



**Annual Portfolio Overview
Mediterranean Basin Hotspot
(Phase II)**

July 2021 to June 2022

1. Introduction

The Mediterranean Hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world, at 2,085,292 km², and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. It stretches from Cabo Verde in the west to Jordan and Turkey in the east, and from Italy in the north to Tunisia in the south. It also includes parts of Spain, France, the Balkan States, Greece, Turkey, and the nations of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as around 5,000 islands scattered around the Mediterranean Sea. West of the mainland, the hotspot includes the Canaries, Madeira, Selvagens, the Azores and Cabo Verde.



In 2012, CEPF launched a five-year program of investment in the hotspot, which resulted in the award of 108 grants to 84 different organizations in 12 countries, with a total value of US\$11 million. In 2016, the Ecosystem Profile was updated, through a participatory process involving more than 500 stakeholders, taking into account the political changes in the region and new information available on the hotspot's biodiversity. The new profile defined the strategy for CEPF investment for 2017-2022. The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) was maintained in its role, based on a positive performance assessment – leading to a good continuity between the two phases. The Phase 2 started in October 2017 with a new contract for the RIT and first Call for Proposals, with new projects starting in early 2018.

Annual Portfolio Overviews (APOs) aim at providing an update on progress of CEPF's investment strategy. This APO covers progress in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot from June 2021 to June 2022.

2. Niche and Strategy for CEPF Investment

2.1 Strategic focus for the program, 2017-2022

Four strategic considerations shape the overall program:

Supporting local and national organizations in a regional context. CEPF will focus support on local and national civil society, with granting to international organizations limited to actions that either require specific expertise not yet available in the eligible countries, or have the main objective of transferring skills and capacities to local or national partners. Capacity building will be delivered as part of specific project grants, and through 'north-south' and 'south-south' exchanges between sites and CSOs.

Strategic engagement with the private sector. Lessons from Phase 1 are to: start at the local scale, with businesses that are rooted in the community and landscape; seek opportunities to promote the image of the industry/business at the same time as delivering conservation benefits; gather data that demonstrates to business the financial benefits of the action; and be more creative in seeking opportunities for in-kind support from business. The growing market for fair trade and sustainably produced goods may provide opportunities to incentivize farmers and land managers to adopt biodiversity-friendly approaches, although the limitations of eco-labeling are recognized and dependence on achieving a price-premium needs to be avoided.

Building on local actions to achieve policy impacts. There is a need for specific actions to build on site-based projects to address the wider policy, funding and programmatic issues, with roles for the RIT, partners and grantees. The program will facilitate links between grantees and decision makers, contribute to partnerships and on-going processes of planning and reform, and promote the role and acceptance of the value of CSOs more generally.

Managing risk. Two important risks for the program are committing resources to too many projects, and the volatile political and security situation in several countries of the hotspot. The profile proposes to manage these risks by: focusing on a limited set of high priority sites; focusing on site-based action; spreading the geographic risks by investing across the eligible countries; and creating opportunities for synergy among grants.

2.2 CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic direction	Investment priorities
1: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas .	1.1: Engage local stakeholders in conservation actions that address threats to key elements of biodiversity in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.2: Engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.3: Support civil society to engage with local or national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into integrated coastal zone management, land-use and development planning processes.
2: Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity .	2.1: Enhance the knowledge base on freshwater biodiversity and the importance of freshwater ecosystem services.
	2.2: Take action to reduce threats and improve management of selected sites in priority freshwater catchments with the participation of local stakeholders.
	2.3: Engage with government, private sector and other stakeholders to support integrated river basin management practices that reduce threats to biodiversity in priority CMZs.
3: Promote the maintenance of traditional land use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value .	3.1: Support local communities to increase the benefit they receive from maintaining and enhancing traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use and agricultural practices.
	3.2: Promote awareness of the value of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices among local community and government decision makers, to secure their recognition and support.
	3.3: Encourage business actors in the trade chain to support and promote traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.
4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.	4.1: Increase knowledge and skills to support assessment and planning for the conservation of plants, and foster the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation.
	4.2: Support integration of plant conservation into the management of protected areas.
	4.3: Support innovative actions for the conservation of important populations of plants, working with land owners and managers.
5: Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.	5.1: Support regional and thematically-focused learning processes for CSOs and stakeholders.
	5.2: Support grantees to understand and engage with international conventions and processes.
6: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team .	6.1: Build a constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile.
	6.2: Act as a liaison unit for relevant networks throughout the Mediterranean to harmonize investments and direct new funding to priority issues and sites.

2.3 Changes to the CEPF Strategy following the Mid-Term Assessment (September 2020)

The Mid-Term Assessment process took place in first semester of 2020 ; the Covid-19 crisis created quite some disturbances, in particular due to the cancellation of several regional workshops, which were replaced by on-line consultations and bilateral conference calls. The assessment was released in September 2020 and is [available online](#). The process led to some strategic changes that could be summarized as follows:

- SD 1 (Coastal): Strengthen existing projects and sites in North Africa (apart for Libya where new sites to consider), limit investment on coastal wetlands sites and in the Balkans, focus on small-scale, traditional fishing practices.
- SD 2 (Freshwater): Strengthen existing projects and networks in the Balkans, Focus on Morocco for new projects and launch initiative in Middle East, in particular addressing infrastructure projects in Lebanon
- SD 3 (Cultural Landscapes): Build on the studies led in four countries through small grants, and launch new calls for proposals with more guidance; open a pilot programme of a few small grants in the Balkans
- SD 4 (Plants): Increase the budget for this SD to respond to needs, dig-up proactively for projects in Palestine and Libya, and support regional exchanges
- SD 5 (Regional Capacity Building): Engage in two regional networks (Sea Turtles and Forests), Support planning exercises/long term visions in country where need is expressed, use flexibility to respond to crisis, and support capitalization of experience, fundraising and strategy.

During the fall of 2020, CEPF welcomed the generous support of the MAVA Foundation, for close to 2M\$, coming in addition to a previous support to small grant mechanism in the Balkans. The global budget for investment in the MED raised from \$ 10 million to \$ 12.5 million, as indicated below.

Strategic Direction	Name	Initial Allocation	Current Budget
MEDII-SD1	SD1 - Coastal	\$2 400 000	\$3,180,000
MEDII-SD2	SD2 - Freshwater	\$2 270 000	\$2,480,000
MEDII-SD3	SD3 - Cult. Landscapes	\$2 350 000	\$2,070,000
MEDII-SD4	SD4 - Plants	\$900 000	\$1,850,000
MEDII-SD5	SD5 - Regional Coop.	\$430 000	\$795,000
MEDII-SD6	SD6 - RIT	\$1 650 000	\$2,128,000
TOTAL		\$10 000 000	\$12,503,000

2.4 Eligible Countries for CEPF investment

The following table summarizes the eligibility of hotspot countries for CEPF support as of June 2021.

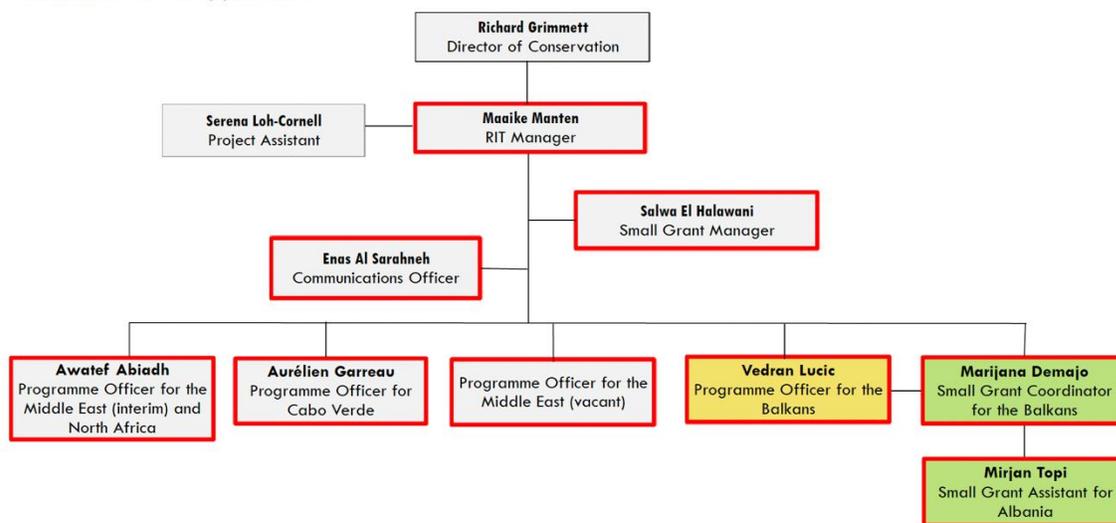
Mediterranean Countries	CEPF Eligibility	Endorsement Date	Comments
Albania	Yes	September 2017	
Algeria	Yes	November 2020	The very late endorsement of Algeria implies short delays for implementation of projects. Additional administrative problems implies reconsideration of implementation in 2022.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Yes	January 2018	
Cape Verde	Yes	December 2017	
Egypt	Yes	July 2018	Although endorsement secured, pending discussions on process for granting civil society organizations
Jordan	Yes	October 2017	
Lebanon	Yes	October 2017	
Libya	Yes	October 2017	Security situation implies specific measures to award grant in this country
Macedonia	Yes	September 2017	
Montenegro	Yes	December 2017	
Morocco	Yes	November 2017	
Palestine	Yes	October 2019	Decision of CEPF Donor Council DC35/5 of October 23, 2019, and subsequent endorsement from the Director General of the Environment Quality Authority
Syria	Yes	-	Current investments impossible due to political and security reasons.
Tunisia	Yes	October 2017	
Turkey	Yes	-	GEF focal point informed CEPF in January 2018 that the profile would not be endorsed. No investment planned for Phase 2.
EU countries : Croatia, Cyprus, Greece etc...	No	-	Not eligible as EU member States
OECD members : Monaco, Andorra, San Marino etc....	No	-	Not eligible as not World Bank client

3. Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

Effective in October 2017, the Regional Implementation Team for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot is comprised of BirdLife International including its Middle East Office, DOPPS (BirdLife in Slovenia) and BPSSS (BirdLife in Serbia). The Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (BirdLife in France) left the RIT partnership in March 2022.

The last fiscal year saw some changes in the team, with the departure of Sharif Jbour, who had been Programme Officer for the Middle East since the inception of Phase 1 in 2012. As programme is entering final stage of implementation, Sharif wasn't replaced and the portfolio in the Middle East has been covered "ad interim" by Awatef Abiadh with support from Salwa El Halawani. The RIT Leader, Liz Smith, is to be replaced ad interim in fiscal year 23, by Maaïke Manten, who also supported capacity-building and fundraising during the fiscal year. The programme Officer for Cabo Verde (Aurélien Garreau) is a shared human resource with Programme Petites Initiatives (PPI), a granting mechanism supported by Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial.

RIT members and support staff



Key:

— Lines of communication

- BirdLife International
- DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia)
- BPSSS (BirdLife Serbia)
- Core RIT Staff

4. Portfolio Status to Date

4.1 Calls for proposals

Since October 2017, CEPF launched 20 Calls for Proposals: 7 for large grants, for which 282 letters of inquiry (LoIs) were received; and 13 for small grants, which generated 286 applications. About 17% of applications for large grants have been successful, versus 26% for small grants.

- #	Release	Deadline	Specifications	Countries	LoIs received	LoIs approved*
1	Dec. 2017	Feb. 2018	Large Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	118	17 (14%)
2	Jun. 2018	Sep. 2018	Large Grants SD 2 & 3	All eligible countries	42	10 (24%)
3	Jun. 2018	Sep. 2018	Small Grants SD 1 & 4	All eligible countries	47	24 (51%)
4	Jun. 2019	Aug. 2019	Large Grants SD 2	Bosnia & Herzegovina; North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	25	7 (28%)
5	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Small Grants SD 3	Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia	16	4 (25%)
6	Oct. 2019	Dec. 2019	Small Grants SD 2	Bosnia & Herzegovina; North Macedonia, Morocco, Tunisia	60	13 (22%)
7	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Small Grants SD 4	Palestine	17	4 (23%)
8	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Small Grants SD 5 (Regional Meeting)	All countries	4	1 (25%)
9	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Small Grants SD 4 & 2 – Joint Call with PONT	Albania, North Macedonia	23	3 (13%)
10	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Small Grants SD 1 – private sector	Tunisia (El Haouaria area)	10	4 (40%)
11	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Large Grants SD 3	Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco	50	8 (16%)
12	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Small Grants SD5. Emergency Support/Beirut	Lebanon	7	5 (71%)
13	Sept. 2020	Oct. 2020	Large Grants SD1 & 2	Libya, Morocco, Tunisia	34	5 (14%)
14	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Large Grants, SD 1	Cape Verde	6	2 (33%)
15	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Large Grants, SD 3	Lebanon	7	1 (15%)
16	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Small Grants, SD 1 & 4	Algeria	14	3 (21%)
17	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2021	Small Grants SD 2 & 3	Balkans: North Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Albania, Montenegro	60	8 (13%)
18	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Small Grants, SD 2	Lebanon	11	2 (18%)
19	May 2021	June 2021	Small Grants, SD5 (Long Term Vision)	Tunisia	2	1 (50%)
20	July 2021	Sept. 2021	Small Grants, SD2 & SD5, – Joint Call with PONT	Albania, North Macedonia	15	8 (53%)

During the last fiscal year only one call was launched, in partnership with the Prespa Orhid Nature Trust (PONT). This was the second “joint” call for proposal with this organization after a Jan 2020 call. CEPF is entering its final stage under the current investment phase, with limiting time left for project implementation, which explains why calls for proposals are now limited.

Some projects have been approved through the “grant by invitation” process (5 large grants, 12 Small Grants since inception) when specific situations (scaling-up of small grant, emergency situation, opportunity) justified it. The modality has been more used in the last fiscal year as time limitation for project implementation requires speedy processes for granting. Most of these grants by invitation were provided to former CEPF grantees or sub-grantees.

All unsuccessful applicants have been notified with a message explaining the reasons why their proposals couldn’t be accepted; this is considered as a capacity building element for CEPF and is well appreciated by the civil society community.

The Calls for proposals for Large Grants have been launched in:

- English
- French
- Portuguese

The Calls for proposals for Small Grants have been launched, depending on the countries concerned, in:

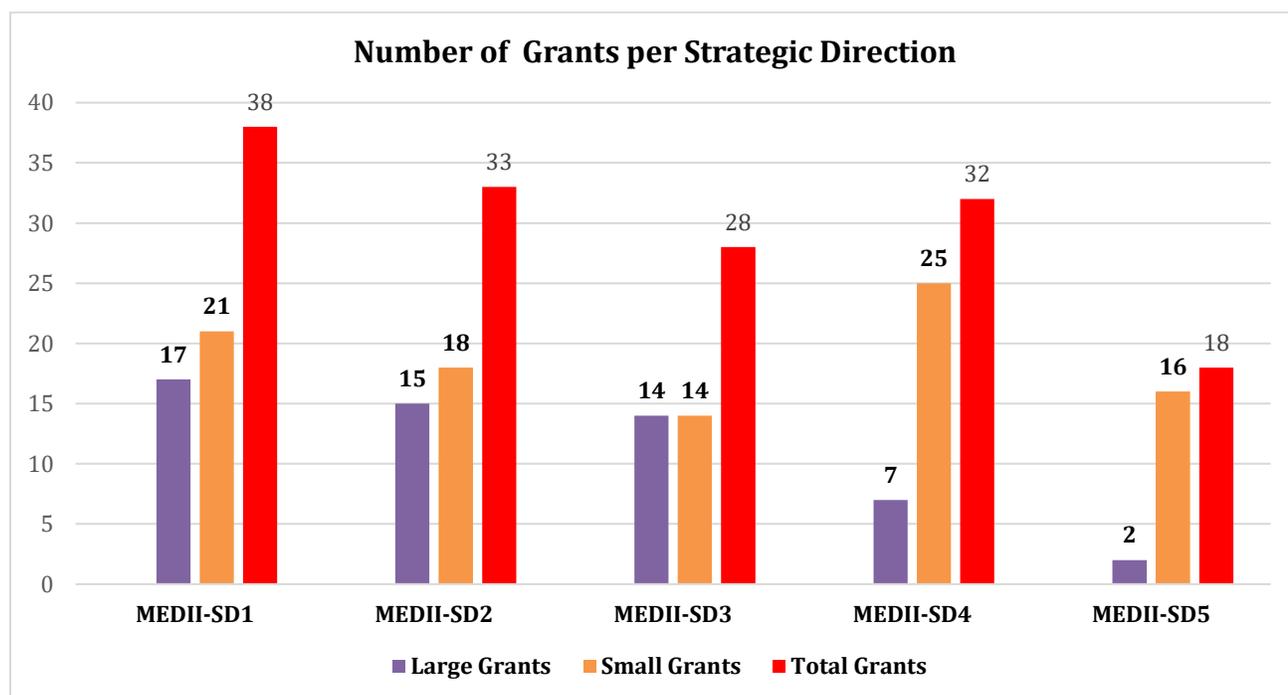
- English
- French
- Portuguese
- Arabic
- Serbo-Croatian
- Albanian

4.2 Portfolio Overview

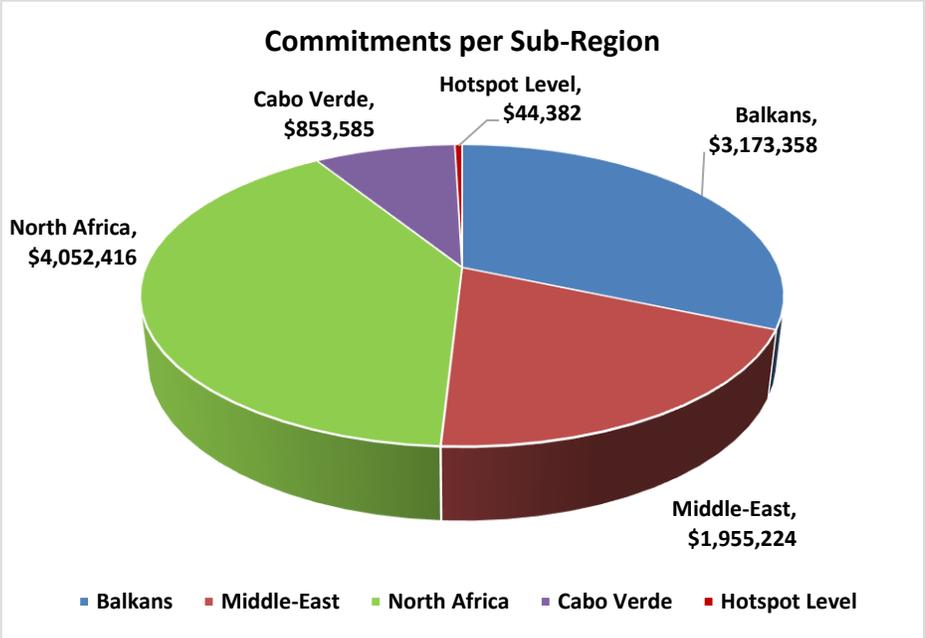
During the July 2020-June 2021 period, 15 grants have been awarded by CEPF: 2 Large Grants and 13 Small Grants, for an overall budget of about \$ 436,000. This level of investment is at the expected level, knowing that phase II was expected to close by October 2022, leaving limited time for projects implementation.

Name	Budget	Commitments	Large Grants	Small Grants	Budget Balance	Percentage Contracted
SD1 - Coastal	\$3,180,000	\$3,134,938	\$2,840,362	\$294,577	\$45,062	99%
SD2 - Freshwater	\$2,480,000	\$2,468,531	\$2,049,111	\$419,420	\$11,469	100%
SD3 - Cult. Landscapes	\$2,070,000	\$2,313,613	\$2,037,541	\$276,072	-\$243,613	112%
SD4 - Plants	\$1,850,000	\$1,629,096	\$1,058,451	\$570,644	\$220,904	88%
SD5 - Regional Coop.	\$795,000	\$532,788	\$346,341	\$186,447	\$262,212	67%
SD6 - RIT	\$2,128,000	\$2,128,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	100%
	\$12,503,000	\$12,206,965	\$8,331,805	\$1,747,160	\$296,035	97.6%

The investment is now more balanced per strategic directions (see graph below), with a noticeable progress for SD 3, from less than \$ 0.5 in FY 20 to close to \$ 2.45 million – a figure even higher than our projections during the mid-term assessment. The evolution for the fiscal year pertains more to SD5 on networking/experience sharing (as expected, this strategic direction is used more toward the end of the investment), and to SD2 on freshwater, thanks to MAVA funding for this theme. Also to be noticed, the higher proportion of small grants for plant projects – the mechanism appears well adapted to local-based conservation projects under this SD.



In terms of geographical coverage, the current commitment for each sub-region is commensurate with the initial expectations – with a balanced portfolio covering all the eligible countries. There’s been a limited number of grant at the hotspot level – which might increase slightly in next fiscal year with exchanges of experience and final assessment.



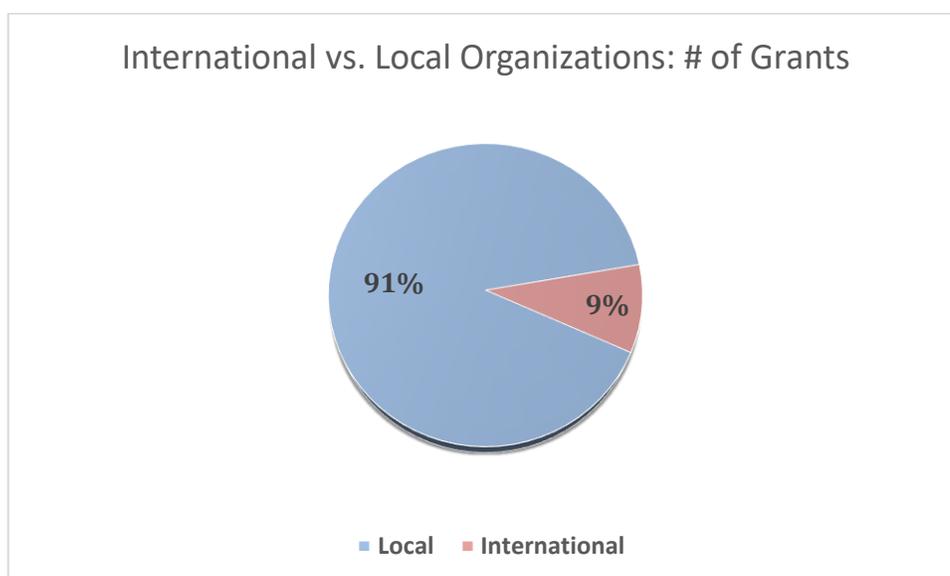
Number of Grants

Country	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants
Cabo Verde	8	5	3
Algeria	3	1	2
Egypt	2	0	2
Libya	7	1	6
Morocco	15	11	4
Tunisia	22	10	12
Regional, North-Africa	2	2	0
Jordan	6	3	3
Lebanon	15	5	10
Palestine	7	2	5
Regional, Middle-East	1	0	1
Albania	22	3	19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	5	6
Montenegro	12	1	11
North Macedonia	10	3	7
Regional, Balkans	3	3	0
Hotspot-Level	3	0	3
TOTAL	149	55	94

Committed Amounts per Country

Country	All Grants	Large Grants	Small Grants
Cabo Verde	\$853,584.80	\$784,145.80	\$69,439.00
Algeria	\$45,063.75	\$5,063.75	\$40,000.00
Egypt	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,000.00
Libya	\$212,603.41	\$119,352.00	\$93,251.41
Morocco	\$1,799,152.38	\$1,735,535.59	\$63,616.79
Tunisia	\$1,655,225.30	\$1,493,220.72	\$162,004.58
Regional, North-Africa	\$314,370.74	\$314,370.74	\$0.00
Jordan	\$528,864.51	\$463,891.51	\$64,973.00
Lebanon	\$944,535.25	\$816,254.75	\$128,280.50
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	\$453,124.65	\$348,551.57	\$104,573.08
Regional, Middle-East	\$28,700.00	\$0.00	\$28,700.00
Albania	\$857,205.15	\$551,982.30	\$305,222.85
Bosnia and Herzegovina	\$743,935.19	\$615,592.69	\$128,342.50
Montenegro	\$556,612.66	\$226,306.86	\$330,305.80
North Macedonia	\$545,584.65	\$387,515.65	\$158,069.00
Regional, Balkans	\$470,020.64	\$470,020.64	\$0.00
Hotspot Level	\$44,381.74	\$0.00	\$44,381.74
TOTAL	\$10,078,964.82	\$8,331,804.57	\$1,747,160.25

Ninety-one percent of the grants (representing 88 percent of the budget) in the Mediterranean Basin have been awarded to local organizations of the eligible countries. Six large grants have been awarded to international organizations – although these grants all include sub-grants and/or strong cooperation with local partners. All the eight small grants to international organizations are exclusively for support and raising capacities of local organizations.



5. Performance Assessment

5.1 General considerations

This fiscal year was supposed to be the last one for the CEPF Phase II investment in the region. Nevertheless, extending the phase was deemed necessary for several reasons:

- The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in delays in implementation of projects on the ground, and many grantees expressed, as early as September 2021, that they wouldn't be in a position to finalize all activities by the expected end date of programme
- The MAVA Foundation coming to an end at the end of 2023 leaves a big funding gap for many local organizations, leading to risks for the conservation community as a whole in the region.

In this context, even with a minimal funding available, CEPF decided to extend the phase. To continue supporting civil society in the region, CEPF and BirdLife engaged in preparing a proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with support Agence Française de Développement in their capacity of Implementing Agency for the GCF. Nevertheless, funding would be made available, at best, in 2024. CEPF then engaged with several regional donors to cover for the transition phase. As of June 2022, CEPF received a pledge from MAVA Foundation, and discussions are ongoing with several other donors.

With this context in mind, CEPF has focused the work during the year to strengthen the existing set of grantees – extending the ones most in need, and providing hand-on support with a specific support on fundraising. Only 14 new projects were granted (2 large and 12 small).

5.2 Highlights for each Strategic Directions

Strategic Direction 1 – Coastal Zones: A new Marine Protected Area Declared in Montenegro

On September 16, 2021, the Montenegrin Minister of Ecology, Spatial and Urban Planning proclaimed the creation of Katič Nature Park, the second marine protected area in Montenegro.

Katič is designed to protect a wide range of biodiversity values, including the grass beds of *Posidonia oceanica* – sometimes called the “lungs of the Mediterranean Sea” – but also the corals of the island of Veliki Katič, the estuary of Vezirovo and Cape Dubovac, and some important marine caves. The total area of this new protected area is 2,744.93 ha.

CEPF support has been instrumental for the creation of this protected area, through the support to Green Home, a Montenegrin organization, which worked in partnership with the Mediterranean Center for Environmental Monitoring (MedCem) and the Montenegrin Ecologist Society. The organizations gathered the scientific et ecological data, led negotiations with local fishermen and tourism operators, and supported the national authorities for the preparation of designation documentation. They will now be involved in the management of this protected area.

See more: <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/01/11/local-community-helps-to-develop-montenegros-second-marine-protected-area/>

Strategic Direction 2 – Freshwater: A new species discovered in Morocco, already threatened

Sehb El Majnourne is a lake in Morocco that is only wet for parts of the year, and full of surprises. It's a Key Biodiversity Area, and an important site for migratory birds, but data on the species it supports is dated. The Tensift Region Development Center (CDRT) was awarded a grant by CEPF to assess the conservation status of four Critically Endangered and Endangered freshwater snails present on the site Sehb El Majnourne.

CDRT surveyed the whole freshwater ecosystem, including fauna and flora, and conducted hydrological and hydraulic studies over two seasons. As a result, they managed to find three of the four of the snail species, as well as one of two threatened plant species. During various meetings in which the local community shared their observations, the team was also able to gather useful information about biodiversity and its changes over the years.

The team also surveyed the biodiversity in the wells by taking water and soil samples. Here they found something completely new: deep down in a well, at 40 m, they unearthed a new freshwater snail species! CDRT named this species, which has a depigmented body to adapt to the underground environment, after CEPF: *Giustia cepfii*. Further analysis is being conducted on this new species with scanning electron microscopes to show more detailed anatomical characteristics.



Villagers in Sehb el Majnourne looking at *Giustia cepfii*,
new species of mollusk discovered under grant 110212 (@CEPF/P.Carret)

Rocks in the lake are affecting groundwater salinity, so the team provided the local community with a salinity map that will help them in choosing the right place to dig for an artesian well,

resulting in reducing the costs and providing good water quality for irrigation, and thus improving their livelihoods. In another win for the community, CDRT rehabilitated ten old artesian wells that were in disrepair and hidden by overgrown plants. This work now prevents sediments and waste from reaching the ground water whilst also preventing children from falling down.

Moreover, various sessions were conducted to raise local awareness about plant species that can adapt to the high salinity in the soil, and on water conservation in agriculture. To strengthen the local community's relationship with their surrounding environment, CDRT will sub-grant small projects to enhance the livelihoods of the local community, such as ecotourism activities.

The organization is now working hand-in-hand with the local community and municipality to announce a locally managed protected area to conserve Sehb El Majnune's rare and endangered freshwater biodiversity.

See more: <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/04/07/freshwater-where-biodiversity-and-local-communities-meet/>

Strategic Direction 3 – Cultural Landscapes: First “Support Agreement” Signed with Farmers in Jordan

Under the project “*Promoting Biodiversity-Friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area*”, Jordan grantee Enviromatics signed its first support agreement with five local farmers. The “support agreements” are a pilot action to engage local farms in adopting practices beneficial to biodiversity.

While traditional farming practices happened to be favorable to biodiversity, the trend in last decades, in this mosaic landscape close to the forest reserve of Dibeen, is to a shift towards more intensive practices, with negative effect on the local fauna and flora. Enviromatics works with local farmers, assessing their practices and building with them a long-term plan where economic and ecological values are considered. Farmers agreeing on engaging in these plans benefits from equipment and technical support, and to a better access to market, through a brand being developed with local cooperative, based on biodiversity-friendly products.

Three more “support agreements” have been signed in 2022.

See more: <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2021/11/05/old-farming-traditions-breathe-new-life-into-jordans-ailing-olive-groves/>

Strategic Direction 4 – Plant Conservation: Fogo National Park Approved Flora Monitoring Plan

During Summer 2021, a workshop for validation by local partners and authorities of the Vegetation Monitoring Plan for the Fogo Natural Park. The Workshop was chaired by the presidents of the three municipalities of Fogo Island and was attended by several public, civil society and private partners.

The Vegetation Monitoring Plan is one of the main outputs of the Project, it is valid for 8 years and was developed in partnership with INIDA, the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and

Environment on Fogo Island, the Fogo Natural Park Team and Community Associations. The workshop also served to present the panels of information from the Biosphere Reserve Fogo island, as well as the launch of a new project funded by the Audemars-Piguet Foundation in the Plant Conservation program entitled "Time for Conservation of Endemic Threatened Flora in Cape Verde's Islands".

Strategic Direction 5 – Networking and Capacity Building: the North African Network for Sea Turtles Gets Support from their African Sister Organizations

In March 2022, representatives of the NastNet network, supported by CEPF, participated to the first African Congress on Sea Turtles in Benin, co-organized by Rastoma (network from Central Africa, which received CEPF support as well) and Wastcon (network for West Africa). This participation was a great opportunity for this new North African network to learn from their elder sisters in Africa. While NastNet is the most recent network for Sea Turtles in Africa, the enthusiasm has been high, with now 6 main partners from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Libya, and 20 members. During the meeting in Cotonou, participants elaborated their strategy and worked on their governance, with support from representatives from West and Central Africa.

The Network is now fully active, with a focus on Sea turtle monitoring on the North African coast. An overview of sea turtles and the importance of the North African region was elaborated, highlighting the urgent need for collective effort that must be shared by all countries, organizations and actors for the enhancing sea turtles conservation. Results of this report can be used for the purpose of the assessment report on the status of Mediterranean biodiversity indicators for 2023 (Mediterranean Status Report, MedQSR).



A sea turtle (Caretta caretta) handled by a volunteer in a rescue center, (©CEPF/Pierre Carret)

Protocols related to sea turtles monitoring were developed and approved, and are now used as standard by local organizations, allowing aggregation of data. The network is also active on awareness raising, with more than 1400 followers on Facebook and creation of numerous publications and guide, which represent a welcome shared resource for all organizations.

These awareness campaigns developed by the partners of NastNet in each country have started to induce changes on the consumption of sea turtle meat. As an example, Nastnet contributed to the endorsement of a Decision of the coastal municipality of Monastir (Tunisia) in favor of the fight

against the illegal trafficking of sea turtles: anyone who catches, sells or transports a sea turtle will now be struck with a fine of 1,000 dinars (twice the rate of the minimum wage). It is a first in Tunisia to have a communal initiative sanctioning illegal trafficking of sea turtles.

6. Collaboration with CEPF Donors and other funders

Several donors support biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, and regional initiatives and platforms exist to foster partnership and collaboration. CEPF has, over the past few years, strengthened relationship with the donor community working specifically with non-State actors in the field of conservation.

There were no physical meeting during the fiscal year with the Advisory Committee, but communication went on and some exchanges happened on bilateral basis. A specific meeting took also place with the CEPF MED Plant Expert Group in Chania, Crete, during the Mediterranean Plant Week to which CEPF participated and invited several grantees.

CEPF also participates in the Mediterranean Donors Roundtable, which brings together, once a year, representatives of the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Adessium Foundation, Thalassa Foundation, MAVA Foundation, Prince Albert II Foundation, and Fundacion Biodiversidad. Due to COVID, no meeting took place during the fiscal year, but several exchanged took place in the context of organizing the Mediterranean Stand at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (finally organized in September 2020), and for a specific project of mapping the projects of all donors on one website. CEPF prepared the hosting of the 2022 meeting taking place in July 2022 in Tunisia.

CEPF and Prespa Orhid Nature Trust (PONT) partnership has continued to strengthened in the last fiscal year with a second joint call for proposal. PONT is a conservation trust fund established with (initially) MAVA and KfW funding, and supports conservation action in the Prespa and Orhid region. The partnership between PONT and CEPF is not just about resource mobilization, but also facilitates synergies and complementarities. Both partners focus on biodiversity conservation and have complementary core organizational values, principles, interests, and investment priorities that overlap in the Prespa-Orhid region with the non-governmental organizations being important beneficiaries

The CEPF Grant Director contributes to the common efforts in the Mediterranean, being member of the board of The Med Fund, of the College of Reviewers of SMILO, in the Oversight and Selection Panel of the Endangered Landscape Programme, and in the Reviewers of Programme Petites Initiatives, while the RIT is also engaged with PPI Oscan and The Med Fund.

Advisory Committee Member	Organization
Fabrice Bernard	Conservatoire du Littoral
Constance Corbier	Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
Bertrand de Montmollin	IUCN/SSC/ Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group
Paule Gros	MAVA Foundation
Philippe Mondielli	Prince Albert II Foundation
Ricardo Pimenta Monteiro	The GEF Small Grants Programme Cabo Verde
Antonio Troya	IUCN Mediterranean Programme
Raphaël Billé	Tour du Valat
Paolo Lombardi	WWF Mediterranean Programme Office
Nedal M. Al Ouran	UNDP, Jordan

7. Conclusion

The past fiscal year (July 2021 to June 2022) has been marked by a slow-down in terms of granting, which was expected as the portfolio is getting to its end. “Only” two large and a dozen of small projects were granted. These grants brought the Mediterranean Portfolio to an unprecedented number of projects: 149 projects (55 Large and 94 Small), for a budget over \$10 million. The portfolio is characterized by its large share of projects led by national and local organizations: 91% of all grants (representing 88% of budget).

The evolution of local civil society in the region since 2012 is quite amazing. After 10 years of investment, by CEPF and other donors, civil society can be seen taking new responsibility in several countries. In Tunisia, some organizations co-manage protected areas, and their professionalism is recognized by the authorities, as demonstrated by the creation of the first private Ramsar site in March 2022. In Cabo Verde, where it was initially difficult for CEPF to find organizations to apply, there are now active NGOs on all islands, and the State is taking part in a local donor roundtable to coordinate the support to civil society. In the Balkans, civil society is more often recognized for their expertise, and work closely with municipalities in several sites for preservation of biodiversity. In Palestine, where we started to invest only back in 2020, we can see the willingness of the organizations and authorities to preserve their natural heritage.

We have also seen the emergence of a “new generation” of conservationists in many places. The CEPF strategy for phase 2 placed an emphasis on training and engaging with young professionals – and this was particularly successful in the field of botany and freshwater biodiversity. The enthusiasm of this young generation, well balanced in terms of gender, can be seen as a building block for future conservation action.

But much is still to be done. Some organizations, that were supported by CEPF in their infancy, have diversified their sources of income and can now “graduate” from CEPF. Some good signs also come on the public funding front, like in Morocco where government starts to launch calls for proposals to support their civil society organizations, demonstrating a real evolution from a governmental standpoint. But the local conservation community cannot survive, currently, without external support and many new and small organization deserve to be strengthened to become tomorrow’s champions.

With the end of MAVVA funding, which was incomparable in terms of support to civil society in the region, many organizations are close to the edge of the cliff. There’s a risk of many organizations, among the smallest, the ones working at local level, simply vanishing in years to come. This gives CEPF a huge responsibility.

In 2022, we have engaged in the process of preparing a proposal for the Green Climate Fund, which would allow, if successful to start a 10-year investment phase in 2024. In parallel, CEPF engaged in discussions with several philanthropic foundations and with CEPF core donors, to help maintaining the programme up and running during the “transition period” of 2022-2023. The positive responses received to date (although not confirmed in June 2022) are a recognition of the work that was done by our teams, and more importantly by our partners in the 13 Mediterranean Countries where CEPF works. This leads us to look positively to the future of CEPF in the Mediterranean.

Annex 1: Progress against the Portfolio Logframe, as of June 30, 2022

Please note that CEPF gathers and consolidates data only when projects submit their final reports. Not all Large Grant and Small Grant Projects were been completed by June 2022, and not all data have been processed yet. Therefore, the progress towards targets presented below are not comprehensive. Complete information will be made available during the Final Assessment in 2023. Also note that the logframe below reflects adjustments from the 2020 mid-term assessment.

Objectives	Targets	
Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities.	45 Key Biodiversity Areas, covering 1,000,000 hectares, have new or strengthened protection and management.	Currently, 84 Key Biodiversity Areas have benefitted from grantee actions. Through 54 projects, CEPF grantees helped improve the management of 617,000 ha of KBAs, spread over 40 KBAs, so far.
	8 sites, covering at least 120,000 hectares that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status.	Protected Areas have been extended / declared at 4 sites so far (Katic NP, Llogara NP, Karaburun Nature Reserve and Karaburun Marine NP) with at least 6 more in the pipeline. Total area of PA extension is currently 19,000 hectares.
	At least 8 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices.	Almost 30 companies / practices have been made more sustainable across the hotspot so far.
	10 land-use plans or land use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation (e.g., integrated coastal zone management plans, river basin management plans, agricultural development plans, etc.).	Results yet to be assessed/compiled SD1: 9 projects on coastal zone management plans in 5 countries SD2: 6 projects on river basin management plans in 5 countries SD3: 5 projects covering land-use plans in 3 countries SD4: One project in Jordan incorporating plant conservation in land use planning.
	5 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile.	At least 7 <u>new</u> national and local networks for the protection of species and sites in the hotspot. In total, about 90 partnerships and networks have been established or strengthened in Phase 2 of the programme, including
	At least 60 civil society organizations, including at least 45 local organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile, and increase their capacities to deliver long-term conservation benefits.	127 beneficiary organizations, plus an additional 5 sub-grantees, have received funding for conservation projects guided by the ecosystem profile in the Med hotspot. Only 12 of them (9%) were not local.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
<p>1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.</p> <p>\$2,400,000</p>	<p>Multi-stakeholder approaches lead to improved management of at least 25 priority coastal KBAs, covering at least 600,000 hectares.</p>	<p>Of the 617,000 ha of KBAs under improved management, about 113,000 is at coastal KBAs. Several marine protected areas expected in Tunisia should increase that figure (law in 2023?)</p>
	<p>At least 8 private sector stakeholders, in at least 4 countries, improve their business practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Almost 30 companies / practices have been made more sustainable across the hotspot so far, in 5 countries</p>
	<p>At least 2 mechanisms initiated for the private sector to contribute financially to conservation management costs of priority coastal KBAs.</p>	<p>Albania: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Karaburun; fees from tourism collected to support management Cabo Verde <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restaurants to pay a premium for sustainable fish from the Protected Area </p>
	<p>Improvement of the status (i.e., short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 10 globally threatened species</p>	<p>Currently projects have benefited more than 100 species, including 13 CR species. The local population of 6 GTS is listed as stable or increasing.</p>
	<p>At least 4 land-use planning and/or integrated coastal zone management processes show better integration of biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Projects are currently working on improving management in 11 coastal zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Albania/ Karavasta: preventing massive tourism complex construction ➤ Albania/ Narta, in process ➤ Albania/Karaburun, in process, integrating coastal plant conservation ➤ Tunisia: Djerba- LandUse planning for the conservation of Limonium formosum ➤ Montenegro: Katic, in process (among first MPA to be created in the country, promoting co-management) ➤ Libya: Farwa, management plan ➤ Libya : Karaboli management plan ➤ Cabo Verde: Costa da Fragata, in process ➤ Cabo Verde: Maio island, in process ➤ Cabo Verde: Sal island, in process ➤ Morocco: fishing zoning in the Souss-Massa region.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
<p>2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.</p> <p>\$2,270,000</p>	<p>Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity in at least 15 KBAs in priority Catchment Management Zones (CMZs) improved, documented and shared with decision-makers.</p>	<p>Knowledge of freshwater biodiversity at 18 KBAs has been improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Morocco: 4 ➤ Tunisia: 1 ➤ Albania: 1 ➤ North Macedonia: 2 ➤ Bosnia & Hercegovina: 6 ➤ Montenegro: 2 ➤ Lebanon: 2
	<p>Community stakeholders (e.g., fishers, farmers, etc.) in at least 20 sites in priority CMZs receive economic benefits from adopting practices with positive impacts on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Community members have received economic benefits at 4 sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Skadar Lake, where 10 local fishermen become guides and 2 engaged in patrolling ➤ At least 3 sites in Bosnia, where the leisure fishing industry improved.
	<p>Improvement in the status (i.e. short-term increase in population and/or breeding success) of at least 12 globally threatened freshwater species.</p>	<p>Projects currently work on at least 8 globally threatened freshwater species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Albanian Frog ➤ Tooth Carp ➤ Dalmatian Pelican ➤ Ferruginous Duck ➤ Greater Spotted Eagle ➤ Mollusc species (multiple <i>Giustia</i> spp.) ➤ Sea holly (<i>Eryngium variifolium</i>) ➤ <i>Rumex tunetanus</i> (Sejenane, plant species under SD4) <p>Plus potentially other species in Bosnia, Morocco, Tunisia and Skadar Lake.</p>
	<p>Management plans and/or practices for at least 4 river basins integrate provisions for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Projects currently work on 7 sections of river basins on development of options to better biodiversity integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ EL Barrak, Tunisia ➤ Oued Kheniffra, Morocco, ➤ Oued el Abid, Morocco ➤ Sehb El Majnoune, Morocco ➤ Orhid Lake, Albania and North Macedonia ➤ Skadar Lake, Albania and Montenegro ➤ Dojran Lake, North Macedonia

<p>3. Promote the maintenance of traditional land-use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value.</p> <p>\$2,350,000</p>	<p>At least 600 women and 600 men in at least 15 communities demonstrate improved economic wellbeing through maintenance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices.</p>	<p>Under SD3, 1412 men and 1004 women from 12 communities have reported increased community benefits, so far.</p>
	<p>At least 6 traditional products that demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity see a positive market trends (in terms increased production, price, access to new markets) through certification, etc.</p>	<p>So far,5 projects delivered on about 10 traditional products (sometimes several working on same products), including olive oil, medicinal plants and herbal tea, spices, mutton, sheep dairy, fruits and fruit products (marmelades, etc.), cereals etc.</p>
	<p>Status (indicators of population or breeding success) of at least 8 globally threatened species or other species of global significance in terms of conservation, dependent on traditional land-use practices improved at site level</p>	<p>Ongoing projects include conservation measures for 21 endangered or micro-endemic species.</p>
	<p>Local authorities in at least 3 priority corridors recognize the importance of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land-use practices and engage in supporting their maintenance.</p>	<p>27 local authorities informed and recognize the importance of traditional BF practices.</p>
<p>4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.</p> <p>\$900,000</p>	<p>Status of at least 40 threatened plant species improved at the site level (increased population or indicators of breeding success) in at least 8 different countries.</p>	<p>Projects worked on 27 globally threatened species of plants (CR, EN, VU) – assessment of status improvement is not yet possible. Note: Projects also work on many site-restricted endemics, which would qualify as globally threatened if Red List assessment was done (work on 76 species overall if micro-endemics are considered)</p>
	<p>Improved management practices in at least 20 unprotected sites important for plants (including creation of micro-reserves, etc.).</p>	<p>Projects worked at 13 unprotected sites, improving practices (to be checked with final reports) in total</p>
	<p>At least 16 Protected Area management plans incorporate specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 20 Protected Area managers demonstrate improved skills and knowledge on plant conservation.</p>	<p>So far, 15 PA management plans incorporate specific actions for plant conservation, and at least 95 protected area staff have benefitted from trainings on plant conservation.</p>

	Improved knowledge for at least 35 locally endemic or highly threatened plant species and improved information on plants for at least 15 KBAs.	Projects worked on improving knowledge on at least 35 globally threatened plant species plus several site-restricted endemics.
	At least 20 young professionals (ensuring gender balance) gain substantial experience in plant conservation.	Almost 200 young professionals gained substantial experience in plant conservation.
	At least 2 plans adopted at the national level with improved integration of plant conservation needs.	1 large policy initiative is ongoing in Jordan: land use planning was elaborated and adopted for the conservation of plant in 4 KBA in Jordan
Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	
5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region. \$430,000	At least 10 local organizations demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level.	At least 7 organizations were supported to attend and learn about international/regional conservation initiatives, including about the Ramsar Convention (RET), the Bern Convention (Front 21/42, CZIP, PPNEA), IUCN-APAC (Projecto Vito), IUCN-World Congress (NGB), the Mediterranean Plant Week and 7 th Mediterranean Forest Week (AFMI).
	At least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot.	The programme supported at least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events, including through the 2 nd and 3 rd IUCN Plant Conservation Weeks (15 organizations participated); the MedPAN meeting on marine Protected Areas (6 organizations participated); the Protected Area Network Forum in Jordan (4 Libyan NGOs participated); and through the regional fundraising training organised by the RIT (85 people participated).
	Grant support makes a significant contribution to catalyzing or sustaining at least 7 cross-border networking relationships.	The programme supported at least 10 cross-border networking relationships to protect sites (Orjen Mountains, Lake Dojran and Lake Ohrid in the Balkans) and species (e.g. between Libya and Egypt in North Africa to protect the Egyptian Tortoise)
	Information on at least 15 funding opportunities for civil society disseminated to relevant organizations, resulting in at least 5 successful funding proposals for continuation or extension of CEPF-funded work.	In addition to regular information sharing about funding opportunities through the Med newsletters, the Med RIT facebook, and directly between the Programme Officers and eligible grantees, the RIT also shared a list of 60 potential donors during the 2012 RIT-led fundraising training. A tracker has been developed to follow up on successful applications submitted by grantees and supported by the RIT, throughout the whole of Phase 2.

	At least 2 regional networks for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean Basin created or strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, 7 new networks have been established, including 1 regional one: NastNet, a network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa. • Various networks were strengthened including the regional World Wetland Network. • The programme supported 2 Mediterranean Plant Conservation Weeks (2019 and 2021), with various grantees attending these major networking events.
6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a Regional Implementation Team. \$1,650,000	At least 80% of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.	Final scores will be part of the Final Assessment in 2023
	At least 30 grantees show at an improvement in gender mainstreaming tracking tool scores over the period of CEPF support.	Final scores will be part of the Final Assessment in 2023
	At least 2 participatory assessments undertaken, documenting lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot.	One participatory assessment was undertaken for the Mid-Term Assessment, including an on-line survey. A Final Assessment including a review of the grantees' post-grant survey results, will take place in the first half of 2023
	Performance of the RIT assessed as satisfactory during the Mid Term and Final Assessments.	The Mid-Term Assessment Survey revealed a very satisfactory performance of the RIT. The Final Assessment will take place in 2023.

Annex 2: Active & Closed Grants (Phase 2) as of June 2021

Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Association de la Continuité des Générations	Promoting Co-Management and Sustainable Traditional Fishing in Tunisia's Kneiss Islands	Foster the participation of local communities in the co-management of the Kneiss Islands to support the establishment of a marine protected area. Promote adoption of sustainable fishing practices, in particular for clams and razor-shells, and support establishment of artificial reefs.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie	Conservation of the Coastal Biodiversity of the Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia	Protect biodiversity richness in Kerkennah archipelago in Tunisia through supporting traditional fishing practices of Charfia and Drina. The project aim to raise awareness on sustainable practices to preserve the natural resources and to promote local product by setting a three days fair. The project is also an opportunity to ensure the transfer of knowledge through generations
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD1	Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo	Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Protection of Endangered Sea Turtles on the Island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde	Build the capacity of the organisation to successfully implement conservation projects. Prepare and engage young people from local communities for conservation work. Strengthen partnership network policy makers to support the conservation efforts. Raise awareness of stakeholders on species conservation.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Société Ras Adar pour divertissements touristiques	Assessing Underwater Macro-pollution and Abandoned Fishing Gear Around Zembra Island, Tunisia	Assess the spread of of ghost nets around Zembra island within the marine and coastal protected area of Zembra and Zembretta. Prepare the protocol involving relevant stakeholders for underwater cleaning.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	ESCAPADE TUNISIE	Conservation Through Observation: Creating an Underwater Pathway for Mteris Cove in Jbel Haouaria, Tunisia	Promote the Mtaris site in Jbel Haouaria by creating an underwater path. Improve the awareness of visitors around Haouaria to better conserve its natural resources, through changing behaviors educational approach.

Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD1	Fundação Maio Biodiversidade	Toward Co-management of Protected Areas on Maio Island, Cabo Verde	Set up a co-management agreement between the authorities in charge of protected areas and civil society in Maio Biosphere Reserve, Cabo Verde. Ensure participatory management and stronger inclusion of local communities, and promote eco-tourism and sustainable use of resources.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD1	Associação Lantuna	Seabirds of Baía do Inferno, Cabo Verde: Studying Them Now, to Ensure Their Promising Future	Study the seabird colonies of Coastal Cliffs between Porto Mosquito and Baía do Inferno Important Bird Area, to understand population trends and threats. Work with local fishermen to assess fishing effort and possible disturbance to bird populations. Raise awareness with local communities and authorities about the importance of the area, to prepare the ground for potential future protection of the site.
Libya; Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Association Jlij pour l'environnement marin	Engaging Fisherman to Preserve Coastal Heritage in Libya and Tunisia	Engage with local fishermen to improve the management of two coastal Key Biodiversity Areas on small Mediterranean islands. Support traditional "Zrayeb" fishing practices. Monitor and protect loggerhead turtle nesting sites and reduce poaching. Enhance cooperation and exchange between Libyan and Tunisian partners.
Libya	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society for Birds	Sea Turtle Conservation in Partnership with Artisanal Fishermen in the Gulf of Sirte, Libya	Coordinate a set of actions for enhanced protection of sea turtles in Libya, including establishment of the first rescue center in Libya, monitoring of sea turtle nesting beaches and establishment of a network with fishermen to reduce by-catch and support monitoring of sea turtles.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage	Sea Djerba Up: Supporting Traditional Fisheries to Preserve Marine Environment of Djerba, Tunisia	Support local fishing communities to maintain traditional fisheries that allow for selective fishing, provide micro-habitats for fauna, and preserve seagrass beds. Help structure the fishing communities under a local committee, engage fisherfolk in biodiversity-friendly practices and promote ecotourism to diversify revenues.

Morocco	MEDII-SD1	AGIR Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Improving Resilience of Local Communities and Ecosystems of the Coastal Zone of Souss-Massa and Tamri, Morocco (ARCOLE Project)	Support the participation of local communities in management of Souss-Massa National Park and the site Tamri, key habitats for the critically endangered northern bald ibis (<i>Geronticus eremita</i>). Work with female collectors to improve the value chain for wild mussels and manage the resource sustainably. Work with artisanal fishermen on improved practices and initiation of a no-take zone, and with farmers to move towards organic farming in the feeding areas of the ibis.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Société Tarek ben Younis	Supporting Traditional Fishing to Protect Marine Resources in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia	Raise awareness of local artisanal fishermen in Burj Al Salhi area in Zembra marine protected area on the importance of marine biodiversity and encourage them to contribute towards marine biodiversity conservation. Support a group of local artisanal fishermen with traditional eco-friendly fishing equipment to encourage for sustainable fishing.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Société Khaled ben Othmen	Supporting Artisanal Eco-friendly Fishing in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia	Support a group of local fishermen with selective fishing equipment to encourage for sustainable fishing. Build capacity and raise awareness of local fishermen of the importance of the marine part of Zembra Protected Area, which will reduce the pressure caused by overfishing in the Zembra archipelago.
Libya	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society for Birds	Fostering Stakeholder Participation in Preparing a Management Plan for Farwa Marine Protected Area, Libya	The project aims to prepare participative management plan for Farwa Marine protected area established in 2009. The management plan will be prepared with a participative approach involving local stakeholder and using all previous data. It will address all elements that lead to the achievement of the protection objectives for marine and terrestrial biodiversity

Libya	MEDII-SD1	BADO Association for Environment	Establishing Environmental Awareness About the Importance of Farwa Marine Protected Area, Libya	Protect and conserve biodiversity within the Farwa Marine Protected Area through increased environmental awareness and participatory action. The aim of this project is to organize different awareness campaigns and create environmental clubs within two primary schools in Zwara. Contribute to the elaboration of the management plan to be implemented by Libyan Society of Bird.
Libya	MEDII-SD1	Libyan Society of Artisanal Fishery Friends (LSAFF)	Sustainable Fishing in Lake Farwa, Libya	Decrease illegal dynamite fishing in order to improve production capacity. A series of workshops will be conducted and will involve relevant stakeholders and artisanal fishermen to help increase understanding regarding the danger of these practices and improve knowledge about the national regulations.
Morocco	MEDII-SD1	AGIR Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources	Involve Civil Society and Fishing Community in Integrating Biodiversity Conservation in Souss Massa National Park and Tamri Key Biodiversity Area, Morocco	Prepare the national action plan for Northern Bald Ibis, a Critically Endangered species. Local civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders are involved actively in order to ensure its sustainability. The project will help to establish a platform for all stakeholders and prepare a conservation project for the better future conservation of the species in Souss-Massa National Parc and Tamri Key Biodiversity Area.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Fondation Tour du Valat	Monitoring the Dynamics of the Evolution of the Wetland Habitats of Sebkhath Sejoumi using Geographical Information Systems, Tunisia	Improve knowledge around Sebkheth Sijoumi by setting up a geo-referenced database in Geographic Information Systems, integrating all the maps and indicators that will be produced. This will strengthen the establishment of a broader database on this Key Biodiversity Area, including all the information that will be collected, produced and synthesized.

Libya	MEDII-SD1	Oxygen association for environmental protection	Establishing a Social Environment Club in Karabolli, Libya	Create a social environmental club in partnership with the Karabolli municipality in order to increase awareness about the degradation of the site. An innovative idea to bring men and women together to discuss local environmental issues, and the organization of environmental events involving students from local schools.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Royal Albania Foundation	Training for Sea Turtle Protection in Saranda Bay, Albania	Contribute to the wider awareness and protection of sea turtles with local fishermen. Training will be carried out with fishermen on how to rescue injured turtles, and educated about the widespread problem and how to protect them.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Organizata e Menxhimit të Peshkimit Liqeni i Shkodrës	Working Towards a Sustainable Fishery on the Coast of Velipoja and in Buna Delta, Albania	Enhance the sustainability of the fishery activities in Velipoja coast and in Buna Delta Key Biodiversity Area, north west Albania. Formalizing the fishery will help improve the conservation status of rare and endemic fish species occurring in this area through their protection. The enforcement of regulations of the fishing activity in the project area will result in licensed fishermen, improved fishing regulations and identification of Fishing Protected Areas.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Archipelagos-ambiente e sviluppo	Sustainability, Threats, Presence and Habitat Use of the Mediterranean Monk Seal in Albania	Contribute to the overall conservation and survival of the Monk Seal by facilitating research and conservation actions in Vlora bay in Albania. Project outcomes will improve the knowledge of habitat availability and presence of the species along the coast of Albania, setting a data baseline on the threats that affect the quality of the Monk Seal habitat and explore possible mitigation measures.
Libya	MEDII-SD1	Libyan WildLife Trust (LWT)	Preparing a Zoning Plan for the Karabolli Key Biodiversity Area, Libya	Prepare a participatory zoning plan for the Karabolli Key Biodiversity Area in Libya. The project will evaluate the standing capacity of the site and suggest a plan for the land use with relevant stakeholders and authorities.

Albania	MEDII-SD1	Social Education & Environment Protection	Engage Key Stakeholders for the Conservation of the Date Shell and its Habitat in the Karaburun Peninsula, Albania	Create positive synergies between stakeholders for the conservation of the Date Shell and its ecosystem in Karaburun-Sazan Marine National Park in Albania. Project will establish a forum with all stakeholders to raise awareness, discuss, and collect ideas for sustainable ways of managing the coastline of the Marine Protected Area and nearby zones.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Vertigo Lab	Blue Seeds: Exploring Innovative Methods to Strengthen Financial and Organizational Capacities for Tunisian Protected Areas - Pilot on Kuriat Islands, Tunisia	Build the capacity of local Tunisian organization Notre Grand Bleu in the medium and long term. Improve financial planning tools and train staff.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Qendra për Ruajtjen e Ekosistemeve Natyrore në Shqipëri (Eco-Albania)	Conserving the Albanian Water Frog in Vlora Bay, Albania	Assess the current situation, threats and necessary conservation measures for the Albanian water frog in Vlora Bay, Albania. The project aims to train local stakeholders in direct conservation actions and techniques for the protection and conservation of the Albanian water frog, and to raise the public's interest the endemic amphibian and the area's biodiversity.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Reseau Enfant de la Terre	Participation in the 13th Meeting on the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as Part of Project "Promoting the Involvement of Civil Society in the	Improve knowledge about Sijoumi wetland situation in international level through the participation to 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This travel grant allows Reseau Enfant de la Terre to be part of World Wetland Network and youth wetland network.

			Protection Process of Sabkhet Sijoumi"	
Montenegro	MEDII-SD1	Crnogorsko drustvo ekologija [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	Inclusion of the Local Community in Protecting and Improving the Habitat of the Endangered Skadar Frog in the Bojana Delta, Montenegro	Raise awareness of the rare and threatened Skadar frog (Albanian water frog). The project will work with local communities, children, students, decision makers and other stakeholders in one of the strongholds for the amphibian species' Bojana/Buna river Delta in Montenegro. They will establish monitoring of the species, create conservation guidelines and organize the first Montenegrin Frog Day.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD1	Zeleni Dom Green Home	Support Local Community's Involvement in Protection and Promotion of the Potential Marine Protected Area Katic	Building the capacity of and networking local actors to engage in the management of natural resources in the Katic area, and support the first potential marine protected area of Montenegro. Supporting ecotourism and livelihood activities based on sustainable use of natural resources. Monitoring of two important flagship species: monk seal and dusky grouper.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Réseau Enfants de la Terre	Involving Civil Society for the Conservation of Sebkheth Sejoumi, Tunisia	Raise awareness of the importance of Sebkheth Sejoumi Wetland, including the services it provides and the biodiversity it hosts, and engage local community members in the protection of the site.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Association "Les Amis des Oiseaux"	Influence Territorial Planning to Preserve Tunisia's Sebkheth Sejoumi as a Bird Habitat	Analyze the importance of Sebkheth Sejoumi (ecosystem services, biodiversity), prepare alternative options for long-term preservation of the area, and work with national authorities to influence urban planning compatible with protection of site. Raise awareness of local communities and strengthen local organizations.

Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Initiative pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée	Toward Effective Co-Management of Zembra Archipelago and Jbel El Haouaria, Tunisia	Create the conditions for an effective management of the Zembra Archipelago Marine Protected Area through ecological assessment and monitoring, strategic planning, establishment of a participatory management structure including all stakeholders, and strengthening local organization ASPEN to engage in co-management.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Instituti për Ruajtjen e Natyrës në Shqipëri	From Mountains to the Sea in Albania	Work closely with the authorities in charge of national parks management to ensure participation of all local stakeholders and their engagement for protected areas. This include municipalities, tourism operators, academics, and the youth and general public.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD1	Notre Grand Bleu	Contribute to Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Coastal and Marine Protected Area of Kuriat Islands, Tunisia	Strengthening the co-management of Kuriat Islands, through a programme to increase capacities of Notre Grand Bleu and the authorities in charge of the protected area. Work with local stakeholders to promote good practices in terms of tourism and fishing. Promote the protected area, and support monitoring of endangered species.
Albania	MEDII-SD1	Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania	Land of Eagles and Castles: Integrated Participatory Management for Albanian Coastal Biodiversity	Building upon CEPF funded project "Land of eagles and castles" (2012-2016), PPNEA will strengthen their relationship with local communities and expand support to local small nature-friendly businesses around Narta Lagoon and Butrint National Park, with the objective of ensuring alternative livelihood for local communities while preserving the rich biodiversity of the two unique sites.

Albania	MEDII-SD1	Albanian Ornithological Society	Let's Make Albania's Divjaka Natural Again!	Develop alternative options for sustainable economic development, assess the ecosystem services of the wetland complex, associate the local stakeholders in monitoring and conservation actions and raise awareness on the natural heritage of this region of Albania, in order to prevent large tourism infrastructures to be developed within the national park.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD1	Associação Projetos Biodiversidade	Establishing Cooperative Management of the Marine Protected Area of Costa de Fragata to Conserve Sal's Key Biodiversity Area, Cabo Verde	Restore marine and coastal ecosystem of Costa de Fragata Key Biodiversity Area on Sal Island, Cabo Verde, through support to the protected area management authority, and instauration of co-management practices supported by the local community. Develop partnership with local tourism operators and involve fishermen community to reduce threats on endangered species.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD1	Biosfera 1	Developing a Sustainable Model of Certified Fisheries for the Protection of Cabo Verde's Santa Luzia Marine Reserve Biodiversity	Undertake a pilot study to evaluate options for developing sustainable fishing schemes inside and outside the Marine Protected Area of Santa Luzia, in Cabo Verde. The project will collect key information on the fishing activities, set up a participatory monitoring system and pilot a certification scheme with premium for fishermen adopting sustainable practices. A long-term expected outcome is to improve the conservation status of important fish species (including sharks) in the protected areas.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Agency for Sustainable Development Altus Mostar	Enhancing Knowledge on Biodiversity of the Lower Catchments of Neretva River, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Support gathering knowledge on freshwater fish species abundance and status in Neretva River Basin, with a focus on rare and threatened species. Support an information campaign on freshwater heritage of the Neretva Basin and advocate, with local groups (fishermen, farmers, naturalists) for improving conservation of important sites and river basin management

Egypt	MEDII-SD2	Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services	Biodiversity survey and assessment of Lake Burullus in the Nile Delta, Egypt	Evaluate the ecological status of Lake Burullus through conducting field surveys of key biodiversity and ecosystem elements to account for their current status. Develop set of recommendations for conservation and improvement of the protected area management. Provide training for the protected area's rangers and young conservationists in the region on biodiversity inventory and assessment.
Morocco	MEDII-SD2	Association des enseignants des sciences de la vie et de la terre - section Khémisset	Build Knowledge on Rare and Threatened Species in the Bouregreg Watershed, Morocco	Conduct a participatory research to update the data on the aquatic biodiversity of the Bouregreg basin from the upstream to the downstream, including the two rivers of Bouregreg and Grou. Train young researchers from Moroccan universities on how to carry out ecosystems inventory. Raise awareness of stakeholders by sharing the acquired data with them. Educate farmers and local community on biodiversity threats in this watershed area.
Albania	MEDII-SD2	United Agro-Environmental Association Agri-En, Albania	Bushtrica River: An Important Natural Ecosystem in the Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park, Albania	Raise awareness and increase the knowledge of local community and stakeholders of Bushtrica River as an important natural ecosystem within Shebenik-Jabllanica National Park. Build the capacity of the different actors to improve river management through the cooperation with central and local institutions, local community and transboundary cooperation. Collect data on water quality, habitats, level of pollution and their impact impacts in an updated ecosystems database.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Crnogorsko drustvo ekologija [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	Updating the Conservation Status on Important Fish Species and Raising Awareness of Local Communities on Freshwater Ecosystem in the Catchment	Establish a scientific database of significant fish species. Assess threats and stresses on the freshwater ecosystems and conduct analysis of freshwater ecosystem profiles with proposed mitigation measures. Promote importance of CMZ Niksic and encourage local community to participate in decision-making processes through organized workshops and campaign. Strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and cooperation with civil sector.

			Surrounding Niksic, Montenegro	
Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Centre for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Energy University DonjaGorica	Assessment and Mainstreaming of Ecosystem Services in Nikcic Field, Montenegro	Assess and evaluate the ecosystem services in Nikcic to provide information for local land use policies and establishment of the protected area. Raise awareness of local communities on importance and benefits of nature's conservation. Initiate the mainstreaming of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in the decision-making process to advance the process of establishing a new protected area in Nikcic municipality and provide input for its management planning.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD2	Difaf SAL	Development of an Integrated Management Plan for Damour River Basin, Lebanon	Implement baseline technical, social and policy analysis of the Damour River Key Biodiversity for producing sufficient data and knowledge material useful to develop a draft river basin management plan. This plan will strategically target the ecologically valuable upstream watershed as a guideline for developing conservation efforts that can further be upscaled to cover the whole river basin in the future.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Zeleni Dom Green Home	Supporting the Conservation of the Natural Values of the Upper Zeta River in Montenegro	Assess the hydromorphological and ecological condition of the Upper Zeta River, and implement revitalization measures. Conduct research on macrozoobenthos and hydromorphological pressures at selected locations to provide data on the basis of which the ecological condition of this water body will be determined.

Lebanon	MEDII-SD2	T.E.R.R.E. Liban	Enhance Conservation of the Unique Biodiversity in Lebanon's Bisri River Basin	Conduct a quantified analysis of the geographical distribution and severity of threats to the Bisri river basin. Document the biodiversity value of the site to provide decision-makers with an environmental and social safeguard baseline for conservation and sustainable management. Establish collaboration with stakeholders, municipalities and local communities to develop a site protection plan. Raise awareness and promote the importance of a sustainable local economy.
Morocco	MEDII-SD2	Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc	Building a Network of Freshwater Ecosystems Important for Biodiversity in Morocco	Support the creation of a network of experts and organizations, associated with national authorities, to identify and document sites of high freshwater biodiversity value in Morocco, and advocate for the designation of 10 sites under the Ramsar Convention. Contribute to the review of the National Plan for Protected Areas by giving increased attention to freshwater species.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Zeleni Dom Green Home	Assessment of the European Eel Population in the Bojana River, Montenegro	Assess the population status of the critically endangered European eel in the Bojana river. Identify threats on the population size and establishment of measures for poaching suppression. Support creation of the management plan. Improve institutional and cross-border cooperation. Raise awareness about the European eel conservation and strengthen the capacity of young researchers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Hrvatsko Društvo za Biološka Istraživanja (HDBI) (Croatian Biology Research Society (HDBI) (Croatian Biology Research Society	Conservation of the Southern Dalmatian Minnow, Advanced Semi-cave Fish of the Dinaric Karst in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mapping distribution area of rare endemic fish in springs and underwater caves and habitat quality analysis. Implementing eDNA methodology for water sampling and determination of species presence. Producing of publicly available monitoring protocol. Preparing conservation measures for this species and policy for better management of karstic fields. Establishing multistakeholder platform for knowledge sharing and networking of experts and decision makers. Public promotion of endemic fish.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD2	Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development	Monitoring and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Trout in National Park Pelister and Prespa Region, North Macedonia	Conduct a study on distribution, population size and conservation status of the Prespa trout in three rivers, Brajchinska, Kranska and Leva. Build upon and updating the data from studies conducted before the construction of hydropower plants. Develop a Conservation Action Plan and transboundary collaboration with stakeholders in the Greek part of Prespa. Public awareness and capacity development activities for establishing a long-term monitoring program for the trout.
Albania	MEDII-SD2	Qendra per Menaxhimin Agro-Mjedisore dhe Ekonomik (Agro-environmental and Economic Management Center)	Ecological and Economical Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Lake Ohrid Catchment, Albania	Assess the distribution, population and threat status of fishes and others aquatic organisms in freshwater and identify the most threatened areas and species. Conduct bio monitoring of fresh water. Identify ecological and economical values and consequence for the socio-economic development of the rural area. Encourage locals to protect the biodiversity of the Ohrid lake catchment by familiarizing them with the economic benefits of the ecosystem

Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Centar za krs i speleologiju	Distribution, Population and Status of Threats to the Biodiversity of Freshwater snails, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conduct a systematic data collection of freshwater snails and water quality analysis on karstic springs and watercourses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Assessment of population status of certain snail species according to criteria of IUCN Red List of endangered species. Updating database of biological diversity of freshwater snails available to all decision makers in nature conservation and other stakeholders. Organizing educative workshops and lectures for students and school children.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Udruga Dinarica	Conservation of the Steno-Endemic Species Mostar Minnow in Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conduct field research and enhance the knowledge base for the Mostar blato ecosystem and the population of the Mostar minnow (<i>Phoxinellus pseudalepidotus</i>). The project implies mapping karst water springs, producing a conservation action plan, proposing protection measures of Mostar blato and engaging decision makers. Mostar blato is damaged by hydropower drainage canals. Project tends to halt further habitat and biodiversity loss and raise awareness through disseminating findings on media.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	NVO Program za zivotnu sredinu (NGO Environmental Programme)	Enabling Joint Bottom-Up Protection and Sustainable Development Planning for Bojana River Basin, Montenegro	Implement novel approaches in data collection on distribution, populations and threats of freshwater biodiversity in Bojana water basin. Assessment of socio-economic values of ecosystem services. Networking, knowledge exchange and awareness raising of local stakeholders through workshops, educative activities and their engagement in protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Designing a strategic direction for the protection of Delta Bojana.

North Macedonia	MEDII-SD2	GTI - Geotehnicki Inzenering DOO Skopje	Assessment of an Endemic Freshwater Snail in Dojran Lake: Population Status, Threats and Conservation Measures, North Macedonia	Resolve the unknown species status of <i>Graecoanatolica macedonica</i> , the 'near or possibly extinct' freshwater snail in Dojran lake. Establish the population status of other important mollusks. Analysis of water quality and eutrophication pressure. Preparation of the species conservation action plan for the endemic snail. Public awareness of local community about the biodiversity and endemism.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Regionalni Resursni Centar	Improved Protection and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystems in the Neretva Delta, Trebizat and Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Working closely with fishing societies, local non-governmental organizations and local park authorities, promote sustainable fishing practices and develop effective responses to poaching and illegal practices, for long-term conservation of endemic fish species.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD2	Association for ecology and tourism ECOTOURISM-2016, Ohrid	Preserving Belchishta Wetland, North Macedonia, through Engagement with Municipality and Local Stakeholders	Design with local municipality and local stakeholders a participatory management plan for the Belchista wetlands, introducing sustainable farming practices and improved land use management. Assess the biodiversity of the wetland, in particular as regards less-known taxa, and initiate process for official protection of the site.
Morocco	MEDII-SD2	Societe Ressources Ingenierie	Promoting Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity in El Abid's Watershed, Morocco	Launch a series of pilot actions in the El Abid region to preserve unique and threatened freshwater species. Following biological assessments and mapping of the last sources and rivers where live critically endangered species (freshwater mussels and shrimps), RESING will initiate pilot actions in coordination with local communities and authorities.

Morocco	MEDII-SD2	Centre de Développement de la Région de Tensift	Integrated Approaches for the Conservation of Threatened Freshwater Biodiversity of Sehb El Majnoute Catchment, Morocco	Assess the conservation status of four critically endangered and endangered freshwater snails present on the site Sehb El Majnoute, then define and implement with local communities pilot activities to mitigate the threats and stabilize the populations. Create a locally-managed protected area to preserve the rare and endangered freshwater biodiversity.
Morocco	MEDII-SD2	Association Marocaine pour l'Écotourisme et la Protection de la Nature	Boost the Role of Khenifra National Park to Preserve the Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Oum Er-Rabia, Morocco	Work with the National Park authorities, the River Basin Management Agency and local stakeholders to mainstream freshwater biodiversity conservation needs into water management plans. The project includes a comprehensive study of freshwater biodiversity and its socio-economic importance, and uses participatory approach to develop locally-accepted conservation approaches.
Albania	MEDII-SD2	National Center for Environment, Tourism and Sustainable Development	Conducting a Multidisciplinary Initiative to Conserve the Critically Endangered Toothcarp in the Lake Butrint Catchment, Albania	Establishment of the extant range and status of the Corfu toothcarp (<i>Valencia letourneuxi</i>) in southern Albania. Project will gain new knowledge on this critically endangered species through intensive field surveys, cooperation and initiatives with local partners. The aim is a better understanding of the conservation needs of this fish, which should eventually lead to the recovery and establishment of a healthy sub-population in the Albanian part of its small range.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD2	Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage	Preserving the Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia, through Local Co-management	Improve the knowledge on the freshwater biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia, and assess threats and socio-economic activities impacting on freshwater resources. Based on these studies, work with the river basin authority to adapt its practices for conserving threatened species, and create a local Site Support Group to support long-term monitoring and local action in favor of biodiversity.

Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Udruga Dinarica	Establishing Pillars for Conservation of Endemic Freshwater Biodiversity in Livanjsko Polje and Busko Lake, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Establish the conservation status, research the ecology and management needs for five endangered fish species of the lake and adjacent polje. Prepare communication material and advocate for improved management of the freshwater system. Engage with local stakeholder and organize network of local citizens in favor of preservation of the site.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	"Dzermal Bijedic" University of Mostar	Enhancing Knowledge on Biodiversity and Assessing Ecological Status of the Lower Catchments of Neretva River, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Assess freshwater fish species abundance and status in Neretva River Basin, with a focus on rare and threatened species. Launch an information campaign on freshwater heritage of the Neretva Basin and advocate, with local groups (fishermen, farmers, naturalists) for improving conservation of important sites and river basin management.
Albania; Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Center for Protection and Research of Birds	SOS Skadar Lake - Keeping the Montenegrin Wilderness Wild	Increase the knowledge base on the biodiversity of the Montenegrin part of the transboundary Lake Skadar - expanding in particular to amphibian and fish species. Model the impacts of future developments on the lake (in particular hydropower plants and tourism infrastructure) to support decision making on land use and natural resources management. Discuss and share findings with Albanian stakeholders.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	Centar za životnu sredinu	Steps Towards the Protection of Neretva Tributaries: Buna, Bunica, Begava and Trebizat, Bosnia and Herzegovina	Assess freshwater species abundance and status in four Bosnian river basin, with a focus on under-researched taxa. Launch an information campaign and advocate, with local groups (fishermen, farmers, naturalists) for improving conservation of important sites and river basin management.

Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD2	University of Ljubljana	Developing New Tools for Rapid Assessment of Subterranean Biodiversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Develop new tools to identify and inventorize the rich subterranean biodiversity of the Dinarides region in Bosnia. University of Ljubljana will train Bosnian partner to use new tools, create a shared database and communicate results and subsequent conservation needs to local stakeholders and decision-makers. Visit project website: subbiocode.net .
Albania; Montenegro	MEDII-SD2	Noé - Man&Nature	Empowering Local Community and Stakeholders to Sustainably Manage the Freshwater Biodiversity of Skadar Lake, Located Between Albania and Montenegro	Empower local communities by promoting participatory management of Skadar Lake's biodiversity and develop economic benefits based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Support the eradication of illegal fishing practices threatening freshwater biodiversity, through sensitization and control.
Albania; North Macedonia	MEDII-SD2	Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42"	Enhance the Transboundary Conservation of the World Heritage Site Lake Ohrid in North Macedonia and Albania	Ensure participation of local stakeholders, engagement of civil society organizations and contribution of environmental and legal experts to advocate for a full inclusion of measures in favor of biodiversity in national legislation in North Macedonia. Conduct networking and capacity building with Albanian civil society organizations to strengthen transboundary actions for long-term preservation of Lake Ohrid.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD2	Milieukontakt Macedonia	Enhancing Republic of North Macedonia's Dojran Lake Unique Biodiversity Through Engagement of all Stakeholders and Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches	Strengthen the protection of Dojran Lake's unique biodiversity by working with all stakeholders involved. Support the local government in mainstreaming conservation needs in local decisions, and work with fishermen and farmers on environment-friendly approaches. Several innovative pilot actions will be tested with locals to improve water quality and fight against invasive species.

Albania	MEDII-SD3	ECOVOLIS	Conservation of Pastures Through the Support of Pastoralism and Sustainable Ecotourism in Lura Natural Park, Albania	Explore pastoral practices in stalls and dairies in the Lura National Park. Increase the capacity of shepherds and stalls to improve the shepherds' traditional products by promoting sustainable practices to maintain pastures and forests. Promote ecotourism by traditional and dairy processing activities preparing the stalls to host tourists for overnight staying as tourist destination.
Albania	MEDII-SD3	GO2_Organizatë për Planifikim të Qëndrueshëm Urban	Creating Traditional Alpine Water Ponds for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Livestock Breeders of Shkrel Locality in Malësi e Madhe Area in Albania	Improve pastoralism activities through constructing two alpine water ponds for livestock with traditional methods and materials in order to bring models of success. Build capacity of local farmers to strengthen their local economy and ecotourism activities, which will help improve their livelihoods. Improve local community cooperation with protected area management and the private sector.
Albania	MEDII-SD3	Shoqata AlbNatyra	Support of Livestock Breeders for Maintenance of Pastures in Shebenik Jabllanice National Park, Albania	Improve the conditions of summer stans in the pastures of the Shebenik-Jabllanicë National Park and provide drinking water for livestock. Increase knowledge about pastures and threatened species in the area. Strengthen the management of pastures and plant species through assessment and preservation of traditional land-use practices. Strengthen cooperation between civil society organizations, government institutions and local communities.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD3	Center for Protection and Research of Birds	Restoration of Skadar Lake Wet Meadows for Sustainable and Traditional Land Use, Montenegro	Educate the local communities about invasive species and their removal in environmentally friendly and sustainable ways. Raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and provide training on how to correctly prevent the spread of invasive plants. Conduct series of events to remove invasive species and prepare the land for livestock grazing.

Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD3	Udruzenje za bioloska istrazivanja i zastitu prirode BIO.LOG	Bees Behind Dry Stonewalls: Traditional Practices for Bee Habitat Improvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Support and ensure cooperation with local communities in order to promote the conservation of drywall habitats that are important for wild bees. Provide data on the diversity of wild bees in the Municipality of Ravno and the Municipality of Trebinje. Raise awareness of stakeholders, including students and members of the private sector, on the most important species of bees in the area. Improve knowledge on traditional practices that are positive for bees and are based on the traditional attitude toward nature.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD3	Association Sidi Bouzitoun	Conserving Biodiversity in Kroumerie Through the Involvement of Women Shepherds, Tunisia	Support women shepherd on maintaining the traditional Land use in favor of biodiversity conservation in Kroumerie around Feija key biodiversity area. Raise awareness on sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation. Facilitate access of local product to new markets. Develop a pastoral management plan in order to regulate the grazing in the region.
Jordan	MEDII-SD3	Eco Values for Sustainable Development	Traditional Farming as a Tool to Maintain a Viable Landscape, Jordan	Promote environmental-friendly traditional agricultural practices at landscape level in Ajloun KBA-Jordan and enhance the knowledge about the importance of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Conduct analysis of the agricultural sector policy and recommend integration of biodiversity conservation into these policies.
Jordan	MEDII-SD3	WADI NGO	Biodiversity Conservation Through Traditional Agroforestry Practices in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan	Support sustainable traditional land-use and agroforestry practices through conducting baseline assessment of communities' socio-economics and potential agroforestry products. Identify and implement traditional agricultural practices with potential economic opportunities and benefits to habitats and species.

Algeria	MEDII-SD3	Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement	Promoting Traditional Agriculture for Preservation of Biodiversity in Babor-Tababort National Park, Algeria	Support the establishment of a local farmers' association and promote biodiversity-friendly practices through labeling of products and marketing approach. Set up a pilot farm with a local association and train local farmers and shepherds.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD3	Istituto Oikos Onlus	Lebanese Biosphere Reserves Joint Initiative to Revive Traditional Agricultural Practices	Support local organizations in Jabal Moussa and Al Shouf Biosphere Reserves to promote sustainable, biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Support rehabilitation and preservation of old terraces, home to rare reptiles and plants, strengthen the economic model for local traditional products, and address over-harvesting of wild edible plants in these mountainous areas.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD3	ASSOCIATION LES AMIS DE CAPTE TUNISIE	Together for Restoration of Ecosystems with Engaged Local Farmers in Dyr el Kef, Tunisia (Projet TREFLE)	Work with local farmers to reintroduce a local endemic clover <i>Trifolium tunetanus</i> in traditional agropastoral practices, with the objective of maintaining populations in the long term. Sign conservation agreements with local farmers to ensure that biodiversity-friendly practices are integrated into their land management, including agroforestry, hedges, meslin with local endemics and measures to ensure connectivity of habitats.
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc	Traditional Pastoral Practices for the Conservation of Vultures in Jbel Moussa, Morocco	Support local sheep farmers in Jbel Moussa protected area improve their livelihood while adopting practices favorable to biodiversity, and in particular vultures. Initiate a participatory process to establish a sustainable grazing management plan, and support farmers by improving water sources, setting up rendering platforms and improving access to market through a certification scheme.

Jordan	MEDII-SD3	Jordan BirdWatch Association	Supporting Traditional Farming and Protecting Biodiversity in Ajloun, Northern Jordan	Support a local farmers' association to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and marketing of local products, and enhance nature-based tourism in Ajloun region, Jordan. Support marketing of local products and work with the local municipality on a sustainable ecotourism plan. With local stakeholders, initiate the process for designation of a Special Conservation Area.
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD3	Palestine Wildlife Society	Safeguarding Jebal Al Khalil and Wadi Al-Quff Cultural Landscapes, Palestine, through Innovative Approaches	Promote biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices with local farmers and communities from Jebal al Khalil and Wali el Quff, and ensure integration in local land-use planning. Implement actions for replanting and sustainable harvesting of sumac, and for preservation of the threatened plant species <i>Bellevalia warburgii</i> .
Jordan	MEDII-SD3	Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company	Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area, Jordan	Support farmers in the buffer zone of Dibeed Forest Reserve to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Enter into agreements with pilot farmers, raise awareness and provide training to the wider rural communities, develop markets for specific, biodiversity-friendly productions (through on-line market), and work at policy level for mainstreaming biodiversity into local agricultural regulations.
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	AESVT-Maroc	Strengthening Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas in the Central High Atlas, Morocco	Support the establishment of a network of communities for piloting Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) and promoting this governance model in Morocco. Provide human wellbeing benefits through community-based livelihood activities (agriculture, eco-tourism) and development of land-use plans and governance models for community-based conservation.

Lebanon	MEDII-SD3	The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon	Promoting Traditional Land-use Practices in the Upper Beirut River Valley, Lebanon	Promote the "Hima Farms" approach in the upper Beirut River Valley, with support to local farmers to adopt and maintain biodiversity-friendly practices, and marketing approaches for traditional products. Conduct extensive biodiversity assessments and monitoring, and advocate for inclusion of good practices in land-use planning at the municipality level.
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif Mountains	Supporting Traditional Management Practices to Preserve Barbary Macaque and its Habitats in Morocco	Support local communities to adopt agro-ecological practices and increase revenues from biodiversity-friendly practices (including ecotourism) in the region of Bouhachem Nature Park. Support a participatory management of natural areas, integrating traditional practices, to reduce threats on montane forest habitats and the barbary macaque population.
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Conserving the Biodiversity of Morocco's Ifrane National Park Through Revitalization and Adaptation of Traditional Grazing Practices	Revitalize the traditional sheep farming systems of Ait Mhamed and Ait Ben Hcine communities in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. Support the communities to set up a sustainable grazing system based on traditional rights, preventing over-grazing in the biodiversity-rich mountains of Ifrane National Park. Establish cooperatives for traditional medicinal plants, with regulations for sustainable harvesting.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD3	World Wide Fund for Nature - North Africa	Assessment of Landscape Cultural Practices in Kroumirie and Mogods, Tunisia	Assess the cultural land use practices in Kroumirie and Mogods in Tunisia. Research and document best practices, and develop recommendations for maintaining and restoring traditional land uses for the benefit of biodiversity. Raise awareness among stakeholders to promote and explain the findings of the study, so that future interventions can utilise the knowledge for more sustainable and effective conservation actions.

Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Moroccan Biodiversity and Livelihoods Association (MBLA)	A Study of Traditional Land Use Practices and Native Biodiversity in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco	Conduct a study to understand the relationship between production landscapes and native biodiversity in the High Atlas - Morocco. The project will focus on the relationship between traditional land use practices and biodiversity and prioritise best practices and recommendations for maintaining and restoring traditional land use.
Jordan	MEDII-SD3	Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company	Land Use Measures to Sustain Traditional Uses of Productive Landscapes in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan	Conduct a study to assess the impact of traditional land use within productive landscape in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Jordan. Raise awareness among communities, stakeholders and decision makers on the need for effective measures to maintain traditional land use. Propose approach and guidelines for effective, responsive and right-based land use planning. Promote traditional land use through encouraging the stakeholders to adopt the proposed planning approach
Lebanon	MEDII-SD3	Al-Shouf Cedar Society	Assessment of Cultural Practices in the High Mountain Eastern Mediterranean Landscape in Lebanon	Assess the maintenance and sustainability of the traditional land use practices in the high mountain landscape. Support local communities to increase their benefit from biodiversity friendly land-use and agricultural practices. Raise awareness of the value of traditional sustainably land-use practices among local community, private sector and government decision makers
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane	Mapping Traditional Farming Practices Benefitting the Conservation of Biodiversity in Ifrane National Park, Morocco	Understand the traditional agricultural practices within Ifrane National Park. Create an inventory of traditional practices and land uses within the forest through stakeholder interviews, data analysis and mapping of existing projects. Identify potential practices for the re-establishment and maintenance of land-use patterns, for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and to provide benefits for the local community

Lebanon	MEDII-SD3	Environment For Life (EFL)	Assessing the Biodiversity Value of Olive Sites in Mount Hermon Key Biodiversity Area and Identifying the Environmental Impacts of Various Agricultural Practices, Lebanon	Assess the biodiversity value of olive farms in Mount Hermon Key Biodiversity Area and identify the environmental impacts of agricultural practices that are shifting from traditional to new modern practices which are causing loss of biodiversity associated with traditionally inherited farming schemes.
Morocco	MEDII-SD3	Fondation d'Entreprise BIOTOPE pour la Biodiversité	Improve Pastoral Practices and Organization in Toubkal National Park for Sustainable Management of Heritage Resources and Traditional Landscapes	Study the current situation as regards grazing and biodiversity conservation, in particular for plant taxa in the protected area. Engage with local communities and park authorities to develop a charter for improved livestock management practices. Explore marketing options to increase revenues from local products.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD3	Exploralis	Preserving and Expanding Hedgerows to Support Local Biodiversity in Sogman Region, Tunisia	Promote the role of hedges in biodiversity conservation in northwestern Tunisia. Assess the biodiversity value of hedges and the ecosystem services they provide to local farmers. Demonstrate good practices for maintenance and creation of hedges at a pilot site, disseminate them to local farmers and promote the role of hedges with local authorities.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD3	Environment for Life	Maintaining the Traditional Land-Use Practices Necessary for Conservation of Olive Associated Biodiversity in Mount Hermon, Lebanon	Support local farmers to adopt or maintain traditional, biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices for olive production on the Mount Hermon area. Train and support local farmers to adopt a "charter" defining good practices, including a hunting ban and measures to preserve flora. Develop a marketing strategy to ensure better prices and access to national markets for olive products following good environmental practices.

Algeria	MEDII-SD4	Université BADJI Mokhtar-Annaba	Protect and Monitor Rare, Endemic Plant Species of the El Kala Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria	Reinforce knowledge and monitoring of Maire (<i>Erica numidica</i>), a rare and endemic species, restricted to Eastern Numidia and threatened with extinction. Gather knowledge on the ecology, distribution and habitats of this taxon. Given its very small population size, the taxon is proposed to be included among the taxa in critical danger of extinction in Algeria.
Algeria	MEDII-SD4	Green Ground Seraidi-Annaba	Enhance Knowledge of Rare and Endemic Plant Species of the Edough Peninsula, a Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria	Advance knowledge of rare and endemic flora of the Edough Peninsula by filling gaps related to plant distribution and habitat description. Support the preservation of this exceptional biodiversity by raising awareness, identifying alien invasive species and designing a feasibility study for their eradication.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD4	Biflores Conservação da Biodiversidade	Endemic Plant Conservation and a Feasibility Evaluation of a Protected Area in Brava, Cabo Verde	Increase scientific knowledge and data on the extant endemic flora of the protected area and potential threats. Improve partnership with stakeholders, communities and other NGOs. Raise awareness on conservation of Brava's endemic species locally. Encourage and involve students and young people in plant conservation.
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Albanian Society for Protection of Birds and Mammals	Strengthening the Conservation Actions for Endemic Plant Species in Several Key Biodiversity Areas in Albania	Improve conservation of endemic species in restricted areas by conducting site survey techniques. Build a new generation of skilled botanists and professionals to continue working on plant conservation. Support engagement of stakeholders and enhance national capacity in species conservation. The project covers four protected sites: Llogara and Dajti National Parks, Protected Landscape of Biza and Martaneshi; and partially the Zagoria Nature Park.

Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD4	Bethlehem University	Green Oasis in Bethlehem for Plant and Ecosystem Conservation, Palestinian Territory	Develop a botanical garden for the conservation of rare plant species and unique ecosystem. Build capacity of young researchers, and create modules of awareness, education and empowerment that benefit the local community. Undertake workshops and meetings to raise the awareness of the local community on plant conservation.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD4	Crnogorsko društvo ekologa [Montenegrin Ecologists Society (MES)]	From the Inventory of Monumental Skadar Pedunculate Oak to Restoration of its Forests and Protection of Biodiversity. Montenegro	Assess current status and renewal of population of endemic Skadar oak tree (<i>Quercus robur</i> ssp <i>scutariensis</i>) on Skadar Lake, Valley of Zeta river, Delta Bojana and Buljarica. Conduct inventory of old individual trees and habitat modelling. Educate and raise awareness of the local community by engaging them in planting 10,000 seeds for forests revitalization. Design action plan for conservation and suggest proclamation of individual trees as natural monuments.
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Tölgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület (Oak Nature Conservation Association)	Exploring the Habitat Range and Preferences of Rare and Insufficiently Known Local Endemic Plants in Albania	Assess and determine the habitat range and population size of nine targeted rare and endemic plant species, on mountainous and karstic areas in South and Central Albania: <i>Aubrieta albanica</i> , <i>Carex markgrafii</i> , <i>Crocus novicii</i> , <i>Limonium himarens</i> , <i>Noccaea cikaea</i> , <i>Reichardia albanica</i> , <i>Sesleria albanica</i> , <i>Stachys albanica</i> , <i>Stachys sericophylla</i> . Establish the education of students and nature conservationists about target species and the overall taxonomic and conservational management of rare and/or ghost taxa.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD4	NVO zupa u srcu	Plant Diversity within the Wet and Aquatic Habitats of Niksis Polje Basin, Montenegro	Explore florist diversity and design a database of plant species in wet and aquatic ecosystems. Analyze threats to plant diversity and identifying potential Natura 2000 habitats. Enrich the herbarium collection of the Natural History Museum of Montenegro and Faculty of Natural Science in Podgorica. Carry out practical training for young researchers, biology students and locals in finding and conserving rare endemic species.

North Macedonia	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)	Conservation of Some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galicica National Park, North Macedonia	Conduct a research on the ecological conditions of the habitats of endemic plants and conservation status assessment. Produce species distribution maps. Collect seeds of endemic, relic and rare plant species and conducting ex-situ conservation. Establish cross-boundary collaboration and data integration in a unique database of wild flora covering Galicica National Park in Macedonia and Albania. Involve young students in project activities and enabling them to gain expert knowledge.
Albania	MEDII-SD4	ILIRIA-Protection and Social & Environmental Development Association	Site Restricted Endemics of Prespa National Park, Albania: Assessment, Protection and In-situ/Ex-situ Conservation, through the Involvement of Young Professionals	Establish a regular monitoring system and implementing specific in-situ and ex-situ conservation actions of rare and threatened plant species in Dry Mountain-Galicica mountain ranges. Collect data on distribution, population size and threats of 10-restricted plant species. Assess conservation status and delivering National Red List. Foster a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation through field training and networking of universities and academic institutions.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Biological Society	Conservation of some Restricted Endemic Plants from Galichica National Park, North Macedonia	Assessment of the status of endemic and steno-endemic plant species, inhabiting the National Park mountain Galichica and mapping their geographical distribution. Support integration of plant conservation into the future management plan of national park. Conducting seed collection and ex-situ protection of threatened plant species in Botanical Garden in Skopje. Building capacity of students and young experts and raising awareness of local community about plant diversity.

Albania	MEDII-SD4	Qendra për Iniciativa Rajonale	Habitat Enrichment and In-situ Conservation of a Rare Endemic Species of Birthwort, Albania	Enrich conservation and habitat of critically endangered, unprotected species birthwort, namely <i>Aristolochia merxmulleri</i> , on Munella Mountain, Oroshi Mountain and Lura Lakes. Establish plant population numbers, growth conditions, spatial and temporal dynamics. Engagement of in-situ conservation practices, encouragement of its inclusion to IUCN Red List. Preparation of management plan for future plant conservation. Raise awareness among local community and governmental authorities about importance of plants
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD4	Biodiversity and Environment Research Centre	Engagement of Local Communities in the Conservation of the Threatened Ecosystem and Plant Species in the Nablus Region, Focusing on the Iris of Nablus, Palestine	Conduct an assessment of the status of endemic plants, focusing on the <i>Iris lortetii</i> . Identify and map the locations of the species communities, raise awareness of the local communities on plant biodiversity and conservation. Build capacity of community teams to develop and improve their practical plant skills including in situ surveying and protection. Support the incorporation of plant conservation in the management of proposed protected area. Increase the numbers of <i>Iris</i> population in their natural locations using the Seed Ball technique
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD4	An-Najah National University	Plant Biodiversity Conservation in Ancient Olive Orchards, Palestine	Conduct a study to identify the distribution of endemic plant species in North-eastern Slopes region Key Biodiversity Area-KBA. Promote biodiversity friendly agricultural practices to key local stakeholders. Build capacity of local community and stakeholders in plant conservation through training on biodiversity friendly agricultural practices. Promote and increase awareness of in situ conservation to the local communities in the area

Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD4	Nature Palestine Society	Assessment and Conservation of Threatened Iris in the North Eastern Slopes Region Key Biodiversity Area, Palestine	Assess the distribution of near endemic and threatened plant species, including <i>Iris atrofusca</i> . Support the integration of plant conservation into future management plans and the conservation framework of Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas in Palestine. Promote and support the engagement of stakeholders and decision makers in conservation planning. Build capacity of local communities to contribute to data collection on flora, focusing on endemic and threatened species.
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD4	Palestine Wildlife Society	Towards the Sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine Through an In Situ Scientific Garden	Conduct a study to assess the current status and distribution of the national flower of Palestine <i>Iris haynei</i> in the Faquaa area and surrounding mountains, and implement in-situ conservation actions for this threatened and endemic Iris. Increase knowledge and skills of the stakeholders to support plant conservation planning, and promote the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation. Support innovative measures to conserve important plant communities through collaboration with local communities.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD4	Fauna & Flora International - HQ	Conserving Highly Endangered Plants on Cabo Verde's "Island of Flowers"	Implement activities to increase the capacity, knowledge and skills of local NGO Biflores, and educating community members to support assessment and planning for the conservation of endemic plants on Brava. Establish native plant nurseries for Critically Endangered and Endangered plant species, planting individual trees and increasing the protection of in situ conservation plots where plants can regenerate.

Lebanon	MEDII-SD4	American University of Beirut (AUB)	Leveraging an Integrated Network (LINK): Bettering Conservation and Management of Rare Plants in and around Culturally Protected Sites in Lebanon	Support the integration of plant conservation into the management of areas protected for their cultural heritage. By guiding vegetation management of such areas, the project aims to ecologically restore habitat patches of the UNESCO World Heritage Center of Byblos, and reverse ecological succession so that habitats conducive for the persistence of rare endemic plants can be encouraged.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD4	Association Tunisienne de Développement Durable: La Recherche en Action (La recherche en Action)	Conserving Priority Heritage Plants of Djerba Island, Tunisia	Improve knowledge and conservation of the flora in Djerba Island, especially the endemic <i>Limonium formosum</i> . A participatory plan for the creation of a micro-reserve will be conducted for the conservation of <i>L. formosum</i> . The project will also contribute to the emergence of a young botanist through the preparation of a master, in partnership with the agriculture institute, support the capacity building of five local NGOs and improve public awareness about plant conservation in Djerba.
Albania	MEDII-SD4	Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP)	Conservation and Propagation of the Albanian Tulip, Albania	Ensure the survival of the endemic Albanian Tulip by conserving its habitat and creating a generation of skilled botanists and professionals to continue working on the protection of endemic species in north east Albania. The project aims to increase knowledge and skills through surveys and studies, to support assessment and planning for the conservation of the Albanian Tulip and to strengthen the engagement of stakeholders in supporting species conservation.

North Macedonia	MEDII-SD4	Company for Applied Research and Permanent Education in Agriculture	Assessment and Conservation of Endemic and Endangered Plant Species in National Park Pelister, Northern Macedonia	Improve assessment, protection and conservation of endemic, rare and endangered species of plants in National Park Pelister, Northern Macedonia. Improved management will also be reached through developing an inventory list of targeted plant species, focused in-situ conservation measures, increased capacity of protected area managers and rangers and increased awareness of the importance of conservation of rare plants.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	MEDII-SD4	Udruzenje za unapresenje zivotne sredine	Preservation of Endemic Plants on Orjen Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Contribute to the formal protection of the biodiversity rich areas of Orjen and Bijela Gora in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project aims at increasing the knowledge on conservation needs of selected endemic plant species and ensure their long-term protection by raising community awareness on their importance. Assessment of the status, presence, distribution, population numbers and area of occupancy will be done for selected endemic plant species.
Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Cabo Verde; Jordan; Lebanon; Libya; North Macedonia; Morocco; Tunisia	MEDII-SD4	International Union for Conservation of Nature - Spain	Support Civil Society in Attending "Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week"	Enabling CEPF grantees from around the region to attend the second Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week, in order to widen the network and liaise with other plant specialists, gain knowledge on approaches and techniques, present their plant projects and seek future collaborations with organizations working on similar themes and species.
Montenegro	MEDII-SD4	NVO Program za zivotnu sredinu (NGO Environmental Programme)	Conservation of Endemic, Rare and Threatened Plant Species on Mount Orjen, Montenegro	Assess the threats and conservation needs of plants in Orjen Mountain Nature Park, and identify management guidelines for the long-term conservation of the most rare, endemic and threatened plant species. The grantee will apply scientific standards to plant research and conservation, increase the capacities of their own organization and park staff, and initiate cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation in order to conserve plant diversity of this site.

Montenegro	MEDII-SD4	NGO Living Green	Preserving, Understanding and Promotion of the Lovcen Bell in Montenegro	Protect and raise awareness of the endemic plant Lovcen bell in Montenegro. The project will undertake direct conservation measures to protect the plants from annual fires in the only known site where they occur, and stablish long-term conservation measures in cooperation with the Lovcen Mountain National Park administration.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD4	The Friends of Nature	Conservation of Lebanon's Endemic Flora Through Community Engagement	Develop a participatory planning approach to ensure the conservation of endemic plants in Lebanon. Strengthen the capacities of protected area managers and improve management plans for plant conservation in Jabal Moussa and Eden Forest. Support local conservation action, possibly with micro-reserve, for rare plants of Kneisseh summit and Makmel heights
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD4	Macedonian Ecological Society	Working Together for Conservation of National Endemic Plants in Macedonia	Assess the current status and distribution of several rare and endangered plants of Jablanica and Dojran Lake regions, and set up a monitoring system. Support protected area managers and local organizations to improve plant conservation, and raise awareness on the botanical heritage of the country.
Morocco	MEDII-SD4	Association Nature Solutions	Preserving Endangered Plant Species in the National Park of Talassemtane, Morocco	Integrate plant conservation in the management of Talassemtane National Park. Nature Solutions will assess the flora of the area, initiate a monitoring system, and work with inhabitants and park authorities to improve practices (including agriculture, grazing etc.) to preserve the most endangered plants of the area.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD4	World Wide Fund for Nature - North Africa	Preserve Heritage Plants of Dar Fatma and Garâa Sejenane in Tunisia	Strengthen the management of two important sites for plant conservation in Tunisia, through establishment of long-term monitoring system and support to land managers and local users to adopt practices beneficial to local flora. The project,also aims at supporting young professional in botany and conservation sciences, and to establish a network of plant conservationists in Tunisia.

Jordan	MEDII-SD4	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature	Mainstreaming Plant Key Biodiversity Areas into Jordan's National Conservation Planning Framework	Identify and assess the Key Biodiversity Areas for Plants of the Mediterranean part of Jordan. The sites will then be included in the national land use planning, and conservation needs for plants mainstreamed in national nature protection regulations. The project will also work at strengthening plant conservation measures during the update of the management plan of three reserves.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD4	Université Saint-Joseph	Conserving and Valorizing the Unique Botanical Heritage of Lebanon	Support various stakeholders to improve conservation of rare, endemic plants of Lebanon. Support three existing reserves (Horsh Eden, Jaj and Jabal Moussa) in integrating plants in their management. Strengthen the micro-reserve of Sarada (established by USJ under a former project). Test circus-situ conservation approach in Archeological sites of Tyre and Anjar.
Cabo Verde	MEDII-SD4	Associação Projecto Vitó	Improving knowledge for Conservation of Endangered Flora Species of Fogo and Brava Islands, Cabo Verde	Improve the knowledge about flora of Fogo and Brava Island, and build capacity of national park managers and local communities to enhance protection of rare and endangered endemic plants of Cabo Verde.
Tunisia	MEDII-SD5	Cabinet Sami Ben Haj "Thétis-Conseil"	Development of a Long-term Vision for Civil Society Organizations in Tunisia	Undertake a brief diagnosis of conservation activities to date in terms of conservation partnership and governance. Identify and discuss financial issues to meet conservation-related needs. develop that will reflect the vision and civil society over 25 years, focusing on the first 10 years through conducting meetings with stakeholders,

North Macedonia	MEDII-SD5	Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia - Local Branch Ohrid	Developing Educational Resources for Cave and Bat Protection in the National Park Galicica, North Macedonia	Increase knowledge about the protection of cave habitats and bat species in the National Park Galicica through a series of trainings and workshops. Prepare two educational modules and design educational games with materials and resources intended for children from kindergarten and elementary schools. Increase the level of cooperation with the national park while improving the level of education about cave and bat conservation.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD5	Center for environmental research and information	Citizen Science in Service to Biodiversity Protection, North Macedonia	Support the implementation of the Monument of Nature Vevcanski Izvori protected area management plan. Educate citizens and visitors on protection of the environment and natural resources. Build monitoring capacity for key species and habitats and enable more effective conservation by involving citizen science in the management and monitoring of the protected area.
Albania	MEDII-SD5	Shoqata AlbNatyra	Strengthening the Role of Local Community as an Important Stakeholder for Biodiversity Protection, Albania	Reduce negative impacts in this ecosystem by involving the local community as the main driver and stakeholder for the protection of the natural value found in this ecosystem. Strengthen collaboration with the local community and establish a Monitoring and Reporting Network. Increase management capacity and cooperation between institutions and other actors impacting the protection of this ecosystem.
North Macedonia	MEDII-SD5	Association for active tourism Explorer 2018 Ohrid - Macedonia	Friends of National Park Galicica, North Macedonia	Foster cooperation and growth among providers and activity organizers in the National Park Galicica (NPG). This project aims to build the capacity of twenty tourist guides on environmentally-friendly knowledge and practices. Provide a series of trainings and workshops for park management and rangers, in cooperation with local communities and other stakeholders. Involve volunteers in promoting “No Trace” behavior with an emphasis on leaving no waste.

Albania	MEDII-SD5	Une Gruaja	Crossing Borders for Environmental Protection of the Ohrid-Prespa Region, Albania	Strengthen the conservation capacities of the regional community by sharing best practices and knowledge among actors across the hotspot area. This project aims to foster partnerships with community service organizations in the region. Conduct a series of trainings and meetings to raise awareness of sustainable and environmentally-friendly behaviors and increase the involvement of local actors and stakeholders in the preservation of the protected areas in Ohrid-Prespa.
Albania; Jordan; Lebanon; Montenegro; Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD5	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania	Facilitate Regional Networking and Develop the Technical Capacities of Civil Society Through the Third Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week	Provide training and experience sharing in the field of plant conservation. Enable botanists, researchers, project managers and students within CEPF grants to participate at this event, in person and virtually, representing their projects from around the Mediterranean. This project will facilitate the presence of these individuals, through logistical support and funding, and guidance throughout the event. Facilitate sharing knowledge and technical experience amongst botanists. Showcase the impact data of CEPF plant conservation projects at a side event, in order to broaden the understanding of plant conservation progress and challenges at a regional level, and reflect on the role of civil society on plant conservation.
Egypt	MEDII-SD5	Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian tortoise (<i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>) across its native range in Northern Western Egypt and develop local capacity in Egypt and Libya to address conservation needs for the species.

Libya	MEDII-SD5	Alhayat Organization to protect wildlife and marine organisms	Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Eastern Libya and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement	Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian Tortoise (Testudo kleinmanni) across its native range in Cyrenaica, Eastern Libya. Develop an action plan for the species conservation.
Lebanon; Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD5	Jouzour Loubnan Association	Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Plant Conservation in Lebanon and Palestine	Support civil societies in Lebanon and Palestine to implement innovative conservation approaches for threatened and endemic plants and integrate plant conservation into management plans of protected areas.
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	MEDII-SD5	International Union for Conservation of Nature - Jordan	Protected Area Network Review for Palestine	Review and update the protected areas network in Palestine, using systematic conservation planning principles and the protected area design criteria of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to result in a connected, representative, efficient and climate resilient network of protected areas.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD5	American University of Beirut (AUB)	Replacement of Equipment Damaged During Beirut, Lebanon, Explosion	Replace a laptop and a desk that were damaged due to the Beirut blast on 4 August 2020.
Algeria; Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia	MEDII-SD5	World Wide Fund for Nature - North Africa	NastNet: A Network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa	Create a network that gathers together organizations and institutions working on sea turtle conservation in North Africa. Set up the governance structure of the network and agree on a five-year strategic plan. Support local organizations to standardize monitoring protocols, exchange experience on conservation action and communication, advise on practical activities, and advocate for improved national and regional regulations and actions for protection of sea turtles.

Lebanon	MEDII-SD5	Cedars for Care	Restoring Cedars for Care Center Affected by Beirut Blast on 4 August 2020	Repair the damage that occurred to the organization's office due to the Beirut port blast, including replacement of windows glass, doors as well as purchasing of office machinery.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD5	Nahnoo	NAHNOO Office Restoration Following Explosion in Beirut, Lebanon	Repair the damage occurred to the organization's office due to the 4 August blast in Beirut, including replace windows, doors, electricity rewiring and purchase of essential supplies.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD5	The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon	Replacing Damages at SPNL Office From Beirut Port Blast, Lebanon	Maintain the damages occurred in the organisation's office due to the Beirut port blast on 4 August 2020. Purchase office machinery and supplies.
Lebanon	MEDII-SD5	Environment For Life (EFL)	Reparation of Environment for Life (E.f.L) office in Beirut, Lebanon	Support the organization to restore their office after the damage caused by the Beirut explosion on 4 August 2020. Replace damaged materials and equipment.
Albania; Cabo Verde; Libya; Montenegro; Tunisia	MEDII-SD5	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network	Sharing Experience on the Management of Mobile Species within Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean	Support the capacity building of CEPF beneficiaries through participation in the Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network workshop on mobile marine species. Discuss the strategies, policies, projects and programmes for these species with other NGOs and stakeholders from different countries in the Mediterranean, with a focus on marine turtles. Learn about targeted conservation measures, monitoring, the management of network-based approaches and stakeholder engagement.