Nearly two years into CEPF’s five-year investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, $6 million has been allocated to 50 projects in 12 countries. For the next phase we have established a Hotspot Advisory Committee, which will examine the granting progress to-date and advise on the areas to focus on going forward. We met for the first time in January 2014 and will be incorporating our meeting outcomes in the next call for proposals.
The latest newsletter from the sustainable tourism project run by the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania in partnership with Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds is now available.

Libyan civil society and conservation

Meetings and the signing of an MoU between IUCN-Med and Environment General Authority; have been an important start to an IUCN-Med grant

The grass is always greener

A CEPF project in Jordan’s Wadi Mujib Biosphere Reserve is growing “green fodder” for livestock and helping to relieve grazing pressure. The project is designed to be replicated elsewhere in Jordan and the wider Middle East.

Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Eastern Mediterranean


Macedonian Lake sees conservation investment

The Macedonian Ecological Society is training young ecologists and helping create a local conservation group to monitor and protect Dojran Lake – an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
New project video online

A fantastic video from grantee the Al-Shouf Cedar Society in Lebanon from their project "Enhancing sustainable livelihoods and promoting community management of the Shouf Biosphere Reserve".

Removing aliens in the Cape Verde islands

SPEA and Biosfera 1 are removing introduced cats and mice, making Santa Lucia safe for the return of the Critically Endangered Raso Lark and helping the island's seabirds and reptiles to recover.

Spectacular photo feature

The 300th issue of the magazine Terre Sauvage is devoted to the world’s 34 biodiversity hotspots, and includes a special feature on CEPF’s investment in Tunisia.

New Grants in the Mediterranean

- Important Plant Areas in Lebanon: The University of Saint-Joseph has been awarded a grant to identify IPAs and establish micro-reserves which harbour rare and threatened plant species.
- The first large grant in Algeria; AREA-ED will be conducting research and local community workshops to support the designation of Jbel Babor as a protected area, in Massif de Babor.

- Identifying ecosystem services in Albania: The Women At Work Initiative will be producing a master plan for the recovery of the spring water ecosystem in Lalzi Bay.

See the full list of projects

Quick Facts:
Total large grants: 28 grants; $5,497,882
Total small grants: 22 grants; $399,907

RIT News and Upcoming events:
- The RIT is very happy to announce Pierre Carret as the CEPF Grant Director for the Mediterranean Hotspot. Pierre has already been working on the North African region and replaces John Watkin in overseeing the whole Mediterranean portfolio, and looks forward to working with all our grantees.

- There will be a CEPF Supervision Mission in the Balkans from Monday 24th March 2014. The CEPF-RIT team will be meeting grantees with active projects in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro.

- The latest call for small grants produced 40 project applications. The projects have been under review by the Regional Implementation Team and external reviewers, and all applicants will be notified in the coming days.