

## **Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions**

**Date 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**CEPF Grant 14**

**Grantee: Palestine Wildlife Society**

***Project Title: Towards the sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine (Iris haynei) trough in situ scientific garden***

**Project Location: Palestine – Jenin - Faqou'a**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization: Palestine Wildlife Society

Grant title: **Towards the sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine (*Iris haynei*) trough in situ scientific garden**

2. Grant number : 14

3. Grant amount (19,380 US dollars).

4. Proposed dates of grant: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

5. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Palestine

6. Date of preparation of this document: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

7. **Date of ending 31 March 2021 and the report will submitted before 30 March 2021**

### **A. Project background**

Despite its small geographical area and geopolitical challenges, Palestine nature conservation is top priority for civil society organizations and relevant state members, as Palestine enjoys rich biodiversity elements, plants in particular. Several endemic plants occur in Palestine some of which are globally threatened, the Faqou'a Iris (*Iris haynei*) is a site restricted endemic and the national flower of Palestine. The *I. haynei* is globally vulnerable species, with population decline throughout its range.

The flora of Palestine has been extensively studies several decades ago, however since that time; few studies were carried out to document the status and distribution of plants in Palestine, and the *Iris haynei* is no exception.

The CEPF funded project “ Towards the sustainability of the National Flower of Palestine (*Iris haynei*) trough in situ scientific garden” implemented by Palestine Wildlife Society will contribute significantly to protect this threatened endemic charismatic plant through developing and implementing operational plans to protect it.

The conservation plan includes:

- a survey of the project areas from the eastern slopes of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Tubas and Jenin as an essential stage to find out the situation of *Iris haynei* in these areas and study all the factors surrounding them.
- Work to raise environmental awareness in project areas among the local society.
- Training university students at least those of Jerusalem and The Arab American University on environmental survey of plant biodiversity and introducing them to the national flower
- Working with the Department of Biology in both the Arab American University (AAU) and the University of Jerusalem to preserve the flower as a genetic source by reproducing it with the replanting of its seeds in the land with the aim of re-establishing it in its natural habitats if possible.
- Working with the Department of Biology in both the University of Jerusalem to analyse the DNA of the Flower of the (*Iris haynei*) with it is colours.
- Work on the development of the scientific garden of *Iris haynei*, which was established in 2019, in cooperation with the Village Council of Faqqua and make it a site for the study of iris in all colours and try to follow it in the future and adopt the park for the future as its source

The project will work with local community through media initiatives and the establishment of the Faqqua Festival, especially those related to the concepts of protecting iris and integrating them into future decision-making about its protection.

A key milestone of the project implementation is to develop a scientific botanical garden for the Iris haynei in the areas of the Mountains of Faqou'a. This is an in-situ conservation approach to conserve the species within its natural range of occurrence and will be used also as an public education of the importance of Palestine's flora using this national flower as a flagship species for future conservation.

The project will follow the CEPF strategic Direction 4 on plant conservation *“Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges”* and will include interventions related to all investment priorities under this strategic direction as follows:

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 in cooperation with the Environmental Quality Authority.

4.3: Support innovative actions for the conservation of important populations of plants, working with land owners and managers.

The establishment of the scientific botanical garden ( 4 dunmes = 0.4 ha) will result in access restriction to natural resources by the local communities within the project area, and this triggers a process framework for this small scale geographical area according to CEPF's safeguard policy. This process framework will describe the potential impacts of this designation on local communities and provide mitigation measures to minimize and where possible to eliminate such impacts on local communities. The document will be shared with local communities living around the site and with relevant stakeholders in a consultation process following CEPF's guidance and relevant grievance mechanism will be followed, despite the fact that practically the proposed project activity of establishing scientific botanical garden will have no major impact on resources use by local communities, but will rather enhance biodiversity composition which will be reflected positively on the impacted stakeholders and will reduce the impact of unsustainable land use practices at the long term.

## **B. Participatory implementation**

During the project design and throughout the implementation, local communities and key stakeholders at the site (local rural administration authority of Faqou'a village) and nationally (through the Environment Quality Authority), expressed the conservation restrictions they expect, that is only relevant to grazing in the proposed designated site. This is minimal impact due to the small-scale geographical area of the designated site, and all consulted stakeholders agreed that the positive impact of conserving this nationally endemic and threatened iris outweighs the negative impact anticipated.

During the project design none of the local families were identified as affected groups, the land ownership belongs to the Faqou'a Municipality which is very supportive of the project and the site designation.

The consultation on this regard will continue during the implementation phases of the project and further complaints raised will be re-evaluated and mitigation measures will be adapted. Any affected members of the local community due to access restriction, will be engaged in project activities relevant to improve

livelihood, through training on the iris identification, understanding its live cycle and localities to guide future visitors to the site.

### **C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons**

As none of the local families were identified as affected groups, no eligibility was assigned to any families living round the designated site. However, as mentioned earlier, consultation with local community will continue during the implementation of the project and any impacts appearing in the future and during the actual operations of the garden will be documented and further consultations on impacts and eligible members and or families will be identified and criteria will be developed and agreed.

### **D. Measures to assist the affected persons**

Based on the previous points mentioned on affected members and/or families, eligibility criteria will be developed and consulted with affected beneficiaries and key local stakeholders and mitigation measures will be studied and implemented, mainly engaging affected members in the socioeconomic benefits of the project and the site designation as follows:

- Engage affected members on project implementation specifically on awareness and capacity development
- Training on the iris identification, understanding its live cycle and localities to guide future visitors to the site.
- Support integration of affected members into working with the site management
- Training on social media and photography
- Include them on national relevant events.

Members will benefit from such integration and will develop their capacity to receive financial benefits in the future that will hopefully exceed grazing practice.

### **E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.**

During the first weeks of implementation, meetings will be organized to disclose the objectives and detailed activities of the project to the key stakeholders including local communities. The grievance mechanism will be explained to stakeholders in the one-day meeting and explain project objectives to ensure participants recognize conservation measures and to engender their participation at tailoring best conservation approaches. The contact information of PWLS, as well as of the Middle East Program Officer from Regional Implementation Team (Sharif Jbour) and the Manager of the Regional Implementation (Liz Smith) will be provided.

An A5 noticeboard or leaflet will be placed at the site, indicating the possibility to raise complaints and reach out to the Regional Implementation Team, including the email addresses of the RIT Programme Officer (Sharif Jebour), the RIT Manager (Liz Smith) and the possibility to raise the complaint to CEPF Secretariat or the national World Bank office.

Any complaints raised would be addressed first by PWLS. Upon reception of the complaint, the project lead would organize a meeting with a representative of the issue and the person complaining, to find a solution. If the complaint remains, the conflict resolution follows a three steps approach. PWLS will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied

with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.

Contact details:

- Sharif Jebour, Middle East Program Officer, Regional Implementation Team; [Sharif.Jbour@birdlife.org](mailto:Sharif.Jbour@birdlife.org); +962 (6) 554 8173.
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- Olivier Langrand, CEPF Executive Director; CEPF; [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org); Address: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Conservation International, Attn: Executive Director, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202. U.S.A. [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)

## **F. Implementation Arrangements**

Consultation with local community and key local and national stakeholders were already carried out during the design phase of the project. Further consultations will continue throughout the project implementation and during the initial phase of the site formal designation.

The following steps will be followed:

1. Second round consultation will be made soon as the current lockdown is over. In the case of prolonged extension of the lockdown or in the case of uncertainty, remote consultation will be initiated to explain the safeguard modality and inquire on any emerging potential impacts. In the case of any rising concerns or impacts, the eligibility criteria will be developed and shared.
2. Once eligibility criteria are developed and affected members identified, measures to assist affected members will be adopted, explained and implemented.
3. In the case of no reaction received from step 2 above, another round of consultation will be initiated during the designation phase and based on results steps will be followed.
4. Complaint mechanism above will be initiated in the first quarter of the project implementation regardless of the results of the consultations on potential impacts.