

Progress Report

(Horizons for Green Development will reject any badly written reports)

Organization/company name	Al Shouf Cedar Society
Focal point & position	Nizar Hani, Manager of Shouf Biosphere Reserve
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Project/activity name	Conducting MINARET Value Chain Mapping & Identifying Project Specific Stakeholder Capacity Building Needs
Total activity duration	4 months
Period covered in this report	January
Due date report	10 February, 2019
Total budget	22,450 USD

Description of overall progress

The launching of the project was delayed due to the weather conditions in the Shouf region. The meetings have to take place late afternoon when people who have jobs can be available, and that time of the day usually coincides with the formation of ice on the roads. It was therefore not possible for SBR to convene the large number of participants before the 14th of February. That is why this report has been delayed.

ACS, MORES and the experts preferred **conducting the first stakeholder workshop prior to the one to one meetings with farmers** because they believed that farmers must be completely aware of the project and should have a clear idea about the principles of agritourism and agroecology. Experts also requested to give enough time for farmers and NGOs in order to propose the projects for selection. For this reason, the first stakeholder meeting was conducted before the one to one meetings with farmers which will all be held in the coming week (first week of March). Having the first stakeholder workshop showed that few attendees knew the principles of agritourism and agroecology due to the several questions that were asked during the session concerning these two issues.

Meanwhile, **farmers of Jdeidet El Shouf were contacted and visit appointments with have been scheduled. One to one meetings with agritourism stakeholders and NGOs will also be taken in the coming two weeks.**

In the intervening time, a **meeting with all the experts, ACS and MORES was conducted to set a detailed time frame of work, distribute tasks and roles among the team and ensure that all activities are implemented.**

To have an overview progress of the project, this table summarizes the activities and their progress throughout the project. Color coding is used to have a better image on the progress and which can be updated in future reports:

Green indicates the activities that were finalized

Orange indicates the activities that are still in progress

Yellow indicates the activities left

Grey indicates the activities that were delayed

Red indicates the activities that can't be implemented

Task	Outcomes	Progress/ indicative timing
Stakeholder Validation	Identified stakeholders	ACS and MORES in collaboration with the Mayor of Jdeidet El Shouf have put forth a comprehensive list of stakeholders as part of the Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis study. The identification of stakeholders relied on the experience of ACS and MORES who are active in the area and who have implemented several projects with the local communities, as well as consultations with the municipality. The developed list will be validated/further expanded through meetings and consultations upon project initiation and throughout the development of the detailed design.
Planning of stakeholder engagement	Methodologies for stakeholder engagement and tools for stakeholder workshops-	This activity is currently in progress and will end in the first week of month 4.
One to one meetings with farmers	Identifying the key stakeholder for further planning and value chain mapping	One to one meetings with farmers have been scheduled and questionnaires were developed. ACS and the agroecology expert will implement this activity in the first week of March.
One to one meetings with agritourism stakeholders & NGOs	Collection of needed data for value chain mapping	One to one meetings with agritourism stakeholders and NGOs will be scheduled in the first week of March. ACS and the agritourism expert will implement this activity in the second week of March to collect the needed data for value chain mapping.

Value chain mapping	Identified stakeholders and potential roles	This activity will be implemented in the first two weeks of March
Equitable activity and revenue	Mechanism to ensure equity between stakeholders	This activity will be implemented in Mid-April
Workshop with local community	Increased awareness on tourism business and agritourism	This activity will be implemented in the second week of April
Design of Training for eco-tour operators	Improved capacity of eco-tour operators on agritourism functions in rural areas	This activity will be implemented in the third week of March
Proposition and planning of familiarization field trips	Improved capacity in agritourism	This activity will be implemented in the first week of April
Networking Session	Creation of/ enhancement of the relationship between Jdeidet El Shouf and experienced stakeholders	This activity will be implemented in Mid-March
Draft a local tourism charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased awareness on good practices in agritourism ▪ Development of standards 	This activity will be implemented in the end of April
Stakeholder workshops: First workshop	<p>Priority projects selected</p> <p>Increased awareness on agritourism</p> <p>Improved skills in project selection and prioritization criteria</p>	<p>This activity took place in the second week of February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the meeting, all stakeholders were introduced • Briefing on the MINARET project and the results of the assessments conducted under its framework was conducted • Principles of agritourism were introduced to stakeholders • Discussion of Jdeidet El Shouf potentials in agritourism took place • Activities and projects related to agritourism were proposed • The criteria for prioritization of projects were set

Second workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed design of selected project <p>Improved skills of participants in project design</p>	This activity will be implemented in the first week of March
Third workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified capacities and needs Identified roles of stakeholders 	This activity will be implemented in the third week of March
Fourth workshop	Detailed design of all project components	This activity will be implemented in the second week of April
Developing one final report	Final report of the project	This action will be finalized in the last week of the project. Meanwhile, progress reports are being submitted by the end of each month.

Report on project objectives and deliverables

ACS and MORES will conduct the value chain mapping for agritourism in Jdeidet El Shouf along the Barouk river. They will identify the stakeholders involved in the different aspects of agritourism, and engage them through workshops and consultation in the design of project activities, allocation of roles and responsibilities and planning for capacity building.

The experts met prior to the workshop and defined the criteria for selection.

The first implemented activity was the **Stakeholder Validation**, where ACS and MORES, **in collaboration with the Municipality of Jdeidet El Shouf, and based on the Stakeholder Analysis study conducted under the framework of the MINARET project, and their experience in the field, identified a number of potential participants involved in agritourism.**

The workshop was led by Nizar Hani, Raji Maasri and Hisham Fatayri. The purpose of the meeting, the agenda and the Nexus approach were introduced. Then there were the presentations of experts Khaled Sleem (agroecology) and Pascal Abdallah (agri-tourism)

The developed list of projects will be validated/further expanded through meetings and consultations in the following stages of the project.

Please elaborate whether deliverables are realized in accordance with the activity plan (timeframe)

The deliverables are realized as planned content wise, but not within the time frame yet for external circumstances. For this purpose, a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 20 February to set a detailed time frame to counter this delay and make sure that the activities are implemented.

Challenges and bottlenecks; please elaborate on risks and mitigation measures

Some challenges emerged during the first workshop:

1. Project selection criteria were proposed, the attendees and project team generally discussed their importance however, their relative “weights” could not be determined in one workshop given the nature of proposed projects and criteria. Therefore a more in depth discussion is needed to evaluate the criteria.
2. Lengthy discussions were held between participants and the project team related to the project, potentials for the deployment of agro-ecology in the area and successful experiences. The discussions led to the proposition of a list of projects and selection of criteria. However, more detailed backup information is needed for evaluation and selection of projects. The team will focus on developing the needed methodology for collection of data necessary for the selection of activities for implementation based on what has been learned in the first stage of this project. Further interviews and meetings will be held with farmers and other stakeholders to collect the needed information, mainly, the legal framework for proposed activities to assess their legal feasibility.

Potential risks and mitigation measures:

When developing detailed project designs, neighboring farmers might not agree on the types of crops to be planted and techniques to be adopted. The team will select key farmers who are willing to adopt the methodology and implement it. They will be used as success stories for other hesitant and doubtful farmers. The Municipality of Jdeideh on the other hand is willing to adopt a few farmers with adjacent lands and support them into working within the scope of the project as one unit.

Expected follow-up; describe activities that will ensure continuation upon the completion of the project

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Financial report; budget, expenditures, deviation...

(please provide with a detailed financial statement in annex)

The detailed financial statement will come with the second report.

But based on the activities of the project we have the following commitments to pay the experts and the team for the conducted activities:

Pascal Abdallah: 1 working day

Khaled Sleem: 1 working day

Project team: 2 working days each