Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

Lebanon

Factsheet about investment in biodiversity conservation projects in Lebanon by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
WHAT IS CEPF?

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) provides grants to non-governmental and private sector organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots. Since its establishment in 2000, CEPF has awarded more than 2,120 grants in 92 countries and territories. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

WHAT IS THE MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT?

Stretching from Cabo Verde to eastern Turkey, the Mediterranean Basin is identified as one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots, earth's most biologically rich, yet threatened, areas.

CEPF has been active in the hotspot since 2012, and has begun a new 5-year investment phase in 2017, with US$ 11.2 million to invest until September 2022.

CEPF’s initial investment phase demonstrated that through funding, along with mentoring, partnerships and innovative communication strategies, civil society groups play an important role in conservation efforts.

A map of the Mediterranean hotspot

WHAT IS CEPF’S INVESTMENT STRATEGY?

Before providing funding to a hotspot, CEPF develops an “Ecosystem Profile” that informs its investment strategy. In the Mediterranean, more than 500 civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the region were consulted over a period of 6 months for this in-depth analysis, helping to develop a shared strategy from the outset.

When developing an Ecosystem Profile for a biodiversity hotspot, CEPF decides on a few priorities, which are known as “strategic directions.” These are important to grant applicants because each must address a strategic direction and one or more of its investment priorities. For the Mediterranean, these are the current strategic directions:

1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.
2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.
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.
4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.
5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT?

All NGOs, community groups, private enterprises and other civil society organisations may apply for funding. Our grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives and community associations to international organisations. What do they all have in common? They are dedicated to protecting biodiversity. For more details, please visit our page: https://www.cepf.net/grants/eligibility

HOW DO I APPLY?

For information on how to apply, please visit: https://www.cepf.net/grants.

Calls for Proposals are announced on the CEPF website at: https://www.cepf.net/grants/open-calls-for-proposals.

Please visit www.cepf.net and www.birdlife.org/cepf-med for more information about our programs.
Why is CEPF investing in Lebanon?

To protect priority Key Biodiversity Areas and species

To date, CEPF investment in Lebanon has reached a total of US$ 814,000

Eligibility of projects in Lebanon:

CEPF investment in Lebanon focuses on the following investment priorities:

**Strategic Direction 3: Production of Landscapes:** Promote the maintenance of traditional land use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value. (In Lebanon, priority KBAs for this strategic direction are those within the ‘Orontes Valley and Levantine Mountains Corridor’.

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.

**Strategic Direction 4: Plants:** Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges through supporting the following investment priorities:

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 landowners and managers.

How can I get involved?

Contact Information

For questions specific to Lebanon grants, contact:
Sharif Jbour, CEPF Programme Officer for the Middle East
BirdLife International, Middle East Partnership Secretariat Building 6, Salameh Al Maa’ya Street, Khalda, P.O.Box 2295, Amman 11953, Jordan
sharif.jbour@birdlife.org / +962 (0)65548173

For general enquiries contact the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) (led by BirdLife International):

Liz Smith, RIT Manager, BirdLife International, David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, UK, CB2 3QZ
liz.smith@birdlife.org / +44 (0)1223 279878

Web & Social Media

www.birdlife.org/cepf-med
www.cepf.net
Facebook: @CEPF.MED / Twitter: @CEPFmed #CEPFmed

Lebanon embodies the Mediterranean priorities in biodiversity conservation. This small territory with complex topography and hydrography shelters a large diversity of habitats, species & plants in particular, ranking Lebanon at a high rate of endemism. It is also within the heart of the African-Eurasian flyway where millions of birds migrate twice annually between their breeding grounds in the north and wintering grounds in Africa.

Lebanon’s natural habitat and biodiversity is under immense pressure from rapid development and large scale illegal hunting, which are major challenges to conservation at the national level. In addition to this, there is a lack of national assessments on the distribution of threatened and endemic plants.

Information sharing and access is another challenge facing biodiversity conservation in Lebanon, and is mainly attributed to low level of collaboration between civil society organizations (conservation NGOs and academic institutes).

Many animal and plant species benefit from CEPF grantee projects in Lebanon, from the small Sofar Iris at Ehmej Plant Micro-reserve to the giant Cedars at Al-Shouf Nature Reserve, to Monk Seals in the Mediterranean coast of Lebanon.