



**Annual Portfolio Overview
Mediterranean Basin Hotspot
(Phase II)**

July 2020 to June 2021

1. 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 Ecosystem Profile was updated, through a participatory process involving more than 500 stakeholders, taking into account the political changes in the region and new information available on the hotspot's biodiversity. The new profile defined the strategy for CEPF investment for 2017-2022. The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) was maintained in its role, based on a positive performance assessment – leading to a good continuity between the two phases. The Phase 2 started in October 2017 with a new contract for the RIT and first Call for Proposals, with new projects starting in early 2018.

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 June 2020 to June 2021. It follows and complements the Mid-Term Assessment produced in September 2020, available on www.cepf.net

2. Niche and Strategy for CEPF Investment

2.1 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.

2.2 CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic direction	Investment priorities
<p>1: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.</p>	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.
<p>2: Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.</p>	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.
<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>	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.
<p>4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.</p>	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.
<p>5: Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.</p>	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.
<p>6: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team.</p>	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.

2.3 Changes to the CEPF Strategy following the Mid-Term Assessment (September 2020)

The Mid-Term Assessment process took place in first semester of 2020 ; the Covid-19 crisis created quite some disturbances, in particular due to the cancellation of several regional workshops, which were replaced by on-line consultations and bilateral conference calls. The assessment was released in September 2020 and is [available online](#). The process led to some strategic changes that could be summarized as follows:

- SD 1 (Coastal): Strengthen existing projects and sites in North Africa (apart for Libya where new sites to consider), limit investment on coastal wetlands sites and in the Balkans, focus on small-scale, traditional fishing practices.
- SD 2 (Freshwater): Strengthen existing projects and networks in the Balkans, Focus on Morocco for new projects and launch initiative in Middle East, in particular addressing infrastructure projects in Lebanon
- SD 3 (Cultural Landscapes): Build on the studies led in four countries through small grants, and launch new calls for proposals with more guidance; open a pilot programme of a few small grants in the Balkans
- SD 4 (Plants): Increase the budget for this SD to respond to needs, dig-up proactively for projects in Palestine and Libya, and support regional exchanges
- SD 5 (Regional Capacity Building): Engage in two regional networks (Sea Turtles and Forests), Support planning exercises/long term visions in country where need is expressed, use flexibility to respond to crisis, and support capitalization of experience, fundraising and strategy.

During the fall of 2020, CEPF welcomed the generous support of the MAVFA Foundation, for close to 2M\$, coming in addition to a previous support to small grant mechanism in the Balkans. The global budget for investment in the MED raised from \$ 10 million to \$ 12.5 million, as indicated below.

Strategic Direction	Name	Initial Allocation	Current Budget
MEDII-SD1	SD1 - Coastal	\$2 400 000	\$3,180,000
MEDII-SD2	SD2 - Freshwater	\$2 270 000	\$2,480,000
MEDII-SD3	SD3 - Cult. Landscapes	\$2 350 000	\$2,070,000
MEDII-SD4	SD4 - Plants	\$900 000	\$1,850,000
MEDII-SD5	SD5 - Regional Coop.	\$430 000	\$795,000
MEDII-SD6	SD6 - RIT	\$1 650 000	\$2,128,000
TOTAL		\$10 000 000	\$12,503,000

2.4 Eligible Countries for CEPF investment

The following table summarizes the eligibility of hotspot countries for CEPF support as of June 2021.

Mediterranean Countries	CEPF Eligibility	Endorsement Date	Comments
Albania	Yes	September 2017	
Algeria	Yes	November 2020	The very late endorsement of Algeria implies short delays for implementation of projects.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Yes	January 2018	
Cape Verde	Yes	December 2017	
Egypt	Yes	July 2018	Although endorsement secured, pending discussions on process for granting civil society organizations
Jordan	Yes	October 2017	
Lebanon	Yes	October 2017	
Libya	Yes	October 2017	Security situation implies specific measures to award grant in this country
Macedonia	Yes	September 2017	
Montenegro	Yes	December 2017	
Morocco	Yes	November 2017	
Palestine	Yes	October 2019	Decision of CEPF Donor Council DC35/5 of October 23, 2019, and subsequent endorsement from the Director General of the Environment Quality Authority
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.
EU countries : Croatia, Cyprus, Greece etc...	No	-	Not eligible as EU member States
OECD members : Monaco, Andorra, San Marino etc....	No	-	Not eligible as not World Bank client

Regarding Egypt, the last period has seen no change from the Egyptian authorities as regard to international funding to local CSOs, and as such CEPF hasn't been in a position to launch calls for proposals. Nevertheless, a first grant has been issued in Egypt, to a private firm, for participation in a regional project on Egyptian Tortoise, in partnership with a Libyan organization.

Algeria has finally endorsed the CEPF Strategy, in November 2020. This left CEPF with a very narrow window of opportunity to initiate projects – as the current investment phase is due to close in September 2022. We used the grant by invitation process to strengthen efforts from Phase 1 on Babor National Park and launched a call for proposals for small grants, resulting in 2 small grants active by close of the fiscal year.

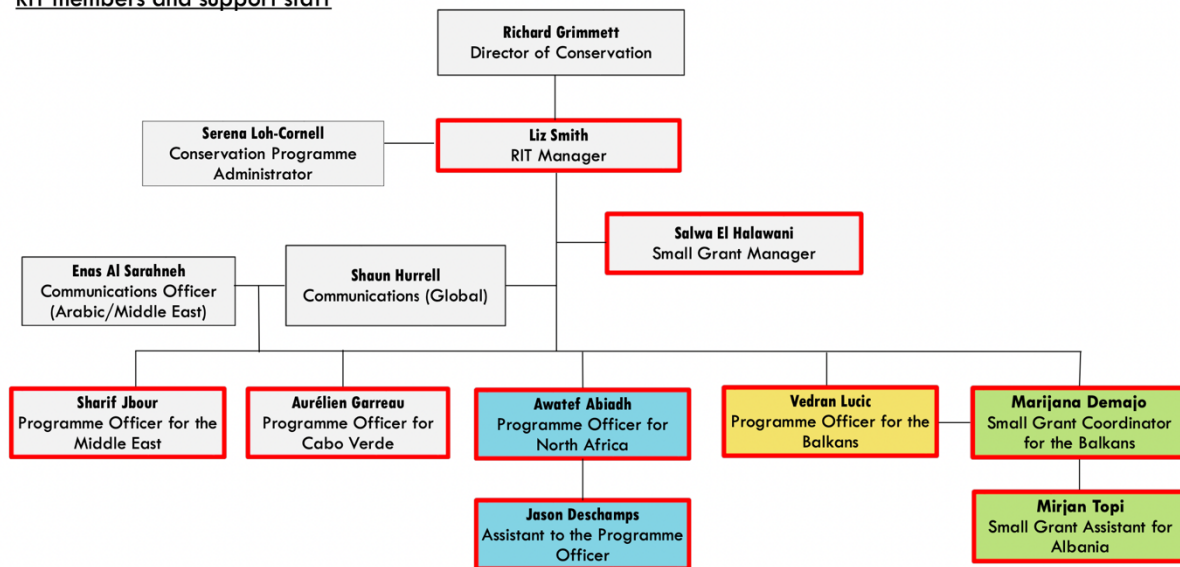
3. Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

Effective in October 2017, the Regional Implementation Team for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot is comprised of BirdLife International including its Middle East Office, la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (BirdLife in France; covering North Africa), and DOPPS (BirdLife in Slovenia; covering the Balkans), joined by BPSSS (BirdLife in Serbia) in 2020.

The last fiscal year saw a few changes in the team, with the departure of Borut Rubinic, who had been Programme Officer for the Balkans since the inception of Phase 1 in 2012. Borut has been replaced by Vedran Lucic, seconded by Marijana Demajo as Small Grant Coordinator for the Balkans. Mirjan Topi from Albania also joined the team (for a few days a month) to provide a specific expertise on Albanian civil society. The North Africa team, based with LPO in France, welcomed the arrival of Jason Deschamps to support capacity building, communication and small grant management in the four countries of the Maghreb. In the Middle-East, Enas al Sarahneh was recruited as new Communication officer, supporting in particular social media and communication in Arabic, and working closely with BirdLife International’s communications team.

During the last fiscal year, our RIT Leader, Liz Smith, was on maternity leave, and was replaced by Maaïke Manten, who collaborated previously with CEPF as the RIT Leader for the Eastern Afrotropical Hotspot.

RIT members and support staff



Key:

— Lines of communication

BirdLife International
 LPO (BirdLife France)
 DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia)
 BPSSS (BirdLife Serbia)
 Core RIT Staff

4. Portfolio Status to Date

4.1 Calls for proposals

Since October 2017, CEPF launched 19 Calls for Proposals: 7 for large grants, for which 282 letters of inquiry (LoIs) were received; and 12 for small grants, which generated 271 applications. About 17% of applications for large grants have been successful, versus 26% for small grants. In addition, a few projects have been approved through the grant by invitation process (5 large grants) when specific situations (scaling-up of small grant, emergency) justified it.

- #	Release	Deadline	Specifications	Countries	LoIs received	LoIs approved*
1	Dec. 2017	Feb. 2018	Large Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	118	17 (14%)
2	Jun. 2018	Sep. 2018	Large Grants SD 2 & 3	All eligible countries	42	10 (24%)
3	Jun. 2018	Sep. 2018	Small Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	47	24 (51%)
4	Jun. 2019	Aug. 2019	Large Grants SD 2	Bosnia & Herzegovina; North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	25	7 (28%)
5	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Small Grants SD 3	Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	16	4 (25%)
6	Oct. 2019	Dec. 2019	Small Grants SD 2	Bosnia & Herzegovina; North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	60	13 (22%)
7	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Small Grants SD 4	Palestine	17	4 (23%)
8	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Small Grants SD 5 (Regional Meeting)	All countries	4	1 (25%)
9	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Small Grants SD 4 & 2 – Joint Call with PONT	Albania, North Macedonia	23	3 (13%)
10	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Small Grants SD 1 – private sector	Tunisia (El Haouaria area)	10	4 (40%)
11	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Large Grants SD 3	Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco	50	8 (16%)
12	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Small Grants SD5. Emergency Support/Beirut	Lebanon	7	5 (71%)
13	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Large Grants SD1 & 2	Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	34	5 (14%)
14	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Large Grants, SD 1	Cape Verde	6	2 (33%)
15	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Large Grants, SD 3	Lebanon	7	1 (15%)
16	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Small Grants, SD 1 & 4	Algeria	14	3 (21%)
17	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2021	Small Grants SD 2 & 3	Balkans: North Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Albania, Montenegro	60	8 (13%)
18	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Small Grants, SD 2	Lebanon	11	2 (18%)
19	May 2021	June 2021	Small Grants, SD5 (Long Term Vision)	Tunisia	2	1 (50%)

During the last fiscal year only, covered by this report, CEPF has launched 9 calls (including 4 for large grants), and received 191 applications. All unsuccessful applicants have been notified with a message explaining the reasons why their proposals couldn't be accepted; this is considered as a capacity building element for CEPF and is well appreciated by the civil society community.

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

- English
- French
- Portuguese

The Calls for proposals for Small Grants have been launched, depending on the countries concerned, in:

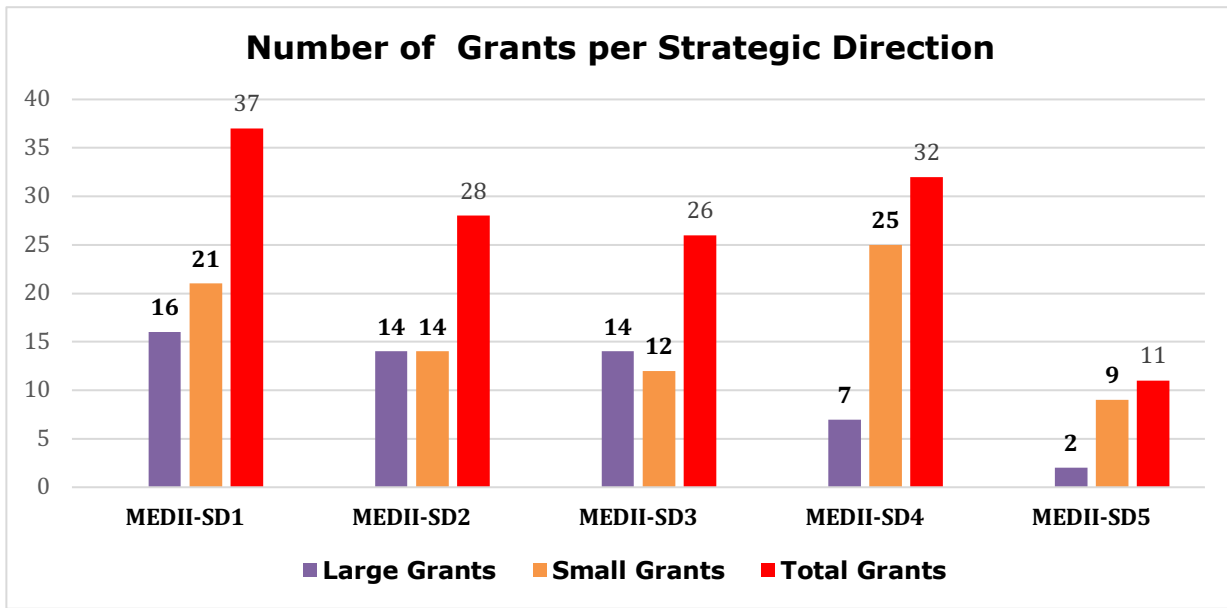
- English
- French
- Portuguese
- Arabic
- Serbo-Croatian
- Albanian

4.2 Portfolio Overview

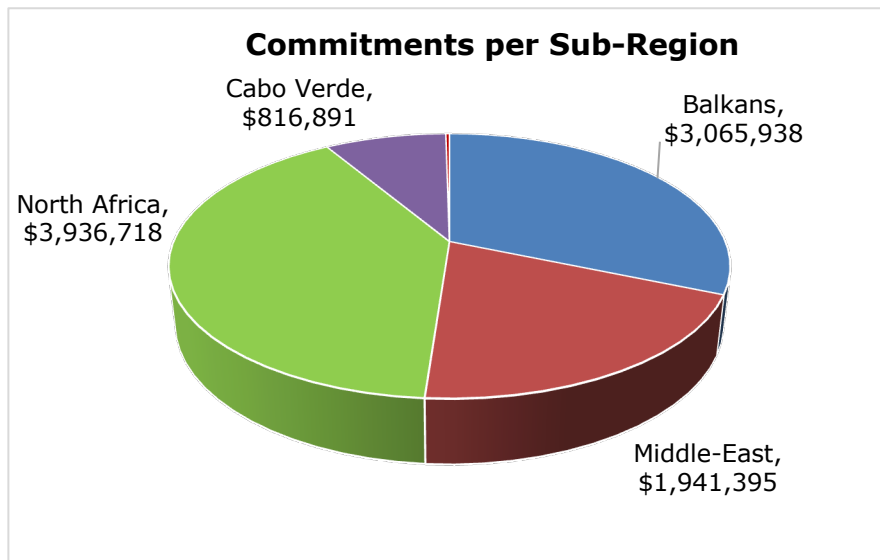
During the July 2020-June 2021 period, 52 grants have been awarded by CEPF: 19 Large Grants and 33 Small Grants, for an overall budget of about \$ 3,48M, which is unprecedented during this phase. The additional funding from MAVAs, released while only two years of implementation remain, led the team to take fast actions, reflected in the high number of Calls for Proposals (see above) and granting level.

Name	Budget	Committed	Large Grants	Small Grants	Budget Balance	% Contracted
SD1 - Coastal	\$3,180,000	\$3,035,617	\$2,720,951	\$314,666	\$144,383	95%
SD2 - Freshwater	\$2,480,000	\$2,262,083	\$1,898,875	\$363,208	\$217,917	91%
SD3 - Cultural Landscapes	\$2,070,000	\$2,442,465	\$2,186,753	\$255,712	-\$372,465	118%
SD4 - Plants	\$1,850,000	\$1,605,882	\$1,047,354	\$558,528	\$244,118	87%
SD5 - Regional Cooperation	\$795,000	\$439,623	\$346,341	\$93,282	\$355,377	55%
SD6 - RIT	\$2,128,000	\$2,128,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	100%
	\$12,503,000	\$11,913,671	\$8,200,275	\$1,585,396	\$589,329	95%

The investment is now more balanced per strategic directions (see graph below), with a noticeable progress for SD 3, from less than \$ 0.5 to close to \$ 2.45 million – a figure even higher than our projections during the mid-term assessment. Also to be noticed, the higher proportion of small grants for plant projects – the mechanism appears well adapted to local-based conservation projects under this SD.



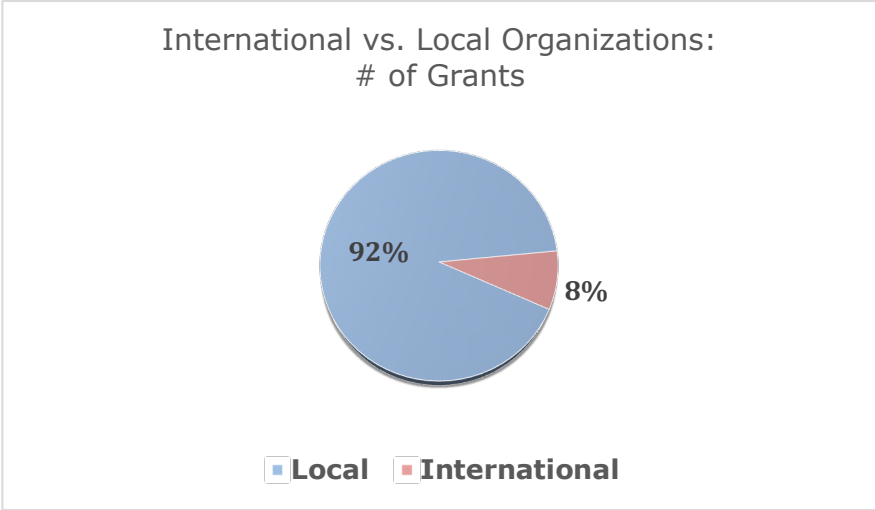
In terms of geographical coverage, the current commitment for each sub-region is commensurate with the initial expectations – with a balanced portfolio covering all the eligible countries. Middle-East investment grew fast in the last year with the addition of Palestine, and a surge of interest from partners in Jordan. The increase in North Africa reflects the focus on this region in relation with recent MAVA contribution.



Country	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants
Cabo Verde	8	5	3
Algeria	3	1	2
Egypt	1	0	1
Libya	7	1	6
Morocco	13	10	3
Tunisia	20	9	11
Regional, North-Africa	2	2	0
Jordan	6	3	3
Lebanon	15	5	10
Palestine	7	2	5
Regional, Middle-East	1	0	1
Albania	16	3	13
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	5	5
Montenegro	12	1	11
North Macedonia	8	3	5
Regional, Balkans	3	3	0
Hotspot-Level	2	0	2
TOTAL	134	53	81

Country	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants
Cabo Verde	\$816,890.67	\$757,091.67	\$59,799.00
Algeria	\$230,494.61	\$190,494.61	\$40,000.00
Egypt	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Libya	\$219,663.00	\$107,902.00	\$111,761.00
Morocco	\$1,632,448.41	\$1,583,918.62	\$48,529.79
Tunisia	\$1,524,740.96	\$1,378,277.11	\$146,463.85
Regional, North-Africa	\$314,370.74	\$314,370.74	\$0.00
Jordan	\$524,042.57	\$439,079.57	\$84,963.00
Lebanon	\$941,216.65	\$819,926.15	\$121,290.50
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	\$447,435.57	\$348,551.57	\$98,884.00
Regional, Middle-East	\$28,700.00	\$0.00	\$28,700.00
Albania	\$807,755.38	\$553,906.00	\$253,849.38
Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$721,034.62	\$616,844.12	\$104,190.50
Montenegro	\$547,610.26	\$232,376.20	\$315,234.06
North Macedonia	\$519,516.65	\$387,515.65	\$132,001.00
Regional, Balkans	\$470,020.64	\$470,020.64	\$0.00
Hotspot Level	\$24,729.80	\$0.00	\$24,729.80
TOTAL	\$9,785,670.53	\$8,200,274.65	\$1,585,395.88

Ninety-two percent of the grants (representing 90 percent of the budget) in the Mediterranean Basin have been awarded to local organizations of the eligible countries. Six large grants have been awarded to international organizations – although these grants all include sub-grants and/or strong cooperation with local partners. All the five small grants to international organizations are exclusively for support and raising capacities of local organizations.



5. Performance Assessment

5.1 General considerations

This fiscal year was marked by two important elements:

- a challenging situation within the Regional Implementation Team, with the departure of the Programme Officer for the Balkans, the maternity leave of the RIT Leader, and several new staffs (Programme Officer in the Balkans, Programme Assistant for North Africa, Programme Assistant for Albania, Communications Officer) to train and support during their first months of work.
- the confirmation from MAVA Foundation, in October 2020, of an additional support to the region of \$M 1.985, complementing a previous support of about \$ 518,000 (grant budgets). This additional support required rapid action – as the current implementation phase of CEPF will close up by the end of 2022.

It is remarkable to note that the RIT has been able to quickly adjust to this changing situation and that staff new to the Mediterranean Team truly hit the ground running, allowing CEPF to effectively face the challenging situation.

CEPF launched 9 calls for Proposals (4 for large and 5 for small grants), received 191 proposals, and awarded 52 grants (19 large and 33 small) for an overall budget of about \$ 3,482M, which is unprecedented in the region since inception of CEPF investment.

CEPF also launched an “emergency call for proposals” to respond to urgent needs from local organizations after the Beirut Blast of August, 4th, 2020. These small funds (a few thousands of dollars) were made available within 6 weeks to local organizations, for getting new computers or furniture, replacing windows of their offices etc. This “fast response” mechanism illustrates the flexibility and agility of CEPF small grant mechanism.

5.2 Portfolio Building for each Strategic Directions

On **Strategic Direction 1, Coastal Zone Management**, the objective, as defined during the mid-term assessment, was to put an emphasis on North Africa, to support a few large projects with influence on zoning and resources management (to address the gap with our target of 600,000 ha under improved management), and to support smaller initiatives in support of small-scale, artisanal fisheries & local economies.

During the period, CEPF granted

- One Large Project in Morocco on Souss-Massa, with AGIR (Projet ARCOLE: Améliorer la Résilience des Communautés Locales et des Ecosystèmes sur les Zones Côtières du Parc National Souss-Massa et de Tamri, Maroc) for \$ 217,498
- Two Large Projects in Tunisia, with AJEM (Les Pêcheurs s'engagent pour Préserver le Patrimoine du Littoral des Iles de Farwa en Libye et Djerba en Tunisie) and ANDDCVS (Sea Djerba Up: Soutenir les Pêcheries Fixes Traditionnelles pour Préserver l'Environnement Marin de Djerba, Tunisie) for \$ 164,965 and \$ 149,268 respectively
- A cluster of 4 Small Grants in Zembra/el Haouaria area in Tunisia (for a total of \$25,655) in support of local private sector
- Another Small Grant in Kerkennah area (\$20,000), complementary to an upcoming large grant on same area with local fishermen
- A Large Grant in Libya associating sea turtle preservation and local fishermen (\$107,902)

Additionally, another Large Grant on Kneiss area, in Tunisia, has been prepared.

The objective for the fiscal year has been achieved, although the question of the remaining time for implementation is at stake for some projects, all the more considering delays related to Covid. The support to local private sector will need to be properly evaluated at the end of the phase, to measure impacts versus time and effort from the Regional Implementation Team.

Concerning **Strategic Direction 2, on Freshwater Biodiversity**, the objectives were to strengthen investment in Morocco, to continue the support to the Balkans (in particular through Small Grants) and to open this strategic direction to Lebanon, to address threats related to planned infrastructures.

Despite a dedicated Call for Proposals for Morocco, CEPF received a very limited number of proposals, two of which only being of sufficient quality to be invited to full proposal stage. Among the two, one proved not to have the capacities for implementing a large project, and discussions are now leading to a small grant. One proposal for around \$140,000, on knowledge gaps on wetlands and influence on protected areas policy, is currently being finalized.

In Lebanon, the Call for Proposal was deceptive, with several proposals clearly not responding to the requirements. The current economic and political situation in Lebanon has also deterred most investor to support large infrastructure projects, lowering a key threat to biodiversity. Two

Small Grant projects were selected and are currently being implemented, for a total of close to \$40,000.

In the Balkans, one new large grant was provided to complement investment in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and a cluster of three small grant has been launched to work on the upper part of river basins in Montenegro.

Overall, we could have expected a higher investment in Morocco under this strategic direction, with 1 or 2 additional large grants – but with more than \$600,000 and four large grants targeting the topic, it seems that the absorption capacity for large projects on Freshwater in this country is currently limited when considering the priority sites identified in the Profile. 91 percent of the initial budget under this strategic direction is now allocated, and only some small projects could be supported in year to come, to complement existing funding.

As regards **Strategic Direction 3, on Cultural Landscapes**, the objective for the fiscal year was to launch new calls for proposals with more guidance, building on studies in four countries conducted through small grants in 2019-2020, and to open a pilot program of a few small grants in the Balkans.

In the Middle-East, the response to the call for proposal for Large Grants was very positive, with several interesting projects well aligned with our Strategic Direction. CEPF awarded 5 new large grants (2 in Lebanon, 2 in Jordan and 1 in Palestine) and 2 small grants (in Jordan), for more than \$770,000, and amended an existing project on biodiversity-friendly olive oil for \$90,000.

In North Africa, three Large Grants have been provided to Moroccan organizations, and one Large and one Small to Tunisian organizations – for a total of close to \$700,000.

Finally, in the Balkans, the response to the call for proposal for small grant demonstrated the interest from civil society in this region. The context is very different, with abandonment of traditional practices being more of an issue, in particular in mountainous areas. This “pilot”, made possible through the MAVA support to Small Grants in the Balkans, have allowed for the funding of 3 small grant projects (in Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina) for about \$70,000.

Interestingly, while the budget for this strategic direction was reduced after consultations with stakeholders during the mid-term assessment, the quality of proposals and renewed interest of civil society organizations has led to an increase in investment back to our initial plan (\$2,440,000 against the \$2,350,000 originally planned in the Ecosystem Profile). With the current budget, there is little margin for any additional support in years to come.

Under **Strategic Direction 4, on Plant Conservation**, only small grants have been awarded during fiscal year 2021. Two small grant have started in Algeria, marking the come-back of CEPF in this country after 3 years of expecting the endorsement of the Ecosystem Profile (which happened only in November 2020). Five other small grants have been awarded in five countries, including Cabo Verde and Palestine, where CEPF-supported plant projects are making a great difference (see the article Growing hope for plants in Palestine). Overall, the work of CEPF during this fiscal year has been more with supporting grantees (mainly local

organizations: there are 32 small grants under this strategic direction), working on communication and supporting networking and capacity-building.

Strategic Direction 5, on Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building, started up really during this fiscal year. By definition, this Strategic Direction is meant to remain flexible, and based on opportunities and needs expressed by local organizations. The global pandemic of Covid-19 had of course hampered opportunities for conferences and “physical” exchanges. Nevertheless, working with local partners, several projects were identified to support capacity building, exchange of good practices and transboundary activities.

Five emergency grants, totaling \$25,000 were provided to Lebanese organizations after the Beirut Blast of August 2020. Other initiatives range from allowing participation of local organization to regional events, launching transboundary cooperation for conservation of the Egyptian tortoise between Egypt and Libya, supporting a participatory process for reviewing Palestinian protected area network or a network of organizations working on protection of sea turtles in North Africa.

6. Collaboration with CEPF Donors and other funders

Several donors support biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin 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.

In the last fiscal year, due to Covid-19 crisis, it wasn't possible to organize physical meetings and no Advisory Committee took place. CEPF ensured that information was sent regularly to members, and shared in particular the mid-term assessment report. More communication happened with our CEPF Expert group on Mediterranean Plants, for advice on strategic direction 4 – in particular in the context of CEPF contribution to the third Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week.

CEPF also participates in the Mediterranean Donors Roundtable, which brings together, once a year, representatives of the Funding Fish Foundation, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Adessium Foundation, Thalassa Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, and Fundacion Biodiversidad. Due to COVID, no meeting took place during last fiscal year, but several exchanged took place in the context of organizing the Mediterranean Stand at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (finally organized in September 2020), and for a specific project of mapping the projects of all donors on one website.

CEPF and MAVA signed an agreement during the fall of 2020, for close to 2M\$, coming in addition to previous support to the small grant mechanism in the Balkans.

CEPF and MAVA have a common interest in reaching out to new donors for the Mediterranean Basin, as MAVA is closing down by end of 2022, at the same time that CEPF Phase II ends, leaving a big funding gap for civil society organizations.

CEPF and Prespa Orhid Nature Trust (PONT) partnership has continued to strengthened in the last fiscal year with a second joint call for proposal. PONT is a conservation trust fund established with (initially) MAVA and KfW funding, and supports conservation action in the Prespa and Orhid region. The partnership between PONT and CEPF is not just about resource mobilization, but also facilitates synergies and complementarities. Both partners focus on biodiversity conservation and have complementary core organizational values, principles, interests, and investment priorities that overlap in the Prespa-Ohrid region with the non-governmental organizations being important beneficiaries

Advisory Committee Member	Organization
Fabrice Bernard	Conservatoire du Littoral
Constance Corbier	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Bertrand de Montmollin	IUCN/SSC/ Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group
Paule Gros	MAVA Foundation
Philippe Mondielli	Prince Albert II Foundation
Ricardo Pimenta Monteiro	The GEF Small Grants Programme Cabo Verde
Antonio Troya	IUCN Mediterranean Programme
Raphaël Billé	Tour du Valat
Paolo Lombardi	WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
Nedal M. Al Ouran	UNDP, Jordan

The CEPF Grant Director contributes to the common efforts in the Mediterranean, being member of the board of The Med Fund, of the College of Reviewers of SMILO, in the Oversight and Selection Panel of the Endangered Landscape Programme, and in the Reviewers of Programme Petites Initiatives, while the RIT is also engaged with PPI Oscan and The Med Fund. In this period in Cabo Verde, a biodiversity conservation donor roundtable was initiated and is facilitated to share information among donors, avoid duplication of efforts, promote collaboration of support towards beneficiaries on various aspects: capacity building, projects funding, etc., facilitate relations with government authorities, identify gaps in funding, identify potential new donors. At the moment, 5 donors are represented: MAVA, Ocean 5, USFWS, PPI and CEPF, for a total of active investment of USD 7 million. These discussions have already allowed to allocate complementary funds to some grantees.

7. Conclusion

The past fiscal year (July 202 to June 2021) has been marked by an unprecedented granting effort, with 52 grants awarded by CEPF: 19 Large Grants and 33 Small Grants, for an overall budget of about \$3.5M. This is the result of 9 calls for proposals launched, for which CEPF received more than 190 proposals.

To date, the Mediterranean Portfolio of CEPF consist of 144 grants (and counting), in 13 eligible countries, making the hotspot the largest portfolio for CEPF globally. The portfolio is characterized by its large share of projects led by national and local organizations: 92% of all grants (representing 90% of budget).

It's fantastic to see the evolution of local civil society in the region since inception of phase 1 in 2012. After close to 10 years of investment, by CEPF and other donors, civil society can be seen taking new responsibility in several countries. In Tunisia, where only a handful of organizations were active 10 years ago, we now see new actors acting as co-managers of protected areas – a path that Morocco is now likely to follow. In Cabo Verde, where it was initially difficult for CEPF to find organizations to apply, there are now active NGOs on all islands, and a real collaborative spirit in place. In the Balkans, civil society is today much more professional, recognized as expert and playing an important role in advocacy, preventing harmful development in biodiversity-rich area, contributing to design of new protected areas, supporting conservation at local level with communities. As was highlighted at the Marseille World Conservation Congress: civil society is blooming in the Mediterranean Basin.

For CEPF, the year to come will be of crucial importance. While there will not be many new grants, with the phase closing in September 2022, there will be a lot to do to monitor progress, ensure capitalization of good experience, and fostering collaboration and exchanges in the region.

Another major topic will be on fundraising for a next phase of funding. While civil society is in a far better position than 10 years ago, much is still to be done. Some organizations, that were supported by CEPF in their infancy, have diversified their sources of income and can now "graduate" from CEPF. Some good signs also raise on the public funding front, like in Morocco where government starts to launch calls for proposals to support their civil society organizations, demonstrating a real evolution from a governmental standpoint. But the local conservation community cannot survive, currently, without external support and many new and small organization deserve to be strengthened to become tomorrow's champions.

With MAVA funding coming to an end in 2022, and CEPF Phase 2 also ending at the same time, civil society is close to the edge of a cliff. There's a risk of many organizations, among the smallest, the ones working at local level, simply vanishing in years to come. This gives CEPF a huge responsibility in 2022 for securing funding for a third phase of investment.

Annex 1: Progress against the Portfolio Logframe, as of June 30, 2021

Please note that CEPF gathers and consolidates data only when projects submit their final reports. At current stage, no Large Grant Project and only a handful of Small projects have been completed. Therefore, the progress towards targets presented below can only be considered as “expected impacts” at this stage, and are not comprehensive.

Also note that the logframe below reflects adjustments from the 2020 mid-term assessment.

Objectives	Targets	Targets
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.	<p>Currently, 73 Key Biodiversity Areas have benefitted from grantee actions.</p> <p>Currently, 861,000 ha of KBAs have projects expected to improve management</p> <p>Currently, projects address 34 protected areas covering 202,000 ha</p>
	8 sites, covering at least 120,000 hectares that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status.	<p>New Protected Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orjen in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Declared in 2020) <p>Expected new Protected Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Zembra & Zembretta PA in Tunisia • Kuriat Islands in Tunisia • Plant reserve in Djerba, Tunisia • Katic Marine Protected Area in Montenegro • Jablanica in Bosnia and Herzegovina • Brava in Cabo Verde • Bcharri in Lebanon • Naqab in Jordan <p>Results of projects in Phase 1 realized during Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulcinj Salina PA (Montenegro) • Babor NP PA (Algeria) <p>Sites working toward protection for particular species:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byblos archaeological site in Lebanon • Tulip Sites in Albania
	At least 8 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices.	SD1: 9 initiatives with the private sector in 4 countries SD3: 3 initiatives with the private sector in 2 countries
	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.).	SD1: 9 projects on coastal zone management plans in 5 countries SD2: 6 projects on river basin management plans in 5 countries SD3: 5 projects covering land-use plans in 3 countries SD4: results yet to be assessed.
	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.	SD1: 1 project on coastal wetlands in Tunisia; Libyan partners organized under an informal platform; cooperative established for MPA in Sal, Cape Verde SD2: 1 project on transboundary action on Lake Orhid SD4: 1 transboundary project on protecting the Albanian Tulip, SD5: 1 project on Network for Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa; 1 transboundary cooperation project between Egypt and Libya
	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.	115 beneficiary organizations, not including sub-grantees and local partners, are implementing conservation projects guided by the ecosystem profile, among which 92% are local organizations.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
<p>1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.</p> <p>\$2,400,000</p>	<p>Multi-stakeholder approaches lead to improved management of at least 25 priority coastal KBAs, covering at least 600,000 hectares.</p>	<p>21 KBAs are covered by projects, with a total surface area of 105,000 ha; New projects on MPAs awarded under the last call will make this figure increase.</p>
	<p>At least 8 private sector stakeholders, in at least 4 countries, improve their business practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Projects are currently working with 12 small/medium private sector stakeholders in five countries. Results in terms of impacts are not yet available.</p> <p>Albania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ small tourism industry in Karaburun (INCA) ➤ Wine industry and organic food Narta (PPNEA) ➤ Small ecotourism Narta (PPNEA) ➤ Small Ecotourism Butrint (PPNEA) <p>Montenegro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small scale ecotourism, diving clubs and sport fishing, Katic (GreenHome) <p>Cabo Verde.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local small Ecotourism, Taxis, Sal (PB) ➤ Small Artisanal Fishing (Biosfera) <p>Tunisia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ecotourism, pescatourism Kuriat, (NGB) ➤ Small Artisanal Fishing, Kuriat (NGB) ➤ Small Artisanal Fishing Zembra (PIM/ASPEN) ➤ Organic Farming, Sejoumi (RET) <p>Morocco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fishing, Mussels, expected 2020, Souss Massa (AGIR)
	<p>At least 2 mechanisms initiated for the private sector to contribute financially to conservation management costs of priority coastal KBAs.</p>	<p>Albania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Karaburun; fees from tourism collected to support management <p>Cabo Verde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restaurants to pay a premium for sustainable fish from the Protected Area

	<p>Improvement of the status (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 10 globally threatened species</p>	<p>Currently projects have specific actions on five species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monk Seal ➤ Albanian Frog ➤ Loggerhead Turtle ➤ Leatherback Turtle ➤ Dalmatian Pelican ➤ Date Shell (while not assessed by IUCN, supposed to be endangered) ➤ <i>Limonium steppica</i> (new species in Djerba) ➤ Northern Bald ibis ➤ Dusky Grouper
	<p>At least 4 land-use planning and/or integrated coastal zone management processes show better integration of biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Projects are currently working on improving management in 11 coastal zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Albania/ Karavasta: preventing massive tourism complex construction / the project was abandoned following advocacy work in fall 2019 ➤ Albania/ Narta, in process ➤ Albania/Karaburun, in process, integrating coastal plant conservation needs ➤ Tunisia: Sejoumi, in process (preventing/improving development of Ramsar site) ➤ Montenegro: Katic, in process (among first MPA to be created in the country, promoting co-management) ➤ Tunisia: Farwa, in process (first MPA) ➤ Cabo Verde: Costa da Fragata, in process ➤ Cabo Verde: Maio island, in process ➤ Cabo Verde: Sal island, in process ➤ Morocco: fishing zoning in the Souss-Massa region.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.	Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity in at least 15 KBAs in priority Catchment Management Zones (CMZs) improved, documented and shared with decision-makers.	Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity at 20 KBAs has been improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Morocco: 3 ➤ Tunisia: 1 ➤ Albania: 1 ➤ North Macedonia: 2 ➤ Bosnia & Hercegovina: 8 ➤ Montenegro: 3 ➤ Lebanon: 2
\$2,270,000	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.	Community members have received economic benefits at 4 sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skadar Lake, where 10 local fishermen become guides and 2 engaged in patrolling ➤ At least 3 sites in Bosnia, where the leisure fishing industry improved.
	Improvement in the status (i.e. short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 12 globally threatened freshwater species.	Projects currently work on at least 8 globally threatened freshwater species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Albanian Frog ➤ Tooth Carp ➤ Dalmatian Pelican ➤ Ferruginous Duck ➤ Greater Spotted Eagle ➤ Mollusc species (multiple <i>Giustia</i> spp.) ➤ Sea holly (<i>Eryngium variifolium</i>) ➤ <i>Rumex tunetanus</i> (Sejenane, plant species under SD4) Plus potentially other species in Bosnia, Morocco, Tunisia and Skadar Lake.
	Management plans and/or practices for at least 4 river basins integrate provisions for biodiversity conservation.	Projects currently work on 7 sections of river basins on development of options to better biodiversity integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EL Barrak, Tunisia ➤ Oued Kheniffra, Morocco, ➤ Oued el Abid, Morocco ➤ Sehb El Majnoune, Morocco ➤ Orhid Lake, Albania and North Macedonia ➤ Skadar Lake, Albania and Montenegro ➤ Dojran Lake, North Macedonia [and Greece]

<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 600 women and 600 men in at least 15 communities demonstrate improved economic wellbeing through maintenance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.</p>	<p>No data from closed projects to-date.</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>2 projects have been launched on olive products (Lebanon); 3 on sheep products (meat, milk, wool); and 1 on sumac.</p>
	<p>Status (indicators of population or breeding success) of at least 8 globally threatened species or other species of global significance in terms of conservation, dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level</p>	<p>Ongoing projects include conservation measures for 21 endangered or micro-endemic species.</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>27 local authorities informed and recognize the importance of traditional BF practices in 4 corridors.</p>
<p>4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly</p>	<p>Status of at least 40 threatened plant species improved at the site level (increased population or indicators of breeding success) in at least 8 different countries.</p>	<p>Currently, ongoing projects work on 27 globally threatened species of plants (CR, EN, VU) – assessment of status improvement is not yet possible. Note: Projects also work on many site-restricted endemics, which would qualify as globally threatened if Red List assessment was done (work on 76 species overall if micro-endemics are considered)</p>
	<p>Improved management practices in at least 20 unprotected sites important for plants (including creation of micro-reserves, etc.).</p>	<p>Projects currently work at 16 unprotected sites in total</p>

<p>restricted ranges.</p> <p>\$900,000</p>	<p>At least 16 Protected Area management plans incorporate specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 20 Protected Area managers demonstrate improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation.</p>	<p>Expected results from on-going projects: 18 protected areas include plants in their management plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Morocco: 2 (Talasemtane, Toubkhal) ➤ Tunisia: 1 (Dar Fatma) ➤ Libya: 1 (Farwa under SD1) ➤ Lebanon: 5 Horsh Ehden, Jabal Moussa, Djaj, Byblos, Sarada (potentially 2 more: Anjar, Tyr) ➤ Jordan: 4 (Dana, Dermouk, Dbin, Hajnoun) ➤ Montenegro: 2 (Orjen, Lobcen) ➤ North Macedonia: 2 (Pellister, Jablanica) ➤ Cabo Verde: 1 Fogo (potentially 1 more if Brava created) <p>Currently, 63 protected area staff (56 men, 7 women) have benefitted from trainings on plant conservation, in particular in Lebanon, Jordan, Cabo Verde and Montenegro.</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>Projects currently work on improving knowledge on at least 35 globally threatened plant species plus several site-restricted endemics.</p>
	<p>At least 20 young professionals (ensuring gender balance) gain substantial experience in plant conservation.</p>	<p>On-going projects are currently improving the capacity of 100 young professionals (35 female, 65 male).</p>
	<p>At least 2 plans adopted at the national level with improved integration of plant conservation needs.</p>	<p>1 large policy initiative is ongoing in Jordan.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
<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>	<p>At least 10 local organizations demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1 organization in Tunisia (RET) participated to Ramsar conference and applied learning to site in Tunisia ➤ 6 local organizations attended MEDPAN meeting in Turkey ➤ Several CSOs attended a PA Network meeting in Palestine
	<p>At least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 2nd and 3rd IUCN Plant Conservation Weeks: 15 organizations participated ➤ MedPAN meeting on marine Protected Areas: 6 organizations participated ➤ Protected Area Network Forum in Jordan: 4 Libyan NGOs participated
	<p>Grant support makes a significant contribution to catalyzing or sustaining at least 7 cross-border networking relationships.</p>	<p>Ongoing grants are supporting 6 cross-border networking relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Montenegro and Bosnia: Orjen Mountains (Plants) ➤ Albania and Greece: Tooth Carp (Fish) ➤ Albania and Montenegro: Skadar Lake ➤ North Macedonia and Greece: Dojran Lake management ➤ Albania and North Macedonia: Orhid Lake ➤ Libya and Egypt: Egyptian tortoise project
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Information has been disseminated about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MED Fund - MedPAN Funding - Franklinia Foundation for grantees working on trees - Swedish Institute Academy for Young, Professionals (SAYP) Western Balkans - The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund - Australian Direct Aid Program 2020-21 in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Programme Petites Initiatives (FFEM/IUCN) in Cabo Verde and PPI-OSCAN in North Africa - EU funding opportunities in Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supported application of NGB to The MED Fund for recurrent funding ➤ Supported Biosfera (Cabo Verde) to get SMILO support (for fishermen) ➤ Supported Bado (Libya) to get MEDPAN funding for sea turtles ➤ Supported RSCN to get Prince Albert Foundation funding for Yarmouk PA ➤ Supported Projeto Biodiversidad (Cabo Verde) and Friends of Nature (Lebanon) to get MBZ funding

	At least 2 regional networks for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin created or strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NastNet, a Network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa. • Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week network strengthened through participation of botanists and young students from developing countries in the region.
6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team. \$1,650,000	At least 80% of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.	Not assessable yet
	At least 30 grantees show at an improvement in gender mainstreaming tracking tool scores over the period of CEPF support.	Not assessable yet
	At least 2 participatory assessments undertaken, documenting lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot.	One participatory assessment was undertaken for the Mid-Term Assessment, including an on-line survey.
	Performance of the RIT assessed as satisfactory during the Mid Term and Final Assessments.	The Mid-Term Assessment Survey revealed a very satisfactory performance of the RIT.

Annex 2: Active & Closed Grants (Phase 2) as of June 2021

Strategic Direction 1 : Integrated Coastal Zone Management

AGIR Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Involve Civil Society and Fishing Community in Integrating Biodiversity Conservation in Souss Massa National Park and Tamri Key Biodiversity Area, Morocco	Morocco	Prepare the national action plan for Northern Bald Ibis, a Critically Endangered species. Local civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders are involved actively in order to ensure its sustainability. The project will help to establish a platform for all stakeholders and prepare a conservation project for the better future conservation of the species in Souss-Massa National Parc and Tamri Key Biodiversity Area.	\$10,126.79
AGIR Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Améliorer la Résilience des COmmunautés Locales et des Ecosystèmes sur les Zones Côtières du Parc National Souss-Massa et de Tamri, Maroc (Projet ARCOLE)	Morocco	Support the participation of local communities in management of Souss-Massa National Park and the site Tamri, key habitats for the critically endangered northern bald ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>). Work with female collectors to improve the value chain for wild mussels and manage the resource sustainably. Work with artisanal fishermen on improved practices and initiation of a no-take zone, and with farmers to move towards organic farming in the feeding areas of the ibis.	\$217,498.00
Albanian Ornithological Society	Let's Make Divjaka Natural Again!	Albania	Develop alternative options for sustainable economic development, assess the ecosystem services of the wetland complex, associate the local stakeholders in monitoring and conservation actions and raise awareness on the natural heritage of this region of Albania, in order to prevent large tourism infrastructures to be developed within the national park.	\$197,120.00

Archipelagos-ambiente e sviluppo	Sustainability, threats, presence and habitat use of the Mediterranean monk seal in Albania	Albania	Contribute to the overall conservation and survival of the Monk Seal by facilitating research and conservation actions in Vlora bay in Albania. Project outcomes will improve the knowledge of habitat availability and presence of the species along the coast of Albania, setting a data baseline on the threats that affect the quality of the Monk Seal habitat and explore possible mitigation measures.	\$16,557.88
Associação Lantuna	Seabirds of Baía do Inferno, Cabo Verde: Studying them Now, to Ensure their Promising Future	Cabo Verde	Study the seabird colonies of Coastal Cliffs between Porto Mosquito and Baía do Inferno Important Bird Area, to understand population trends and threats. Work with local fishermen to assess fishing effort and possible disturbance to bird populations. Raise awareness with local communities and authorities about the importance of the area, to prepare the ground for potential future protection of the site.	\$107,265.00
Associação Projetos Biodiversidade	Estabelecendo a Gestão Cooperativa da Área Marinha Protegida para Conservar a Área Chave para a Biodiversidade da Ilha do Sal, Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde	Restore marine and coastal ecosystem of Costa de Fragata Key Biodiversity Area on Sal Island, Cabo Verde, through support to the protected area management authority, and instauration of co-management practices supported by the local community. Develop partnership with local tourism operators and involve fishermen community to reduce threats on endangered species.	\$155,698.00
Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"	Engager les parties prenantes nationales et internationales pour la conservation de Sebkhet Sejoumi et ses populations d'oiseaux	Tunisia	Analyze the importance of Sebkhet Sejoumi (ecosystem services, biodiversity), prepare alternative options for long-term preservation of the area, and work with national authorities to influence urban planning compatible with protection of site. Raise awareness of local communities and strengthen local organizations.	\$114,644.72

Association Jlij pour l'environnement marin	Les Pêcheurs s'engagent pour Préserver le Patrimoine du Littoral des Iles de Farwa en Libye et Djerba en Tunisie	Libya; Tunisia	Engage with local fishermen to improve the management of two coastal Key Biodiversity Areas on small Mediterranean islands. Support traditional "Zrayeb" fishing practices. Monitor and protect loggerhead turtle nesting sites and reduce poaching. Enhance cooperation and exchange between Libyan and Tunisian partners.	\$164,975.20
Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage	Sea Djerba Up: Soutenir les Pêcheries Fixes Traditionnelles pour Préserver l'Environnement Marin de Djerba, Tunisie	Tunisia	Support local fishing communities to maintain traditional fisheries that allow for selective fishing, provide micro-habitats for fauna, and preserve seagrass beds. Help structure the fishing communities under a local committee, engage fisherfolk in biodiversity-friendly practices and promote ecotourism to diversify revenues.	\$149,268.45
Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie	Conservation of the Coastal Biodiversity of the Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia	Tunisia	Protect biodiversity richness in Kerkennah archipelago in Tunisia through supporting traditional fishing practices of Charfia and Drina. The project aim to raise awareness on sustainable practices to preserve the natural resources and to promote local product by setting a three days fair. The project is also an opportunity to ensure the transfer of knowledge through generations	\$20,000.00
BADO Association for Environment	Establishing environmental awareness about the importance of Farwa Marine Protected Area, Libya	Libya	Protect and conserve biodiversity within the Farwa Marine Protected Area through increased environmental awareness and participatory action. The aim of this project is to organize different awareness campaigns and create environmental clubs within two primary schools in Zwara. Contribute to the elaboration of the management plan to be implemented by Libyan Society of Bird.	\$19,245.00

Biosfera 1	Developing a Sustainable Model of Certified Fisheries for the Protection of Santa Luzia Marine Reserve Biodiversity.	Cabo Verde	Undertake a pilot study to evaluate options for developing sustainable fishing schemes inside and outside the Marine Protected Area of Santa Luzia, in Cabo Verde. The project will collect key information on the fishing activities, set up a participatory monitoring system and pilot a certification scheme with premium for fishermen adopting sustainable practices. A long-term expected outcome is to improve the conservation status of important fish species (including sharks) in the protected areas.	\$213,128.44
Crnogorsko društvo ekologa [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	Inclusion of the Local Community in the Process of Protection and Improvement of the Habitat of the Endangered Skadar Frog in the Bojana Delta	Montenegro	Raise awareness of the rare and threatened Skadar frog (Albanian water frog). The project will work with local communities, children, students, decision makers and other stakeholders in one of the strongholds for the amphibian species – Bojana/Buna river Delta in Montenegro. They will establish monitoring of the species, create conservation guidelines and organize the first Montenegrin “Frog Day.”	\$40,000.00
ESCAPADE TUNISIE	Conservation through observation: Creating an Underwater Pathway for Mteris Cove in Jbel Haouaria, Tunisia	Tunisia	Promote the Mtaris site in Jbel Haouaria by creating an underwater path. Improve the awareness of visitors around Haouaria to better conserve its natural resources, through changing behaviors educational approach.	\$7,900.00

Fondation Tour du Valat	Suivre le Dynamique de l'évolution des Habitats Humides de Sebkhath Sejoumi en Tunisie en utilisant le Système d'Information Géographique	Tunisia	Improve knowledge around Sebkheth Sijoumi by setting up a geo-referenced database in Geographic Information Systems, integrating all the maps and indicators that will be produced. This will strengthen the establishment of a broader database on this Key Biodiversity Area, including all the information that will be collected, produced and synthesized.	\$12,330.00
Fundação Maio Biodiversidade	Towards Co-management of Protected Areas on Maio Island, Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde	Set up a co-management agreement between the authorities in charge of protected areas and civil society in Maio Biosphere Reserve, Cabo Verde. Ensure participatory management and stronger inclusion of local communities, and promote eco-tourism and sustainable use of resources.	\$111,040.23
Initiative pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée	Vers la Mise en Place d'une Cogestion de l'Archipel de Zembra et du Jbel Haouaria, Tunisie	Tunisia	Create the conditions for an effective management of the Zembra Archipelago Marine Protected Area through ecological assessment and monitoring, strategic planning, establishment of a participatory management structure including all stakeholders, and strengthening local organization ASPEN to engage in co-management.	\$252,318.50
Instituti për Ruajtjen e Natyrës në Shqipëri	From mountains to the sea	Albania	Work closely with the authorities in charge of national parks management to ensure participation of all local stakeholders and their engagement for protected areas. This include municipalities, tourism operators, academics, and the youth and general public.	\$190,283.00

Khaled Ben Othmen	Supporting Artisanal Eco-friendly Fishing in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia.	Tunisia	Support a group of local fishermen with selective fishing equipment to encourage for sustainable fishing. Build capacity and raise awareness of local fishermen of the importance of the marine part of Zembra Protected Area, which will reduce the pressure caused by overfishing in the Zembra archipelago.	\$7,950.00
Libyan Society for Birds	Fostering stakeholder participation in preparing a management plan for Farwa Marine Protected Area	Libya	The project aims to prepare participative management plan for Farwa Marine protected area established in 2009. The management plan will be prepared with a participative approach involving local stakeholder and using all previous data. It will address all elements that lead to the achievement of the protection objectives for marine and terrestrial biodiversity	\$19,800.00
Libyan Society for Birds	Sea Turtle Conservation in Partnership with Artisanal Fishermen in the Gulf of Sirte, Libya	Libya	Coordinate a set of actions for enhanced protection of sea turtles in Libya, including establishment of the first rescue center in Libya, monitoring of sea turtle nesting beaches and establishment of a network with fishermen to reduce by-catch and support monitoring of sea turtles.	\$107,902.00
Libyan Society of Artisanal Fishery Friends (LSAFF)	Sustainable Fishing in Lake Farwa, Libya,	Libya	Decrease illegal dynamite fishing in order to improve production capacity. A series of workshops will be conducted and will involve relevant stakeholders and artisanal fishermen to help increase understanding regarding the danger of these practices and improve knowledge about the national regulations.	\$19,990.00

Libyan WildLife Trust (LWT)	Preparing a zoning plan for the Karabolli area, Libya	Libya	Prepare a participatory zoning plan for the Karabolli Key Biodiversity Area in Libya. The project will evaluate the standing capacity of the site and suggest a plan for the land use with relevant stakeholders and authorities.	\$17,771.00
Notre Grand Bleu	Contribute to Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Coastal and Marine Protected Area of Kuriat Islands, Tunisia	Tunisia	Strengthening the co-management of Kuriat Islands, through a programme to increase capacities of Notre Grand Bleu and the authorities in charge of the protected area. Work with local stakeholders to promote good practices in terms of tourism and fishing. Promote the protected area, and support monitoring of endangered species.	\$222,452.69
Organizata e Menxhimit të Peshkimit Liqeni i Shkodrës	Working Towards a Sustainable Fishery on the Coast of Velipoja and in Buna Delta, Albania	Albania	Enhance the sustainability of the fishery activities in Velipoja coast and in Buna Delta Key Biodiversity Area, north west Albania. Formalizing the fishery will help improve the conservation status of rare and endemic fish species occurring in this area through their protection. The enforcement of regulations of the fishing activity in the project area will result in licensed fishermen, improved fishing regulations and identification of Fishing Protected Areas.	\$10,000.00
Oxygen association for environmental protection	Establishing a Social Environment Club in Karabolli, Libya	Libya	Create a social environmental club in partnership with the Karabolli municipality in order to increase awareness about the degradation of the site. An innovative idea to bring men and women together to discuss local environmental issues, and the organization of environmental events involving students from local schools.	\$19,955.00

Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo	Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Protection of Endangered Sea Turtles on the Island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde	Build the capacity of the organisation to successfully implement conservation projects. Prepare and engage young people from local communities for conservation work. Strengthen partnership network policy makers to support the conservation efforts. Raise awareness of stakeholders on species conservation.	\$19,972.00
Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania	Land of Eagles and Castles: Integrated Participatory Management for Albanian Coastal Biodiversity	Albania	Building upon CEPF funded project "Land of eagles and castles" (2012-2016), PPNEA will strengthen their relationship with local communities and expand support to local small nature-friendly businesses around Narta Lagoon and Butrint National Park, with the objective of ensuring alternative livelihood for local communities while preserving the rich biodiversity of the two unique sites.	\$166,503.00
Qendra për Ruajtjen e Ekosistemeve Natyrore në Shqipëri (Eco-Albania)	Conserving the Albanian Water Frog in Vlora Bay	Albania	Assess the current situation, threats and necessary conservation measures for the Albanian water frog in Vlora Bay, Albania. The project aims to train local stakeholders in direct conservation actions and techniques for the protection and conservation of the Albanian water frog, and to raise the public's interest the endemic amphibian and the area's biodiversity.	\$19,437.38
Reseau Enfant de la Terre	Participation in COP 13 RAMSAR as part of the project "Promoting the involvement of civil society in the protection process of Sabkhet Sijoumi"	Tunisia	Improve knowledge about Sijoumi wetland situation in international level through the participation to 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This travel grant allows Reseau Enfant de la Terre to be part of World Wetland Network and youth wetland network.	\$8,325.00

Réseau Enfants de la Terre	Engager la Société Civile pour la Protection de la Sebkheth Sejoumi, Tunisie	Tunisia	Raise awareness of the importance of Sebkheth Sejoumi Wetland, including the services it provides and the biodiversity it hosts, and engage local community members in the protection of the site.	\$118,478.00
Royal Albania Foundation	Establishing a Rehabilitation and Education Centre for Sea Turtles at Butrint in Saranda Bay, Albania	Albania	Contribute to the wider awareness and protection of sea turtles with local fishermen. Training will be carried out with fishermen on how to rescue injured turtles, and educated about the widespread problem and how to protect them.	\$814.63
Social Education & Environment Protection	Engage Key Stakeholders for the Conservation of the Date Shell and its Habitat in the Karaburun Peninsula, Albania	Albania	Create positive synergies between stakeholders for the conservation of the Date Shell and its ecosystem in Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park in Albania. Project will establish a forum with all stakeholders to raise awareness, discuss, and collect ideas for sustainable ways of managing the coastline of the Marine Protected Area and nearby zones.	\$18,469.49
Société Ras Adar pour divertissements touristiques	Assessing Underwater Macro-pollution and Abandoned Fishing Gear around Zembra Island, Tunisia	Tunisia	Assess the spread of ghost nets around Zembra island within the marine and coastal protected area of Zembra and Zembretta. Prepare the protocol involving relevant stakeholders for underwater cleaning.	\$2,130.00
Tariq Ben Younis	Supporting Traditional Fishing to Protect Marine Resources in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia.	Tunisia	Raise awareness of local artisanal fishermen in Burj Al Salhi area in Zembra marine protected area on the importance of marine biodiversity and encourage them to contribute towards marine biodiversity conservation. Support a group of local artisanal fishermen with traditional eco-friendly fishing equipment to encourage for sustainable fishing.	\$7,675.00

Vertigo Lab	BlueSeeds: Explorer des méthodes innovantes pour le renforcement des capacités financières et organisationnelles des aires protégées en Tunisie - Pilote sur les Iles Kuriats	Tunisia	Build the capacity of local Tunisian organization Notre Grand Bleu in the medium and long term. Improve financial planning tools and train staff.	\$16,216.35
Zeleni Dom Green Home	Support local community's involvement in protection and promotion of the potential marine protected area – Katič	Montenegro	Building the capacity of and networking local actors to engage in the management of natural resources in the Katic area, and support the first potential marine protected area of Montenegro. Supporting ecotourism and livelihood activities based on sustainable use of natural resources. Monitoring of two important flagship species: monk seal and dusky grouper.	\$232,376.20

Strategic Direction 2 : Freshwater Biodiversity

"Dzemaal Bijedic" University of Mostar	Enhancing Knowledge on Biodiversity and Assessing Ecological Status of the Lower Catchments of Neretva River, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Assess freshwater fish species abundance and status in Neretva River Basin, with a focus on rare and threatened species. Launch a information campaign on freshwater heritage of the Neretva Basin and advocate, with local groups (fishermen, farmers, naturalists) for improving conservation of important sites and river basin management.	\$70,556.00
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Association for ecology and tourism ECOTOURISM-2016, Ohrid	Preserving Belchishta Wetland, North Macedonia, through Engagement with Municipality and Local Stakeholders	North Macedonia	Design with local municipality and local stakeholders a participatory management plan for the Belchista wetlands, introducing sustainable farming practices and improved land use management. Assess the biodiversity of the wetland, in particular as regards less-known taxa, and initiate process for official protection of the site.	\$112,099.24
Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Dynamiser le Rôle du Parc National de Khenifra pour la Préservation de la Biodiversité Aquatique de l'Oued Oum Er-Rabia, Maroc	Morocco	Work with the National Park authorities, the River Basin Management Agency and local stakeholders to mainstream freshwater biodiversity conservation needs into water management plans. The project includes a comprehensive study of freshwater biodiversity and its socio-economic importance, and uses participatory approach to develop locally-accepted conservation approaches.	\$155,940.00
Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage	Conservier la biodiversité dulcicole d'Oued Maden à travers une cogestion locale, Tunisie	Tunisia	Improve the knowledge on the freshwater biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia, and assess threats and socio-economic activities impacting on freshwater resources. Based on these studies, work with the river basin authority to adapt its practices for conserving threatened species, and create a local Site Support Group to support long-term monitoring and local action in favor of biodiversity.	\$107,776.06

Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development	Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout (<i>Salmo peristericus</i>) in National Park Pelister and Prespa region, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Conduct a study on distribution, population size and conservation status of the Prespa trout in three rivers, Brajchinska, Kranska and Leva. Build upon and updating the data from studies conducted before the construction of hydropower plants. Develop a Conservation Action Plan and transboundary collaboration with stakeholders in the Greek part of Prespa. Public awareness and capacity development activities for establishing a long-term monitoring program for the trout.	\$23,680.00
Centar za krš i speleologiju	Distribution, Population and Status of Threats to the Biodiversity of Freshwater snails, Bosnia & Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conduct a systematic data collection of freshwater snails and water quality analysis on karstic springs and watercourses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Assessment of population status of certain snail species according to criteria of IUCN Red List of endangered species. Updating database of biological diversity of freshwater snails available to all decision makers in nature conservation and other stakeholders. Organizing educative workshops and lectures for students and school children.	\$22,500.00
Centar za zivotnu sredinu	Steps Towards the Protection of Neretva Tributaries: Buna, Bunica, Begava and Trebižat, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Assess freshwater species abundance and status in four Bosnian river basin, with a focus on under-researched taxa. Launch an information campaign and advocate, with local groups (fishermen, farmers, naturalists) for improving conservation of important sites and river basin management.	\$146,923.62

Center for Protection and Research of Birds	SOS Skadar Lake - Keeping the Montenegrin Wilderness Wild	Albania; Montenegro	Increase the knowledge base on the biodiversity of the Montenegrin part of the transboundary Lake Skadar - expanding in particular to amphibian and fish species. Model the impacts of future developments on the lake (in particular hydropower plants and tourism infrastructure) to support decision making on land use and natural resources management. Discuss and share findings with Albanian stakeholders.	\$150,534.50
Centre de Développement de la Région de Tensift	Approche Intégrée pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité Aquatique Menacée du Bassin de Sehb El Majnoute, Maroc	Morocco	Assess the conservation status of four critically endangered and endangered freshwater snails present on the site Sehb El Majnoute, then define and implement with local communities pilot activities to mitigate the threats and stabilize the populations. Create a locally-managed protected area to preserve the rare and endangered freshwater biodiversity.	\$120,003.40
Centre for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Energy University Donja Gorica	Assessment and Mainstreaming of Ecosystem Services of the Niksic field, Montenegro	Montenegro	Assess and evaluate the ecosystem services in Nikšić to provide information for local land use policies and establishment of the protected area. Raise awareness of local communities on importance and benefits of nature's conservation. Initiate the mainstreaming of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in the decision-making process to advance the process of establishing a new protected area in Nikšić municipality and provide input for its management planning.	\$17,649.00

Crnogorsko društvo ekologa [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	Updating the Conservation Status on Important fish Species and Raising Awareness of Local Communities on Freshwater Ecosystem in the Catchment Surrounding Niksic, Montenegro	Montenegro	Establish a scientific database of significant fish species. Assess threats and stresses on the freshwater ecosystems and conduct analysis of freshwater ecosystem profiles with proposed mitigation measures. Promote importance of CMZ Niksic and encourage local community to participate in decision-making processes through organized workshops and campaign. Strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and cooperation with civil sector.	\$27,140.00
Difaf SAL	Development of an Integrated Management Plan for Damour River Basin - Lebanon	Lebanon	Implement baseline technical, social and policy analysis of the Damour River Key Biodiversity for producing sufficient data and knowledge material useful to develop a draft river basin management plan. This plan will strategically target the ecologically valuable upstream watershed as a guideline for developing conservation efforts that can further be upscaled to cover the whole river basin in the future.	\$19,993.00
Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42"	Enhance the Transboundary Conservation of the World Heritage Site Lake Ohrid in North Macedonia and Albania	Albania; North Macedonia	Ensure participation of local stakeholders, engagement of civil society organizations and contribution of environmental and legal experts to advocate for a full inclusion of measures in favor of biodiversity in national legislation in North Macedonia. Conduct networking and capacity building with Albanian civil society organizations to strengthen transboundary actions for long-term preservation of Lake Ohrid.	\$151,836.80

GTI – Geotehnicki Inzenering DOO Skopje	Assessment of an Endemic Freshwater Snail in Dojran Lake – Population Status, Threats and Conservation Measures, North Macedonia.	North Macedonia	Resolve the unknown species status of Graecoanatolica macedonica, the 'near or possibly extinct' freshwater snail in Dojran lake. Establish the population status of other important mollusks. Analysis of water quality and eutrophication pressure. Preparation of the species conservation action plan for the endemic snail. Public awareness of local community about the biodiversity and endemism.	\$28,806.00
Hrvatsko Društvo za Biološka Istraživanja (HDBI) (Croatian Biology Research Society)	Conservation of the Southern Dalmatian Minnow, Advanced Semi-cave Fish of the Dinaric Karst in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mapping distribution area of rare endemic fish in springs and underwater caves and habitat quality analysis. Implementing eDNA methodology for water sampling and determination of species presence. Producing of publicly available monitoring protocol. Preparing conservation measures for this species and policy for better management of karstic fields. Establishing multistakeholder platform for knowledge sharing and networking of experts and decision makers. Public promotion of endemic fish.	\$24,979.00
Milieukontakt Macedonia	Enhancing Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches	North Macedonia	Strengthen the protection of Dojran Lake's unique biodiversity by working with all stakeholders involved. Support the local government in mainstreaming conservation needs in local decisions, and work with fishermen and farmers on environment-friendly approaches. Several innovative pilot actions will be tested with locals to improve water quality and fight against invasive species.	\$168,358.61

National Center for Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development	Conducting a Multidisciplinary Initiative to Conserve the Critically Endangered Toothcarp in the Lake Butrint Catchment, Albania	Albania	Establishment of the extant range and status of the Corfu toothcarp (<i>Valencia letourneuxi</i>) in southern Albania. Project will gain new knowledge on this critically endangered species through intensive field surveys, cooperation and initiatives with local partners. The aim is a better understanding of the conservation needs of this fish, which should eventually lead to the recovery and establishment of a healthy sub-population in the Albanian part of its small range.	\$39,660.00
Noé	Empowering Local Community and Stakeholders to Sustainably Manage Skadar lake's Freshwater Biodiversity	Albania; Montenegro	Empower local communities by promoting participatory management of Skadar Lake's biodiversity and develop economic benefits based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Support the eradication of illegal fishing practices threatening freshwater biodiversity, through sensitization and control.	\$167,649.34
NVO Program za zivotnu sredinu (NGO Environmental Programme)	Enabling Joint Bottom-up Protection and Sustainable Development Planning for Bojana River Basin, Montenegro..	Montenegro	Implement novel approaches in data collection on distribution, populations and threats of freshwater biodiversity in Bojana water basin. Assessment of socio-economic values of ecosystem services. Networking, knowledge exchange and awareness raising of local stakeholders through workshops, educative activities and their engagement in protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Designing a strategic direction for the protection of Delta Bojana.	\$37,000.00

Qendra per Menaxhimin Agro-Mjedisore dhe Ekonomik (Agro-environmental and Economic Management Center)	Ecological and Economical Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Lake Ohrid Catchment, Albania	Albania	Assess the distribution, population and threat status of fishes and others aquatic organisms in freshwater and identify the most threatened areas and species. Conduct bio monitoring of fresh water. Identify ecological and economical values and consequence for the socio-economic development of the rural area. Encourage locals to protect the biodiversity of the Ohrid lake catchment by familiarizing them with the economic benefits of the ecosystem	\$29,900.00
Regionalni Resursni Centar	Improved Protection and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystems in the Neretva Delta, Trebizat and Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Working closely with fishing societies, local non-governmental organizations and local park authorities, promote sustainable fishing practices and develop effective responses to poaching and illegal practices, for long-term conservation of endemic fish species.	\$100,960.00
Societe Ressources Ingenierie	Promoting Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity in El Abid's Watershed, Morocco	Morocco	Launch a series of pilot actions in the El Abid region to preserve unique and threatened freshwater species. Following biological assessments and mapping of the last sources and rivers where live critically endangered species (freshwater mussels and shrimps), RESING will initiate pilot actions in coordination with local communities and authorities.	\$147,833.00

T.E.R.R.E. Liban	Enhance conservation of the Unique Biodiversity in the Bisri River Basin - Lebanon	Lebanon	Conduct a quantified analysis of the geographical distribution and severity of threats to the Bisri river basin. Document the biodiversity value of the site to provide decision-makers with an environmental and social safeguard baseline for conservation and sustainable management. Establish collaboration with stakeholders, municipalities and local communities to develop a site protection plan. Raise awareness and promote the importance of a sustainable local economy.	\$20,000.00
Udruga Dinarica	Establishing Pillars for Conservation of Endemic Freshwater Biodiversity in KBA Livanjsko Polje and Buško Lake	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Establish the conservation status, research the ecology and management needs for five endangered fish species of the lake and adjacent polje. Prepare communication material and advocate for improved management of the freshwater system. Engage with local stakeholder and organize network of local citizens in favor of preservation of the site.	\$148,405.00
Udruga Dinarica	Conservation of the Steno-Endemic Species Mostar Minnow in Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conduct field research and enhance the knowledge base for the Mostar blato ecosystem and the population of the Mostar minnow (<i>Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus</i>). The project implies mapping karst water springs, producing a conservation action plan, proposing protection measures of Mostar blato and engaging decision makers. Mostar blato is damaged by hydropower drainage canals. Project tends to halt further habitat and biodiversity loss and raise awareness through disseminating findings on media.	\$29,088.00

University of Ljubljana	Developing New Tools for Rapid Assessment of Subterranean Biodiversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Develop new tools to identify and inventorize the rich subterranean biodiversity of the Dinarides region in Bosnia. University of Ljubljana will train Bosnian partner to use new tools, create a shared database and communicate results and subsequent conservation needs to local stakeholders and decision-makers. Visit project website: subbiocode.net .	\$149,999.50
Zeleni Dom Green Home	Assessment of the European Eel Population in the Bojana River, Montenegro	Montenegro	Assess the population status of the critically endangered European eel in the Bojana river. Identify threats on the population size and establishment of measures for poaching suppression. Support creation of the management plan. Improve institutional and cross-border cooperation. Raise awareness about the European eel conservation and strengthen the capacity of young researchers.	\$29,697.00
Zeleni Dom Green Home	Supporting the Conservation of the Natural Values of the Upper Zeta River in Montenegro	Montenegro	Assess the hydromorphological and ecological condition of the Upper Zeta River, and implement revitalization measures. Conduct research on macrozoobenthos and hydromorphological pressures at selected locations to provide data on the basis of which the ecological condition of this water body will be determined.	\$29,230.00

Strategic Direction 3 : Cultural Landscapes

AESVT-Maroc	Renforcer les Aires Protégées Autochtones et Communautaires du Haut Atlas Central, Maroc	Morocco	Support the establishment of a network of communities for piloting Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) and promoting this governance model in Morocco. Provide human wellbeing benefits through community-based livelihood activities (agriculture, eco-tourism) and development of land-use plans and governance models for community-based conservation.	\$249,332.38
Al-Shouf Cedar Society	Assessment of Cultural Practices in the High Mountain Eastern Mediterranean Landscape in Lebanon	Lebanon	Assess the maintenance and sustainability of the traditional land use practices in the high mountain landscape. Support local communities to increase their benefit from biodiversity friendly land-use and agricultural practices. Raise awareness of the value of traditional sustainably land-use practices among local community, private sector and government decision makers	\$18,187.80
Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company	Land Use Measures to Sustain Traditional Uses of Productive Landscapes in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan	Jordan	Conduct a study to assess the impact of traditional land use within productive landscape in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Jordan. Raise awareness among communities, stakeholders and decision makers on the need for effective measures to maintain traditional land use. Propose approach and guidelines for effective, responsive and right-based land use planning. Promote traditional land use through encouraging the stakeholders to adopt the proposed planning approach	\$20,000.00

Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company	Promoting Biodiversity-Friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area, Jordan	Jordan	Support farmers in the buffer zone of Dibeed Forest Reserve to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Enter into agreements with pilot farmers, raise awareness and provide training to the wider rural communities, develop markets for specific, biodiversity-friendly productions (through on-line market), and work at policy level for mainstreaming biodiversity into local agricultural regulations.	\$175,159.05
Association de réflexion, d'échanges et d'actions pour l'environnement et le développement	Promouvoir l'Agriculture Traditionnelle et l'Agroécologie pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité du Parc National de Babor-Tababort, Algérie	Algeria	Support the establishment of a local farmers' association and promote biodiversity-friendly practices through labeling of products and marketing approach. Set up a pilot farm with a local association and train local farmers and shepherds.	\$190,494.61
Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Mapping traditional farming practices benefitting the conservation of biodiversity in Ifrane National Park, Morocco	Morocco	Understand the traditional agricultural practices within Ifrane National Park. Create an inventory of traditional practices and land uses within the forest through stakeholder interviews, data analysis and mapping of existing projects. Identify potential practices for the re-establishment and maintenance of land-use patterns, for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and to provide benefits for the local community	\$18,493.00

Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Conservation de la biodiversité du parc national d'Ifrane par la réhabilitation et l'adaptation des pratiques agricole traditionnelles ancestrales	Morocco	Revitalize the traditional sheep farming systems of Ait Mhamed and Ait Ben Hcine communities in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. Support the communities to set up a sustainable grazing system based on traditional rights, preventing over-grazing in the biodiversity-rich mountains of Ifrane National Park. Establish cooperatives for traditional medicinal plants, with regulations for sustainable harvesting.	\$135,802.00
Association les Amis de CAPTE Tunisie	Tous pour la Restauration des Ecosystèmes avec les Fermiers Localement Engagés (Projet TREFLE) à Dyr el Kef, Tunisie	Tunisia	Work with local farmers to reintroduce a local endemic clover <i>Trifolium tunetanus</i> in traditional agropastoral practices, with the objective of maintaining populations in the long term. Sign conservation agreements with local farmers to ensure that biodiversity-friendly practices are integrated into their land management, including agroforestry, hedges, meslin with local endemics and measures to ensure connectivity of habitats.	\$142,103.00
Association Sidi Bouzitoun	Conserving biodiversity in Kroumirie Through the Involvement of Women Shepherds, Tunisia	Tunisia	Support women shepherd on maintaining the traditional Land use in favor of biodiversity conservation in Kroumerie around Feija key biodiversity area. Raise awareness on sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation. Facilitate access of local product to new markets. Develop a pastoral management plan in order to regulate the grazing in the region.	\$16,830.00

Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif Mountains	Conservation du Singe Magot et de son Habitat par le Soutien aux Modes de Gestion Traditionnels à Bouhachem, Rif Occidental, Maroc	Morocco	Support local communities to adopt agro-ecological practices and increase revenues from biodiversity-friendly practices (including ecotourism) in the region of Bouhachem Nature Park. Support a participatory management of natural areas, integrating traditional practices, to reduce threats on montane forest habitats and the barbary macaque population.	\$135,641.00
Center for Protection and Research of Birds	Restoration of Skadar Lake wet meadows for sustainable and traditional land-use, Montenegro	Montenegro	Educate the local communities about invasive species and their removal in environmentally friendly and sustainable ways. Raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and provide training on how to correctly prevent the spread of invasive plants. Conduct series of events to remove invasive species and prepare the land for livestock grazing.	\$28,420.00
Eco Values for Sustainable Development	Traditional Farming as a Tool to Maintain a Viable Landscape, Jordan	Jordan	Promote environmental-friendly traditional agricultural practices at landscape level in Ajloun KBA-Jordan and enhance the knowledge about the importance of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Conduct analysis of the agricultural sector policy and recommend integration of biodiversity conservation into these policies.	\$24,990.00

Environment for Life	Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon	Lebanon	Support local farmers to adopt or maintain traditional, biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices for olive production on the Mount Hermon area. Train and support local farmers to adopt a "charter" defining good practices, including a hunting ban and measures to preserve flora. Develop a marketing strategy to ensure better prices and access to national markets for olive products following good environmental practices.	\$230,238.23
Environment For Life (EFL)	Assessing the Biodiversity Value of Olive Sites in Mount Hermon KBA and Identifying the Environmental Impacts of Various Agricultural Practices	Lebanon	Assess the biodiversity value of olive farms in Mount Hermon Key Biodiversity Area and identify the environmental impacts of agricultural practices that are shifting from traditional to new modern practices which are causing loss of biodiversity associated with traditionally inherited farming schemes.	\$20,000.00
Exploralis	Promouvoir le Maintien et l'Implantation de Haies Bocagères pour Soutenir la Biodiversité Locale dans la Région de Sogman au Nord de la Tunisie	Tunisia	Promote the role of hedges in biodiversity conservation in northwestern Tunisia. Assess the biodiversity value of hedges and the ecosystem services they provide to local farmers. Demonstrate good practices for maintenance and creation of hedges at a pilot site, disseminate them to local farmers and promote the role of hedges with local authorities.	\$94,827.50

Fondation d'Entreprise BIOTOPE pour la Biodiversité	Améliorer l'Organisation et les Pratiques Pastorales dans le Parc National de Toubkal pour une Gestion Durable des Ressources Patrimoniales et des Paysages Traditionnels	Morocco	Study the current situation as regards grazing and biodiversity conservation, in particular for plant taxa in the protected area. Engage with local communities and park authorities to develop a charter for improved livestock management practices. Explore marketing options to increase revenues from local products.	\$149,999.57
Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc	Traditional Pastoral Practices for the Conservation of Vultures in Jbel Moussa, Morocco	Morocco	Support local sheep farmers in Jbel Moussa protected area improve their livelihood while adopting practices favorable to biodiversity, and in particular vultures. Initiate a participatory process to establish a sustainable grazing management plan, and support farmers by improving water sources, setting up rendering platforms and improving access to market through a certification scheme.	\$140,023.00
Istituto Oikos Onlus	Lebanese Biosphere Reserves Joint Initiative to Revive Traditional Agricultural Practices	Lebanon	Support local organizations in Jabal Moussa and Al Shouf Biosphere Reserves to promote sustainable, biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Support rehabilitation and preservation of old terraces, home to rare reptiles and plants, strengthen the economic model for local traditional products, and address over-harvesting of wild edible plants in these mountainous areas.	\$149,922.92

Jordan BirdWatch Association	Supporting Traditional Farming and Protecting Biodiversity in Ajloun, Northern Jordan	Jordan	Support a local farmers' association to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and marketing of local products, and enhance nature-based tourism in Ajloun region, Jordan. Support marketing of local products and work with the local municipality on a sustainable ecotourism plan. With local stakeholders, initiate the process for designation of a Special Conservation Area.	\$97,977.92
Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA)	A study of traditional land use practices and native biodiversity in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco	Morocco	Conduct a study to understand the relationship between production landscapes and native biodiversity in the High Atlas – Morocco. The project will focus on the relationship between traditional land use practices and biodiversity and prioritise best practices and recommendations for maintaining and restoring traditional land use.	\$19,910.00
Palestine Wildlife Society	Safeguarding Jebal Al Khalil North Region and Wadi Al-Quff Cultural Landscapes through Innovative Approaches	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Promote biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices with local farmers and communities from Jebal al Khalil and Wali el Quff, and ensure integration in local land-use planning. Implement actions for replanting and sustainable harvesting of sumac, and for preservation of the threatened plant species <i>Bellevalia warburgii</i> .	\$151,606.45

Shoqata AlbNatyra	Support of Livestock Breeders for Maintenance of Pastures in Shebenik Jabllanice National Park, Albania	Albania	Improve the conditions of summer stans in the pastures of the Shebenik-Jabllanice National Park and provide drinking water for livestock. Increase knowledge about pastures and threatened species in the area. Strengthen the management of pastures and plant species through assessment and preservation of traditional land-use practices. Strengthen cooperation between civil society organizations, government institutions and local communities.	\$20,950.00
The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon	Promoting Traditional Land-use Practices in the Upper Beirut River Valley, Lebanon	Lebanon	Promote the "Hima Farms" approach in the upper Beirut River Valley, with support to local farmers to adopt and maintain biodiversity-friendly practices, and marketing approaches for traditional products. Conduct extensive biodiversity assessments and monitoring, and advocate for inclusion of good practices in land-use planning at the municipality level.	\$150,450.00
Udruženje za biološka istraživanja i zaštitu prirode BIO.LOG	Bees Behind Dry Stonewalls: Traditional Practices for Bee Habitat Improvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Support and ensure cooperation with local communities in order to promote the conservation of drywall habitats that are important for wild bees. Provide data on the diversity of wild bees in the Municipality of Ravno and the Municipality of Trebinje. Raise awareness of stakeholders, including students and members of the private sector, on the most important species of bees in the area. Improve knowledge on traditional practices that are positive for bees and are based on the traditional attitude toward nature.	\$16,737.00

WADI NGO	Biodiversity Conservation Through Traditional Agroforestry Practices- Dibeen KBA, Jordan	Jordan	Support sustainable traditional land-use and agroforestry practices through conducting baseline assessment of communities' socio-economics and potential agroforestry products. Identify and implement traditional agricultural practices with potential economic opportunities and benefits to habitats and species.	\$39,973.00
WWF Mediterranean-North Africa	Assessment of landscape cultural practices in Kroumirie and Mogods, Tunisia	Tunisia	Assess the cultural land use practices in Kroumirie and Mogods in Tunisia. Research and document best practices, and develop recommendations for maintaining and restoring traditional land uses for the benefit of biodiversity. Raise awareness among stakeholders to promote and explain the findings of the study, so that future interventions can utilise the knowledge for more sustainable and effective conservation actions.	\$11,221.50

Strategic Direction 4 : Plant Conservation

Albanian Society for Protection of Birds and Mammals	Strengthening the Conservation Actions for Endemic Plant Species in Several KBAs in Albania	Albania	Improve conservation of endemic species in restricted areas by conducting site survey techniques. Build a new generation of skilled botanists and professionals to continue working on plant conservation. Support engagement of stakeholders and enhance national capacity in species conservation. The project covers four protected sites: Llogara and Dajti National Parks, Protected Landscape of Biza and Martaneshi; and partially the Zagoria Nature Park.	\$19,538.00
American University of Beirut (AUB)	Leveraging an Integrated Network: Bettering Conservation and Management of Rare Plants in and around Culturally Protected Sites (LINK)	Lebanon	Support the integration of plant conservation into the management of areas protected for their cultural heritage. By guiding vegetation management of such areas, the project aims to ecologically restore habitat patches of the UNESCO World Heritage Center of Byblos, and reverse ecological succession so that habitats conducive for the persistence of rare endemic plants can be encouraged.	\$19,086.70

An-Najah National University	Plant Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient Olive Orchards, Palestine.	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Conduct a study to identify the distribution of endemic plant species in North-eastern Slopes region Key Biodiversity Area-KBA. Promote biodiversity friendly agricultural practices to key local stakeholders. Build capacity of local community and stakeholders in plant conservation through training on biodiversity friendly agricultural practices. Promote and increase awareness of in situ conservation to the local communities in the area	\$19,600.00
Associação Projecto Vitó	Melhorar o Conhecimento pela Conservação das Espécies da Flora Ameaçadas de Extinção na Ilha do Fogo e Brava	Cabo Verde	Improve the knowledge about flora of Fogo and Brava Island, and build capacity of national park managers and local communities to enhance protection of rare and endangered endemic plants of Cabo Verde.	\$169,960.00
Association Nature Solutions	Préserver les Plantes Menacées dans le Parc National de Talassemtane au Maroc	Morocco	Integrate plant conservation in the management of Talassemtane National Park. Nature Solutions will assess the flora of the area, initiate a monitoring system, and work with inhabitants and park authorities to improve practices (including agriculture, grazing etc.) to preserve the most endangered plants of the area.	\$131,846.27

Association Tunisienne de Développement Durable: La Recherche en Action (La recherche en Action)	Améliorer des connaissances sur la flore de l'île de Djerba et de l'état de conservation de ses espèces patrimoniales	Tunisia	Improve knowledge and conservation of the flora in Djerba Island, especially the endemic <i>Limonium formosum</i> . A participatory plan for the creation of a micro-reserve will be conducted for the conservation of <i>L. formosum</i> . The project will also contribute to the emergence of a young botanist through the preparation of a master, in partnership with the agriculture institute, support the capacity building of five local NGOs and improve public awareness about plant conservation in Djerba.	\$35,886.00
Bethlehem University	Green Oasis in Bethlehem for Plant and Ecosystem Conservation.	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Develop a botanical garden for the conservation of rare plant species and unique ecosystem. Build capacity of young researchers, and create modules of awareness, education and empowerment that benefit the local community. Undertake workshops and meetings to raise the awareness of the local community on plant conservation.	\$20,000.00
Biflores – Conservação da Biodiversidade	Endemic plant conservation and a feasibility evaluation of a protected area in Brava, Cape Verde	Cabo Verde	Increase scientific knowledge and data on the extant endemic flora of the protected area and potential threats. Improve partnership with stakeholders, communities and other NGOs. Raise awareness on conservation of Brava's endemic species locally. Encourage and involve students and young people in plant conservation.	\$19,842.00

Biodiversity and Environment Research Centre	Engagement of Local Communities in the Conservation of the Threatened Ecosystem and Plant Species in the Nablus Region, Focusing on the Iris of Nablus, Palestine.	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Conduct an assessment of the status of endemic plants, focusing on the <i>Iris lortetii</i> . Identify and map the locations of the species communities, raise awareness of the local communities on plant biodiversity and conservation. Build capacity of community teams to develop and improve their practical plant skills including in situ surveying and protection. Support the incorporation of plant conservation in the management of proposed protected area. Increase the numbers of <i>Iris</i> population in their natural locations using the Seed Ball technique	\$19,994.00
Company for Applied Research and Permanent Education in Agriculture	Assessment and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Plant Species in National Park Pelister	North Macedonia	Improve assessment, protection and conservation of endemic, rare and endangered species of plants in National Park Pelister, Northern Macedonia. Improved management will also be reached through developing an inventory list of targeted plant species, focused in-situ conservation measures, increased capacity of protected area managers and rangers and increased awareness of the importance of conservation of rare plants.	\$29,648.00

Crnogorsko društvo ekologa [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	From the Inventory of Monumental Skadar Pedunculate Oak to Restoration of its Forests and Protection of Biodiversity. Montenegro	Montenegro	Assess current status and renewal of population of endemic Skadar oak tree (<i>Quercus robur</i> ssp <i>scutariensis</i>) on Skadar Lake, Valley of Zeta river, Delta Bojana and Buljarica. Conduct inventory of old individual trees and habitat modelling. Educate and raise awareness of the local community by engaging them in planting 10,000 seeds for forests revitalization. Design action plan for conservation and suggest proclamation of individual trees as natural monuments.	\$30,000.00
Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Conserving highly endangered plants on Cape Verde's "Island of Flowers"	Cabo Verde	Implement activities to increase the capacity, knowledge and skills of local NGO Biflores, and educating community members to support assessment and planning for the conservation of endemic plants on Brava. Establish native plant nurseries for Critically Endangered and Endangered plant species, planting individual trees and increasing the protection of in situ conservation plots where plants can regenerate.	\$19,985.00
Green Ground Seraidi-Annaba	Enhance Knowledge of Rare and Endemic Plant Species of the Edough Peninsula, a Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria	Algeria	Advance knowledge of rare and endemic flora of the Edough Peninsula by filling gaps related to plant distribution and habitat description. Support the preservation of this exceptional biodiversity by raising awareness, identifying alien invasive species and designing a feasibility study for their eradication.	\$20,000.00

ILIRIA-Protection and Social & Environmental Development Association	Site Restricted Endemics of Prespa National Park, Albania – Assessment, Protection and In-situ/Ex-situ Conservation, through the Involvement of Young Professionals	Albania	Establish a regular monitoring system and implementing specific in-situ and ex-situ conservation actions of rare and threatened plant species in Dry Mountain-Galičica mountain ranges. Collect data on distribution, population size and threats of 10-restricted plant species. Assess conservation status and delivering National Red List. Foster a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation through field training and networking of universities and academic institutions.	\$18,270.00
Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP)	Conservation and propagation of the Albanian tulip	Albania	Ensure the survival of the endemic Albanian Tulip by conserving its habitat and creating a generation of skilled botanists and professionals to continue working on the protection of endemic species in north east Albania. The project aims to increase knowledge and skills through surveys and studies, to support assessment and planning for the conservation of the Albanian Tulip and to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders in supporting species conservation.	\$36,344.00

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation	Support participation of civil society members in the "II Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week" to enhance plant conservation capacities and skills	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cabo Verde; Jordan; Lebanon; Libya; North Macedonia; Morocco; Tunisia	Enabling CEPF grantees from around the region to attend the second Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week, in order to widen the network and liaise with other plant specialists, gain knowledge on approaches and techniques, present their plant projects and seek future collaborations with organizations working on similar themes and species.	\$14,170.80
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)	Conservation of some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galichica National Park, North Macedonia,	North Macedonia	Conduct a research on the ecological conditions of the habitats of endemic plants and conservation status assessment. Produce species distribution maps. Collect seeds of endemic, relic and rare plant species and conducting ex-situ conservation. Establish cross-boundary collaboration and data integration in a unique database of wild flora covering Galičica National Park in Macedonia and Albania. Involve young students in project activities and enabling them to gain expert knowledge.	\$19,885.00

Macedonian Biological Society (Македонско биолошко друштво)	Conservation of some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galichica National Park, North Macedonia	North Macedonia	Assessment of the status of endemic and steno-endemic plant species, inhabiting the National Park mountain Galichica and mapping their geographical distribution. Support integration of plant conservation into the future management plan of national park. Conducting seed collection and ex-situ protection of threatened plant species in Botanical Garden in Skopje. Building capacity of students and young experts and raising awareness of local community about plant diversity.	\$29,982.00
Macedonian Ecological Society	Working Together for Conservation of National Endemic Plants in Macedonia	North Macedonia	Assess the current status and distribution of several rare and endangered plants of Jablanica and Dojran Lake regions, and set up a monitoring system. Support protected area managers and local organizations to improve plant conservation, and raise awareness on the botanical heritage of the country.	\$107,057.80
Nature Palestine Society	Assessment and conservation of <i>Iris atrofusca</i> in the North Eastern Slopes Region Key Biodiversity Area, Palestine	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Assess the distribution of near endemic and threatened plant species, including <i>Iris atrofusca</i> . Support the integration of plant conservation into future management plans and the conservation framework of Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas in Palestine. Promote and support the engagement of stakeholders and decision makers in conservation planning. Build capacity of local communities to contribute to data collection on flora, focusing on endemic and threatened species.	\$19,910.00

NGO Living Green	Lovčenski zvončić – očuvanje razumijevanje i promocija / Lovcen Bell - Preservation, Understanding and Promotion	Montenegro	Protect and raise awareness of the endemic plant Lovćen bell in Montenegro. The project will undertake direct conservation measures to protect the plants from annual fires in the only known site where they occur, and establish long-term conservation measures in cooperation with the Lovćen Mountain National Park administration.	\$17,028.06
NVO Program za životnu sredinu (NGO Environmental Programme)	Conservation of endemic, rare and threatened plant species on Mount Orjen, Montenegro	Montenegro	Assess the threats and conservation needs of plants in Orjen Mountain Nature Park, and identify management guidelines for the long-term conservation of the most rare, endemic and threatened plant species. The grantee will apply scientific standards to plant research and conservation, increase the capacities of their own organization and park staff, and initiate cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation in order to conserve plant diversity of this site.	\$40,000.00
NVO Župa u srcu	Plant Diversity within the Wet and Aquatic Habitats of Nikšić polje basin (Budoš ponds - Vrtac reservoir, Zeta river, Gračanica river), Montenegro.	Montenegro	Explore florist diversity and design a database of plant species in wet and aquatic ecosystems. Analyze threats to plant diversity and identifying potential Natura 2000 habitats. Enrich the herbarium collection of the Natural History Museum of Montenegro and Faculty of Natural Science in Podgorica. Carry out practical training for young researchers, biology students and locals in finding and conserving rare endemic species.	\$26,070.00

Palestine Wildlife Society	Towards the Sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine (Iris haynei) Through an In Situ Scientific Garden	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Conduct a study to assess the current status and distribution of the national flower of Palestine (Iris haynei) in the Faqua'a area and surrounding mountains, and implement in-situ conservation actions for this threatened and endemic Iris. Increase knowledge and skills of the stakeholders to support plant conservation planning, and promote the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation. Support innovative measures to conserve important plant communities through collaboration with local communities.	\$19,380.00
Qendra për Iniciativa Rajonale	Habitat Enrichment and In-situ Conservation of a Rare Endemic Species of Birthwort, Albania.	Albania	Enrich conservation and habitat of critically endangered, unprotected species birthwort, namely Aristolochia merxmulleri, on Munella Mountain, Oroshi Mountain and Lura Lakes. Establish plant population numbers, growth conditions, spatial and temporal dynamics. Engagement of in-situ conservation practices, encouragement of its inclusion to IUCN Red List. Preparation of management plan for future plant conservation. Raise awareness among local community and governmental authorities about importance of plants	\$9,908.00

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	Mainstreaming Plant Key Biodiversity Areas into the national Conservation Planning Framework	Jordan	Identify and assess the Key Biodiversity Areas for Plants of the Mediterranean part of Jordan. The sites will then be included in the national land use planning, and conservation needs for plants mainstreamed in national nature protection regulations. The project will also work at strengthening plant conservation measures during the up-date of the management plan of three reserves.	\$165,942.60
The Friends of Nature	Conservation of Lebanon Endemic Flora Through Community Engagement	Lebanon	Develop a participatory planning approach to ensure the conservation of endemic plants in Lebanon. Strengthen the capacities of protected area managers and improve management plans for plant conservation in Jabal Moussa and Eden Forest. Support local conservation action, possibly with micro-reserve, for rare plants of Kneisseh summit and Makmel heights	\$173,175.00
Tölgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület (Oak Nature Conservation Association)	Exploring the Habitat Range and Preferences of Rare and Insufficiently Known Local Endemic Plants in Albania	Albania	Assess and determine the habitat range and population size of nine targeted rare and endemic plant species, on mountainous and karstic areas in South and Central Albania: <i>Aubrieta albanica</i> , <i>Carex markgrafii</i> , <i>Crocus novicii</i> , <i>Limonium himarens</i> , <i>Noccaea cikaea</i> , <i>Reichardia albanica</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> , <i>Stachys albanica</i> , <i>Stachys sericophylla</i> . Establish the education of students and nature conservationists about target species and the overall taxonomic and conservational management of rare and/or ghost taxa.	\$14,000.00

Udruženje za unapređenje životne sredine	Preservation of endemic plants on Orjen mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Contribute to the formal protection of the biodiversity rich areas of Orjen and Bijela Gora in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project aims at increasing the knowledge on conservation needs of selected endemic plant species and ensure their long-term protection by raising community awareness on their importance. Assessment of the status, presence, distribution, population numbers and area of occupancy will be done for selected endemic plant species.	\$20,000.50
Université BADJI Mokhtar-Annaba	Reinforce Protection and Monitoring of Maire, a Rare and Endemic Plant Species of the El Kala Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria.	Algeria	Reinforce knowledge and monitoring of Maire (<i>Erica numidica</i>), a rare and endemic species, restricted to Eastern Numidia and threatened with extinction. Gather knowledge on the ecology, distribution and habitats of this taxon. Given its very small population size, the taxon is proposed to be included among the taxa in critical danger of extinction in Algeria.	\$20,000.00
Université Saint-Joseph	Conserving and valorizing the Unique Botanical Heritage of Lebanon	Lebanon	Support various stakeholders to improve conservation of rare, endemic plants of Lebanon. Support three existing reserves (Horsh Eden, Jaj and Jabal Moussa) in integrating plants in their management. Strengthen the micro-reserve of Sarada (established by USJ under a former project). Test circus-situ conservation approach in Archeological sites of Tyre and Anjar.	\$116,140.00

WWF Mediterranean-North Africa	Conserver les plantes patrimoniales de Garâa Sejenane et Dar Fatma-Tunisie	Tunisia	Strengthen the management of two important sites for plant conservation in Tunisia, through establishment of long-term monitoring system and support to land managers and local users to adopt practices beneficial to local flora. The project,also aims at supporting young professional in botany and conservation sciences, and to establish a network of plant conservationists in Tunisia.	\$183,232.69
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Strategic Direction 5 : Regional Capacity Building & Networking

Alhayat Organization to protect wildlife and marine organisms	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise populations in Eastern Libya and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	Libya	Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian Tortoise (<i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>) across its native range in Cyrenaica, Eastern Libya. Develop an action plan for the species conservation.	\$15,000.00
American University of Beirut (AUB)	Replacement of Damaged Equipment due to Beirut Port Blast on 4th August 2020, Lebanon,	Lebanon	Replace a laptop and a desk that were damaged due to the Beirut blast on 4 August 2020.	\$2,006.00
Cedars for Care	Restoring Cedars for Care Center hit by Beirut Blast on August 4th, 2020	Lebanon	Repair the damage that occurred to the organization's office due to the Beirut port blast, including replacement of windows glass, doors as well as purchasing of office machinery.	\$3,140.00

Environment For Life (EFL)	Reparation of Environment for Life (E.f.L) office in Beirut, Lebanon	Lebanon	Support the organization to restore their office after the damage caused by the Beirut explosion on 4 August 2020. Replace damaged materials and equipment.	\$6,997.00
Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	Egypt	Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian tortoise (<i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>) across its native range in Northern Western Egypt and develop local capacity in Egypt and Libya to address conservation needs for the species.	\$15,000.00
Jouzour Loubnan Association	Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Plant Conservation in Lebanon and Palestine	Lebanon; Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Support civil societies in Lebanon and Palestine to implement innovative conservation approaches for threatened and endemic plants and integrate plant conservation into management plans of protected areas.	\$28,700.00
Mediterranean Protected Areas Network	Sharing Experience on the Management of Mobile Species within Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Albania; Cabo Verde; Libya; Montenegro; Tunisia	Support the capacity building of CEPF beneficiaries through participation in the Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network workshop on mobile marine species. Discuss the strategies, policies, projects and programmes for these species with other NGOs and stakeholders from different countries in the Mediterranean, with a focus on marine turtles. Learn about targeted conservation measures, monitoring, the management of network-based approaches and stakeholder engagement.	\$10,559.00
Nahnoo	NAHNOO Office Restoration Post	Lebanon	Repair the damage occurred to the organization's office due to the 4 August blast in Beirut, including replace windows,	\$6,000.00

	Beirut Port Blast of 04.08.2020, Lebanon		doors, electricity rewiring and purchase of essential supplies.	
The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - Regional Office for West Asia	Protected Area Network Review for Palestine	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Review and update the protected areas network in Palestine, using systematic conservation planning principles and the protected area design criteria of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to result in a connected, representative, efficient and climate resilient network of protected areas.	\$196,945.12
The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon	Replacing Damages at SPNL Office From Beirut Port Blast. Lebanon	Lebanon	Maintain the damages occurred in the organisation's office due to the Beirut port blast on 4 August 2020. Purchase office machinery and supplies.	\$5,880.00
WWF Mediterranean-North Africa	NastNet, a Network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa	Algeria; Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia	Create a network that gathers together organizations and institutions working on sea turtle conservation in North Africa. Set up the governance structure of the network and agree on a five-year strategic plan. Support local organizations to standardize monitoring protocols, exchange experience on conservation action and communication, advise on practical activities, and advocate for improved national and regional regulations and actions for protection of sea turtles.	\$149,395.54

Strategic Direction 6 : Regional Implementation team

BirdLife International	Regional Implementation Team for the Mediterranean	All Hotspot	Lead the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in partnership with BirdLife partners in France (for North African countries) and Slovenia and Serbia (for the Balkans). Together, this consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.	\$ 2,128,000
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