

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Date: 20-02-2020

CEPF Grant: 109215

Grantee: Environment for Life (E.f.L)

Project Title

Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon

Project Location

Mount Hermon, Lebanon

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Grant Summary

1. Grantee Organization

Environment for Life (E.f.L)

2. Grant Title

Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon

3. Grant Number

CEPF - 109215

4. Grant Amount (US Dollars)

229,238\$

5. Proposed dates of Grant

Start: 1 March 2020 End: 28 February 2022

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken

Orontes Valley and Levantine Mountains, Mount Hermon, Lebanon

7. Date of preparation of this document

20 February, 2020

The Need

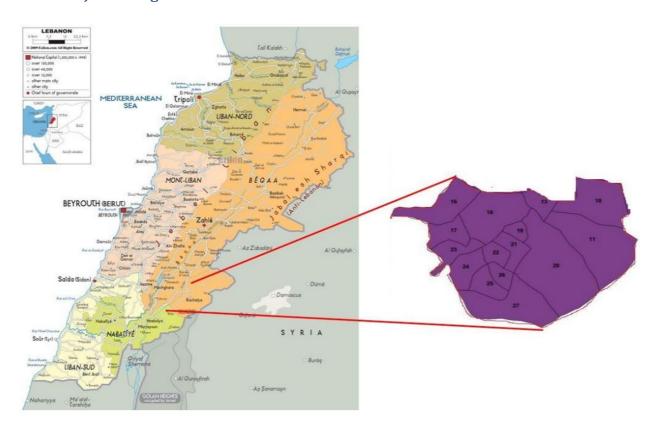
The current Proposal, "Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon" may introduce involuntary access restrictions, primarily through local community interference activities. As such, CEPF required to produce a draft process framework on involuntary restrictions.

The objectives of this Framework are to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially adverse effects of restrictions of access to natural resources, and ensure that affected communities are consulted with, and participate in meaningful ways in project activities affecting them.

The process framework helps to describes how specific components of the project were prepared and will be implemented; how the criteria for eligibility of affected persons will be determined; how measures to assist the affected persons in their efforts will improve or restore their livelihoods; how potential conflicts involving affected persons will be resolved; and how the monitoring/ evaluation system will be implemented.

the "Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources", is mostly like the Stakeholder Engagement Plan that was prepared for the small grant (SG), but needs to be adapted to the Large Grant (LG).

A. Project Background



A-1 Biological Importance of Mount Hermon KBA

Mount Hermon (Jabal Al Sheikh) is a KBA, defined based on floral endemism for which it was declared an Important Plant Area – IPA, and potentially qualifies as an Important Bird Area – IBA, for which it is home to many breeding birds and a major bottleneck for migratory birds.

This high biodiversity area is threatened by accelerating economic development, mainly based on urbanization, overgrazing, and agricultural activities. Overstocking of sheep and goats and poor agricultural practices have led to severe degradation of Mount Hermon's remaining forests, and to widespread deterioration of the soil and vegetation cover generally.

Despite the recognized role of Mt Hermon as a key biodiversity area, there is still a lack of sufficient data on the vascular flora of the Lebanese side of the mountain. To fill this gap a list of 221 phanerogams, collected during 2011-2014 at altitudes of 1100-2800 m, is presented in the project proposal, based on the work implemented under CEPF Small Grant # 19.

Associated with the valuable wealth of traditional ethnobotanical knowledge gathered, these findings can highlight the importance of Mt Hermon in terms of flora diversity and its valuable potential in enhancing the livelihood of local human communities. Thus, it is of significance to set the necessary approach to include the mountain among the high priority areas considered for the national and global biodiversity conservation efforts, in spite of the absence of flora taxa assessed under the global Red List of endangered species.

During the preparatory phase, faunal diversity of Mount Hermon was studies intensively for the first time in Lebanon. Interviewing and questioning the inhabitants and stakeholders of the study area, it appears that 12 mammal species occur in it. The species deserve protection and monitoring, as well as it appears that most of the mentioned mammals of the study area are ranging from vulnerable to critically endangered.

During the preparatory phase, a detailed avifaunal survey was conducted in the area, which concluded that the presence of the Syrian Serin (Serinus syriacus, VU) as breeding species and the occurrence of 14 biome restricted species make from the study area a true IBA.

Agricultural practices that are shifting from traditional ones to new practices, in and around Mount Hermon, are reasons for loosing biodiversity that are associated with traditionally inherited farming schemes. There are many critical problems, most associated with abandonment of traditional management for agricultural intensification, and with direct impacts on biodiversity.

Further, the area is exposed to high pressure caused by hunting migratory birds as thousands of soaring birds are illegally killed every year and millions of different species of larks migrating through the northern Beka'a valley (adjacent to Mount Hermon) each year, where unfortunately, most of them are shot for they are considered gamebirds in Lebanon.

The protection of these species requires enforcement of Law of Hunting, ban of use of illegal pesticides, raising awareness among the public, educating students and providing advocacy to decision-makers, as well as the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices.

A-2 Traditional Land-Use practices on Mount Hermon area

As part of the East Mediterranean, Mount Hermon is a land known for its olive farms, which for thousands of years, human have taken an interest in the olive due to their admiration for the olive plant, related to its longevity as well as its therapeutic fruit and oil. Olive has been one of the most important sources of income for many civilizations throughout history in the East Mediterranean. Olives in the communities of the Eastern Mediterranean maintain their importance today as they did in the past. However, olive farming has largely shifted from traditional practice into a new modern farming practice that is dependent on new technologies that are not friendly to nature and damaging biodiversity, such as and not limited to:

- High toxicity due to systematic use of pesticides/insecticides.
- Reduced live in herbaceous understory due to repeated cultivation and use of herbicides.
- Reduced biodiversity due to removal and replacement of old tree (in some cases with new younger trees other than olive, or planting young olive trees).
- Depletion of aquifers due to tendency towards irrigation.

In addition there are potential negative impacts, such as and not limited to:

- Fauna and flora are not considered nor maintained.
- Scenic values of landscapes are lost
- Traditional and cultural values of landscapes are missed.
- Landscapes that reduce the risk of wildfires are gone.
- Eroded Soil.
- Biocide runoff to water body.

The maintenance of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services in the region requires piloting a new approach that integrates environmental concerns into community farming policies and practices. Such an approach needs to consider revival of traditional olive farming practices that are biodiversity friendly and at the same time brings added values to the farmers through improving their annual olive yields and offers new opportunities to brand and market their olive and olive oil.

The requirements to integrate environmental concerns into community policies, including agriculture methods, is more than essential in Lebanon. However, until now there have been considerable obstacles to achieving this integration, including a lack of clear and comprehensive information concerning the environmental effects of particular agricultural sectors and systems, and an absence of research into practical policy options, especially in the olive sector.

These absences are particularly apparent in the case of certain farming systems characteristic of the Mediterranean region, such as olive production, whose environmental effects on biodiversity and vice versa have not been studied.

With a view to integrating environmental concerns into agricultural practices affecting biodiversity conservation in the olive sector, we aim to providing a description of the environmental impact (problems and benefits) of olive production in Lebanon – using Mount Hermon KBA as a case study, and producing practical suggestions as how to reduce or eliminate any identified negative environmental impacts. In this case the definition of codes of "good agricultural practice" should be applicable in relation to olive farming, though incorporating basic environmental protection, as well as identifying environmental services which could be considered to go beyond good agricultural practice.

The focus is on threatened biodiversity in the olive sector, where it is clear that the survival of the threatened species is dependent on the continuation of traditional management practices, good manufacturing practices, stable socio-economic situation, and tangible markets for the olive products. To this we aim to revive traditional olive agricultural practices in the project area and showcase that traditional olive farming practices provide a financially and environmentally competitive alternative to new less nature - friendly techniques, and also increase environmental benefits as traditional olive farming contributed to a better environment, health and quality of olive oil.

The good agricultural practices code will include the application of more environmentally-friendly ground vegetation management techniques that will contribute to less soil erosion, and less use of tillage and pesticides which also has a positive effect on biodiversity.

EFL counts in achieving the results on "Jabal Al-Sheik Municipality Federation", which proved that it is in position to implement measures on municipal level to protect biodiversity where needed. This will allow adoption of sustainable land use practices necessary for the conservation of olive biodiversity in Mount Hermon KBA. EFL has approached the Jabal Al-Sheik Municipality Federation and they have agreed to be major partner to this project and provide all the support needed to pilot and expand the approach.

Also, The Ministry of Agriculture approached BirdLife International and CEPF stressing on the importance to continue this initiative in Phase 2, due the importance of the olive and olive oil sectors in the life of farmers and due to the biodiversity importance of Mount Hermon area, knowing that Mount Hermon is already recognized and listed in the UNESCO Heritage cultural sites, which can be a supporting complimentary advantage to this project (https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6432/).

The project comprises 8 main components, and associated deliverables and activities (Table 1).

Table 1. Description of components of the proposed project.

Component	Deliverables	Activities	Details
1. Designation of Mount Hermon	1.1 Mount	1.1.1	Preparing the IBA Designation file:
as Important Bird Area -IBA	Hermon IBA		Biodiversity initial assessment
	designation file		carried out in the preparatory
	prepared		phase will be analyzed and IBA
			data form will be filled and
			evaluated against IBA criteria.
	1.2 Mount	1.2.1	Submitting the designation file for
	Hermon IBA		BirdLife for endorsement: IBA data
	designated and		sheet will be submitted to BirdLife
	featured in		international to designate the site
	BirdLife website.		an IBA.
2. Determine the factors of	2.1 A report on	2.1.1	Sampling of olive from different
environmental effects in 3 sites	the quality of		farming techniques (traditional
of Mount Hermon KBA (technical	olives and olive oil		and non-traditional
Laboratory tests).	produced.		/conventional): Visits to the three
			selected sites (Rashaya, Kawkaba
			and Kfarmishki) will be conducted,
			for the purpose of samples
			collection for laboratory analysis.
		2.1.2	Physico-chemical analysis of the
			quality of the olive oil samples are
			done by an accredited laboratory
			(sugar, protein, acids, vitamins,
			minerals and pectin).
3. Definition of Good Agricultural	3.1 Summary	3.1.1	Conducting a research on best
Practices (GAP) of olive farming	report on best		environmentally friendly
in Mount Hermon KBA.	international		International Agricultural practices
	agricultural		in olive farming.
	practices		
	produced.		
	3.2 Brief report on	3.2.1	Interviewing with Olive farmers in
	national olive		Mount Hermon area to document
	agricultural		and analyze traditional inherited
	practices		olive farming techniques, and
	produced.		focusing on these with highest
			yields.
	3.3 Socio-	3.3.1	Analyzing in details the socio-
	economic report		economic drivers affecting the
	on the olive oil		olive oil production within Mount

Component	Deliverables	Activities	Details
	production within		Hermon KBA through conducting
	Mount Hermon		interviews with farmers.
	KBA produced.		
	3.4 Report on	3.4.1	Drafting the GAPs guidelines.
	Good Agricultural		
	Practices of olive		
	farming in Mount		
	Hermon KBA		
	produced based		
	on laboratory		
	analysis results		
	and best		
	international		
	agricultural		
	practices.		
4. Setting an action plan for	4.1 Action plan for	4.1.1	Drafting an action plan to improve
improving positive	adoption of good		farming practices in the three
environmental effects in Olive	agricultural		selected sites taking into
farming (implementation of the	practices,		consideration: -Tree management,
developed GAPs).	designed through		-Weed control and soil
	a participatory		management, -Fertilization, -
	process, and		Irrigation, -Biodiversity and
	Charter of Good Practices	4.1.2	landscape conservation.
	produced and	4.1.2	Present the Action plan and the charter of Good practices to the
	presented to local		concerned farmers, cooperatives
	farmers, list of		and mills owners, through a series
	farmers having		of meetings, produce and
	signed the charter		document a list of farmers as a
	documented.		sign of adopting the action plan,
	documented.		based on the engagement plan.
5. Pilot Projects for the farmers	5.1 Report on	5.1.1	Scanning, surveying and selecting
	Local pilot projects	3,1,1	Cooperatives & Olive oil industries
	for farmers signing		from the charter list that are
	the Charter, with		potential to benefit from the
	photos of the		project incentives through pilot
	projects		project, based on the engagement
	implemented.		plan.
		5.1.2	Receiving Applications and
			selection of pilot projects, after
			ensuring right social approach and
			gender balance - women and

Component	Deliverables	Activities	Details
			youth associations are involved in
			marketing of olive oil products (at
			least two press mill, 6 farmer/cooperatives).
		5.1.3	Submission of proposals to CEPF
		3.1.3	for approval
		5.1.4	Preparation of brief EIA or other
			safeguard documents, in relation
			with pilot projects activities, if
			required by CEPF.
		5.1.5	Launching of selected pilot project
			in a special event with short
	F 3 Company to	5.2.1	presentations.
	5.2 Support to implementation of	5.2.1	Providing effective information, advice and training for farmers
	pilot projects.		Advice and training to rainlers.
	pilot projects.		farmers, and mainstreaming of
			eco-friendly agricultural guidelines
			and practices.
		5.2.2	Monitoring and steering changes
			in land use New planting -
			Abandonment and grubbing-up -
			Set-aside of olive plantations - Maintaining and Improving of the
			existing terracing schemes at
			selected olive farms.
6. Marketing strategy for the olive	6.1 A strategy for	6.1.1	Assessing the existing olive oil
oil in Mount Hermon KBA.	branding and		market in Mount Hermon KBA.
	marketing of	6.1.2	Conducting consultation Meetings
	Mount Hermon		with key stakeholders in Mount
	Olive Oil		Hermon KBA regarding challenges
	prepared.		and opportunities related to olive oil sector.
		6.1.3	Development of branding and
		0.1.3	marketing strategy of olive oil
			sector in Mount Hermon KBA.
		6.1.4	Effectively implementing the
			marketing strategy locally and
			internationally.
7. Dissemination of results of the	7.1 Photos of	7.1.1	Conducting and awareness
associated biodiversity value of	Workshops and		campaigns on the importance of
	Social Media		GAPs and campaigns against Illegal

Component	Deliverables	Activities	Details
traditional agricultural practices	reports on		killing of birds in Mount Hermon
in Mount Hermon KBA.	awareness and		KBA.
	advocacy work on	7.1.2	Engaging social media channels to
	Illegal Killing of		raise awareness against illegal
	Birds.		killing of birds.
8. Capacity building on	8.1 CSTT and GTT	8.1.1	Fill up as a team the CSTT and GTT
conservation skills of EFL team	at the beginning		at the beginning of project and at
	and the end of		the end.
	project produced.	8.1.2	Final Completion and Impacts
			Report filled up and submitted at
			the end of the project.
	8.2 PowerPoint	8.2.1	Participate, in coordination with
	presentation and		CEPF Programme Officer and
	report of the		Grant Director, to an exchange
	exchange mission		visit with other CEPF grantees.
	with other CEPF		
	grantee or CEPF		
	event.		

A-3 Social Context

It is useful to provide a brief review of socio-economic considerations which interact with the environmental issues identified in the proposed project.

Olive farming provides an important source of employment in rural areas of Mount Hermon KBA, where it is either a principal employer or an important part-time employer which can be combined with other activities (a worker can work in vinery orchards, olive orchards, or as a beekeeper at the same time). Olive farming is also an important part of this particular local rural culture and heritage in Mount Hermon KBA.

In more productive regions, continued mechanization (especially of harvesting and pruning) in more modern systems is leading to a considerable reduction in labor requirements which is likely to be highlighted in the near future. Employment in olive farming is seasonal and low paid, and ageing populations and emigration are leading to reduced availability of labor. For similar reasons, the cultural and heritage values are also being lost in many areas.

Apart from the abandonment of olive groves by some farmers in search of other products generating more income, few farmers in the Rashaya region tends to modernize their practices, a matter that compromises the quality of the products (olives and olive oil) with traces of insecticides left in their products and products thereof.

For biodiversity, a higher priority is to maintain the traditional olive ecosystem with its structural diversity and low-intensity management, where this survives. But the traditional olive ecosystems are changing nowadays toward modernized farming.

Thus, the main drivers of change towards non-traditional olive orchards farming are of socio-economic nature, and are summarized in the following table 2:

Table 2: main drivers of socio-economic nature

	Abandonment of orchards due to immigration or search for more rewarding jobs				
Intensification of	Intensification of farming to increase incomes				
	Modernization of practices to increase incomes				
Socio-economic and cultural drivers	Uncontrolled use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbic insecticides and agrochemicals in general.	ides,			
arivers	Planting on slopes without terraces				
	Negligence of terraces and stone walls maintenance due to same reasons of abandonment or to poverty				
	Un-appreciation of the role of grazing the understory of olive groves				

The above Socio-economic and cultural drivers are one of the main causes to start this project and were identified in the project preparatory phase in a special report: "Identifying the negative impacts of new agricultural practices on biodiversity & analyze the drivers to traditional olive farming changes and alternatives to practitioners to maintain traditional farming and adopt best agricultural practices at Olive Sites in Mount Hermon KBA".

Women are involved with their families in harvesting of the olive orchards (on free basis if owning the olive farms, or on paid basis with other olive farms owners). During the harvesting activities, women are also involved, as men, in picking and collecting olive and its packing before transfer to the olive mill. In addition. In some of the press mills women are involved in management activities such as accounting, secretarial work, and procurement, not forgetting at the same time, that the quality of oil is indicated by women firstly, in association to home cooking activities.

Women and youth are very important for marketing of olive oil in the trade chains and in promoting new olive oil brands in the local and international exhibitions. Women and youth associations/groups in Mount Hermon project area can play an essential role in marketing of Olive oil.

Jabal El Sheikh Municipalities Union includes fourteen towns and villages in Rachaya district that is located at the feet of Hermon Mountain (Jabal El Sheikh) that is 2814 above the sea level. The terrain of the Union area is mostly rocky and difficult which makes it difficult to use for agriculture. The area of the union is 70 km2 and the population is around 40000 in the summer

and 29000 in the winter. The union includes: Rachaya, Aen Ata, Aen Hirshy, Tannoura, Beit Lahya, Bakifa, Akaba, Houch, Kfar Mishky, Majdal Balhees, Kawkaba, Daher El Ahmar, Ayha, and Kfarkouk.

The sources of income are limited to government jobs, teaching, small and medium shops, basic blacksmith workshops, grapes molasses basic factories, small orchards, and restaurants. There are few medium size factories that employ tenths of people.

In one of the towns that are located in the center of the union, many people (mainly immigrants) invest in building residential apartments for rent or sale and this provides temporary work opportunities for the locals and Syrian refugees.

In most families, there are members that immigrate and work abroad; Most of them send money back to their families or come in the summer and help increase the general income in the area.

The Syrian crisis has had an impact on the union area. Thousands of refugees compete with the locals for already limited work opportunities and consume already limited resources. Now there are more problems with electricity, cutting trees, untreated sewage, huge amounts of trash, lack water supplies, lack of security, and lack of available beds in hospitals.

The new Union Council, elected last May, has made plans to create job opportunities and has taken many initiatives in domains including health, security, environment, production, training, entertainment, sports, volunteering... However, limited funding has been a problem that slowed down projects and hindered implementing many plans agreed on by council members.

The below table 3 lists all the important information related to the social context in the project area.

Table 3: Jabal Al Sheik Municipality Federation Fact sheet¹

Village Name	Number of Municipal Members	Number of Mukhtar	Geographical Area (ha)	Population - Summer	Population winter	Waste / week (ton)	Number of Waste Dumping sites	Number of Households	Agricultural Area (ha)	Number of Farmers	Olive Pressing mills	Agricultural cooperatives	Number of Beekeepers	Number of Public Schools	Number of Water Wells	Depth of Well (m)	Well Productivity (m³)	Number of NGOs
Hawch El Kinaabe	9	1	757	2500	30	0.5	1	200	50.00%	4		0	0	0	1	480	5	0
Bakkifa	9	1	837	1200	800	2	1	260	30.00%	20	1	0	0	1	1	623	2	3
Beit Lahia	9	1	392	600	200	0.4	1	190	20.00%	50		0	5	0	2	300250	1.52	0
Tannoura	9	1	506	1070	1070	2	1	230	30.00%	100		0	8	1	1	550		0
Rashaya	15	5	6752	10000	8000	120	1	1400	4.00%	80		0	80	0	3	380450	ا 55 لكهب	4
Daher El Ahmar	9	1	1014	7000	7000	42	2	900	10.00%			0	2	1	3	270400	13	5
El Aqabe	12	2	630	2500	2500	12	1	550	40.00%	100		0	5	1	8	180300	22.5	1
Aiha	15	5	4317	3000	2000	6	1	650	50.00%	180		0	4	1	2	425	34	1
Ain Herche	9	1	787	1200	600	3	1	180	20.00%	50		0	2	0	2	150250	4	
Ain Ata	12	2	5802	2000	1200	2.5	1	463	30.00%			0		0	1	310	3.5	3
Kfarqouq	12	2	5547	4000	3800	25	1	650	50.00%	250		0	10	1	2	390460	4"	1
Kfarmeshki	12	2	1793	700	600	5	1	350	50.00%	80	1	0	10	0	3	140200	24	
Kawkaba	9	1	507	970	970	5	1	300	40.00%	50		0	20	1	2	465565	23	0
Majdel Baltiss	9	1	2004	3500	900	5	1	320	50.00%	40		0	3	1				1
Total	150	26	31645	40240	29670	230.4	15	6643	10414.58	1004	2	0	149	8	31		12	19

¹ The Agriculture lands up-to 1000 meters above sea level is equivalent to around 6000 ha, which is actually suitable for olive cultivation.

B. Participatory implementation

The Local authorities, communities and community members will conduct the project activities which will guarantee the adoption of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in Mount Hermon area. The proposed scheme will be conducted through a "Charter Agreement" that will be signed among the farmers, olive oil mills owners, cooperatives, and interested components of the olive oil trading chain in national and international markets. Also, the scheme will be conducted through dissemination of the projects results and translate it to an actual realistic marketing strategy. In fact, this step will be conducted during the implementation of the project components, and associated deliverables and activities, as listed in table 1:

- Component 4: Setting an action plan for improving positive environmental effects in Olive farming (implementation of the developed GAPs).
- Component 5: Pilot Project for the farmers
- Component 6: Marketing strategy for the olive oil in Mount Hermon KBA.
- Component 7: Dissemination of results of the associated biodiversity value of traditional agricultural practices in Mount Hermon KBA.

This scheme will be implemented through a participatory approach including Meetings, brainstorming sessions, workshops, conferences, media campaigns etc. with an actual participation of all the involved stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

As per component 5, a selected candidates from farmers, cooperatives, olive mills, women an youth associations will be able to benefit from financing of pilot project related to adopting of GAPs in olive plantation, manufacturing of high quality olive oil according to international standards and promotion of olive oil and its Mount Hermon new brands in the markets.

Since the start of the project preparatory phase, EFL has been in direct contact with the different stakeholders, and has been managing several visits to Mount Hermon area and signed an MoU with Jabal Al Sheik Municipality Federation (JSMF).

Direct links have been created between EFL team, and the local stakeholders, including:

- JSMF
- Municipalities
- Governates /and Kaim makam
- Agriculture Cooperatives

- Farmers and land owners
- Pressing factories
- Firms
- Environmental Groups and associations
- Youth Organization
- Women empowerment associations interested in agro-food traditional products
- Tourist establishments

EFL has also been working in close cooperation with relevant public institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, chamber of commerce and trade in Zahle and Bekaa etc.

The majority of the above mentioned targeted stakeholders, attended the closure event of the project preparatory phase in October 2019 (attendance sheet with their signatures was earlier submitted to CEPF). Their comments and willingness to continue working with the project phase 2 was clearly reflected in the attached to CEPF workshop MOM.

In phase 2 of this particular project, each group of stakeholders will be involved in the project implementation according to its interest and the relevance of the project activities to its scope of work. All the stakeholders' groups will be targeted by awareness campaigns. Training and field assessments for the targeted stakeholders will done by professional experts.

The roadmap, requiring a number of key steps to be followed in the planning and implementation process, including steps to ensure active community participation in both the planning and implementation, was reflected in the Stakeholders Engagement Plan in the consultation process. These steps include:

- Correspondence by phone/email/Text/Instant message
- One-on-one interviews
- Formal meetings
- Roundtable discussions
- Participation to setting strategic vision
- Advices for amendments on municipal decrees related to the olive sector (official and unofficial)
- Print media
- Radio and television
- Website and social media
- Public meetings
- Workshops
- Survey
- Grievance Redress

The success of the scheme is dependent on achieving the project success indicators in the form of impacts such as:

- Traditional, biodiversity-friendly, olive farming practices are maintained (declined stopped) on the project area (covering an area of agricultural lands equivalent approximately to 6000 ha, among which 320 ha as an olive owned farms in the KBA). 80% from the total 6000 ha are seasonal agricultural land (around 4800 ha), where 50% from it (2400 ha) are potential for olive plantation.
- The population of at least 4 globally threatened species dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level, are stabilized and improving and make from the study area a true IBA. The species are: Acantodactylus schreiberi syriaca Bijttger, I 879 (EN), Parvilacerta fraasii (Lehrs, 1910) (EN), Phoenicolacerta kulzeri kulzeri (Miiller & Wettstein. 1932) (EN) and Syrian Serin Serinus syriacus (VU). The list of most important species that are associated with land use practices, including those breeding in the project area were mentioned in the ornithologist report prepared specially for the large grant proposal by Professor Ghassan Jaradi (the expert who performed the Mount Hermon Biodiversity value study for the project preparatory phase).
- The knowledge of Mount Hermon KBA biodiversity, in particular in relation to farming activities, is better known and a monitoring system is in place.
- Mount Hermon KBA is recognized and declared as an Important Bird Area.
- The local authorities, in particular the Municipality of Rashaya, Kfarmishki and Kawkaba are aware of the importance of traditional land-use practices and take measures and incentives to promote their maintenance.
- At least 2 cooperatives and 2 olive mills are engaged in the promotion of traditional olive oil from Mount Hermon.
- At least 6 farmers engaged in improving their practices and following the Good Agricultural Practices guidelines, covering 15 ha of olive orchards.
- A brand for biodiversity-friendly olive oil, from traditionally managed land of Mount Hermon area, is developed and recognized in Lebanon, opening new markets for local production.
- Illegal Killing of Birds is reduced in the project area through awareness raising and advocacy, and plan for a hunting ban in the area is in process.
- EFL Capacity is Built.
- At least 20 farmers (10 male & 10 Female) and 20 persons from women and youth (10 male & 10 female) with be trained to understand GAPs, and acquire the needed marketing tools to promote olive oil including new brands in Mount Hermon Area.

The information obtained during this process, along with the existing participatory approach, will provide an in depth understanding of:

✓ the cultural, social, economic, and geographic setting of the communities in the
project areas;

- ✓ the types and extent of community use of natural resources, in particular olive orchards, and the existing rules for the use and management of these resources;
- ✓ local knowledge of biodiversity and natural resource use;
- ✓ the threats to and impacts on the biodiversity from various activities in the area, including those causing negative impacts though the use of modern/conventional agricultural practices (use of pesticides, herbicides, etc.).

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons

On the hunting level, and even though the Mount Hermon area is prohibited to hunting activities , some hunting activities are occurring for recreation only and therefore the livelihood of the local community won't be affected.

Thus, no person will be adversely affected by the project. On the contrary, the rural development activities promoted by the project, based on voluntary engagement, are expected to produce economic incomes.

The project aims at controlling better this olive cultivation area, through the implementation of GAPs guidelines, the approach that will definitely impact the surrounding areas and villages too.

On the other hand, access to the olive orchard areas, as private property lands, is mainly restricted, and visitors as well as locals are aware of this.

However, by signing the Charter of cooperation (component 4 and 5) among the beneficiaries of the project the access will be allowed to private lands for scientific research and collection of olive, soil and herbs samples for laboratory analysis, voluntary participation to harvesting activities from the behalf of youth and women as individuals. Visitors might choose to collect the beautiful endemic flowers for ornamental purposes.

Also, EFL understands the possible uncontrolled access of seasonal transhumance - local shepherds, which might be of a great benefit substituting the herbicides. In such a case, transhumance routes need to be redrawn in collaboration with the local shepherds, to keep the most vulnerable areas and species protected. The transhumance routes will be the result of a participatory approach and would not lead to a loss of revenue for shepherds.

For the pilot projects, the neighboring communities to the pilot project areas should be introduced to the pilot project concept. The project may face a fact that the access to the pilot project land should pass through a neighboring land. The community members must be closely associated with the areas for the success of the pilot. The project team will work with the community to determine which households or families may be impacted by the pilot projects.

The agreement of these households, and the invitation to participate in project activities will occur prior to any on ground activities being conducted, and be guaranteed in the application form that will be approved by CEPF prior to financing of any pilot project.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

- ✓ Allowing transhumance to move from one area to the other, seasonally, on their own paths. Studies of experts will clarify if redirection of these paths, if any, will be required. In this case, the local shepherds will be consulted to develop a new path workable for them, approved by experts, and endorsed by EFL.
- ✓ The primary means of assisting any project affected people will be prioritizing their participation in the income generating opportunities provided by EFL scheme. These income generating activities will include:
 - Direct payments from the beneficiaries -participants in Pilot project activities, if the surrounding households will be affected from pilot projects' activities (it will be mentioned as a condition in the pilot projects application form).
 - Communities will be trained in best agro-farming practices and, with the support
 of stakeholders in the project area, so that all individuals have the opportunity to
 make better livelihoods, without undergoing illegal activities.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism

Prior to the implementation of the project, the launching of the project from the Ministry of Agriculture, during which the components and related deliverables and activities will be presented, is considered the first official meeting of the project steering committee that will be formed and informed to CEPF.

The objective of the steering committee meetings is also to disclose again the objectives and detailed activities of the project to the local communities. The communities already have the contacts of the coordinator and local authorities (JSMF) involved in the project area. The Regional Implementation Team for CEPF (Birdlife International) and the CEPF Grant Director will be introduced to the local population. Signboards in all communities in the implementation areas will be disposed. The dedicated email account for CEPF (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) will be mentioned, for grievances sent by email.

Grievances raised by the grantees will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF (Birdlife International) and the CEPF Grant Director, together with a proposed response exactly as per the grievance mechanism agreed in the Stakeholders' Engagement Plan.

On the other hand, EFL expect few grievances that will be observed, due to the nature of the project which is based on CEPF donations to pilot activities and voluntary initiatives and readiness of local communities to implement the project activities. This was sensed during the preparatory phase where a belief was formed from the behalf of the local community and authorities in the promising advantages of the biodiversity value of Mount Hermon KBA and its future impact on elevating the socio-economic income.

In all cases, the set by EFL Grievance and complaint mechanism, aiming to allow individuals or groups, affected by the project activities, to raise complaints and grievances. At the same time, it will allow the project to respond to, and resolve, the issues in an appropriate manner with an objective to:

- Provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances;
- Allow stakeholders the opportunity to raise comments/concerns anonymously through a clear channel;
- Structure and manage the handling of comments, responses and grievances, and allow monitoring of effectiveness of the mechanism; and
- Ensure that comments, responses and grievances are handled in a fair and transparent manner

F. Implementation Arrangements

All efforts will be made so as to include all of the potentially affected persons in the developed action plans. EFL will provide the necessary contacts and information to the experts.

Affected people (if any) will be consulted during the drafting of actions relevant to them. All points discussed during the meetings will be formulated in "minutes of meetings". When clear actions are agreed upon, the final plan will be refined, integrating the needs of affected people as well as the agreed upon actions.

The above will be reported regularly to CEPF as part of the semi-annual performance reports.

Implementation of the project and its safeguard mechanisms will be done by ELF association. EFL will inform these partners of the obligations under the conflict resolution and complaint mechanism, and discuss with them the suggested practical implementation mechanisms, before actual implementation.

These discussions will be held during the Steering Committee meeting that will be organized before the start of the project. A healthy Monitoring and Evaluation system was put in place by EFL to track key outcomes, complaints and participatory discussions overtime.

CEPF will provide resources to conduct the pilot initiatives - projects. All key project partners will have roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project as per the below table:

Table 4: Stakeholders engagement, targeted roles and responsibilities

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
Ministries					
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)	Mr. Luis Lahoud (MOA General Director) <u>luislah@hotmail.com</u> +9611824700	High	Medium	 Improve on agricultural schemes. Build consensus and ownership of the findings Identify the governance framework for good agricultural practices Ensure Compliance of adopted measures with existing laws 	 Participate to the preparatory meetings with the EFL experts. Participate to the final workshop to adjust the recommendations based on national interest. Presenting any kind of any related statistics, studies and information available at the ministries.
Ministry of Environment		High	Medium	Environmental health, resulted from adoption of good agricultural practices	ministries.
Ministry of Economy and Trade		High	Medium	 Market development for the olive sector 	
Ministry of Industry		High	Medium	• Adoption of Good Manufacturing practices in olive pressing olive mills	

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Government Dep	artments				
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Zahle and Bekaa (CCIAZ)	Mr. Youssef Geha (CCIAZ General Director) ygeha@cciaz.org.lb +9613802812	High	Medium	 Market development for the olive sector Minimize the use of harmful pesticides Improve on agricultural schemes, related to this specific area, to sense the future of good markets. 	 Participate to the preparatory meetings with the EFL experts Participate to the final workshop to adjust the recommendations based on national interest. Presenting any kind of any related statistics, studies and information available at CCIAZ
Local Authorities	1				
JSMF	Mr. Saleh Abu Mansour (President of JSMF) president@js- federation.org +96171339818	High	High	 Implement the law, Compliance with laws, with powers devolved from (or more often abdicated by) central (national) government. Improve the use of traditional methods and good agricultural 	 Cooperating with EFL on the proposed scope of work and supporting CEPF and EFL initiative. Issuance of any related Municipal decisions to translate the results of the project into actual steps, if needed in this phase or future phases.
Municipalities	Through: Mr. Saleh Abu Mansour (President of JSMF)	High	High	practices in the olive sector, and preservation of Mount Hermon KBA biodiversity in	Based on project recommendations JSMF and the municipalities will participate to a final workshop to discuss

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
	president@js- federation.org +96171339818			the area of its mandate • Appropriate olive grove management • Guarantee Environmental health • Market development	EFL application for development of the project in its second phase.
Muktars	Non till now	Low	Low	 Promote Good manufacturing practices among people 	• Promote the project initiative and results.
Governates /and Kaim – makam	Non till now	Medium	Medium	• Those are various kinds of powers can be devolved from central (national) government, such as waste management and co-regulation of land use by zoning. For example, the power to manage a municipality, in case of council resignation, comes to Kaim-makam who is reporting to the Governor, and the Governor is reporting to the Minister of Interior. They have the same role as the municipalities	The same as JSMF and municipalities.

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
				in case of their resignation.	
Non-Governmen	tal Organizations/Com	munity Groups			
Environmental Groups and associations	Non till now	High	Medium	Adequate olive groves management	Participation to project activities.
Youth Organization	Non till now	Medium	Low	 Protection of species at 	
Women empowerment associations	Non till now	Medium	Low	risk/habitat Maintenance of biodiversity Empowerment of women in the olive sector (harvesting and plantation).	
Direct Beneficia	ry Communities				
Agriculture Cooperatives	Non till now	High	Medium	• Economic stability • Community	• To form a belief that adopting the
Farmers and land owners	Non till now	High	High	enhancement • Environment	traditional plantation methods
Pressing factories	Non till now	High	Medium	• Economic opportunities	and good agricultural practices
Firms	Non till now	Medium	Low	opportunities Responsible KBA site management Air quality. Cultural heritage, traditional use, CBD convention rights, farmers rights Employment opportunities Efficient delivery of information Sustainable conservation of biodiversity	agricultural practices will help in developing the olive sector towards future markets and generation of income through an excellent olive oil quality responding to international standards. • Benefit from the potential support of the municipalities Federation in Mount Hermon KBA, MOA

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
				Benefit from the pilot projects.	and other stakeholders.
Post-secondary II	estitutions		1	pilot projects.	Stukenoiders.
Research, design, advocacy and development Analytical Laboratories	Non till now ATL – Dr. Amer Sakr Mobile: +9613821678	Medium Medium	Low	• Research, design, advocacy and development, and adoption of project results	 Participation to project activities. Contribute to analysis of soil, air, pesticides etc.
Certification Orgo Public Advisory C	anizations ommittees/ Civil Societio	25			
LIBNOR (Lebanese institute for norms and standardization)		Medium	Low	 adoption of project results and possibility to adjust or update related standards in the olive sector. Certification requirements Impacts on olive groves from management Management of local issues Assistance and support 	Contribute to issuance of standardization decisions , if needed.
Employees/ Volu	ınteers				
Various	Non till now	Low	Low	Safe working conditionsIncentivesTraining	Participation to project activities.
Residents in the A	Area				
Communities	Non till now	Medium	Low	When we talk of communities, we must make clear	Participation to project activities.

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
				distinction among communities of place (people that just happen to live near one another), communities of practice (people that derive their livelihoods from similar activities (i.e., farmers, lawyers, conservationists, etc.), and communities of interest (people that care about the same things). Their interest is how to benefit from project results.	
Individuals	Non till now	Low	Low	Individuals are relevant to mount Hermon area in several ways: - as subsistence entrepreneurs, or landowners, whose decisions about the management of their farms, lands, or homes affect the Area (e.g., use of pesticides within a catchment, felling of timber on surrounding land);	Participation to project activities.

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
				- as consumers who live far away, but whose decisions about what they buy, eat, or use can have profound effects on the incentives driving local actors' uses of biodiversity within and surrounding areas (e.g. in the future Medical industries can influence the conservation efforts of medicinal plants, or bird watching associations can influence strategies related to protection of migratory soaring birds); and as citizens/voters, whose degree of support for environmental measures could affect the management of an area (e.g., attitudes to human-animal conflict such as wolves).	
Households	Non till now	Low	Low	It is often assumed, especially in rural	• Participation to project activities.

Stakeholder Name	Contact Person Phone, Email, Website, Address	Interest (Impact) How much does the project impact them? (Low, Medium, High)	Influence How much influence do they have over the project? (Low, Medium, High)	What is important to the stakeholder?	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?
				developing societies that households operate as a unit. They are mainly interested of good quality olive and olive oil.	
Other Private Int Hotels & Restaurants	Al Layali Restaurant - Rashaya	Medium	Medium	Provide perspectives from hospitality on	Participation to project activities.
				issues and opportunities	