CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal	Moroccan Primate Conservation foundation
Project Title:	Identification of corridors to restore important Barbary macaque habitat in the Middle Atlas of Morocco
Date of Report:	26-11-2014
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CEPF Region: Mediterranean Basin

Strategic Direction: Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas.

Grant Amount: $19.152,00

Project Dates: October 2013 – November 2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

University of Rennes – the project was planned and implemented in close cooperation with the University of Rennes, in particular Dr Nelly Ménard, who has years of experience as a researcher working with Barbary macaques in Algeria and Morocco. We did the preparation, field work, analysis and report writing together.

ENFI – Forestry school in Morocco – in particular with Prof. Qarro – a team of 4 ENFI students helped in the field for 1 week collecting data and Prof Qarro was part of the report writing. Prof. Qarro will be have a large role in the implementation of the project – ie tha planting of the corridors.

Institut Scientifique – in particular Prof. Ibn Tattu helped with the analysis of the plant species that we collected in the field.

The High Commissary of Water and Forests – in particular Ifrane National Park staff helped with the field work and the logistics and permits.

This was the first time that MPC worked with Rennes University and ENFI. This partnership turned out to be very positive because both Rennes University, and in particular Nelly Ménard, and ENFI are highly respected by the HCEFLCD. This really helps MPC's partnership with the HCEFLCD for the conservation of the Barbary macaque in Morocco. For MPC, Nelly Ménard (Rennes University) is a perfect partner to work with as she is the most experienced scientist on wild Barbary macaques. This project together opened doors for future partnership in research such as this and the research done in this programme will be taken very seriously because of the combination of the three parties involved.

Also working with an Ifrane NP employee on this subject in the field has proved to be positive as they are now very much involved in the project and know what needs to be done to create the corridors.

ENFI and MPC will make sure the follow-up on this project will take place in Morocco together with the HCEFLCD and both ENFI and MPC will be guiding this process on the ground.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The forests of Ifrane National Park in the Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco harbour the last large population of the Endangered Barbary Macaque *Macaca sylvanus*, which are threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation (as well as the illegal (pet) trade of infants). The park consists of mixed cedar *Cedrus atlantica* and oak forests – optimal Barbary Macaque habitat. However, these forests have been affected by

over-exploitation of natural resources and overgrazing by livestock, resulting in fragmentation. Ifrane National Park is now a mosaic of forest patches, causing isolation of Barbary Macaque populations. Some forest patches have no macaques left and cannot be recolonized due to this fragmentation. For this reason we needed to conduct research on the forest fragments and vegetation to map potential corridors to re-connect the forest fragments for Barbary macaques but also other wildlife. This is an important activity described in the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the Barbary Macaque in Morocco that was created in 2012. As it takes a long time for trees to grow to the height that Barbary macaques will use them, it was vital that this research took place as soon as possible in the CAP time frame, so this funding came at the right moment.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The project has resulted in a very detailed overview of "gaps" between forest areas (GIS maps), with a detailed vegetation analysis (herbaceous, shrub and trees) on potential success of growth and the likeliness of macaques to use these corridors. With the final report on this research, the Moroccan forestry authorities have very detailed and specified recommendations on locations where corridors should be planted (maps), what species to be used, the importance of the forest patches (macaque density) and a detailed analysis of vegetation on all levels – categorized in macaque diet and non- macaque diet.
Basically with this report, the Moroccan authorities can start planting the corridors as soon as there is budget – we will push for this to happen in 2016. We are currently discussing what is the next step – who will do what and when. As soon as we have this information, we will forward it to CEPF. Chapter 4 and 5 in the final report give detailed recommendations for the implementation of the corridors and planning.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 51800 - the whole national park (the project report will influence the restoration and the protection of the park in the future, once the corridors are planted)

Species Conserved: in the future – 1 (especially the endangered Barbary macaque will benefit from this project)

Corridors Created: In the future: 16

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Re-connecting forest fragments is one of the main activities described in the Conservation Action Plan for the Barbary macaque in Morocco that was created in 2012. The completion of this project provides the basis for this activity. We will motivate the Moroccan authorities to add the planting of corridors in their budget and annual plans for 2016. This might be a challenge. The other challenge will be to make sure that the planting of the trees will be done correctly and in the precise recommended areas. Also we will need to involve the indigenous community living in the national park to help protect these corridors. This will be a challenge as we need to offer them alternatives to (illegally) cutting down trees/ branches for fire wood as they currently do.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The meeting with the shepherds was a positive unexpected outcome. We were really pleasantly surprised by their input and knowledge and it made us confident that if we involve this community in the corridor protection in the future that the project will have a positive outcome on all levels. (Corridor report Appendix III)

Project Components

Project Components*: Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Analysing the degree of connectivity of forest fragments by use of existing maps

Component 1 Actual at Completion: This part was necessary as a basis of our field work – we used data that was collected by the University of Rennes to categorize the different forest areas and macaque densities to know which fragments were our scope for the field work.

Component 2 Planned: Identifying the forest fragments that need to be re-connected

Component 2 Actual at Completion: This phase was the preparation for and actual field work. This went really well because we collected all the data we needed to come to a final report for the forestry department to start planting the corridors. The result was according to what we expected, although we did expect to do a higher sample of vegetation quadrats but they turned out to take a lot of time so instead of 100 we did 75. We worked with a small team consisting of 4 people throughout the field work period, and for one week we had 4 students from ENFI. It is very important when doing this work that there is somebody who knows the plant species and can recognize them. For this reason we worked with the team of 4, mostly with of N. Ménard present so that she could identify the plants. The field period was intense – we worked every day to collect enough samples. The period of sample collection was the right one as the plants are most abundant in the spring.

Component 3 Planned: Analysis of the data and report writing

Component 3 Actual at Completion: The result in the final report are better than we expected – we did have one month delay in finalizing the report due to the fact that Prof Qarro was unavailable in September. We are very pleased with the final results – the report gives a very detailed overview of where the corridors should be created – between every fragment. The many maps and pictures make it very easy for the Moroccan authorities to implement the project in their annual plans for 2016 and for the forestry team to know exactly where to plant the trees, which species to use and what needs to be done to ensure that the corridors are protected.

Component 4: Meeting with the shepherds
Component 3 Actual at Completion: This went really well – the outcome was better than we expected and very useful for future implementation of the project. We have added a summary of the meeting as an appendix (III) in our final report. We were surprised by the knowledge of the shepherds on Barbary macaques and we strongly feel after this meeting that they should be involved in the protection of the corridors once they are created. As they live in the national park and often near the forested areas – we need to make sure that the newly planted trees are not used for fire wood or damaged by livestock. By offering the shepherds something in return, in the form of alternative livelihoods or for example sustainable ovens/ cookers etc – in return for protecting the corridors.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

No

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

We will add the final report with all methodology and results (in French)

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

We were lucky that the University of Rennes had already collected a lot of data for this research – the detailed vegetation maps of the national park were available and we already knew the densities of the macaques in different forest fragments. This takes years of data collection in the field, but is extremely important for the research design as this way the choice of data collection locations is very efficient.

Also it is extremely important to have the full support of the local authorities and access to the management plans and logistics.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/ shortcomings)

The only problem that we experienced was that the quadrat vegetation collection took much more time than we anticipated so we could not do as many as we had planned.

Also it is extremely important to have somebody on your team that can identify the different plant species during collection.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Local communities have much more knowledge of the issues and the local situation often than we think. Involving them and using their knowledge is of high importance to the success of a project.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
University of Rennes	*A*	*8840*	*Salary Nelly Ménard*
University of Rennes	*A*	*700*	*Administrative expenses*

MPC and University of Renns	*A*	*Meeting in Morocco in 2013 to discuss this project before proposal submission*	
High Commissary of Water and Forests in Morocco	*C*	*unknown*	*The Moroccan High Commissary of Water and forests will invest in planting the corridors as a result of this project*

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*
A) Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
B) Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)
C) Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

This project is the ground work and has long term results. As soon as the trees/ corridors are planted (planned in 2016) it will take at least 15 years for the trees to be adult enough to be used as corridors by the macaques. It will also require intensive monitoring to protect the trees from human caused damage. Creating corridors is part of the Conservation Action Plan for the Barbary macaque and this fact will make sure that the project will be implemented and completed as a network of NGOs and the Moroccan authorities evaluate the progress of the action plan every 2 years. The University of Rennes and MPC will “guard” the implementation of this project together with the Forestry school ENFI – their participation was very valuable as this school runs through the Moroccan High Commissary of Water and Forests.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

We thank CEPF very much for this generous funding – this project is very important for the future of Ifrane NP and the Barbary macaque in particular.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and

publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes		51800	*This project is the ground work to reconnect forest fragments in the future in Ifrane NP*
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes		51800	*This project is the ground work to reconnect forest fragments in the future in Ifrane NP*
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	No			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Total																					

If you marked “Other”, please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: