

### Small Grants – Final Completion and Impact Report

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

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

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

**Organization Legal Name:** Hemaya Environmental Consulting and Services

**Project Title:** Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement

**Grant Number:** CEPF- 112078

**Date of Completion of this Report:** 6/30/2022

**CEPF Hotspot:** Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

**Strategic Direction: SD5:** 5 Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region

**Grant Amount:** USD 16,360

**Project Dates:** 1/2/2022 – 31/5/2022

#### **PART I: Overview**

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

<b>Number</b>	<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>How they were involved in the project</b>
1	Al-Hayat Organization for Protection of Wildlife and Marine Organisms	Co implementer of the project in the Libyan side through conducting field surveys. Hemaya provided training and capacity building for Al-Hayat personnel on tortoise and habitat surveys and field assessment.
2	Nature conservation Egypt (NCE)	NCE helped in providing logistical support for investigators conducting field work in Egypt.

**2. Summarize the overall results of your project**

- Evaluation of the condition and suitability of the natural habitats of *Testudo kleinmanni* in the northwestern coast of Egypt between Alexandria and Salum. Extensive sampling and surveys of representative habitats (77 survey sites) in the study area (1,279,500 ha), including two KBAs: El Omayed PA (18,335 ha) and El Qasr KBA (405,510 ha). Seventy-seven sites were selected and surveyed.
- Descriptive data of the vegetation cover in the potential *Testudo kleinmanni* habitats in in the northwestern coast of Egypt.
- Identification of the most suitable potential locations for the occurrence or/and possible reintroduction of *Testudo kleinmanni* in the northwestern coast of Egypt. Evidence of the occurrence of the species was found in only three survey sites; while 22 of 77 of the surveyed sites (29%), were deemed fit for tortoises (based on vegetation cover characteristics); and thus potentially suitable for future reintroduction efforts.
- Identification of the main threats and potential obstacles for the survival of the species at the identified priority locations through the documentation and weighting of different threat factors as related to potential tortoise populations.
- Locating any remaining *Testudo kleinmanni* populations in the northwestern coast of Egypt. Out of the 77 survey sites, evidence was found in only three locations south west of Marsa Matruh and near El Omayed PA.
- Evaluation of the status of *Testudo kleinmanni* in Libya along with its habitats. Supported El Hayat Organization in Libya through capacity building and training, in field surveys in Libya. A joint report was prepared for the combined effort.

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

List each long-term impact from your proposal

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Contribution to the conservation of the Critically Endangered <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>	Provided up to date information on the status of the species and its habitats in Egypt and Libya, which can be used in the planning of future actions for the conservation of the species
Conservation and protection of suitable habitats for <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> in northwest Egypt	The identification of the current area of occurrence of the species and definition of good or potentially good quality habitats for the Egyptian Tortoise will help in streamlining conservation efforts in the future by putting forward locations or areas that can be subject for conservation measures, e.g. the establishment of protected areas or community based conservation areas, which can also be utilized for the re-introduction of the species into the wild

Re-introduction of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> in its former habitats in Egypt	The identification of good quality tortoise habitats (in both vegetation cover and limited threat levels), which can potentially be re-introduction sites for the species in the northwest of Egypt, is the first step to repatriate the species into its former range; further evaluation of habitat resilience, management and community support will be needed
Capacity building of personnel in Egypt and Libya in tortoise study and conservation and in its natural habitats	The project activity generated extensive experience with field work and survey techniques of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> and its habitats, habitat evaluation, botanical surveys, survey design, data collection data management, data analysis, and reporting

b. Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Account for <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> habitats in northwest Egypt	Our project helped refine the potential area of occurrence of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> . Potentially suitable habitats were delineated, excluding areas of lost and damaged habitats. Three sites were identified as of top suitability
Field review of current <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> habitat condition in situ	Condition of natural habitats within the area of occurrence were characterized through systematic sampling, providing important information on the suitability of habitats in northwest Egypt for <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>
Evaluation of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> habitat suitability	The suitability of habitats for <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> to thrive or for re-introduction was assessed based on habitat characteristics, level of existing threats and potential risks
Capacity building for Libyan researchers	Common field work protocols were developed for the survey and assessment of tortoise habitats in both Egypt and Libya. On the job training provided opportunities to develop skills and experiences that can be utilized in future tortoise conservation efforts in the two countries and throughout the region
Cooperation and synergy between Libyan and Egyptian project partners to enhance the conservation of the species across borders	Coordination and exchange of information and experiences in both Egypt and Libya in the area of research, habitat and population conservation, and in fighting the collection and illegal trade in <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i>

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

- Some of the more important habitats in Egypt (in the area of Salum) were out of reach for security reason, which reduced the potential reach of the project activities.
- In Libya the capacity and organization of the research team was less than expected, which affected the utility of some data contributed from the Libyan side.

## **PART II: Project Products/Deliverables**

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

<b>#</b>	<b>Deliverable Description</b>	<b>Deliverable Update</b>
1	Report including distribution suitable habitats in northwest Egypt	Results of field surveys showing an updated area of occurrence of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> (Appendix I)
2	Mapping of suitable habitats in Egypt	Map showing sites of best habitats where potential populations were found or where re-introduction could take place.
3	Report including characterization of suitable habitats in northwest Egypt	Report and data base characterizing the habitats and their conditions with respect to suitability for <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> in northwest Egypt (Appendix I)
4	Reporting on the identification of the most important threats of the species habitats in northwest Egypt, and its future conservation	Report and data base characterizing the threats that habitats of the species face in northwest Egypt (Appendix I).
5	Reporting on the training and collaborative effort between the Egyptian and Libyan sides	Report summarizing the training and collaborative effort between the Egyptian and Libyan sides (Appendix II). Protocol on survey methodology shared with the Libyan and Egyptian sides (Appendix III & II)
6	Action plan for the future conservation of <i>Testudo kleinmanni</i> to be developed (was originally to be carried out by Libyan partners)	Action plan outlining future planned action for the conservation of the species (Appendix IV)

### **6. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.**

The project established protocols for the field investigation of *Testudo kleinmanni* and its habitats summaries in the “Manual for Egyptian Tortoise *Testudo kleinmanni* survey and habitat assessment” (Appendix III).

## **PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing**

### **Lessons Learned**

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

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

- Local community participation was essential in identifying sites with positive tortoise occurrence in Egypt. Local community will be critical in the success in any future conservation efforts of the species.
- In person training of Libyan partners was not possible due to travel and security restrictions and was replaced with online training. Online training was not very effective in transferring the training experience, particularly in terms of field work techniques.

**Sustainability / Replication**

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

- Capacity building activities were an important measure for the sustainability of the project in both Libya and Egypt.
- The experience gained by the participants and partners of the project is an important asset for future and planned conservation efforts for the Egyptian Tortoise and for the Mediterranean semi-desert Biome conservation at large.
- Information gathered will be used in conservation planning for the species, and will be shared with other concerned parties in the biodiversity conservation community (including governmental and international organization)
- Manual for field research can be replicated and utilized by other workers and investigators of tortoise conservation
- Action planning includes a road map for future actions that aim at the species conservation in Egypt and Libya (Annex IV)

**Safeguards**

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

**Additional Funding**

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

**a. Total additional funding (US\$) 6.32**

**b. Type of funding**

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

Donor	Type of Funding	Amount
Hemaya	Cash	6

**Additional Comments/Recommendations**

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

The CEPF management team was extremely helpful and supportive of the project team, assisting in many way including the facilitation of communication and coordination between Libya and Egypt.

**PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level**

**Contribution to Portfolio Indicators**

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

Indicator	Actual Numeric Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
5.3 Number of cross-border networking relationship	1	Cooperation between El Hayat Organization (Libya) and Hemaya (Egypt) in implementing common field survey techniques and training (for Libyan trainees) and in developing a common action plan and future outlook for the species

**Contribution to Global Indicators**

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

### 13. Benefits to Individuals

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

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

# of men receiving structured training *	# of women receiving structured training *	Topic(s) of Training
13	5	The status of the Egyptian Tortoise Field investigation techniques of tortoise habitat including, floral evaluation and tortoise population assessment

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

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

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

# of men receiving cash benefits*	# of women receiving cash benefits*	Description of Benefits

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

### 14. Protected Areas

#### Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

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

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

			<b>Newly Protected</b>			

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

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

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

### 15. Key Biodiversity Area Management

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

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

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

Name of KBA	KBA Code from Ecosystem Profile	# of Hectares Improved *

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

### 16. Production landscapes

#### Number of hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity

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

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and



guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A Production Landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

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

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

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

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

### 17. Benefits to Communities

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

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

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

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

**18. Policies, Laws and Regulations**

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

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

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

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

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

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

## 19. Biodiversity-friendly Practices

### Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

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

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

## 20. Networks & Partnerships

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

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

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

No.	Name of Network / Partnership	Year established	Did your project establish this Network/ Partnership? Y/N	Country(s) covered	Purpose
1	Al Hayat Organisation	2021	Y	Libya	Cooperation for the conservation of the Egyptian Tortoise, realize and follow up on the species action plan in Libya beyond the project.
2	NCE	2013	N	Egypt	Continuation of species monitoring beyond the project

## 21. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

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

### 21a. Details about the mechanism

No.	Name of Financing Mechanism	Purpose of the Mechanism*	Date of Establishment**	Description***	Countries
1					
2					
3					

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

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

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

### 21b. Performance of the mechanism

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

NO.	Project intervention (mark with x)			Has the mechanism disbursed funds to conservation projects?
	Created a mechanism	Supported an existing mechanism	Created and supported a new mechanism	
1				
2				
3				

## 22. Red List Species

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

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

Genus	Species	Common Name (Eng)	Status (VU, EN, CR or	Intervention	Population Trend at Site

			Extinct in the Wild)		(increasing, decreasing, stable or unknown)
Testudo	kleinmanni	Egyptian Tortoise	CR	Population assessment and Habitat surveys and assessment	Decreasing

#### **Part V. Information Sharing and CEPF Policy**

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

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

**Organization Name:** Hemaya

**Generic email address:** [Natureegypt@gmail.com](mailto:Natureegypt@gmail.com)

**Appendix I Assessment of the status of the Egyptian Tortoise and its habitats in Western Egypt and Eastern Libya**

**Appendix II Report of training of Libyan partners**

**Appendix III Manual for Egyptian Tortoise *Testudo kleinmanni* survey and habitat assessment**

**Appendix IV Action plan for the conservation of the Egyptian Tortoise**