



Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

Instructions: CEPF requires that each grantee report on project results and impacts at the end of their grant. To monitor CEPF's global indicators, CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. The aggregated results of all grantees will be reported on in our annual impact report and other communications materials. Your Final Completion and Impact Report will be posted on the CEPF website.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Please complete all fields and respond to all questions listed below.

Organization Legal Name: *Jouzour Loubnan Association*

Project Title: Strengthening local community to protect plant biodiversity

Grant Number: CEPF-111932

Date of Completion of this Report: 20/8/2021

CEPF Hotspot: Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: SD4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges

Grant Amount: 28,700 USD

Project Dates: January 1st 2021-July 31st 2021

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Municipality of Baskinta: the municipality received two letters from our side on the importance of closing Baskinta site for the conservation of its unique ecosystem and endangered species, and has supported our suggestion for site closure by conducting communication with the local community through continuous meeting to convince about the project objectives and the importance of protecting the site.

Lebanon Mountain Trail-LMT: This association is involved in building trails and organizing hikes all around Lebanon. During this project, LMT played the role of the mediator between the landowner of Baskinta, the municipalities and the local community. They were involved in finding a middle ground between the local community who were opposed to closing the site and the landowner who insisted on the site protection.

Palestinian wildlife society- PWLS: The continuous work over the years of Jouzour Loubnan in collaboration with the Saint Joseph University on the conservation of iris taxa has led to a transfer of best practices and guidelines to PWLS.

Several online meetings were held between Jouzour Loubnan and PWLS to understand the baseline assessment of *Iris haynei* that were followed by a transfer of expertise concerning Iris sampling and germination best practices along with the DNA isolation and extraction protocols. A training on the best conservation approach for the iris species was also held for PWLS addressing four women and 12 men.

2. Summarize the overall results of your project

- With the collaboration with the municipality and landowners, a 7-ha private land were closed over two years for the conservation and natural regeneration of the site. (Annex 1)
- Conservation of threatened and endangered species in Sannine-Rihane slopes and heights (LBN 15), such as Rhododendron of Pontus (*Rhododendron ponticum var. brachycarpum*) and some rare fern species, along with the unique carnivorous plant *Drosera rotundifolia*
- Support PWLS to improve their conservation approach of *Iris haynei* (Annex 2)

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards each planned long-term and short-term impact (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from your proposal

a. Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
conservation of key biodiversity area (LBN 15 Sannine-Rihane slopes and heights)	The area is important for endangered plant species so, with the support of the municipality, the site will be closed for 2 years as to ensure its regeneration. The discussions and scientific evidence provided to the landowner and municipality have led to convincing them on the importance of having a management plan for the site. During these two years, we will work closely with the municipalities and LMT to elaborate a management plan for the site to regulate the flow of tourists and elaborate mitigating measures to reduce the impacts and preserve the site’s biodiversity.

conservation of threatened species	In Lebanon, we have been actively engaged in the preservation of some of these endemic irises since 2005. We classified the 7 iris taxa as “Endangered” or “Critically Endangered” according to IUCN red Having the knowledge and best practices for Iris conservation, we have done several consultation meetings with the Pwls to help them conserve their national emblem, <i>Iris haynei</i>
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b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Conservation of endemic plants with a restricted geographical distribution that are present in the site that we will work on legally protecting them	With the decision to close the site for at least 2 years in order to let it recover naturally from the negative impact of the unorganized and chaotic local tourism, the rare and endemic plant species such as Rhododendron of Pontus (<i>Rhododendron ponticum var. brachycarpum</i>) and some rare fern species along with the unique carnivorous plant <i>Drosera rutondifolia</i> present on site will have their habitat safe and therefore thrive naturally In situ
Iris haynei that will have a conservation approach allowing its protection and conservation by mitigating the threat impact that might lead to the species extinction	The knowledge on <i>Iris hayeni</i> , has improved. In fact, the adequate sampling techniques along with the germination protocols were shared with our Palestinian colleagues. The approach we have suggested is an In-situ and Ex-situ conservation approach for this species considering the genetic characteristics of irises were discussed and insights to their evaluation were adopted.

4. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The challenges we have faced during the implementation of the project is to make the local community and the tour operators understand the high importance of closing the site for a few years. Efforts were made to convince mainly the tour operators and local businesses who benefited economically from this type of tourism.

Another challenge and success were to close the site from both entries. In fact, the access to the targeted site could happen through two cities: Baskinta and Bqaatouta.: The access through Baskinta is closed and we convinced the municipality of Bqaatouta to close the access as well and they were very cooperative and receptive of the idea

Some of the main tour operators and guides were not convinced on the importance of closing the site and have raised complaints to the municipality. **As the site is privately**

owned and closed by the owner, the complaints were irrelevant However, the municipality and Lebanon Mountain Trail-LMT discussed the complaints with the tour operators and was explained that the site would be reopened after recovery. Hence the issue was resolved.

PART II: Project Products/Deliverables

5. List each product/deliverable as stated in your approved proposal and describe the results for each of them:

#	Deliverable Description	Deliverable Update
1	Help the municipality of Baskinta and the landowners in the legal procedure for its protection and prepare management plan that will regulate the tourist flow and mitigate their impact for a better ecosystem and biodiversity	<p>Several discussions were held between Prof Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat (Jouzour Loubnan); (Joseph Karam and Michel Ayoub landowners, Jad Abou Arraj a professor at the faculty of Tourism-Lebanese University, representing LMT and the landowner of Baskinta site have decided that the best solution for a quick recovery of the site is its closure for two years to allow natural regeneration. A new letter was addressed to the municipality to inform them about the urgency of closing the site its long-term conservation</p> <p>One on site meeting was held in June 2020 with 9 people from the local community and guides that are against the closure of the site as to explain and show them about the negative impact that the site was subject to and the importance of closing the site to allow it to regenerate.</p> <p>Another meeting was held on August with the mayor of Baskinta municipality, Mayor of Bkaatouta municipality and his principal advisor, the land owners and LMT director as to decide on the logistics of closing the site (5 people).</p>
2	Push forward our support to Palestinian Irises conservation team	<p>Online meetings between Prof Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat and PWLS about the best practices for the Iris conservation.</p> <p>On June 2nd 2020, an online conference by Prof Bou Dagher Kharrat was held for the PWLS and other stakeholders (12 men and 4 women)</p> <p>On May 20 2021, samples of Iris species from Palestine and Jordan were sent to Lebanon to</p>

		support in the DNA extraction and species characterization. The study is still ongoing.
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6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Baskinta: two letters to the municipality; pdf presentation and photos of several meetings

PWLS: protocols shared and conference supporting documents

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

7. Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

“Lessons learned” are experiences you have gained that you think would be valuable successes worth replicating or practices that you would do differently if you had the chance. Consider lessons that would inform project design and implementation, and any other lessons relevant to the conservation community. CEPF Lessons Learned Guidelines are available here: <https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-lessons-learned-guidelines-english.pdf>.

The implementation of the project during a pandemic is challenging. However, the lesson learned revolved around finding solutions to every problem. In addition to time management while balancing the new components of this small grant and the extension of the large grant. In addition, due to the economic and political crisis in Lebanon, we have faced some challenges in terms of fuel shortage and road blocks that delayed some of our activities.

Sustainability / Replication

8. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Safeguards

9. If not listed as a separate Deliverable and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.

After several meetings with the concerned municipalities, landowner and local community about the best way to mitigate the impact of anthropogenic activities on the site, address these consequences, and regulate the human flow on site; it was decided to close the site for at least 2 years in order for it to have a natural recovery. The municipality of Baskinta communicated the new status of the site as closed for hiking.

Some other destinations for tourists were suggested to the guides instead of the Baskinta site.

Since there are not any category of people legally benefitting from the site except the landowner, we did not assist in any mitigation measures for the local community except discussing the decisions with a representative of the tourism sector in Lebanon in order to avoid the same scenario in other sites in Lebanon.

Additional Funding

10. Provide details of any additional funding that you have secured to support this project.

a. Total additional funding (US\$)

b. Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source.

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
N/A		

Additional Comments/Recommendations

11. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

12. In order to measure the results of CEPF investment strategy at the hotspot level, CEPF uses a set of Portfolio Indicators which are presented in the Ecosystem Profile of each hotspot. Please list these below and report on the project’s contribution(s) to them.

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4.5 Number of locally endemic or highly threatened plant species for which improved knowledge is available	4 species	<p>The closure of Baskinta site from both entries lead to the preservation of the plant species that are present there. Many plants of Baskinta site are listed as threatened according to IUCN categories such as the carnivorous plant, round-leaved sundew, Rhododendron of Pontus, <i>Osmonda regalis</i>, <i>Origanum ehrenbergii</i> By sharing different protocols from sampling, extraction and germination and best practices on Iris species with PWLS, the conservation status of <i>Iris hayeni</i> in Palestine will be improved.</p> <p>The knowledge on <i>Iris hayeni</i>, the symbolic flower of Palestine, has improved. In fact, the adequate sampling techniques along with the germination protocols were shared with our Palestinian colleagues. The best practices on the conservation approach for this species considering the genetic characteristics of irises were discussed and insights to their evaluation were adopted.</p>
4.2 Number of unprotected sites with improved management for plants	One site	<p>The Baskinta site is not legally a protected site however, we have consulted with the landowners and concerned municipality on the importance of closing the site to the public because of the deterioration it is facing due to the unorganized local tourism. During the closing time, we will help the stakeholders in the elaboration of a management plan that organizes the tourist flow in a way to avoid the trespassing on important species.</p>
5.2 Number of Regional thematic experience-sharing events	<i>One event</i>	<p>Two young female researchers from Saint Joseph University and one male researcher from PWLS were closely involved in this small grant. They gain good insights into the plant conservation practices.</p> <p>A training conducted by Prof Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat for PWLS targeting iris conservation for 12 men and 4 women.</p>

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators that pertain to your project.

13. Benefits to Individuals

13a. Number of men and women receiving structured training.

Report on the number of men and women that have benefited from structured training due to your project, such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture, farming, biological surveys, or how to conduct a patrol.

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
12	6	Studying Iris using DNA protocol and improving knowledge on plant conservation

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received structured training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also received structured training in project management, the total number of men who benefited from structured training should be 5.*

13b. Number of men and women receiving cash benefits.

Report on the number of men and women that had an increase in income or cash (monetary) benefits due to your project from activities such as tourism, handicraft production, increased farm output, increased fishery output, medicinal plant harvest, or payment for conducting patrols.

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits
N/A		

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men received cash benefits due to tourism, and 3 of these also received cash benefits from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who received cash benefits should be 5.*

14. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of your project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	Original # of Hectares**	# of Hectares Newly Protected	Year of Legal Declaration / Expansion	Longitude***	Latitude** *
N/A						

** If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.*

*** Enter the original total size, excluding the results of your project. If the protected area was not existing before your project, then enter zero.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your protected area, use googlemap, right click on the center of your protected area, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation, as a result of your project. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas", and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *
Sannine-Rihane slopes and heights	LBN 15	7

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.*

16. Production landscapes

Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity, as a result of your project. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares with Strengthened Management**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention
N/A				

** If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.*

***Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.*

**** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456). To obtain the latitude and longitude of your production landscape, use googlemap, right click on the center of your production landscape, and select "What's here?", and copy the latitude and longitude appearing in the popup window.*

17. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the non-cash benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of your project. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)						Country of Community	Type of Benefit (mark with x)							# of Beneficiaries				
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities		Other*	Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefitting	# of women and girls benefitting
Baskinta /Bqaatouta	X	X				X						X		X			12	1	
Palestine							X						X				5	2	

*If you marked "Other" to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Report on policies, laws and regulations with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of your project. “Policies” pertain to statements of intent formally adopted or pursued by a government, including at sectoral or sub-national level. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included.

18a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation that has been amended or enacted as a result of your project

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)																
		Local	National	International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade	Other*	
1	N/A																				
2																					

* If you selected “other”, please give a brief description of the main topics addressed by the policy, law or regulation.

18b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1	N/A			
2				

19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

Please list any companies that have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of your project. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

No.	Name of Company	Description of biodiversity-friendly practice adopted during the project	Country(s) where the practice has been adopted by the company
1	N/A		
2			
...			

20. Networks & Partnerships

Number of networks and/or partnerships created and/or strengthened

Report on any networks or partnerships between and among civil society groups and other sectors that you have created or strengthened as a result of your project. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, or a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

Do not list the partnerships you formed with others to implement this project, unless these partnerships will continue after your project ends.

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1	N/A				
2					
...					

21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

List any functioning sustainable financing mechanisms created or supported by your project. Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation. To be included, a mechanism must be delivering funds for conservation.

21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment* *	Description***	Countries
1	N/A				
2					

*Please provide a succinct description of the mission of the mechanism.

**Please indicate when the sustainable financing mechanism was officially created. If you do not know the exact date, provide a best estimate.

***Description, such as trust fund, endowment, PES scheme, incentive scheme, etc.

21b. Performance of the mechanism

For each Financing Mechanism listed previously, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1	N/A			
2				

22. Red List Species

If the project included direct conservation interventions that benefited globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU), as per the IUCN Red List, add the species below.

Examples of interventions include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, species habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or Extinct in the Wild)	Intervention	Population Trend at Site (increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)
<i>Iris</i>	<i>hayeni</i>		VU	Improve knowledge about distribution area and ensuring germination in appropriate site.	stable
<i>Origanum</i>	<i>ehrenbergii</i>		VU	Closing the site of Baskinta for 2 years to	Decreasing

				avoid tourist flow and trespassing	
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Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final completion and impact reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

Provide the contact details of your organization (organization name and generic email address) so that interested parties can request further information about your project.

Organization Name: Jouzour Loubnan Association

5. Generic email address: magda.boudagher@gmail.com