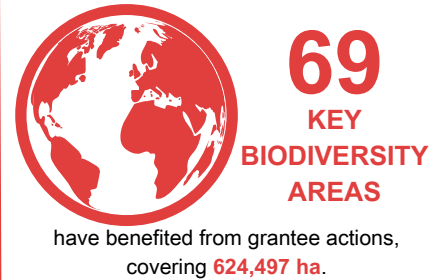
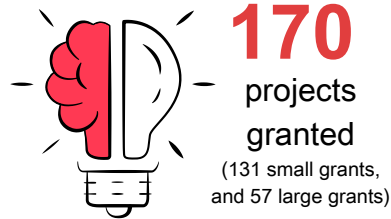
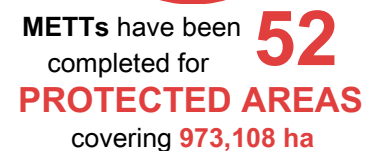
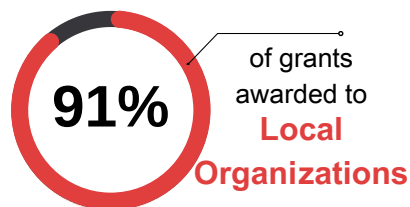


CEPF Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Investment Summary (October 2017 to December 2023):



In North Africa, the Middle East,
the Balkans, and Cabo Verde



Themes of Investment

CEPF has an Investment Strategy for the Mediterranean Basin based on 5 Strategic Directions:

COASTAL ZONES:

“Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.” So far **43 grants awarded, totalling USD \$3.2 million.**

FRESHWATER BIODIVERSITY:

“Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.” So far **39 grants awarded, totalling USD \$2.5 million.**

CULTURAL 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.” So far **31 grants awarded, totalling USD \$2.4 million.**

PLANT CONSERVATION:

“Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.” So far **38 grants awarded, totalling USD \$1.7 million.**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING:

“Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.” So far **19 grants awarded, totalling USD \$0.5 million.**



A Glimpse of CEPF Grantee Successes



Coastal Zones

In the azure waters of the Mediterranean Sea, a group of passionate conservation organizations came together with a common goal - to protect and conserve the endangered sea turtles that graced their shores. CEPF believes that by understanding and addressing the challenges sea turtles face, we can contribute to their long-term survival and secure a future where sea turtles continue to grace the Mediterranean seas for generations to come.



Freshwater Biodiversity



Fishes, snails, plants, subterranean salamanders and more, the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot is globally important for its freshwater biodiversity. This vital habitat is, of course, vital for human life too, and as the demand for water increases, so can pressures on biodiversity.

When it comes to the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity, there is no better way of working than by engaging local communities.



Cultural Landscapes

Ecosystem restoration is a primary focus in Morocco, where mismanagement, overgrazing, and encroachment have led to significant degradation of rangelands. Reviving the traditional pastoral land management system - Agdal - can prevent further damage and ensure ecosystem resilience amid climate change. Through a CEPF grant, a participatory diagnosis of habitats and agro-sylvo-pastoral practices in Toubkal National Park was carried out, aiming at enhancing the park's management plan.



Plant Conservation



From vibrant flower carpets amongst ancient olive trees, to small, encroached patches of purple petals on hillsides, *Palestine's plants are special. CEPF awarded grants to five civil society organizations to conserve threatened and site-restricted endemic plants and their habitats.

Through these projects, the botanical knowledge and skills of scientists and conservationists will be strengthened, and hopefully passed down like the ancient farming knowledge held within its olive groves.



Regional Capacity Building

The Egyptian Tortoise *Testudo kleinmanni* (Critically Endangered), one of the world's smallest tortoises, is declining rapidly in the Mediterranean region due to intense pressures. However, regional cooperation gives it a glimmer of hope. Through a grant by CEPF, Libyan and Egyptian experts worked together to conserve remaining populations in their original habitats in Libya and identify suitable habitats in Egypt for future reintroduction..



Established in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. In the Mediterranean hotspot, additional funding has been provided by the MAVA Foundation, the Audemars-Watkins Foundation, and the Donors' Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE). A dedicated Regional Implementation Team (RIT) (expert officers on the ground) guides funding to the most important areas and to even the smallest of organisations; building civil society capacities, improving conservation outcomes, strengthening networks and sharing best practices. In the [Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot](#), the RIT is entrusted to [BirdLife International](#) and its Partners [DOPPS](#) (BirdLife Slovenia) and [BPSSS](#) (BirdLife Serbia).