



**Final Assessment of CEPF investment in  
the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot  
(Phase II – 2017-2023)**

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*CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.*

## Introduction

The Mediterranean Basin Hotspot is the second largest biodiversity hotspot in the world, at 2,085,292 km<sup>2</sup>, and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. It is also the only hotspot stretching over three continents: Europe, from Portugal to the southern part of the Balkan peninsula, bordered in the North by the mountain ranges of the Pyrenees, Alps and Balkan mountains; Asia, with the western part of Anatolia and the Middle-East, down to the Sinai mountains; and Africa, with a narrow land ribbon stretching North of the Sahara desert, from the Nile delta to Tripolitania, and a much larger area encompassing plateaus and mountains of the Atlas, down to the Atlantic Ocean. West of the mainland, the hotspot includes the islands of Macaronesia, including Cabo Verde Archipelago. CEPF investment in the hotspot is nevertheless restricted to a subset of eligible countries (see section 1.3 below).

It is the third richest hotspot in the world in terms of its plant diversity: approximately 30,000 plant species occur, with more than 13,000 endemic to the hotspot. The Balkans are also a center for freshwater diversity, with many endemic species living in river basins isolated from each other millions of years ago. The marine biodiversity is also important, with many species endemic to the Mediterranean Sea.

**Figure 1: Map of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot**



The Mediterranean basin faces high level of threats, including conversion of natural habitats due to urbanization and changing agricultural patterns, unsustainable use of water resources exacerbated by climate change, and over-exploitation of natural resources, in particular marine species. The pressure on natural ecosystems is accentuated by tourism: the Mediterranean basin is by far the largest global tourism destination, attracting in 2020 almost 400 million tourists - a third of the world's international flows.

In 2012, CEPF launched a five-year program of investment in the hotspot, which resulted in the award of 108 grants to 84 different organizations in 12 countries, with a total value of US\$ 11 million.

In 2016, following a decision by CEPF Donor Council, the ecosystem profile was updated, through a participatory process involving more than 500 stakeholders, considering the political changes in the region and new information available on the hotspot's biodiversity. The new profile defined the strategy for CEPF investment for 2017-2022. Phase II started in October 2017 with a new contract for the RIT and first Call for Proposals; new projects started in early 2018.

The Final Assessment of CEPF Phase I (2018) and the mid-term assessment of Phase II (September 2020) stressed the achievements of CEPF in the region and its importance for local civil society organizations (CSOs). Extensive consultations with CSOs also raised concerns about access to much needed funding after 2022, with the close of the MAVA Foundation, a major donor in the region – at about the same time as the close of CEPF Phase II.

In this context, the CEPF Donor Council approved an extension of Phase II for an additional two years, for an “interim” period, supported through funding from CEPF's global donors, the MAVA Foundation, Fondation Audemars-Watkins and the Donors' Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE). This allowed CEPF to maintain its support to local CSOs that would be otherwise at risk due to the absence of funding, and ensured continuity of conservation action where it was most needed, while CEPF looked for additional resources for the years to come.

**This Final Assessment Report covers investment in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot from October 2017 to December 2023.** The report excludes projects from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals, launched in partnership with DIMFE in early 2023, which is still under implementation. The impacts of these projects will be reported on as part of the third phase of CEPF investment in the hotspot.

# I. Niche and Strategy for CEPF Investment

## 1) CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

**Table 1: Strategic Directions (SDs) and Investment Priorities (IPs) as listed in the Ecosystem Profile (2017)**

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

<sup>1</sup> For 'traditional' please read 'cultural' which is a better way to describe this approach

## 2) Strategic Considerations from Ecosystem Profile

Four strategic considerations shaped the overall program, as indicated in the ecosystem profile (2017):

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

**2. Strategic engagement with the private sector.** Based on lessons learned from Phase I, CEPF encouraged grantees to start at the local scale, with businesses that are rooted in the community and landscape; to seek opportunities to promote the image of the industry/business at the same time as delivering conservation benefits; to gather data that demonstrates to business the financial benefits of the action; and to be creative in seeking opportunities for in-kind support from business. The ecosystem profile also encouraged grantees to look at opportunities emerging from the growing market for fair trade and sustainably produced goods, which could provide opportunities to incentivize farmers, fishermen or land managers to adopt biodiversity-friendly approaches.

**3. Building on local actions to achieve policy impacts.** The profile noted the need for specific actions to build on site-based projects to address the wider policy, funding and programmatic issues, with roles for the RIT, partners and grantees. The program was designed to facilitate links between grantees and decision makers, contributing to partnerships and on-going processes of planning and reform, and promoting the role and acceptance of the value of CSOs more generally.

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

### 3) Eligible Countries for CEPF Investment

To be eligible for support during the second phase of CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, countries needed to be a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and a client of the World Bank (i.e. developing or transitional economies). Additionally, the GEF Focal Point of the country had to endorse the ecosystem profile.

The following table summarizes the eligibility of hotspot countries for CEPF support:

**Table 2: Eligible Countries for Investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot during Phase II**

Country	CEPF Eligible	Endorsement Date	Comments
Albania	Yes	September 2017	
Algeria	Yes	November 2020	The late endorsement of the ecosystem profile implied short delays for implementation of project; additional administrative issues limited investment in the country.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Yes	January 2018	
Cabo Verde	Yes	December 2017	
Egypt	Yes	July 2018	Administrative requirements from Egyptian authorities limited investment in the country.
Jordan	Yes	October 2017	
Lebanon	Yes	October 2017	
Libya	Yes	October 2017	The security situation implied specific measures to award grants in this country.
North Macedonia	Yes	September 2017	
Montenegro	Yes	December 2017	
Morocco	Yes	November 2017	
Palestine	Yes	October 2019	Palestine was included in the programme following Decision of CEPF Donor Council DC35/5 of October 23rd 2019, and subsequent endorsement from the Director General of the Environment Quality Authority.
Syria	Yes	-	CEPF investment was impossible due to political and security reasons.
Tunisia	Yes	October 2017	
Turkey	Yes	-	The GEF focal point informed CEPF in January 2018 that the ecosystem profile would not be endorsed; consequently, there was no investment during Phase II.
EU countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, etc.)	No	-	Not eligible as not World Bank clients.
Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, etc.	No	-	Not eligible as not World Bank clients.

## II. Regional Implementation Team

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot was established to provide the strategic leadership and coordination of CEPF investment. The RIT supported CEPF to reach out to CSOs, to select Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) and support applicants in finalizing their proposals, to monitor the portfolio, to communicate with all stakeholders in the relevant languages, and to provide overall coordination of CEPF investment. The RIT also managed the small grant program. The threshold for small grants was initially US\$20,000; this was raised to US\$50,000 in 2020.

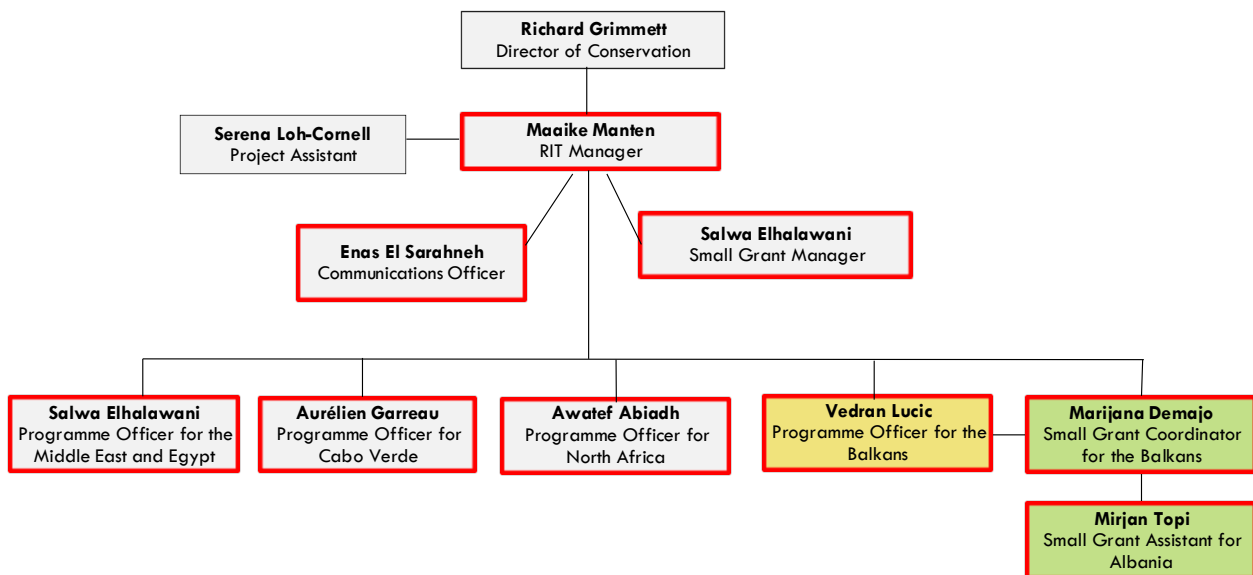
The RIT for the Mediterranean Basin consisted of a consortium of member organizations of the BirdLife Partnership, led by the BirdLife International Secretariat, headquartered in the UK. The partners were:

- La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO – BirdLife in France), responsible for North Africa (except Egypt) and Cabo Verde; LPO left the consortium in 2021.
- DOPPS (BirdLife in Slovenia), and BPSSS (BirdLife in Serbia), responsible for the Balkans.
- The BirdLife Middle East office in Jordan, responsible for the Middle East countries and Egypt (until 2022), as well as for communications.

The structure and roles of the RIT are presented below, with names of the staff in place as of December 2023. Note that only two members of this team are working full-time on the programme, the others are all part-time functions.

**Figure 2: Organigram of the RIT**

RIT members and support staff



**Key:**

— Lines of communication

- BirdLife International
- DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia)
- BPSSS (BirdLife Serbia)
- Core RIT Staff



### III. Impact Summary (Phase II, 2017-2023)

#### 1) Biodiversity Conservation

- **163 globally threatened species** benefitted from conservation action during Phase II:
  - o 96% of these species benefitted from science, research and monitoring activities;
  - o 57% benefitted from preservation/restoration of their habitats;
  - o 34% benefitted from direct species conservation actions.
- The management of **69 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, covering **624,497 ha** was strengthened.
- CEPF projects supported the creation of **11 new protected areas** and **extension of 4 existing areas**, covering **8,420 ha** in total.
- Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METTs) were completed for **52 protected areas**, covering a total area of **973,108 ha**. On average, the protected areas where CEPF supported CSOs' involvement reported an **increase of their score by 9.3 points**, from an average score of 41.4 initially to an average of 50.6 at the end of the phase.

#### 2) Strengthening Civil Society

- CEPF supported **170 projects** (counting only those that ended before December 2023), which were implemented by **129 individual organizations**.
- Of these 129 organizations, baseline and end-point Civil Society Tracking Tools (CSTTs) are available for 99 grantees, among which **78%** reported an **increase in their score**.
- In addition, **57% of grantees (47 organizations)** reported an **increased integration of gender** within their organizations (using the Gender Tracking Tool).
- CEPF awarded **154 grants to local/national organizations** (49 large grants and 105 small grants), representing 91% of the projects, or 89% of the budget for grant making.

#### 3) Human Well-being

- **2,372 people**, (854 women, 1518 men) received **direct economic benefits**.
- **205 communities**, consisting of 150,000 people (54% male, 46% female), received benefits such as improved access to natural resources, development of new market for local products, increase of ecotourism, protection of water sources etc.

#### 4) Enabling Conditions

- Grantees supported the official declaration of **39 policies or regulations**.
- CEPF grantees **leveraged** a combined total of **US\$6,659,071** in additional funding for their projects and organizations.

## IV. Implementation

### 1) Collaboration with Donors and Other Initiatives

The Mediterranean Basin Hotspot hosts a diversity of donors and is home to several regional initiatives and platforms that foster partnership and collaboration. CEPF has strengthened its 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 helps identify opportunities for collaboration (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Advisory Committee Membership at the end of 2023**

Advisory Committee	Organization
Madga Bou Dagher Kharrat	European Forests Institute
Bertrand de Montmollin	IUCN/SSC/MPSG - Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group
Constance Corbier	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Dragana Mileusnic	The Nature Conservancy
Ezra Ricci	Fondation Audemars-Watkins
Fabrice Bernard	Conservatoire du Littoral
Maher Mahjoub	The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
Paule Gros	MAVA Foundation
Raphaël Billé	Tour du Valat
Ricardo Pimenta Monteiro	The GEF Small Grants Programme Cabo Verde
Rob Shore	Sigrid Rausing Trust
Nedal M. Al Ouran	UNDP, Jordan
Paolo Lombardi	WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
Philippe Mondielli	Prince Albert II Foundation

Since the start of the first phase of investment in 2012, CEPF has participated in the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Donors Roundtable, which brings together representatives from Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Adessium Foundation, Thalassa Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, Fundacion Biodiversidad and Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT).

CEPF and the RIT worked continuously to engage with GEF Operational Focal Points in all countries, first to secure their endorsement of the ecosystem profile, and then to update them on the progress of CEPF investment. CEPF and the RIT used in-country supervision missions to meet personally with many of the CEPF donor representatives, including the GEF Small Grants Program, l'Agence Française de Développement, or the European Union. The exchange of information and experience on local civil society actors proved very useful, and several donor

representatives provided advice and reviews on project proposals.

CEPF is involved in the Programme de Petites Initiatives for North Africa (PPI-OSCAN), funded by MAVA, FFEM and SRT and implemented by IUCN, which supports local CSOs in North Africa. CEPF is also represented on the board and selection panel of MedFund, an initiative for sustainable financing of marine protected areas. PPI and MedFund often support the continuation of actions initiated through CEPF funding. CEPF is also a member of the advisory panel of the PPI program in West Africa, which includes Cabo Verde, implemented by IUCN France, and the RIT Program Officer for Cabo Verde works for both CEPF and PPI, ensuring coherence between the two initiatives.

CEPF and the RIT collaborated closely with Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) in the Balkans. Two successful joint calls for proposals were launched (in early 2020 and late 2021), and joint contracting and monitoring were implemented. This contributed towards building a portfolio of CSOs and grassroot organizations in the Balkans, and also strengthened transboundary collaboration. Similar cooperation was established with DIMFE, with whom a joint Call for Proposals was launched in mid-2022. Another new supporter in the

Mediterranean Basin is Fondation Audemars-Watkins, which engaged with CEPF to support freshwater projects in the hotspot.

There is overall a great spirit of partnership among donors and within the regional conservation initiatives, and CEPF has gradually taken an active role in the cooperative approach, facilitated by the fact that CEPF is not restricted to specific habitats or themes and is active in a large number of geographies.

## 2) Calls for Proposals

Between October 2017 and July 2022, CEPF launched 21 calls for proposals (excluding a joint call with DIMFE, which was call number 22)<sup>2</sup>: seven for large grants, under which 282 LOIs were received; and 14 for small grants, which generated 343 LOIs. About 17% of applications for large grants were successful, compared with 32% for small grants.

**Table 4. Calls for Proposals, December 2017-September 2022**

Call Number	Deadline	Type	SD	Specifications	Number of LoI Received	Number of Projects approved	Percentage
1	Feb. 2018	LG	1;4	all eligible countries	118	17	14%
2	Sep. 2018	LG	2;3	all eligible countries	42	10	24%
3	Sep. 2018	SG	1;4	all eligible countries	47	27	57%
4	Aug. 2019	LG	2	Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	25	7	28%
5	Jul. 2019	SG	3	Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	16	4	25%
6	Dec. 2019	SG	2	Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	60	13	22%
7	Jan. 2020	SG	4	Palestine	17	5	29%
8	Jan. 2020	SG	5	all eligible countries (regional meetings - cancelled due to Covid)	4	0	0%
9	Feb. 2020	SG	2;4	Albania, North Macedonia (joint call with PONT)	23	3	13%
10	Mar. 2020	SG	1	Tunisia (private sector)	10	4	40%
11	Sept. 2020	LG	3	Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco	50	8	16%
12	Sept. 2020	SG	5	Lebanon (emergency)	7	5	71%
13	Oct. 2020	LG	1;2	Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	34	4	12%
14	Nov. 2020	LG	1	Cabo Verde	6	2	33%
15	Dec. 2020	LG	3	Lebanon	7	1	14%
16	Jan. 2021	SG	1;4	Algeria	14	2	14%
17	Feb. 2021	SG	2;3	North Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Albania, Montenegro	60	8	13%
18	Mar. 2021	SG	2	Lebanon	11	2	18%
19	Jun. 2021	SG	5	Tunisia (long term vision)	2	1	50%
20	Sept. 2021	SG	2;5	Albania, North Macedonia (joint call with PONT)	15	6	40%
21	July. 2022	SG	all	all eligible countries	57	20	35%
	NA	LG	all	Grants by Invitation, all eligible countries		6	
	NA	SG	all	Grants by Initiation, all eligible countries		15	
					625	170	24%

<sup>2</sup> Call for Proposals 22 was launched in October 2022, during the interim period; due to implementation of project starting from 2023 onward, this call and the related projects are not considered under this report but will be reported on under Phase III.

Some projects have been approved through the grant-by-invitation process (six large and 15 small grants since inception) when justified by specific situations (scaling-up of a small grant, emergency situation, time-limited opportunity, etc.). The modality was used more in the last fiscal year, as time limitation for project implementation required speedy processes for granting. Most of these grants by invitation were awarded to former CEPF grantees or sub-grantees, with a proven track record of delivery.

All unsuccessful applicants were notified with a message explaining the reasons why their proposals were not accepted; this is considered as a capacity building element by CEPF and was well appreciated by the civil society community.

The calls for proposals for large Grants were launched in:

- English
- French
- Portuguese

Depending on the countries concerned, the calls for proposals for small grants were launched in:

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

### 3) Resource Allocation

CEPF is a partnership fund and, while CEPF's global donors represented the main financial contribution to the program in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, some regional donors also contributed financially to strengthen the investment on specific geographies or strategic directions.

As presented in the table below, the second phase of investment in the Mediterranean Basin benefitted from the generous support of the MAVA Foundation, Fondation Audemars-Watkins (FAW), and DIMFE, raising the total allocation from US\$9.8 million initially to US\$13.9 million.

**Table 5: Donors' Contributions to CEPF Mediterranean Basin, Phase 2**

Donor	Grant Budget	Year
<b>CEPF Global Donors</b>		
<i>Initial contribution</i>	\$ 9,830,000	2017
<i>Additional contribution</i>	\$ 415,000	2022
<b>TOTAL CEPF Global</b>	<b>\$ 10,245,000</b>	
<b>MAVA Foundation</b>		
<i>Small Grants Balkans</i>	\$ 580,000	2019
<i>Global Support</i>	\$ 1,985,000	2020
<i>Interim RIT Support</i>	\$ 470,000	2022
<b>TOTAL MAVA</b>	<b>\$ 3,035,000</b>	
<b>Fondation Audemars-Watkins</b>		
Support SD2	\$ 350,000	2022
<b>DIMFE</b>		
Co-founding for SG/SD2	\$ 250,000	2022
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 13,880,000</b>	

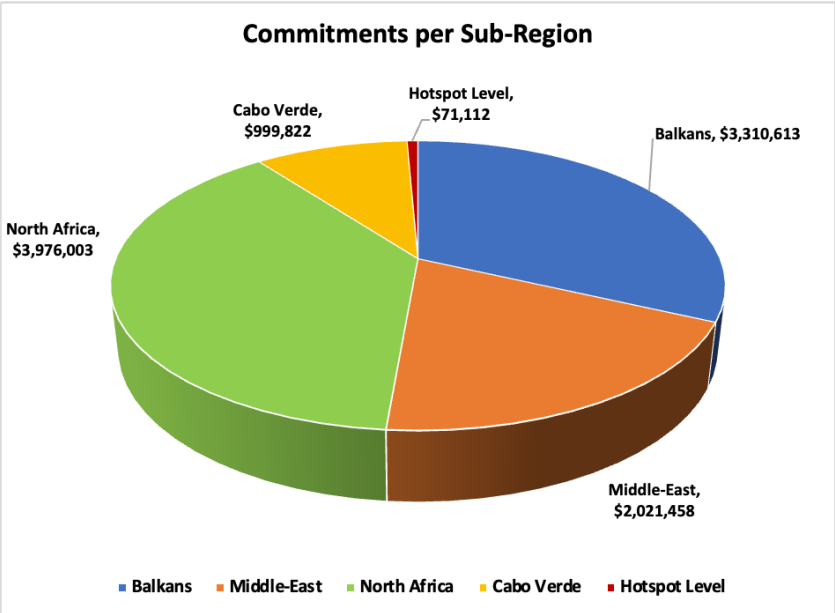
The latest contributions, by MAVA, DIMFE and FAW, complemented by CEPF global donors, allowed for an extension of the program from 2022 to 2024, maintaining continuation of the investment until start of a new period of investment scheduled for 2025. This report considers only projects approved and supported during the main phase, exclusive of additional projects ending after December 2023.

During this phase, CEPF invested close to US\$13 million representing 93.4% of the available budget. The remaining funds of US 912,282 were subsequently committed during the interim phase, to support an extension of the RIT grant, small grants under the DIMFE-CEPF collaboration, and extensions to priority projects.

**Table 6. Allocation of Resources by Strategic Direction**

Strategic Direction	Budget	Contracted Grants			Budget Balance	Percentage Contracted
		Total Amount	Large Grants	Small Grants		
SD1 - Coastal	\$ 3,180,000	\$ 3,182,577	17	26	\$ (2,577)	100.1%
SD2 - Freshwater	\$ 3,098,565	\$ 2,542,798	15	24	\$ 555,767	82.1%
SD3 - Cult. Landscapes	\$ 2,492,155	\$ 2,413,111	14	17	\$ 79,044	96.8%
SD4 - Plants	\$ 1,850,000	\$ 1,707,692	7	31	\$ 142,308	92.3%
SD5 - Regional Coop.	\$ 595,000	\$ 532,830	2	17	\$ 62,170	89.6%
SD6 - RIT	\$ 2,664,280	\$ 2,588,711	0	0	\$ 75,569	97.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,880,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,967,718</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>\$ 912,282</b>	<b>93.4%</b>

**Figure 3: Investment by Sub-Region and Country**



In comparison with Phase I (2012-2017), granting increased significantly in the Middle East sub-region, in relation to a higher demand in Lebanon and, even more so, with the opening of investment in Palestine at the end of 2019.

The investment in Cabo Verde almost doubled, a reflection of the increase of capacity and the creation of new organizations in this country since Phase I.

Overall, the investment was balanced among sub-regions and countries over Phase II.

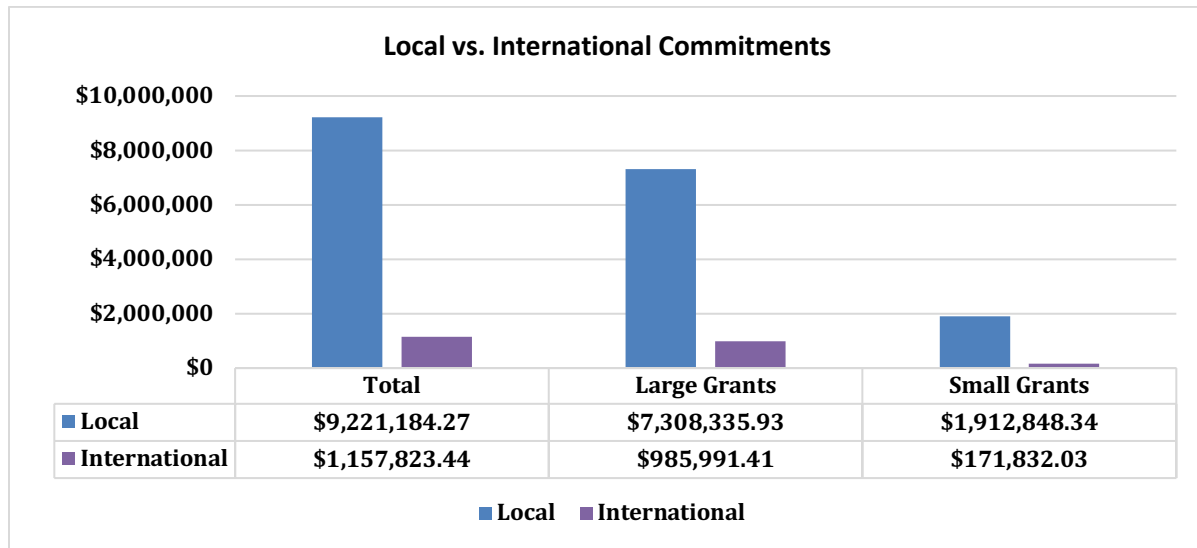
**Table 7: Grants by Country (Number of Grants and Total Amount)**

Country	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants
Cabo Verde	11	5	6	999,822	872,796	127,026
Algeria	3	1	2	35,297	5,064	30,234
Egypt	2	0	2	26,260	-	26,260
Libya	7	1	6	213,510	119,352	94,158
Morocco	16	11	5	1,653,184	1,569,583	83,602
Tunisia	26	10	16	1,702,983	1,483,529	219,454
Regional, North-Africa	2	2	0	344,768	344,768	-
Jordan	6	3	3	487,984	423,053	64,931
Lebanon	18	5	13	1,051,418	866,216	185,202
Palestine	8	2	6	453,356	328,803	124,553
Regional, Middle-East	1	0	1	28,700	-	28,700
Albania	24	3	21	859,951	532,507	327,443
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	5	7	753,525	612,287	141,238
Montenegro	14	1	13	593,090	226,307	366,783
North Macedonia	13	3	10	622,488	428,503	193,985
Regional, Balkans	3	3	0	481,560	481,560	-
Hotspot-Level	4	0	4	71,112	-	71,112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>10,379,008</b>	<b>8,294,327</b>	<b>2,084,680</b>

### CEPF support to local vs. international organizations

CEPF has awarded 154 grants to local organizations (49 large grants and 105 small), representing 91% of the projects, or 89% of the budget. This represents a significant evolution from Phase I, when 75% of grants (representing 61% of the total budget) were awarded to local organizations. This trend reflects the increased capacity of local organizations in the region, which are now able to manage larger projects on their own. This is exemplified by several small grantees from Phase I becoming large grantees in Phase II.

**Figure 4: Local versus International Commitments**



The 16 international organizations awarded grants under Phase II were mostly organizations based in the Mediterranean European Member States (France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Greece) working in partnership with local actors, or organizations working at the regional level (MedPAN, Tour du Valat, IUCN MED; etc.), as presented in Table 8 below.

**Table 8: International Organizations Receiving CEPF Grants**

Organization	Country
Asociación Iberomacaronésica de Jardines Botánicos	Spain
Initiative pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée	France
University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Noé	France
Fondation Tour du Valat	France
Archipelagos - Ambiente e Sviluppo	Italy
Vertigo Lab	France
Fondation d'Entreprise Biotope pour la Biodiversité	France
Fauna & Flora International	United Kingdom
International Union for Conservation of Nature - Center for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN MED)	Regional organization (Spain)
Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MEDPAN)	Regional organization (France)
Hrvatsko društvo za biološka istraživanja	Croatia
Tölgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület	Turkey
Istituto Oikos Onlus	Italy
International Union for Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA)	Regional organization (Jordan)
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania	Greece

## V. Biodiversity Conservation Results

### 1) Globally Threatened Species

Measuring impact of the program on threatened species was a challenge, for various reasons, including:

- the baseline was often not strong enough to assess the impact of actions at the end projects;
- the project duration (usually three years or less) was rarely sufficient to measure impact of actions on populations or to ensure that observed changes were not an artefact of the variability of conditions (climate, food availability etc.);
- the population trend at site level may be positive but not the status of the whole population;
- the attribution of change in a species's population to a CEPF-funded project may be questioned, as other organizations often work on the same species.

Therefore, the monitoring of impact on threatened species presented below focuses on three main points:



- **Improved knowledge of species.** For many species, the basic data such as presence at sites, size of population, trends in population, nature of threats or basic biology and ecological requirement are not known. Almost all the species considered under this point benefitted *at least* from monitoring or research activities. They are better known, which is the first step, however insufficient, for better protection.



- **Improved protection of sites hosting threatened species.** Some species are expected to benefit from improved management of sites (within or outside protected areas). When a site that hosts a *significant* population of a species is better protected, the species is considered to benefit. The species should at least have been identified recently at the site, and the site should host a significant portion of the population or play an important ecological role for the species (for instance, as a stop-over site for migratory species). As a counterexample, European turtle-dove would not be counted for a small patch of protected woodland, or European eel if fishing practice had changed along a small portion of a river.



- **Action directly targeted at species.** Some species benefit from direct action, dedicated to their preservation, such as preventing illegal killing or collection, re-introduction of endangered plants, preparation of species conservation plan etc. Such species were counted as benefitting, even if, as mentioned before, the actual impact on their population and, ultimately, their conservation status might not be monitored at time of the project.

Eighty-nine of the 170 projects considered for this report (52%) reported actions directly in favor of globally threatened species. Overall, **163 globally threatened species** benefitted from these actions (Table 9). Almost all species benefitted from science, research and monitoring activities (96%); a bit more than a half benefitted from improved protection of their habitats (57%) and about a third from direct species conservation actions (34%). Although monitoring methodology has evolved slightly between the two phases, this represent a major step compare with Phase I, under which only about a dozen species were concerned with direct project action. This is, in part, a reflection of an increase in capacity of CSOs, who have greater knowledge on taxonomy and willingness to engage in technical actions with local experts on species



conservation. It is also, in part, the result of changes in the CEPF investment strategy, which is more oriented towards species conservation, particularly under Strategic Directions (SD) 2 (Freshwater) and 4 (Plants). Preparatory work, in terms of species inventories, and identification of KBAs and Important Plant Areas, funded during Phase I (i.e. review of Important Plant Areas of Cabo Verde, identification of freshwater KBAs of the Mediterranean Basin) also paved the way for a more consistent species-based approach.

**Table 9: Globally Threatened Species Benefiting from Actions, by Activity Type**

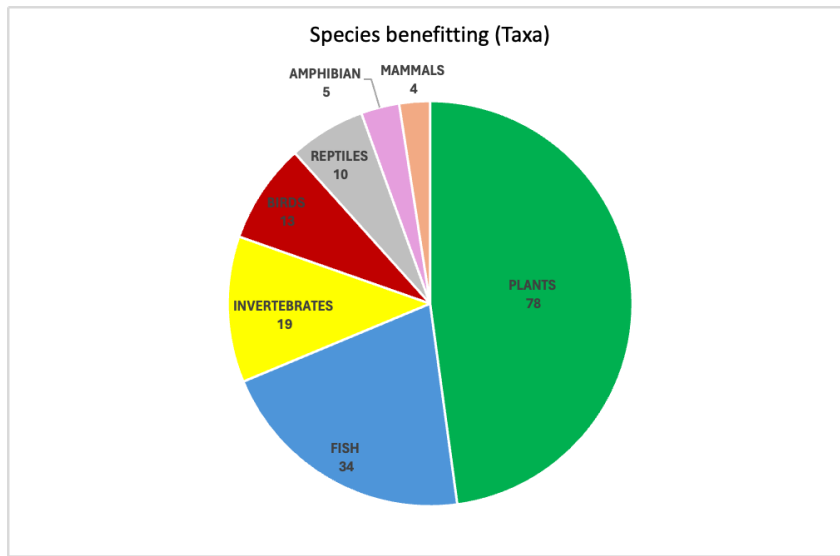
	TOTAL	Science & Monitoring		Habitat Protection		Specific Sp. Conservation	
PLANTS	78	77	99%	56	72%	27	35%
FISH	34	31	91%	15	44%	10	29%
INVERTEBRATES	19	18	95%	2	11%	3	16%
BIRDS	13	13	100%	7	54%	6	46%
REPTILES	10	10	100%	8	80%	7	70%
AMPHIBIAN	5	4	80%	4	80%	2	40%
MAMMALS	4	4	100%	1	25%	1	25%
TOTAL	163	157	96%	93	57%	56	34%

The large proportion of plants (48%), fish (12%) and invertebrates (12%) is to be noted. These taxa are rarely considered as flagship species and benefit less often from specific conservation action, which focus more typically on birds and mammals.

The large number of plant species benefitting from projects reflects the new focus given to this kingdom through the dedicated SD4 but also the guidance and support provided by CEPF and the RIT, and the enhanced interest and capacity from local CSOs: 19 out of the 78 plants species benefitted from projects under other strategic directions, mainly SD3 on cultural landscapes. The figure also does not take into account multiple rare, locally endemic species not yet assessed under the IUCN RedList and which were, *de facto*, not considered in this section.

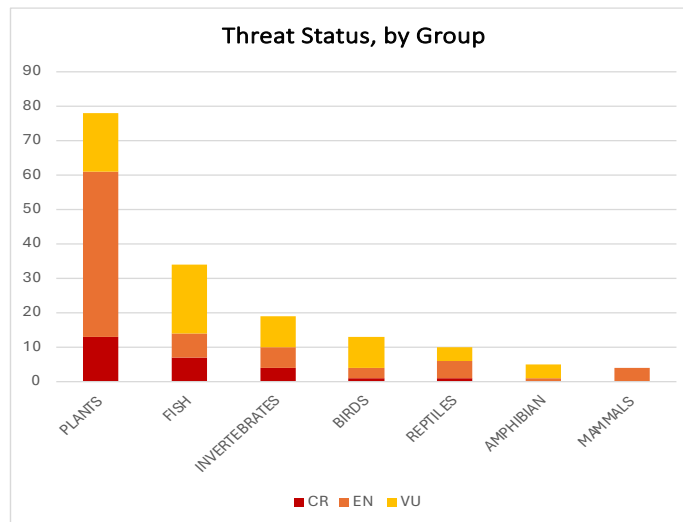
Actions in favor of fish species resulted mostly from SD2 projects in the Balkans, a region which is center for fish diversity, and with already good science-based Red List assessments, while the efforts on marine fish came mostly from Cabo Verde, where several projects were implemented with fishers on monitoring, reducing bycatch and improving marine protected areas. The focus on freshwater diversity also helped improving knowledge, and, in some instances, protection of freshwater mollusks and crustaceans, which account for a large part of the 19 invertebrate species noted (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Species Benefiting from CEPF Projects**



In terms of threat status, projects benefitted 26 Critically Endangered, 74 Endangered and 63 Vulnerable species. The threat status of plant species benefiting was higher (78% CR+EN) than that for other groups (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Species Benefiting, by Threat Status**



“Flagship” species were not ignored during the investment phase, which is perfectly understandable as some of these species play an important ecological role (e.g., as “umbrella species”) and are a great tool for sensitization and sometimes ecotourism and fundraising. For instance, 12 projects implemented activities in favor of marine turtles (from Cabo Verde to Libya) with important conservation outcomes. CEPF also supported these organizations to join forces in regional and continental networks. Vultures, other birds of prey, Barbary macaques and Mediterranean monk seal were also priority species for some organizations, with positive conservation results and protection of habitats benefitting other species. It is interesting to see a shift in terms of “flagship species”, with some new species, previously overlooked, now coming under the

spotlight, such as iris species in the Levant, underground freshwater species in the Balkans, the “Albanian tulip” in Albania, or rare and endemic species of microscopic gastropods in Morocco (as described below).

## New Species for Science

CEPF grantees described at least four new species for science during the investment phase:

- *Maroccoarganiella touarguii* and *Moroccohoratia bouregregensis* are two freshwater snails from springs and wells of the Bouregreg area in Morocco. The two genera are new for science.
- *Limonium steppicum* is a plant flowering found on the sand dunes of Djerba island, in Tunisia, which was described in 2020.
- A new species of snail from the family Hydrobiidae, *Belgrandiella kurtovici*, was discovered at Popovo polje KBA, part of the karstic fields in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Additionally, previously undescribed cave shrimps were discovered in Bosnia and Herzegovina and southern Croatia. Detailed descriptions of these new species are soon to be published in a scientific journal.

None of these species have yet been assessed under the Red List criteria but they are all likely to be globally threatened due to their limited range and the threats to their habitats.

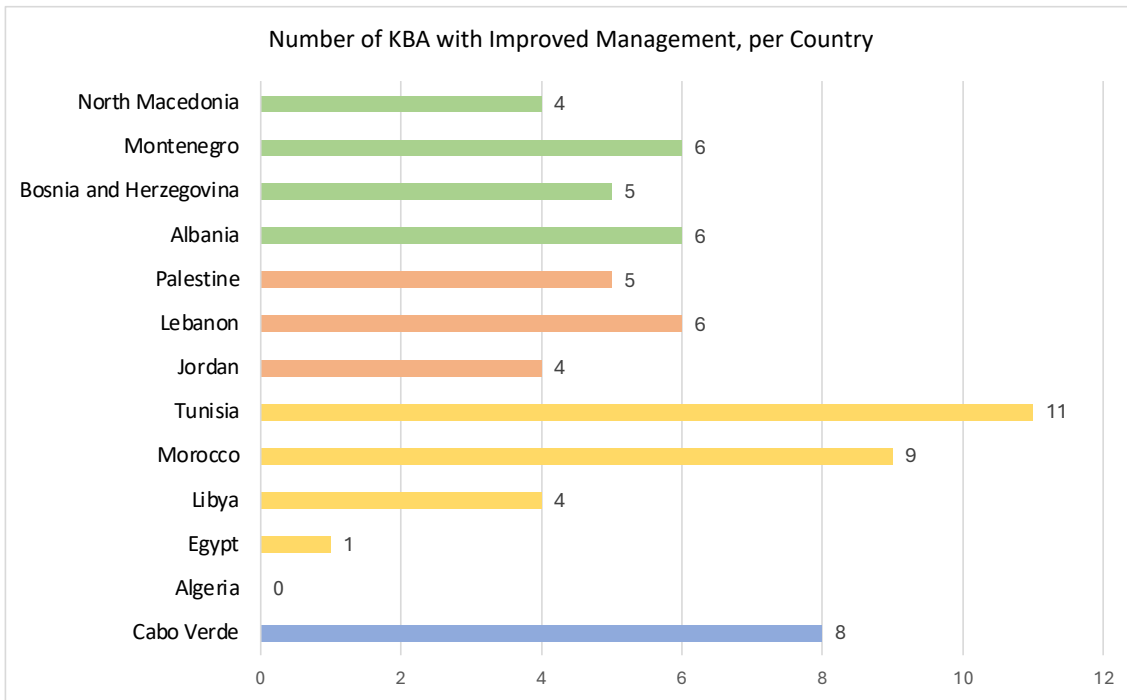
## 2) Key Biodiversity Areas

CEPF grantees were requested to report if the management of KBAs had improved due to actions supported by their grants. The improvement could be the result of several activities. Creation of new protected areas, revision of protected management plans and engagement of local communities in protected area (co-)management are classic examples, which will be detailed in next section on protected areas. However, improvement was also frequently achieved through better farming practices, reduction of overgrazing, support to sustainable fishing, advocacy for rules or regulations in the mining or forestry sector, and so forth.

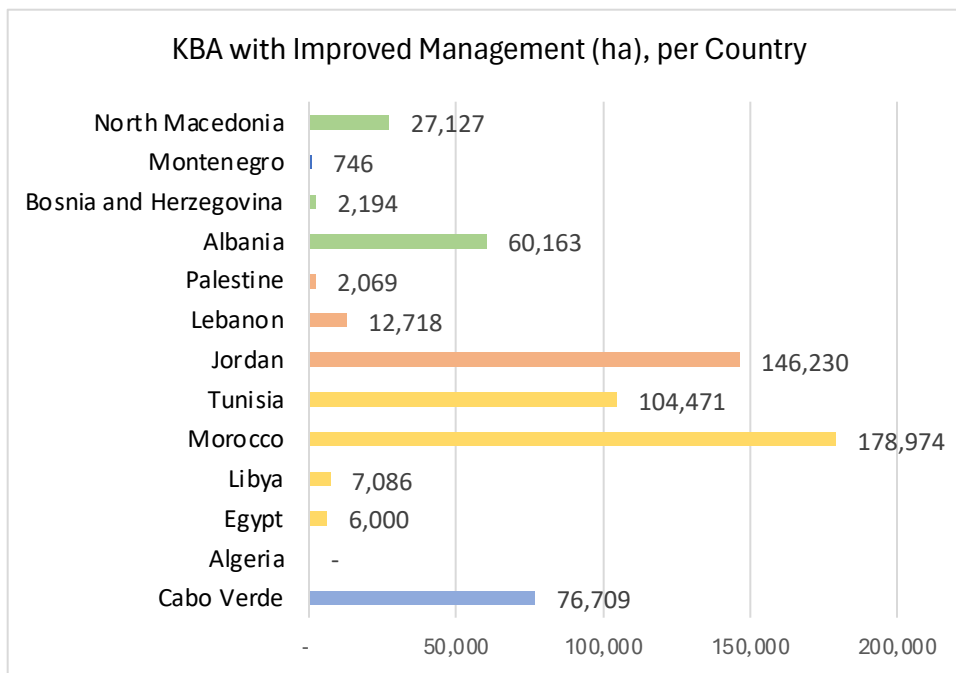
During Phase II, 88% of CEPF-supported projects (150 projects) had site-based activities, at a total of 101 KBAs. Out of these 101 KBAs, improvement of management was reported at 69 KBAs (68%). Activities at the 32 other sites were generally research and assessment, or limited in scale such that they had not resulted in actual improvement at the time of reporting.

The action of CEPF grantees for these **69 KBAs resulted in improved management of 624,497 ha**, equivalent to about a quarter of the 2,369,000 ha covered by these KBAs, in their entirety (Figures 7 and 8). Most projects did not cover whole KBAs but only a portion of them (only 20% of projects covered an entire KBA). This is reflection of the site-based actions, implemented with communities, for which local CSOs are very efficient. These numbers also indicate the potential for scaling up successful activities, to extend to more of these KBAs, gradually covering a larger portion of these important sites for biodiversity.

**Figure 7: Number of KBAs with Improved Management**



**Figure 8: Area of KBAs with Improved Management**



### 3) Protected Areas

Civil society can play an important role in advocacy, preparation, involvement of local communities and so forth. The creation of protected areas is a lengthy process everywhere in the world, and the Mediterranean Basin is no exception. In some cases, it is only after the project that the protected area gets officially gazetted. The results here only include protected areas that had been officially declared or extended as of December 2023, as a direct result of CEPF projects during Phase II. Several other protected areas may be declared in years to come as result of these projects; CEPF and the RIT will continue to monitor achievements in the future.

During Phase II, CEPF projects resulted in creation of **11 new protected areas** and extension of **4 existing areas, totaling 8,420 ha** (Table 10).

**Table 10: New and Extended Protected Areas**

Country	Name of Protected Area	Year of creation or extension	Number of hectares	Creation or Extension
Albania	Managed Nature Reserve of Karaburun	2022	500	Extension
Montenegro	The Nature Park Katič	2021	2,745	Creation
Tunisia	Site Ramsar de la Garaa de Sejenane	2022	1,500	Creation
Lebanon	Jabal El-Sheikh Nature Reserve	2021	1,250	Creation
Albania	National Park of Llogara	2022	759	Extension
Libya	Wadi El-Naqa Protected Area	2021	700	Creation
North Macedonia	Lake Ohrid Ramsar Site	2021	445	Extension
North Macedonia	Belchishta Wetland Nature Park	2022	401	Creation
North Macedonia	Studenchishte Marsh Nature Park	2021	60	Creation
Albania	Monumenti i Natyres Habitati i Tulipanit Shqiptar ( <i>Tulipa albanica</i> )	2023	36	Creation
Albania	Karaburun Sazan Marine National Park	2022	20	Extension
Palestine	Al-Tal Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	BERC-BG Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	Aqraba Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	Yasid Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8,420</b>	

The process of declaring a new protected area takes time. In 2017, for the Final Assessment of Phase I, CEPF reported eight new or extended protected areas covering 27,651 ha. In the following years, projects from Phase I actually resulted in 54,402 ha of new protected areas, with some results reported as late as 2022, in the case of Porto Palermo Bay Nature Park in Albania. Therefore, it can be expected that the figure resulting from Phase II will follow a similar trend and be greater in years to come. This is especially true as several organizations are contributing to official proposals for new protected areas, in Tunisia, Morocco and the Balkans for instance.

CEPF support encouraged the creation of micro-reserves in Palestine, based on a successful model developed under Phase I in Lebanon. These micro-reserves (often less than one hectare in area) can be of critical importance for conservation in situ of rare and endangered plants, such as irises.

In Lebanon, two partners also worked on *in-situ* and *circum-situ* conservation of plants at archeological sites. In a country where land is scarce and the political situation poses challenges for creation of new protected

areas, this model offers new opportunities, using sites that are *de facto* protected for their historical importance to also preserve the natural heritage. Through adaptation of management practices, reintroduction of threatened plants and restoration of habitats, these sites offer an opportunity for nature conservation.

### Improved Management of Protected Areas

Many grantees worked in protected areas, and helped strengthened their management. The intensity of civil society action in favor of protected area varied greatly from one country to another, depending on the national laws and regulations. Civil society involvement ranged from scientific support to working with local communities within protected areas to actual co-management of protected areas. There is a trend in the region for greater involvement of civil society in supporting management of protected areas, with more confidence from national authorities to delegate some tasks, particularly in Tunisia, Albania and, more recently, Morocco.

The use of the METT by CEPF grantees allows for a standardized approach in assessing the evolution of management effectiveness of protected areas. Partners were asked to use this tool only when they were engaged for the long term with a protected area. because CEPF projects only support some activities, it is not possible to claim that all improvements in METT scores are attributable to CEPF investment.

Overall, METTs have been completed for 52 protected areas in the region, covering an area of 973,108 ha<sup>3</sup>. On average, the protected areas on which CEPF supported CSO's involvement saw an **increase in their score by 9.3 points**, from an average score of 41.4 initially to an average of 50.6 (Table 11; Figure 9).

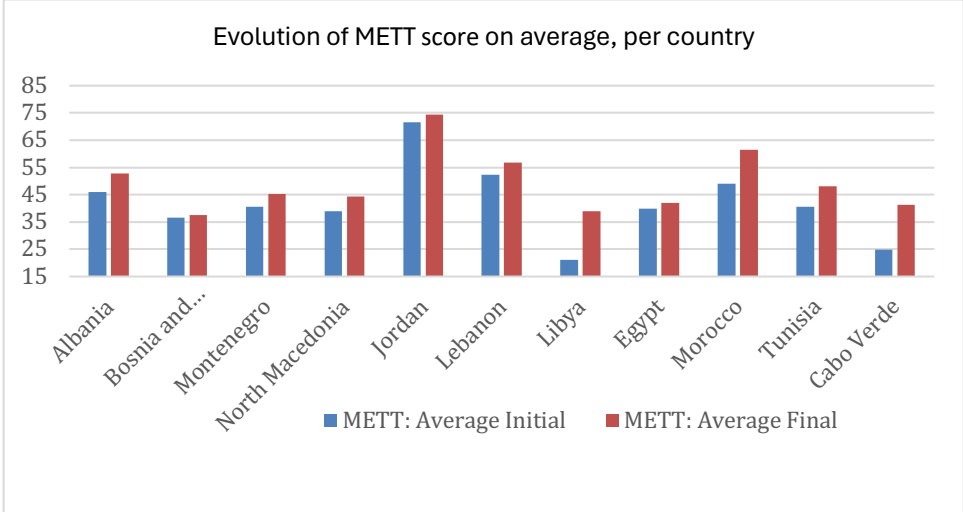
**Table 12: METT Scores for Protected Areas with Long-term Involvement of CEPF Grantees**

	Number of PAs	Area (ha)	METT: Average Baseline Score	METT: Average Final Score	Average Increase in Score
Albania	9	163,458	46.0	52.9	<b>6.9</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	7,511	36.5	37.5	<b>1.0</b>
Montenegro	4	28,958	40.5	45.3	<b>4.8</b>
North Macedonia	4	53,125	39.0	44.3	<b>5.3</b>
Jordan	3	31,905	71.7	74.3	<b>2.7</b>
Lebanon	4	3,081	52.3	56.8	<b>4.5</b>
Libya	1	10,240	21.0	39.0	<b>18.0</b>
Egypt	1	46,200	40.0	42.0	<b>2.0</b>
Morocco	9	473,825	49.0	61.6	<b>12.6</b>
Tunisia	3	27,137	40.7	48.0	<b>7.3</b>
Cabo Verde	12	127,767	24.9	41.3	<b>16.3</b>
	<b>52</b>	<b>973,108</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>

<sup>3</sup> The total area of protected areas with improved management is larger than the figure provided for “KBAs with improved management”. This is due to the fact that several PAs extend beyond KBA boundaries, but also to the fact that in some countries, CSOs may have worked and influenced only portion of very large protected areas (e.g. in Morocco).

Only two protected areas showed a decline in management, about 20% remained stable, and more than three quarters showed an improvement in management effectiveness. A remarkable 20% of sites reported an increase of more than 20 points out of 100; all of them were in Cabo Verde or Morocco. This may be a reflection of the strengthening of relationship and collaboration between protected area management bodies and civil society in these two countries in recent years.

**Figure 9: METT Scores for Protected Areas**



The two countries with largest improvement were countries where protected areas initially had very low METT scores: Libya (only one protected area); and Cabo Verde. In Cabo Verde, several relatively new protected areas had limited resources for management, so involvement of civil society allowed for a rapid jump in effectiveness, which would benefit from being sustained in years to come. Protected areas in Albania, Morocco and Tunisia also demonstrated signs of a general improvement in management effectiveness.

In some other countries, with higher initial METT scores, reflecting already well established protected area, such as Jordan and, to a lesser extent, Lebanon, the increase in scores was more limited. Nevertheless, recent economic and political crises in Lebanon call for specific attention in years to come, to avoid a decrease in protected area management effectiveness. Civil society can play an essential role in this country, as demonstrated by the stability of scores for protected areas where CEPF and other donors supported activities by CSOs.

A full list of protected areas and their METT scores is provided in Annex 1.

**4) Production Landscapes**

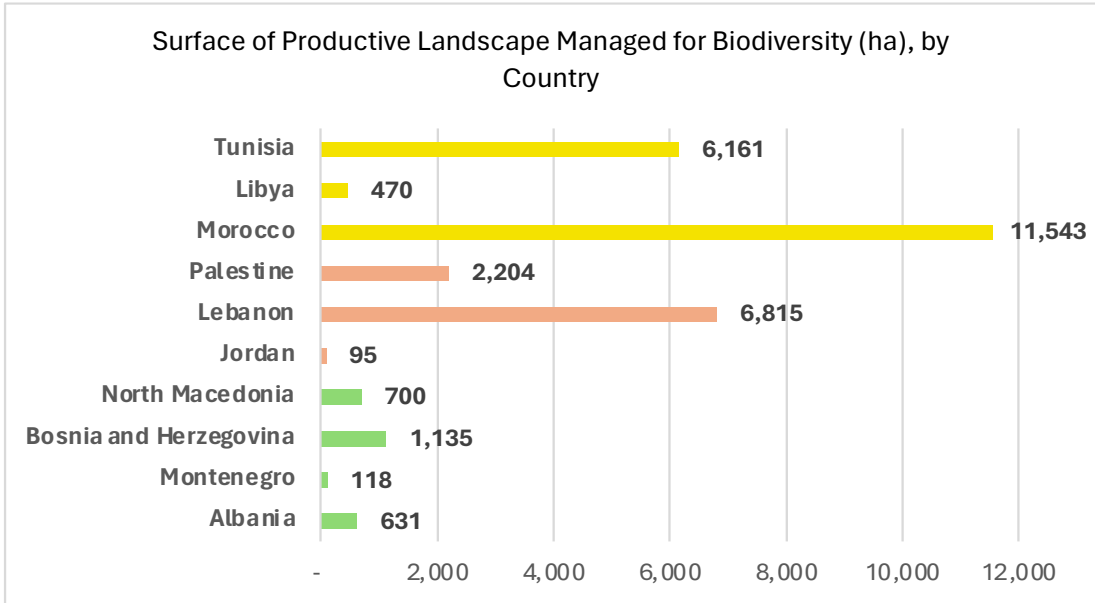
CEPF also tracked the impact of projects on strengthened management of biodiversity in productive landscapes. Working in production landscapes is considered a key strategy for conservation, even more so in the Mediterranean Basin, where biodiversity has evolved alongside human land-use practices for several thousand years, to the extent that many of the most threatened terrestrial species are dependent on habitats that are maintained through continuing intervention for agriculture, seasonal grazing or harvesting of wild products.

In the Mediterranean Basin, considering this interrelation between nature and human practices, many protected areas are also places where productive activities take place, sometimes even at a large scale. Therefore, areas considered for strengthened management of biodiversity in production landscapes can overlap with the ones for strengthened management of protected areas and KBAs.

During phase II, CEPF supported a wide range of activities related to biodiversity-friendly agricultural or fishing practices, largely in relation to SD3 on cultural landscapes, although projects under other strategic directions also contributed. CEPF adopted a very conservative approach, only taking into account sites where direct activities were implemented with local communities (farmers’ groups, fishers associations, herders, etc). When grantees influenced practices on a larger scale more indirectly, these were counted under land-use plans influenced, for instance.

Overall, farmers, herders and fishers were supported by CEPF-funded projects at **56 sites**, to adopt practices in favor of biodiversity over a total area estimated at close to **30,000 ha** (Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Production Landscapes with Improved Management**



The majority of impacts on production landscapes were observed in the Middle East and North Africa, which is as expected, as these were priority countries for the SD3 on Cultural Landscapes, which align very much with this indicator. The Balkans were only included within SD3 after the mid-term assessment, and only for pilots as small grants. Nevertheless, there was clearly an appetite for such projects after some time. In Palestine, plant conservation projects under SD4 also contributed to this impact, highlighting the fact that preserving threatened flora in this densely populated territory can only be done in partnership with farmers, on land that remains productive.



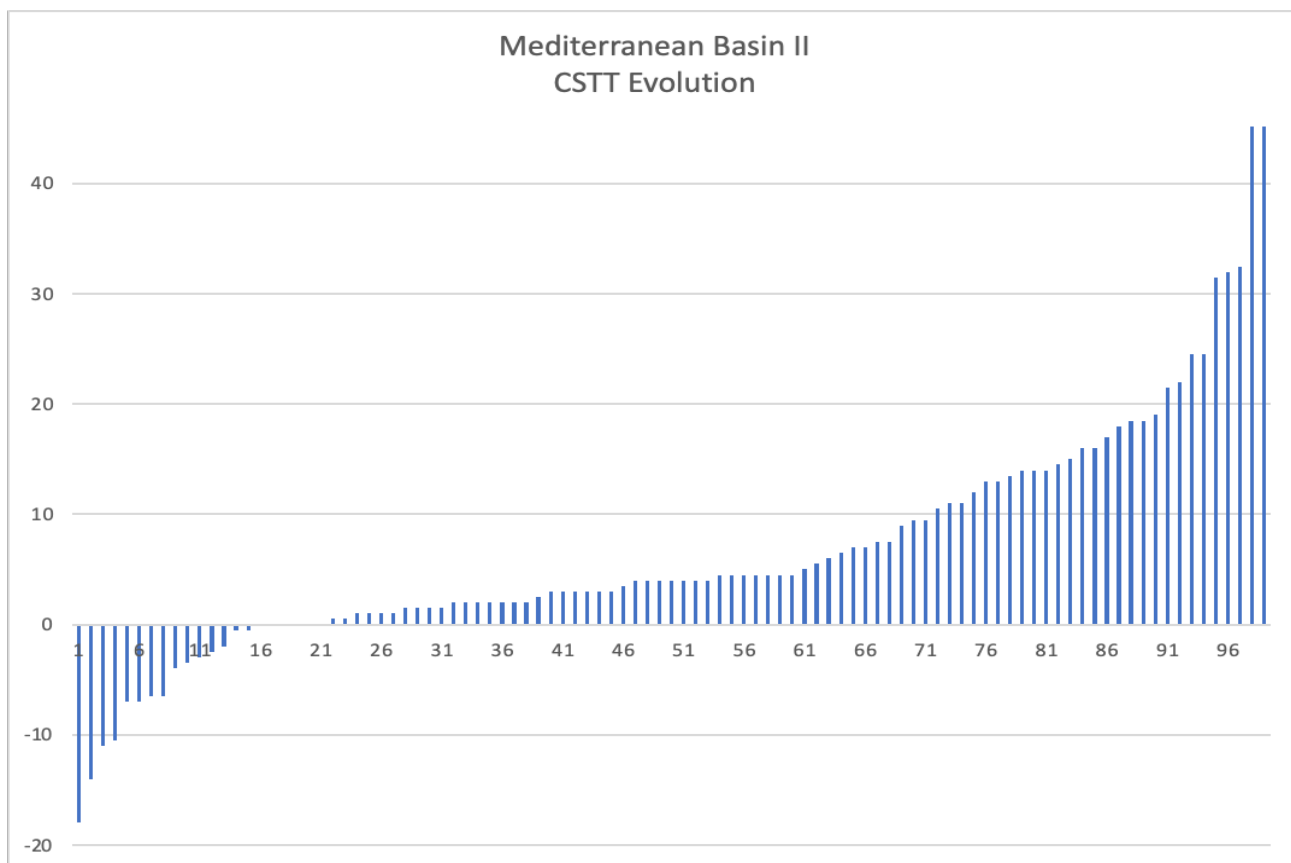
## VI. Strengthening Civil Society Results

### 1) Analysis of Civil Society Tracking Tool

CEPF monitors the impact of its investments on the capacity of local CSOs by means of the CSTT, a self-assessment tool that CSOs complete at the beginning and end of the period of CEPF support. The CSTT measures capacity along five dimensions: human resources; financial resources; management systems; strategic planning; and delivery. The maximum total score is 100 points.

One hundred and seventy projects, ending before December 2023, are considered in this report. These projects were implemented by 129 individual organizations, out of which 105 were required to complete the CSTT<sup>4</sup>. A few organizations did not complete the cycle (due to grants terminating, change of staff, etc.) but comprehensive, validated data were obtained for 99 organizations, for which the change in their CSTT score is shown in Figure 11.

**Figure 11: Change in CSTT Score**



By the end of Phase II, 78% of organizations reported an increase in their score, 15% a decrease, and 7% no change.

<sup>4</sup> Large international organizations, organizations which received a very limited support (i.e. support after the Beirut blast, organization of an event or conference etc...) are not requested to CSTT as CEPF support is not expected to impact on their capacities.

In more detail:

- 12% reported a decrease in their score by more than 2 points.
- 24% remained relatively stable (change limited to plus or minus 2 points).
- 64% reported a major increase in their score, among which about half (31%) reported an increase in their score of more than 9 points, and nine organizations reported their score increasing by more than 20 points.

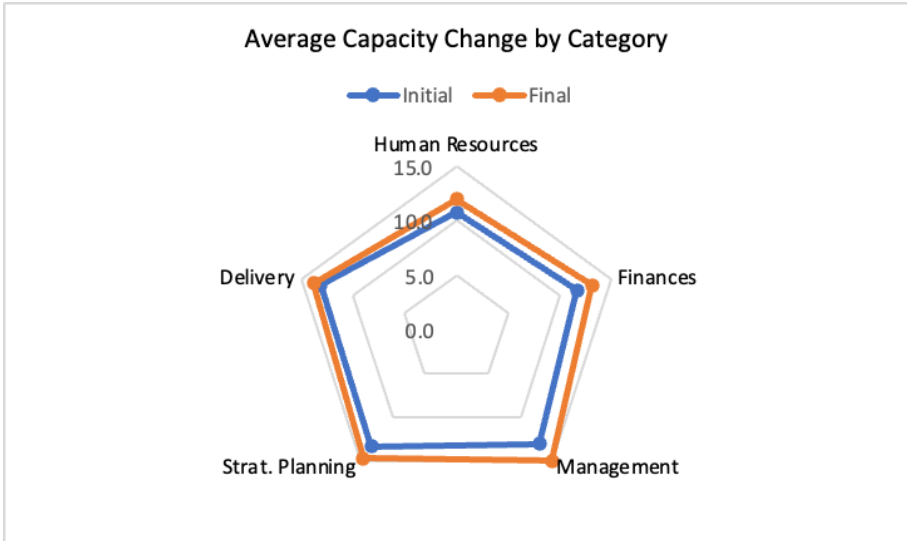
Six of the eight organizations with the largest decrease in CSTT score were from the Balkans and benefitted from small grants. The capacity of these “small” organizations did not “take off” after receiving CEPF grants. In some cases, they experienced staff turnover, with senior staff leaving for other positions or leaving the country. There is generally a higher staff turnover rate in the Balkans (in particular in Albania), which affects CSOs, with some of them even disappearing after a few years.

Table 12 and Figure 12 below show the average baseline and final scores across the five dimensions of the CSTT. Organizations grew in all areas but particularly in the areas of management systems (1.9 points on average) and financial resources (1.4 points). This reflects the emphasis on these topics, by CEPF and the RIT, early on during partnership - as they’re seen as a first step for low capacity groups.

**Table 12: CSTT Scores across the Hotspot**

	Human Resources	Financial Resources	Management Systems	Strategic Planning	Delivery	Total
<b>Baseline</b>	10.7	11.6	13.0	13.3	13.1	<b>61.7</b>
<b>Final</b>	12.0	13.1	14.9	14.6	13.8	<b>68.3</b>

**Figure 12: Change in CSTT Scores by Category**



Increase in CSTT scores was considerably higher than expected for organizations receiving large grants, or large grants following small grants. On average, CSOs receiving large grants increase their CSTT score by 11 points, compared with 2.8 points for CSOs receiving small grants. The difference was expected, as large grants offer more time to support organizations, and the larger budget provides more opportunity for

organizations to strengthen their human resources, etc. Nevertheless, the difference was large and calls for reflection on including more capacity-building activities in grants to smaller and newer organizations receiving small grants. The trends also varied by sub-region, as shown in Table 13 below.

**Table 13: CSTT Scores per Sub-region**

	Average Initial	Average Final	Change in Score
CABO VERDE	53.4	70.3	16.9
NORTH AFRICA	56.2	66.7	10.5
MIDDLE-EAST	70.6	76.2	5.6
BALKANS	63.3	66.5	3.2

CSOs in the Balkans and Middle-East demonstrated higher capacities initially, and the increase was consequently lower in those sub-region, respectively by 3.2 and 5.6 points. In the Middle-East, Palestinian organizations benefitted more (+7.1 points). The average increase in capacity was higher in North Africa (+10.5 points) and even more so in Cabo Verde (+16.9), albeit based on a sample of only seven CSOs. CSOs in Cabo Verde now report, on average, a higher score than those in the Balkans. This data analysis is very congruent with the general impression from CEPF and the RIT, based on supervision missions and evaluation of individual grantees.

**Table 14: CSTT Scores per Country**

	Number of CSOs	Average Initial	Average Final	Change in Score
Cabo Verde	7	53.4	70.3	16.9
Algeria	1	53.5	56.5	3.0
Libya	4	50.4	51.8	1.4
Morocco	11	60.6	71.9	11.3
Tunisia	13	54.2	66.9	12.7
Jordan	5	70.0	73.3	3.3
Lebanon	8	71.0	77.2	6.2
Palestine	4	70.6	77.8	7.1
Albania	15	65.6	67.7	2.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	65.1	66.8	1.7
Montenegro	6	62.3	67.5	5.2
North Macedonia	12	59.6	64.2	4.6
Regional Organizations	5	64.8	67.3	2.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>

## 2) Analysis of Gender Tracking Tool

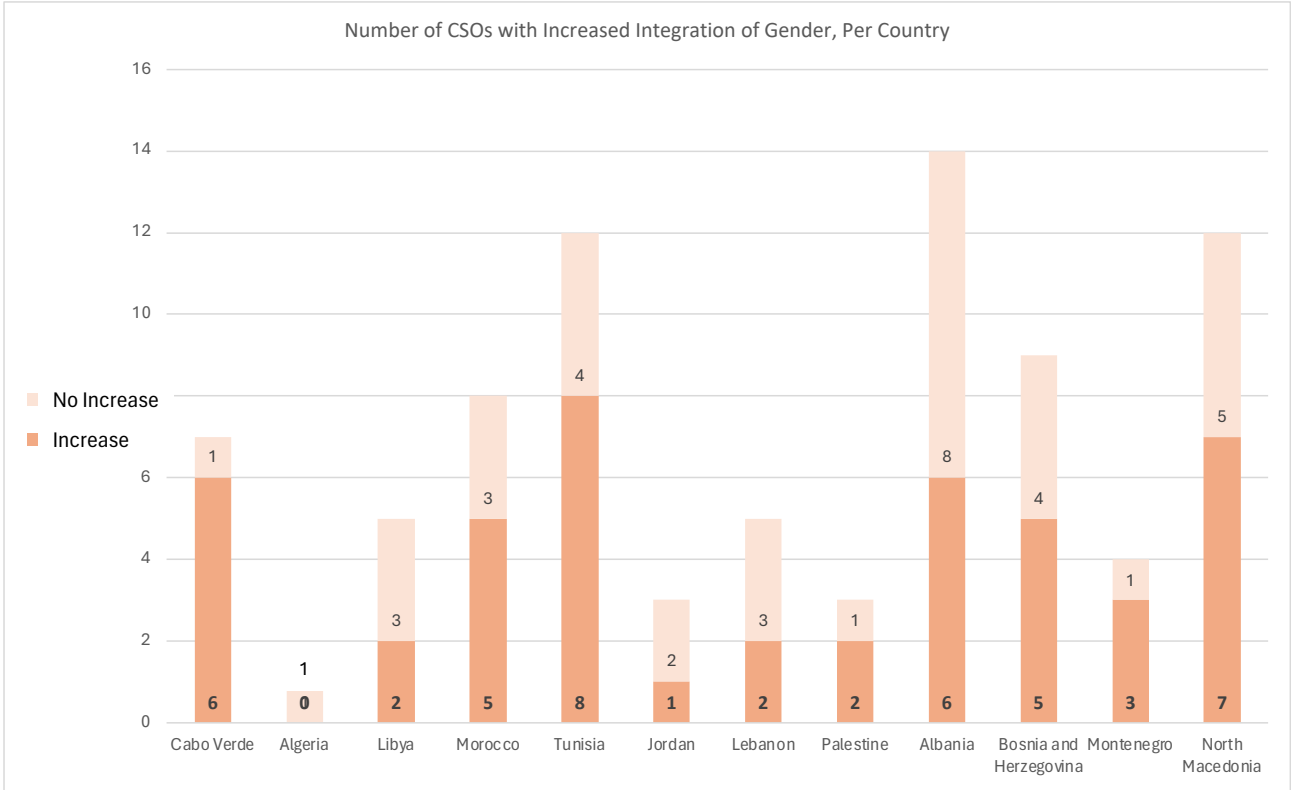
In 2017, CEPF introduced a gender policy to strengthen consideration of gender in all CEPF projects. All proposals are screened for gender integration and gender issues are discussed with applicants during the

project preparation. CEPF partners follow online training on gender and have access to a gender toolkit. Moreover, gender is a specific theme touched upon during site visits and during exchanges, all along the lifetime of projects. CEPF uses a balanced and culturally appropriate approach to gender in all countries of implementation.

CEPF monitors progress as regards consideration of gender within partners’ organizations through the Gender Tracking Tool (GTT): a self-assessment tool that all local organizations were asked to complete at the beginning and the end of their projects. The tools were reviewed and approved by CEPF and the RIT, which asked for modifications when inaccuracies happened. The tool has seven questions for a total of 20 points.

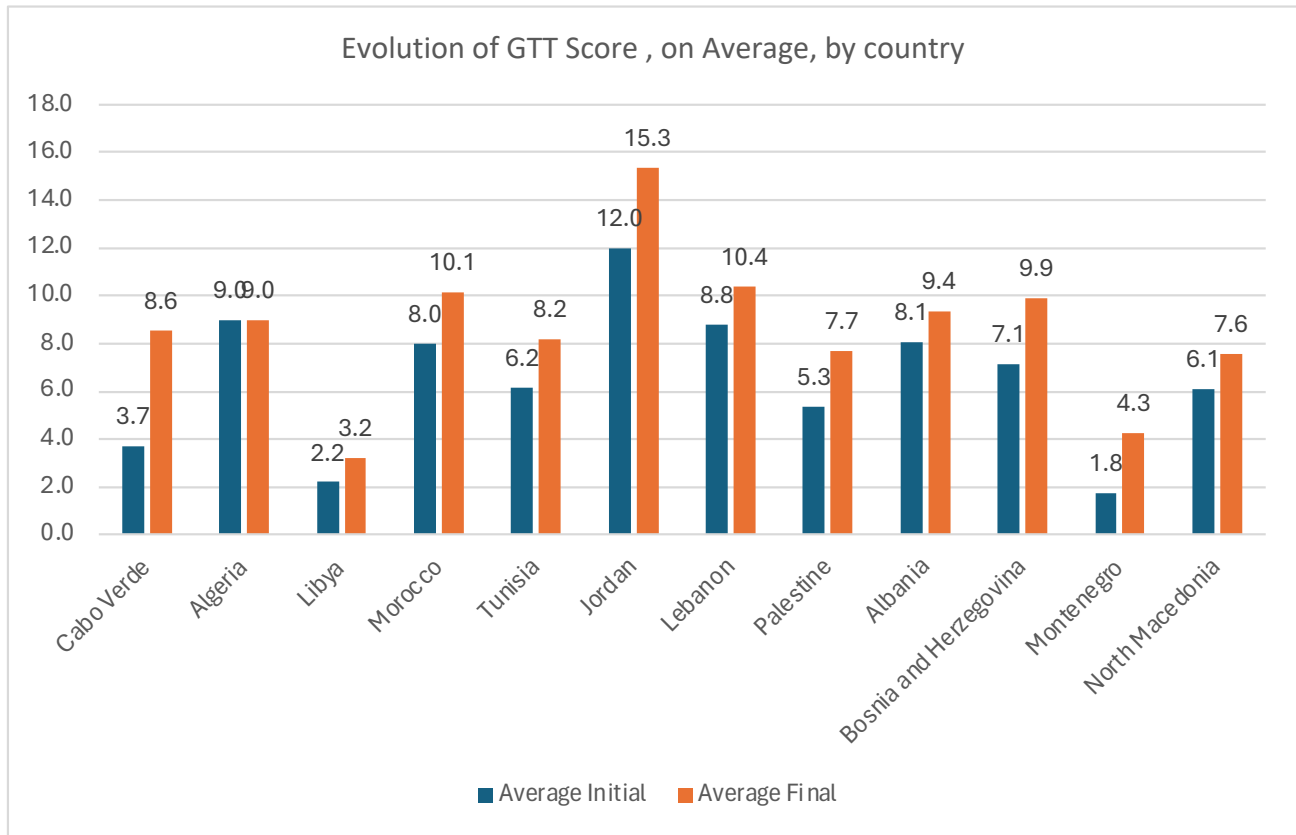
In the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, during the second phase of investment, 83 local organizations completed the cycle, submitting (at least) one baseline and final GTT. Overall, 57% of grantees (47 organizations) reported an increased integration of gender within their organizations (Figure 13).

**Figure 13: Number of CSOs with Increase or No Increase in GTT Scores**



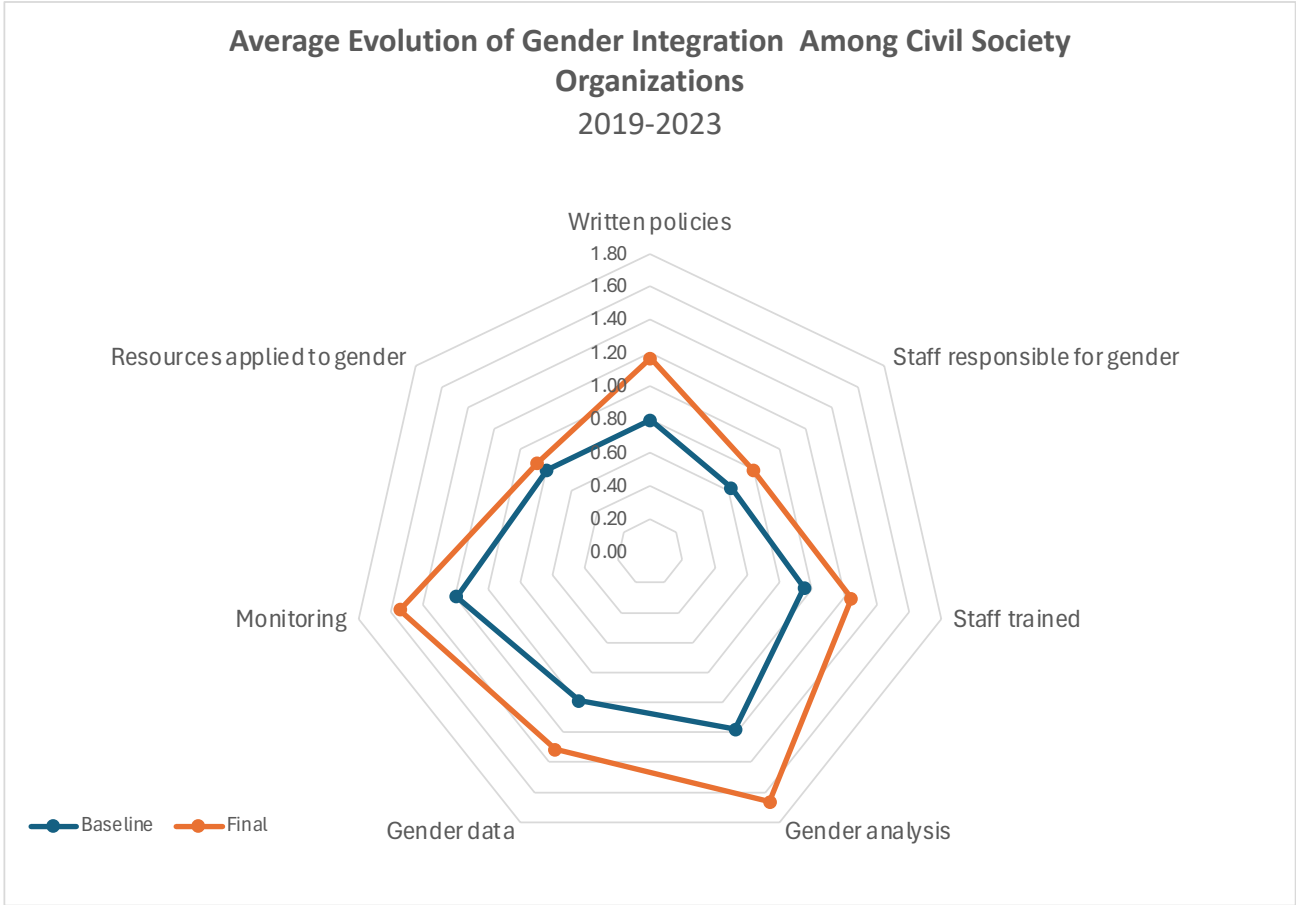
The country where the greatest proportion of CSOs reported progress was Cabo Verde, with 87% of organizations reporting an increase, and scores progressing on average from 3.7 to 8.6, which was also the largest increase of any country (Figure 14). The evolution of scores did not seem to follow any trend based on sub-region. In the Balkans, while societies are generally more gender-aware and organizations are generally gender-balanced, even in top management, the GTT scores were relatively low, as no specific policies had been put in place by partner organizations. The situation is nonetheless evolving positively.

**Figure 14: Change in Average GTT Score by Country**



The main areas of improvement were with regard to adoption of written policies on gender and application of a gender analysis when developing projects (Figure 15). Dedicating resources, whether financial or human, appears more difficult for these mostly small-scale organizations.

**Figure 15: Average Change in GTT Score by Category**



Nevertheless, despite these efforts, discrepancies between the number of males and females receiving economic benefits (see Section VII, 2.) or structured training (see Section VII, 3.) remain in most countries, calling for even more efforts with CEPF’s partners in the future.

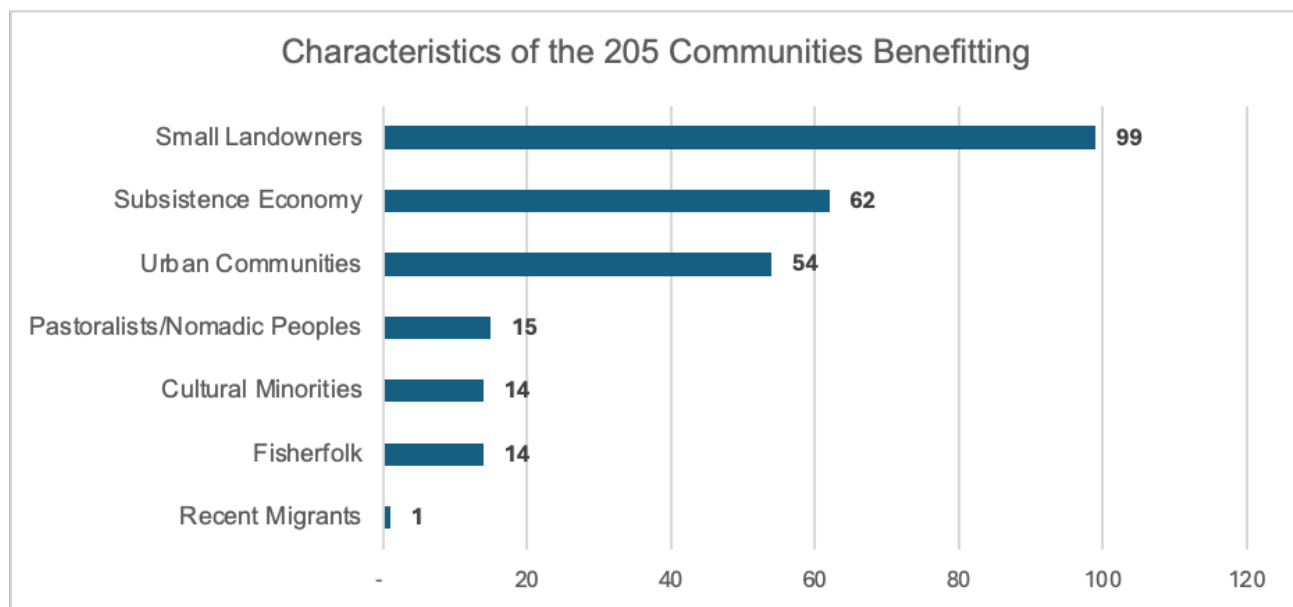
## VII. Human Wellbeing Results

### 1) Community Benefits

Projects implemented by CEPF grantees benefitted 205 “communities”, defined as a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. These communities varied greatly in size and characteristics, from the inhabitants of a rural village of the Atlas Mountains to a group of fishermen in Cabo Verde to shepherds sharing Alpine grassland of Albania. Communities were assigned to different categories based on their characteristics (Figure 16), with one community being able to be assigned to more than one category (e.g., fisherfolk from cultural minorities).

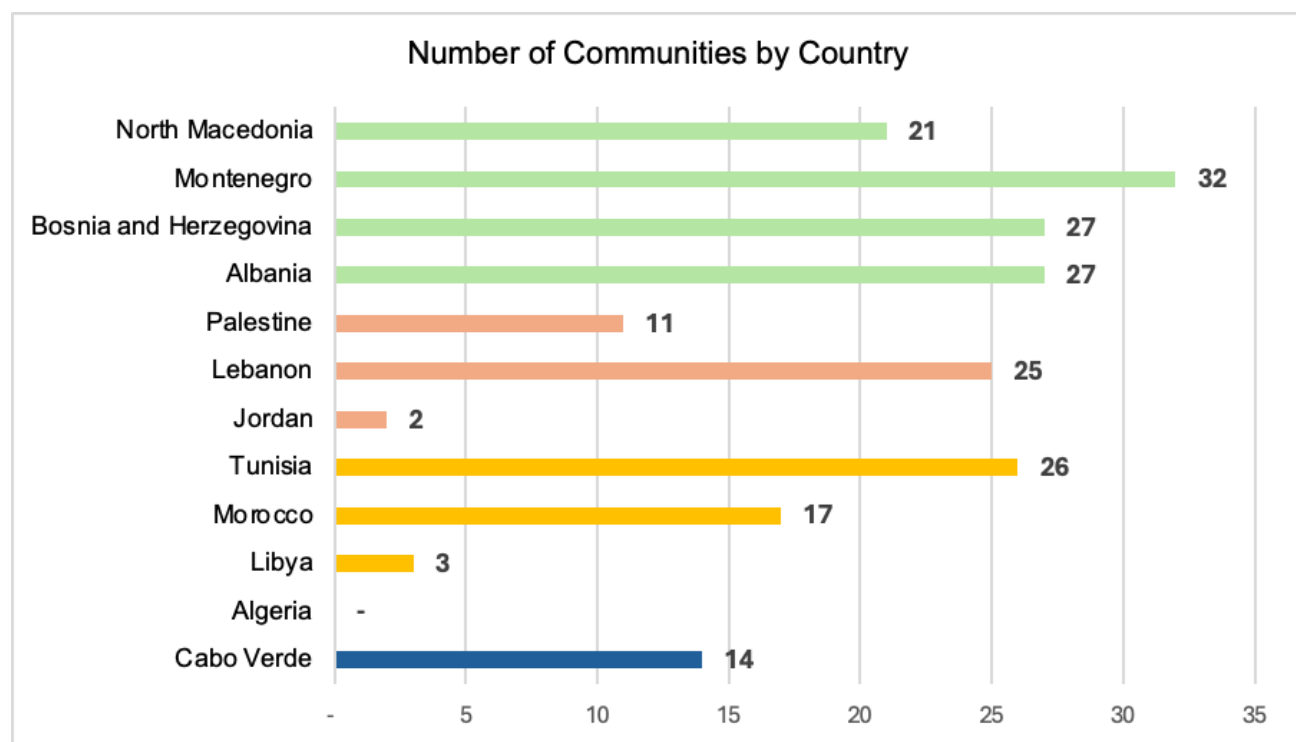
About 50% of beneficiary communities were *small landowners*, while 30% were engaged in *subsistence economy*, with a large overlap between the two. Overall, about 68% of the beneficiary communities were rural communities, which is quite natural, given the focus on natural resources management and the emphasis of SD3 “Cultural Landscape” on agriculture.

**Figure 16: Characteristics of Beneficiary Communities**



The characteristics of beneficiary communities varied among countries and subregions. For example, almost all communities identified as cultural minorities were represented by Amazigh communities of the Atlas mountains of Morocco, fisherfolk were mostly from Cabo Verde and Tunisia, while urban communities were mostly from the Balkans subregion.

**Figure 17: Beneficiary Communities by Country**



Overall, CEPF projects benefitted a little more than 150,000 people (54% male, 46% female) from these 205 communities in 11 Mediterranean countries (Figure 17 and Table 15).

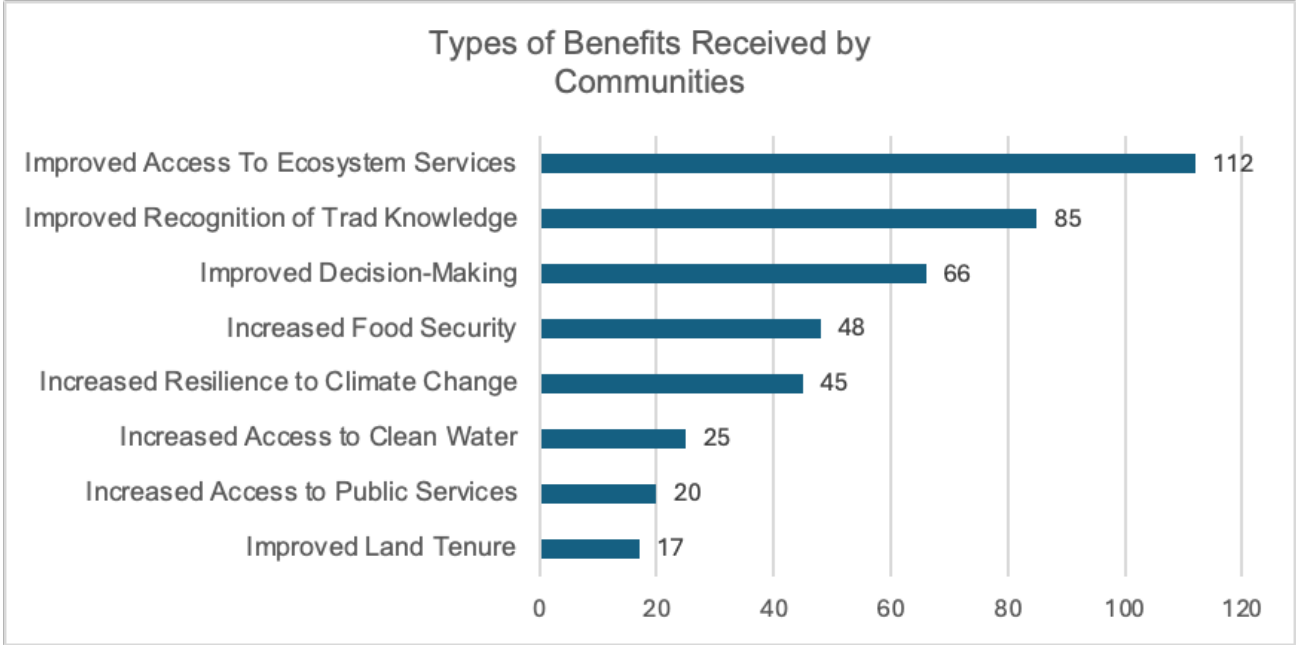
**Table 15: Total Number of Beneficiaries per Country**

	Communities	People Benefitting (male)	People benefiting (female)
Cabo Verde	14	1,432	929
Algeria	-	-	-
Libya	3	170	70
Morocco	17	41,067	30,954
Tunisia	26	7,167	7,986
Jordan	2	31	62
Lebanon	25	2,594	2,967
Palestine	11	1,550	1,141
Albania	27	20,719	19,966
Bosnia and Herzegovina	27	923	447
Montenegro	32	2,439	2,110
North Macedonia	21	3,853	4,202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>81,945</b>	<b>70,834</b>



Among the type of benefits received by the beneficiary communities, improved recognition of traditional knowledge was prominent (Figure 18), reflecting the focus of SD3 on cultural landscapes. Improved decision making was well represented in the Balkans and North Africa, as an outcome of the public consultation and participatory processes set up with many communities in these regions, notably under the SD2 on freshwater management.

**Figure 18: Types of Benefit Received by Communities**



**2) Direct Economic Benefits**

In addition to the benefits to communities discussed above, 46 projects supported people to get direct economic benefits, resulting in increased income, through employment, equipment for farming or fishing, opportunities for ecotourism, etc. This support was integrated into promotion of biodiversity-friendly activities. The figures presented here do not take into account project staff or vendors working directly for CSOs.

The total number of individuals supported in Phase II was **2,372 people**, with 36% of them being women: a proportion quite stable among countries, with higher percentages only in Lebanon and Cabo Verde (47% and 43% female respectively). This calls for strengthened efforts on gender responsiveness, to engage CEPF partners on ensuring more equitable access to direct economic benefits from projects.

**Table 16: Total Number of Individual Direct Beneficiaries per Country**

	Male	Female	Total
Cabo Verde	110	84	<b>194</b>
Morocco	649	333	<b>982</b>
Tunisia	153	81	<b>234</b>
Jordan	29	19	<b>48</b>
Lebanon	114	100	<b>214</b>
Palestine	20	12	<b>32</b>
Albania	134	62	<b>196</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	99	51	<b>150</b>
Montenegro	13	9	<b>22</b>
North Macedonia	200	100	<b>300</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1521</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>2372</b>

## VIII. Enabling Conditions Results

### 1) Improving and Sharing Knowledge for Conservation

CEPF supported many scientific studies, inventories and ecological research, as part of most large grant projects and a significant proportion of small grants. Some examples are provided in the boxes below.

Example 1: Association for ecology and tourism ECOTOURISM-2016, Ohrid, North Macedonia

This project used new knowledge to inform conservation planning and action as follows:

- Comprehensive field research at Belchishta wetland produced 11 detailed reports covering plants, fungi, algae, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, aquatic invertebrates, insects and local fruit varieties. Several rare and previously undocumented species in North Macedonia were discovered during these surveys.
- Conservation action plans and monitoring guidelines were then developed for eight priority species and two priority habitats listed on the IUCN Red List, which were incorporated into the management plan for Belchishta wetland.
- A study on the wetland's hydrogeological characteristics quantified water resources, identified pollution risks and analyzed the physio-chemical properties of the wetland. This study is essential for managing and protecting the wetland's water resources in the future.

#### Example 2: University of Ljubljana, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The "SubBIOCODE" project enhanced knowledge and methodologies for assessing subterranean biodiversity and transferred this expertise to local communities and decision-makers, as follows:

- Four expeditions to caves and springs uncovered previously unknown species and rediscovered species not seen in decades, including several that are on the IUCN Red List. These were barcoded.
- Both existing and newly collected data were compiled into the online SubBIOCODE database, which provides open-access information on the distribution of subterranean animals and their conservation status and allows for citizen science contributions. The database is the first of its kind in the region and a valuable resource for conservation planning.
- Local stakeholders and authorities attended a series of meetings. Practical training was offered through internships and field workshops, enhancing local research capacity.
- By organizing the 3rd Dinaric Symposium on Subterranean Biology, the project facilitated collaboration between researchers, local authorities and conservation organizations.

#### Example 3: Cultural landscapes

- Four studies were conducted in Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon to improve knowledge about cultural and innovative practices in favor of biodiversity conservation. These studies improved understanding of agricultural practices that can contribute to the conservation of cultural landscape, such as the Agdal system in Morocco, the rotation system and smallscale plantations in Tunisia, the terrace system in Lebanon and land-use planning in Jordan. All studies revealed the importance of planning the exploitation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Improving the knowledge base for conservation, and enhancing the capacities of conservation professionals also involved supporting students, offering them opportunities for field research during their studies and preparing the way for a next generation of conservationists. During Phase II, at least 30 masters degrees and doctorates were obtained by students from recipient countries directly involved with CSOs on projects. For SD4 on plant conservation alone, 301 students were involved in training on botany and plant conservation.

Finally, structured training opportunities were offered by 130 projects (76% of projects) to 8,680 individuals (Table 17). CEPF takes a conservative approach to counting beneficiaries of structured training, excluding one-off workshops, community consultations, etc. Only substantial trainings, prepared by CSOs and their partners, with clear objectives, are considered. A large proportion of these trainings (at least in terms of number of beneficiaries) were organized for local community members.

The percentage of women involved in these training was, on average at 43%, with only the Middle-East (and the few projects from regional organizations involving conservation professionals) getting close to or over gender parity, calling for more attention to be given to gender equity.

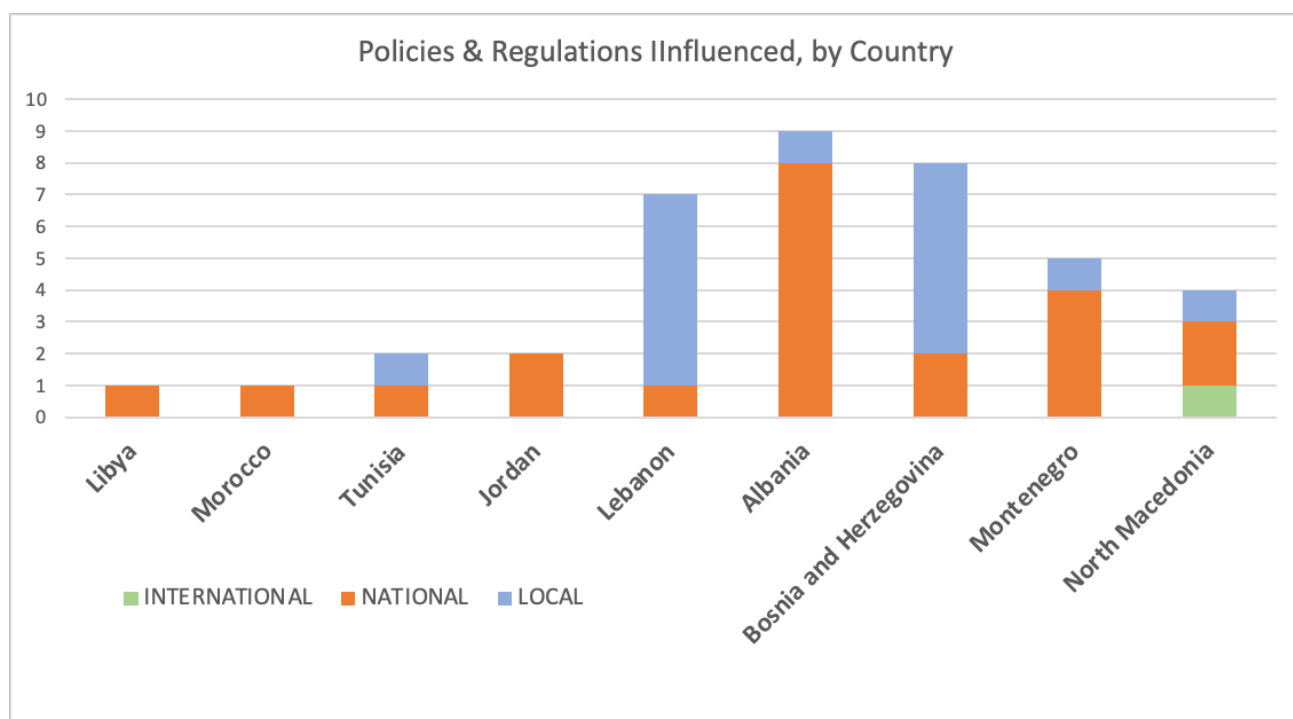
**Table 17: Structured Training by Sub-region**

		% female	% male
CABO VERDE	504	31%	69%
NORTH AFRICA	3320	44%	56%
MIDDLE-EAST	1603	49%	51%
BALKANS	3222	40%	60%
PAN-MEDITERRANEAN	31	55%	45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8680</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>57%</b>

## 2) Influencing Policies for Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Several organizations supported by CEPF worked towards the improvement of policies in favor of biodiversity conservation in the region, demonstrating the important role of civil society in influencing decision-making. The achievement of these objectives followed different approaches, sometimes combined in more than one project. CSOs gathered data and evidence for policy makers, participated in consultations with alternative propositions, organized citizen consultations, raised awareness of the population to build a constituency in favor or against certain regulations, and organized visits and exchanges for parliamentarians, among other activities. Many avenues to mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into decision making were explored, depending on the local political context, during the investment phase, leading to 39 policies or regulations being officially declared (Figure 19). This figure can be compared with results of Phase I, when only 15 policies and regulations were influenced: this is a sign of civil society gaining greater capacity and credibility in the hotspot.

**Figure 19: Policies and Regulations Influenced by Country**



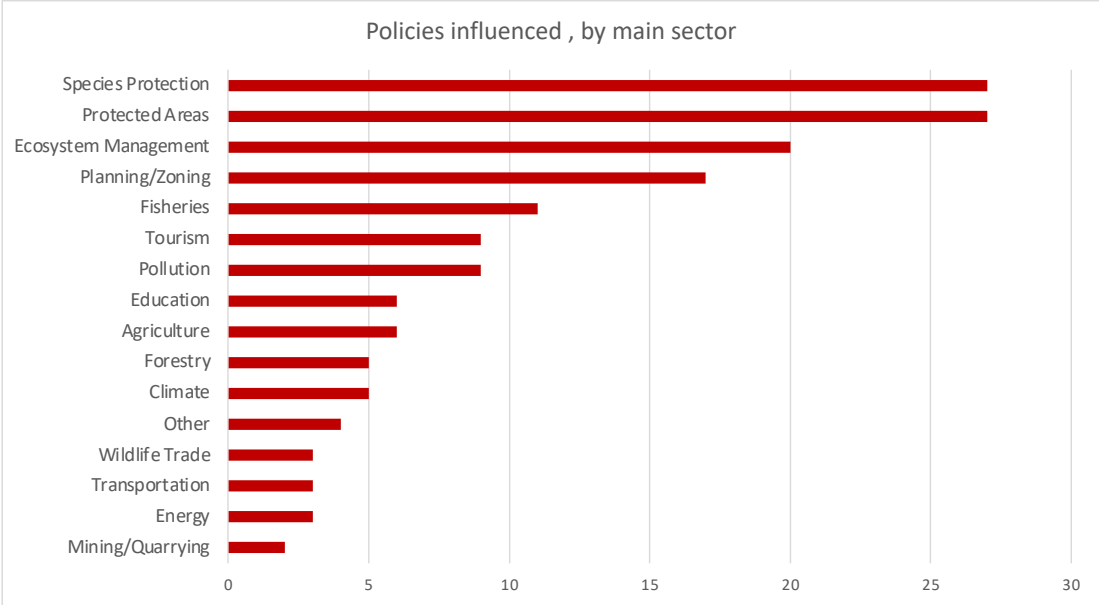
Geographically speaking, the advocacy effort paid off more and faster in the Balkans, where 26 of the 39 policies and regulations were passed (67% of the total), which reflects the capacity of grantees in this subregion but also the current activity in terms of law-making in these countries in the context of pre-accession to the European Union.

In several of North African and Middle Eastern countries, CEPF grantees worked to influence policy without regulations being passed at present time, due to longer process or unfavorable political situations.

CSOs in Lebanon and Bosnia and Herzegovina were particularly successful at influencing local policies, each with six local policies or regulations. Civil society in these countries, therefore, manage to have an influence on regulations and policies in a context where national law-making is more challenging.

The sectors concerned by the policies and regulations were diverse, even if protected areas, species protection and ecosystem management got the lion’s share (Figure 20), which is not a surprise in the context of CEPF funding. Nevertheless, some other sectors, such as education, transport or mining, were also influenced, with a trend to be more and more a focus of CSOs: a welcome trend.

**Figure 20: Policies and Regulations Influenced by Sector**



Apart from the policies and regulations that were passed, the influence of civil society can also be seen in the fight against infrastructure or development, harmful to ecosystems, as presented in the examples below:

- Lake Ohrid and Galichica (North Macedonia): civil society pressured government to start acting upon illegal construction.
- Divjakë Karavasta (Albania): the "Mabetex" Resort was abandoned under civil society pressure.
- Dojran Lake (North Macedonia): studies and collaboration with the local municipality prevented silt removal with potential damaging impact on ecosystem.
- Sebkhjet Sejoumi (Tunisia): a land-use plan was revised to maintain wetlands.
- Beirut Airport Authority (Lebanon): following studies and information, measures to preserve highly threatened plants were announced.
- Labunishta (North Macedonia): illegal quarrying concessions were stopped.
- Bisri Valley (Lebanon): a dam project was stopped and work on creating a protected area began.

**3) Leveraging**

CEPF does not require 37ofounding for projects. Nevertheless, CEPF grantees leveraged a total of US\$6,659,071, using their CEPF grants to raise additional funding for their projects and organizations. This is almost 10 times as much as these same grantees expected to raise (a combined total of US\$693,927) when

they wrote their applications to CEPF. Data on leveraging were collected at the time of project final reporting, so do not take into account CSOs' continuation of activities, supported by other donors, which could have happened after project closed. This means that for every 100 dollars invested by CEPF, 66 dollars were raised additionally by grantees.

The RIT made a special effort to support CEPF grantees to raise additional funding and to connect them with relevant funding agencies. Working towards a target of “information on at least 15 funding opportunities for civil society disseminated to relevant organizations, resulting in at least 5 successful funding proposals for continuation or extension of CEPF-funded work”, the RIT achieved the following results:

- Information was made available about at least 55 funding opportunities (excluding a list of 60 donors that was shared during a hotspot-wide fundraising training in 2022).
- The RIT actively supported 43 approaches to donors by grantees, of which 26 were successful.
- Combined, these successful proposals were worth US\$5,706,337 in terms of financial support to grantees (and in terms of donor relationships).

## IX. Conclusion

Over the past six years, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has played a pivotal role in bolstering civil society organizations across the Mediterranean Basin. With an investment totaling nearly \$13 million, CEPF has funded 170 projects, each contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of this globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

The investment has yielded substantial impacts. Local and regional CSOs have been empowered to implement innovative conservation strategies, enhance biodiversity conservation and improve ecosystem resilience. The funded projects have facilitated creation of protected areas, restoration of critical habitats, and promotion of sustainable livelihoods among local communities, ensuring that conservation efforts are both effective and inclusive.

Furthermore, CEPF's support has strengthened institutional capacities, fostered regional cooperation, and raised awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation. By building a network of dedicated and capable organizations, CEPF and the RIT have ensured that the benefits of this investment will persist beyond the life of individual projects.

CEPF's strategic investment in the Mediterranean Basin has been instrumental in advancing conservation goals and promoting sustainable development. The success of these 170 projects underscores the importance of continued support and collaboration to protect the unique and rich biodiversity of this region for future generations.

## X. Progress against the Logical Framework

Objectives	Targets	Results during Phase II (2017-2023)
<p><b>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities.</b></p>	<p>45 Key Biodiversity Areas, covering 1,000,000 hectares, have new or strengthened protection and management.</p>	<p>CEPF projects implemented site-based activities at 101 KBAs. Out of these 101 KBAs, strengthened management was reported at 69 sites (68%). Activities at the 32 other sites were generally research and assessment, or limited to things that did not result in actual improvement at the time of reporting.</p> <p>The actions of CEPF grantees at these 69 KBAs resulted in strengthened management of 624,497 ha.</p>
	<p>8 sites, covering at least 120,000 hectares that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status.</p>	<p>CEPF projects resulted in creation of 11 new protected areas and extension of 4 existing areas, totaling 8,420 ha. Protected areas were created or expanded in Albania (4), Palestine (4), North Macedonia (3), Lebanon (1), Libya (1), Montenegro (1) and Tunisia (1).</p> <p>In addition, 3 archeological sites in Lebanon, already protected but not with conservation objectives, are now considering protection of wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>In Morocco, 10 sites were nominated as Ramsar sites following a project on freshwater sites assessment, hence contributing to enhanced protection, although they cannot be counted as protected areas <i>per se</i>.</p> <p><i>Note that protected area creation process is made difficult in Tunisia and Lebanon, due to the political situation; creation of several protected areas is in process in these countries.</i></p>
	<p>At least 8 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices.</p>	<p>11 initiatives were launched with private sector stakeholders (producers, processors and resellers) to promote more sustainable practices, such as: tourism and fisheries in Cabo Verde (restaurants using labelled products); infrastructure/energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina; canned/smoked mussels and sheep products in Morocco; olive oil in Lebanon; tourism and fisheries in Tunisia; fruits and pickles in Jordan; and sustainable tourism in Albania and Montenegro.</p> <p>At least 21 initiatives with local communities included support to small businesses (ecotourism, agricultural products, fisheries).</p> <p>8 small grants supported private sector entities directly, to maintain biodiversity friendly traditional fishing activities around Zembra marine protected area.</p> <p>4 cooperatives in Morocco and 2 Farmers Associations in Tunisia were created to enhance biodiversity friendly activities.</p>

	<p>10 land-use plans or land use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation (e.g., integrated coastal zone management plans, river basin management plans, agricultural development plans, etc.).</p>	<p>21 projects invested in influencing land-use planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD1: 9 projects on coastal zone management plans in 5 countries.</li> <li>• SD2: 6 projects on river basin management plans in 5 countries.</li> <li>• SD3: 5 projects covering land-use plans in 3 countries.</li> <li>• SD4: 1 project in Jordan incorporating plant conservation in land use planning.</li> </ul> <p>At the time of this report, 12 of these plans had been confirmed or approved: 4 in Morocco; 3 in Jordan; 3 in Tunisia; 1 in Libya; and 1 in Albania.</p> <p>At least 8 infrastructure projects that would have been impacting negatively on biodiversity/landscapes were abandoned or modified following advocacy work from CSOs: 4 in North Macedonia; 2 in Lebanon; 1 in Albania; and 1 in Tunisia.</p>
	<p>5 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile.</p>	<p>5 international and 15 transboundary networks were established or strengthened (including NastNet, the Neretva Forum, and the Prespa-Orhid network), as well as 13 national networks (including the Working Group on Plants of Palestine, Advocate for Protection of Albanian Nature, Tunisian Islanders).</p> <p>Grantees supported the establishment of 25 local conservation groups, gathering local stakeholders around a specific site; and 44 partnerships between different organizations that lasted beyond collaboration on a single project.</p>
	<p>At least 60 civil society organizations, including at least 45 local organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile, and increase their capacities to deliver long-term conservation benefits.</p>	<p>129 CSOs (plus an additional 5 sub-grantees) received funding for conservation projects guided by the ecosystem profile in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. 113 of them were local organizations.</p>
<b>Intermediate Outcomes</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas</b>	<p>Multi-stakeholder approaches lead to improved management of at least 17 priority coastal KBAs, covering at least 600,000 hectares.</p>	<p>CEPF grantees contributed to the improved management of 29 coastal KBAs. The total area covered by these KBAs is 929,796 ha; nevertheless, the validated total area under improved management was 149,995 ha.</p>
	<p>At least 8 private sector stakeholders, in at least 4 countries, improve their business practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>11 partnerships initiated with private sector entities on eco-labeling, sustainable practices and value chains for biodiversity-friendly products in 8 countries (see also above).</p>



	At least 2 mechanisms initiated for the private sector to contribute financially to conservation management costs of priority coastal KBAs.	4 mechanisms are now in place: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Albania: fees from tourism collected to support management in Karaburun.</li> <li>2. Cabo Verde: restaurants pay a premium for sustainable fish from a protected area.</li> <li>3. Cabo Verde: partnership established with RIU resort in Sal.</li> <li>4. Tunisia: A training center and diving center established, income from which contributes to the conservation of Kuriat Islands Marine Protected Area.</li> </ol>
	Improvement of the status (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 10 globally threatened species	Projects have benefited at least 18 globally threatened coastal species: 5 coastal plants; 2 marine turtles; 1 mammal; 3 birds; 6 fishes; and 1 mollusk. Improvement of status at the local (site) level can be assessed for 7 of those (not enough data/time for the others to monitor changes).
	At least 4 land-use planning and/or integrated coastal zone management processes show better integration of biodiversity conservation.	Projects supported or contributed to land-use management and integrated management in 11 coastal zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albania: construction of massive tourism complex prevented at Karavasta.</li> <li>• Albania: coastal plant conservation integrated into management plan for Karaburun, revising/extending protected area boundaries.</li> <li>• Montenegro: Katic Marine Protected Area created, the second in the country, co-management promoted.</li> <li>• Libya: management plan prepared, Farwa Protected Area officially recognize.</li> <li>• Libya: management plan prepared for Karaboli.</li> <li>• Cabo Verde: control of tourist traffic in the Costa da Fragata Protected Area.</li> <li>• Cabo Verde: control of touristic traffic in Maio Island Protected Area.</li> <li>• Cabo Verde: permanent patrols against sea turtle poaching initiate on Sal island.</li> <li>• Morocco: zoning for fishing influenced in the Souss-Massa region.</li> <li>• Morocco: municipal regulations for illegal building influenced in the Tamri area.</li> <li>• Tunisia: approval for creation of a management plan for Ras Rmal Marine Protected Area (Djerba).</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate Outcomes</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened</b>	Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity in at least 15 KBAs in priority Catchment Management Zones (CMZs) improved, documented and shared with decision-makers.	Knowledge on 73 sites important for freshwater was improved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morocco: 43 sites, including 37 that were assessed under a project to support a network of freshwater ecosystems that are important for biodiversity in Morocco; 10 were nominated as Ramsar sites.</li> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina: 15 sites with significantly improved knowledge on freshwater fishes and other taxa, particularly in Livanjsko polje and Neretva and its tributaries. For the first time, data on subterranean freshwater biodiversity were made widely available</li> </ul>

<p><b>freshwater biodiversity</b></p>		<p>(including to decision makers)  <a href="https://db.subbiocode.net/home">https://db.subbiocode.net/home</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montenegro: 6 sites, including the upper Zeta river, where the first systematic research was done in an area with no previous conservation action, despite alarming pressures.</li> <li>• Albania: 3 sites.</li> <li>• North Macedonia: 3 sites.</li> <li>• Tunisia: 1 site.</li> <li>• Lebanon: 1 site.</li> <li>• Egypt: 1 site.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note that some of these sites were not previously recognized as freshwater KBAs, calling for a review of freshwater KBAs in the region.</i></p>
	<p>Community stakeholders (e.g., fishers, farmers, etc.) in at least 20 sites in priority CMZs receive economic benefits from adopting practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Community members received economic benefits at 13 sites in priority CMZs, all but one of which were in the Balkans. In most cases, these economic benefits were in relation to ecotourism and fishing activities.</p>
	<p>Improvement in the status (i.e. short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 12 globally threatened freshwater species.</p>	<p>Conservation actions were taken for 23 globally threatened freshwater/freshwater-dependent species, comprising 2 CR, 11 EN and 10 VU species.</p> <p>27 additional freshwater species benefitted from monitoring, assessment and awareness-raising activities, albeit without direct conservation action.</p> <p>Overall, the freshwater species benefitting from CEPF projects were mostly fishes (22), invertebrates (15), plants (6) and amphibians (5).</p> <p><i>Note that it is not currently possible to assess increase in population or breeding success (several years of monitoring post-project would be necessary).</i></p> <p>CEPF projects also contributed to discovery of new species for science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Morocco 2 freshwater snails species were identified: <i>Maroccoarganiella touarguii</i>; and <i>Moroccohoratia bouregregensis</i>.</li> <li>• A new freshwater snail from the family Hydrobiidae <i>Belgrandiella kurtovici</i> was discovered at Popovo polje KBA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.</li> </ul> <p>Several new arthropod species were also discovered in Bosnia and Herzegovina (the scientific paper describing these species is in print).</p>
	<p>Management plans and/or practices for at least 4 river basins integrate provisions for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Projects supported actions to improve management plans and practices for 7 sections of river basins, with better integration of provisions for biodiversity conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• El Barrak, Tunisia</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oued Kheniffra, Morocco,</li> <li>• Oued el Abid, Morocco</li> <li>• Sehb El Majnoune, Morocco</li> <li>• Orhid Lake, Albania and North Macedonia</li> <li>• Skadar Lake, Albania and Montenegro</li> <li>• Dojran Lake, North Macedonia</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate Outcomes</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>3. Promote the maintenance of traditional land-use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value</b>	At least 600 women and 600 men in at least 15 communities demonstrate improved economic wellbeing through maintenance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.	Under SD3, 1,412 men and 1,004 women from 12 communities have reported increased wellbeing benefits. Benefits took the form of direct support in material (solar panels, pumps, equipment for farming), access to productive equipment for cooperatives (mills, canning material), water adduction work (wells rehabilitation, water drilling, trough for cattle, etc.), or vegetative materials (seeds, fruit trees seedlings, etc.)
	At least 6 traditional products that demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity see a positive market trends (in terms increased production, price, access to new markets) through certification, etc.	5 projects delivered on 10 traditional products (sometimes several working on same products), including olive oil, medicinal plants and herbal tea, spices, mutton, sheep dairy, saffron, fruits and fruit products (jams, pickles...), cereals, etc. long-term market trend proved difficult to monitor within the phase timeline.
	Status (indicators of population or breeding success) of at least 8 globally threatened species or other species of global significance in terms of conservation, dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level	Projects include conservation measures for 21 endangered or micro-endemic species. The actual status of population trend at the site level is not possible to assess in the current timeline.
	Local authorities in at least 3 priority corridors recognize the importance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices and engage in supporting their maintenance.	27 local authorities in the three priority corridors were informed and recognized the importance of cultural landscapes and cultural farming practices
<b>Intermediate Outcomes</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges</b>	Status of at least 40 threatened plant species improved at the site level (increased population or indicators of breeding success) in at least 8 different countries.	78 globally threatened plant species benefitted from conservation action in 10 countries.  The assessment of status improvement at the site level is not yet possible.  <i>Note: Projects also worked on site-restricted endemics, which would qualify as globally threatened if an IUCN Red List assessment was undertaken.</i>
	Improved management practices in at least 20 unprotected sites important for plants (including creation of micro-reserves, etc.).	Management practices were introduced or improved at 36 unprotected sites, (in-situ management, informing local stakeholders about important plants, notably with private landlords (sometimes on very small sites).

		5 micro-reserves (4 in Palestine, 1 in Albania) were created, and 3 archeological sites in Lebanon now include plant conservation in their objective (circum-situ conservation). 1 micro reserve in Tunisia benefitted from the coastal law for protection to accelerate the process.
	At least 16 Protected Area management plans incorporate specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 20 Protected Area managers demonstrate improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation.	13 protected area management plans incorporated specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 129 protected area staff (managers and rangers) benefitted from trainings on plant conservation in 17 protected areas.
	Improved knowledge for at least 35 locally endemic or highly threatened plant species and improved information on plants for at least 15 KBAs.	Knowledge on at least 77 globally threatened plant species plus several site-restricted endemics was improved.
	At least 20 young professionals (ensuring gender balance) gain substantial experience in plant conservation.	301 young professionals gained substantial experience in plant conservation, including 202 with fieldwork and 99 through online trainings only. More than 30 students studying for their masters degrees or doctorates were involved in plant conservation projects.
	At least 2 plans adopted at the national level with improved integration of plant conservation needs.	Only one large policy initiative was approved - in Jordan: regulation on land-use planning include provision for preservation of endangered plants, and the patrolling plan of the national environmental police includes activities on plant protection.  The revision of the Protected Area Network in Palestine, led by IUCN Rowa with the Palestinian authorities, increased consideration for plant conservation in the design of future protected areas (plan is not yet implemented).
<b>Intermediate Outcomes</b>	<b>Targets</b>	
<b>5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region</b>	At least 10 local organizations demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level.	16 organizations were supported to attend and learn about international/regional conservation initiatives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 organisations learned about the Ramsar Convention (and AEWA, CMS).</li> <li>• 3 organisations learned about the World Tourism Organisation.</li> <li>• 3 organizations from the Balkans participated at the Bern Convention Standing Committee meetings.</li> </ul>
	At least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot.	10 regional thematic experience-sharing events were supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> IUCN Plant Conservation Weeks (15 organizations participated).</li> <li>• the MedPAN meeting on marine protected areas (6 organizations participated).</li> <li>• the Protected Area Network Forum in Jordan (4 Libyan NGOs participated).</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a regional training on iris conservation organised by the NGO Jouzour Loubnan for Palestinian and Lebanese researchers.</li> <li>• 2 experience sharing events with RASTOMA and NAST Net on sea turtle conservation.</li> <li>• attendance of Projecto Vitó staff in an Open Source R training at the University of Barcelona.</li> <li>• regional fundraising training organised by the RIT (85 people participated).</li> </ul>
	Grant support makes a significant contribution to catalyzing or sustaining at least 7 cross-border networking relationships.	15 cross-border networking relationships were supported to protect sites (e.g., Orjen Mountains, Lake Dojran and Lake Ohrid in the Balkans) and species (e.g., between Libya and Egypt in North Africa to protect Egyptian tortoise).
	Information on at least 15 funding opportunities for civil society disseminated to relevant organizations, resulting in at least 5 successful funding proposals for continuation or extension of CEPF-funded work.	Information was made available by the RIT to targeted organizations about 55 funding opportunities, and fundraising training was offered as a series of webinars in 2021.  The RIT actively supported 43 approaches to donors, of which 26 were successful. Combined, these successful proposals were worth US\$5,706,337 in terms of financial support to grantees.
	At least 2 regional networks for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin created or strengthened.	The programme established/strengthened 5 regional networks and partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASTNet (Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia).</li> <li>• Network of Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN Forum: Albania; Algeria; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Egypt; France; Greece; Lebanon; Libya; Monaco; Montenegro; Morocco; Spain; Tunisia; Turkey).</li> <li>• Partnership of Association for environmental improvement E group (Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Montenegro).</li> <li>• Pelecanus group (Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bulgaria; France; Germany; Greece; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Israel; Kazakhstan; Kenya; North Macedonia; Mongolia; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovenia; United Arab Emirates).</li> <li>• Neretva Delta Forum (Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia).</li> </ul>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
<b>6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment</b>	At least 80% of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.	78% of local civil society organizations receiving grants (99 out of 129) demonstrated more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions, based on their Civil Society Tracking Tool scores.

<b>through a Regional Implementation Team</b>	At least 30 grantees show at an improvement in gender mainstreaming tracking tool scores over the period of CEPF support	47 grantees reported an improvement in gender mainstreaming based on Gender Tracking Tool scores.
	At least 2 participatory assessments undertaken, documenting lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot.	One participatory assessment was undertaken for the Mid-term Assessment, including an on-line survey.  Three thematic assessments/exchanges of best practices scheduled in 2020 were cancelled due to Covid.
	Performance of the RIT assessed as satisfactory during the Mid Term and Final Assessments.	The Mid-term Assessment Survey revealed a highly satisfactory performance of the RIT.  An independent RIT Evaluation was undertaken at the end of 2023, and provided evidence of RIT being highly efficient and appreciated by stakeholders.

## Annex 1: Protected Areas: Evolution of Management Effectiveness

Protected Area	Countries	Baseline METT	Date	Latest METT	Latest METT date	Evolution	Surface (ha)
Reserva Natural Integral da Santa Luzia	Cabo Verde	45	5/9/19	39	3/3/24	-6	46,940
Ohridsko Ezero	North Macedonia	27	12/4/20	25	1/11/24	-2	24,700
Lura-Dejes Mountain National Park	Albania	22	7/13/21	22	9/15/22	0	20,240
Regional Nature Park Shkrel	Albania	26	9/10/21	26	6/20/22	0	20,280
Shebenik-Jabllanice	Albania	57	6/29/21	57	10/31/23	0	33,920
Hutovo Blato	Bosnia and Herzegovina	46	12/29/20	46	9/26/22	0	7,410
Ajloun Forest Reserve	Jordan	72	9/26/19	72	5/31/22	0	670
Gornjepoljski vir	Montenegro	22	7/23/21	22	6/20/22	0	
Trebjesa	Montenegro	24	7/23/21	24	9/26/22	0	150
Sous Massa National Park	Morocco	78	9/2/21	78	2/19/24	0	46,850
Toubkal National Park	Morocco	73	4/27/20	73	12/5/23	0	37,210
Galichica	North Macedonia	72	6/28/20	72	1/18/24	0	24,320
Parque Natural da Baía do Inferno e do Monte Angra	Cabo Verde	29	6/29/21	30	2/19/24	1	21,090
Parque de Cruzinha	Cabo Verde	13	5/10/21	14	2/11/22	1	12,480
Iles Kneiss avec leurs zones intertidales	Tunisia	57	3/9/22	58	6/30/22	1	22,020
Spring of Bunica River	Bosnia and Herzegovina	27	3/21/20	29	4/14/22	2	100
Lake Burullus	Egypt	40	10/12/21	42	6/30/22	2	46,200
Jabal Moussa	Lebanon	77	2/11/19	79	1/11/22	2	1,250
Jbel Moussa	Morocco	54	4/27/21	56	1/18/24	2	5,520
Yarmouk Forest Reserve	Jordan	68	9/26/19	71	7/30/22	3	2,050
Horsh Ehden	Lebanon	74	2/10/19	78	10/10/23	4	1,740
Skadarsko Jezero	Montenegro	73	11/22/19	77	5/31/22	4	20,000
Ifrane National Park	Morocco	58	3/17/20	62	4/14/22	4	123,690
Dana Biosphere Reserve	Jordan	75	9/26/19	80	7/30/22	5	29,170
Sarada	Lebanon	10	1/22/19	15	1/10/22	5	90
Talassemtane National Park	Morocco	41	4/23/19	46	12/5/23	5	61,420
Bordeira, Chã das Caldeiras e Pico Novo	Cabo Verde	63	4/29/19	69	9/30/22	6	8,460
Jaj Reserve	Lebanon	48	9/23/19	55	1/11/22	7	
Butrint	Albania	53	5/15/19	62	5/31/22	9	13,500
Karaburun	Albania	47	7/24/19	56	1/11/22	9	20,000

<b>Tourbière de Dar Fatma</b>	Tunisia	36	3/28/19	45	7/30/22	9	1
<b>Vjose-Narte</b>	Albania	50	5/11/19	60	5/31/22	10	19,738
<b>Dojransko Ezero</b>	North Macedonia	14	7/30/19	24	1/18/24	10	2,729
<b>Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park</b>	Albania	47	5/24/19	58	1/11/22	11	12,527
<b>Llogara National Park</b>	Albania	47	5/24/19	58	1/10/22	11	1,010
<b>Divjake-Karavasta</b>	Albania	65	7/31/19	77	10/10/23	12	22,230
<b>Zembra and Zembretta</b>	Tunisia	29	2/19/19	41	7/30/22	12	5,095
<b>Tamri-Cap Ghir</b>	Morocco	37	10/15/21	50	2/11/22	13	29,598
<b>Vevchanski izvori</b>	North Macedonia	43	5/13/19	56	3/3/24	13	1,376
<b>Nature Park Orjen</b>	Montenegro	43	3/30/19	58	10/31/23	15	8,797
<b>Farwah Marine Protected Area</b>	Libya	21	7/10/19	39	9/15/22	18	10,240
<b>Reserva Natural de Costa da Fragata</b>	Cabo Verde	48	6/25/19	67	1/11/24	19	2,693
<b>Paisagem Protegida das Salinas de Porto Inglês</b>	Cabo Verde	19	7/28/21	42	1/18/24	23	53
<b>Paisagem Protegida de Monte Penoso e Monte Branco</b>	Cabo Verde	15	7/28/21	39	1/18/24	24	1,116
<b>Reserva Natural da Lagoa Cimidor</b>	Cabo Verde	15	7/28/21	39	1/18/24	24	45
<b>Jbel Bouhachem</b>	Morocco	40	4/21/21	64	9/30/22	24	9,705
<b>Paisagem Protegida de Barreiro e Figueira</b>	Cabo Verde	13	7/28/21	38	1/18/24	25	1,080
<b>Reserva Natural da Praia do Morro</b>	Cabo Verde	13	7/28/21	38	1/18/24	25	66
<b>Parque Natural do Norte da Ilha do Maio</b>	Cabo Verde	13	7/28/21	40	12/5/23	27	25,600
<b>Reserva Marinha das Casas Velhas</b>	Cabo Verde	13	7/28/21	40	12/5/23	27	6,626
<b>Khenifra National Park</b>	Morocco	40	5/25/20	72	1/18/24	32	84,204
<b>Haut Atlas Oriental National Park</b>	Morocco	20	10/25/21	53	1/18/24	33	75,590



## Annex 2: List of Policies and Regulations Influenced by CEPF partners

Country	Name of Policy or Law	Scope	Date Enacted	Expected Impact
Albania	SIC No. 16/3, "Rejection of the Request for Granting the Status of Strategic Investment / Investor of Special Procedure"	National	04/03/2019	Protection of species, habitats and ecosystem of Divjaka-Karavasta National-Park, Important Bird Area (IBA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Ramsar Site and Candidate Emerald Site
Albania	Act No. 46/2019 for changes on Article No. 10 006, Date 23.10.2008	National	18/07/2019	Improvement of management of protected areas; wetland and species protection; improvement of the administration of natural resources
Albania	Nr. 81/2017 Law for the Protected Areas	National	16/01/2020	Increase of protected areas surface, of the number of (new) protected areas, of PA status and capacities; improvement of management of protected areas, creation of ecological corridors
Albania	Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 1156, "On Determination of Income Generated from Tariffs Paid in Protected Areas, Measure and Criteria of their Use"	National	24/12/2020	Generation of income for protected areas from the annual fees paid for the exercise of economic, social, tourist, scientific-research activities in the protected areas, the fees paid from the transport in their territories, as well as the fees paid by visitors and tourists
Albania	Act No. 7895, Penal Code 2021, Republic of Albania	National	04/05/2021	Increase of protection of fauna species on wetlands; improved wetlands protection; less illegal killing of birds
Albania	Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 59 "On Approval of Change of Status and Surface of Natural Ecosystems National Park (Category II) Of Environmental Protected Areas"	National	26/01/2022	Based on this designation of the status and surface of natural ecosystems national park (category II) of environmental protected areas, the process of PAs zoning and their management plans will be established further
Albania	Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 60 "On Approval of Change of Status and Surface of Natural Ecosystems Nature Park (Category IV) Of Environmental Protected Areas"	National	26/01/2022	Based on this designation of the status and surface of natural ecosystems national park (category IV) of environmental protected areas, the process of PAs zoning and their management plans will be established further

Albania	Protection of the Tulipa albanica habitat in Surroj, Kukës	Local	30/04/2020	Blocking of any operation that damages the environment in the protected area. Increased monitoring and surveillance
Albania	Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 154 on Declaring the Albanian Tulip habitat a Nature Monument	National	13/03/2023	Habitat received a protection akin to a strict reserve – all human activities that can threaten the species are forbidden. The protection prevents the use of land for other purposes
North Macedonia	Joint Strategic Recovery Plan for the World Heritage Ohrid Region (North Macedonia, Albania)	International	01/02/2023	Improved conservation and protection of Lake Ohrid as a habitat and its species; regular bio monitoring; reduced water pollution; improved management of the lake / protected areas / biodiversity hot spots; significant reduction of, or complete ban on destructive activities
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Declaration under the “Cities / Municipalities without dams”	Local	24/09/2020	No concession, permit, or recommendation for the construction of a dam or hydropower plant on their territory without consulting the citizens
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2030+ for state and entity levels; only Federation of B&H adopted the strategy so far	National	25/08/2022	This policy document establishes the environmental policy goals and key activities up to 2032 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It should strengthen the environmental frameworks within BiH and it is one important step for BiH to align with EU laws and procedures
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Zakon o prostornom uređenju ("Službene novine Hercegovačko-neretvanske županije", broj: 4/04); amendments for zones for the construction of hydropower facilities	Local	29/12/2022	The changes foresee the deletion of the small hydropower plants Buna 1 and 2 from the existing Spatial Plan of the City of Mostar - likely to be fully revoked
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Development Strategy of Herzeg Bosnian Canton	Local	22/04/2021	Changed awareness of environmental issues in Canton and some comments taken into consideration
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Law on freshwater fisheries in Herzegovina-Neretva County	Local	31/12/2022	Improved management of water resources and fish stock
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The Law on Nature Protection of the West Herzegovina County	Local	31/12/2022	Proclamation of the Peć Mlini protected area and of the protected area Žukovica (Posušje municipality)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Water management plan	National	31/12/2022	Long-term preservation of freshwater biodiversity
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Comments on strategy of West	Local	23/12/2020	A strategy action plan (2021-2027) is made with a developed budget for the

	Herzegovina Canton and Herzegovina Neretva Canton			establishment of protected areas and protection of species, providing a legal basis to advocate for conservation efforts
Jordan	Environmental Sensitivity Area	National	05/07/2022	Protection for KBA sites
Jordan	National patrolling plans	National	02/01/2022	More protection for important plant species
Lebanon	Law 130 30/4/2019 : categories of protected areas	National	01/02/2022	Creation of a new category of protected area in Lebanon : the Microreserve
Lebanon	Monitoring protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) to follow-up on biodiversity conservation in the area	Local	01/06/2023	Improved species protection
Lebanon	Monitoring protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) for Lizards	Local	01/06/2023	Improved species protection
Lebanon	Monitoring Protocol with the Federation of Municipalities in Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) for illegal killing of birds	Local	01/06/2023	Improved species protection and hunting regulation
Lebanon	Municipality Decree 37.2021	Local	09/07/2021	Combating illegal killing of birds and enforcement of hunting law 580/2004 in Lebanon
Lebanon	Letter of adoption of biodiversity friendly land use practices by Ras El Matn and Hammana	Local	27/06/2022	Traditional biodiversity-friendly practices to preserve the agriculture sector in the village, and improve the lives of the local community
Lebanon	Municipal Decisions on Protecting Local Trails in Hammama and Ras-el-Matn	Local	27/06/2022	Positive impact on biodiversity, natural resources, landscapes and people
Libya	Declaration of Wadi El-Naqa as a protected area	National	21/12/2021	700 hectares declared as a Protected Area
Montenegro	The protection study proclaiming the Nature Park Katič	National	20/06/2021	Proclamation of protected area - Nature park Katič
Montenegro	Zonation around Dalmatian pelican colony	Local	11/06/2022	New zonation set 300 m around the pelican nesting rafts with informational tables that state that further entering will cause disturbance to the pelicans and is illegal
Montenegro	Management plan for National Park	National	30/05/2022	Improved democratic and transparent proceedings regarding the adoption of

	Skadar lake for the period 2021-2025			management plans of national parks including Skadar Lake
Montenegro	Ban of usage of ATV vehicles in national parks including Skadar lake	National	03/06/2023	Decreased disturbance of wildlife and the damage to the habitats of Montenegrin national parks, including Skadar Lake
Montenegro	Law on Nature Protection (Bylaws "Ordinance on the detailed manner and conditions of collection, use and trade of unprotected wild species")	National	01/01/2023	Contribution to real protection on the ground given that many species in Montenegro, although protected, suffer numerous pressures and threats
Morocco	Décret n°2.21.965 portant approbation du Plan national du littoral	National	05/06/2022	Improved Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in particular the implementation of Protected Areas
North Macedonia	Decision for Temporary Protection of Studenchishte Marsh	Local	19/07/2021	Ban of destructive activities within the marsh and improve protection until it is formally proclaimed as a Park of Nature
North Macedonia	Designation of Lake Ohrid with Studenchishte Marsh as a Ramsar site - application adopted and submitted to the Ramsar Convention by the Government of North Macedonia	National	15/02/2021	Enhanced protection of 25,205 ha of protected area, including formal zoning, 2 new laws, 2 new management plans and 2 new management bodies; cancellation of destructive projects and plans, including urbanization of Lake Ohrid shore and surrounding area of Studenchishte Marsh; re-connecting marsh and lake; restoration of the marsh and the lake
North Macedonia	Approval for the need for designation Belchishta Wetland as protected area under category Nature Park	National	27/09/2022	Proclamation of the Belchishta Wetland as protected area - Nature park
Tunisia	1er Arrêté Municipal décentralisée pour la protection de la tortue marine	Local	13/07/2020	Ban of the fishing, selling and eating of sea turtles; increase the number of turtles rescued by fishermen
Tunisia	Une loi interdisant la capture du poulpe par la nasse en plastique.	National	24/03/2022	Ban of the use of plastic traps for octopus fishing meetings with decision-makers to raise awareness of the dangers of using plastic

## Annex 3: CEPF Grants, Mediterranean Basin – Phase 2

Countries	Strategic Direction	Account Name	Project Title English	Start Date	End Date	Amount
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Albanian Ornithological Society	Let's Make Albania's Divjaka Natural Again!	1/1/19	6/30/21	\$195,196
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Albanian Ornithological Society	Maintaining the Ecological Integrity and Biodiversity of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, Albania	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$19,252
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Albanian Society for Protection of Birds and Mammals	Strengthening the Conservation Actions for Endemic Plant Species in Several Key Biodiversity Areas in Albania	1/1/21	12/31/21	\$15,902
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Archipelagos - Ambiente e Sviluppo	Sustainability, Threats, Presence and Habitat Use of the Mediterranean Monk Seal in Albania	4/1/19	2/28/21	\$16,558
Albania	MEDII-SD3	Ecovolis	Conservation of Pastures Through the Support of Pastoralism and Sustainable Ecotourism in Lura Natural Park, Albania	7/1/21	3/31/22	\$13,917
Albania	MEDII-SD3	GO2 Organizatë për Planifikim të Qëndrueshëm Urban	Creating Traditional Alpine Water Ponds for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Livestock Breeders of Shkrel Locality in Malësi e Madhe Area in Albania	7/1/21	5/31/22	\$24,496
Albania	MEDII-SD4	ILIRIA – Protection and Social & Environmental Development Association	Site Restricted Endemics of Prespa National Park, Albania: Assessment, Protection and In-situ/Ex-situ Conservation, through the Involvement of Young Professionals	6/15/20	2/15/22	\$18,270
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore	Conservation and Propagation of the Albanian Tulip, Albania	4/1/19	5/31/22	\$30,650
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore	Conservation and Propagation of the Albanian Tulip, Phase 2, Albania	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$6,000
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Instituti për Ruajtjen e Natyrës në Shqipëri	From Mountains to the Sea in Albania	2/1/19	1/31/22	\$171,273

<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD2	National Center for Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development	Conducting a Multidisciplinary Initiative to Conserve the Critically Endangered Toothcarp in the Lake Butrint Catchment, Albania	5/15/19	12/31/21	\$19,660
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD1	Organizata e Menxhimit të Peshkimit Liqeni i Shkodrës	Working Towards a Sustainable Fishery on the Coast of Velipoja and in Buna Delta, Albania	4/15/19	4/30/20	\$4,126
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD4	Qendra për Iniciativa Rajonale	Habitat Enrichment and In-situ Conservation of a Rare Endemic Species of Birthwort, Albania	6/1/20	2/28/22	\$7,866
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD2	Qendra per Menaxhimin Agro-Mjedisore dhe Ekonomik	Bushtrica River: An Important Natural Ecosystem in the Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park, Albania	12/1/21	6/30/22	\$6,710
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD2	Qendra per Menaxhimin Agro-Mjedisore dhe Ekonomik (Agro-environmental and Economic Management Center)	Ecological and Economical Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Lake Ohrid Catchment, Albania	6/1/20	1/31/22	\$29,900
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD1	Qendra për Ruajtjen dhe Mbrojtjen e Mjedisit Natyror në Shqipëri	Land of Eagles and Castles: Integrated Participatory Management for Albanian Coastal Biodiversity	3/1/19	3/31/22	\$166,038
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD1	Qendra për Ruajtjen e Ekosistemeve Natyrore në Shqipëri	Conserving the Albanian Water Frog in Vlora Bay, Albania	4/1/19	7/31/20	\$19,437
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD1	Royal Albania Foundation	Training for Sea Turtle Protection in Saranda Bay, Albania	5/15/19	6/15/21	\$815
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD3	Shoqata AlbNatyra	Support of Livestock Breeders for Maintenance of Pastures in Shebenik Jabllanice National Park, Albania	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$20,846
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD5	Shoqata AlbNatyra	Strengthening the Role of Local Community as an Important Stakeholder for Biodiversity Protection, Albania	12/1/21	8/31/22	\$10,927

<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD3	Shoqata AlbNatyra	Supporting Shepherds and Alpine Pasture Biodiversity Monitoring in Shebenik Park's Rrajca Region, Albania	12/1/22	11/15/23	\$19,674
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD1	Social Education & Environment Protection	Engage Key Stakeholders for the Conservation of the Date Shell and its Habitat in the Karaburun Peninsula, Albania	4/1/19	12/31/20	\$18,469
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD4	Tölgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület	Exploring the Habitat Range and Preferences of Rare and Insufficiently Known Local Endemic Plants in Albania	6/1/20	5/31/22	\$12,725
<b>Albania</b>	MEDII-SD5	Une Gruaja	Crossing Borders for Environmental Protection of the Ohrid-Prespa Region, Albania	11/1/21	6/30/22	\$11,243
<b>Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cabo Verde; Jordan; Lebanon; Libya; North Macedonia; Morocco; Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD4	International Union for Conservation of Nature - Center for Mediterranean Cooperation	Support Civil Society in Attending "Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week"	10/15/18	1/15/19	\$14,171
<b>Albania; Cabo Verde; Libya; Montenegro; Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network	Sharing Experience on the Management of Mobile Species within Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	10/1/19	1/31/20	\$10,559
<b>Albania; Jordan; Lebanon; Montenegro; Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD5	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania	Facilitate Regional Networking and Develop the Technical Capacities of Civil Society Through the Third Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week	8/15/21	11/15/21	\$19,652
<b>Albania; Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro	SOS Skadar Lake - Keeping the Montenegrin Wilderness Wild	10/1/19	2/29/24	\$175,445
<b>Albania; Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Noé	Empowering Local Community and Stakeholders to Sustainably Manage the Freshwater Biodiversity of Skadar Lake, Located Between Albania and Montenegro	9/1/19	6/30/22	\$134,115

<b>Albania; North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Front 21/42	Enhance the Transboundary Conservation of the World Heritage Site Lake Ohrid in North Macedonia and Albania	5/1/20	9/30/23	\$172,001
<b>Algeria</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement	Promoting Traditional Agriculture for Preservation of Biodiversity in Babor-Tababart National Park, Algeria	6/1/21	9/30/22	\$5,064
<b>Algeria</b>	MEDII-SD4	Green Ground Seraïdi-Annaba	Enhance Knowledge of Rare and Endemic Plant Species of the Edough Peninsula, a Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria	5/15/21	5/15/22	\$13,545
<b>Algeria</b>	MEDII-SD4	Université Badji Mokhtar d'Annaba	Protect and Monitor Rare, Endemic Plant Species of the El Kala Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$16,689
<b>Algeria; Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD5	World Wide Fund for Nature	NastNet: A Network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa	4/1/21	8/31/22	\$148,792
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Agency for Sustainable Development Altus Mostar	Enhancing Knowledge on Biodiversity of the Lower Catchments of Neretva River, Bosnia and Herzegovina	4/1/21	5/31/22	\$13,006
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Centar za Krš i Speleologiju	Distribution, Population and Status of Threats to the Biodiversity of Freshwater snails, Bosnia and Herzegovina	6/1/20	5/31/22	\$21,214
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Centar za Životnu Sredinu	Steps Towards the Protection of Neretva Tributaries: Buna, Bunica, Begava and Trebižat, Bosnia and Herzegovina	11/1/19	7/31/22	\$146,924
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Centar za Životnu Sredinu	Actions Towards Long-term Protection and Sustainable Management of Buna and Trebižat Rivers, Bosnia and Herzegovina	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$19,758
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Hrvatsko društvo za biološka istraživanja	Conservation of the Southern Dalmatian Minnow, Advanced Semi-cave Fish of the Dinaric Karst in Bosnia and Herzegovina	6/1/20	2/28/22	\$22,906
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Regionalni Resursni Centar	Improved Protection and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystems in the Neretva Delta, Trebizat and Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina	9/1/20	5/31/22	\$107,209



<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD3	Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature Bio.Log	Bees Behind Dry Stonewalls: Traditional Practices for Bee Habitat Improvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina	5/15/21	8/31/22	\$15,266
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Udruga Dinarica	Establishing Pillars for Conservation of Endemic Freshwater Biodiversity in Livanjsko Polje and Buško Lake, Bosnia and Herzegovina	7/1/19	6/30/22	\$146,738
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	Udruga Dinarica	Conservation of the Steno-Endemic Species Mostar Minnow in Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina	6/15/20	5/31/22	\$29,088
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD4	Udruženje za Unapređenje Životne Sredine	Preservation of Endemic Plants on Orjen Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina	3/15/19	11/30/19	\$20,001
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	University of Ljubljana	Developing New Tools for Rapid Assessment of Subterranean Biodiversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina	9/1/19	5/31/22	\$150,000
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	MEDII-SD2	University of Mostar Džemal Bijedić	Enhancing Knowledge on Biodiversity and Assessing Ecological Status of the Lower Catchments of Neretva River, Bosnia and Herzegovina	11/1/19	5/31/22	\$61,416
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Associação Lantuna	Seabirds of Baía do Inferno, Cabo Verde: Studying Them Now, to Ensure Their Promising Future	3/1/21	12/31/23	\$157,273
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD4	Associação Projecto Vitó	Improving knowledge for Conservation of Endangered Flora Species of Fogo and Brava Islands, Cabo Verde	2/1/19	6/30/22	\$189,171
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Associação Projeto Biodiversidade	Establishing Cooperative Management of the Marine Protected Area of Costa de Fragata to Conserve Sal's Key Biodiversity Area, Cabo Verde	5/1/19	11/30/23	\$190,960
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD4	Biflores	Endemic Plant Conservation and a Feasibility Evaluation of a Protected Area in Brava, Cabo Verde	3/1/21	5/31/22	\$24,342
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD4	Biflores	Improving Knowledge and Numbers of Brava's Threatened Endemic Plants, Cabo Verde	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$17,787
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Biosfera	Developing a Sustainable Model of Certified Fisheries for the Protection of Cabo Verde's Santa Luzia Marine Reserve Biodiversity	4/1/19	6/30/22	\$209,026

<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Biosfera	Certification Model to Promote Sustainable Fishing Practices Inside a Marine Protected Area, Capo Verde	11/1/22	10/31/23	\$19,991
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD4	Fauna & Flora International	Conserving Highly Endangered Plants on Cabo Verde's "Island of Flowers"	9/1/19	2/28/21	\$19,985
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Fundação Maio Biodiversidade	Toward Co-management of Protected Areas on Maio Island, Cabo Verde	4/1/21	11/30/23	\$126,366
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Terrimar	Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Protection of Endangered Sea Turtles on the Island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde	3/1/21	6/15/22	\$25,111
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	MEDII-SD1	Terrimar	Conservation of Endangered Sea Turtles and Vultures on Santo Antão Island, Cabo Verde	1/1/23	10/31/23	\$19,809
<b>Cabo Verde; Lebanon; Montenegro; Morocco; Palestinian Territory, Occupied; Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Asociación Iberomacaronésica de Jardines Botánicos	Facilitate Regional Networking Among Civil Society Organizations at the 4th Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week in Valencia, Spain	8/1/23	11/30/23	\$26,730
<b>Egypt</b>	MEDII-SD5	Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	2/1/21	5/31/22	\$16,360
<b>Egypt</b>	MEDII-SD2	Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services	Biodiversity Survey and Assessment of Lake Burullus in the Nile Delta, Egypt	12/1/21	5/31/22	\$9,900
<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD3	Eco Values for Sustainable Development	Traditional Farming as a Tool to Maintain a Viable Landscape, Jordan	3/1/21	5/31/21	\$5,000
<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD3	Enviromatics	Land Use Measures to Sustain Traditional Uses of Productive Landscapes in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan	10/27/19	2/27/20	\$20,000

<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD3	Enviromatics	Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area, Jordan	2/1/21	7/31/22	\$199,970
<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD3	Jordan BirdWatch Association	Supporting Traditional Farming and Protecting Biodiversity in Ajloun, Northern Jordan	3/1/21	8/31/22	\$67,536
<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD4	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	Mainstreaming Plant Key Biodiversity Areas into Jordan's National Conservation Planning Framework	12/1/18	5/31/22	\$155,546
<b>Jordan</b>	MEDII-SD3	WADI NGO	Biodiversity Conservation Through Traditional Agroforestry Practices in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan	1/1/21	4/30/22	\$39,931
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Al-Shouf Cedar Society	Assessment of Cultural Practices in the High Mountain Eastern Mediterranean Landscape in Lebanon	9/1/19	1/31/20	\$18,188
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Al-Shouf Cedar Society	Reviving Traditional Agricultural Practices in Al-Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$19,957
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD4	American University of Beirut	Leveraging an Integrated Network (LINK): Bettering Conservation and Management of Rare Plants in and around Culturally Protected Sites in Lebanon	5/15/19	10/31/20	\$19,087
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD5	American University of Beirut	Replacement of Equipment Damaged During Beirut, Lebanon, Explosion	11/1/20	1/31/21	\$2,006
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD5	Cedars for Care	Restoring Cedars for Care Center Affected by Beirut Blast on 4 August 2020	11/1/20	11/30/20	\$3,140
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD2	Difaf	Development of an Integrated Management Plan for Damour River Basin, Lebanon	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$24,376
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Environment for Life	Assessing the Biodiversity Value of Olive Sites in Mount Hermon Key Biodiversity Area and Identifying the Environmental Impacts of Various Agricultural Practices, Lebanon	4/15/19	10/15/19	\$20,000
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Environment for Life	Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon	4/1/20	10/31/23	\$280,238
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD5	Environment for Life	Reparation of Environment for Life (E.f.L) office in Beirut, Lebanon	10/1/20	11/30/20	\$6,997

<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD4	Friends of Nature	Conservation of Lebanon's Endemic Flora Through Community Engagement	11/1/18	9/30/21	\$173,151
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD4	Friends of Nature	Strengthen Community Participation in Conservation of Lebanon Endemic Flora, Lebanon	1/1/23	12/31/23	\$20,000
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Istituto Oikos Onlus	Lebanese Biosphere Reserves Joint Initiative to Revive Traditional Agricultural Practices	5/1/21	8/31/22	\$150,425
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD4	Jouzour Loubnan Association	Strengthening the Protection of Iris Species in the Micro-Reserves of Lebanon	12/1/22	2/28/24	\$19,699
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD5	Nahnoo	NAHNOO Office Restoration Following Explosion in Beirut, Lebanon	11/1/20	1/31/21	\$6,000
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD5	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon	Replacing Damages at SPNL Office From Beirut Port Blast, Lebanon	10/15/20	12/15/20	\$5,880
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD3	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon	Promoting Traditional Land-use Practices in the Upper Beirut River Valley, Lebanon	3/1/21	8/31/22	\$150,412
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD2	T.E.R.R.E. Liban	Enhance Conservation of the Unique Biodiversity in Lebanon's Bisri River Basin	5/15/21	5/31/22	\$19,872
<b>Lebanon</b>	MEDII-SD4	Université Saint-Joseph	Conserving and Valorizing the Unique Botanical Heritage of Lebanon	11/1/18	7/31/21	\$111,991
<b>Lebanon; Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD5	Jouzour Loubnan Association	Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Plant Conservation in Lebanon and Palestine	1/1/21	7/31/21	\$28,700
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD5	Alhayat Society for Wildlife and Marine Biology	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Eastern Libya and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	2/1/21	5/31/22	\$18,131
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	BADO Association for Environment	Establishing Environmental Awareness About the Importance of Farwa Marine Protected Area, Libya	6/1/19	3/31/21	\$19,245
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society for Birds	Fostering Stakeholder Participation in Preparing a Management Plan for Farwa Marine Protected Area, Libya	9/1/19	11/30/21	\$5,000
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society for Birds	Sea Turtle Conservation in Partnership with Artisanal Fishermen in the Gulf of Sirte, Libya	6/1/21	9/30/23	\$119,352

<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society of Artisanal Fishery Friends	Sustainable Fishing in Lake Farwa, Libya	9/1/19	5/31/22	\$17,765
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Wildlife Trust	Preparing a Zoning Plan for the Karabolli Key Biodiversity Area, Libya	4/1/19	4/30/21	\$14,061
<b>Libya</b>	MEDII-SD1	Oxygen association for environmental protection	Establishing a Social Environment Club in Karabolli, Libya	4/1/19	2/28/21	\$19,955
<b>Libya; Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association Jlij pour l'Environnement Marin	Engaging Fisherman to Preserve Coastal Heritage in Libya and Tunisia	6/1/21	3/31/24	\$195,976
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD3	Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro	Restoration of Skadar Lake Wet Meadows for Sustainable and Traditional Land Use, Montenegro	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$27,470
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Centre for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Energy - University Donja Gorica	Assessment and Mainstreaming of Ecosystem Services in Nikšić Field, Montenegro	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$16,565
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD1	Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa - Montenegrin Ecologists Society	Inclusion of the Local Community in Protecting and Improving the Habitat of the Endangered Skadar Frog in the Bojana Delta, Montenegro	3/1/19	8/31/21	\$39,936
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD4	Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa - Montenegrin Ecologists Society	From the Inventory of Monumental Skadar Pedunculate Oak to Restoration of its Forests and Protection of Biodiversity. Montenegro	7/1/20	5/31/22	\$35,834
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa - Montenegrin Ecologists Society	Updating the Conservation Status on Important Fish Species and Raising Awareness of Local Communities on Freshwater Ecosystem in the Catchment Surrounding Niksic, Montenegro	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$26,540
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa - Montenegrin Ecologists Society	Protection of Priority Areas for the Coastal Zone Management of the Catchment Surrounding Nikšić, Montenegro	12/1/22	12/31/23	\$19,873

<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD1	Green Home	Support Local Community's Involvement in Protection and Promotion of the Potential Marine Protected Area – Katič	12/1/18	11/30/21	\$226,307
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Green Home	Assessment of the European Eel Population in the Bojana River, Montenegro	7/1/20	5/31/22	\$32,269
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Green Home	Supporting the Conservation of the Natural Values of the Upper Zeta River in Montenegro	6/1/21	5/31/22	\$29,229
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD4	Living Green	Preserving, Understanding and Promotion of the Lovcen Bell in Montenegro	3/15/19	8/31/20	\$17,028
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD4	Program za Životnu Sredinu	Conservation of Endemic, Rare and Threatened Plant Species on Mount Orjen, Montenegro	2/15/19	5/31/22	\$40,000
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Program za Životnu Sredinu	Enabling Joint Bottom-Up Protection and Sustainable Development Planning for Bojana River Basin, Montenegro	6/15/20	4/30/22	\$36,801
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD2	Program za Životnu Sredinu	Building the Lower Bojana River Basin and Ulcinj Ecosystem Complex Resilience, Montenegro	11/15/22	10/31/23	\$19,630
<b>Montenegro</b>	MEDII-SD4	Župa u Srcu	Plant Diversity within the Wet and Aquatic Habitats of Nikšić Polje Basin, Montenegro	6/1/20	1/31/22	\$25,609
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Involve Civil Society and Fishing Community in Integrating Biodiversity Conservation in Souss Massa National Park and Tamri Key Biodiversity Area, Morocco	6/1/19	7/31/20	\$10,127
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Improving Resilience of Local Communities and Ecosystems of the Coastal Zone of Souss-Massa and Tamri, Morocco (ARCOLE Project)	1/1/21	12/31/22	\$124,651
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre - Maroc	Strengthening Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas in the Central High Atlas, Morocco	1/1/21	10/31/22	\$215,156
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre - Section Khémisset	Build Knowledge on Rare and Threatened Species in the Bouregreg Watershed, Morocco	10/1/21	5/31/22	\$15,087

<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Mapping Traditional Farming Practices Benefitting the Conservation of Biodiversity in Ifrane National Park, Morocco	7/1/19	12/31/19	\$18,493
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Conserving the Biodiversity of Morocco's Ifrane National Park Through Revitalization and Adaptation of Traditional Grazing Practices	6/1/20	7/31/22	\$139,293
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Boost the Role of Khenifra National Park to Preserve the Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Oum Er-Rabia, Morocco	3/1/20	6/30/22	\$167,126
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Wetlands Conservation in the Atlas Cedar Biosphere Reserve, Morocco	11/1/22	1/15/24	\$19,985
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD4	Association Nature Solutions	Preserving Endangered Plant Species in the National Park of Talassemtane, Morocco	3/1/19	8/31/21	\$127,896
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif Mountains	Supporting Traditional Management Practices to Preserve Barbary Macaque and its Habitats in Morocco	2/1/21	12/31/23	\$172,930
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Centre de Développement de la Région de Tensift	Integrated Approaches for the Conservation of Threatened Freshwater Biodiversity of Sehb El Majnoute Catchment, Morocco	3/1/20	6/30/22	\$117,612
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Fondation d'Entreprise Biotope pour la Biodiversité	Improve Pastoral Practices and Organization in Toubkal National Park for Sustainable Management of Heritage Resources and Traditional Landscapes	12/1/19	7/31/22	\$149,233
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Groupe de Recherche Pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc	Traditional Pastoral Practices for the Conservation of Vultures in Jbel Moussa, Morocco	2/1/21	12/31/22	\$122,103
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Groupe de Recherche Pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc	Building a Network of Freshwater Ecosystems Important for Biodiversity in Morocco	8/1/21	10/31/22	\$130,185

<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD3	Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association	A Study of Traditional Land Use Practices and Native Biodiversity in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco	10/1/19	2/28/20	\$19,910
<b>Morocco</b>	MEDII-SD2	Société Ressources Ingénierie	Promoting Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity in El Abid's Watershed, Morocco	3/1/20	12/31/22	\$103,398
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Association for Active Tourism Explorer	Friends of National Park Galicica, North Macedonia	11/1/21	8/31/22	\$11,827
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association for Ecology and Tourism ECOTOURISM-2016 Ohrid	Preserving Belchishta Wetland, North Macedonia, through Engagement with Municipality and Local Stakeholders	6/1/20	8/31/22	\$111,942
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association for Ecology and Tourism ECOTOURISM-2016 Ohrid	Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Belchista Wetland, North Macedonia	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$16,850
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development	Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout in National Park Pelister and Prespa Region, North Macedonia	6/15/20	5/31/22	\$18,539
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Center for Environmental Research and Information	Citizen Science in Service to Biodiversity Protection, North Macedonia	11/1/21	6/30/22	\$11,586
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Company for Applied Research and Permanent Education in Agriculture	Assessment and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Plant Species in National Park Pelister, North Macedonia	4/15/19	2/28/22	\$26,683
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	GTI Geotehnicki Inzenering	Assessment of an Endemic Freshwater Snail in Dojran Lake: Population Status, Threats and Conservation Measures, North Macedonia	6/1/20	5/31/22	\$32,331
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts	Conservation of Some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galičica National Park, North Macedonia	7/1/20	4/30/22	\$19,885
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Biological Society	Conservation of Some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galichica National Park, North Macedonia	6/1/20	12/31/21	\$29,982



<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Ecological Society	Working Together for Conservation of National Endemic Plants in North Macedonia	3/1/19	9/30/23	\$123,202
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Milieucontact Macedonia	Enhancing Republic of North Macedonia's Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity Through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches	7/1/19	3/31/24	\$193,359
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Polymath 13	Local Stakeholder Management Capacity for the Important Plant Area Bogdanci, North Macedonia	12/1/22	12/31/23	\$16,630
<b>North Macedonia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia - Local Branch Ohrid	Developing Educational Resources for Cave and Bat Protection in the National Park Galichica, North Macedonia	11/1/21	6/30/22	\$9,673
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	An-Najah National University	Plant Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient Olive Orchards, Palestine	4/1/20	2/28/21	\$19,600
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	Bethlehem University	Green Oasis in Bethlehem for Plant and Ecosystem Conservation, Palestine	9/1/20	9/30/21	\$20,000
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	Biodiversity and Environment Research Centre	Engagement of Local Communities in the Conservation of the Threatened Ecosystem and Plant Species in the Nablus Region, Focusing on the Iris of Nablus, Palestine	4/1/20	5/31/22	\$25,709
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD5	International Union for Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia	Protected Area Network Review for Palestine	3/1/21	11/30/22	\$177,212
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	Nature Palestine Society	Assessment and Conservation of Threatened Iris in the North Eastern Slopes Region Key Biodiversity Area, Palestine	4/1/20	5/31/21	\$19,910
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	Nature Palestine Society	Plant Conservation in the North Eastern Slopes Region Key Biodiversity Area, Palestine	12/1/22	2/28/24	\$19,980
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD4	Palestine Wildlife Society	Towards the Sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine Through an In Situ Scientific Garden	4/1/20	4/30/21	\$19,354
<b>Palestinian Territory, Occupied</b>	MEDII-SD3	Palestine Wildlife Society	Safeguarding Jebal Al Khalil and Wadi Al-Quff Cultural Landscapes, Palestine, through Innovative Approaches	4/1/21	6/30/22	\$151,592

<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association de la Continuité des Générations	Promoting Co-Management and Sustainable Traditional Fishing in Tunisia's Kneiss Islands	9/1/21	9/30/22	\$117,569
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association Les Amis de Capte Tunisie	Together for Restoration of Ecosystems with Engaged Local Farmers in Dyr el Kef, Tunisia (Projet TREFLE)	1/1/21	11/30/23	\$195,897
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association Les Amis des Oiseaux	Influence Territorial Planning to Preserve Tunisia's Sebkhet Sejoumi as a Bird Habitat	3/1/19	12/31/21	\$90,039
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage	Sea Djerba Up: Supporting Traditional Fisheries to Preserve Marine Environment of Djerba, Tunisia	4/1/21	9/30/22	\$148,910
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association Sidi Bouzitoun for nature and ecotourism	Conserving Biodiversity in Kroumirie Through the Involvement of Women Shepherds, Tunisia	4/1/21	2/28/22	\$15,934
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD3	Association Sidi Bouzitoun for nature and ecotourism	Conserving Biodiversity in Kroumirie by Involving Women in Traditional Shepherding Practices, Tunisia	1/1/23	12/31/23	\$18,820
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD4	Association Tunisienne de Développement Durable - la Recherche en Action	Conserving Priority Heritage Plants of Djerba Island, Tunisia	3/1/19	5/31/22	\$30,940
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage	Preserving the Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia, through Local Co-management	4/1/20	7/31/22	\$107,776
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD2	Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage	Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia	12/1/22	10/31/23	\$17,467
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie	Conservation of the Coastal Biodiversity of the Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia	4/1/21	5/31/22	\$20,000
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie	Ecological Restoration of Heritage Species in Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia	12/1/22	12/31/23	\$19,923

<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Escapade Tunisie	Conservation Through Observation: Creating an Underwater Pathway for Mteris Cove in Jbel Haouaria, Tunisia	2/1/21	3/31/22	\$4,000
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD3	Exploralis	Preserving and Expanding Hedgerows to Support Local Biodiversity in Sogman Region, Tunisia	12/1/19	12/31/21	\$84,140
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Fondation Tour du Valat	Monitoring the Dynamics of the Evolution of the Wetland Habitats of Sebkhath Sejoumi using Geographical Information Systems, Tunisia	6/1/19	10/31/19	\$12,330
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Initiative pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée	Toward Effective Co-Management of Zembra Archipelago and Jbel El Haouaria, Tunisia	12/1/18	6/30/22	\$225,008
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Notre Grand Bleu	Contribute to Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Coastal and Marine Protected Area of Kuriat Islands, Tunisia	3/1/19	6/30/22	\$222,409
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Réseau Enfants de la Terre	Participation in the 13th Meeting on the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as Part of Project "Promoting the Involvement of Civil Society in the Protection Process of Sabkhet Sijoumi"	10/15/18	1/15/19	\$8,325
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Réseau Enfants de la Terre	Involving Civil Society for the Conservation of Sebkhath Sejoumi, Tunisia	3/1/19	6/30/21	\$108,910
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Réseau Enfants de la Terre	Promoting Wetland Conservation Through Educational Programs, Tunisia	1/1/23	12/31/23	\$20,000
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Société Khaled ben Othmen	Supporting Artisanal Eco-friendly Fishing in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia	8/1/20	3/31/22	\$7,838
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Société Ras Adar pour Divertissements Touristiques	Assessing Underwater Macro-pollution and Abandoned Fishing Gear Around Zembra Island, Tunisia	3/1/21	11/30/21	\$1,421
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Société Tarek ben Younis	Supporting Traditional Fishing to Protect Marine Resources in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia	8/1/20	12/31/21	\$7,602
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD5	Thétis Conseil	Development of a Long-term Vision for Civil Society Organizations in Tunisia	12/1/21	8/31/22	\$7,416

<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD1	Vertigo Lab	Blue Seeds: Exploring Innovative Methods to Strengthen Financial and Organizational Capacities for Tunisian Protected Areas - Pilot on Kuriat Islands, Tunisia	4/1/19	11/30/20	\$16,216
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD4	World Wide Fund for Nature	Preserve Heritage Plants of Dar Fatma and Garâa Sejenane in Tunisia	11/1/18	5/31/22	\$182,872
<b>Tunisia</b>	MEDII-SD3	World Wide Fund for Nature	Assessment of Landscape Cultural Practices in Kroumirie and Mogods, Tunisia	11/25/19	7/31/20	\$11,222

## Annex 4: Protected Areas Created or Extended, Phases I and II

Name of Protected Area: Countries	Opportunity Name	Account Name	Type	Protected Area Official Name	Year of legal declaration	Hectares Newly Protected	Extension or Creation
Albania	CEPF-108695	INCA	Large Grant	Managed Nature Reserve of Karaburun	2022	500	Extension
Montenegro	CEPF-108820	Zeleni Dom Green Home	Large Grant	The Nature Park Katič	2021	2,745	Creation
Tunisia	CEPF-108562	WWF Mediterranean- North Africa	Large Grant	Site Ramsar de la Garaa de Sejenane	2022	1,500	Creation
Lebanon	CEPF-109215	Environment for Life	Large Grant	Jabal El Haramoun	2021	1,250	Creation
Albania	CEPF-108695	INCA	Large Grant	National Park of Llogara	2022	759	Extension
Libya	CEPF-112077	Alhayat Organization to protect wildlife and marine organisms	Small Grant	Wadi El-Naqa Protected Area	2021	700	Creation
North Macedonia	CEPF-110130	Front 21/42	Large Grant	Lake Ohrid Ramsar Site	2021	445	Extension
North Macedonia	CEPF-110222	Association for ecology and tourism ECOTOURISM-2016, Ohrid	Large Grant	Belchishta Wetland	2022	401	Creation
North Macedonia	CEPF-110130	Front 21/42		Studenchishte Marsh Nature Park		60	Creation
Albania	CEPF-113774	Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP)	Small Grant	Monumenti i Natyres Habitati i Tulipanit Shqiptar ( <i>Tulipa albanica</i> )	2023	36	Creation
Albania	CEPF-108695	INCA	Large Grant	Karaburun Sazan Marine National Park	2022	20	Extension
Palestine	CEPF-110692	BERC	Small Grant	Al-Tal Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	CEPF-110692	BERC	Small Grant	BERC-BG Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	CEPF-110692	BERC	Small Grant	Aqraba Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Palestine	CEPF-110692	BERC	Small Grant	Yasid Safe Haven	2021	1	Creation
Albania	63090	Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania	Large Grant	Porto-Palermo Bay Nature Park	2022	1,695	Creation
Algeria	63194	Area ED	Large Grant	Djebel Babor National Park	2019	23,656	Creation
Jordan	SG60146	Bab Assalam Women's Cooperative	Small Grant	Tal ar Arbeen special conservation area	2014	18	Creation
Jordan	61467	RSCN	Large Grant	Mujib Nature Reserve	2017	21,200	Expansion
Jordan	SG-65125	Sweimeh Association Charity	Small Grant	Sweimeh Eco-Park	2015	18	Creation
Lebanon	63289	Lebanese Environment Forum	Large Grant	Anjar Micro-Reserve	2015	40	Creation
Lebanon	63257	Université Saint Joseph	Large Grant	Ehmej Micro-Reserve	2014	62	Creation
Lebanon	63289	Lebanese Environment Forum	Large Grant	Qaytouli-Roum Responsible Hunting Area	2015	300	Creation
Lebanon	63257	Université Saint Joseph	Large Grant	Sarada Micro-Reserve	2014	100	Creation
Lebanon	61449	SNPN	Large Grant	Hima Al-Fekha	2013	5,913	Creation
Montenegro	61625	CZIP	Small Grant	Nature Park Ulcinj Salina	2019	1,500	Creation

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