

Darwin Initiative Capability & Capacity: Final Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes.

Submission Deadline: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	DARCC033
Project title	Marine Preservation And Coastal Poor Livelihood Betterment Through Sustainable Fishing
Country(ies)	LEBANON
Lead Organisation	Friends of Nature
Project partner(s)	GHADI, Fishing in Lebanon
Darwin Initiative grant value	180,290.00
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2023 - 31/03/2025
Project Leader's name	Myrna Semaan
Project website/blog/social media	www.f-o-n.org insta: fonlebanon twitter: @FONLebanon fb: Friends of Nature FON
Report author(s) and date	Stacie Moutran, Myrna Semaan, Solange Sfeir, 30 June 2025

1 Project Summary

The global food crisis and sharp local financial crisis are driving the vulnerable and poor of Lebanon to desperate conditions. This project was designed to support livelihood of coastal poor to practice sustainable fishing and advocate marine biodiversity protection for mutual benefits. The project developed tools and practices to enable the capacity of poor communities to comprehend and employ the marine environment for livelihood, and had their capability augmented to start practicing within the measures of sustainability and law enforcement. The project also strengthened marine conservation through spreading awareness on marine ecosystem sustainability to enhance community-based biodiversity protection; complementarily, it enabled newly-established marine protected areas to play their role effectively and efficiently with proper guidance on management needs and priority actions. Engaging stakeholders to network and document biodiversity consolidated a participatory approach to improve sustainability of marine resources against threats and exploitation. With these three components, which are scalable and replicable, the project addressed national concerns, and pioneered a national trend to support poverty reduction in the poor, marginalized and vulnerable coastal communities through sustainable fishing interrelating both livelihood and marine productivity for survival and protection of marine resources. Innovative approaches to address marine sustainability were pioneered as well, from the first mural for a marine cause, the first

marine database and the first community-based network of knowledge and advocacy developed to raise marine sustainability to new horizons.

2 Project Partnerships

At the start of the project, we had declared 2 partners, Ghadi and Fishing in Lebanon network. During implementation we gained many more from capable enthusiastic advocates to collaborating entities.

In each of the communities we addressed, we collaborated with municipalities and with pivotal community members who mobilize their communities. Now, we have dependable relations with 20 municipalities and communities of coastal towns; the relationships we nursed will inspire new collaborations. (1.2a indicator [reference contacts](#)) In most communities, trainings were hosted at municipalities.

With the assistance of municipalities, local NGOs and community mobilizers, FON could reach the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities and engage them on the project. We could address some of the most reserved and closed communities to participate for their own benefit. We diffused the information on the project to the communities; interested individuals came and registered their participation on registration days. We filled profiles and then judged their eligibility based on their need and state. (refer to [1.2c data on community participants](#))

Ghadi partnered on videography component. Divers were sent to film the marine environment; many challenges were faced. Stormy days, high currents, turbulence, wind and many other factors make the sea water turbid and murky. It is very important to give marine surveying and filming more than ample time because many influential factors may affect the course of the work and are not easy to discern. Several times divers tried to explore the reserve areas, but found it inconvenient to capture rushes on biodiversity. Nonetheless, the recording of biodiversity was rewarding and provided good insight to marine life and habitat diversity. As to documentary development, we discovered that the production team must be sensitive to nature photography and marine environment to create a marvellous experience on film, otherwise it leaves much to be desired unfortunately. (refer to [videos](#))

'Fishing in Lebanon' network was highly supportive to expand the range of outreach of our activities, and assist us every step from engagement to training to conservation. They are partnering on the MaRe Network too. This project has strengthened our collaboration that we will continue to support, collaborate and plan for marine activities together. We are currently planning several initiatives.

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outputs

Output 1: With the aim to enable coastal community poor to develop independent sustainable livelihood source from the marine environment, as planned over [300 \(313\) coastal community](#) members (age 18-35) (51.7% women) received structured vocational training on sustainable fishing. The first intensive [vocational course](#) of 4 days for developing marine fishing skills into livelihood career was designed and implemented; after internal verification of the modules, the course was used throughout the trainings. Monitoring and evaluation of trainees' feedback supported applying the course without further modifications. Beneficiary feedback was always positive and appreciative of the level of knowledge and skills they acquired, ensuring the delivery of aspired objectives. The [capacity of beneficiaries](#) was also enhanced with a tool kit distributed to each participant to start their self-generated livelihood, and provide the good example to abide by regulations and practices of sustainable fishing. Social media promotion and exposure of the trainings was extensive. A documentary to portray the capacity building process and impact was prepared and is publicly available to expand exposure and influence (ref: [Output 1 – Sustainable Fishing Course Material](#))

Output 2: the impact of the trainings and their sustainability is recognized from the number of beneficiaries who truly practiced the learnings, and expanded the knowhow beyond themselves to advocate marine conservation and sustainable fishing. We maintained regular contact with the beneficiaries through a what'sapp group per community; trainees/beneficiaries communicated evidence of their practices and records of their fishing.

Accordingly, 120 beneficiaries (instead of the planned 90 beneficiaries) are practising sustainable fishing for livelihood support (72.5% women) on regular basis and maintain contact with FON (reference [presented](#)); a 33% increase in beneficiary target is scored attesting the success of the trainings and the need of the served communities. On the level of transmitting the knowhow and influencing their surroundings, 94 beneficiaries (62% women) instead of the planned target of 60 beneficiaries are engaging in training others in their surrounding or beyond. The new trainees include family members, friends, and community (reference [presented](#)). A 58% increase in the target threshold was achieved revealing the long-term impact of the undertaken trainings and the sincere and well-rooted interest that the trainings established among the trainees. (kindly refer to lists of participants, their activities and visual evidence on the tagged worksheets).

Surprisingly, transfer of skills was used for humanitarian purposes; one of our trained teams trained Lebanese displaced from the war attack zone. Here, it is inescapable to highlight the impact of the 2024 summer war; due to war effect, direct warnings and general security caution, the shoreline grew inaccessible and avoided. Also, some of our trainees and their communities were displaced; 2 of our training communities were shelled but luckily without losses in lives. In the same context, we are proud to inform you that our Tripoli youth beneficiaries trained the displaced youth on sustainable fishing using their own kits. This compelled FON to launch a ["Fishing for Unity"](#) campaign where stakeholders joined us for a fishing day and the catch was offered to displacement centers to be cooked for the displaced.

Also proudly, 4 beneficiaries have joined us in the MaRe Network representing their communities and connecting with their marine landscape.

(full ref: [Output 2 – Participant Engagement](#)).

Output 3: strengthening marine conservation is imperative to enhance marine productivity and help repopulate threatened and pressured habitats; it will in turn better support sustainable fishing as a well-providing livelihood source. On this project, divers conducted biodiversity survey at 3 newly established MPAs (Abbassieh, Enfe, Byblos); the marine biologist identified the existing species to determine the marine wealth. Findings outlined 48 marine species in Byblos, 82 in Enfe, and 76 in Abbassieh MPA (findings [presented](#)). These records are only the preliminary survey of the sites under all measures of challenges, we imagine that should thorough marine biodiversity surveys be conducted, these marine landscapes will prove surprisingly rich stemming from their habitat diversity.

Terrestrial and marine reviews of the MPAs were also conducted to inform of the diversity of habitats and the status of the ecosystem, as well as the range of threats and their impact. A management plan was produced for each of the MPAs (management plans [presented](#)); each plan was subject to stakeholder consultation (results [presented](#)). The consulted and engaged stakeholders included Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tourism, Marine Research Centre at the National Centre for Scientific Research, the Civil Defence Police, and other. The Ecosystem Department of the Ministry of Environment was highly supportive. The management plans were finalized and copies provided to the respective municipalities.

Building on Initiatives: Employing the success and outputs of this highly impactful project, FON expanded the management plan of Abbassieh MPA to a 5 years management plan; we also developed a corresponding 5-year action plan (herewith [presented](#)). We are applying to the MedFund to help implement this management, as we will also do for the other 2 MPAs. FON wishes for BCF support as a referee.

Outreach material in the form of booklet and documenting video were developed for each MPA to help strengthen conservation and empower community engagement (evidence [presented](#)). Delivered to the respective municipality and MPA reserve team, the outreach material will be

used to engage their communities on protection of their resources and to control threats. They will also assist at introducing general public to the MPAs providing insight on their significance and their assets in biodiversity and habitats. The narratives of the booklets and storyboard of the videos were developed to serve the above defined objectives. The booklets were produced in 2 languages, English and Arabic, to broaden the target public. 4000 booklet copies were printed for each MPA, half in English and half in Arabic, instead of the provisioned 1000 copies and for nearly the same allocated price, giving the MPAs, municipalities and communities much higher capability to engage visitors.

In collaboration with the respective municipalities, FON held community engagement workshops at the respective communities, and together with municipalities [distributed](#) the booklets to participants.

Building on Initiatives: FON solicited a small IUCN fund to promote Blue Tourism in Enfe coastal town. On 31 May 2025, we brought 15 different Media entities to walk a cultural trail that FON developed for Enfe to enhance tourism while engaging the local community and our trainees. The MPA constituted the essence of the trail of course. Enfe municipality proudly offered each Media entity a copy of the booklet that was certainly put into effective use. The contribution of DI-UK Government was emphasized during the visit, showcasing the thankful support received to expose the significance and potentials of the MPA and to advance the delivery of the MPA's inter/national and local roles at supporting community and biodiversity together.

(full ref: [Output 3 – strengthening MPAs](#))

Output 4: Addressing the need to engage coastal community at large on conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, FON designed workshops to spread awareness of the marine resources and ecosystems, as well as the role of communities to arrive at good benefits they would reap from marine preservation.

Community Workshops: While the original plan was to visit the communities at their coastal towns to inspire their endorsement for marine conservation, the war of summer 2024 forced a good number of communities of the southern coastal cities to displace, and the rest of the country to become hosting communities. Under the social, political, psychological, financial and other pressures, we were perplexed at identifying appropriate ways and means to reach communities and win their attention under the prevailing challenges. Then, we reinvented the message of the project. We realized that addressing displaced communities and reflecting with them on the importance of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity at their hometowns, will enforce the desire to learn and contribute, bring them hope of returning to their coastal towns, and surely add to their knowledge and perception at a time when they most need to connect to life and the living and to a brighter future when they will be active again. We redesigned the workshop to address the [displaced Lebanese](#), and established new channels of contacts with the Ministry of Social Affairs and its satellite bases to acquire the [permission](#) to address the displaced and visit the displacement centres. Delivering awareness to the displaced was tiring, but highly mutually rewarding; we did not feel helpless and they established new relationship with their coastal towns and sea. The displaced groups pertained to different coastal areas, which allowed more interaction and immediate networking. (evidence [presented](#))

As the displaced returned and the hosting communities relaxed, we returned to addressing non-displaced resident communities at their hometowns. (evidence [presented](#))

A little short of the 600 target, 593 participants from 27 communities, rather than 20 communities, were engaged and strengthened their connection and commitment to protect the marine environment for biodiversity and livelihood.

FON invested additional effort to diversify the target audience to reach larger public for larger impact; we presented the project at large community gatherings and at coastal university awareness day over and above the set community targets. (evidence [presented](#))

The MaRe (Marine Restoration) Network: was established with 17 members, instead of the set target of 25 members, to be the first community-based network for marine restoration and information gathering (signatories [presented](#)). The network members have direct and continuous relation with their marine environments, span the whole of the coast of Lebanon (north to south), and bring a diversity of backgrounds through profession, skills, knowledge and experience; they include life-long divers, marine biologist, researches, marine citizen science trainers, our sustainable fishing trainer, and some of our best trainees on sustainable fishing. We will continue to engage professional and qualitative members to the network as we advance in our goals.

Preambles and mandate of the network were prepared, shared for discussion and finally signed by the members (evidence [presented](#)). The network is active at delivering insights to the decision makers in the ministries of environment and agriculture on various topics, such as the need to halt fishing by explosions ([herewith shared](#)). FON and the MaRe Network are also collaborating on developing new projects to solicit funds for implementation. We hope that BCF team would act as a referee to endorse our applications.

The first database for marine biodiversity was developed with over 109 species (records [presented](#)). Photos of the species were gained from the diving trips for biodiversity recording at the MPAs. MaRe Network members also contributed their photos and are credited for their contributions in the database. The database is accessible at <https://f-o-n.org/lebanon-biodiversity/>

(full ref: [output4 – communal engagement](#))

3.2 Outcome

(0.1) As a result of this project, the sustainability and conservation of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity gained broad community endorsement. Motivation to care for the marine environment has augmented, people grew more sensibilized to view the marine environment as a living medium. A popular expression we received from the engaged public was: “we did not know that the sea or marine beings live like that”. This asserts the objectives for the development of this project where we highlighted that the Lebanese understanding of the sea is limited to leisure and economic aspects.

FON keeps receiving calls from communities wanting to engage on sustainable fishing or be active in marine actions. Importantly, our beneficiaries are promoting their experience to their larger surrounding; our social media also played a fundamental role at exposing the project and its outcomes. Convinced and conscientiously, FON admits that the project has attained lasting impact and transformed the means and tools that Lebanese officials and communities perceive and treat the marine environment; time will ascertain the lasting impact on the broader target base.

(0.1a) 51 trained citizens offer us **conservation and threat feedback** on different communities and marine localities ([herewith shared](#)). We would like to highlight a rewarding story: one trainee from Chekka group inspired Hamat youth to take the training; the trained Hamat team thereafter wanted to protect their shoreline. On discussions, we realized that Hamat had a historical Mediterranean Monk Seal resting cave. Besides, FON is collaborating with IUCN-MED on seal conservation, and we did the first national sighting review in 2023. FON advocated with SPA/RAC and the Ministry of Environment to support professional exploration of the cave on one of their projects; now, FON and local trainees will build on the results of the exploration for evidence-based conservation. Trainees/beneficiaries are not only engaged on reporting back, but are also developing their own approaches and priorities on marine conservation.

(0.1b) The **MaRe Network** is connecting with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, but we did not meet the ministers in their offices. Feedback is relayed to the Ministry of Environment through the Head of the Ecosystem Department, who was on all our stakeholders' consultations. The Minister of Agriculture receives our messages directly, or through heads of departments. MaRe Network is also reaching out to ministries through official letters to inform of violations and targets. (details [herewith shared](#))

(0.1c,d,e) For **sustainable impact and large public engagement**, this project has pioneered the first community-based network for marine restoration and reporting, the first marine

database, and has mobilized the endorsement of 593 community members in 27 communities to care for the conservation of marine assets. (refer to [presented map](#) and [output4 – communal engagement](#))

(0.2) For **strengthening marine conservation**, 3 MPAs out of the total 5 MPAs in Lebanon were provided foundational support on this project. The 3 MPAs include a newly declared reserve (Abbassieh) and 2 MPAs requiring law ratification by the Lebanese parliament to be officially established. The 2 older MPAs were long established; the first of them was created by FON in 1992. Thus, the support availed through this project is not measured by the number of MPAs only, but very importantly by the accompaniment of the recent rise in MPA development to advance and expand this trend, as well as strengthen the latest MPAs to become effective rapidly and play their roles efficiently. The 3 MPAs now have management plans; reserve committees and municipalities were also made aware and alert to threats and priorities to best manage the sites. The significance of each of the MPAs is outlined and rendered accessible and attractive to public eye in the produced booklets and documentaries. Collectively, FON has offered unprecedented support to MPAs, and became a non-state influential actor in marine conservation. (references [herewith shared](#))

MPA visitation: In the duration of this project, Lebanon faced two summers of instability and insecurity at the southern border and then internally, adding to the pressures of the dire economic collapse. Summer is the high season for MPA visits, but in both summers of 2023 and 2024 conditions were not favourable; reserve visitation was not structured, and monitoring was not easy to conduct either. Abbassieh MPA was totally closed due to proximity to the border. General public mood did not support visitation to the other MPAs; internal tourism stopped and foreigners did not travel to Lebanon. This is the only component of the project that was beyond our capacity to reduce or annul the impact of the war and its aftermath. Threat abatement and control and promotion of visitation are addressed in the management plans; once the MPAs are active, the plans will provide substantial guidance to enhance visitation and control threats. FON is trying to solicit funds for the implementation of the management plans.

(0.3) **Marine sustainability and conservation grew actively endorsed** by the local poor and marginalized coastal communities; their endorsement is a direct result to the capacity building they were offered for the first time to take the sea as their livelihood source under sustainable fishing to promote self-dependent survival means. The sustainable self-dependence is tightly linked to preservation of the source of livelihood being the marine environment and biodiversity, thus, attaining and advocating conservation goals became fundamental. Convincing stakeholders of project objectives and the novel approach toward the marine environment were difficulty at the start of the project. After sensing the importance of the trainings and satisfaction with the quality and novelty of knowledge they received, the trainees and their communities started helping out in outreach. For example, Wardanieyh stakeholders inspired Anout community to take the training, who in turn influenced Jiyeh youth to connect and request training. This is just a reflection on the propagation of the impact of project achievements at community level and the level of endorsement of local communities to the value and approach of the project at alleviating poverty through sustainable fishing livelihood creation. We committed to have by end of project 120 community members fishing actively and training others; actually, we reached 95 community trainers and 120 regular practitioners of sustainable fishing. The project achieved remarkable results in just 2 years under very challenging situations, the engagement of women and women percentages are outstanding (50-70% depending on activity). (reference to of [trainees practicing](#) and [training communities](#).)

(0.4) 92 of our sustainable fishing trainees (61% female) all of them in the youth range (18-35 years old) attained **fundamental transformation in their livelihood** support. For example, Mohammad Dawood (m), Khalil Harb (m), Malak Hadayfe (f) are now catching in the good season about 30 kg per week; they are making around 20-25\$ in fish value to either support their families or exchange in the market for other goods. These trainees and many others had no jobs, no regular income and no career; with the sustainable fishing vocational training and capacity

building, they won a self-career, using their own time to make a living and visiting the sea at their own availability for as many hours as they need. They surely abide by the instructions for sustainable fishing catching the mature fish and releasing or avoiding the small and spawning season. (report [herewith shared.](#))

Another life transformation experience was supporting our trainees to engage in a competition on a [blue economy initiative](#). They started with FON training with zero marine knowledge; they ended up with such a capacity that helped them to win the prize. But what is most important is that months later they sent us photos having truly created their winning idea of a marine pedalo and putting the pedalo to operation (reference [presented](#)). It makes us proud of the commitment, integrity, innovativeness and persistence of our trainees/beneficiaries. We changed not their livelihood but the scope of their life.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumptions were monitored throughout the course of the project.

Assumption 1: Socio-political stability is maintained and conducive of project implementation

Comments: In August 2023, the South of Lebanon turned to a region of armed conflict with limited accessibility. FON had launched community engagement in the south, but trainings were forcibly stopped. Thereafter, we shifted our location priority and started community engagement in the north while monitoring the situation in the south. Finally, we could train to the outskirts of Sidon but not beyond; we intensified trainings in the accessible regions to compensate for the southern communities.

In summer 2024, the war situation escalated to worse conditions forcing displacement and limitations on mobility. Again, FON had to find a solution; we turned the calamity to an opportunity to reconnect with the southern communities but in their displacement centres. We motivated these communities to advance their respect for the marine environment back home. As such, we overcame the impact of war another time with minor losses to the outputs and outcomes of the project, as we had done throughout our history. (ref: in [presented map](#)).

Assumption 2: Social and gender barriers are not accentuated to deter poor communities from expressing individual's choices.

Comments: we engaged some of the poorest communities who have social, cultural and religious specificities; luckily, we have not encountered any social or gender barriers in any community. Women participation was favourable; we never faced the social stigma that the sea environment is inappropriate for women or for a cultural group. This is a real success for the project and for our engagement & communication skills at approaching socio-culturally or religiously reserved communities (ref: [lady participants](#))

Assumption 3: Public sector dilapidation does not influence the progress of the project. Project activities are designed to alienate requirements for governmental and public sector involvement to be on the safe side.

Comments: the assumption held true; the project did not require any official endorsements at a time when the public sector was almost inexistent. In spite of the state of dilapidation, concerned officials of the ministries welcomed collaboration and participated in stakeholder consultations. Head of the Ecosystem Department of the Ministry of Environment provided all support and attended all meetings with the MPA municipalities. (ref: [herewith shared](#))

Assumption 4: Banking system assumes stability and efficiency of furthering financial procedures.

Comments: Banking procedures faced some limitations that are currently applied in the country, such as limits on withdrawals and other, but they were well managed and did not influence the progress of the project. Exchange rates fluctuated; when possible, FON supported financially until good rates were observed to maintain consistency of the paid rates especially for FON staff and the people we committed to.

Assumption 5: Internet is stable to allow beneficiaries to connect with us regularly & cheaply.

Comments: Internet connectivity was interrupted or stopped sometimes in certain areas; connectivity was restored after a period of 1-2 days, so we reconnected with communities. It was equally difficult to communicate during war times, but we did overcome this with persistence.

Assumption 6: Fuel prices and supply do not express exaggerated fluctuations beyond the capacity of the project to absorb

Comments: Fuel prices increased with the global markets, but not to deterring rates. Fuel remained available during the instability period, so we progressed with our activities without fuel cuts or shortages.

In conclusion, the pathway to change remained valid, conclusive and effective. The project inspired change at all levels and played a transformational role at changing peoples' mindsets, understanding of the marine environment, and corresponding behaviour shifting from exploitation to sustainability.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

4.1 Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

- Integrally, the project combines actions that address a number of SDGs and the CBD; it focuses on poverty reduction via sustainable food source and livelihood from the marine riches while instilling the understanding of sustainable fishing combined with protection of life at sea. The project directly serves SDGs 1,2,3,5,6,8,11,12,13,14,17. The vocational course also presents these SDGs while explaining to participants the objectives of the project, the assistance we bring, and the impact we want to achieve. (ref: [vocational](#) course content).
- Strengthening marine conservation at the MPAs, producing data on marine organisms, and generating coastal community engagement to protect the marine ecosystem support the implementation of the CBD. (ref: [Output 3 – strengthening MPAs](#))
- CBD and CMS were served by making communities understand the importance of marine ecosystem, habitats and species, as well as the need to protect all in order to have a productive sea that they can depend on for their livelihood. Endangered and rare marine species were focused on to explain our communal responsibility to protect them throughout their lifecycle and in their respective habitats. Many migratory marine species were discussed (marine birds, sea turtles, Mediterranean monk seal,...); species migration is explained from an ecological dimension and conservation perspective too (ref: [vocational](#) course content).
- Our marine surveys contribute to enhance knowledge of biodiversity and species distribution especially in the MPAs. The survey of Abbassieh constitutes the first marine reporting at this MPA. These results feed into the NBSAP confirming the wealth of the 3 supported MPAs.
- Development of MPA management plans contribute to NBSAP and national strategy for marine conservation, as well as international guidelines to support MPAs; it also supports the requirements for implementation of conservation.
- The marine database also strengthens knowledge dissemination and reporting on marine biodiversity, which again satisfies CBD and NBSAP commitments. (records herewith [presented](#))
- ABS is treated through instilling the understanding of maintaining schools of species to preserve genetic vigor, and through protecting migration since Lebanon uses the resources of the Mediterranean.
- Climate change impact forms part of the training on the value of seas and oceans to the global and local climate, and to the contribution of vibrant and living oceans to stabilize the climate leading to the role of all of us to keep the sea alive (ref: [vocational](#) course content). On the other hand, enhancing conservation and preservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity directly supports climate adaptation of coastal communities as well as mitigation efforts since vibrant oceans constitute effective carbon sinks.

The project has also contributed significantly to the understanding and implementation of national policies and laws, especially those pertaining to fishing and marine conservation. The vocational course and trainings, management plans, booklets and videos all emphasize implementation of aspects of national laws.

Accordingly, the project advanced the implementation of the marine component of NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs at over 40 coastal communities and in 3 MPAs as pioneering modules for national application and impact. Additionally, at least one community, Hamat community has requested our support to protect their pristine coastline and seal cave. The Ecosystem Department of the

Ministry of Environment, who is the focal point for the above conventions and policies, was informed of project objectives, and engaged on stakeholder consultations.

4.2 Project support to biodiversity conservation and multidimensional poverty reduction

The goal of the project was to create a long-lasting transformational change in the way the Lebanese perceive the sea, evaluate its significance as living ecosystem and the determinant factors in its productivity, and to benefit from the productivity sustainably for alleviating poverty in the coastal zone.

- 1- We constructed and implemented the foundations to enable this change to happen through creating the first vocational training and setting a pioneering concept for building the capacity of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable coastal communities on the sustainable use of the sea for livelihood.
- 2- Selection of the right communities and the members who fit the criteria of 'poverty' (low, unsteady, or unsecured income) were treated carefully to ensure that project outcome will lead to poverty alleviation. We adhered to the selection criteria because of their relevance to the mission.
- 3- Margins for the age group (18-35) of trainees were well defined to engage youth in order to help transmit the information back to the whole family through its providing members, and to ensure that the training will support the family for a long time and will influence other members to adopt through within-family training and then beyond.
- 4- We extended the capacity building to 313 trainees/beneficiaries in 41 coastal communities to allow a wide spread impact on national scale, and to assist as many of the communities ([presented map](#)). 120 beneficiaries (72.5% females) sent us feedback via what'sapp indicating their continued application of trainings through project lifetime to secure livelihood; 94 beneficiaries (62% females) provided information on expanding the training and knowhow to others; youth trained their fathers or brothers and sisters, and went fishing together, as we expected.
- 5- These may not be all the practicing trainees, some may not wish to reconnect, and some may have been influenced by the summer wars but will return to fishing when their social circumstances resolve.
- 6- A wide diversity of communities was engaged smoothly integrating their social, cultural and religious backgrounds and differences toward the one goal of preserving the marine ecosystem for sustainable livelihood generation. In that, we promoted inclusivity at the level of communities and individuals; we did not alienate, disparage or prejudge any community or individual by any discriminatory factor. In Lebanon, this is an immense achievement by itself knowing the socio-political, cultural and religious divides and tensions.
- 7- 50%-70% of beneficiaries were women. The project evidently placed women at the center of marine activity, a fact that was previously tabooed, and treated sarcastically. Women participation was documented and promoted on social media throughout project activities to expand the impact and spread the message.
 - a. It made our sustainable fishing expert lady a star on social media and an idol to emulate.
 - b. Our lady trainees surpassed social, cultural and religious barriers on the trainings and marine activities, as publicly viewed, even though they came from restrictive environments, reserved communities, of different religions, in addition to being marginalized, vulnerable and poor. In that, we have marked the precedence for women engagement from such communities on marine causes.

Conclusively, the project truly pioneered the first capacity building that addresses poverty alleviation employing marine resources sustainably for a sustainable livelihood. The feedback of the trainees asserts the importance of the vocational training and its impact on them. The way we structured the trainings between theoretical and practical hands-on was a very successful strategy to enhance learning and intensify knowledge uptake in a short time. Beneficiaries practicing their skills consistently as they conveyed verifies the capacity this project generated at treating poverty through sustainable fishing for better livelihood and marine recovery.

- 8- Reaching a larger community base to create a stronger connection with the marine environment in order to support broader poverty reduction and advance awareness on the value of marine sustainability for coastal livelihood interconnectedly with the importance of marine conservation to replenish marine riches for nature and people's benefit, 593 members from 27 communities of similar status as the above were engaged and trained.
 - a. To reach 593 members from a wide spectrum of communities varied by geography, culture, education, profession, etc., under 2 wars, high instability and crises situation is definitely an achievement.
 - b. In the communities that did not suffer from displacement, we were successful at connecting the communities to the sustainable fishing trainees/beneficiaries for further mutual benefits and recognition, such as in Enfe and Byblos; however, this was difficult to take place with the displaced communities.

Conclusively, the project verifiably scored the first national engagement and training of that size on a marine objective; emphatically, it scored this massive unprecedented outreach in the designated target communities, knowing their specificities and what that represents in the socio-economic fabric. Combinedly between the sustainable fishing trainings and the community-based training, FON and the project has addressed the largest geographical coastal zone effectively and constructively ([presented map1](#); [presented map2](#)).

- 9- With sustainable fishing, poverty alleviation from marine sources was assured to be non-exploitative; boosting the potentials of marine productivity and restoration was treated through strengthening marine conservation directly and indirectly. For direct conservation measures, 3 newly established reserves (Enfe, Abbassieh, and Byblos) were enabled with their first management plans to really know and treat their priorities for conservation in a scientific well documented scope. They were also assisted to change community and public mindset and behavior through tailored outreach material to help them promote the new status of the sites, reveal in an appealing manner the importance of the sites, and actively and tacitly inform public that old behavior inflicting disturbance to these sites is not tolerated anymore. Municipalities are using the management plans and outreach products exactly in this spirit. Indirect conservation was integrated into sustainable fishing trainings and community-based trainings to engage the communities at large.

10- MaRe Network is now established and active as the first community-based national network of marine stakeholders to support national conscientiousness for marine protection and sustainability at communal level and in a bottom-up approach to influence decision-making. Again, the project offers a pioneering module for combined marine conservation approaches and multiple community engagement strategies to reach higher impact and aims.

- 11- Another national accomplishment is the launching of the first open marine database exposing marine biodiversity in 109 species as a start. The database will continue to develop as new funds are solicited from different donors.
 - a. The database is connected to FON website and can be easily accessed by users, who can be students, universities, researchers in Lebanon and abroad. Marine riches of the East Mediterranean can now be easily acknowledged, and monitored.

The future impact of the database is to provide evidence to climate change impact as discerned from change in behavior and timing of species migration for example, or fluctuations in fish numbers and occurrence. Adaptation and mitigation measures would then be better planned and be supported with proper governance.

4.3 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where your project is on scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where your project is on scale
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to inequalities.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	X

Lebanon could be one of the rare countries where women in old times engaged in marine activity. However, this quality was altered, hindered and suppressed by several factors including social trends and understandings combined with cultural inclinations and religious interpretations. Only few examples are still surviving carrying the heritage over generations and descending from grandmother, to mother and daughter. We wanted to give Lebanon back its legacy, thus women engagement on this project was an integral part of our plan and design.

- a. To deliver this message, the whole FON team on the project were women, from project staff to marine biologist, ecologist, and sustainable fishing expert. Through project team and activities, we integrated the vision that women can know the sea enough to be marine scientists, and trainers on marine environment.
- b. Our community engagement officer lady was skilful enough to connect with marginalized poor communities and implicitly voice the integration of women on this project as a necessity and not an accessory. She helped engage ladies from the most difficult socio-cultural environments. FON strategy for connecting with communities is to build trust as the basis for our interactions. With this trust building, we could address the most reserved religious environments and male dominated communities, where women are confined to the home. We could pave the way for the young women of these environments to train with us offering them change, hope and new horizons to look up to. The young ladies were proud of themselves and their capacities, and found in their abilities their own support.
- c. In the trainings, we respected community norms and traditions. However, we created a receptive environment of belonging and inclusivity for all participants in an atmosphere of gender equality. Males and females were treated similarly and equally, contrary to the general social perspective, which viewed women participation as unimportant, not useful, not the place to be, or offered men more deference as powerful, capable, commanding, etc. In fact, our equality atmosphere dominated our training, that men felt responsible to respect and support women, and women felt relaxed, unoppressed, or alienated.
- d. At the level of roles and responsibilities, all participants were offered the same time to engage and comprehend, and the same space to learn, the same tasks to accomplish, and the same attention to acquire and adopt skills. We did not inspire discrepancies in order for the females to feel empowered and achieve, and for the males to feel humble and caring not overpowering even if they would be outside our training environment. We quelled the fears of all, normalized the ego, and nurtured a new experience.
- e. On the scale of expression of powers and masculinity, having a lady for a sustainable fishing expert immediately set the stage for fruitful interactions among genders on the practical trainings. It is psychological of course; men did not brag their superiority at sea when the trainer was a very skilful fun lady and women compared themselves to her capacities in skills and leadership.
- f. Coming from poor marginalized communities, participants could have nursed feelings of inferiority or underprivilege or resentment to their home environments or that of the trainings. We made sure to treat all participants with respect and appreciation to their qualities, and

make them understand and sense the opportunity the project offers them to help them grow their skills and find their livelihood to improve their lives. We as project team were careful not to stress their vulnerabilities, nor had their vulnerabilities surface and obstruct the learning process.

- g. For inclusivity, the project by all means attests to being inclusive of marginalized and vulnerable communities from different environments, social standards, and religious and cultural backgrounds. We also approached displaced women and girls on our community trainings; again, we uplifted their spirits, treated them with respect and appreciation and inspired hope that they will play their role in society to assist their livelihood and that of their families.
- h. Societal change that the project inspired and exercised toward the role of women in marine activity in marginalized, poor and vulnerable communities is outstanding and a great success. To have all the women participants engage and overcome societal pressure and stigmas, and document their participation on social media with their consent is an outstanding achievement, when compared to the real societal norms advocating total confinement of females to the home environment. Our trained women were happy to receive their fishing kits and continued to go to the beach sending us photos of their practices. Never in their life, they imagined anyone will care for them and give them a career; never they imagined they could break out of their homes and develop a livelihood mission. It was also to the amazement of other social groups that these women trained and went fishing, defying societal stereotyping.

4.4 Transfer of knowledge

Vocational Course and trainings: One form of knowledge transfer was the development of the first vocational course on sustainable fishing, where scientific knowledge is vulgarized to assist the formulation of field practitioners equipped with sufficient knowhow and skills to operate in the field. The training program was quite efficient at transferring knowledge effectively. 313 trainees graduated from this course (51.7% female) (reference herewith [presented](#)).

New habitat management plans: under this project, we developed 3 new management plans for 3 newly established MPAs (herewith [presented](#).) These are their first management plans, which will offer the reserve committees a readily available guidance to structure their contribution based on solid scientific explorations and recommendations. The management plans constitute knowledge products developed by the ecologist, marine biologist, divers and consultants made available to practitioners of conservation as municipality and reserve management teams.

- a. The MPA management teams would not have been able to create management plans for lack of funding and expertise, which the project availed.
- b. From previous experience, most nature reserves in Lebanon did not receive management plans till long after their establishment; during this period, management teams improvised without real orientation or sensitivity to existing threats and stressors, nor to appropriate measures to alleviate the pressures. The MPAs supported by this project will not experience loss of time or resources, but will automatically receive management activities focused on the real priorities.
- c. We were determined to collaborate thoroughly with the municipalities of the MPA areas. We strengthened the knowledge, commitment and ownership of the municipalities on the reserves. Municipalities are pivotal to promote MPA activities and advance their progress; they are the local authorities and official reference consulted on governance issues. Worst scenarios are when municipalities and reserve management teams stand on opposite ends; natural resources are then sacrificed, overlooked or neglected. We made sure to fortify the connection of the municipalities to the reserves, and strengthen their adoption to the management plans so all teams would work hand in hand. This will help further management plan implementation.
- d. Stakeholder consultations on the management plans not only gathered the views of the influential references, but also informed them of the management plans and the value of the MPAs, which will assist at engendering their support in the future and establishing collaboration between the MPA management teams and these stakeholders. The consultations took place at the municipalities to consolidate latter's engagement as well.

Thus, the management teams of the 3 MPAs are empowered with critical fundamental support to properly implement sustainable management practices as a result of this knowledge transfer.

Published knowledge products:

- a. Online Marine Database: the first open marine database was produced under this project to provide knowledge on Lebanon's marine riches and that of the Mediterranean. To the Lebanese, the sea is a closed Pandora box; popular knowledge on marine biodiversity is minimal, restricted to the consumed species. The idea of the database is inspired from school children who are assigned research projects and fail to find data on the marine environment. FON receive many calls annually to assist in this regard. University students and general public are not at a better state, since information on the marine habitats and organisms are only in scientific publications. We addressed the need to popularize such knowledge to enhance the relatedness of the Lebanese to the value of the marine ecosystem and its inhabitants. Starting with 109 marine species, FON will continue, to enlarge the database to become comprehensive and well representative of the marine wealth; hopefully, other donors would respond.
- b. 3 Documentaries one for each MPAs: Again for the first time, the underwater environment of the 3 MPAs is exposed to general public, including municipalities and management teams. The latter are not marine biologists nor divers, they want to assist at protecting what is unknown to them!!! Truly, local communities were surprised to view, for the first time, their marine environments and underwater habitats of the MPAs with clarity and meaningfulness. The value of the documentaries is to strengthen the commitment of the local communities, municipalities and management teams to marine conservation, empower them to express and expose their marine wealth in pride, convince of the significance of the MPA and conservation to change behaviours, and attract foreign public for visitation.
- c. 6 booklets in 2 languages: Each MPA received its first paper print that exposes the environment and wealth of the MPA in colourful pictures, simplified text for engagement and importantly instructions to respect the site as well as provide assistance. Furthermore, management teams and municipalities have a concrete document in hand to present to visitors, donors, foreigners, tourists, etc.; thus, they are empowered to start attracting assistance at various levels to help implement the sustainable management practices. The booklets were produced in Arabic and English; Arabic to engage the locals and Lebanese, while the English version is to present to foreign entities. FON weighed the options and then we decided to publish 2 languages separately to minimize ineffective use of paper and print; those who read Arabic will not consult the other language so combining languages would be wasteful on the environment, the same for the foreign readers who would not benefit from an Arabic translation; so, we increased the number of prints and published the 2 languages separately. Each MPA received 1500 copies of each language. FON kept 500 copies of each to distribute at our events. We already distributed booklets at the University of Holy Spirit on an environmental event; the feedback was amazing. We will carry copies to COPs and congresses we attend as well. (herewith [presented](#))

4.5 Capacity building

- Our sustainable fishing expert lady captured the idea of training at sea, and is now adventuring into a marine tourism economic endeavour of her own. She created a profile for herself titled 'funky fishing' and is taking groups to train them on fishing the same way we planned our project. One trainee is emulating as well and trying to take boat training trips.
- Our partner GHADI is now developing the skills of their team and creating a studio, wishing to work on material for nature reserves. FON taught them a great deal about featuring biodiversity in a documentary to be meaningful and representative. They grew fond of increasing their engagement in this topic, while they were previously focused on environmental issues as pollution and daily news.
- Beside the execution of this important project and liaising with as many stakeholders and participants, FON gained the capacity to engage displaced communities on conservation and sustainability. We never approached the displaced thinking they would be overwhelmed with situational challenges; our trial on this project proved different and asserted our capability to manage the displaced.

- At the level of capacity building of participants, the project reached 41 coastal communities from the poor, marginalized and vulnerable. 313 members of these communities (51.7% female) were engaged and provided vocational training on sustainable fishing, and enabled with a fishing kit to generate their own livelihood. 92 beneficiaries (61% females) attained categoric transformation in their livelihood.

5 Monitoring and evaluation

The M&E officer monitors performance for progressing activities and outputs. We held internal meetings and discussions to orient and verify our activities, our capacity for outreach and engaging communities, and our progress against the timeline (ref: [monitoring report](#)).

The M&E system proved its practicality, and responsiveness to alert to delays or derailments from the main objective or output. For that with 2 wars we achieved all project activities within the designated lifetime. In all FON activities, we customary indicate the timeline to inform partners and stakeholders of the urgency or flexibility to instigate them to act within time limits toward the deliverables. We faced a lot of delay from the partner on the production of the documentaries and we did not see eye to eye the scenario and storyboard due to our different backgrounds; we are concerned with the resources while the partner takes more the promotional side. M&E officer was instrumental to put pressure and engender various support to finish within time and the desired quality. Regular M&E was essential to accompany our activities, especially that the project handles many concurrent activities over wide geographical range, and large and varied beneficiary size.

Partners shared M&E exercises especially Fishing in Lebanon, offering comments and advise on the timing and quality of portrayed activities. Information sharing was not static or through a dedicated tool. FON social media was one source of information for the evaluation of partners and stakeholders, who shared insights, and comments accordingly.

For external evaluation, critical stakeholders, like the ministries, were consulted for their evaluation after almost every event they were engaged in; the Head of the Ecosystem Department at the Ministry of Environment was often requested to provide evaluation of activities and their outreach, and to review material such as the management plans. Our strategy was to request the evaluation of participants and stakeholders after events to best capture their feedback fresh and immediately for further action coordination and improvement.

FON internal evaluation concentrated on our capacity and impact on delivery of activities, and comparably the responsiveness of the participants and the impact that activities generated. For example, the vocational course received internal evaluation to verify material quality and clarity, importance, presentation, etc. Trainings and receptivity of participants were subject to pre- and post- evaluation through questionnaires. All training evaluations revealed that enhancement of information background and relatedness of participants to the delivered material. Also, the expression of participant satisfaction delivered directly to FON team and trainers inferred changing mindsets on community role toward marine conservation, the responsibility of individuals and communities to preserve their resources and the role of women in the marine environment as perceived by both genders. The evaluation report and forms are provided, with quantified success measures (ref: 1.3c [evaluation](#) of trainees).

6 Lessons learnt

One important lesson was never be apprehended by challenges and never stop progressing your mission; no matter how difficult things could be, there is always a possibility for a solution that the project team would have to discover. When 2024 summer war erupted, we were starting community-based training; however, our communities converted to displaced or host communities, which nullified our plans. Another integral lesson was the significance of brainstorming and exchange within a team to find best solution for faced challenges while keeping focus on the deliverables and commitments made on a project. After fear of project halt and thorough internal discussions, we decided to take the chance to address communities outside their hometowns, in displacement centres. That option had its challenges as well, but we were successful in our endeavour and continued project activities under prevailing conditions.

Resolving a challenge may also open an opportunity. FON intentionally never addressed refugees and the displaced because we do not have a humanitarian section. However, forcibly addressing displaced Lebanese under this project enhanced our capability to deliver environmental issues and concerns to the displaced in a way that is not imposing but appealing to distressed communities providing hope and aspiration.

Training on biodiversity, no matter how technical it would be, cannot be conducted without passion or activities would not progress properly, and stakeholders and partners would not walk with you the extra mile. Such activities cannot be measured by the clauses of a contract or a set time to document the exuberance of participants. Capitalize on your passionate partners, stakeholders and team for biodiversity activities in challenging environments because that makes all the difference to help achieve. Without passion, objectives become dulled with mundane obstacles; it then grows tiring to management and exhausting to M&E to keep compensating with their efforts and persuasions.

Our advice is to be always receptive to new ideas and nurse creativity that your activities inspire. While taking the training, one of our participants was compelled to present to us his creativity and skills that we never imagined ourselves supporting. He paints murals and offered us to commemorate this project on a street wall of one of the most underprivileged, marginalized and vulnerable districts. We created a theme, and a slogan; in collaboration with the Municipality of Mina, the project pioneered sustainable fishing murals on the street wall that is daily viewed by thousands. From here on, we will include street art as a community-based expression in our future projects.

What we would do differently? We would create several murals as reminders for local communities and trainees of project objectives; on this project, the message was sustainable fishing for livelihood.

7 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

The main feedback on the first-year report was to include marine organisms other than fish in the survey and database. We replied in the second half year report with a list of marine organisms identified at the target MPAs including a range of non-fish categories. The organisms that were well captured in photo or film are included in the database to be in the access of the public. Surely, we had instructed partnering divers and videographers to film the diversity in marine organisms. The assistance of the MaRe Network members was also invaluable, for supporting the database with distinctive marine organisms they captured on their marine dives. (records [herewith presented](#))

8 Risk Management

We had anticipated the risk of war or conflict; however, we did not expect the extent and graveness of the war. 2 war episodes erupted during the lifetime of the project; the first was in summer 2023 and the second in summer 2024, which was much worse in geographical range and intensity. For security and safety, we were forced to stop activities in the field for some time, when we focused on reporting and indoor activities instead. To compensate for the inaccessibility of certain communities as a result of war, we decided to approach them in their displacement centres. It was a strategic decision that permitted us to complete our deliverables in due time.

9 Scalability and Durability

FON pioneered sustainable fishing for independent livelihood generation at poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities. Stakeholders and beneficiaries were not familiar with the concept, but were acquainted with on this project. Thus, all information sharing and engagement activities were genuinely developed to deliver the correct message with a measure of attractiveness that would incite the wide array of participants to listen, engage and contribute. Also, thanks to our community engagement officer, her skills, affection and devotion to this cause that assisted at connecting with and delivering the message to some of the most closed communities.

Social media was a good tool to help promote the fun, the skills, and the benefits of sustainable fishing. However, social media could not substitute for the need of direct person to person or

person to community contact. The communities we addressed are well burdened with life affairs and have too many social, economic and other limitations, that they are and feel secluded; they assumed they could not be the target group because they feel inferior and alienated. This did not help them to be proactive and engage on their own. We had to connect directly with communities, and find the local pivotal member who would guide us on outreach within the community.

We certainly gained the participation of secluded, closed and reserved communities with strong social, religious and cultural identities. Evidently, our target group was reached and influenced; yet, importantly project objective was attractively packaged to meet needs and aims of potential adopters and was delivered to their door, otherwise these communities would not respond. Skills and skills and still skills of FON team were cardinal, such as, skills to communicate to and with the target groups, skills to approach communities, skills to develop scientific material to their understanding and liking to become memorable, skills to guide and manage the trainees and training groups, skills to create a receptive atmosphere tolerant of all differences, and many more. We conscientiously convey that the project and trainings are not a recipe, and are not only a course copied for another implementor to execute. Diverse team skills are imperative and determinative of project success.

As to cost of training, this is a very sensitive issue and key when dealing with poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities. The first thing the communities are cautious and inquire about is the cost as they cannot afford any. We had to and wanted to assure the participants that they will not bear any burdens for their participation, except dedicating their time, and willingness. In return, they will gain a life transforming independent career to help them survive with dignity.

On aligning the incentive to key organizations, we would like to stress that the project was intelligently conceived and delivered foundational actions. The project trained and provided incentives to citizens to support the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity in and outside MPAs; this relates directly to the executive mandates of the ministries of environment and agriculture. Promoting sustainable fishing is an integral mission of the ministry of agriculture and its department of fisheries; the project created the prototype and the first field implementations in a structured manner on national scope. General fishermen perception of marine reserves as overtaking their fishing grounds is one of the most influential obstacles for conservation; we helped develop a friendly relationship between fishermen and MPAs. All the activities of the project promote benefits to central authorities in implementing their activities, national strategies and action plans. The project also developed the first and successful prototype to engage and influence other national and international organizations on marine activities; the 3rd beneficiary group is the municipalities and committees of MPAs, who received foundational work to support their progress and mandate, particularly through the MPA management plans and outreach material.

We surely aided in the implementation of the laws of conservation of the MPAs and the national conservation law 130. We supported the implementation of CBD, NBSAP, National Strategy for Marine Conservation, and other. Definitely, we leveraged all the policies for halting illegal fishing and produced the alternative prototype, which is sustainable fishing. An integral objective of our proposal was to provide evidence that sustainable fishing is attainable in Lebanon to counteract the general belief that it is too utopic and inapplicable thus justifying illegal fishing; we proved it is doable and on large scale.

We take pride in our trainees who will be the evidence and witness to the value and achievements of the project; their feedback is our medallion of success. The capacity of the project to instil change in attitude, social norm, knowledge, values and behaviours was discussed above, and is iconic of project importance and impact. Who we trained, how we trained, project structure, material, action plan are all documented with evidence to tell that the objectives we set were attained.

The durability of the outputs, outcomes and impacts of the project are integrated within the deliverables and activities, because they empower the stakeholders and beneficiaries to advance so they are the final owners of the outputs and outcomes. The capacity building of the beneficiaries made them sustainable fisher(wo)men for life, so they will continue to practices for their own good. The management plans and outreach material are basic to progress the 3 MPAs, and will be used by municipalities and MPA managing teams. The marine database promotes

wide use for education. The MaRe Network is already active and providing constructive advice on major marine issues.

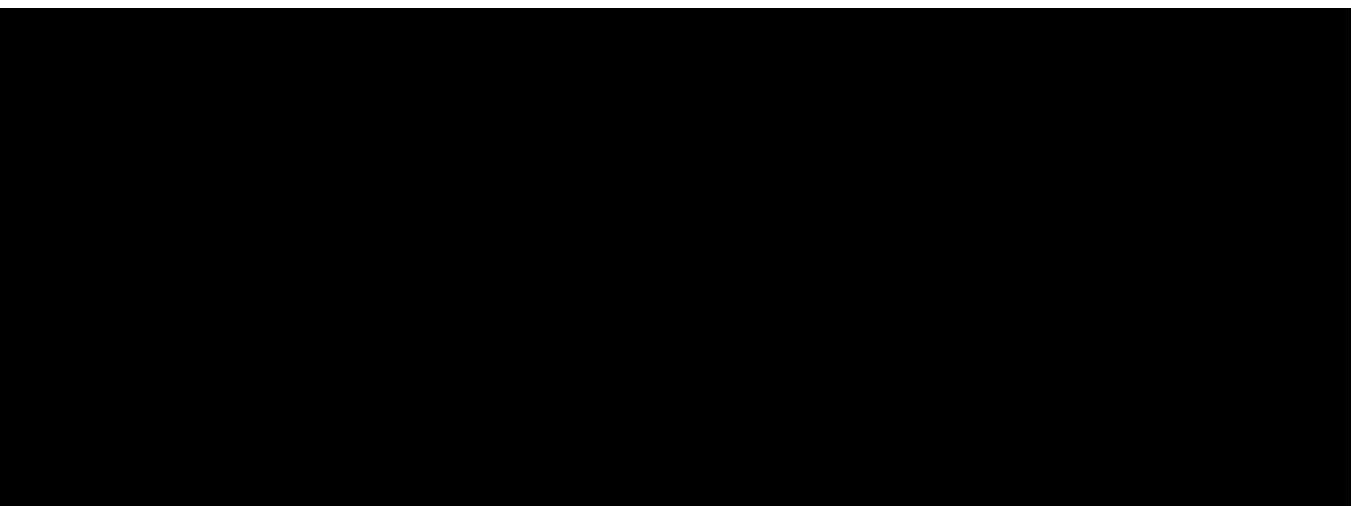
FON will not close the page and move in another direction, we will build on these remarkable achievements to address new or further needs, which will maintain the legacy of the project as the foundational building block of these capacities and capabilities. FON team already took every opportunity to expand project benefits as discussed under section 13. We also started developing new projects capitalizing on this project's success.

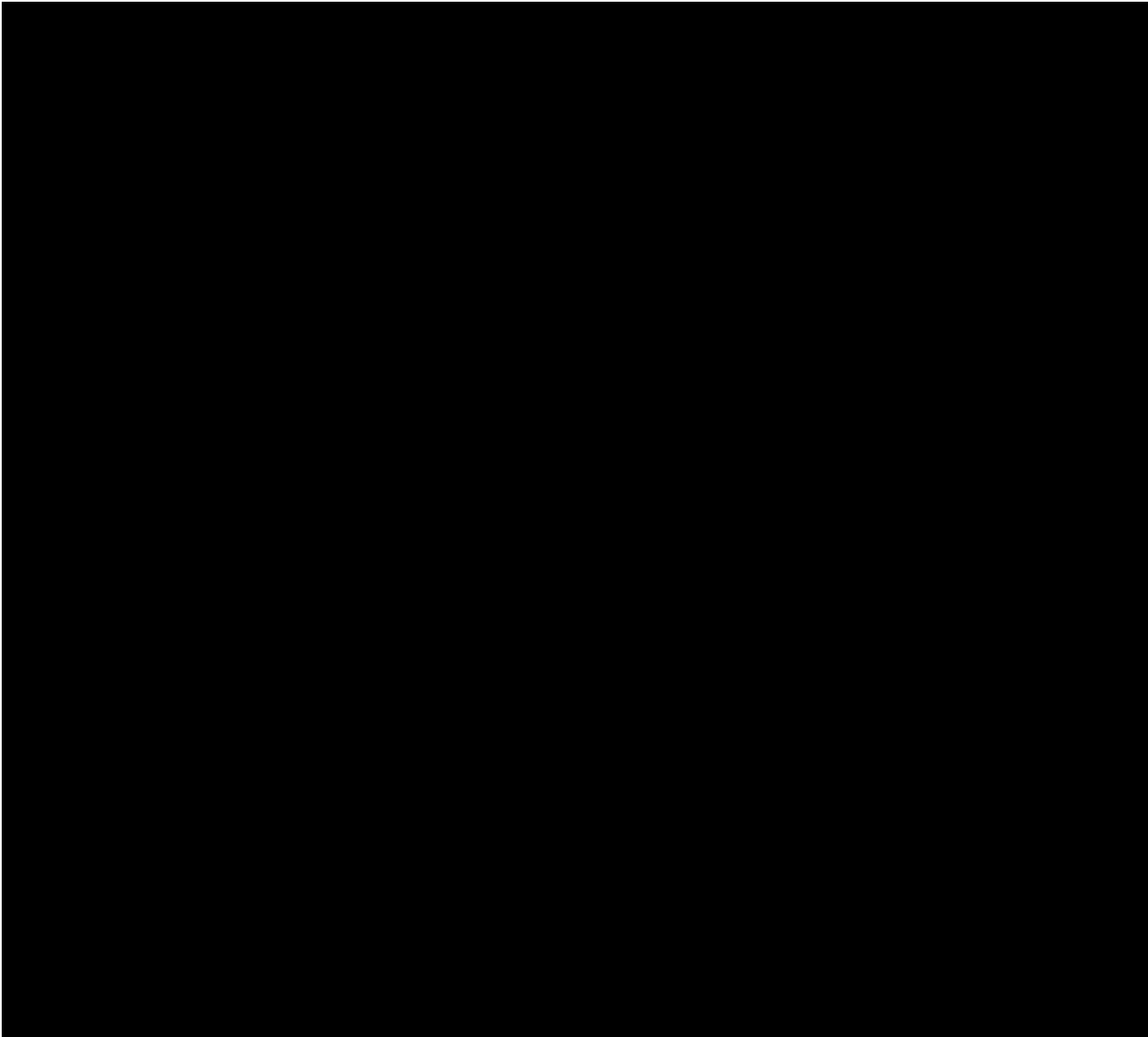
Project staff, external experts, stakeholders, partners and all who assisted at building the success of this project will continue to be with us on future projects, and we would appreciate BCF to be a referee for our future projects.

10 Darwin Initiative identity

- 1- All our communication letters with stakeholders, ministries and municipalities acknowledged the Darwin Initiative as the source of funding.
- 2- The 6 booklets prepared for the MPAs carry the logo of the Darwin Initiative on both sides of the cover, and UK Government logo with a gratitude note on the last page of the booklet.
- 3- 3 documentaries of the MPAs present a thank you note to Darwin Initiative and UK Government at the end of the documentary.
- 4- The marine database on FON website thank you note and the logo of Darwin Initiative and UK Government.
- 5- The Darwin Initiative logo is posted on the vocational course material and all training material. Both Darwin Initiative and UK Government were verbally thanked at every training session. The UK Government assistance to help people progress toward sustainability and better livelihood was always well emphasized. (ref: [vocational](#) course content).
- 6- Academic establishments, large NGOs and ministries are the main entities familiar with the Darwin Initiative. Stakeholders, and communities did not recognize DI prior to this project.
- 7- The mural (3.5x6.5m) painted on the street wall of a main road connecting poor communities, where we delivered trainings in the north, carries the DI logo. (ref: [mural](#) photo).
- 8- The Darwin Initiative was recognized as the sole distinct donor of this pioneering project for marine biodiversity and community-based wellbeing and conservation.
- 9- FON made sure to acknowledge DI and to tag BCF in most of our social media messages ensuring that all project activities on social media were visible to BCF. FON follows the Darwin Initiative/BCF social media channels and is connected to learn of your news.

11 Safeguarding





12 Finance and administration

12.1Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total actual Darwin Initiative Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				

Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	86120	84100.4		

Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
Stacie Moutran – Project Manager	
Perla Tannous – Social Media, M&E officer	
Ghiwa el Fakhry – Community & Data officer	
Myrna Semaan - Ecologist / Trainings development	
Naji Charabati - Accountant	
TOTAL	

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
TOTAL	0

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
Audit	
TOTAL	

12.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project	Total (£)
FON overhead	
Conference support	
Hall rentals for workshops	
Cameras and accessories for filming underwater and at conferences (partner)	
Videography matching support	
Graphic designer	
Translator	
TOTAL	

Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project	Total (£)
Blue Tourism Initiative at Enfe coastal town focusing on marine conservation and artisanal salt production, a project with IUCN-MED (duration Jan.-Dec. 2025)	
TOTAL	

12.3 Value for Money

Every pound of this fund conscientiously assisted to deliver a message, a change and a benefit. The 313 marginalized poor supported for sustainable livelihood generation, and their communities at large, now realize that they are not invisible to the eye of a donor or to others in the country even if they don't raise their voices. They know they are remembered; they experienced the interest of an entity in the country (FON) and abroad (the donor) to help them stand on their feet without asking for a return, a vote, or other. They levitated their dire circumstances to experience another version of life; a number of our beneficiaries had never left their own communities; they have never visited other cities in Lebanon. Beneficiaries were fascinated with their trip to the Amchit port to take a boat, which again many never dreamt of happening within their social and cultural context. Meeting other communities for the first time, being treated respectfully and offered benefits by foreigners were never a possibility. These aspects augmented the transformational drive that this project derived with the generous fund of Darwin Initiative and the UK Government. A constant reiteration on project activities and in all our conversations and expressions at conferences, is: "why would the UK Government fund us to help you? It is because they trust that you are worthy of assistance and you will do the best to improve your capacities and capabilities. If they trust in us, then it is imperative for us to trust in ourselves and seek a better future". Most of the fund was spent on investing in better opportunities for poor people.

Regarding assets, the economic constraints worked to our advantage to help purchase the fishing kits at very affordable prices and enable our trainees to start their self-dependent livelihood journey. We looked for durable products under sale or clearance, so the allocated budget allowed to provide more items to the trainees.

For almost the same allocated budget, instead of publishing 3000 copies of each of the planned booklets for MPAs, we published 6000 copies and FON contributed a translation to another language to better empower the MPAs.

FON team contributed many more activities to the project than committed to (refer to section 13). We responded to beneficiaries inquiries and conducted trainings on weekends and holidays, because we wanted to capture, and nurse the interest of the trainees or communities at any time that suited them. The divers, marine biologist, sustainable fishing expert, MaRe Network members all contributed, and will continue to contribute to the cause of the project, and volunteer time, effort and skills. We sincerely believe in the significance of strengthening sustainable fishing and biodiversity protection, and we are setting the example.

If a financial assessment would encompass all the contributions on this project, the total sum of what can be monetized would be much higher than the invested amount.

13 Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project has contributed many activities that were not part of the project document, but FON team did not leave any chance to enhance the capacity and capability of the beneficiaries, as well as the outreach of the project. Highlights are provided here, while details are [herein referenced](#).

1. Addressing Synergies:

FON used every opportunity to coordinate with existing initiatives to complement and synergize, also to provide larger visibility for our project and its outcomes. We wanted to expand the range of people acquainted with our work and the project itself to serve future potentials through capitalizing on the successes of the project. For that, FON presented the project and its outcomes at: ([reference report detailed](#))

- The Blue Economy Workshop
- Convention for Migratory Species CMS workshop at UNEP-LEBANON
- 30x30 MPA Campaign conducted by the Lebanon Environment Forum to promote marine conservation, and taking the form of a caravan campaign with multiple stations. FON presented at different coastal sites. The “National Conference for Marine Protection” was particularly important as we addressed large public at Middle East training center; we presented the various aspects of the project and its activities, and the significance of our project at driving application of sustainable fishing for livelihood and poverty reduction; conference attendees numbered nearly 250.
(reference report)

2. Opening new opportunities: ([reference report detailed](#))

The project manager, Ms. Moutran, supported the Berytech (an incubator social enterprise) initiative, Blue Economy Ideathon, and request to be a mentor for marine proposals in their incubator project cycle (photos [referenced](#)) .

- FON seized the opportunity to incite our sustainable fishing trainees to participate, and develop their skills for applying to projects, and their perception to the economic potentials of the capacity building they received.
- 3 of our community groups participated as teams; two won first, and second prizes of 1500 and 1000\$ respectively to execute their proposals as startups.

3. The first Mural for Marine Biodiversity and Sustainability (herewith [referenced](#))

- Returning the favor of building the capacity of his community, one of our sustainable fishing trainees, who practices street art, developed our first mural on a main street.
- The mural concept depicts a child with the head in sea water looking at a rich sea where many marine organisms survive.
- The mural carries the logo of Darwin Initiative and FON
- We combined community engagement with the opening of the mural. The head of the municipality and members of the municipal council of Mina thankfully participated with the communities. We played some games and offered some fishing gifts as the opening, which was held during the Ramadan season.

4. Media Engagement (herewith [referenced](#), and [here](#))

Some media agencies contacted FON to report on project activities and significance.

- Mongabay reporters joined our practical trainings, took interviews with our trainees and filmed the activities.
- Beirut Today, an online media group, also created their own report on our activities.
- Radio talkshow “With Sana Nasr” hosted us to present the project to the public.

5. GESI Expression (herewith [presented](#))

- FON participated in the BCF Refresher; our short video communication was selected to be exposed in the BCF workshop to offer our experience to other participants.

14 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes


The novelty of activities, outputs and outcomes established a pioneering project by all means; it has set the grounds and baseline to measure future progress against. Never was the Mediterranean Sea in Lebanon valued for livelihood support through a systematic vocational training for sustainability. Never was capacity building of coastal communities relevant to counteracting exploitation of marine biodiversity. Never was sustainable fishing recognized as potential for poverty alleviation in poor, vulnerable and marginalized coastal communities. Never was community-based conservation of marine resources promoted and enabled. Knowledge dissemination on marine biodiversity to general public marks another accomplishment of this project to connect people properly with their marine environments and their significance. A community-based network of qualitative sea lovers and protectors is the nucleus we established to assist at safeguarding and protecting the marine habitats and riches. New Marine Protected Areas, the sanctuaries of marine biodiversity, were highly endorsed to properly manage their marine cauldrons on hope to flourish and repopulate the sea. Marine conservation and fisher(wo)men livelihood are now promoted for inevitable unity to help both thrive as well as nature. Climate resilience is integrated every step of the way. We continue to work for the sustainable use and conservation of the marine ecosystem of the Mediterranean.

We are indefinitely proud of our work and contributions, and extremely thankful to the Darwin Initiative, the UK Government, and the Biodiversity Challenge Fund for helping Friends of Nature to realize this milestone.

Friends of Nature consents to publicise the provided video or its material. It is meant for public exposure about the project, we will post it on our YouTube Channel afterwards.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image /Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged	Consent of subjects received
Video	Herewith presented	Pioneering Sustainable Fishing for livelihood and marine conservation – Lebanon, ©FON		Yes
				Yes / No

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project indicators of success for the life of the project

Project summary	Progress and achievements
<p>Outcome</p> <p>The project will contribute to enhanced sustainability and conservation of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through community endorsement and sustainable fishing for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood against overexploitation trends.</p>	
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>0.1 By end of project, national capability for community-based conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem is advanced and advocated with at least 50 of the trained citizens offer conservation and threat feedback, and the MaRe citizen network voice conservation to authorities.</p>	<p>0.1a report on citizen communications and information delivered to FON on their local marine environments over what'sapp, social media or direct communication (herewith shared, and in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.1b minutes of meeting of MaRe network with ministries of environment and agriculture: no meetings held, but ministers addressed by formal letters herewith shared with a report (also refer to section 3.2).</p> <p>0.1c records and documentation presented for 27 (instead of 20) coastal communities and 593 stakeholders mobilized to enhance marine conservation for betterment of local livelihood and economic opportunities (shared in presented map and output 4.1; with reference in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.1d first database capturing local community marine knowledge established (with reference in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.1e first community-based network -MaRe Network – established (with reference in section 3.2)</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>0.2 By end of project, increased visitation and reduced threat record of the 3 MPAs consolidate national capacity with an effective marine conservation module.</p>	<p>0.2a report on the progress of the 3 MPAs over year two in number of visitations, reduced threats and community support not developed due to successive summer wars (with reference in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.2b Marine conservation module in management plans and community engagement through outreach exposure accomplished and herewith shared (with reference in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.2c Report of coordination and engagement of Ministry of Environment herewith shared (with reference in section 3.2)</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>0.3 By end of project, at least 120 sustainable fishing trainees value and acknowledge marine biodiversity and ecosystem as a sustainable resource for poverty alleviation toward sustainable livelihood</p>	<p>0.3a records and documentation of 120 trainees practicing and 94 trainees training communities on sustainable fishing (with reference in section 3.2)</p>

	<p>0.3b records and documentation of 47 (instead of 15) coastal communities enabled with skilled members to continue to train their poor on sustainable fishing practices (shared in presented map and with reference in section 3.2)</p> <p>0.3c vocational training tools for poverty alleviation by sustainable fishing available for continued and expanded trainings (evidence herewith shared, with reference in section 3.2)</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>0.4 By end of project, at least 90 livelihoods of poor youth and women are transformed.</p>	<p>0.4a Comparative Analysis report of livelihood state of participants at start of participation and at end of project (evidence herewith shared, with reference in section 3.2)</p>
<p>Output 1 By 1.5 years, coastal community poor are enabled to sustain livelihood by sustainable fishing, and advocate marine sustainability in their communities</p>	
<p>Output indicator 1.1</p> <p>1.1 in 5 months from start of project, the first vocational course on sustainable fishing presents an innovative tool to effectively train coastal poor on sustainable marine-based livelihood generation.</p>	<p>1.1a design of the vocational course structure and role of team member (evidence herewith shared and in section 3.1 – output 1)</p> <p>1.1b copy of course components and curriculum and learning outcomes (evidence herewith shared and in section 3.1 – output 1)</p> <p>1.1c minutes and remarks of internal course trial (evidence herewith shared and in section 3.1 – output 1)</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>1.2 In 6 months from the start of the project, at least 15 communities of the coastal poor will be part of a poverty alleviation process through sustainable fishing</p>	<p>1.2a List of the community contacts and stakeholders grouped from over 40 communities (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1)</p> <p>1.2b List, photos, and minutes of community meetings (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1) (and media to call for participation)</p> <p>1.2c Data of the community participants (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1)</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.3</p> <p>1.3 After 18 months from the start of the project, at least 300 youth and women (50%) from coastal poor communities will have altered their potentials from irregular/zero income and lack of skills to skilled sustainable fishing practising for long-term livelihood support</p>	<p>1.3a List of trainees participation and schedule of workshops (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1)</p> <p>1.3b Documentary and Visual documentation of trainings and skill practicing (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1)</p> <p>1.3c Scores of skill evaluation of trainees (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 1)</p>
<p>Output 2. By 2 years, beneficiaries/trainees who received the training practice and train their community members to sustain livelihood by sustainable fishing, and advocate marine sustainability in their communities</p>	
<p>Output indicator 2.1</p>	<p>2.1a Bimonthly record of beneficiaries engagement on what's app group (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2)</p>

2.1 Over year 2 of the project, at least 90 beneficiaries (30%) prove continuous practicing of sustainable fishing for livelihood support	<p>2.1b Bimonthly report of FON coordination with beneficiaries (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2)</p> <p>2.1c Visual documentation of beneficiaries on fishing and testimonies (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2)</p>
<p>Output indicator 2.2</p> <p>2.2 Over year 2 of the project, at least 60 beneficiaries (20%) train 120 community members on sustainable fishing to save them from poverty and help protect the sea riches</p>	<p>2.2a Bimonthly record of activities of beneficiaries is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2</p> <p>2.2b Report of FON support to beneficiaries on their community trainings is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2</p> <p>2.2c Visual documentation of community trainings is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 2</p>
Output 3. By 2 years, beneficiaries/trainees who received the training practice and train their community members to sustain livelihood by sustainable fishing, and advocate marine sustainability in their communities	
<p>Output indicator 3.1.</p> <p>3.1 by mid of year 1, 3 newly established MPAs receive field surveys and stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>3.1a report of field surveys is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 3</p> <p>3.1b report of stakeholder feedback (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 3)</p>
<p>Output indicator 3.2.</p> <p>3.2 by end of year 1, 3 MPA management plans are produced</p>	3.2a copies of 3 MPA management plans identifying habitats of significance, existing threats and conservation actions needed (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 3)
<p>Output indicator 3.3.</p> <p>3.3 by end of year 1, 3 newly established MPAs are enabled with management tools to implement marine conservation, and empowered to promote and enhance community engagement in marine conservation</p>	3.3a 3 set of outreach material, including publications and short videos, expose the significance of the reserves is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 3
Output 4. During and by end of year 2, communal engagement on marine ecosystem and biodiversity conservation is nationally strengthened, endorsed and networked	
<p>Output indicator 4.1.</p> <p>4.1 Over year 2, at least 600 participants from 20 coastal communities attend 20 workshops that strengthen the significance of their role in the protection of marine biodiversity to ensure sustainability of marine-based livelihood and poverty alleviation</p>	<p>4.1a one-day workshop program and material addressing communities (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4)</p> <p>4.1b Records of 12 instead of 20 workshops and lists of participants from 27 communities is herewith presented and (here for displaced communities) also referenced in section 3.1 – output 4</p>

	4.1c Workshop reports and records of discussions is herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4
Output indicator 4.2. 4.2 In the second half of year 2, at least 25 representatives of grassroots voices of coastal communities support a bottom-up approach to governance of marine conservation	4.2a Preambles and mandate of national marine network (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4) 4.2b Network signatories representative of grassroots (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4) 4.2c report of decision-making centers informed of the network (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4)
Output indicator 4.3. 4.3 Over year 2, local knowledge on marine biodiversity is made publicly available on open access database showing at least 100 species from the field	4.3a Database records (herewith presented and referenced in section 3.1 – output 4) 4.3b Database URL established (https://f-o-n.org/lebanon-biodiversity/) 4.3c Social media promotions (herewith presented)

Annex 2 Project's full current indicators of success as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification
Outcome: The project will contribute to enhanced sustainability and conservation of the marine ecosystem and biodiversity through community endorsement and sustainable fishing for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood against overexploitation trends.	0.1 By end of project, national capability for community-based conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem is advanced and advocated with at least 50 of the trained citizens offer conservation and threat feedback, and the MaRe citizen network voice conservation to authorities. 0.2 By end of project, increased visitation and reduced threat record of the 3 MPAs consolidate national capacity with an effective marine conservation module. 0.3 By end of project, at least 120 sustainable fishing trainees value and acknowledge marine biodiversity and ecosystem as a sustainable resource for poverty alleviation toward sustainable livelihood 0.4 By end of project, at least 90 livelihoods of poor youth and women are transformed.	0.1a report on citizen communications and information delivered to FON on their local marine environments over what'sapp, social media or direct communication 0.1b Minutes of meeting of MaRe network with ministries of environment and agriculture 0.1c records and documentation of 20 coastal communities and 600 stakeholders mobilized to enhance marine conservation for betterment of local livelihood and economic opportunities 0.1d first database capturing local community knowledge and monitoring of marine biodiversity 0.1e first community-based network for enhanced marine governance 0.2a report on the progress of the 3 MPAs over year two in number of visitations, reduced threats and community support 0.2b Marine conservation module in management plans and community engagement through outreach exposure 0.2c Report of coordination and engagement of Ministry of Environment

		<p>0.3a records and documentation of trainees practicing and training communities on sustainable fishing</p> <p>0.3b records and documentation of 15 coastal communities enabled with skilled members to continue to train their poor on sustainable fishing practices</p> <p>0.3c vocational training tools for poverty alleviation by sustainable fishing available for continued and expanded trainings</p> <p>0.4a Comparative Analysis report of livelihood state of participants at start of participation and at end of project.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>By 1.5 years, coastal community poor are enabled to sustain livelihood by sustainable fishing, and advocate marine sustainability in their communities</p>	<p>1.1 in 5 months from start of project, the first vocational course on sustainable fishing presents an innovative tool to effectively train coastal poor on sustainable marine-based livelihood generation.</p> <p>1.2 In 6 months from the start of the project, at least 15 communities of the coastal poor will be part of a poverty alleviation process through sustainable fishing</p> <p>1.3 After 18 months from the start of the project, at least 300 youth and women (50%) from coastal poor communities will have altered their potentials from irregular/zero income and lack of skills to skilled sustainable fishing practising for long-term livelihood support</p>	<p>1.1a design of the vocational course structure and role of team member</p> <p>1.1b copy of course components and curriculum and learning outcomes</p> <p>1.1c minutes and remarks of internal course trial</p> <p>1.2a List of the community contacts and stakeholders</p> <p>1.2b List, photos, and minutes of community meetings</p> <p>1.2c Data of the community participants</p> <p>1.3a List of trainees participation and schedule of workshops</p> <p>1.3b Documentary and Visual documentation of trainings and skill practicing</p> <p>1.3c Scores of skill evaluation of trainees</p>
<p>Output 2 By 2 years, beneficiaries/trainees who received the training practice and train their community members to sustain livelihood by sustainable fishing, and advocate marine sustainability in their communities</p>	<p>2.1 Over year 2 of the project, at least 90 beneficiaries (30%) prove continuous practicing of sustainable fishing for livelihood support</p> <p>2.2 Over year 2 of the project, at least 60 beneficiaries (20%) train 120 community members on sustainable fishing to save them from poverty and help protect the sea riches</p>	<p>2.1a Bimonthly record of beneficiaries engagement on what's app group</p> <p>2.1b Bimonthly report of FON coordination with beneficiaries</p> <p>2.1c Visual documentation of beneficiaries on fishing and testimonies</p> <p>2.2a Bimonthly record of activities of beneficiaries</p> <p>2.2b Report of FON support to beneficiaries on their community trainings</p> <p>2.2c Visual documentation of community trainings</p>
<p>Output 3 By end of year 1, conservation in marine protected areas is strengthened</p>	<p>3.1 by mid of year 1, 3 newly established MPAs receive field surveys and stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>3.1a report of field surveys</p> <p>3.1b report of stakeholder feedback</p>




	<p>3.2 by end of year 1, 3 MPA management plans are produced</p> <p>3.3 by end of year 1, 3 newly established MPAs are enabled with management tools to implement marine conservation, and empowered to promote and enhance community engagement in marine conservation</p>	<p>3.2a copies of 3 MPA management plans identifying habitats of significance, existing threats and conservation actions needed</p> <p>3.3a 3 set of outreach material, including publications and short videos, expose the significance of the reserves</p>
<p>Output 4 During and by end of year 2, communal engagement on marine ecosystem and biodiversity conservation is nationally strengthened, endorsed and networked</p>	<p>4.1 Over year 2, at least 600 participants from 20 coastal communities attend 20 workshops that strengthen the significance of their role in the protection of marine biodiversity to ensure sustainability of marine-based livelihood and poverty alleviation</p> <p>4.2 In the second half of year 2, at least 25 representatives of grassroots voices of coastal communities support a bottom-up approach to governance of marine conservation</p> <p>4.3 Over year 2, local knowledge on marine biodiversity is made publicly available on open access database showing at least 100 species from the field</p>	<p>4.1a one-day workshop program and material addressing communities</p> <p>4.1b Records of 20 workshops and lists of participants</p> <p>4.1c Workshop reports and records of discussions</p> <p>4.2a Preambles and mandate of national marine network</p> <p>4.2b Network signatories representative of grassroots</p> <p>4.2c report of decision-making centers informed of the network</p> <p>4.3a Database records</p> <p>4.3b Database URL</p> <p>4.3c Social media promotions</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1: develop a 4-day intensive sustainable fishing training course module</p> <p>1.2: coordination and selection of beneficiaries</p> <p>1.3: train youth and women on sustainable fishing</p> <p>2.1: maintain regular coordination to support beneficiaries to endorse practicing and collect feedback</p> <p>2.2: create a documentary on training and practicing sustainable fishing to reduce poverty of coastal communities</p> <p>3.1: develop management plan to each of the 3 newly established reserves</p> <p>3.2: build capacity of the 3 newly established reserves to expose marine biodiversity value to enhance conservation</p> <p>4.1: conduct 20 community workshops to support communal conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable/responsible fishing</p> <p>4.2: develop the national network for marine protection and sustainable fishing - the marine responsible network (MaRe network)</p> <p>4.3: develop the first open database documenting the marine riches based on community participation</p>		
<p>Important Assumptions</p> <p>1- Socio-political stability is maintained and conducive of project implementation.</p> <p>2- Social and gender barriers are not accentuated to deter poor communities from expressing individual's choices.</p> <p>3- Public sector dilapidation does not influence the progress of the project. Project activities are designed to alienate requirements for governmental and public sector involvement to be on the safe side.</p> <p>4- Banking system assumes stability and efficiency of furthering financial procedures</p> <p>5- Internet is stable to allow beneficiaries to connect with us regularly and cheaply.</p> <p>6- Fuel prices and supply do not express exaggerated fluctuations beyond the capacity of the project to absorb.</p>		

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

Please see the Standard Indicator Guidance for more information on how to report in this section, including appropriate disaggregation. N.B. The annual total is not cumulative. For each year, only include the results achieved in that year. The total achieved should be the sum of the annual totals.

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total achieved	Total planned
DI-A01	Number of people who have completed structured and relevant training	1.2	People	Men	107	44		151	150
DI-A01	Number of people who have completed structured and relevant training	1.2	People	Women	108	54		162	150
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	0.3	People	Men	4	29		33	45
DI-A04	Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	0.3	People	Women	6	81		87	45
DI-B01	Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	3.2	Number	New	0	3		3	3
DI-C01	Number of knowledge products published	3.3	Number	Practice area-database	0	10		10	6
DI-D01	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	3.1	Ha	Protected Areas	0	194		194	194

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
JBEIL – Marine Protected Area*	booklet	Friends of Nature - 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
جبيل – محمية بحرية*	Booklet	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
ENFE – Marine Protected Area*	Booklet	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
*أنفة – محمية بحرية	Booklet	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
ABBASSIEH – Marine Protected Area*	Booklet	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
*العباسية – محمية بحرية	booklet	Friends of Nature - 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Publisher and municipality
JBEIL – Marine Protected Area*	video	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	
ENFE – Marine Protected Area*	video	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	
ABBASSIEH – Marine Protected Area*	video	Friends of Nature – 2025	Female – Dr. Myrna Semaan	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	
SUSTAINABLE FISHING *	Video	Friends of Nature - 2025	FON team	Lebanese	Friends of Nature – Beirut	Herewith presented

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	x
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	x
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	no
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 14)?	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	x
Have you provided an updated risk register? If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	x
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors?	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	