeting was organized in Rochefort (France), hosted by LPO, in October 2017, during which financial procedures, safeguards issues, gender mainstreaming and other topics were covered by CEPF Secretariat, and the strategic approach and workplan were developed with the team.

To communicate about CEPF, the new Ecosystem Profile and associated strategy, and reach out to potential partners (applicants);

- The RIT and CEPF Secretariat have been communicating, by email, in person during meetings and events (participation to Monaco Ocean Week, Prespa-Orhid Nature Trust annual meeting, Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Trust Fund (M2PA) meeting, Mediterranean Donors Round-Table etc.), through the [newsletter](#), social media and other channels of information through partners. The new investment phase was [announced](#) in multiple languages to the contact list of over 1,000 people. The high level of participation to the call

for proposals demonstrate that CEPF is well-known and established, and that virtually no national NGO does not know about CEPF.

- Additional outreach to civil society (and capacity building) was performed in June 2018 in Libya, by the RIT, to foster interest and support organizations in designing project concepts.
- It is important to underline the importance given to communication in the different languages used in the region, to support equal opportunities to civil society organizations. The calls for [large grants](#) are accessible in the three CEPF languages used in the region (English, French and Portuguese), thanks to the inclusion of a Portuguese-speaker in the RIT. The calls for [Small Grants](#) add to those three languages Arabic and Serbo-Croatian. The newsletters and most news stories are produced in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic. This is not without logistical difficulties but appears tremendously important in the region for CEPF's image and efficiency.
- Success stories from the first phase projects were also shared by the RIT (e.g. [Dalmatian Pelican down-listing](#), new breeding sites for the [Northern Bald Ibis](#) and [Raso Lark](#)), to help continue engagement with stakeholders whilst there were no new active projects.
- Feature stories in the region were also translated (into [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [Portuguese](#)) to help stakeholders understand what was achieved in the first phase and how CEPF works.

To secure the endorsement of GEF Focal Points, and communicate with national governments about CEPF;

- See Section 3. The main disappointment was the refusal to endorse the strategy by the Turkish authorities, in spite of a large effort from CEPF Secretariat, including two visits of the CEPF Executive Director, Olivier Langrand. In parallel, the discussions with Egypt are progressing well, while the country was not eligible in the first phase.

To launch at least one Call for Proposals;

- A call for proposal was launched in December 2017, and received 118 Letters of Inquiry. Two other calls were launched later that year (June 2018), for Large and Small grants.

To organize the first Advisory Committee to discuss the implementation of the new strategy, and set up Expert groups for the Strategic directions;

- The first Advisory Committee meeting took place in March 2018, in Camargue, France, [hosted by Tour du Valat](#). The committee was followed by a one-day meeting of the Expert Group on Coastal Zones, to review the short-listed Lol from CfP 1, and by a one-day meeting of the Plant Expert Group hosted by the Mairie de Marseille.

V. Collaboration with CEPF Donors and other funders

Several donors support biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Hotspot, and regional initiatives and platforms exist to foster partnership and collaboration. CEPF has, over the past few years, strengthened relationship with the donor community working specifically with non-State actors in the field of conservation.

Several donors and important stakeholders are part of the CEPF MED Advisory Committee, which provides strategic advice to CEPF, and help identify opportunities for collaboration (see table). The Advisory Committee membership was revised based on the new strategy and changes to individual's circumstances, so three members left the group and an additional member is being considered from Jordan.

CEPF also participates in the Mediterranean Donors Roundtable, which brings together, once a year, representatives of the Funding Fish

Foundation, Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Adessium Foundation, Thalassa Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, and Fundacion Biodiversidad.

The RIT and the CEPF Secretariat have worked hard to engage with GEF Focal points in all countries, first to secure their endorsement of the profile but also to up-date them on the progress of CEPF investment. The CEPF and RIT supervision missions in the countries have been used to meet personally with many of the CEPF donors' representatives, such as GEF Small Grants Program and the EU (see Annex 3). The exchange of information and experience on local civil society actors proves very useful, and several donor representatives have provided advice and reviews on project proposals.

Advisory Committee Member		Organization
Fabrice Bernard		Conservatoire du Littoral
Gabriele Rechbauer		Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Constance Corbier		Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Bertrand de Montmollin		IUCN/SSC/MPSG - Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group
Paule Gros		MAVA Foundation
Raphael Cuvelier		Prince Albert II Foundation
Ricardo Pimenta Monteiro		The GEF Small Grants Programme Cabo Verde
Antonio Troya		The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Jean Jalbert		Tour du Valat
Paolo Lombardi		WWF Mediterranean Programme Office

VI. Conclusion

All the objectives were achieved at the end of the fiscal year, and CEPF is on a good course for the remainder of the current phase of investment in the Mediterranean Basin.

The most important achievement is certainly to have created a momentum around the new CEPF investment strategy for the region, being with: (i) civil society organizations, (ii) regional donors and partners and (iii) national governments. This is demonstrated by: (i) large participation to call for proposals, (ii) enthusiasm and commitments to Advisory Committee, sharing of the profile and relaying information, and (iii) endorsement of the strategy by all but three governments.

Annex 1: Progress against the Portfolio Logframe, as of June 30, 2018

Objectives	Targets	Progress as of June 2018
Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities.	45 Key Biodiversity Areas, covering 1,000,000 hectares, have new or strengthened protection and management.	No progress reported to date
	8 sites, covering at least 120,000 hectares that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status.	
	At least 8 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices.	
	10 land-use plans or land use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation (e.g., integrated coastal zone management plans, river basin management plans, agricultural development plans, etc.).	
	5 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile.	
	At least 60 civil society organizations, including at least 45 local organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile, and increase their capacities to deliver long-term conservation benefits.	
Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress as of June 2018
1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas. \$2,400,000	Multi-stakeholder approaches lead to improved management of at least 25 priority coastal KBAs, covering at least 600,000 hectares.	No progress reported to date
	At least 8 private sector stakeholders, in at least 4 countries, improve their business practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.	
	At least 2 mechanisms initiated for the private sector to contribute financially to conservation management costs of priority coastal KBAs.	
	Reduced pressure from unsustainable practices (hunting, fishing, over-harvesting) on at least 10 globally threatened species for which it is a significant threat.	
	Improvement in the status (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 15 threatened species in at least 20 priority coastal KBAs.	
	At least 4 land-use planning and/or integrated coastal zone management processes show better integration of biodiversity conservation.	

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress as of June 2018
<p>2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.</p> <p>\$2,270,000</p>	<p>Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity in at least 15 KBAs in priority Catchment Management Zones (CMZs) improved, documented and shared with decision-makers.</p> <p>Community stakeholders (e.g., fishers, farmers, etc.) in at least 20 sites in priority CMZs receive economic benefits from adopting practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Improvement in the status (i.e. short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 12 globally threatened freshwater species.</p> <p>Management plans and/or practices for at least 4 river basins integrate provisions for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>No progress reported to date</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>\$2,350,000</p>	<p>At least 1,000 women and 1,000 men in at least 20 communities demonstrate improved economic wellbeing through maintenance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.</p> <p>At least 6 traditional products that demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity see a positive market trends (in terms increased production, price, access to new markets) through certification, etc.</p> <p>Status (indicators of population or breeding success) of at least 8 globally threatened species dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level in at least 3 priority corridors.</p> <p>Local authorities in at least 3 priority corridors recognize the importance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices and engage in supporting their maintenance.</p>	<p>No progress reported to date</p>
<p>4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.</p> <p>\$900,000</p>	<p>Status of at least 12 threatened plant species improved at the site level (increased population or indicators of breeding success) in at least 4 different countries.</p> <p>Improved management practices in at least 8 unprotected sites important for plants (including creation of micro-reserves, etc.).</p> <p>At least 6 protected area management plans incorporate specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 10 protected area managers demonstrate improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation.</p> <p>Improved knowledge for at least 35 locally endemic or highly threatened plant species and improved information on plants for at least 15 KBAs.</p> <p>At least 6 young professionals (at least 3 men, 3 women) gain substantial experience in plant conservation.</p> <p>At least 2 plans adopted at the national level with improved integration of plant conservation needs.</p>	<p>No progress reported to date</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress as of June 2018
<p>5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region.</p> <p>\$430,000</p>	At least 10 local organizations demonstrated increase knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level.	No progress reported to date
	At least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot.	
	Grant support makes a significant contribution to catalyzing or sustaining at least 7 cross-border networking relationships.	
	Information on at least 15 funding opportunities for civil society disseminated to relevant organizations, resulting in at least 5 successful funding proposals for continuation or extension of CEPF-funded work.	
	At least 2 regional networks for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin created or strengthened.	
<p>6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team.</p> <p>\$1,650,000</p>	At least 80% of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.	No progress reported to date
	At least 30 grantees show at an improvement in gender mainstreaming tracking tool scores over the period of CEPF support.	
	At least 2 participatory assessments undertaken, documenting lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot.	
	Performance of the RIT assessed as satisfactory during the Mid Term and Final Assessments.	

Annex 2. Active and Closed Grants (Phase 2) as of June 2018

Zone of Implementation	Strategic Direction	Grantee	Applicant Acronym	Title	Amount (\$)
All Hotspot	SD6	BirdLife International	BL	Regional Implementation Team for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot	1,649,786

Annex 3. Stakeholder Engagement

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Sub-region	Country	Type of engagement	Reason for visit/meeting	RIT-CEPF staff present	NGOs/ Civil Society	CEPF Donor - GEF	CEPF Donor - EU	Other Donors met	Government Officials
11/10/2017	North Africa	Tunisia	Phone call	Meeting to secure endorsement	Awatef Abiadh		GEF Focal Point Tunisia, Sabria Bnoui, Ministry of Environment Tunisia			
11/10/2017	North Africa	Morocco	Phone call	Meeting to secure endorsement	Awatef Abiadh		GEF Focal Point Morocco, Mohammed Benyahya, Department of Environment			
17/10/2017	Hotspot	France	Workshop	Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Initiative (M2PA) – participation to define strategy and collaboration	Pierre Carret	MEDPAN, IUCN MEDpo, WWF Med.			MAVA Prince Albert II Foundation, AFD	S. Ghelouz, Coastal Management Agency, Tunisia, French Ministry of Environment
4/11/2017	North Africa	Algeria	Conference	Attend the 5th International Congress of the Animal Populations & Communities "Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Eco development" (ICAPC congress)	Awatef Abiadh	University Houari Boumedién Alger	GEF Focal Point/ Director of Environmental Industrial Policy: Karim Baba		GIZ: Rolf Dietmar, Program director "Environmental Governance and Biodiversity" and Islam Bentahar, Program officer	Direction Générale des Forêts, Alger: Ghania Bessah, Director of Studies in charge of International Cooperation,

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Sub-region	Country	Type of engagement	Reason for visit/meeting	RIT-CEPF staff present	NGOs/ Civil Society	CEPF Donor - GEF	CEPF Donor - EU	Other Donors met	Government Officials
4/11/2017	North Africa	Algeria	Face-to-face Meeting	Meeting to secure endorsement	Awatef Abiadh		Karim Baba, GEF Focal Point, Director of Environmental Industrial Policy ministry of water Resources and Environment			
24/11/2017	Balkans	Montenegro	Country Visit	Country visit to meet stakeholders	Borut Rubinic			Anne-Theo Seinen, Policy Officer, Nature Protection; DG Env.		
29/11/2017	Balkans	Montenegro	Conference	Conference: Natura 2000	Borut Rubinic	Multiple		Vedran Nikolić, Policy Officer, Nature Protection; DG ENV		Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism: Ivana Vojinović, General Director of Environment and Marina Spahić, Head of Directorate for Nature Protection
11/12/2017	Balkans	Albania	Conference	Presenting CEPF and side meetings with applicants at the Divjaka Karavasta National Park protection Forum, 11-15 December 2017 (joint visit Albania-Macedonia)	Borut Rubinic	AOS PPNEA				

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Sub-region	Country	Type of engagement	Reason for visit/meeting	RIT-CEPF staff present	NGOs/ Civil Society	CEPF Donor - GEF	CEPF Donor - EU	Other Donors met	Government Officials
11/15/2017	Hotspot	Switzerland	Meeting	Meeting with Mava Foundation	Pierre Carret, Olivier Langrand				MAVA Foundation	
12/12/2017	Balkans	Macedonia	Conference	Presenting CEPF and side meetings with applicants - Macedonia – PONT Forum December 11-15 December 2017 (joint visit Albania-Macedonia)	Borut Rubinic	MES Front 21/42 Natural History Museum Skopje Ss. Cyril and Methodius University REC MK	GEF OFP Macedonia: Mrs. Vesna Indova GEF SGP: Zlatko Samardziev		SWG - Regional Rural Development Standing Group for South Eastern Europe: Damjan Surlevski, SWG coordinator Macedonia; CNVP Albania: Anela Stavrevska; SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation): Stanislava Dodeva; UNDP: Dimitar Sekovski; PONT (Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust): Rrezearta Ago, PONT Grant Scheme Development Adviser	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning: Mr. Vlatko Trpeski

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Sub-region	Country	Type of engagement	Reason for visit/meeting	RIT-CEPF staff present	NGOs/ Civil Society	CEPF Donor - GEF	CEPF Donor - EU	Other Donors met	Government Officials
13/01/2018	Balkans	Albania	Conference	Waterbird Census 2018 at Kune Vain KBA - opportunity used to meet the new Minister of Tourism and Environment, to discuss some current issues in Albanian nature conservation with other stakeholders	Borut Rubinic	INCA IUCN ECARO AOS				Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Albania: Blendi Klosi, Minister; National Agency for Protected Areas of Albania: Zamir Dedej, Director of NAPA
11-13/4/2017	Hotspot Level	Monaco	Conference & Dono Round Table	Participation to Monaco Ocean's Week and Mediterranean Donor Round Table	Pierre Carret (GD)	M2PA Monk Seal Alliance NGB, others			Members of MED Donor Round Table: MAVA, FFEM, Adessium, Prince Albert II Fondation, Thalassa	
01/05/2018	Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde	Country Visit	Familiarisation visit, to present CEPF to stakeholders, work with 2 CSOs in Stage 2 from CFP1, synergies with SMILO project	Mariana Carvalho	Associação Vitó Associação Projecto Biodiversidade UniCV BIOSFERA 1 SPEA Associação Amigos do Calhau COIA APSalamansa SMILO/ Conservatoire du Littoral	GEF SGP/UNDP: Ricardo Monteiro (Advisory Committee member)		MAVA: António Araújo, West Africa Programme manager:	Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA): Alexandre Nevsky-Rodrigues, Director General; Instituto Nacional de Investigação e Desenvolvimento Agrário (INDA): Isildo Gomes, President.

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Sub-region	Country	Type of engagement	Reason for visit/meeting	RIT-CEPF staff present	NGOs/ Civil Society	CEPF Donor - GEF	CEPF Donor - EU	Other Donors met	Government Officials
07/05/2018	Balkans	Albania	Conference	Blue Land Project event organized by National Agency for Protected Areas of Albania.	Borut Rubinic	ASPBM NAPA INCA AOS				
21-27/06/2018	North Africa	Libya	National Workshop	National workshop organized by PO for North Africa in Libya. a masterclass in order to help and engage Libyan NGO to elaborate and submit project under small call for proposal	Awatef Abiadh Sharif Jbour	13 NCO mentioned in the workshop report				Makie Agalee responsible for nature conservation service-EGA / Abdelmonem Bouarich Head of EGA
28-30/06/2018	North Africa	Tunisia	Country Visit	meeting with Large grantees for proposal elaboration	Awatef Abiadh	Notre Grand Bleu / WWF-NA/ Association Les Amis des Oiseaux/Rese au Enfants de la Terre				Jamel Jayati: Director of tunis DGF section/Hela Guidara: Director for protected area DGF
12/06/2018	Middle East	Jordan	Conference	National Workshop on CBD	Sharif Jbour	RSCN, Royal Botanic Garden, Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society			UNDP	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Planing Ministry of Agriculture