**Overall Project:**

MENA Region Initiative as a Model for NEXUS and Renewable Energy Technologies

**Activity (s)**

Ecosystem Services Enforcement By Creating The Natural HUB

**Description**

The Ecosystems HUB will serve the existing CBOs, managed by Grand Blue and under the Municipality’s umbrella. The HUB will serve the following groups:

- The Academia by securing a youth Center where they can get their in job training, capacity building and practice in 3 sectors: biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy, and environmental food production.

- The small enterprises; where entrepreneurship will be supported by securing the Natural Dukan (shop) to sell their hand-made products.

- Quriat island and its researchers by installing PV System as a model of the clean and renewable source of energy and small water treatment plant which will secure a clean drinking water.

- Women CBOs who will be trained on how to produce ecological products such as the ecological Fishing Nets.

**Partners & Implementation**

This initiatives could be mastered by one of the following entities or a combination of more than one institution (through MOUs)

* Notre Grand Bleu: the main implementing partner.
* Voice of the Children’s: implementing partner.
* Business entrepreneur association: implementing partner.
* Monastir Municipality: Facilitation and Supervision
* MENARET Project Management Unit (PMU): Facilitation and Supervision

Project funding is delivered through a grant to the implementing partner. Two sites will be developed and rehabilitated including a site located in the Monastir port and the other site lies in an island called Kuriat.

The Notre Grand Bleu own a site within the Monastir port site; which was donated to them from the government. The site will be rehabilitated to act as a nature Hub, visitor and training centre. The training provided at the centre will focus mainly on the marine conservation and capacity building in energy and water management subjects. The visitor centre part will have a nature shop that sell products coming from other partners, where the voice of the Children’s association will provide food and traditional Tunisian sweets, recycled handcrafts products and the eco-fishing nets. The other partner Business entrepreneur association through one of his trained entrepreneurs will provide pots products and natural colours coming from olive oil extraction wastewater.

On the Kuriat island the project will help in establishing a wooden cottage and a solar panel to provide researcher with needed electricity to carry out research on the island, the researchers are those from Notre Grand Bleu or university students taking training course in the training centre. The project will provide a boat that runs by the solar energy and that will take researchers and visitor to Kuriat Island.

**Estimated Cost**

**Capacity Building Needs**

This initiative is complicated and need efforts, management and commitments. The following trainings are needed.

1. Financial training on grants management.

2. Projects management and reporting

3. Special training in the simple maintenance of the solar system

4. Ecotourism

5. Eco-fishing and nets manufacturing