

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	International Union for Conservation of Nature - Jordan
Project Title:	Protected Area Network Review for Palestine
Grant Number:	CEPF-111713
Hotspot:	Mediterranean Basin II
Strategic Direction:	5 Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region
Grant Amount:	\$196,945.12
Project Dates:	March 01, 2021 - November 30, 2022
Date of Report:	April 06, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The implementing partners:

1- Environment Quality Authority of Palestine EQA: EQA is the central authority for all issues related to Environment in Palestine. EQA are the main partners for this project, and we perceive them as the government owner of the results. They were highly involved during the drafting of the project concept. EQA are responsible for the protected areas network adoption in Palestine, so they were involved as a steering committee member and as an active key partner. Their contribution includes providing the data for the PAs network, providing guidance and advice, actively participating in the steering committee, actively participating in developing the PA criteria and PA validation, they reviewed the final report and will adopt the PA network

2- University of Bethlehem/ Palestine Museum of Natural History: They are one of the key project partners, they were contracted as a sub-grantee to conduct some work on: Validating the PA network and validating the results of the Marxan and GIS analysis, conducting work on rare plants, preparing for the red list, training on the red list

3- Ministry of Agriculture: MoA MOA are one of the key stakeholders of the project. They are members of the steering committee. They were consulted during the project preparation phase regarding their role in supporting the implementation of the project and their willingness to be part of the consulted stakeholders. MOA's role is key since they are responsible for forestry lands in Palestine, and they provided advice and guidance throughout the project during consultation workshops, steering committee meetings and working closely with EQA

4- Ministry of Local Government MoLG: They're a member of the steering committee, they provided data on landuse for the analysis, and they participated in all consultations and

provided their feedback and input regarding the PAs network. EQA will share the network with them to consider within landuse plans

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Consideration of the inclusion of one of the PA's network scenarios in the master Land Use Plan for Palestine.	The resulting PAs network is delivered to the Environment Quality Authority EQA and the EQA will circulate them for the related government agencies, among which is the MoLG which will include them in the master plan
Better consideration of local communities' needs and participation in governance of Protected Areas, including prior and informed consent for definition of protected areas	The Systematic conservation planning assessment that was applied to review the network of protected areas includes the socio-economic aspect within the process. The impact of this is a well-designed , well governed network of protected areas that avoids conflict with local communities to the extent acceptable. The integrated management of protected areas training resulted in a better understanding of all stakeholders of the inclusion of local communities in the management planning cycle of PAs
Improved decision making and planning process on the national level as a result of the development of realistic and scientifically-based scenarios for the PAs network.	The systematic conservation planning approach that was applied integrates environmental and socio-economic factors and all elements that could be considered as actual or social costs of establishing a PAs network, factors like private lands, development projects, mining, etc all are integrated in the PA design scenarios, so a realistic well design network is resulted
Reduced conflicts between development and conservation processes on the national level with the resulting PA's network design scenarios that are considering the environmental risk analysis vs biodiversity hotspots .	The resulting PAs network will result in a reduced conflict between communities and conservation efforts as the PA design process itself integrated all these factors when the PA network was being designed
Enhanced integration and mainstreaming of Protected areas into the national legislative framework upon conducting a gap assessment of the legislative framework for protected areas	The gap assessment of the legislative framework was dropped as an activity in this project based on a decision from the steering committee as it was already covered through another project.
Reduced threats to protected areas and biodiversity hotspots because of the development of realistic scenarios for the PA's network.	The new PAs network will result in reduced threats to biodiversity as it added new biodiversity hotspots to the network and removed areas that did not meet the PA design criteria.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Strengthened capacities of at least 8 national stakeholders including government authorities, NGO's and Universities in conservation planning and integrated management of protected areas.	This was fully achieved during the project as at least 8 organisations participated in the capacity building activities covered by the project, and including two main themes: systematic conservation planning, and integrated management of PAs. Representatives of the following entities participated in the trainings: 1. Environment Quality Authority, 2. Ministry of Agriculture, 3. Ministry of Local government, 4. Bethlehem University, 5. Nature Palestine NGO, 5. Bee-Keepers association, 6. Applied Research Institute Jerusalem ARIJ, 7. Palestine Wildlife Society PWLS, 8. The EEC (National IUCN committee of Palestine), 9. Al Qudus (Jerusalem) University, 10. National Agricultural Research Center of Palestine (NARC)
Enhanced unified knowledge base on protected areas and biodiversity of Palestine.	This was achieved through the GIS data collected and the updated PAs network report that has a clear description of each PA and the rationale for its establishment based on clear criteria
Enhanced awareness on protected area planning and management through the national consultation process that will be conducted through the project.	This was fully achieved during the project, through the training on integrated management of PAs, which included all aspects related to management planning including the participatory approach, and stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project did not have negative impacts overall, but there were some challenges in implementing the project such as:

- The complication in traveling to Palestine and getting authorisation, so it was agreed with EQA to have their team travel to Jordan as it was logistically less complicated
- The participation of female participants was encouraged by IUCN, however, female participation in project activities was weak. EQA indicated that there are few women working in the field of protected areas and conservation, so it was hard to invite female participants except for a few of them
- The project faced some challenges and obstacles that were overcome, such as the lack of interested bidders in response to Marxan analysis, the project team decided to conduct the Modelling work in house because the offers received were from international experts and were above the budget, additionally, one of IUCN's team members had previous experience in modelling and Marxan.

Additionally, the project's partnership with Bethlehem University proved to be successful, and the institution's expertise and experience were praised by the EQA and the steering committee. However, the project did not have any unexpected impacts, neither negative nor positive.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The project aimed to update the Protected Area Network (PAN) for the State of Palestine and increase the representation of Palestine's biodiversity in the PAN through systematic conservation planning. The key results of this project include:

1- Conducting a review of the protected areas network for Palestine using systematic conservation approach. The revision included the following stages: a desk review and situation analysis to understand the current situation and compile existing data and information, stakeholder consultation and a PA planning workshop to present the principles of systematic conservation planning, developing the new criteria for the PA network with stakeholders, conducting systematic conservation planning spatial analysis using Marxan to reflect the new PA criteria and planning scenarios. The assessment results identified a final 27 PAs (28 with Wadi Gaza) aiming to cover the representation of at least 10% of all vegetation cover types in the West Bank, the report included a summary note on each selected site with maps and photos. The report also highlights the potential issues that might face the implementation of the new protected areas network and addresses a proposed costed strategy for proper implementation of the new network.

2- A costed implementation strategy was developed as part of the Protected areas review report. The strategy has a five years timeframe and covers seven main thematic areas for the development of a PAs network:

- Complete the national network of protected areas and manage them effectively to ensure that their ecological, landscape, cultural and economic values are maintained for all time.
- Continue studies on the status and distribution of Palestine biodiversity as the basis for conservation strategies development and management with special focus on the new protected areas network.
- Minimize wildlife losses from illegal hunting and generally support the development and implementation of legislation and conventions to protect wildlife.
- Work to integrate nature conservation programs of the species and habitat of the important ecosystems with big development projects and plan and the national land use plans.
- Involve local communities as partners in the establishment and management of protected areas and ensure they are the prime beneficiaries of socio-economic programs.
- Promote the integration of nature conservation with socio-economic development, focusing on eco-tourism and other small business initiatives in protected areas.
- Work to reach financial sustainability for the new Palestine PAN's activities and programs. Palestine PAN fund for nature strategy developed and implemented effectively.

3- Validating the PAs network using a combination of field validation and expert judgement. The validation was conducted by Bethlehem University in coordination with the EQA. The scope of the validation included the following: validating the additional areas that were proposed by all Marxan scenarios for inclusion within the PAs network, validating existing PAs that were not selected through any planning scenario, validating adjacent protected areas and checking the need for merging these sites, validating small PAs and if they would still qualify as PAs, refining the boundaries of some existing PAs based on field assessments.

4- The project enhanced the capacity of stakeholders in Systematic Conservation Planning Principles, a training workshop was held in combination with the stakeholder consultation for developing the PA network criteria. The workshop was attended by various stakeholders including government agencies like (Environment Quality Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government) , Academic institutions like Bethlehem University, NGO's, like the Palestine Wildlife Society and ARIJ. Workshop report and list of participants provided in the attachments. The training workshop was held between 4 - 5 October 2021 and attended by 25 participants.

5- The project enhanced the capacity of stakeholders in Integrated Management of Protected Areas: A training workshop on integrated management of protected areas was organized in Amman Jordan, to present several concepts that will prepare for the implementation of the

protected areas network after the project. The workshop presented essential concepts related to the effective management planning and its relevance to defining protected area management categories for the PAs. The training took place between 15-16 November 2022. The workshop included a field visit to Ajloun Forest Reserve in Jordan, which is one of the Green listed sites for meetings the IUCN's Green List Standard.

6-Proposing the IUCN management categories for the resulting new PAs network, in consultation with the stakeholders, and after presenting an introduction of the IUCN management categories. This was parallel to the integrated management of protected areas training.

7- Plant Data analysis and preparing drafts for publishing a notes on three protected areas as models for protection. Wadi Makhrou (S West Bank), Wadi Qana, and Wadi Zarqa (N WB). This included both field work and desktop work (herbarium and taxonomy laboratories and analysing existing data).

8- Conducting a workshop for stakeholders interested in plant conservation with the following aims a) review data collected as part of CEPF funded projects on plant conservation, b) learn from experts especially Dr. Bertrand de Montmollin, Chair of the Mediterranean Plants Specialist Group (IUCN / SSC) and member of the Mediterranean Hotspot Advisory Committee for the CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund), c) create a working group for plant conservation in Palestine that helps updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

9- Conducting a Desktop study resulting in a concept paper summarizing methodologies which would be required to build a red-list of plants and of ecosystems in the West Bank per IUCN criteria

10- As part of the project activities, a steering committee was established to guide the project implementation, facilitate the coordination of the project and facilitate the exchange of the information. Representation from key government agencies EQA, MOA, MoLG, NGO's, academic institutions was covered in the steering committee.

11- The Legal review component and activities related to it was cancelled after discussing the project workplan in the first steering committee meeting. The EQA indicated that the activities in this component are covered from other projects and that there is no need to duplicate the work.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Protected area network review and design scenarios	2.1	Situation analysis and ecological gap assessment report	Completed and integrated in the final PAN Design report. The report includes a desk review of previous studies and existing data and the legislative framework for protected areas in Palestine. It formed the basis for understanding current threats and challenges for the protected area network in Palestine. Compilation of data depended mainly on open source and published resources, and data made available through the EQA when possible. The challenge related to this deliverable was that there was some work already on-going through other funded projects to update the National Biodiversity and action plan for Palestine, which included some data that was not published or publicly accessible during the preparation of the desk review. We were able to get access to more data and integrate them within the analysis through the PA network validation work done through the University of Bethlehem.
2.0	Protected area network review and design scenarios	2.3	PA design scenarios (report and maps) developed against the nationally adapted design criteria	Completed and integrated in the final PAN Design report. Four Scenarios were developed for the Marxan analysis; Scenario 1: which aimed to conserve 5% of each vegetation type in Palestine according to the vegetation basemap in addition to 5% of the extent of occurrence of threatened animals and plants. This representation target represents the

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>minimum percentage. Scenario 2: This scenario aimed to conserve 10% of each vegetation type according to the vegetation basemap that was selected in addition to 10% of the extent of occurrence of threatened animals and plants. Scenario 3: This scenario aimed to conserve 17% of each vegetation type according to the vegetation basemap that was selected in addition to 20% of the extent of occurrence of threatened animals and plants. Scenario 4: This scenario aimed to conserve 30% of each vegetation type according to the vegetation basemap that was selected in addition to 20% of the extent of occurrence of threatened animals and plants, with a condition of having the current existing protected areas network locked in the analysis, meaning that the resulting scenarios does not exclude existing protected areas from the proposal. The four scenarios provided options for discussion with stakeholders for the PAs system.</p>
2.0	Protected area network review and design scenarios	2.4	PA categorisation workshop report including the Identification of proposed IUCN categories for each protected area	<p>Completed and integrated in the final PAN Design report. A workshop to present IUCN's protected area management was held in November 2022, the workshop included a presentation by IUCN on the IUCN management categories and then the EQA and University of Bethlehem presented a profile on the protected areas included in the final Protected Area Network for Palestine, a</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				discussion was opened on each site to agree on the most suitable management category of each protected area. The workshop concluded with recommendations on the proposed management category for each site , and this was included in the final PAN report.
2.0	Protected area network review and design scenarios	2.5	Costed implementation strategy and action plan for the PA network	<p>Completed and integrated in the final PAN Design report. A costed implementation strategy was developed as part of the Protected areas review report. The strategy has a five years timeframe and covers seven main thematic areas for the development of a PAs network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the national network of protected areas and manage them effectively to ensure that their ecological, landscape, cultural and economic values are maintained for all time. - Continue studies on the status and distribution of Palestine biodiversity as the basis for conservation strategies development and management with special focus on the new protected areas network. - Minimize wildlife losses from illegal hunting and generally support the development and implementation of legislation and conventions to protect wildlife. - Work to integrate nature conservation programs of the species and habitat of the important ecosystems with big development projects and plan and the national land use plans.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve local communities as partners in the establishment and management of protected areas and ensure they are the prime beneficiaries of socio-economic programs. - Promote the integration of nature conservation with socio-economic development, focusing on eco-tourism and other small business initiatives in pro
3.0	Overview of Legislative and institutional framework for protected areas	3.1	Legislative and institutional framework review and gap assessment report for protected areas in Palestine	Not completed, dropped based on the request of EQA and approval of steering committee because it is covered through other projects
3.0	Overview of Legislative and institutional framework for protected areas	3.2	Policy recommendations for enhancing the process of PA designation and declaration and mainstreaming designated areas into national land use planning process, and recommendations for the full stakeholder inclusion process during the designation process	Not completed, dropped based on the request of EQA and approval of steering committee because it is covered through other projects
4.0	Capacity building (institutional and Personnel)	4.1	Training (est. 25 participants) on principles of systematic conservation planning and PAs network design (incl. prior informed consent and full inclusion of local communities including women), as demonstrated	Completed, training report included in the attachments section. The project enhanced the capacity of stakeholders in Systematic Conservation Planning Principles, a training workshop was held in combination with the stakeholder consultation for developing the PA network criteria. The workshop was attended by various stakeholders including government

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			by participants lists and press release.	agencies like (Environment Quality Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government) , Academic institutions like Bethlehem University, NGO's, like the Palestine Wildlife Society and ARIJ. Workshop report and list of participants provided in the attachments. The training workshop was held between 4 - 5 October 2021 and attended by 25 participants.
4.0	Capacity building (institutional and Personnel)	4.2	Training workshop on integrated management of protected areas focusing on the integration of local communities including women in the decision making process in PAs management	completed, training report included in the attachments section. The project enhanced the capacity of stakeholders in Integrated Management of Protected Areas: A training workshop on integrated management of protected areas was organized in Amman Jordan, to present several concepts that will prepare for the implementation of the protected areas network after the project. The workshop presented essential concepts related to the effective management planning and its relevance to defining protected area management categories for the PAs. The training took place between 15-16 November 2022. The workshop included a field visit to Ajloun Forest Reserve in Jordan, which is one of the Green listed sites for meetings the IUCN's Green List Standard.
1.0	General Project Management	1.3	Capacity of Civil Society Tracking Tool (CST/GTT) submitted at initial and final stage of the project	Completed and submitted via the conservation grants portal. An initial score of 84 was achieved when the assessment was done beginning of the project.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	General Project Management	1.2	Project progress and financial reports submitted to the CEPF either bi-annually or as needed	Completed and submitted through the conservation grants platform as per the CEPF requirements
1.0	General Project Management	1.1	Project inception workshop held virtually including the establishment of a project steering committee as demonstrated by the workshop recording and minutes of meeting	Completed, and MOM's provided in the attachment section. A virtual project inception workshop was held in June 2021, with a participation from key stakeholders from government, NGO's and academic institutions in Palestine. The purpose of the workshop was to present the project to stakeholders and discuss the potential contribution and support of the stakeholders to the project. An open discussion on data availability, reference coordinate system, reference vegetation or habitats map, and partner's roles and responsibilities was initiated.
5.0	Gap filling surveys to feed the protected area network review and design scenarios	5.1	Sub-grant awarded to national NGO for conducting gap filling assessments	Completed, sub-grant awarded to Bethlehem University
5.0	Gap filling surveys to feed the protected area network review and design scenarios	5.2	Gap filling rapid assessment report covering field visits to sites with knowledge gaps including KBAs, IPAs, IBA's or other sites of importance delivered by the Sub-grantee	gap filling assessment was changed into field validation of the workshop in agreement with CEPF focal point. Validating the PAs network was conducted using a combination of field validation and expert judgement. The validation was conducted by Bethlehem University in coordination with the EQA. The scope of the validation included the following: validating the additional areas that were proposed by all Marxan scenarios for inclusion

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				within the PAs network, validating existing PAs that were not selected through any planning scenario, validating adjacent protected areas and checking the need for merging these sites, validating small PAs and if they would still qualify as PAs, refining the boundaries of some existing PAs based on field assessments.
5.0	Gap filling surveys to feed the protected area network review and design scenarios	5.3	Technical and financial reports submitted to IUCN by subgrantee	Completed and submitted through the Conservation grants platform as per the CEPF requirements

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

Systematic Conservation Planning approach: The project used a Systematic Conservation Planning approach, which is an advanced planning method that considers spatial data to create and review the PAN design. The approach was presented during a training workshop organized by IUCN for EQA staff and related stakeholders in Palestine. Its application is very limited in the region except for some cases in UAE, and Jordan (as a research study) . The project was able to apply the systematic conservation approach collaboratively, with the support and facilitation of the responsible government authority (The EQA) and other stakeholders.

The application of Marxan in the region: MarXan is a spatial conservation planning software used to identify and prioritize areas for conservation. The project used MarXan to create an updated Protected Area Network (PAN) scenario map for Palestine. It's application is very limited in the region except for some cases in UAE, and Jordan (as a research study) There are very limited number if experts n the region who could use and apply MARxan and IUCN was able to carry out the analysis in-house

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
4.3	Number of management plans				

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	of protected areas incorporating specific actions for plant conservation				
4.4	Number of protected area managers demonstrating improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation				
4.6	Number of KBAs for which information on plants is improved				
4.8	Number of plans adopted at the national level with improved integration of plant conservation needs				
3.0	Number of sites that gain official permanent protection status and number of hectares covered	0	The project will not directly result in the addition of new PAs to the network but it will provide scenarios for the consideration of the EQA and other relevant stakeholders	0	The project does not involve establishing new PAs formally, however, it resulted in revising the network of PAs by removing some sites, adding new sites and revising boundaries of the PAs network. These will be put on the land use plan. The official establishment will be lead by the EQA
3.3	Number of local authorities in 3 priority corridors who recognize the	1	The project could result in proposing category V or VI PAs in addition to the	10	The PA network resulted in proposed category V (8 PAs) and category VI PAs (2 PAs).

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	importance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices and engage in supporting their maintenance.		legislation review which could include provisions for a better integration of human practices within PA system		<p>As so the project engaged 2 organisations representing local communities in the training programmes and in the PA planning and validation consultation; these are: 1. The Bee-keepers association, 2. The National IUCN Committee which includes IUCN member organisations representing local communities. Local community participation and representation was also covered through participating NGO's some of which represent NGO's. Regarding site specific consultation, this was not done, and we believe is not required through the project. The project involves reviewing the whole system plan for PAs, including general consultation with stakeholders, government and NGO's, where some NGO's represent local communities. More detailed, site-specific consultation will be required during the establishment of each</p>

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
					individual site which is out of the scope of this project
5.2	Number of regional thematic experience-sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot.	1	The project will hold the PA design validation workshop in Jordan with participation of Palestinian stakeholders, in addition we are considering inviting experts Jordan and perhaps from the region to enrich the experience	2	3 Senior biodiversity and PAs experts participated in 2 events related to the project, The systematic conservation planning workshop, the validation workshop and the Integrated management of PAs training. The training included a visit to one of Jordan Green Listed PAs

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the 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 Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Jerusalem Wilderness Region	PSE07	10,912	260

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
15	2	Systematic Conservation Planning, Integrated Management of Protected Areas, Protected Areas Management Categories

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
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Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

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.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
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Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Working group on Plants of Palestine	2022	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Yes	The purpose of establishing this network is to facilitate coordination and planning to conserve plant species in Palestine, update the status of plant species, and exchange experience and expertise in plant conservation

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Working group Plants	2022	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Yes	The purpose of establishing this network is to facilitate coordination and planning to conserve plant species in Palestine, update the status of plant species, and exchange experience and expertise in plant conservation

Sustainable Financing

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 services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
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LESSONS LEARNED

- The participatory approach of involving stakeholders in the revision of the Protected Areas network proved to be very effective. Although the systematic conservation planning assessment using Marxan had a technical aspect, involving a wide range of stakeholders from government organisations, NGO's, and academia was of great value to the project. The stakeholders were able to understand the process and provide feedback, discuss the validity of results despite the fact that they cannot apply the models.
- Establishing an active technical steering committee that includes representatives from key stakeholders was of great benefit to the project, it facilitated the communication and exchange of data, in addition to getting agreement and consensus on project results, establish synergies with existing initiatives. The steering committee was technical, however, and for future projects, it might of great value to establish a ministerial level steering committee that can provide political support and enhance the coordination

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The key challenges for the sustainability of the project results would include:

- The political will in the Palestinian Authorities to proceed with implementation of the protected areas network proposed through this project
- The availability of funding to start the establishment and operation of the proposed protected areas network
- The political situation in Palestine which might affect the implementation of the protected areas network and implementation of the proposed action plan
- The need to continue with the capacity building plan for the implementation of the protected areas network

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

The project involves the review and update of the protected areas network to enhance the design and representation. It did not involve actual establishment of new protected areas within the lifetime of the project. It is a planning exercise to support the government to try to come up with a network that can be applicable and considers all social and environmental factors within the design. The systematic conservation planning that was used integrates social and environmental factors so that the proposed PAs network can consider the practicality and applicability of the network like avoiding private lands, or mining projects. During the lifetime and scope of the project, no additional social or environmental safeguards were triggered.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

I think CEPF should increase the limit of funding provided for large grants in order to have more impactful projects, and that can enable regional collaboration. CEPF could support the implementation and establishment of the protected areas that were proposed in the proposed protected areas network.

Regarding the next steps related to the project:

- EQA will adopt the PA network resulting from the project as the new revised PAs network (planned in 2023)
- A more detailed refinement of the protected areas boundaries, site by site, can be done parallel to official establishment of each protected area, including comparison with updated land parcel data and re-confirming boundaries with local communities. (Time frame depends in available funding for establishment of proposed PAs)
- EQA will share the PA network with concerned nation authorities to integrate it within the local and national plan (planned in 2023)
- EQA and partners (including IUCN) will seek to secure funding for the establishment of the PAs proposed on the network. (Planned between 2023 - 2028)
- EQA and partners (including IUCN) will seek to secure funding for supporting effective management of existing protected areas. (Planned between 2023-2025)
- Further work to establish the national red listing of plant species is required (between 2023- 2026)
- EQA and partners (including IUCN) will seek to secure more funding for capacity building targeting the enhancement of the management and operation of protected areas. (Planned between 2023 - 2025)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	
Breakdown of Additional Funding	

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

International Union for Conservation of Nature- Regional Office for West Asia, Email: westasia@iucn.org