



**Mid-Term Assessment (June 2012 – May 2015)  
of CEPF Investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot**

**October 2015**

**Final Version**

## Introduction

This report aims to assess progress towards the goals set out in the ecosystem profile, evaluate gaps in the CEPF grant portfolio and set priorities for the remainder of the 1.5-year investment period. It draws on experience, lessons learned and project reports generated by civil society organizations implementing CEPF grants.

It incorporates the findings of the mid-term assessment process, led by the regional implementation Team and CEPF Secretariat, which included:

- **National assessments**, undertaken for all 11 eligible countries in the Mediterranean Basin, conducted through in-country meetings<sup>1</sup>. A total of 186 people participated, including CEPF grantees, local and national stakeholders.
- An **on-line survey**, available in English, French, Arabic and Serbo-Croatian, sent to all contacts in the Mediterranean Basin, including grantees and unsuccessful applicants. In total, 116 responses were recorded.
- A **regional workshop** held in Montenegro, on 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The workshop was attended by over 50 representatives of CEPF grantees, local government, ambassadors and CEPF's donor partners.

The Mediterranean Basin biodiversity hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. The hotspot covers more than 2 million square kilometers and stretches west to east from Portugal to Jordan and north to south from northern Italy to Cape Verde. It is the third richest hotspot in the world in terms of its plant diversity. Rivaling the natural diversity in the hotspot, the cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic diversity of the region is spectacular. Many of the ecosystems reached equilibrium long ago with human activity dominating the landscapes. However, this delicate balance is in a precarious state as many local communities depend on remaining habitats for freshwater, food and a variety of other ecosystem services. Species populations in the hotspot have become increasingly fragmented and isolated as a result of infrastructural development mainly triggered by the tourism industry. The pressure on scarce water resources resulting from major water investments as well as climate change has recently become the most important pressure on nature. The increasing number and magnitude of water investments has caused irreversible damage to the fragile water cycle of small rivers basins in the hotspot.

***CEPF is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions known as biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Additional support in the Mediterranean Basin is provided by the MAVA Foundation. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.***

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<sup>1</sup> Or through electronic consultation where national meetings were not feasible, for security (Libya) or logistical (Cape Verde) reasons

## I. CEPF Niche

### 1) Overview

The importance of supporting civil society has been reinforced with the important political changes which has happened in several countries of the region from 2010, after completion of the Ecosystem Profile, and collectively known as the “Arab Spring”. These political changes have in some case led the way to a nascent civil society, eager to engage in environmental protection and development, but often lacking capacities to engage efficiently in preserving the natural wealth of their countries.

Currently, few funding organizations support civil society to play a vital role in the conservation of priority key biodiversity areas and the water basins where these areas are located. Most key biodiversity areas are inhabited by large numbers of people that closely rely on water and other natural resources in these areas. Therefore, civil society in the hotspot, in its own right, is crucially positioned to conserve and sustain biodiversity. Furthermore, civil society organizations can effectively stimulate partnership between the governments and the corporate sector toward conservation of biodiversity.

### CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	INVESTMENT PRIORITIES
<p><b>1. Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkans; Cyrenaican Peninsula; and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors</b></p>	<p>1.1 Support civil society involvement in the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the advancement of best practices in integrating nature conservation with the tourism sector</p> <p>1.2 Raise awareness and influence the choices of the European tourist market and tourism businesses in favor of tourism practices appropriate for nature</p> <p>1.3 Support local stakeholders to advance and benefit from nature-based tourism through the diversification of tourism-related activities and generation of alternative livelihoods</p>
<p><b>2. Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Atlas Mountains, (2) Taurus Mountains, (3) Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains and (4) Southwest Balkans</b></p>	<p>2.1. Contribute to and establish Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) initiatives for pilot basins and replicate best practices, to reduce the negative impacts of insufficiently planned water infrastructures</p> <p>2.2. Support IRBM policy and legislation development and implementation through capacity building and advocacy at all appropriate levels</p> <p>2.3. Support innovative financing mechanisms for conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems and traditional water catchments</p> <p>2.4. Facilitate and support adaptation to climate change via improving water use efficiency in agricultural landscapes and allowing environmental flows for key biodiversity areas</p> <p>2.5 Share and replicate the lessons learned and best practices from and with other river basin management experiences elsewhere in the Mediterranean</p>

<b>3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas</b>	<p>3.1. Establish new protected areas and promote improved management of existing protected areas by developing and implementing sustainable management plans</p> <p>3.2. Develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas</p> <p>3.3. Raise awareness of the importance of priority key biodiversity areas, including those that have irreplaceable plant and marine biodiversity</p>
<b>4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team</b>	<p>4.1. Build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem</p> <p>4.2. Act as a liaison unit for relevant networks throughout the Mediterranean to harmonize investments and direct new funding to priority issues and sites.</p>

The CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin, though of regional scope and ambition, has been de facto limited to the 12 countries during the 2012-2014 investment period – including for security reason. The table below provides indication about Mediterranean countries eligibility to CEPF funding.

Mediterranean Countries	CEPF Eligibility	Endorsement Date	Comments
Albania	Yes	2011	
Algeria	Yes	November 2013	Became eligible only in 2013 and was not included in first Calls for Proposals
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Yes	June 2011	
Cape Verde	Yes	December 2011	
Croatia	Yes – until July 2013	December 2011	The adhesion of the country to European Union made it ineligible from July 2013.
Egypt	No	-	Focal point has been contacted at several occasions but no endorsement secured. Political and security situation in 2010-2013 also a concern for potential investments.
Jordan	Yes	October 2011	
Lebanon	Yes	January 2012	
Libya	Yes	October 2012	Security situation has reduced CEPF investment in the country since mid-2013
Macedonia	Yes	September 2010	
Montenegro	Yes	October 2010	
Morocco	Yes	April 2012	
Syria	No	2011	GEF focal point endorsement received but investments impossible due to political and security reasons.
Tunisia	Yes	2011	
Turkey	No	-	Formal GEF focal point endorsement has not been secured - therefore preventing CEPF investment.
France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Monaco	No	-	Not eligible as EU member States, or not World Bank client

## 2) Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot was established to provide the strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment. The Regional Implementation Team for the Mediterranean Basin is a consortium of member organizations of the BirdLife Partnership, led by BirdLife International. The other partners are:

- La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO – BirdLife in France), in charge of North Africa (except Egypt) and Cape Verde,
- DOPPS (BirdLife in Slovenia), in charge of the Balkans
- And BirdLife Middle-East Office, in charge of the Middle-East countries and Egypt.

In December 2013 the Programme Leader resigned from the RIT. The timing of this departure, after the initial implementation phase, gave the RIT the opportunity to analyse where the gaps were in the RIT and what needed to be strengthened going forward.

After discussions with the RIT, regional offices and CEPF Secretariat, the team decided that an exact replacement for the Programme Leader role would not correctly fill the gaps that were left. New and existing skills within the RIT could be used, as well as senior-level technical and fundraising support within the regional offices. With more capacity built within these offices to provide the support needed to cover some more administrative and communication aspects of the RIT tasks, existing members can fulfill the deliverables required. An additional key learning from the first phase was that face-to-face meetings in all regions were vital to understand the strengths and weaknesses of grantees, determine connections and relationships between organizations, communicate the CEPF programme, identify potential grantees and partners, and to understand the issues affecting CSOs and KBAs in the area. Visits to the region are invaluable and so travel budget has been increased to allow the RIT to carry out their programmatic and administrative duties.

The organization chart of the Regional Implementation Team is provided in Appendix.

## II. Implementing the Strategy

### 1) Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders

A large number of donors support biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Hotspot, and several regional initiatives and platforms exist to foster partnership and collaboration. CEPF cannot, practically, take an active part in each of these initiatives, and therefore the favored approach has been to strengthen relationship with the donor community working specifically with non-State actors in the field of conservation.

Several donors and important stakeholders are part of the CEPF MED Advisory Committee, which provides strategic advice to CEPF, and help identify opportunities for collaboration.

CEPF also participates to the Mediterranean Donors Roundtable which brings together once a year representatives from Oak Foundation, Fonds Francais pour l'Environnement Mondial, Adessium Foundation, Mava Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, and Fundacion Biodiversidad.

**Members of the Advisory Committee**

Fabrice Bernard	Conservatoire du littoral (France)
Munir Adgham	GEF Small Grant Program (Jordan)
Antonio Troya	The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Aissa Moali	University of Bejaia (Algeria)
Myrsini Malakou	Society for the Protection of Prespa (Greece)
Bertrand de Montmollin	IUCN/SSC/MPSG - Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group
Paule Gros	MAVA Foundation
Paolo Lombardi	WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
Constance Corbier	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
Raphaël Cuvelier	Prince Albert II Foundation (Monaco)
Jean Jalbert	Tour du Valat (France)

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

The most important collaboration with a donor is the partnership with MAVA Foundation, which became a Regional Donor of the CEPF Mediterranean Program in 2014, providing an additional \$1.129 million to CEPF's investment for the Strategic Direction 1 on coastal management.

CEPF is also involved in the Programme Petites Initiatives (PPI-OSCAN), funded by MAVA and FFEM and implemented by IUCN MEDPO, which supports local civil society organizations in North Africa. This partnership allows for synergies between the two programs – in particular with PPI supporting the continuation of actions initiated through CEPF support.

## 2) Portfolio Status

### i) Calls for Proposals

Since January 2012, CEPF launched eight Calls for Proposals, receiving a total of 227 Letters of Intents for Large Grants and 152 for Small Grants. The details of these calls are presented in the table below.

Release	Deadline	Specifications	Countries	Lols received	Approved
Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Large Grants Focus on regional	All eligible	40	6 (15%)
Oct. 2012	Nov. 2012	Large Grants All SDs	All eligible	77	19 (25%)
Nov. 2012	Dec 2012	Small Grants All SDs	All eligible	97	19 (20%)
Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Large Grants All SD	Algeria, Libya	15	1 (7%)
Jun. 2013	Jul. 2013	Large and Small Grants, SD 2	Albania, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Macedonia	LG: 34 SG: 12	LG: 7 (21%) SG: 3 (25%)
Nov. 2013	Jan 2014	Small Grants All SD	Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Libya, Macedonia, Morocco, and Tunisia	43	13 (30%)
Apr. 2014	May. 2014	Large Grants SD 1	Algeria, Cape Verde, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia	27	7 (26%)
Oct. 2014	Nov. 2014	Large Grants SD 2	Albania, Montenegro, Morocco and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.	34	5 (15%)

Two large grants have been made outside of a CFP, on basis of emergency or opportunity (for an investment priority for which no concept was submitted during calls). Several small grants were also issued based on concepts initially submitted under calls for large grants. Through these varying experiences it has become apparent that flexibility is very much needed in the region. Emerging issues and low capacity means that the CEPF-RIT had to work closely and creatively alongside applicants to develop more workable grants and mitigate risks.

Overall, the quality of the applications varies significantly across the region. Applications from the Balkans – and in particular from the countries of the former Yugoslavian Republic - are generally of good quality, in contrast with applications from North Africa. This could be considered as an indicator of the overall capacity of civil society, with organizations in North Africa being often younger, with less experience of project preparation. But the situation faced by organizations and individuals in times of political turmoil, in particular in Libya and Tunisia also certainly impacted the ability to develop proposals. As a consequence, the award of grants also differed between the sub-regions (see following section), calling for a strengthened effort in terms of reaching out and closely support NGOs in countries where capacity needs are more important – and possibly calling for additional flexibility in some countries.

## ii) Overview of the CEPF Portfolio

The following tables present the situation of projects that were active or completed as of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

Strategic Directions		Allocated Budget	Contracted Grants			% Contracted
			Total Amount	No. of Large grants	No. of Small grants	
SD1	Integrated Coastal Management	\$ 3,390,000	\$ 2,684,936	15	12	79%
SD2	Sustainable Management of Water Catchments	\$ 2,017,652	\$ 1,787,722	11	9	89%
SD3	Strengthen KBA conservation	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,174,643	15	20	91%
<b>SUB-TOTAL Portfolio</b>		<b>\$ 8,907,652</b>	<b>\$ 7,647,301</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>85%</b>
SD4	Regional Implementation Team <i>(including small grants for mid term assessment)</i>	\$ 2,109,092	\$ 2,109,092	2	7	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 11,016,744</b>	<b>\$ 9,756,393</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>89%</b>

Note: the Table does not include data for three projects in the process of being approved at the time of the assessment, totaling an estimated amount of \$ 210,000 on Strategic Direction 2 – leading to an estimated 98 percent of the allocated budget committed for this strategic direction.

During the first 2.5 years of CEPF investment, a global amount of a bit more than \$ 7.6 million has been committed to grants in the 12 eligible countries – to which should be added a budget of 2.1 million committed to the Regional Implementation Team. Therefore, 89 percent of the budget allocated for the Mediterranean Basin at present time, including MAVA additional support, has been committed.

The granting structure of the portfolio is characterized by the magnitude of the commitments in the first two years of investment. Among the reasons that could explain the phenomena is the delay in between approval of the Ecosystem Profile (2010) and delivering the first grants (2012) – due to procedural constraints independent from CEPF (among which non-endorsement by Turkish government). The considerable expectations from the civil society – as well as the quantity and quality of the proposals during first CfP led to grant about 17 Large grants in the first six months of the investment period. During this period, Large grants averaged a size of \$ 202,000, and 13 grants presented budgets over USD 200,000 - awarded mostly to international organizations, even if most projects included sub-grants to national organizations.

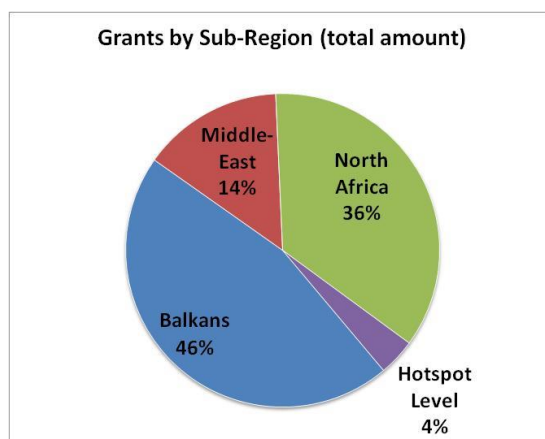
From January 2014, when implementation could be considered at “cruise speed”, 17 Large grants have been awarded (one third of portfolio), all but two to national organizations, and with a considerably lower average (\$125,000).



### Investment by Regions and Countries

The level of granting has been slightly higher in the Balkans. If this could be partly considered to be a reflection of the difference in the capacities of civil society, two other factors have to be taken into account:

- the fact that Libya and Algeria became eligible only in 2013 and
- the political situation in Libya where some projects about to be approved were finally withdrawn due to security situation.



The level of granting in the Middle-East is at the level expected, considering the limited number of eligible sites and the impossibility to support Syrian organizations due to the events.

The North Africa region is characterized so far by the importance of Regional Projects, which account for USD 1,065,000 – or about 42% of the budget invested in this part of the hotspot. Most of these projects have national activities, implemented in partnership with national sub-grantee organizations.

### CEPF support to Local vs. International organizations

CEPF has awarded 61 grants to national organizations (24 Large grants, 37 Small grants) and 23 to International NGOs (17 Large grants, 6 Small grants). Yet, as the large regional grants have been mostly awarded to International NGOs, this last group represents 47% of the amount awarded by CEPF in the region – even if this does not take into account the re-granting to national organizations within these large projects.

The ratio of support to national organizations (73% of grants, 53% of the amount) is satisfying for a new investment region for CEPF. During first years in a large, multi-country hotspot, reaching out and supporting local organizations needs time. Yet, additional efforts would be needed to support national NGOs to access to large grants, in particular in North Africa.

### III. Performance of CEPF's Investment

#### 1) Portfolio-level Performance

##### Grant-making process and grant management

*This Section is based mostly on the results of the on-line survey and national assessments. More details could be found in Annexes.*

**Call for Proposals:** The majority of applicants find CEPF Calls for Proposals easy to understand and to apply to (60% - only 9% find them difficult). 78% of organizations received their responses within the targeted time of 10 weeks (and 54% within 6 weeks). The team pays a special attention to send individual, detailed responses to all applicants – these responses are considered useful by 94% of applicants (very useful by 63%). Interestingly enough, a comparable ratio exists for unsuccessful applicants (75% found the rejection letter useful).

**Reporting:** Few applicants (less than 10%) consider financial or performance reporting difficult, with majority of respondents (49%) finding them neither easy nor difficult, indicating potential to improve the CEPF system. Generally speaking, grantees (and applicants) are satisfied with the support received from the Regional Implementation Team and Secretariat (46% very satisfied)<sup>2</sup>.

From survey and assessments, it appears that CEPF has several strong points in the landscape of donors in the Mediterranean Basin:

- Ability to communicate in local languages (RIT Program Officers speaks English, French, Arabic and Serbo-Croatian, most documents are available in English, French and Arabic...);
- Proximity with applicants, with interlocutors (RIT and Secretariat) from the civil society, who understand their needs and problems.
- Simplicity of tools and procedures (relatively simple to use and adapted to national NGOs).

But several points could also get improved – and many suggestions were received during the Mid-Term Assessment, such as: organizing face-to-face workshop prior to Calls for Proposals; additional guidance (and clearer guidelines) as regards finance and administration. While CEPF is generally flexible on budgetary issues (with possible changes up to 15% of total budget), several grantees mentioned the lack of flexibility as an issue – highlighting the need for CEPF to investigate the reason for this and to improve communication about the procedures.

##### Global performance of CEPF grantees

At the time of mid-term assessment, most projects are still on-going making it difficult to get a comprehensive overview of the grantees performance. Nevertheless, from the bi-annual performance reports, most projects appear to be on-track. Only one project had to be cancelled due to under-performance (in Albania), and a handful has been amended to cope with changing circumstances.

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<sup>2</sup> Details of the results from the on-line survey are presented in Annex.

The performance in project implementation varies a lot within the region, reflecting the variation of civil society. The Balkans are characterized by a dynamic civil society, familiar with project preparation and implementation, and generally used to financial procedures – certainly as a result of the tradition that civil society has in some countries and the European support to civil society for the last 15 years in this “neighboring” region. Situation in North Africa is pretty different from one country to another. In Algeria, project preparation and inception have experienced delays in relation with the administrative requirements. The security situation in Libya has also impacted civil society organizations supported by CEPF. Such situations require flexibility to support civil society, maybe with less focus on sites and themes originally set up in the profile. The implementation of projects in Middle-East has been smooth in spite of the security issues.

One of the important achievements has been the creation of alliances and enhanced cooperation between civil society organizations. A great example of such alliance-building activity has taken place on the Lake Skadar KBA, on the Montenegro-Albania border. When CEPF launched the first call for proposals, five proposals were submitted for this KBA, largely overlapping and in any case uncoordinated. Confronted with this situation, CEPF awarded a small grant to set up a workshop with the objective of harmonizing the approaches for the conservation of the site. This led to a clarification of the roles of the organizations, and preparation of joint proposals involving most of the local organizations and institutions, resulting in good conservation results. Similar synergy happened in the same country with a coordinate set of action for integrated coastal management of the region of Ulcinj. Another example has been reported from Tunisia, where local organizations have benefitted from support from several CEPF-funded projects (with Association des Amis des Oiseaux, IUCN, Tour du Valat, and Association Tunisienne des Ingenieurs Agronomes) and are now getting organized as a network, to defend the coastal wetlands and work with local governments and communities. Similar situation happens in Lebanon, where the civil society organizations are reaching together, through separate projects, impressive conservation targets (see below). Three large projects are also currently working closely together in the Drin river basin between Macedonia and Albania - each developing activities in their own field but for a unique objective.

Such synergies happen in places where CEPF investment is focused on a – relatively – small area. In spite of very good individual projects, there hasn't been such collaboration in Morocco, where Atlas Mountains priority corridor stretches over 600 km and encompasses 26 KBAs. Investments in Cape Verde or Jordan are also limited in scope, with a few projects in each country, limiting the possibilities of mutually supportive initiatives.

Overall, the area of performance with the greatest room for improvement remains in setting up more regional cooperation between the grantees. A few trans-border projects have proved quite successful (in the Balkans), exchanges of experience have taken place (between North African countries and Jordan, or Montenegro and Albania...), and information is shared through the RIT communication tools (website, newsletter, facebook etc.). Both on-line survey and national assessments highlighted the usefulness of the virtual or face-to-face exchanges, and suggested that CEPF expand them. Additional steps will therefore be needed to reinforce the regional dimension of the program.

## 2) Preliminary Impacts Summary

In terms of the biological and socioeconomic indicators in the logical framework, after only two years and half of operations (and often more for some later projects), it is more appropriate to speak of progress toward those goals than achievement, per se.

### Species outcomes

While CEPF has no species outcomes as part of the Mediterranean Strategy, 35 Red List Species (VU, EN, CR) have directly benefitted from project funding (i.e. with specific actions improving their conservation status). This includes plant species (Atlas Cedar, Algerian Fir, Lebanese Iris, Wild Grape), mammals (Barbary Macaque, Long-fingered Bat), reptiles (Leatherback and Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Olm), birds (Cape Verde Shearwater, White-headed Duck, Marbled Teal, Great Knot, Egyptian Vulture, Syrian Serin, Dalmatian Pelican or Algerian Nuthatch) or fish (European Eel, Danube Salmon, Adriatic Salmon). At some sites, even after a limited implementation period, results have been obtained in terms of reducing pressure (Cape Verde Shearwater, Loggerhead Turtle) or even increase of the local population (Dalmatian Pelican). Several other species are expected to benefit directly from KBA protection.

While several species will benefit from CEPF-supported actions, it is doubtful that a change in IUCN Red List status could be noted for any of them within the investment period or even after. Additional work would be needed in terms of monitoring to track CEPF impact on Mediterranean species, notably by monitoring trends of threats at site level.

### Site outcomes

38 Priority KBAs are covered by CEPF-supported projects since the start of the investment in 2012 (72% eligible Priority KBAs). Another 15 KBAs have also received funding from CEPF to conserve habitats and species. The results in terms of improved management of sites cannot be measured at portfolio level at present time, as most projects are still in the first phases of implementation. Nevertheless, some areas have already seen improvement in management, such as in Lake Skadar (Montenegro, Albania), Hutovo Blato (Bosnia and Herzegovina) or Mujib (Jordan).

6 new protected areas have been created with CEPF support between 2012 and 2014, totaling 28,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas. An additional 1,500 ha of protected areas has been declared but with no visibility on its long-term management at present time. Several projects are currently working with an objective of protection of between 14,000 and 17,000 ha of new protected areas (terrestrial) in the region.

CEPF-funded projects support actions to improve the management of 26 protected areas of the region, representing 357,000 ha of protected areas. CEPF also supports activities aiming at strengthening biodiversity conservation outside protected areas (in productive landscapes) at 24 sites, covering an area of 778,000 ha. Activities at site vary largely from one grant to another, from ecosystem restoration to biodiversity management, from improved agricultural practices to support to ecotourism, from development of alternative livelihoods to water management initiatives. The benefit to biodiversity could be direct or indirect. This is a reflection of the diversity of the region as well as of civil society approaches and is, as such, a strength of the CEPF portfolio. It nevertheless makes it difficult to monitor results at the portfolio level.

CEPF has also supported several actions to support the enhancement of the knowledge-base for key biodiversity areas. The most important in scope is the identification of Mediterranean Freshwater KBAs, implemented by IUCN Freshwater programme. This action led to identification of 167 freshwater KBAs, covering more than 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> – including 40 Alliance for Zero Extinction sites;

this work would represent a cornerstone for future freshwater conservation initiatives in the region. At a smaller scale, CEPF has supported the identification of the Important Plant Areas in Lebanon (based on a revision of the plants Red List for the country), setting up a new set of conservation targets in this country, including very small areas that were largely overlooked in the past. This action has already led to creation of the first micro-reserves in this country, also supported by CEPF. In the Balkans, CEPF has supported inventories of biodiversity of the karst caves of Bosnia and Herzegovina that would certainly lead to a revision of the KBA status in this region.

Progress in terms of sustainable financing is still slow (see below, highlights for strategic direction 3).

For activities leading to creation of new protected areas, as well as activities to improve conservation in existing protected areas and surrounding productive landscape, a two-year period of implementation is still too limited to measure conservation impact. All stakeholders underlined the need for additional support to sustain the efforts – through setting up sustainable funding, strengthening community involvement and ensuring commitment of national or local authorities.

### Socio-economic impacts

Most of CEPF-supported projects in the Mediterranean basin have a socio-economic component – working closely with local communities and developing economic activities compatible with conservation of biodiversity.

In Albania, *Albaforest* worked with local communities on developing anti-erosion models based on reforestation and improved land-use management, to preserve the Drin river basin. Also in Albania, The *Women at Work Initiative* in a coastal area with scarce and polluted water sources worked with local women to clean and re-activate water springs what would benefit local community and biodiversity of the area. In Lebanon, *Al Shouf Reserve* worked on developing handicraft with women to diversify the source of income and lower the pressure on Cedar forests. In Jordan, *USDWE* worked on water-efficient production of “green fodder” to limit overgrazing in Mujib Reserve during the dry season. In Tunisia, local groups are working with the municipalities to preserve and value the coastal wetlands that provide multiple ecosystem services. In Morocco, *GDF* works with local communities on improved water management systems, together with the production of high added value products based on medicinal plants. Also in Morocco, association *AGIR* works with fishing communities to improve fishing practices, increase revenues while respecting no-catch zones to replenish fish stocks... Overall, 59 communities have benefitted from our partners projects, and eight specific income generation activities have been implemented. 14 sustainable water management practices are also currently undertaken.

Several grants include activities with private sector stakeholders – a large proportion of them in relation with eco-tourism. *INCA*, a leading NGO in Albania, has supported micro-projects to initiate small ecotourism business in the Karaburun area (boat tours, diving...) in an attempt to change the public perception of tourism. *Green Home* in Montenegro is setting up a shop for local natural products. *PPNEA* in Albania involved 10 private owners in developing guest-houses or to involve local women to prepare and sell local culinary products to daily-tourists visiting Butrint National Park.

CEPF grantees have also been able to influence several policies and plans. In Morocco, *AMEPN* efforts for environmental education have been recognized by the Ministry of Education and their programme included in the official curriculum, while their efforts with the national sport fishing federation led to improvement of the national fishing regulation. In Montenegro, several CEPF grantees actively participated in production of two important policy documents that are still underway – the Spatial Plan for the Ulcinj Municipality and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan. Harmonized action of the four CEPF grantees that covered different places and

areas of interest of this complex area is already showing some results in making the mentioned plans being more nature-friendly.

### **Civil Society Impact**

So far, 68 organizations have been supported through Large or Small Grants -75 percent of which being national or local organizations. An additional 13 organizations (all but one national) have benefitted from CEPF support as sub-grantee within a larger project. The capacity of the organizations has been measured with CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Tool<sup>3</sup>, and improvement will be measured by the end of the programme.

One of the most important impacts of CEPF in terms of Civil Society development has been is fostering network and collaborative actions. Already, several networks, formal and informal, are emerging as a direct or indirect result of CEPF support: in Tunisia with organizations working on coastal areas, in the Balkans around Lake Skadar or Lake Orhid, in Albania on the hunting issue, or in Lebanon on the protection of endangered flora. It is still early to measure this impact on the "conservation community" at national or site-level, but comments from national assessment highlight the important contribution of CEPF in this regard. Additional efforts would be needed from CEPF to help organizations maintain the momentum.

On the other hand, exchanges and collaborations have been limited across the regions – for instance in between Balkans and North Africa or North Africa and Middle-East. Recommendations from national assessments, and even more from the regional workshop, call for some additional efforts to strengthen relationship between grantees from all over the Mediterranean Basin.

## **3) Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction**

This section is meant to succinctly provide a synthesis of the performance of CEPF's investment at strategic direction level, highlight main accomplishments and challenges per Strategic Direction.

### **i) Strategic Direction 1: Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Tourism**

As of May 2015, 27 grants have been awarded under this Strategic direction (15 large grants and 12 small grants). All but two grants started after the second half of 2013, and half of the grants are still in their first year of implementation, which implies a very conservative approach as regards present "impacts". The ecosystem profile did not consider the Middle-East region under the priority for this direction (Lebanese organizations suggested to include their country during the Mid-Term Assessment). Two thirds of the grants (17) are concentrated in North Africa. Tunisia and Montenegro have benefitted from 6 grants each – and unsurprisingly are the countries where most impact has been observed.

Most proposals submitted under this Strategic direction focused on the diversification of the tourism activities and generation of alternative livelihoods – in a nutshell, projects promoting eco-tourism activities. These kinds of activities fit well with the missions and capacities of the many Mediterranean CSOs. CEPF has indeed supported several projects with such focus, even if projects generally had more implications than mere promotion of an ecotourism activity. This is the case, for instance, of the project promoting Ulcinj salina as an ecotourism destination implemented by

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<sup>3</sup> The Civil Society Tracking Tool has been developed by CEPF as a standardized approach to evaluate capacities of organizations against five major criteria: Human resources, Financial resources, Management systems, Strategic planning and Delivery. CEPF grantees are asked to do a self-evaluation with CSTT a least at the beginning and end of projects.

*Center for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP)* in Montenegro, which turned out to evolve in building the case for protected areas legislation in the country, mobilizing the international community to preserve this unique coastal wetland. *Association des Amis des Oiseaux* and their four local partners in Tunisia do not only promote birdwatching as a ecotourism activity, but build up a local civil society network that work at the recognition and promotion of natural habitats – in particular wetlands – by the local authorities. “Land of Castles and Eagles”, implemented by *Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania*, has supported local businesses and set up trekking trails – but also reviewed the bird list of Albania and created the first birdwatching guide in Albanian, setting up foundations that go far beyond stand alone activities.

One of the anchor grants under this Strategic direction is the support to *WWF-MEDPO* project SEA-Med project (Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas). This project – for which CEPF is one of several co-donors –addresses fisheries and tourism management through a stakeholder participatory approach, to demonstrate the value of MPAs for marine resources management and livelihood generation and to contribute to the creation of exemplary models of Integrated Coastal Management Zones. CEPF supports specific capacity-building activities with local civil society organizations, implemented in Tunisia by *Living Planet Tunisia*, the WWF affiliate in the country and in Albania by *INCA*, under a separate grant. Untypical for CEPF in some ways, this grant allows CEPF to be part in a regional initiative, to capitalize on the WWF experience to inform further decision under this Strategic direction.

The most challenging corridor is and will be in the coming years the Cyrenaican Peninsula in Libya – where the political and security situation, combined with low capacity of the new civil society, would be limiting factors to result-leading projects. Considering that Libya became eligible only at the end of 2012 and was not included in the first calls for proposals, to have on-going activities (a small grant to the *Libyan Society for Birds*, and a component of the *Tour du Valat* Large grant), could already be seen as a success, even if some other proposals had to be refused for security reasons, and activities of regional projects reduced in scope.

If most of projects under the Strategic Direction 1 are demonstrating good results at the local level, the investment has fallen short in terms of “influencing integrated coastal zone management schemes”. The only place where significant progress have been made is the Montenegrin portion of the Southeast Balkans corridor, with grants to *ECNC Land & Sea Group*, the *Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development*, *Green Home* and *CZIP*. There, local and international NGOs supported by CEPF actively participated in the consultation process for the local spatial planning exercise, providing information on species and sites, organizing multi-stakeholders consultation together with local authorities, developing scenarios to inform decision-making. It is then difficult to measure how this influenced the final decisions: “how would have been the situation without the NGO implication?” is a difficult question to answer. What is for sure is that CEPF allowed civil society to raise their voice.

Supporting CSOs to take part in large scale ICZM is made difficult within the CEPF investment for several reasons:



- Involvement in large scale ICZM processes requires capacities and a knowledge that is not commonly found among national organizations – all the more in the context of the “new” civil society emerging in North Africa for instance.
- The timeframe and location do not necessarily fit with CEPF investment strategy; CEPF investment in itself cannot initiate an ICZM planning process – which is ultimately under the responsibility of national or local government. CEPF investing in specific areas, at a specific time (in the last 2 and half year), it’s almost a matter of chance if an ICZM planning takes place at the right time and place. The case occurred in East of Montenegro – but not in other countries.

A gradual approach will be necessary to achieve CEPF’s objective under this investment priority – including mapping the existing ICZM processes, documenting past and on-going experiences, and support specific capacity-building or even mentoring programmes - potentially involving organizations from beyond the eligible countries or even the hotspot. Following the CEPF Advisory Group meeting in 2014, such actions have been initiated in the last year – in particular with a mapping exercise for North Africa and a capacity building programme in Tunisia; but it is still too early to measure the impacts of these initiatives. More flexibility might also be required in terms of geographic priorities to allow NGOs to get involved where and when ICZM processes are taking place.

Finally, the investment priority on influencing the European tourism sector has not seen any major achievement. One can argue that the promotion of local ecotourism products offers alternative options to tourists – and this is with no doubt welcome. Some good examples of these attempts could be *INCA* developing ecotourism business in Karaburun, *PPNEA* and *CZIP* promoting (not without challenges) bird-watching tourism offers in Narta and Ulcinj salinas, *AAO* proposing to Club Med resorts options for nature watching activities, or *Notre Grand Bleu* working on more sustainable tourism practices in Kuriat Islands with local tours operators. But no CEPF-supported project tackle this priority as initially presented in the Profile – and no proposals were received either during the 6 calls.

## **ii) Strategic Direction 2. Sustainable Management of Water Resources and Wise Use of Water**

This Strategic direction has been the slowest to start: only two projects were awarded before January 2014. There were very few proposals during the open calls from the beginning of the investment phase, and most of them were not of strategic value. This surprising unresponsiveness could be explained by several factors:

- i) At the time of the profiling, the issue of Integrated River Basin Management was in part driven by the situation in Turkey, where national hydropower policy is threatening several important sites for freshwater biodiversity. Civil society in this country would certainly have been very active on SD2, and pull other organizations from the other countries. But Turkey did not endorse CEPF strategy.
- ii) The investment priorities in the profile appear quite specific and require capacities that most of the “conservation organizations” do not have; on the other hand, organizations with focus on water management do not necessarily have the skills and capacity to prepare projects with biodiversity results.



Facing such a situation, the team had to launch specific calls for proposals, proactively engage with a wide range of organizations, and often to put several of them in contact, to generate proposals responding to the Strategy. The portfolio is now comprised of 20 grants (11 large and nine small). Most of the grants (15) are from the Balkans, six from North Africa. While there is no grant labeled under this strategic direction in the Middle-East (where only a small portion of Lebanon is now eligible), several projects from Lebanon and Jordan include actions on water management as a secondary focus.

The largest grant was awarded to IUCN for the Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Priorities, co-funded by MAVA. This project, which involved a large number of scientists from all countries of the Mediterranean basin, allowed for the assessment and mapping of 1,236 currently described species, and identification of 167 freshwater KBAs, among which 40 meet the criteria of the Alliance for Zero Extinction. This first assessment is undoubtedly a milestone for any future ICZM – and more generally for all policies related to water.

Regarding the contribution to Integrated River Basin Management in priority corridors, several projects are tackling the issue, mostly in the Balkans. *MIO-ECSDE* plays a key role in the process of sustainable development management plan of the largest river basin in the Balkans – the Drin river basin, and promotes sustainable values of the river among local populations in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro. One of the tools is documentary films, a modern way of visualizing values and importance of biodiversity, produced in partnership with *Kawka production* from Slovenia. This project is complementary with more research oriented project *Water for the Lakes, Bogs, Streams and People on Jablanica Mountains* led by *MES* from Macedonia, that provides both scientific data that can be used to influence management of the river and pilot area where sustainable ways of living can still be found and enhanced. A group of two Macedonian NGOs, *Grashnica* and *Gauss Institute* and Albanian NGO *IEA* joined using CEPF small grants mechanism in a common effort to promote sustainable use of water resources through development and promotion of smart water use schemes, such as the Agricultural Water Stewardship Programme. Local farming communities on Macedonian and Albanian sides of the Ohrid lake have been approached in efficient way, through public gatherings where theoretical and practical use of innovative water-saving techniques and economic models have been demonstrated. *Global Diversity Foundation* in Morocco is preparing a participatory water management plan in Ait Imegdale in the Atlas Mountains, working with local populations to reduce water consumption through sustainable agriculture and grazing practices, while promoting alternative livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural resources.

Most of these projects are still in their early stage and it is difficult to assess their impact on sustainable management of water resources. The main issue at stake here is the question of scale. Projects working at the scale of entire river basin might results in limited impacts – but over a large area. On the other hand, smaller projects (*Albaforest* on anti-erosion schemes in Albania, *Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre* on sustainable agricultural practices in Morocco) might have good results, but with limited impact on an entire river basin. Impacting sustainable water management at a large scale would require holistic approach, which is hardly reachable for national organizations. For instance in Albania, the *Urban Research Institute* works to turn Patoku lagoon into a friendlier place for biodiversity and people by identifying the sources of pollution. Despite involving more than 20 municipalities along the rivers, with good local results, the impact remains limited for the lagoon as pollution comes from the whole length of the rivers...

The most interesting challenge for CEPF has been to engage with organizations that have usually a limited interest in biodiversity conservation. Under this strategic direction, CEPF is now supporting

working on agricultural development, reforestation, new technology, urban planning, communication, community participation and even human-rights and governance. Only six projects have been awarded to traditional “conservation” organizations. This choice (which requires lots of efforts from the RIT) is bringing new experience – not only to CEPF but also to these organizations, often obliged to partner with scientist or local naturalist organizations. These new partnership might well be an important legacy of CEPF for the future – and represent an interesting avenue for future CEPF investment.

### **iii) Strategic Direction 3. Improve Conservation Status of Priority KBAs**

This Strategic Direction has unsurprisingly been the most popular of all – and at present time 34 grants (19 Large and 15 Small) have been awarded for a total amount of USD 3,175,000. Most projects under this strategic direction have started early on (30 of them in the first 18 months)

The large majority of the grants have been awarded under the Investment priority 3.1 – promotion of new protected areas and improvement of the management of existing ones. Initially, 44 KBAs had been identified as priority KBAs for this Strategic Direction, but this number is effectively reduced to 27 in the context of ineligibility of Turkey and impossibility to invest in Syria (in fact, biodiversity wise, we could even consider 25 sites, as two are transboundary KBAs: Lake Skadar and Lake Ohrid in the Balkans). The projects cover at present time 19 Priority KBAs, with a very wide range of interventions. Some KBAs are hosting several projects – as in the case of the Lake Skadar – while some regional initiatives benefits to several sites – as in the case of the *IUCN* or *Tour du Valat* projects in North Africa.

Six new protected areas have been created with CEPF support between 2012 and 2014, totaling 28,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas. An additional 1,500 ha of protected areas has been declared but with no visibility on its long-term management at present time. Several projects are currently working with an objective of protection of between 14,000 and 17,000 ha of new protected areas (terrestrial) in the region.

CEPF-funded projects support actions to improve the management of 26 protected areas of the region, representing 357,000 ha of protected areas. CEPF also supports activities aiming at strengthening biodiversity conservation outside protected areas (in productive landscapes) at 24 sites, covering an area of 778,000 ha.

Overall, the CEPF has contributed effectively to improve conservation status of at least 38 KBAs in the Mediterranean Basin, with interventions varying from site management planning, ecosystem services valuation, site protection and revival of traditional conservation approaches.

The development of sustainable funding mechanisms (IP 3.2), on the other hand, has received a lot less attention. *WWF MEDPO* has been working with partners (some supported by CEPF separately) on a “Payment for Ecosystem Services” (or rather an offset scheme) scheme to benefit Hutovo Blato Nature Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This grant had to be amended to adapt to a changing political context – leading the grantee to support legal action. While not confirmed yet, this project should lead soon to the first “PES” scheme in the Balkans with the local electricity company supporting the wetland protected area to compensate for the disruption of the water flows. A second project is in the pipeline to support some legal and communication activities for the future Prespa Conservation Trust, with *WWF Greece*. Here, CEPF supports small activities within a larger

scheme under development for years with support from MAVVA and the German government. The objective of development of large sustainable financing schemes requires a lot of time and high capacities – that are not found in local organizations. Such activities are also difficult to identify via Calls for Proposals. The position of CEPF is challenging in terms of supporting large-scale sustainable financing mechanisms, like the one envisioned in the Ecosystem profile, in a hotspot where a lot of initiatives are already being launched.

Several grants have been awarded that tackle the investment priority 3.3, whose objective is to raise awareness about the importance of KBAs and, therefore, influence decision-makers. Many small grants contribute to this investment priority such as the creation of a guide to the country's wildflowers produced by *Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon (AUL)*, studies on wild grape (*Vitis vinifera ssp sylvestris*) for future identification of important sites for the conservation of this species in Croatia<sup>4</sup> and Bosnia-Herzegovina by *Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation*, or identification of important sites for the Barbary Macaque in Morocco. These grants appear very complementary to other CEPF-supported activities, as they support the identification of new sites, provide useful data for management or valorize information gathered from larger projects. Their role in influencing decision-making would be more long-term and has been difficult to assess at the time of the Mid-term assessment.

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<sup>4</sup> the first and last CEPF grant to this country before it joined the European Union in July 2013

## IV. Priorities for July 2015 to December 2016 for CEPF Investment Strategy

### 1) Geographic Focus

The Geographic focus (priority corridors and KBAs) has been limited de facto, in comparison with the Ecosystem Profile due to reasons outside of CEPF control. External factors have meant three countries have not been part of this investment phase: security situation in Syria does not allow for investment, and Turkey and Syria have not endorsed the strategy.

- **CEPF should not focus efforts on getting approval to invest in Turkey and Egypt for the remaining time in this phase.** Priority sites and corridors from Turkey, Egypt and Syria will remain in documents presenting the strategy and results of current investment phase to highlight the regional view. If a second phase of CEPF investment occurs, CEPF will coordinate efforts to gain endorsement from the 3 countries as a top priority.

About 70% of (eligible) priority KBAs have benefitted from CEPF investment. The prioritization has been questioned only for a few sites (Gafsa and Lagoon of Nabeul in Tunisia for instance), but the vast majority of stakeholders consider that the CEPF priority sites reflect the conservation priorities of their respective countries – even if some additional sites should be considered in the future, if a second investment phase is launched. Investment in “new” sites would face the risk of not yielding conservation results in the limited implementation period available.

- **Apart for countries below, the list of priority KBAs set in the 2010 Ecosystem Profile could be maintained for the remainder of this investment phase.**
- **CEPF should focus attention on sites which have already received support in order to build on success,** and not attempt to support new projects in the remaining priority KBAs where no CEPF investment has taken place yet (except for small grant applications where quick-win or pilot projects may be beneficial).
- **Important Plant Area (IPA) activities for specific countries could be carried out in the remainder of this investment phase (e.g. through small grants);** as this area of data gathering can be time consuming and it pivotal to KBA identification, it would help create contacts, strengthen networks and collect baseline data in preparation of a second phase.

In Algeria, the law limits the activity of NGOs, which can only work in the district where they are established. NGOs working in CEPF priority sites are scarce, whilst several established NGOs couldn't apply to CEPF funding, creating a lot of frustration. In conjunction with Algeria's late endorsement and complex administrative barriers for international funding, the situation led to a limited CEPF investment.

- **In Algeria, some additional flexibility is needed to foster civil society actions.** In particular, restriction to some priority sites under some Strategic Directions should be removed, allowing CEPF to invest on the three strategic directions on all sites within the Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of the Algerian Tell priority corridor.

In Libya, the current political and security situation prevent NGOs to work in the priority corridor of the Cyrenaica Peninsula.

- **In Libya, CEPF should accept projects from the Western part of the country (West of Tripoli), and adopt a flexible approach to support civil society.**

Several suggestions have been made for adapting or improving the geographical focus, should a second phase of CEPF investment occur in the future. These areas may be revisited and advice sought from key stakeholders should the opportunity arise:

- Envisage the possibility to expand the investment to areas outside of the hotspot boundaries but with important ecological relations with the Mediterranean hotspot (for instance in the context of river basin projects)
- Generally speaking, an up-date of KBA would be needed, in particular taking into account new data like:
  - 2014 Freshwater KBA analysis performed by IUCN et al. (with CEPF funding),
  - Important plant areas and other research on plant diversity (in the Levant in particular)
  - Inventories of biodiversity of karst ecosystems in the Balkans (in particular from CEPF-funded projects on bats, olms etc.)
  - Emerging threats

Recent governmental strategies About 70% of the respondent to the online survey stated that the Ecosystem Profile should be updated.

## 2) Strategic Direction 1 “Integrated Coastal Zone Management”

The involvement of civil society in integrated coastal zone management faces three main issues: i) lack of capacity of local civil society to understand and actively participate in complex land-use planning exercise; ii) timing: a land-use planning, led by authorities, must be taking place for civil society to participate; iii) geographic focus: the CEPF geographic focus does not necessarily overlap with areas where ICZM processes are taking place. The discussions during assessment have revolved around the objectives of consolidating results, start the replication of successes and share lessons learned, foster regional cooperation, and build the capacities of organizations so as to prepare the ground for larger initiatives, to be funded either by CEPF in a second investment phase, or by other donors.

- **CEPF should support follow-up activities consolidating the results in the three main areas with CEPF-supported ICZM projects:** Montenegro (Ulcinj), Albania (several coastal KBAs) and Tunisia (Cap Bon)
- **CEPF should build up on existing capacity-building activities on ICZM (Tunisia, Montenegro...): communicating results and lessons learned, sharing tools developed,** using small grants to replicate in other countries/areas if possible.
- **CEPF should communicate widely to CSOs the results of the project on mapping ICZM processes and analyzing role of civil society (results expected end 2015).**
- **CEPF should encourage projects building bridges between civil society organizations and governmental organizations** working on urban/territorial planning – with use of small grants for targeted actions, demonstrating the positive role of civil society organizations.
- **CEPF should use small grants to encourage exchanges of experience and foster regional cooperation on ICZM:**
  - i) between CEPF grantees working on ICZM (Albania, Montenegro, Tunisia),
  - ii) with other grantees from other countries interested, and
  - iii) with other organizations (for instance from European countries).

- **CEPF should take a flexible approach regarding priority sites and corridors for ICZM projects**, and accept small grants proposals from the Coastal Atlantic Plains corridor in Morocco, and from the Lebanese coastline.
- **The Regional Implementation Team should play an active role in communicating and disseminating the results and lessons learned.** A small amount (around \$ 50,000) could be reserved for targeted actions on communication/dissemination and regional exchanges.
- **A specific Call for Proposals for Small Grants should be launched in third quarter of 2015, with focus on North Africa, based on the above points.**

As regards the Investment priority on influencing the European tourism market, stakeholders consider it a good idea in principle, but couldn't see entry point for CEPF apart from punctual activities at site-level. With the limited time remaining and with the limited interest demonstrated by civil society:

- **CEPF should not pursue efforts to award specific grants on "influencing the European tourism market"**

### 3) Strategic Direction 2: Sustainable Management of Water Resources and Wise Use of Water

At the time off the assessment, most funding available for this Strategic direction has already been allocated (either committed or in the pipeline following a call in November 2014). Also, projects under this strategic direction are in large part in their initial implementation period.

- **CEPF should not consider opening any new Call for Proposals for the Strategic Direction 2**
- **The Regional Implementation Team should play an active role in communicating and disseminating the results and lessons learned.** A small amount (around \$ 50,000) could be reserved for targeted actions on communication/dissemination and regional exchanges.

### 4) Strategic Direction 3: Improve Conservation Status of Priority KBAs

This strategic direction has been successful so far, with great conservation results at sites. The main gap in the strategy lays in the development of financial mechanisms to support protected areas – even if two projects are working on this Investment priority. As a result of the discussions, the main focus for CEPF should now be to consolidate and sustain the conservation results of existing projects, develop mechanisms to raise awareness on the importance of priority sites, and strengthen regional cooperation and prepare the ground for a future investment phase.

- **CEPF should support follow-up activities at a selection of priority sites, to consolidate the results and work on the sustainability of activities, including by supporting fundraising efforts.** This effort should be done mostly through amendment to existing projects and specific effort from the RIT. A specific focus could be put on sites in need of support to ensure a protection status in the coming years.
- **Where appropriate, CEPF should use Small Grants to ensure the information on KBAs and conservation results achieved by civil society, is made brought to the national authorities,** in particular in the context of the preparation of NBSAP.
- **Regional Implementation Team should play an active role in communicating and disseminating the results and lessons learned, and to foster collaboration between grantees working on similar issues** (i.e sustainable hunting, micro-reserves for plants...). A small amount could be reserved for exchange visits (either through small grants or as part of amendments).

- **Targeted grants could be used to fill up some knowledge gaps**, so as to prepare the ground for future prioritization process where needed (for instance, gathering data on flora in Cape Verde or Libya)

## 5) General guidance

- In the context of the Mediterranean hotspot, **CEPF should focus on a niche to support national and local organizations**, rather than International organizations who have more access to funding.
  - Whenever possible, **CEPF should engage larger NGOs to “mentor” local organizations**, in particular to support the local CSOs in applying to small grants mechanisms (being CEPF Small Grants or other mechanism such as PPI-OSCAN).
  - **CEPF should encourage partnership projects between organizations** of varying capacity at the project inception phase
  - Regional Implementation Team could work with NGOs to **assess their capacity needs** at Letter of Inquiry Stage, and include specific activities within the grant to fill the institutional gaps.
  - A small grant should be issued each year to organize in each country **a national workshop with all CEPF grantees** (as well as other stakeholders, for instance from government)
  - **A regional meeting** tackling a specific theme/s could also be beneficial where issues cross country boundaries and multi-country networking is key e.g. the Balkan states.
  - **A national report should be produced for each country, and communicated to media, governments and donors**, to highlight the positive role of civil society in achieving the national targets under the International Conventions, in particular CBD (Aichi targets).
  - **Any new large grant projects should be modular**, with implementation phases of several years, so that if the CEPF programme continues in the future the project may have a funding opportunity to expand the work in relation to a longer-term more sustainable goal.
  - CEPF need to put **emphasis on allegiances and partnerships** within existing and new grants; facilitating communications, connecting partners across sectors, stimulating common areas of work and forging relationships
  - CEPF need to identify and continue to **work with programmes who are dealing with the same themes** on capacity and conservation (e.g. GEF SGP and PPI-OSCAN).
  - **A partner landscaping exercise should be undertaken**, listing all partners (grantees) CEPF works with compared with other Med donors (using Donor Round Table contact). This scoping of who does what and with whom, will ultimately create a legacy to aid with the update of the Ecosystem Profile; identifying the current civil society landscape and help guide further investment to complement with other Med donors.
- **Based on what precedes, the allocation for Small grants in the Mediterranean Basin should be raised from \$ 750,000 to \$ 1 million.**



## Conclusion

The CEPF portfolio in the Mediterranean Basin has been progressing quickly in the first three years of investment. With almost 90 grants awarded for a budget over \$ 7.5 million, largely to national organizations, CEPF is making a tangible contribution to the preservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin. Naturally, some adjustments from the initial strategy set up in the Ecosystem Profile in 2010 are necessary. The contributions from all stakeholders involved in the Mid-Term Assessment Process, from January to May 2015, provide the CEPF Secretariat and Regional Implementation Team with invaluable advice for making the best use of available time and funds to help our partners achieve their goals for the protection of biodiversity.

Through the on-line survey, during national assessments or the regional workshop, partners from civil society, governments or donor agency have frequently highlighted the specific niche and added value of CEPF for conservation. This niche is to support young organizations not only to access funding, but also to get technical advice, to develop their institutional capacity, to become more credible vis-à-vis international donors, to become part of a larger community of CEPF grantees, in the Mediterranean Basin and beyond. In the Mediterranean Basin, where multiple initiatives on biodiversity conservation exist to which international organizations have access, the focus on local and national organizations is even more necessary, and will be at the core of CEPF efforts in the coming years. In particular, CEPF will make sure to provide opportunities for civil society to have ‘a voice’ in the development of environmental policies.



## Annex 1: Progress Against the Logframe

Objective	Targets	Progress to date (May 2015)
<p>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation and ecosystem services priorities</p>	<p><i>(note: due to eligibility issues, this target is now of 42 KBAs in 5 priority corridors)</i></p> <p>NGOs and civil society actors from CEPF eligible countries, with an emphasis on the priority 6 corridors and 70 key biodiversity areas, effectively participate in conservation programs guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>Development plans, projects and policies which influence the priority 6 corridors and 70 key biodiversity areas mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a focus on tourism, water and agriculture.</p> <p>70 priority key biodiversity areas have strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>Strategic areas of production landscapes of six priority corridors under improved management for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 68 organizations involved as main grantees on 84 projects (43 Small grants and 41 Large grants)</li> <li>- Projects have started in 38 KBAs (72% of eligible KBAs); all eligible corridors concerned.</li> <li>- <i>ICZM Strategy for Montenegro: 3 large grants working on ICZM for the municipality of Ulcinj, a section of this strategy</i></li> <li>-</li> <li>- <i>Six New Protected Areas created with CEPF support, totaling 28,000 of terrestrial ecosystems.</i></li> <li>- Currents grants working on improving management of 26 protected areas, representing 370,000 ha of protected areas.</li> <li>- 38 CEPF priority Key biodiversity Areas covered by CEPF-supported project (72% of eligible sites to date). Results in terms of improved management yet to be assessed.</li> <li>- <i>Projects working on improved management of productive landscape at 24 sites, in all priority corridors eligible.</i></li> </ul>

	<p>The Mediterranean Basin Hotspot ecosystem profile influences and complements other donor's investment strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The Ecosystem Profile, co-founded by MAVA Foundation and Prince Albert II Foundation, has been widely distributed.</i></li> <li>- <i>MAVA Foundation became a Regional Donor of the CEPF Mediterranean Program in 2014, providing an additional \$1.129 million to CEPF's investment for the Strategic Direction 1 on coastal management</i></li> <li>- <i>CEPF joined a Donor Round Table of Mediterranean focused organizations to ensure alignment</i></li> </ul>
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Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress to date (December 2013)
<p><b>Outcome 1.</b> Negative effects of coastal development, especially those associated with tourism, minimized via promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and sustainable nature-based economic alternatives, with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Southwest Balkans, (2) Cyrenaican Peninsula, and (3) Mountains, Plateaus, and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia, and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors.</p> <p><b>Budget:</b> \$2,500,000</p>	<p>Number of income generation projects that contribute to conservation of a key biodiversity area.</p> <p>Number of tourism development plans, tourism authorities, and tourism businesses adopting safeguards and environmentally friendly practices where CEPF investment will take place</p> <p>Coverage area of coastal zones subject of Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans or similar planning tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Southwest Balkans</u>: 7 projects awarded on ecotourism with expected income generation results</li> <li>- <u>Cyrenaican Peninsula</u>: no projects awarded on ecotourism yet</li> <li>- <u>Mountains, Plateaus, and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia</u>: 4 projects awarded on ecotourism with expected income generation results on 6 KBAs</li> <li>- <u>Other KBAs not in corridors</u>: 2 projects with expected income generation results in Cape Verde</li>   <li>- <i>1 tourism business adopted new practices (one in Cape Verde on Boa Vista – sea turtle watching)</i></li> <li>- <i>The Ulcinj Urban Planning and Coastal Zone Management has been influenced to integrate more eco-friendly tourism initiatives.</i></li> <li>- <i>New small eco-business created in Albania (Bojana, Karaburun Peninsula): diving tours, eco-guides, small restoration and habitat.</i></li> <li>- <i>New circuits and tourism offer to small business in Tunisia (Cap Bon, Tunis)</i></li>   <li>- Civil society engaged to influence Coastal Planning in Montenegro, the Ulcinj Municipality (three projects) – ICZM Strategy finalized in mid-2015.</li> <li>- 21 KBAs with CEPF-funded project to improved coastal zone management 2 Algeria, 5 Albania, 3 Cape Verde, 2 Montenegro, 1 Libya, 8 Tunisia (MNE1 (4 projects), CPV1, CPV2, CPV3, ALB5, ALB8, TUN17, TUN18, TUN4, TUN11, TUN46, TUN23, LBY6 (2 projects), DZA5)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Outcome 2.</b> Sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources established with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Atlas Mountains, (2) Taurus Mountains, (3) Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains, and (4) Southwest Balkans. The lessons learned shared and replicated from and with other river basin management experiences elsewhere in the Mediterranean. <b>Budget: \$3,000,000</b></p>	<p>Number of basins where IRBM has started</p> <p>Stronger legal basis for IRBM</p> <p>Hectares of habitats restored or protected through innovative financing triggered by CEPF investments</p> <p>Number of initiatives with significant impact to reduce water consumption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 river basin covered with initiatives to improve management at basin or sub-basin level level: Drin (Albaforest, MES, MIO-ECSCE), Ishmi (URI), Moraca (MANS/CZIP), Atlas (GDF), Oued Outat</li> <li>- Number of KBAs with CEPF-funded projects: 6 (4 priority KBAs in Morocco, 2 non-priority KBAs in Albania)(MAR23, Mar24, MAR20, MAR26)</li> <li>- No result yet with innovative financing. Some projects experiment payment for ecosystem services approaches in Balkans. One Ecosystem Services Valuation project in Lebanon (Al-Shouf Cedar Society) led to conclusive report under use for advocacy with government.</li> <li>- Morocco (Atlas): three initiative on agriculture (GDF,ENDA, AESVT). One awareness raising initiative (AMEPN, school of the river),</li> <li>- Lebanon (SPNL, Hima approach).</li> <li>- Southwest Balkans: several initiatives just srtaing, promoting sustainable agriculture, f=fight against erosion and improved use of water resources..</li> </ul>
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		<p>blato Nature Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina local communities are highly involved in discussions and preventions of illegal hunting; in Trebižat river KBA local communities were highly involved in promotional events and volunteers from local CSOs and other volunteers have been involved in cleaning of the river)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Middle-East: At least 55% of the grants under SD3 which objectives include increased stewardship of local communities (in the Anti Lebanon Mountain KBA, empowering women, and build the capacities of the local community to be able to manage their natural and cultural capital. In Jordan Mujib biosphere reserve, one small projects is working with local using new technology to produce green fodder for livestock throughout the year, to support local communities depending on the reserve for grazing activities.</li> <li>- North Africa: At least 75% of the grants under SD3 which objectives include increased stewardship of local communities (one project in Toubkal with Global Diversity Foundation is working with local community on improving livelihood and stop the uncontrolled collecting of medicinal and aromatic species by building their capacity and giving them an alternative to increase their income. Another project lead by Moroccan Primate Conservation is working closely with the local community in the conservation of Barbary macaque to improve their knowledge about the species and its ecotouristic value. They are working closely with them to stop the commerce of this emblematic species.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Outcome 4.</b> Strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment provided through a regional implementation team.</p>	<p>Regional Implementation Team performance in fulfilling the approved Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Number of groups receiving grants that achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actual performance of RIT approved by CEPF Secretariat</li> <li>- <i>Not yet available. Initial data gathered as baseline for final assessment.</i></li> </ul>
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## Annex 2: List of Beneficiary Organizations and Contracted Grants (2012-April 2015)

Applicant/ Grantee	Country	International Vs National	Applicant Acronym	Large Grantee	Small Grantee	Sub-Grantee
Agro-Environmental & Economic Management-Center	Albania	National	AEEM	X	X	
Albanian Society for the protection of Birds and Wild Fauna	Albania	National	PPNEA	X		
Centre for Forest Studies and Consulting (Albaforest)	Albania	National	Albaforest	X		
Institute for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development	Albania	National	IEED	X		
Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania	Albania	National	INCA	X	X	
Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (Institute for Environmental Policy)	Albania	National	IEP		X	
TWAWI	Albania	National	TWAWI		X	
Urban Research Institute	Albania	National	URI	X	X	
Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement	Algeria	National	AREA-ED	X		
Association National Algerienne d'Ornithologie	Algeria	National	ANAO			X
Association Promotion des Femmes Rurales de Wilaya de Skikda	Algeria	National	SKIKDA		X	
Laboratoire de recherche "Ecologie des Systèmes terrestres et Aquatiques"	Algeria	National	ECOSTAQ		X	
Université de Mascara	Algeria	National	UDM		X	
Centar za krš i speleologiju (Center for Karst and Speleology)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	CKS	X	X	
Hrvatska Ekološka Udruga (BUNA)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	BUNA		X	
Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	IAC		X	
Ljepa Nasa Environmental Society	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	Ljepa Nasa			X
Mountain Rescue Service of Herzegovina (Hercegovačka Gorska Sluzba Spasavanja)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	HGSS		X	
Nase Ptice Ornithological Society	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	Nase Ptice			X
Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	BIO.LOG		X	



The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, Country Office for Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	REC B&H	X	X	
BIOS.CV – Association for the Conservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development	Cape Verde	National	BIOS.CV		X	
Biosfera 1	Cape Verde	National	Biosfera 1			X
Bab Assalam Women's Cooperative	Jordan	National	BASWC		X	
Sweimeh Association Charity	Jordan	National	SWEIMEH		X	
The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	Jordan	National	RSCN	X		X
The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment	Jordan	National	USDWE		X	
Al-Shouf Cedar Society	Lebanon	National	Al-Shouf	X		
Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon	Lebanon	National	AUL		X	
Environment For Life	Lebanon	National	EFL		X	
Lebanese Environment Forum	Lebanon	National	LEF	X		
Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon	Lebanon	National	SPNL	X	X	
Université Saint-Joseph	Lebanon	National	USJ	X	X	
Libyan Society for Birds (LSB)	Libya	National	LSB		X	
GAUSS Institute – Foundation for New Technologies, Innovations and Knowledge Transfer	Macedonia	National	GAUSS		X	
Grashnica	Macedonia	National	Grashnica		X	
Macedonian Ecological Society (MES)	Macedonia	National	MES	X	X	
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe - Country Office for Macedonia	Macedonia	National	REC MK	X	X	
Green Home	Montenegro	National	Green Home	X	X	
Green Step	Montenegro	National	Green Step			X
NGO Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro	Montenegro	National	CZIP	X	X	X
The Network for the Affirmation of NGO Sector	Montenegro	National	MANS	X		
Ulcinj Business Association	Montenegro	National	UBA			X
ADDICT.COM, Agence de communication	Morocco	National	ADDICT		X	

Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre au Maroc - Section d'Ifrance	Morocco	National	AESVT		X	
Association Haute Moulouya pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Morocco	National	AHMEPN	X		
Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Morocco	National	AMPEN	X		
Association pour la Gestion Integree des ressources	Morocco	National	AGIR	X		
Enda Maghreb	Morocco	National	ENDA		X	
Federation Marocaine de Peche de Loisir	Morocco	National	FMPL			X
Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc - BirdLife in Morocco	Morocco	National	GREPOM		X	
Tissu associatif de développement de la province d'Azilal	Morocco	National	TADA		X	
Association « Les Amis des Oiseaux » Section Cap Bon	Tunisia	National	AAO Cap Bon			X
Association de protection de l'environnement Hammem Ghezaz	Tunisia	National	APEHG		X	
Association des Amis des Oiseaux	Tunisia	National	AAO	X		
Association des Fans de la Chebba	Tunisia	National	AFC		X	
Association Ecotourisme Environnement (ETE+)	Tunisia	National	ETE+			X
Association Tunisienne de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement Korba	Tunisia	National	ATPNE Korba			X
Association Tunisienne des Ingenieurs Agronomes	Tunisia	National	ATIA	X		
Living Planet	Tunisia	National	LP			X
Notre Grand Bleu	Tunisia	National	NGB	X		
Réseau des Enfants de la Terre - Sebkhet Soliman	Tunisia	National	RET Sbkhet Soliman			X
Thetys - Cabinet Sami Ben Haj	Tunisia	National	Thetys	X		
Fondation Tour du Valat	(France)	International	TdV	X		
Horwarth HTL	(France)	International	Horwath		X	
Noe Conservation	(France)	International	Noe	X		
EuroNatur	(Germany)	International	EuroNatur	X		
Turtle Foundation	(Germany)	International	TF	X		

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development	(Greece)	International	MIO-ECSDDE	X		
WWF Greece	(Greece)	International	WWF Greece	X		
Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale	(Italy)	International	AVSI			X
Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici S.c.a r.l.	(Italy)	International	CEM-CC	X		
Istituto Sindacale Per La Cooperazione Allo Sviluppo (Trade Union)	(Italy)	International	ISCOS	X		
WWF European Policy Programme-Branch Office	(Italy)	International	WWF MEDPO	X		
Stichting Moroccan Primate Conservation (MPC)	(Netherlands)	International	MPC		X	
Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves	(Portugal)	International	SPEA	X		
Društvo Za Jamsko Biologijo (Society of Cave Biology)	(Slovenia)	International	SCB		X	
Kawka Production	(Slovenia)	International	KAWKA		X	
ECNC Land & Sea Group Agrupación Europea de Interés Económico	(Spain)	International	ECNC	X		
The Living Med	(Spain)	International	TLM		X	
International Union for Conservation of Nature	(Switzerland)	International	IUCN	X		
Global Diversity Foundation	(United Kingdom)	International	GDF	X	X	
Conservation International - Conservation Stewards Program -	(United States)	International	CI-CSP			X

**Strategic Direction 1. Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors**

**Engaging Civil Society in Integrated Coastal Zone Management Planning**

Assist in the implementation of the Coastal Area Management Programme Project in the municipality of Ulcinj with a focus on the Delta Bojana Key Biodiversity Area. Improve the capacity of national and local institutions to implement Integrated Coastal Zone Management (IZCM) by raising the level of awareness of the value of natural resources and the threats from unsustainable development patterns.

Funding: \$58,012  
Grant Term: 1/1/2013 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: Institute for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

**Protecting Threatened and Endemic Species in Cape Verde: A Major Island Restoration Project**

Undertake the planning phase for the rehabilitation of Santa Luzia Island and establish biosecurity protocols with a view to the future translocation of the Critically Endangered Raso lark (*Alauda razae*). Engage with the Cape Verde protected-area authorities and local fishing communities and explore the potential for ecotourism activities within the Santa Luzia Island Natural Reserve and the Brancos and Raso Islets Integrated Reserve.

Funding: \$275,309  
Grant Term: 1/1/2013 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves

**Albania Field Project: Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas**

Develop a sustainable tourism management plan for the Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park and surrounding area; increase the local population and visiting tourists' awareness of the benefits of marine protected areas; and promote sustainable tourism and identify potential nature-based tourism initiatives. These activities complement the sustainable economic activities in Mediterranean marine protected areas led by the WWF Mediterranean Programme.

Funding: \$210,000  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2016  
Grantee: Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania

**Ecotourism in Ulcinj Salina**

Restore the infrastructure at Ulcinj Salina to create a tourist destination and gift shop showcasing the importance of this site for migrating birds on the Adriatic flyway. Train local guides to lead nature walks, learning from an exchange visit to Isola della Cona, Italy, and undertake regular monitoring of bird species in the salt pans.

Funding: \$170,976  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2015  
Grantee: NGO Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro

**Preserve and Enhance Sustainable Tourism Between Lalzi Bay and Berat, Albania**

Engage young Albanians, civil society organizations and government entities in promoting sustainable tourism practices, especially in Berat and Lalzi Bay. This includes the creation of a 'Green Radio' station and website aimed at promoting a balanced ecosystem approach that addresses pollution, waste management and other impacts of mass tourism in coastal areas.

Funding: \$52,993  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 11/30/2014  
Grantee: Istituto Sindacale Per La Cooperazione Allo Sviluppo

#### **Ecotourism Activities for the Conservation of Key Biodiversity Sites in Northern Tunisia**

Support the full participation of local communities in the management of five of the most important bird areas of Tunisia. The five sites are organized as a network, with each of them benefiting from support to rehabilitate tourism infrastructures and train birding guides. Association des Amis des Oiseaux, together with four local partner organizations, will create a web platform for promotion of the sites and their ecotourism facilities, allowing tourists to learn more about biodiversity while also organizing their trip and booking accommodations and tours.

Funding: \$246,746  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

#### **Land of Eagles and Castles: Pilot Sustainable Tourism Model for the Albanian Adriatic Coastline**

Identify, develop and market environmentally sound tourism opportunities along the Albanian coast in conjunction with relevant stakeholders such as local community associations, the tourism industry and government departments. These nature-based tourism activities will benefit biodiversity conservation, especially in priority key biodiversity areas, as well as the region's historical and cultural heritage.

Funding: \$248,623  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2016  
Grantee: Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

#### **Promoting Trebizat as an Ecotourism Destination**

Involve the local community, nongovernmental organizations and authorities to promote the sustainable development of Trebizat tributary through the wise use of natural resources. Ecotourism activities will showcase local products, natural values and the cultural heritage of the area.

Funding: (\$4)  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe

#### **Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas**

Improve the management of two Mediterranean marine protected areas, Ain-el-Ghazalah Bay in Libya and Cap Negro-Cap Serrat in Tunisia, through participatory planning and stakeholder engagement of civil society, nongovernmental organizations and government authorities to secure commitment and good governance. Promote marine protected areas as tools to deliver social and economic benefits in addition to their conservation value.

Funding: \$350,656  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2016  
Grantee: WWF European Policy Programme-Branch Office

### **Support Local Communities to Implement Nature-Based Tourism Practices Around Sasko Lake**

Promote sustainable tourism for the Bojana Delta of Montenegro, focusing on Sasko Lake, and improving local livelihoods by building the capacity of stakeholders and fostering a local tourism network. Seek to improve the legal protected area status of the lake to benefit nature conservation and minimize negative impacts to the lake and its biodiversity.

Funding: \$123,820  
Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 3/31/2016  
Grantee: NGO Green Home

### **Fostering and Bringing Together Nature, Tourism and Civil Society at Bojana Delta Through Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

Mitigate the threats from unsustainable tourism development of Bojana Delta in Montenegro through the development of a comprehensive integrated coastal zone management plan for this pristine area through a community-based, participatory approach. This process will identify alternative sustainable coastal tourism opportunities that will preserve coastal ecosystems, benefit natural resources and protect priority sites as well as maintain cultural heritage integrating sport, cultural and recreational activities.

Funding: \$240,382  
Grant Term: 11/1/2013 - 11/30/2015  
Grantee: ECNC Land & Sea Group Agrupación Europea de Interés Económico

### **Mapping Integrated Coastal Zone Management Initiatives and Lessons Learned in North Africa**

Capitalize on past and existing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) approaches in North Africa to complete preliminary mapping and analysis of positive and negative experiences, with a particular focus on the involvement of civil society. The grantee will then prepare a toolkit and complete trainings for civil society organizations from the North African countries to increase their capacity to become involved in ICZM.

Funding: \$72,000  
Grant Term: 11/1/2014 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: Cabinet Sami Ben Haj

### **Contribute to the Conservation of Kuriat Islands and the Bay of Monastir Through the Involvement of Civil Society and the Private Sector**

Build capacity of Notre Grand Bleu to become an efficient local partner of the National Agency for the Protection of Coastal Zones to implement the management plan for the future marine protected area on Kuriat Islands in Tunisia.

Funding: \$159,994  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 6/30/2016  
Grantee: Notre grand bleu

### **Fair Access: Managing Turtle Watching and Quad Bike Traffic on the Nesting Beaches of Boavista**

Create a "turtle hotline" to ensure fair distribution of turtle watching tours on Boavista, an island in Cape Verde, and minimize human disturbance, which could be damaging to turtle nesting sites. Coordinate a series of workshops and discussions with all stakeholders involved to ensure acceptance and to build a sustainable financing mechanism based on a user fee for the turtle hotline. Mark quad trails to minimize the environmental impact of turtle watching on nesting sites, coastal wetlands and other natural areas.

Funding: \$77,922  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 10/31/2016  
Grantee: Turtle Foundation

### **Strengthening Tunisian Organizations Environmental and Technical Skills**

Work to build a more effective civil society community for the conservation of coastal biodiversity, directly supporting 14 local organizations working at seven important coastal sites in Tunisia. Coordinate the program to strengthen civil society capacities in technical skills, including training on integrated coastal zone management, and to build administrative and financial capacities, as well as strategic planning.

Funding: \$76,770  
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 7/31/2016  
Grantee: Association tunisienne des Ingénieurs Agronomes

### **Contribute to the Conservation of Bou Areg Laguna Through the Involvement of Civil Society in Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

Work with the fishermen in the Bou Areg (Mar Chica) Laguna, a priority area for tourism development on the coast of Morocco, to explain the benefits of the area, introduce more sustainable fishing practices, and encourage cooperative actions that will bring economic benefits while helping preserve the area's resources. Consult with a wide range of stakeholders to set up economic alternatives to activities detrimental to the environment.

Funding: \$172,072  
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 8/31/2016  
Grantee: Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources

### **Environmental Initiatives to Enhance Ecofriendly Tourism in Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde**

Enhance ecotourism on Boa Vista Island by developing information on the beach, increasing environmental awareness and encouraging outdoor tourism in the region. The project will target fisherman, visitors, tourists, tourist agents and local stakeholders. A good comprehension of green tourism and the development of an official 'environmentally friendly' logo for companies and organizations that stick to eco-friendly tourism are expected.

Funding: \$19,800  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 3/15/2014  
Grantee: BIOS.CV – Association for the Conservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development (BIOS.CV)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Environmental Awareness of the Local Community and Decision Makers in Tobrouk and Ain Alghazallah**

Raise awareness about the importance of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and their protection, particularly around Ain Alghazallah and Tobrouk in Libya. The target groups include hunters, Imams, relevant stakeholders and an environmental club that will be created in two schools around the KBAs.

Funding: \$19,960  
Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 10/31/2015  
Grantee: Libyan Society for Birds (LSB)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **A Study for the Development of Ecotourism Activities at Guerbes Sanhadja, Algeria**

Conduct a series of studies with the aim of building an ecotourism trail in the wetland complex of Sanhadja, Algeria. Lead a study on the tourism market in the region and the feasibility of the trail from a local attraction point of view. Involve the local community of Sanhadja in the project, raising awareness about the importance of an ecotourism trail in relation to increased income within the community.

Funding: \$19,110  
Grant Term: 11/1/2013 - 11/30/2015  
Grantee: Association Promotion des Femmes Rurales de Wilaya de Skikda (Skikda)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **Developing an Integrated Coastal Management Plan for l'Edough**

Begin preparing a management plan for l'Edough, Algeria, in order to classify it as a national park. Review the existing data on the site, identify the gaps, and assess the ecological and socioeconomic context in collaboration with existing organizations.

Funding: \$19,900  
Grant Term: 4/15/2014 - 8/31/2015  
Grantee: Laboratoire de recherche "Ecologie des Systèmes terrestres et Aquatiques" (EcoSTAq)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **Introducing the Conservation Agreement Model for Community-Based Conservation to Nongovernmental Organizations in Tunisia and Algeria**

Strengthen the capacity of local NGOs from Algeria and Tunisia by introducing the conservation agreement model. A workshop will provide training on the model and cover best practices; summarize the suitability of the approach for key biodiversity areas within the mountains, plateaus and wetlands of the Algerian Tell and Tunisia Corridor; identify NGOs interested in collaboration; and explore how to carry out joint fundraising and assist NGOs to draft plans for next steps.

Funding: \$19,716  
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 10/31/2014  
Grantee: CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

#### **Protection of Marine Turtles and the Coastal Environment of the Kuriat Islands**

Raise awareness for fishermen, visitors and tourists of beach conservation on Kuriat Island, Tunisia. Produce flyers and a video that exhibit the richness of the island coast and the danger of its loss.

Funding: \$19,963  
Grant Term: 5/1/2014 - 11/30/2015  
Grantee: Association des Fans de la Chebba (AFC)



### **Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation Actions in Ulcinj Salinas**

Use video and animation to promote ecotourism in Montenegro's Ulcinj Salina; and produce a webpage that includes a set of five short educational and promotional films.

Funding: \$16,980  
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: KAWKA PRODUCTION, VIDEO SNEMANJE Gregor Šubic s.p (KAWKA)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Circuit Ecotourism Within the Dunes of Ras Alby**

Protect and rehabilitate the Ras el Malan dunes in Tunisia by implementing a circuit ecotourism trail and developing awareness activities for local schools, hotels and relevant stakeholders about the importance of this key biodiversity area.

Funding: \$19,962  
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 12/30/2016  
Grantee: Association de protection de l'environnement Hammem Ghezaz (APEHG)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Studying the Involvement of the Tourism Sector in Financing Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas**

Conduct a study to prepare a map of tourist organizations that provide a trust fund for the development of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Basin.

Funding: \$19,976  
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
Grantee: KANOPEE SAS (Horwath)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **The Essaouira Dunes: Mapping a Sustainable Future for the Coastal Atlantic Plains of Morocco**

Secure the long-term future of Morocco's Essaouira Dunes and the surrounding corridor through Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The goal is to protect the dunes, archipelago and other associated habitats, and the wildlife that depends on these key biodiversity areas. Develop an ecotourism charter to be adopted by the local council, tour agencies and hotels pledging their commitment to protect the dunes and local ways of life. Build capacity of government and civil society to sustain conservation efforts for the site.

Funding: \$19,432  
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 1/31/2016  
Grantee: Groupe de Recherche Pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (Grepom)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

**Strategic Direction 2. Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors**

**Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation Priorities for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot**

Collate and map ecological data for key freshwater species groups in the eastern Mediterranean to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and assess human use. Hold stakeholder workshops throughout the Mediterranean hotspot focused on KBAs to refine potential site boundaries, identify sustainable management and conservation actions, and identify those organizations to take the lead on conservation actions at each site.

Funding: \$248,331  
Grant Term: 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

**Valuing Ecotourism, Fish and Aquatic Biodiversity of the Moroccan Atlas for Contribution to the Preservation of Water Resources in Ifrane National Parks and High Atlas Oriental**

Work with the National Fishermen Association in the mountains of the Moroccan Atlas to introduce best practices for leisure fishing and to set up a monitoring system for sustainable use of freshwater resources, based on a network of fishing guards. Raise awareness on the the ecological importance of the mountains of the Moroccan Atlas, which hosts important freshwater biodiversity, and promote sustainable ecotourism in the area.

Funding: \$284,608  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2015  
Grantee: Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature

**Conservation of Biodiversity in Patoku Lagoon and Ishmi River Outlet Through Integrated River Basin Management**

Conduct biodiversity and threat assessments, and review institutional and legal frameworks, for the Patoku Lagoon and Patok-Fushe-Kuqe-Ishmi Nature Managed Reserve, Albania. Prepare an Integrated Water Management Plan for the area, and promote best practices for sustainable management of the reserve, including clean-up, ecotourism, improvement of nesting sites for waterbirds and awareness about the reserve's hunting ban.

Funding: \$180,000  
Grant Term: 1/1/2014 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: Urban Research Institute

**Developing Capacities for the Sustainability of Dojran Lake**

Raise awareness among stakeholders and the general public of the value of the Lake Dojran ecosystem and water management issues in and around Lake Dojran in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The project will build capacity in and develop frameworks for integrated water resources management and biodiversity monitoring. The project will also contribute to the restoration of Lake Dojran's local nature museum and will promote sustainable water use by local stakeholders, particularly primary school students.

Funding: \$138,746  
Grant Term: 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

### **Living Well in Harmony With the Drin: Raising Public Awareness, Enhancing Knowledge and Empowering NGOs to Protect and Conserve Freshwater Ecosystems in the Drin River Basin**

Support effective non-governmental organization involvement in water resources management and freshwater biodiversity conservation processes within the Drin River Basin, covering portions of Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. Include a special focus on the protection, conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems, and an emphasis on expanding people's awareness, especially youth, of the intrinsic values of freshwater habitats and species in the region. Promote concrete and comprehensive actions to safeguard the biodiversity of the Drin River Basin and its invaluable ecosystem services.

Funding: \$200,000  
Grant Term: 2/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

### **Integrated Drini River Basin Management**

Work with four villages to prevent erosion in the catchment of the Drini River, a key biodiversity area that provides multiple services to inhabitants of northern Albania. Adapt activities to the local context, including reforestation of 60,000 trees, small anti-erosive infrastructures and improved pasture and grazing management. The pilots developed in the four villages will inform Integrated River Basin Management for the entire catchment.

Funding: \$116,150  
Grant Term: 3/1/2014 - 2/28/2015  
Grantee: Centre for Forest Studies and Consulting (Albaforest)

### **Water for the Lakes, Bogs, Streams and People on Jablanica Mountain**

Quantify the threats and needs for protection of the glacial lakes, bogs and streams of the Jablanica Mountain in Macedonia within the context of the Habitats Directive and Water Frameworks Directive. Forest management practices will be assessed, and their role in watershed protection determined. In collaboration with local communities, the project will explore water management issues and aims to build consensus on means of natural resources protection and use. Identification of alternative means of water supply, and use of water resources, will be undertaken. The project will also seek ways to incorporate its results in the Drin Initiative and the existing national strategies for the management of Drin River in Macedonia and Albania by providing a case study of micro-management of a small watershed.

Funding: \$77,600  
Grant Term: 3/1/2014 - 3/31/2016  
Grantee: Macedonian Ecological Society

### **Integrated Water Resources Management at Dojran Lake**

Strengthen links between the international research community and local policy-makers to enhance the resilience of the Dojran Lake ecosystem in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through promotion of sustainable agricultural and fishery practices and related governance and institutional systems. Undertake a baseline analysis and build capacity for stakeholders on integrated water resource management and climate change adaptation. Conduct a situation analysis and framework proposal for the development of a payments for ecosystem services scheme at Dojran Lake.

Funding: \$90,000  
Grant Term: 4/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici S.c.a r.l.

### **Integrated River Basin Management in Ait M'hamed and Imegdale Rural Communes**

Improve water and soil management in two river sub-basins of the Atlas Mountains, in the Communes of Imegdale and Ait M'hamed, Morocco. Starting with a participatory assessment of the situation of the river sub-basins and an analysis of the current water use, Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) will work with the communities, local governments and foundations to design local water resource development plans, which include provisions for maintaining the flows of water for natural areas. The project intends to support better management of at least 1,000 hectares of agricultural land and to protect 100 hectares of natural areas rich in plant diversity.

Funding: \$196,987  
Grant Term: 5/1/2014 - 12/31/2016  
Grantee: Global Diversity Foundation

### **Moraca - The New Way Forward**

A key biodiversity area, River Moraca is under threat of hydropower plans, which would imply building of four dams and creation of artificial lakes over its course. At present, the river habitats are also threatened by legal and illegal gravel and sand extraction. The project of NGO MANS combine analysis of current situation of the River Moraca state with concrete actions in protecting its river bed from further devastation, raising public awareness on this issue and supporting citizens participation in protecting the river, as well as providing alternative solutions to current plans and strategies.

Funding: \$39,996  
Grant Term: 4/1/2015 - 3/31/2016  
Grantee: The Network for the Affirmation of NGO Sector

### **River Morača Sustainable Development Against Floods**

The River Moraca valley, a key biodiversity area, has been under the threat of hydropower plans for the last 40 years. The project's objective is to identify economic alternatives that would enhance the quality of life and preserve the beautiful scenery and unique biodiversity of this site. CZIP therefore works closely with local communities to promote water-efficient agriculture, honey-making, etc. Ecotourism activities are also promoted through partnerships with Alpine clubs and birdwatchers. The organization has also the objective to raise awareness among citizens on the economic and ecologic value of their land, and of the risk hydropower generation could mean for their livelihood.

Funding: \$89,999  
Grant Term: 4/1/2015 - 9/30/2016  
Grantee: Ngo Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro

### **Integrated Natural Water Management of Shkumbini River, Albania**

Skumbini river plays a major role in the lives of the inhabitants of the valley, providing drinking and irrigation water, as well as for the wildlife of the valley and the Karavasta lagoon on which the river flows. With this project, AEED conducts assessment of the biological, chemical and physical quality of the river, and raises awareness of local government and citizens on the importance of improving the river ecosystems. AEED works closely with local water user associations to improve management practices, taking biodiversity more into account.

Funding: \$29,470  
Grant Term: 5/1/2015 - 4/30/2016  
Grantee: Agro-Environmental & Economic Management-Center

**Promoting Conservation in the Transboundary Prespa Eco-Region of Albania, Macedonia and Greece: Establishment of the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust**

This project supports legal consultations, communication work and preliminary meetings with local civil society organizations and local governments, in preparation for the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund for the Prespa Lake region.

Funding: \$76,981  
Grant Term: 6/1/2015 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: WWF Greece

**Support Communities in Improving Water Management Practices and Biodiversity Conservation near Morocco's Wadi Micro-Watershed of Oued Outat**

Work with communities near Morocco's Oued Outat River Basin to identify good and bad water management practices; build capacity on water management issues, including legislative framework, the importance of the river ecosystem and the services it provides to the people from the valley and beyond; and organize exchange visits to other sites in Morocco and Albania to benefit from other regions' experiences. Work with communities to prepare recommendations for improved water resources and river ecosystem management, and present the recommendations to local government and other public institutions in charge of water management. Complete a demonstration activity of better water management practices, including rehabilitation of 50 hectares of natural habitat.

Funding: \$102,817  
Grant Term: 6/1/2015 - 9/30/2016  
Grantee: Association Haute Moulouya pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature

**Ensuring the Preservation and Enhancement of Atlas Mountain Ecosystems through the Capacity Building of Local Stakeholders in Sustainable Water Management**

Build the capacity of local communities in the protection of water resources, promote production techniques concerned with the conservation of resources, and strength programs of education and awareness on water management with civil society.

Funding: \$19,700  
Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 1/31/2015  
Grantee: Enda Maghreb (ENDA)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

**Implementing Sustainable Agricultural Practices Contributing to the Protection and Ecological Integrity of the Oued Boufekrane River**

Establish new practices that conserve water resources and avoid degradation of the Oued Boufekrane River in Morocco. The project will diagnose the actual state of agricultural practices around the river, and identify what kind of sustainable agricultural practice should be established.

Funding: \$19,901  
Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 8/15/2015  
Grantee: Section d'Ifrane de l'Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre au Maroc (AVEST)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Economic and Ecological Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Karavasta Lagoon**

Assess the economic and ecological values of ecosystem services in the Karavasta Lagoon in Albania, and once identified, promote alternative livelihoods in traditional fishing and agricultural local communities. Promote the importance of biodiversity and natural heritage and its contribution to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the area.

Funding: \$19,987  
Grant Term: 1/1/2014 - 11/30/2014  
Grantee: Agro-Environmental & Economic Management-Center (AEEM-Centre)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Master Plan for the Recovery of the Spring Water Ecosystem in Lalzi Bay**

Develop and implement a master plan for the recovery of the spring water ecosystem in Lalzi Bay, the rural coastal area between the capital Tirana and the port of Durres in Albania. The recovery plan will be accompanied by a capacity building process for sustainable tourism development and designation of the marine protected areas around Cape Rodoni.

Funding: \$19,376  
Grant Term: 2/1/2014 - 2/28/2015  
Grantee: Iniciativa e Grave në Punë – The Women At Work Initiative (TWAWI)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Supporting Civil Society in Conserving Water Resources and Biodiversity in Azilal**

Support civil society to understand the policies of basin integrated management and develop and execute legislation related to water management by organizing three workshops with local organizations and relevant stakeholders in Oum Errabia, Morocco. Involve 40 organizations and strengthen their capacity to maintain the water wealth and biodiversity richness in Azilal.

Funding: \$19,997  
Grant Term: 4/1/2014 - 7/31/2015  
Grantee: Tissu associatif de développement de la province d'Azilal (TADA)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Smart Water Use in the Ohrid Lake Region**

Contribute to improving the efficiency of water use by raising awareness for the farmers in the Ohrid Lake Basin. The participatory process for the project involves trainings, information days, a roundtable, a field visit and community outreach. It also strengthens the use of science in policy-making for smart water use, which reduces threats to the biodiversity of rivers flowing into Ohrid Lake.

Funding: \$18,800  
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 8/31/2015  
Grantee: Environmental Organization "Grashnica" (Grashnica)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Agricultural Water Stewardship Initiative in Ohrid Lake Basin**

Introduce water stewardship in irrigation practices in the Ohrid Lake area, between southwestern Macedonia and eastern Albania, as a tool for biodiversity conservation. The project will assess sustainable water use for agriculture in the Ohrid Lake Basin; build positive incentives to promote a change in behavior and practices of agricultural water use, management and governance; and propose policy measures for support of water stewardship practices at the farm level.

Funding: \$13,100  
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 8/31/2015  
Grantee: GAUS INSTITUT – Fondacija za novi tehnologii, inovacii i transfer na znaenje (GAUSS)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Communication Support for Ifrane National Park**

Produce a 15-minute documentary showing the interest of water conservation and biodiversity in the Ifrane National Park. Distribute the documentary to partners and stakeholders throughout Morocco.

Funding: \$15,594  
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 9/30/2015  
Grantee: ADDICT COM  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Developing Sustainable Water Management Practices for the Ohrid Lake Region**

Prepare a strategy for sustainable water management of the Albanian side of Ohrid Lake by integrating contemporary methods for water conservation, agricultural water treatment practices, rain water harvesting, and efficient irrigation systems. Develop a pilot project and toolkit for sustainable water management to conserve water in the area, irrigate efficiently, decrease pollution, adapt to climate change, and preserve biodiversity in the Pogradec area.

Funding: \$13,050  
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 10/31/2015  
Grantee: Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

## **Strategic Direction 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas**

### **Demonstrating Sustainable Management of Important Eastern Mediterranean Forests and Key Biodiversity Areas in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains**

Revive the traditional Hima approach of land husbandry, integrating the grazing needs of the local shepherds into a sustainable management plan within a collaboratively agreed-upon zone of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains Key Biodiversity Area.

Funding: \$220,220  
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 8/31/2014  
Grantee: Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

### **Strengthening Management Planning of Mujib as a Biosphere Reserve in Jordan**

Adopt a collaborative approach involving the local communities in the revision and update of the Mujib Reserve new management plan for the period 2013-2018. This process will adopt the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) zonation schemes as well as improve the capacity of local civil society organizations and socioeconomic development opportunities.

Funding: \$242,160  
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 3/31/2015  
Grantee: The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

### **Protection of Bats in the Neretva River Catchment Area**

Raise awareness among the general public, tourists, the scientific community and government about the positive contributions and threats to bat species living in the caves of the Karst region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will culminate with the first national "Bat Night" festival as part of the EUROBATS program. Create a network of volunteer bat monitors to provide accurate data on the occurrence and activity of bat species that will be collated into national and international databases.

Funding: \$40,780  
Grant Term: 5/1/2013 - 4/30/2015  
Grantee: Center for Karst and Speleology

### **Improving the Management of Hutovo Blato Nature Park**

Improve the management of Hutovo Blato Nature Park by establishing an effective ranger service and adopting a sophisticated, status-quo monitoring system and scientific methods for the monitoring of species and habitats, especially birds. Promote the park as a tourist destination locally and internationally to increase tourism revenue.

Funding: \$194,908  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2015  
Grantee: EuroNatur Foundation

### **Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake**

Improve the cross-border management of Lake Skadar through research into the breeding ecology of the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Train relevant national institutions in monitoring protocols and data management. Raise awareness of the threats faced among all stakeholders and promote "pelican-friendly" tourism activities that will mitigate disturbance to the colony while allowing visitors a better viewing experience.

Funding: \$218,130  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2016  
Grantee: Noe Conservation

### **Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods and Promoting Community Management of Shouf Biosphere Reserve**

Increase awareness of the importance of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve Protected Area and develop financial mechanisms, including handicraft production, to contribute to the economy of the surrounding area. Undertake an assessment of the ecosystem services, especially water, and their economic value to the surrounding populations and local and national decision makers.

Funding: \$160,300  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 12/31/2014, Grantee: Al Shouf Cedar Society



### **Monitoring Waterbirds in North Africa for the Conservation of Wetland Areas**

Support the creation of site support groups to enhance the dialogue between site managers and local communities and develop a methodology adapted to the North African context to improve wetland management based on the use of bird indicators. The Fondation Tour du Valat project focuses on eight important wetlands in Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Algeria, from the salted marshes on the shores to high altitude lakes in the Atlas Mountains.

Funding: \$230,000  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: Fondation Tour du Valat

### **Promoting Trebizat as an Ecotourism Destination**

Involve the local community, nongovernmental organizations and authorities to promote the sustainable development of Trebizat tributary through the wise use of natural resources. Ecotourism activities will showcase local products, natural values and the cultural heritage of the area.

Funding: \$110,000  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe

### **Securing the Future of Hutovo Blato Nature Park**

Investigate long-term financial mechanisms for the improved management of the Hutovo Blato National Park based upon the ecosystem services that the protected area provides for both hydropower generation and water services to inhabitants downstream. Train rangers and guides in ecological and bird monitoring through effective data management techniques and promote this key site as an ecotourism destination through local and international tour operators.

Funding: \$169,846  
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: WWF European Policy Programme-Branch Office

### **Supporting the Long-Term Sustainable Management of Transboundary Lake Skadar**

Enable the effective transboundary management of Lake Skadar, which is located between Albania and Montenegro, by improving the capacity and management practices of its protected areas. Diminish illegal activities by strengthening law enforcement and increasing the participation of local civil society organizations in monitoring and management. Raise awareness and increase transparency among key stakeholders on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Funding: \$328,563  
Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 6/30/2016  
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

### **Promoting the Value of Key Biodiversity Areas by Strengthening the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Their Management and Conservation in North Africa**

Improve the management of six key biodiversity areas in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya by undertaking a thorough review of previous approaches to assess their effectiveness and by promoting communication and dialogue between nongovernmental organizations and management authorities. Set up an exchange visit with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan to compare the respective management approaches as a learning opportunity.

Funding: \$360,670  
Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2015  
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

#### **Determining Important Areas for Plants and Creating Micro-Reserves to Conserve Rare or Endemic Species in Lebanon**

Collate and analyze data on plant distribution and abundance to identify important plant areas within Lebanon. Using this data, liaise with land owners to establish three micro-reserves at Ehmej, Sarada and Baskinta in Lebanon to secure the long-term survival of these sites and their species. Each of these sites harbors rare and threatened plant species and are under pressure from activities including quarrying and other unsustainable practices.

Funding: \$174,828  
Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 3/31/2016  
Grantee: Université Saint-Joseph

#### **Contributing to the Creation of a Participatory Protected Area in Massif de Babor, Algeria**

Engage an interdisciplinary team to prepare for a re-gazettement of an area of about 3,000 hectares within the Massif de Babor in Algeria, working in close consultation with local communities. This work includes biological inventories; mapping and preparation of a zoning plan; preparation of legal documents; communication and awareness-raising; and preparation of a process framework for the restriction of access to natural resources.

Funding: \$151,211  
Grant Term: 1/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement

#### **Promoting Sustainable Hunting Practices in Lebanon Using a Community-Based Approach**

Undertake a multi-media campaign in Lebanon to raise awareness about key biodiversity areas, birds and biodiversity. Increase understanding of Lebanon's new hunting law and promote sustainable hunting practices in the country. Disseminate awareness materials throughout the administrative districts and undertake pilot trainings through hunting clubs, educators, law enforcement officers and the local community. In addition, initiate a pilot model Public Hunting Area, and prepare management and business plans, as well as site and species monitoring plans for the site.

Funding: \$182,385  
Grant Term: 1/1/2014 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: Lebanese Environment Forum

#### **Enforcing Hunting Legislation and Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Wildlife Management in Albania**

Monitor the effectiveness and impact of the Albanian government's hunting ban policy in 2014 and 2015; raise awareness among local stakeholders; and build the capacities of authorities for implementation of the policy in the most important key biodiversity areas of the northern Albanian coastline; and coordinate with major civil society organizations, including a hunters' association, to inform the decisions of the government on future hunting regulations.

Funding: \$104,120  
Grant Term: 11/1/2014 - 4/30/2016  
Grantee: Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds & Wild Fauna (Mammals)

### **Engaging Civil Societies in Harmonization of Actions for Improving the Conservation and Management Effectiveness of Lake Skadar**

Facilitate a group of civil society organizations working to protect Lake Skadar, focusing on sharing lessons learned and best practices from other river basin management experiences elsewhere in the Mediterranean. Coordination of all stakeholders through a workshop and study visit aims to improve the knowledge-base of the region and create a better model of sustainable development, leading to improved management of the conservation priorities for Lake Skadar.

Funding: \$19,375  
Grant Term: 12/5/2012 - 3/5/2013  
Grantee: NGO Green Home (GREEN HOME)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Locating the Wild Grapevine (*Vitis Vinifera* L. Subsp. *sylvestris*) Along the River Banks of Krka (Croatia)**

Explore potential sites within and around the Krka River National Park Key Biodiversity Area in order to locate natural populations of the wild grapevine (*Vitis vinifera sylvestris*). Locate and describe every population, sub-population and individual plant, and produce a distribution map with detailed descriptions of the related habitats and their threats. Produce a scientific report with recommendations for conservation and future management of the species.

Funding: \$2,700  
Grant Term: 5/1/2013 - 6/5/2013  
Grantee: Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation (IAC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Management of Medicinal Plants and Important Plant Areas of the High Atlas Mountains**

Promote sustainable harvesting and community-based cultivation of medicinal plants to address threats to important plant areas near key biodiversity areas in the High Atlas Mountains. Specific conservation actions will be determined through stakeholder workshops and researching the plant species of concern that are currently harvested from communal lands, forest domains and protected areas in the central part of the Atlas Mountain Conservation Corridor of Morocco.

Funding: \$19,900  
Grant Term: 5/1/2013 - 8/7/2015  
Grantee: Global Diversity Foundation (GDF)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Photographic Guide to Wildflowers of Lebanon with Emphasis on the Three Priority KBAs in Lebanon**

Improve the conservation and protection status of priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Lebanon by identifying the major plant species occurring in these areas. Raise awareness through the publication of a photographic field guide depicting the wildflowers present. The guide will be simple to use by the general public and will include important information about the KBAs and the plants.

Funding: \$19,920  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2015  
Grantee: Arts, Sciences and Technology University in Lebanon (AUL)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Protection of Underground Biodiversity in the Neretva River Catchment Area: Identifying and Raising the Awareness of Conservation Hotspots**

Establish a preliminary inventory of underground karst species in the Neretva River catchment area, identify current threats, and propose hotspots for conservation. Provide capacity building opportunities to train local experts and raise awareness among the general public, tourists, the scientific community and government on the importance of protecting the underground biodiversity.

Funding: \$15,300  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014  
Grantee: Centar za krš i speleologiju (Center for Karst and Speleology) (CKS)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Karst Freshwater Habitats: Identification and Participatory Conservation Planning of Threatened Invertebrate and Fish Species**

Identify the occurrence and distribution of freshwater invertebrate and fish species that can be used as biodiversity indicators for key habitats in the Neretva river catchment. Work with young researchers, local stakeholders and governmental institutions to identify and protect the biodiversity hotspots identified.

Funding: \$19,850  
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 12/31/2014  
Grantee: Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature (BIO.LOG)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Green Fodder Pilot Project**

Implement a pioneer project using new technology to produce green fodder for livestock on a large scale throughout the year, without the depletion of the soil, water and existing space. Develop financial mechanisms for the local community that support the protected area, create new job opportunities, enhance sustainable livelihoods, reduce the cost of meat and dairy products, and promote community management. The project will recycle water and produce minimal pollution, decreasing the pressure on the Mujib Reserve in Jordan.

Funding: \$19,975  
Grant Term: 6/15/2013 - 12/15/2013  
Grantee: The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment (USDWE)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Integrated Ecosystem Management of Tel Al Arbin Special Conservation Area**

Conserve the Endangered ana tree (*Acacia albida*), and its associated flora and fauna, in its last standing habitat in the Jordan River Basin. The project also includes promoting sustainable agriculture through the establishment of pilot local farms, demonstrating a model for integrating nature conservation into socioeconomic development in local communities, and providing an incentive for local communities to conserve and sustain their surrounding ecosystems, which are critical for the Jordan River Basin.

Funding: \$19,700  
Grant Term: 6/25/2013 - 6/24/2014  
Grantee: Bab Assalam Women's Cooperative (BASWC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Conservation of Wild Grapevine (*Vitis Vinifera* L. Subsp. *sylvestris*) in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Explore and conserve remaining populations of wild grapevine (*Vitis vinifera sylvestris*) in the Karst region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This largely unknown wild descent of cultivated grapevine is disappearing rapidly from wilderness and needs immediate protection throughout its original distribution range.

Funding: \$16,970  
Grant Term: 6/28/2013 - 7/31/2015  
Grantee: Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation (IAC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **A Survey of the Distribution of Olm by Environmental DNA Sampling**

Develop environmental DNA sampling to identify the presence of Olm (*Proteus anquinus*), an endemic Balkan cave amphibian, at sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina within and outside the known distribution range. Raise awareness on the Olm's vulnerability and the importance of its habitat.

Funding: \$16,515  
Grant Term: 6/28/2013 - 10/31/2014  
Grantee: Društvo Za Jamsko Biologijo -Society of Cave Biology (SCB)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Raising Awareness on Hunting and Biodiversity Conservation in Al Chouf Cedars Nature Reserve Key Biodiversity Area**

Raise the awareness of local community, local authority and law enforcement officers on the importance and the methods for fighting illegal hunting. The proposed strategy will be implemented through two training workshops during the hunting season on advanced and fast techniques on bird identification that will allow the local community to support law enforcement officers, forest guards and guards of protected areas to control illegal hunting practices mainly in Chouf Niha, one of the most important bottleneck sites in Lebanon.

Funding: \$16,000  
Grant Term: 7/20/2013 - 6/30/2014  
Grantee: Environment For Life (EFL)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Educating the Public on Sustainable Water Use and the Protection of Endemic Fish in the Neretva River Valley**

Inform and educate the public about the need for the sustainable use of water in the karst fields of eastern Herzegovina that are essential for the ecological vitality of the lower Neretva Valley. Protect endemic fish species and their spawning grounds in the Buna, Bunica and Bregava rivers of the Neretva catchment area.

Funding: \$18,750  
Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 7/30/2014  
Grantee: Hrvatska Ekološka Udruga (BUNA)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Production of Speleological Cadaster for the Trebižat Area**

Produce a cadaster of underground objects and evaluate their ecological importance in the area of the Trebižat River, which is known for its richness of caves, underground water and land ecosystems, and cave fauna that have not been systematically surveyed and remain largely unexplored.

Funding: \$18,684  
Grant Term: 8/23/2013 - 12/31/2014  
Grantee: Mountain Rescue Service of Herzegovina (Hercegovska Gorska Sluzba Spasavanja) (HGSS)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Restoring the Endangered Barbary Macaque Species**

Protect the Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) by identifying habitat fragmentation in Morocco's Ifrane National Park, identifying areas that need restoration to increase functional connectivity and/or prevent further decline of the species, and suggesting the necessary adjustments to these restorations.

Funding: \$19,152  
Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 11/30/2014  
Grantee: Stichting Moroccan Primate Conservation (MPC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Education and Capacity Building for the Conservation of Lake Dojran**

Initiate capacity building activities that are necessary for the future management of Lake Dojran, a priority key biodiversity area, including the creation of local conservation groups, training young local conservationists with monitoring skills, producing a booklet of techniques on how to monitor the lake ecosystem and raising awareness through the media.

Funding: \$19,282  
Grant Term: 11/1/2013 - 1/31/2015  
Grantee: Macedonian Ecological Society (MES)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Multimedia Communications Campaign for Dalmatian Pelicans in Lake Skadar**

Raise awareness about the conservation of Dalmatian pelicans (*Pelecanus crispus*) in Lake Skadar, on the border of Albania and Montenegro, by documenting biodiversity, threats and conservation activities in Lake Skadar, and by developing a communications tool with the aim of promoting the engagement of civil society in biodiversity conservation. A social media campaign will be organized and an extensive database of photos and a short documentary will be produced to promote the site and civil society activities in the area.

Funding: \$17,000  
Grant Term: 5/1/2014 - 12/31/2015  
Grantee: Asociacion Beyond Light (The Living Med)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Rehabilitation of the Sweimeh Eco-Park**

Involve the community around Jordan's Sweimeh Eco-Park in a rehabilitation program to support the area's conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources; and build capacity in the use of modern agricultural techniques to rationalize water consumption with the sustainable growth of seedlings, free from any use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Funding: \$19,800  
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 9/30/2015  
Grantee: Sweimeh Association Charity (SWEIMEH)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team**

#### **Mediterranean Regional Implementation Team: Administrative Functions**

Create a partnership between BirdLife International's Global Secretariat and Middle East Division, La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux/BirdLife in France, and DOPPs BirdLife in Slovenia as well as other stakeholders to play a key role as stewards of the ecosystem profile for a region. Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to appropriately develop the portfolio of large and small grants. Support civil society in the development of a portfolio of projects as well as monitoring the impacts of the investment portfolio across eligible countries throughout the Mediterranean Basin hotspot.

Funding: \$1,029,206  
Grant Term: 6/1/2012 - 12/31/2016  
Grantee: BirdLife International

#### **Mediterranean Regional Implementation Team: Programmatic Functions**

Forge a network of partners that can communicate CEPF's purpose and strategic focus of the investment to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of civil society in the Mediterranean Basin. Establish a roundtable of relevant donor partners in the Mediterranean Basin to ensure that biodiversity conservation throughout the 34 countries can be achieved through broad-based support. Support the strategic development of the portfolio to achieve critical conservation results that yield portfolio-wide benefits. Such activities may include facilitating learning exchanges between grantees and stakeholders, identifying leverage opportunities for CEPF, or collaborating with other donors and their conservation projects.

Funding: \$1,079,886  
Grant Term: 6/1/2012 - 12/31/2016  
Grantee: BirdLife International

#### **Mediterranean Mid-Term Assessment Regional Meeting**

Organize the regional meetings of CEPF partners in the context of the mid-term assessment of CEPF's investment in the Mediterranean Basin.

Funding: \$56,520  
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 5/31/2015  
Grantee: Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

### **Mediterranean Mid-term Assessment Regional Meeting - Montenegro**

Organization of the regional meeting of CEPF partners in the context of the mid-term assessment of CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin.

Funding: \$44,130  
Grant Term: 5/1/2015 - 6/30/2015  
Grantee: Ngo Center For Protection And Research Of Birds Of Montenegro

### **Lebanon Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Lebanon in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,690  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Bosnian and Herzegovina Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,830  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe Country Office Bosnia and Herzegovina (REC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Jordanian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Jordan in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,231  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment (USDWE)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

### **Tunisian and Libyan Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Tunisia and Libya in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,308  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015



Grantee: Reseau Enfant de la Terre (RET)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **Montenegro Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Montenegro in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$1,945  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: ZELENI DOM - Green Home  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **Albanian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Albania in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,270  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: Urban Research Institute (URI)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

#### **Macedonian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment**

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Macedonia in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity, identify future conservation priorities, and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,996  
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015  
Grantee: Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)  
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

## Annex 3: Organization chart, regional implementation team

RIT Role	Staff			
<b>RIT Management</b>	Liz Smith RIT Manager	Richard Grimmett Director of Conservation	Serena Loh-Cornell Small Grant Mechanism Assistant	
<b>Programme Officers</b>	Awatef Abiadh North Africa Programme Officer	Borut Rubinic Balkans Programme Officer	Sharif Jbour Middle East Programme Officer	
<b>Strategic and Technical Support</b>	Alison Duncan Head of International Programmes	Damijan Denac Director of DOPPS	Ibrahim Khader Middle East Office Director	
<b>Communications Support</b>	LPO Comms Team	Ade Long Head of Comms	Shaun Hurrell Comms Officer (Secretariat)	Julien Jreissati Comms Officer (Middle East)
<b>Advisory and Fundraising Support</b>	Antoine Cadi Director of External Relations	John Pilgrim Implementation Advisor	Güven Eken Senior Programme Advisor	

### Key:

BirdLife International – Secretariat and Middle East Office staff

LPO (BirdLife France) staff

DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia) staff

Independent consultants

## Annex 4: Quotes from Mid-Term Assessment Consultations

*“Participants noted that the number of civil society organizations involved in the field of biodiversity is still inadequate and quite scattered. CEPF can effectively contribute to the strengthening of this associative fabric, and support consensus and cohesion at a local level” – Algeria*

*“Although the CEPF program is in final stage there is a real need to continue this program in the future. It will allow us to manage our sites better and will secure sustainability of projects results achieved in this period” – Bosnia and Hercegovina*

*“The main difficulty lies in the fact that donors have different policies for awarding grants and consequently, access to co-financing is usually impossible for NGOs. In very rare cases co-financing can be envisaged between international and national donors” – Morocco*

*“Donor policies often promote short-term interventions which do not solve the problem” – Albania*

*“Local civil society has very limited access to funding sources due to the language barrier and technical skills. Local societies don’t know about the majority of funding opportunities because they don’t have enough skills to access their websites or subscribe to their regular announcements for new calls. Moreover, some local societies don’t have computers, internet or even the required skills to operate them” – Jordan*

*“I believe that the civil society gets a more powerful voice not only by the funding but also by who CEPF is with its strong global leaders”*

*“In my opinion, in Albania the work done by the civil society is helping very much implementing the government policy. Having no human and financial resources in the government institutions, in many cases the work of CEPF projects is substituting the work of the government.”*

*“CEPF is one of the few mechanisms that finances activities of civil society in the field of biodiversity. This first call has led to a first emergence association dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity. But its maintenance is absolutely necessary to strengthen this participation”*

*“Positively it has given smaller grass roots biodiversity organisations a greater voice, showcasing what they can do”*

*“To provide a bridge to small but promising NGOs to overcome the difficulties to reach middle size funding and therefore providing leverage, experience and reference for further growing”*

*“Provide on-hand experience in linking biodiversity conservation with community needs and improvement of quality of life.”*

*“CSOs have had an opportunity to run projects contributing to environment protection and to enhancing their managerial and communication issues.”*

*“This programme has enabled ngo's to implement very important projects and this makes their position stronger with local governments”*

*“CEPF?: 1. Enhancing the role and use of civil society expertise and individuals with experience in issues on biodiversity and critical ecosystems of the countries; 2. Creating a new experience in the management of funds for biodiversity and national level; 3. Promotion of synergy between the organizations to collaborate and achieve tangible results in the preservation of the biodiversity and critical ecosystems.”*

*“The positive is that there is an increasing awareness, mutual cooperation of all structures, capacity building with trained personnel, etc.”*

*“Increased number of motivated people from the civil sector through CEPF's program”*

*“Increased confidence of local people and their willingness to engage in activities.”*

