**Updating the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Mediterranean Hotspot**

**Questionnaire for National Coordinators**

Please respond to the best of your knowledge to the following questions in order to contribute to the updating of the Ecosystem Profile for your country.

The questions focus on just the area of your country which is located inside the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot boundary, so please answer with this in mind (check the attached map).

It is your role to complete this questionnaire. We encourage you to complete it to your best ability and then share it with relevant stakeholders so they can expand and add to the answers. Please circulate your draft questionnaire 2 weeks before the meeting (1 week minimum) so attendees have the opportunity to review it.

You will need to summarise the key questionnaire findings in a simple presentation as part of the national meeting. Your sub-regional coordinator will support you with this task and provide you with the presentation template.

After the meeting you will need to collect all input received and finalise the questionnaire by the 30th October.

If you have any queries, please contact your sub-regional coordinator.

**Socioeconomic Context of the Hotspot**

Please describe the socio-economic situation for the hotspot (as it relates to your country) by responding to the following questions:

1. What is the population in the hotspot and what are the trends in size and distribution? Tendency: Please indicate increasing, stable, decreasing. Add remarks (e.g. *movement to coastal areas*)

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|  | **Approximate number** | **Tendency** | **Remarks** |
| Lebanese | 5,989,847[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |
| Rural | 2,395,388 | Increasing | Excluding refugees |
| Urban, coastal | 3,593,908 | Increasing | Excluding refugees |

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|  | **Approximate number** | **Tendency** | **Remarks** |
| Syrian | 1,000,000[[2]](#footnote-2) | Increasing |  |
| Palestinian | Around 450,000[[3]](#footnote-3) | Increasing |  |
| Iraqi | 6,000[[4]](#footnote-4) | Increasing |  |

This makes it the **highest per-capita concentration of refugees worldwide, where one person out of four is a refugee.**

1. To what extent is the local population depending directly on the natural resources in the hotspot? Please score from 1 to 3, being 1 a limited dependency and 3 a heavy dependency. Add additional rows as required.

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| **Area in the hotspot** | **Dependency** | **Remarks** |
| Mountain | 3 | heavy dependency on wood for fuel, on plants and herbs for popular culinary and medicinal purposes, and montane pastures in dry season |
| Littoral | 3 | Heavy dependency on fishes and other sea fauna and flora for food |
|  |  | Heavy dependency on water resources for drinking, household and agriculture |

1. Are there different ethnic/cultural/religious groups in the hotspot? Do they have a distinctive use of the natural resources? Add additional rows as required.

Lebanon is a diversified country where it includes 2 religions (Christians & Muslim) with 18 sects.

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| **Ethnic/cultural/religious groups** | **Distinctive use of natural resources** |
| Nomads from areas outside the hotspot | Heavy dependency on summer pastures for grazing inside the hotspot |
| Refugees from areas outside Lebanon | Heavy dependency on wood for fuel, on culinary plants for food and sale, grazing pastures for their herd, and water resources |
| At least one or two religious groups from the hotspot | Kill owls for being considered a bad omen, Geckoes for religious believes, and protect doves and hoopoes for religious believes too. They massively use specific plants on certain events. |
| Gypsies of Lebanon called “Nawar” | Have men relying on women to work in the field while they stay jobless at home. In addition, Nawar women collect plants, mainly Origano and Malva and seasonally Myrtus and Chicory to sell them in streets. |

1. Is gender a relevant issue for o the hotspot? (e.g., do men and women have strongly different roles in the use of natural resources that could be addressed to improve conservation?) (please give most notable examples). Add additional rows as required.

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| **Gender issue** | **Distinctive role in the hotspot in the use of natural resources?** |
| Some women in mountain areas | Needs to work days to collect Gundelia tournefortii عكوب, long distance to bring water from springs, and collect branches from wood. |
| Women in rural areas | Are specialized in producing traditional handicraft and traditional food from wild flowers, seeds and leaves, and their product thereof. |
| Majority of adult men | Indiscriminate shooting of birds |

1. Relevant economic sectors depending on natural resources in the hotspot? Add additional rows as required.

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| **Economic sectors** | **Natural resources use** | **Impact on biodiversity** |
| Forestry | Wood cutting in natural forests in mountainous areas, man-made forest fires (Arson) | Loss of ancient woodlands and endemic flora like *Cyclamen libaniticum,* decrease in forest cover. |
| Traditional food | Wild plants, seeds and leaves processing | Studies to identify impact on biodiversity is in progress by Ministry of Agriculture especially for specific edible plants. |
| Agriculture | Water resources | Over extraction & pollution from mis-use of pesticides and fertilizers |
| Energy | Birds especially migrating species | Electrocution from high powerlines, wind farms on flyway |
| Waste management | Birds & mammals | poisoning |
| Hunting | Birds especially migrating species | Indiscriminate shooting |
| Tourism | Globally threatened turtles | Light & sound near breeding areas |

**Policy Context of the Hotspot**

Please describe the policy context for the hotspot (as it relates to your country), and answer the following questions. Please, score from 1 to 3 the significance, being 1 the least and 3 the most. Add additional rows as required.

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| **Policy issue** | **Significance** | **Impact on biodiversity** |
| Overlap of roles in biodiversity conservation | 2 | Patchy conservation |
| Decentralisation in protected areas management | 3 | Improved conservation |
| Political issues | 3 | Evaporation of biodiversity conservation priorities and negligence of the consequences. |
| Security issues | 3 | Absence of security encourages poaching and discourages Law respect |
| e.g. Decentralisation in the management of hunting | 3 | Proximity to hunting reserves and protected areas means that hunting legislations is now more effectively enforced.  Responsible Hunting Areas over the country secure more control over illegal hunting and remedy the insufficiency of national internal forces numbers. |

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| **Main laws, regulations and policies relating to natural resource management and financing for conservation** | **Year** | **Any remarks** |
| **Environmental Governance**  **Environment Law 444/2002** | **2002** | The law is an overarching  legal instrument for environmental  Protection and management. |
| Water  Law 221 and 241/2000Law 221 and 241 | **2000** | Reorganized Lebanon’s  21 water authorities and over 200 local  water committees into four new Water  Establishments plus the Litani River  Authority. |
| Air Quality  **Decision 8/1** | **2001** | Defined environmental  limit values for stack emissions and effluent  discharge from classified establishments,  waste water treatment plants, and  Hospitals. |
| **Biodiversity and Forests**  **Law 92** | **2010** | Banning all land uses inside  burnt forests to prevent future acts of  Arson. |
| **Land Resources**  **Decree 2366** | **2009** | Approved the National Land  Use Master Plan that was prepared in 2002-2004. |
| **Haphazard Urbanization):**  **Decree 8803** | 2002 | related to the quarry sector |
| **Solid Waste**  **Decree 8006** | 2002 | Categorized health care  waste and set guidelines for health care  waste management. |
| **Energy**  **Law 132** | 2010 | Related to the oil and gas activities in  Lebanese territorial waters. |
| **Forest Law (**The Forest Code (Law 85, 12/9/1991), amended by the Parliament in 1996 (Law 558, 24/7/96) |  | Related to forest management |
| **several laws for establishing nature reserves** |  | Laws establishing nature reserves |
| **Hunting Law 580** | 2004 | Relating hunting management |

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| **Main conservation agencies and authorities** | **Mandate related to biodiversity** | **Any remarks** |
| *Parliamentarian*  *Committee for Environment* | MOE resources, air  pollution from the transport sector, the Naameh  landfill, road safety, Sukleen contracts, forest  fires, pollution in the Litani River and Qaroun  Lake, Hunting management, and miscellaneous other environmental  development issues. | Has 12 permanent  Members of Parliament (MPs) |
| *Ministry of Environment* | The mandate of the MOE was amended by Law 690/2005 and the long-awaited restructuring  of the ministry was enacted four years later by Decree 2275 (dated 15/06/2009). This decree  defines the function and responsibilities of each  unit including staff size and qualifications. | The ministry prepared a  work plan for the period 2010-2012 in line with  the government declaration and with a focus on  multilateral environmental agreements ratified  by the GOL |
| Ministry of Agriculture | Its mandate includes management of forests & marine resources. |  |
| Ministry of Energy and Water | Its mandate include management of water resources |  |
| The Council for Development and Reconstruction [CDR] (Department of Land Use Planning and Environment) | The responsibilities of the CDR are specified to three main tasks: complying a plan and a time schedule for the resumption of reconstruction and of development, guaranteeing the funding of projects presented, supervising their execution after ensuring an adequate environmental impact assessment report. | The Council for Development and Reconstruction was established through [Decree No. 5 dated 31st January 1977](http://www.cdr.gov.lb/eng/decree5e.pdf).  CDR developed national Land use Plan in 2002 -2004. |
| Higher Council of Urban Planning | Makes recommendations on urban planning projects and regulations, and large-scale development projects. | Presided by the Directorate General for Urban Planning (DGUP) |
| National Council for Quarries | Regulating Quarries and Crushers | Chaired by MOE  Decree No. 8803 dated 04/10/2002 defines quarries and crushers and prohibits their setting neither on natural sites, nature reserves, regional and national parks, nor in the vicinity of rivers and streams. |
| Higher Council for Hunting | Organize the hunting and protect non game species and ensure sustainable harvesting | Also chaired by MOE |
| National Emergency Response Committee | In response to recurrent national and international disasters, the GOL established  the National Emergency Response Committee  (NERC) (COM Decision 103/2010 dated  29/11/2010 amended by COM Decision  104/2010 dated 13/12/2010). | The committee  comprises 22 members representing the  ministries of National Defence, Interior and  Municipalities, Public Health, Public Works and  Transport, Telecommunications, Environment,  Energy and Water, Education and Higher Education, and Information as well as the Civil Defence and the Lebanese Red Cross. |

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| **Main priorities identified in National Biodiversity Actions as required under the CBD** | **Any remarks** |
| Need to conserve threatened species | Lack of National species red list |
| The genetic resources merit high level protection | Awareness is needed to promote genetic resources conservation |
| Need to complete protected areas network | Lack of representativeness of all ecosystems in the country, lack of national plan for protected areas based on scientific assessments |
| All natural ecosystems should sustainably be managed and properly considered in spatial planning implementation | Studies of ecosystems are very limited in the country |
| Need to develop rehabilitation and restoration plans for ecosystems to safeguard the sustained delivery of their services. | Degraded ecosystems are not inventoried yet. |

**Civil Society Context of the Hotspot**

Which organisations are active in the hotspot? Include relevant development and community organisations and academic institutions

Include networks. Add additional rows as required.

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| **Name** | **Scope: International/regional/national/local** | **Focus of activities** |
| IUCN | International | Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development |
| National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) | National | Promoting research and advise ministries at national level |
| Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI) | National | Research related to Food and Agriculture |
| Society for the protection of Nature in Lebanon | National | Wildlife management |
| Shouf Cedar Society | National | Ecotourism and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development for Shouf Nature Reserve |
| Association for the protection of Jabal Moussa | National | Ecotourism and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development for Jabal Mousa reserve |
| Association for Forest, Development and Conservation - AFDC | National | Forests management |
| Litani River authority | National | Protection of Litani River from threatening factors |
| Lebanese Environment Forum | National network | Network for 48 environmental NGO |
| Green Party | National network |  |
| American University of Beirut | Academic Institution | Biodiversity Research |
| Balamand University | Academic Institution | Biodiversity Research |
| Lebanese University | Academic Institution | Biodiversity Research |
| Saint Joseph University (USJ) | Academic Institution | Biodiversity Research |
| Holy Spirit University of Kaslik -USEK | Academic Institution | Biodiversity Research |

Are there any issues significantly impacting the operations of civil society organisations?

Lack of appropriate funding

Are there any major gaps in civil society in the hotspot (*e.g. there are no civil society organisations in the south of the country*)?

No

**Threats to Biodiversity in the Hotspot**

With consideration of the IUCN red list species and KBAs in your country, and considering the IUCN list of threats (See attached list – please use the code and description of the threat as contained in the IUCN list). Add additional rows as required.

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| **Threat level** | **Threat (up to 3 per threat level in priority order)** | **Impact on biodiversity** | **Solutions** | **Contribution by Civil Society Organisations** |
| Species | 1.Residential & commercial development | Loss of endemic species due to change in land use | Identifying areas of endemic species to consider their protection in areas subject to human expansion | Carry out surveys to provide maps of endemic species that should be treated as sensitive areas by developers/lobbying & advocacy |
| 5. Biological resource Use/5.1 Hunting & collecting terrestrial animals | Ecosystem disequilibrium due to overharvesting and illegal hunting | Establishment of decentralized Responsible Hunting Areas that can be easily controlled | Contribute to controlling illegal killing of species and reporting about the globally threatened species harmed and monitoring the process/awareness campaign & capacity building/Advocacy & communication. |
| 8.1 Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases | Impacting the fish stocks | Develop an action Plan to reduce the harm of the invasive fish species, especially the poisonous ones.  Multidisciplinary and participative strategic planning to minimize the impact of invasive species | Increase awareness of fishermen and swimmers about the invasive alien species and the ways to protect their fishing nets |
| KBA | 7. Natural System Modifications/7.1 Fire & fire suppression | Modification of ecosystems and threatening the KBA | Adopt Forest Fire early warning System | Disseminate information provided by the system in order to avoid establishment of fire and to be ready to supress fire/Awareness campaigns& capacity building/Advocacy & communication.. |
| 7. Natural System Modifications/7.2 Dams & Water Management/Use | The construction of dams is threatening sensitive KBAs by reducing water flows | Strategic and site-level planning of power infrastructure needs to be adequately considered to avoid biodiversity impacts | CSO can undertake sites monitoring to provide information for planning and assessment purposes. CSO may consider changing the dam site/Advocacy for proper EIA studies. |
| Habitat | 9. Pollution/9.1 Domestic & urban waste water  9.3 Agricultural & Forestry Effluents  9.4 Garbage & solid waste | Air, soil, water pollution that can threaten the life of species in their habitats in sea, river or on land | Development of strategic plan to minimize the impact of pollution on the behaviour and health of species & their habitats, as well as on health of human being. | CSO should encourage and guide communities on separation of garbage at home and encourage recycling at national level. CSO may increase awareness of people on the bad impact of garbage burning on health of species. CSO can help in awareness of farmers on proper use of pesticides & fertilizers.  CSOs can organize awareness campaigns on impact solid waste on globally threatened turtles. |
| 2. Agriculture & Aquaculture/2.3.2 Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming | Convert habitats and impact ecosystem services | Establish rotational grazing and prohibit overgrazing | CSO should encourage and provide support to municipalities and protected areas managers to design and implement a grazing plan at local level |
| 11. Climate Change and Severe Weather/11.2 Droughts | Destroy biodiversity and cause species decline | Drought preparedness through Prediction, Monitoring, Impact assessment and Response. Mitigate impact of drought through appropriate management. | Influence the government decisions, and increase the public awareness on the issues of climate change, advocate decision-makers with knowledge provided by research, and provide mitigation measures and solutions for communities. |

**Climate Change Assessment**

With consideration to the impacts of Climate Change in hotspot in your country, please respond to the following questions:

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| **Issues** | **Remarks** |
| What are the expected impacts of climate change on biodiversity in your country? | Decline in species; change of habitat, flyway, timing; reduction in genetic diversity, loss and fragmentation of habitats. Severe drought that may cause crop failure and livestock mortality. Excessive rain may cause floods.  Ecosystems will lose their productivity… |
| What climate change policies, mitigation measures and adaption opportunities are relevant to your country? | The Climate Change and Environment in the Lebanon Program aims to understand the climate change and environment policy process in the region and define the most appropriate policy recommendations by linking development in applied sciences on issues related to climate change and environment to social sciences. For instance, Lebanon follows the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations, to keep global warming below 2 °C, emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be reduced between 80 % and 95 % by 2050.  The Mitigation measures are those reducing climate change threats to species and habitats while adaptation opportunities are those coming from increasing the resilience of species and habitats to climate change. |
| What role can civil society play in addressing climate change impacts and opportunities in your country; and what challenges may they face | Civil Society can promote positive changes, represent main impacted groups, influence the government decisions, and increase the public awareness on the issues of climate change, advocate decision-makers with knowledge provided by research. Civil society plays key roles in pushing for new laws, programmes, policies or strategies on climate change, in holding governments to account on their commitments; in identifying the lack of joined-up government responses to climate change; and in ensuring that national policy making does not forget the poor and vulnerable.  CSOs can play a major role in providing adaption measures to support communities & increase their resilience to climate change. |
| What is the potential impact of the human response to climate change on biodiversity and natural areas (*e.g. human migration is likely to significantly increase pressure on natural resources in coastal areas*) | Migration of human and their livestock from resource poor to resource rich areas will likely result into conflicts between human-livestock-wildlife, a matter that will worsen the impact of climate change.  Increasing influx of refugee (especially Syrians) is affecting all natural resources worsening the impact of climate change. |

**Assessment of Current Conservation Investment**

Which national, multilateral or bilateral agencies or donors are active in the hotspot in your country? Please consider development funding that directly or indirectly represents an investment in conservation in the hotspot. Please also consider investment in the country as a whole that directly or indirectly represents an investment in the hotspot. Add additional rows as required.

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| **Type (national, bilateral, multilateral, foundation, company, NGO)** | **Name of donor or agency** | **Themes of investment and areas of action (give project title if relevant)** | **Period covered by the investment (e.g. 2010-2020) Total invested**  **(2010-2015) (estimated in USD)** | **Amount of investment (give project budget if relevant)?** |
| Multilateral | Global Environment Fund-GEF |  |  |  |
| Multilateral/Bilateral | European Union |  |  |  |
| Multilateral/Bilateral | MAVA Foundation |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | Hima Fund |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | CEPF |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | UN Women Fund for Gender Equality |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs- DGCS |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | Agence Française de Développement (AFD) |  |  |  |
| Bilateral | German Development Cooperation- GIZ |  |  |  |
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1. World Population Review, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UNHCR, 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNRWA, July 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. EU ECHO factsheet, – Lebanon: Syria crisis – May 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)