

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

January 2021

CEPF Grant 111560

Amwaj Society for Environment Conservation (AMWAJ)

*Sea turtle conservation in partnership with artisanal fishermen
in the gulf of Sirte, Libya*

Libya

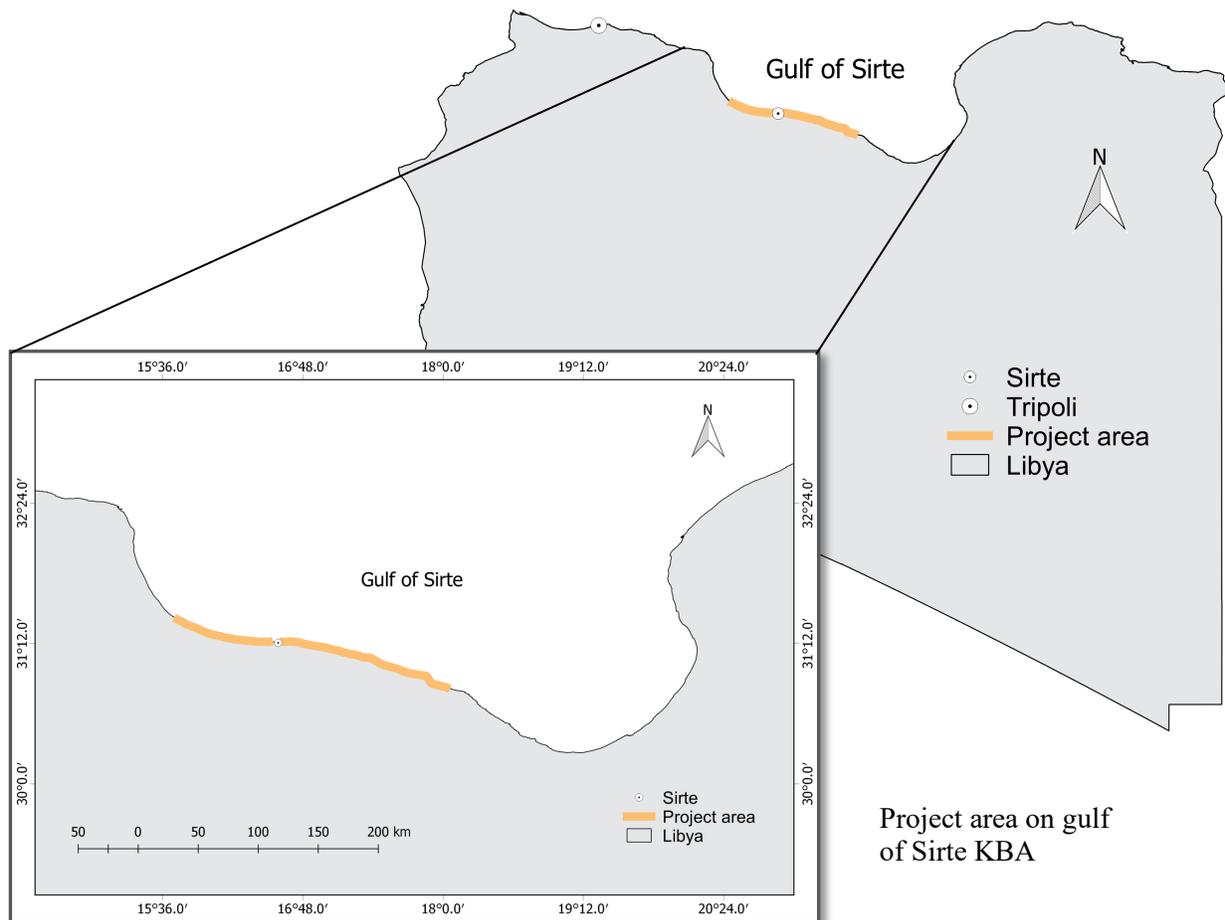
Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization. Amwaj Society for Environment Conservation
2. Grant title. Sea turtle conservation in partnership with artisanal fishermen in the gulf of Sirte, Libya
3. Grant number 111560
4. Grant amount (US dollars). 101,182.00
5. Proposed dates of grant. 1st March, 2021 – 30th June 2022
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. Libya
7. Date of preparation of this document. January 2021

8. Introduction:

Sea turtles are reptiles that have lived in the seas and oceans since more than a hundred million years ago, and there are seven types of sea turtles in the world, of which there are three types in the Mediterranean: the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and studies indicate that only two species, the loggerhead and green, nest in the Mediterranean (Demetropoulos, 1995), and one species nests on the beaches of Libya, the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*).

The beaches of the Gulf of Sirte are considered one of the most important nesting sites for the loggerhead sea turtle in the Mediterranean, as the beaches of the Gulf attract numbers of turtles every year, and through



studies conducted by the Libyan Sea turtles Conservation program on a part of the beaches of the Gulf, it became clear that the number of turtle nests exceeds 500 nests in some years.

With support of SPA/RAC within the MAVA funded project “Conservation of marine Turtles in the Mediterranean”, the team of the Libyan Sea Turtles Conservation program in close collaboration with the Environment General Authority, is collecting the data about stranding turtles, but this work is implemented in a few parts of the Libyan coast due to budget limit.

However, current knowledge on the interaction of sea turtles with fishing gears and the implementation of mitigation measures are still poor to hinder the decline of turtle populations in the Mediterranean.

Therefore, more effort should be placed into awareness raising and training with fishers to spread good practices such as the removal of trailing line from turtles that have ingested hooks, lifting turtles from the water by the carapace or with nets instead of by lines or flippers, and the use of specialized tools for removing hooks or cutting line away from turtles that cannot be lifted onto the boat.

This project aims to complete the ongoing work of the Libyan Sea Turtle Conservation Program as follows :

- Involve fishing sector in sea turtle conservation at national level
- Collect information about bycatch through inboard observation program according to the Protocol “Monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable species in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries.
- Methodology for data collection, prepared within the MAVA funded bycatch project.
- awareness campaigns and information tools for fishermen, residents, stakeholders and local actors on sea turtle's conservation and handling.

This project will be addressed under SD1. The approach suggested will contribute to the conservation of coastal KBA of Sirte and also the whole coastal zone of Libya. Another aim of this project is to fill important gaps related to knowledge, fishermen involved and the situation of sea turtle's conservation in Libya. also, this project will contribute to the conservation of sea turtle at regional level, considering that the suitable beaches for turtle nesting in Libya are one of the most important in the Mediterranean, these data will influence the management of gulf of Sirte KBA.

AMWAJ Association was established by individuals working in the field of biological research since 2005, as key members of the Libyan Sea Turtle Conservation Program (LibSTP) for monitoring and conservation of sea turtles in partnership with different regional organizations in the Mediterranean Basin, which includes many activities- :

- Monitoring of known nesting beaches and new less known nesting areas.
- Collect information about bycatch through inboard observation program according to the Protocol “Monitoring the incidental catch of vulnerable species in Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries
- Methodology for data collection, prepared within the MAVA funded bycatch project.
- Sex ratio estimations of loggerhead marine turtle hatchlings by incubation duration and nest temperature at Sirte beaches
- tagging turtles by LibSTP Tags along the Libyan coastline.
- Satellite tracking to understand post-breeding movements of “Libyan” marine turtles in cooperation with SPA/RAC and SZN.
- Study the genetic structure of Libyan loggerhead marine turtles.

- Socio-economic study in cooperation with the SPA/RAC within the IMAP project to establish new MPA.

9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:

From the standpoint of the importance of engaging stakeholders not only in the project but in the decision-making process and how to communicate and collaborate for the success of the project, AMWAJ contacted stakeholders and some local citizens to explain the project methodology and the dynamics of participatory work, the following stakeholders have been contacted:

- Municipality of Sirte: Contact the management council of the municipality of Sirte and arrange individual meetings with:

- Abdulali Hiblo (Member of the management council).
- Abdullah Al-Abdali (Chairman of the Port Maintenance Committee).

The methodology of the project was explained and the focus was on the part related to the establishment of a sea turtle rescue center in Sirte, with positive reactions and enthusiasm to participate in the project by allocating a small building on the coastal area to establish the rescue center, which “will play an important role in preserving sea turtles and its mission to maintain natural balance of marine ecosystems,” Hiblo said.

- Environment General Authority (EGA): Contacting EGA and presenting the project idea to Ali ElKekli (Authority’s Head) through an individual meeting. The project idea was supported and agreed to facilitate procedures and logistical support because it is in the interest of protecting ecosystems and habitats, and supports the efforts of EGA in preserving biodiversity. It is also expected to increase the participation of the Environment General Authority through the Nature Conservation Department once the project implementation begins.
- Fishermen's Syndicates: Professional fishermen are key stakeholders in this project, so they must be engaged in decision-making throughout the project. The following meetings were organized during December 2020:

- Sirte Fishermen's Syndicate: AMWAJ arranged a meeting with the head of the Fishermen's Syndicate in Sirte (Mohammed Al-Shakerbi), all the approaches of the project were explained with positive reactions and a good discussion, especially in establishing a rescue center and Reinforce the National Stranding network of sea turtles.

- Ehrawa Fishermen's Syndicate: AMWAJ met with the head of Ehrawa Fishermen's Syndicate (Hamad Shawayel), the meeting was held in the town of Ehrawa (77 km east of Sirte). An explanation of the project was presented in order to reach an effective partnership to reinforce the conservation goals, especially as the Syndicate is making good efforts to combat illegal fishing that causes negative impacts on the ecosystems and resources in the region.

- Al-Wadi Lahmar Fishermen's Syndicate: A meeting was organized with head of Al-Wadi Lahmar Fishermen's Syndicate (Obaid Al-Shamam), and the meeting included a field visit to Al-Wadi Lahmar port and to the beaches of Lewaija and Ras Al-Ghara. The importance of these areas lies in the presence of marine cliffs, corridors and rocky slopes in some places, making it suitable for the formation of habitats for many important species, in addition to the presence of rocky areas on the beaches that form a small peninsula that fishermen and vacationers come to be a place of tourism and entertainment.

- Local Citizens: During December 2020, AMWAJ arranged meetings with groups of local citizens for the villages of Thalatheen and Jaref, which are the two villages near the high-density nesting beaches. The

meetings were arranged by “Imhemmed Abuwaina,” a member of the Amwaj society, who is one of Thalatheen residents and Hamed Eajal, a member of the Amwaj society and a resident of Jaref. The meetings were with groups of sages and notables of the two villages. The importance of the location of the two villages was discussed as they are located in an area of biological interest, and that the responsibility rests with everyone to conserve resources, therefore, efforts should be combined to save sea turtles and protect these beaches, which are considered among the most important nesting beaches in the region. The notables confirmed the residents' desire to be partners in preserving resources, especially that the importance of villages stems from the ecological importance of these beaches, and that the benefits will extend to the two villages in the end.

Stakeholder	Contacted name	Position	Outcome
Municipality of Sirte	Abdulali Hiblo	Member of the management council	Positive reactions and enthusiasm to participate in the project by allocating a small building on the coastal area to establish the rescue center
Environment General Authority	Ali ElKekli	Authority's Head	The project idea was supported and agreed to facilitate procedures and logistical support because it is in the interest of protecting ecosystems and habitats, and supports the efforts of EGA in preserving biodiversity
Sirte Fishermen's Syndicate	Mohammed Al-Shakerbi	Head of the Fishermen's Syndicate	Positive reactions and a good discussion, especially in establishing a rescue center and Reinforce the National Stranding network of sea turtles.
Ehrawa Fishermen's Syndicate	Hamad Shawayel	Head of the Fishermen's Syndicate	An explanation of the project was presented in order to reach an effective partnership to reinforce the conservation goals, especially as the Syndicate is making good efforts to combat illegal fishing on Ehrawa port
Al-Wadi Lahmar Fishermen's Syndicate	Obaid Al-Shamam	Head of the Fishermen's Syndicate	The meeting included a field visit to Al-Wadi Lahmar port and to the beaches of Lewaija and Ras Al-Ghara. The importance of these areas lies in the presence of marine cliffs, corridors and rocky slopes in some places, making it suitable for the formation of habitats for many important species
Local Citizens	Thalatheen residents and Jaref residents	Groups of sages and notables	The notables confirmed the residents' desire to be partners in preserving resources, especially that the importance of villages stems from the ecological importance of these

			beaches, and that the benefits will extend to the two villages in the end.
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10. Project Stakeholders:

The stakeholders in this project are as follows:

Government agencies:

- **Municipality of Sirte:**

The main area of the project will be within the Sirte municipal area, so the Sirte municipality will be the main stakeholder in the project as part of convention, will support in the consultation meeting, in addition to their role in allocating the rescue center building.

- **Environment General Authority:**

convention for the joint management of the rescue center between EGA and AMWAJ

- Ministry of Education (Sirte office):
- An entertaining and awareness day with the schoolchildren that includes painting, modeling activities and an educational show about sea turtles.
- Public Authority for Culture and Civil Society (Sirte office) (Assembly administrative support through the authority's civil society commission - media spaces about the project via the authority's radio and newspaper.

Academia:

- Sirte University (Exchange of visits with the College of Science, a visit that includes students (males and females) to the field and to the rescue center

NGOs:

- Libyan Organization for Conservation of Nature (Misurata): Collecting data about stranding on Al-Washka, Abu Qreen, Misurata, Zliten, and Al-Khums beaches.
- Green Fingerprint Association (Benghazi): Collecting data about stranding on Ras Lanuf, Zwaitina, Benghazi, Al Marj, Al Bayda, Derna, and Tobruk. beaches
- Bado Society for Environment (Zuwara): Collecting data about stranding on Zuwara, Farwa, Sabratha, Sorman, and Zawiya beaches.

Groups:

- Sirte Fishermen's Syndicate: Engaging professional fishermen and joining them in the national network of sea turtle stranding
- Ehrawa Fishermen's Syndicate: Engaging professional fishermen and joining them in the national network of sea turtle stranding
- Al-Wadi Lahmar Fishermen's Syndicate: Engaging professional fishermen and joining them in the national network of sea turtle stranding
- Local Citizens: Engage the local Citizens living near high nesting density beaches in the conservation of sea turtles

Media:

- Sirte Cultural Radio: Episodes about the project in Sirte Cultural Radio

11. Stakeholder Engagement Program:

AMWAJ will ensure the active participation of stakeholders in all project activities in order to achieve the project objectives and ensure the sustainability of project impacts and activities through knowledge collective that will highlight the situation which will be discussed with relevant stakeholders and help to take urgent action in land use planification in coastal zone. AMWAJ will follow a methodology based on complete transparency In order to gain the confidence of stakeholders.

Methods used will vary according to target audience, and the techniques will differ from activity to activity, for example, the socio-economic study conducted by researchers from AMWAJ in cooperation with the SPA/RAC within the IMAP project, showed that the participation of women in the study community (Sirte city) is concentrated in the education sector at a rate of more than 70%, while it decreases in other sectors to less than 20%. This indicator means that the best way to ensure an effective participation of women community in the project is through the schools, by organizing interactive activities and by providing schools with flyers and posters.

12. Consultation methods:

The methods that will be used to consult with each stakeholder group will also vary according to the type and composition of each group. Anyway, AMWAJ will follow the method(s) that suits each group, Bearing in mind the specificity of the community and its social relationships. The methods of consultation that will be used with stakeholder groups include the following:

- Consultative meetings with communities or some of them, such as meetings with local citizens of areas that have direct contact with the project or part of it.
- KII such as interviews with professional fishermen.
- Field surveys and questionnaires such as capacity assessment questionnaires.
- Consultation meetings with specific community groups, such as meeting with academic groups at the university.
- Traditional methods such as consulting with community groups during Gatherings at the popular events of the tribes.

13. Other Engagement Activities:

The consultative meetings that were organized during December 2020 with the local citizens of the villages close to the densely populated beaches (The Thirtieth and Algarve) concluded not only with the participation of the local community in the project activities but also in the preservation of part of their community beaches.

AMWAJ is committed to engaging communities in conservation work, in addition to providing training for professional fishermen on correct methods of dealing with stranded and injured sea turtles, and for civil societies to raise their overall capacity and personal capabilities in order to ensure the sustainability of the project's impacts, these activities include:

- Training of paramedic fishermen on first aid and correct methods of dealing with stranded and injured turtles.
- Training of 4 researcher members of the society and local partners on the protocol of treatment of sea turtles in the rescue center and the basics of first aid.

- Engaging professional fishermen along the Libyan coast and joining them in the national network of sea turtle stranding.
- Training workshop for local partners and NGOs on overall capacity, and personal capabilities, including (time management, negotiation, problem-solving, and decision-making skills).

14. Timetable:

Stakeholder	Stakeholder engagement activity	Activity From	Activity To	Location
Municipality of Sirte	First meeting	27 Dec. 2020	27 Dec. 2020	Sirte (Done)
	Coordination meeting	01 Apr. 2021	31 May. 2021	Sirte
	Allocation of the rescue center building	01 May. 2021	31 Jul. 2021	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
Environment General Authority	First meeting	25 Dec. 2020	25 Dec. 2020	By Phone (Done)
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
	Share results report	01 Dec. 2021 01 Oct. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Dec. 2022	Sirte
Ministry of Education (Sirte office)	First meeting	01 Mar. 2021	01 May. 2021	Sirte
	Awareness day with schoolchildren	01 Jun. 2022	31 Mar. 2022	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
Public Authority for Culture and Civil Society (Sirte office)	First meeting	27 Dec. 2020	27 Dec. 2020	Sirte (Done)
	Episodes about the project in Sirte Cultural Radio	01 Mar. 2021	30 Sep. 2022	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
Sirte University	First meeting	01 Mar. 2021	01 May. 2021	Sirte
	Participate in decision-making about the rescue center	01 Sep. 2021	31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte
Fishermen's Syndicates	First meeting	19 Dec. 2020	24 Dec. 2020	Sirte (Done)
	Coordination meeting	01 Mar. 2021	30 Apr. 2021	Sirte
	Reinforcing the national network for sea turtle stranding	01 Apr. 2021	31 Sep. 2022	A long the Libyan coast
	Awareness campaigns and information tools for fishermen on dealing with stranded or stuck sea turtles during bycatch	01 Oct. 2021	30 Nov. 2021	A long the Libyan coast
	Training of paramedic fishermen on first aid and correct methods of dealing with stranded and injured turtles	01 Mar. 2022	30 Apr. 2022	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte - Tripoli
Libyan Organization for Conservation of Nature (Misurata)	First meeting	30 Dec. 2020	30 Dec. 2020	Online meeting (Done)
	Coordination meeting	01 Mar. 2021	30 Apr. 2021	Misrata
	Collecting data about stranding	20 May. 2021	30 Sep. 2022	Misrata beaches Zliten beaches
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte - Tripoli
Green Fingerprint Association (Benghazi)	First meeting	02 Jan. 2021	02 Jan. 2021	Online meeting (Done)
	Coordination meeting	01 Mar. 2021	30 May. 2021	Benghazi

	Collecting data about stranding	20 May. 2021	30 Sep. 2022	Benghazi beaches Ras Lanuf beaches
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte - Benghazi
Bado Society for Environment (Zuwara)	First meeting	07 Jan. 2021	07 Jan. 2021	Zuwara (Done)
	Coordination meeting	01 Mar. 2021	30 May. 2021	Zuwara
	Collecting data about stranding	20 May. 2021	30 Sep. 2022	Zuwara beaches Farwa beaches
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte – Tripoli
Local Citizens	First meeting	28 Dec. 2020	28 Dec. 2020	Sirte
	Coordination meeting	01 Mar. 2021	30 Apr. 2021	Sirte
	Share project outcomes	01 Nov. 2021 01 Aug. 2022	31 Dec. 2021 31 Aug. 2022	Sirte

15. **Resources and Responsibilities:**

The Stakeholder engagement activity will vary according to the type and composition of each stakeholder, so the responsibility for carrying out activities will be distributed amongst the team members according to the type of activity, for example meetings and communications with government agencies will be entrusted to the president of AMWAJ, media activities will be implemented through the society’s media office (Mohammad Alrmeh and Abdulkarim Alharari), the academic activities will be entrusted to Almokhtar Saied (the technical coordinator of the project), and so on.

All stakeholder engagement activities are included as part of the project budget, and are classified into budget categories, so there are no resources allocated specifically to stakeholder engagement activities.

16. **Grievance mechanism:**

Since the launch of the project, AMWAJ will focus on informing local citizens about the project, its approach, and its goals through face-to-face meetings with groups of local residents, local radio and social media. This is in order to avoid any grievance from citizens after they understand the objectives of the project and its main area.

However, AMWAJ will deal with local citizens and other stakeholders with complete transparency, including providing them with the means by which they can may raise a grievance with AMWAJ, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

The project objectives and approach will be explained to the communities directly or indirectly affected by the project, by making available the email address, phone numbers and physical address of AMWAJ, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team, and the CEPF Grant Manager. These means of communication will be shared with local residents and other stakeholders through face-to-face encounters and interviews with the public, public announcements, via local radio, and via posters in public places, using the local language, with an offer to provide assistance to people who do not have access to email on their own.

All grievances and proposal responses will be shared with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Manager within 15 days. If the complainant is still not satisfied with the response provided, the dispute can be sent directly to the CEPF CEO via the designated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org). If the complainant is not satisfied with the response received

from the CEPF Secretariat, the dispute can be referred to the World Bank, at the local World Bank office.

In the first instance, the consideration of these grievances will be through a discussion between the person who raised the grievance and a representative of the local authority, otherwise, with an AMWAJ official. Grievances that have not been resolved in this way can be the subject of a special assessment meeting with local authorities and stakeholders.

At the end of all these steps, if the grievance is well-founded and it has not yet been resolved despite these various steps, AMWAJ will inform and assist in raising the complaint to RIT team (Awatef Abiadh and Jason Deschamps; awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr; Jason.deschamps@lpo.fr). If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, the person will be informed that he may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail, and Jesko Hentschel, the World Bank Director of Maghreb and Malta at (JHentschel@worldbank.org) (Because there is no World Bank office in Libya).

17. Monitoring and Reporting:

The results of the stakeholder engagement activities will be reported twice a year, and information will be shared through meetings, workshops, social media, and Sirte Cultural Radio, for example, the society media office will publish monthly media reports on stakeholder engagement activities through social media and on Sirte Cultural Radio.