

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Donor Council
Paris, France
28 January 2014
2:30 pm Paris time (CET)

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the 23rd meeting of the Donor Council on 25 June 2013. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Follow-up to decisions made during the 23rd meeting of CEPF Donor Council
- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Financial summary
- Monitoring report
- Executive Summary of RIT Exchange
- Approved Grants (1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013)
- Media clippings

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 23rd MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

During the 23rd meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 25 June 2013, the Donor Council requested the following actions.

- *The Secretariat will present to the Working Group in October an analysis from the RIT Exchange that is taking place in Washington, D.C. this September.*

The Secretariat provided a report on the RIT Exchange to the Working Group at its meeting on 17 December 2013, the first Working Group meeting held after the 23rd Donor Council meeting. The document also is included in this report.

- *The Donor Council members should send the Secretariat the name and contact details of the Donor Council representative who will participate in the IDC/management cost meeting taking place in July.*

The Secretariat put the IDC/management cost meeting on hold pending receipt of the requested names and contact details.

Report from the Executive Director

CEPF grantees, donors featured in French nature magazine, photo exhibit

Putting a spotlight on several CEPF grantees and donors, French nature magazine *Terre Sauvage* celebrated the publication of its 300th issue by devoting the issue to the world's biodiversity hotspots, featuring images from some of the world's top nature photographers and including reports on conservation successes supported by CEPF. Articles present results of CEPF-funded projects in the hotspots and grantees who led them, and interviews with Donor Council Chairperson Jean-Michel Severino, Director General of the Environment for the European Commission and Donor Council member Karl Falkenberg, and CI President Russ Mittermeier, who lend perspective to the biodiversity crisis and CEPF's role in addressing it.



Georgian snow rose (*Rhododendron caucasicum*) Caucasus Hotspot. © Tom Schandy/EBphoto/NPL

Terre Sauvage and CEPF also collaborated with the Nature Photo Library (NPL) on an outdoor photo exhibit that opened in late December outside the Paris offices of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 27 rue de la Convention, and is presented in partnership with the League for the Protection of Birds (Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux – LPO), the French Development Agency (l'Agence française de développement) and the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes). It will be on display through the end of January, supporting CEPF efforts to secure the replenishment of the contribution of the French government to the Fund.

Among the topics of featured articles in the magazine are:

- The race to find and protect undiscovered species in the mountains of Haiti.
- Efforts to support biodiversity conservation leaders in post-Arab Spring Tunisia.
- The battle against invasive fish species in the Cape Floristic Region.
- Grantee Bird Conservation Nepal's campaign to make a future for Nepal's dwindling vultures and the important services they provide.

(Continued on page 4)

Contents

- Partnership Highlights (Pages 4-6)
- Updates on Profiling (Pages 6-8)
- From the Field (Pages 9-11)
- Updates on New Investments (Pages 12-13)
- Field visit schedule (Page 13)
- Financial Summary (Page 14-17)
- Approved Grants (Page 21-32)

At a glance

Hotspot strategies implemented	22
Partners supported	1,836
Committed grants	\$165 million
Amount leveraged by those grants	\$331 million
Protected areas created [hectares]	12.7 million

Terre Sauvage and the photographers whose works are featured have done a wonderful job of paying tribute to the remarkable nature found in the world's biodiversity hotspots and the remarkable people working to save it, including CEPF grantees around the world. The magazine and exhibit provide a vivid and moving argument for making sure these natural wonders are conserved for future generations, and for supporting nongovernmental organizations to lead conservation.

CEPF focuses its funding on enabling civil society (communities, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector) to conserve the biodiversity hotspots—the world's most biologically rich yet threatened ecosystems and the life-sustaining benefits they provide, such as clean air, fresh water and healthy soils.

Both the magazine and the exhibit portray the diverse natural beauty of these areas and their vital importance to human well-being. Read the English version of the magazine here: <http://bayard.ave-news.com/connection/connection.html?name=TEGB0300>

The magazine also serves as a catalog for the exhibit, and is available in French or English from iTunes Store via a free app: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/terre-sauvage/id367479829?mt=8>

You can also see photos from the exhibit at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=492130217572534&set=a.492130160905873.1073741848.360628050722752&type=1&theater>

CEPF also would like to thank its grantees and donors who participated in the magazine issue. It is a great tool for sharing the CEPF story.

We plan to display the exhibit at sites and events around France, and at international venues such as the European Parliament, the Convention on Biological Diversity COP in South Korea in October, the Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi in November, and the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November.



"The 34 Wonders of the World" photo exhibit. © L'Agence Nature



CEPF regional implementation team and secretariat members in Front Royal, VA. © CI/photo by Mandy DeVine

Partnership Highlights

RIT Members from Around the Globe Meet, Share Lessons and Propose New Ways Forward

The successful implementation of CEPF's conservation strategies is due in large part to the engagement of the regional implementation teams (RITs). These locally based leaders are a key link between CEPF and local stakeholders and grantees who are implementing conservation on the ground across biodiversity hotspots. In September, **CEPF gathered a group of RIT members — 28 people from 13 hotspots — to participate in the first-ever RIT Exchange.** Held at the Smithsonian-George Mason School of Conservation in Front Royal, Virginia, USA, the RIT members and CEPF Secretariat **shared experiences on networking and capacity building; discussed communications, sustainability and fundraising; and theorized about the ideal RIT design.**

(Continued on page 5)

“I think it’s a perfect program, it’s focused. CEPF would not need the RITs if it wasn’t so concerned with building civil society [capacity] in the regions, but it is, and that makes the RITs essential and wonderful,” said Borut Rubinic, Balkans program officer for the Mediterranean Basin RIT.

The experience generated innovative ideas and proposals that the Secretariat captured for improving CEPF processes, and fostered dialogue across hotspots that participants plan to continue.

“I enjoyed meeting like-minded people with a wealth of experiences from different hotspots. I was also able to identify those people to continue exchanging ideas with because of their experiences on issues relevant to my hotspot as well,” said Zewditu Tessema, the project coordinator for Ethiopia with the Eastern Afromontane RIT.



Yoko Watanabe, senior biodiversity specialist of the GEF Secretariat, welcomes CEPF staff and RIT members. © CI/ photo by Julie Shaw

Brownbag at the Global Environment Facility

On 19 September, the **Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted RIT members and Secretariat staff who presented on their experience with CEPF in the GEF’s brown bag lunch series** in Washington, D.C, USA. GEF

staff and other attendees gathered to learn more about CEPF and its regional implementation teams. During the brownbag, Patricia Zurita, executive director of CEPF, provided an overview of the fund; Jagdish Krishnaswamy, RIT manager and principal investigator with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), presented on the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot investment; and Anna Cadiz, RIT manager with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), shared her experience implementing CEPF in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot. The Secretariat is thankful to the GEF, in particular Yoko Watanabe and Jaime Cavellier who made it possible for the RITs to visit and present at the GEF.

CEPF’s Response to Improve its Procedures and Practices

After several team meetings early in FY14 such as the CEPF staff retreat, RIT trainings, and the CEPF- RIT Learning Exchange, the Secretariat engaged in very open conversations to pinpoint practices that could be improved to provide better assistance to our grantees and the RITs, and improve internal operations.

During these very fruitful conversations the Secretariat identified two main objectives:

- 1) Provide clearer communication from the Secretariat to the RIT or grantees
- 2) Develop clear and simple tools and guidelines to support the whole CEPF family in better understanding policies and procedures

Since then, CEPF has been working hard on different tools and communication templates to provide stronger support to our RITs and grantees. A table listing these can be found after the financials in this report.

Working Group Reviews Draft Guidelines for CEPF Phase III Strategy

Members of the Working Group met 17 December 2013 to discuss the draft guidelines for CEPF’s Phase III strategy developed by a consulting team based on input received at the Donor Council retreat held in June and from interviews with Council members, grantees and Secretariat staff.

CEPF Evaluation Led by L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

AFD began the evaluation of CEPF's work after its contribution to CEPF ended in 2012. AFD has contracted with the consulting group Baastel, and the Secretariat has been working with the consultants since August 2013. The consultants are reviewing CEPF's materials and will have visited four hotspots by the completion of their evaluation – the Caribbean Islands, Madagascar, the Guinean Forests of West Africa and Indo-Burma. The evaluation is expected to be completed by May 2014 with a report that will be shared with the Donor Council during its meeting in June 2014.



Baastel consultant with CEPF grantees in the Dominican Republic. © francomacorisanos.com

Mid-term Assessment Held for Caribbean Islands

The mid-term assessment for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot, held in July, proved to be an outstanding opportunity to review the status of the CEPF strategy in the Caribbean and engage a range of donors and international agencies in efforts to collaborate on joint conservation efforts. More than 30 civil society grantees and partners of CEPF participated, with participation especially strong among a range of GEF partners: The GEF Small Grants Program and GEF focal points attended consultation workshops in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica; and the GEF project staff for Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management attended the Jamaica regional meeting. Furthermore, representatives from the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Organization of American States (OAS), Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, and IUCN's new conservation project for protected areas actively participated in the regional workshop and identified a number of opportunities to establish new collaborations and to strengthen existing ones.



CEPF grantees and Secretariat in Jamaica. © CI/photo by Mandy DeVine

Updates on Profiling

Wallacea

Through August and September, **Burung Indonesia held eight stakeholder workshops throughout Wallacea**. Meetings were held on the islands of Sulawesi, Maluku, Lombok, Sumba and Timor (including both the western, Indonesian half of the island and the eastern half, which is the country of Timor-Leste). By the conclusion of these workshops, Burung Indonesia had met with more than **260 different individuals, community representatives, nongovernment organizations, donor representatives and government agencies** to assess threats and prioritize interventions on a list of 391 KBAs.

(Continued on page 7)



Coastal area of Timor-Leste. © CI/photo by Lynn Tang

Summary of Participants in Local Stakeholder Consultation Workshops

Workshop Location	Government	Business	Media	Academic	Peoples Organization	NGO	Religious Organization	Total
Kupang	10	3	0	2	3	9	1	28
Sumba	7	0	1	1	18	8	2	37
Manado	12	1	6	2	2	19	0	42
Ternate	10	1	1	1	3	8	0	24
Ambon	8	0	3	2	7	22	2	44
Mataram	10	1	0	2	6	7	0	26
Makassar	9	1	4	1	5	6	0	26
Dili	7	5	0	0	5	18	0	35
Total	73	12	15	11	49	97	5	262

The Indonesian and Timor-Leste Governments provided input to the overall process and to the conservation outcomes analysis through the participation of key agencies and ministries in the National Advisory Committee (NAC) in each country. These committees met twice during the process and once at the end to discuss the final profile and the plans for the implementation of the CEPF program. Members of the NAC also included the national GEF focal point, representatives of the global donors to CEPF, and representatives of conservation, development, indigenous peoples and private sector organizations.

The final stakeholder was set for Jakarta during the week of **28 January 2014**. A draft of the profile is expected to be sent to the Working Group in the spring.

Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands

The profiling team compiled a huge assortment of data, analyzed gaps, and organized four **national consultations workshops in Madagascar and one in each of the Indian Ocean Islands**. The first workshops took place on 21 August and 4 September in Madagascar, followed by workshops in Comoros, Seychelles and La Reunion Island in October. In all, about 220 representatives of civil society, government, academia and the private sector participated in the process.



Malagasy farmer, Madagascar. © Cristina Mittermeier

The analysis of the most up-to-date data, coming from a wide variety of participants, has resulted in the identification of about 40 new KBAs in Madagascar, an increase of about 20 percent, with most of the new KBAs being situated in dry forests or within landscapes largely dominated by agriculture. Much work was also accomplished in identifying coastal/ marine KBAs, an exercise that required an adaptation of the current methodology. With the support of CI, CEPF is piloting a new methodology, KBA+, mapping out the ecosystem services that KBAs provide. This process will allow the profiling team to use ecosystem services as one of the criteria for prioritizing areas for CEPF investment, strengthening the link between critical ecosystems and human well-being.

The draft profile is being finalized currently, and the Secretariat expects to share it with the Working Group by March.

Guinean Forests of West Africa

Chosen to lead the profiling process in the Guinean Forests Hotspot, IUCN (Switzerland) and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center held the first stakeholder consultation workshop in Ghana 11-12 December. The next workshops are planned for mid- to late February. The tentative dates and locations for these meetings are as follows:

17-18 February - Francophone states (Guinea Conakry, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast,) Lome, Togo.

24-25 February - Mountain Archipelago system and the Lower Guinea forest sub-region (Cameroon, Bioko, and Sao Tome) and will be organized in Douala, Cameroon.



Tiwai Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot. © CI/ photo by Russell A. Mittermeier

Tropical Andes

CEPF signed a grant agreement with NatureServe in August to undertake ecosystem profiling of the Tropical Andes Hotspot. NatureServe brings extensive experience in combining biodiversity planning with environmental policy development for the Tropical Andes, for the MacArthur Foundation, the Moore Foundation and several US federal agencies. The CEPF contract includes a sub-grant to the Ecuadorian-based NGO EcoDecision, which is dedicated to conservation finance, environmental policy and governance, socioeconomic analysis and stakeholder consultation. As part of the profiling process, NatureServe embarked on stakeholder consultations throughout the hotspot starting in November, with the aim of completing the drafting process by mid-2014. Workshops have been held in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, with representatives of the EU attending the Ecuador and Colombia events, and EU and GEF representatives attending side meetings in Lima in conjunction with the Peru workshop. The workshops have attracted excellent participation from representatives of environment ministries and local environmental conservation funds.



Paramos in Ecuador, Tropical Andes Hotspot. © CI/photo by Michele Zador

Workshops are also planned for Bolivia, Chile and Venezuela. The tentative dates and locations for the remaining meetings are as follows:

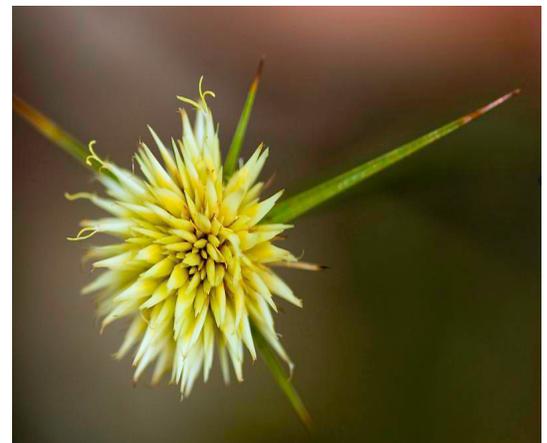
28 January - Caracas, Venezuela

3-4 February - Santiago, Chile

6-7 February - La Paz, Bolivia

Cerrado

A call for proposals was issued in November for the team to lead the profiling process for the Cerrado Hotspot in Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia. The deadline for response was January 15, and the Secretariat is reviewing the proposals now. The Secretariat expects the profiling process to begin by spring 2014.



Yellow flower in Parque Nacional Chapada dos Veadeiros, Cerrado Hotspot. © CI/photo by Sterling Zumbrunn

From the Field

Indo-Burma

Volunteers Help Tackle the Wildlife Trade

In Vietnam, local grantee Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) successfully completed a large grant aimed at strengthening public participation in tackling the wildlife trade, which is recognized as the most serious threat to biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Hotspot. This project supported and expanded the work of ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit, which had been operating since 2006 but at a smaller scale and lower level of impact. Under the project, more than 2,000 new volunteers – mainly students and young graduates – were recruited and trained, doubling the size of ENV's volunteer network.



ENV volunteers. © ENV

These volunteers undertook more than 2,300 monitoring missions and reported more than 400 new wildlife crimes. They were coordinated and motivated through a network of nine wildlife protection clubs established in major urban centers and other wildlife trade hotspots across Vietnam. In addition to the volunteer network, members of the public were engaged in efforts to counter wildlife crime, with more than 1,000 new crimes being reported via an e-mail/telephone hotline. Furthermore, 50 celebrities joined ENV's wildlife protection efforts, including by appearing in public service announcements broadcast on national television and radio.

(continued on page 10)

Featured New Grants

Greater Mahale Landscape — Tanzania

Fauna & Flora International and the Frankfurt Zoological Society Join Forces with CEPF Support

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) are receiving parallel grants to work in the Greater Mahale Landscape along the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania. The Greater Mahale Region is home to chimpanzees, elephants and the Tongwe people, a group of about 40,000 former forest-dwelling hunters and gatherers who are now primarily subsistence farmers. The Tongwe, like many Tanzanians, were profoundly affected by the policy of Ujamaa that forced them from their homeland and into communal villages in the 1960s. Many returned to their lands as soon as they could only to be removed again by the establishment of the Mahale Mountains National Park. These experiences have created suspicion of government and outsiders among many Tongwe, making economic and social development difficult and slow. Despite these experiences, connections between the Tongwe and the natural world remain deep.

Within this context, FFI and FZS are receiving money from CEPF to work alongside the Jane Goodall Institute, the Nature Conservancy, the Tongwe Trust and local government agencies to promote community-based conservation on “village land forest reserves.” FZS promotes land use planning within eight priority villages while FFI focuses on strengthening of the Tongwe Trust. If successful, the combined effort will lead to 120,000 hectares of key biodiversity area land under improved management and could lead to the creation of a 400,000 hectare protected area tentatively called Tongwe West Forest, strengthening the link that Tongwe people have to their land and allowing them a legal framework that will protect their relationship to their environment, recognizing their role as critical stewards of this threatened area.

These combined efforts resulted in measurable impacts in terms of confiscations, rescues and voluntary handovers of traded and captive wildlife. ENV also reported a significant improvement in law enforcement throughout the country, with increased official accountability and a departure from the former practice of auctioning confiscated wildlife back into the trade. It should be recognized that this trend is largely based on perception, rather than a systematic evaluation of responses to reported wildlife crime. Overall the project has engaged the general public in meaningful conservation at a scale not hitherto seen in Vietnam and in a way that has been viewed by enforcement agencies as supporting their mission and increasing their effectiveness. In short, this grant is a perfect example of how CEPF engages civil society to complement government policies and institutions.

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Communities Work to Prevent Extinction of the Cape Parrot



Cape parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*).
© Rodnick Bijon

The quarter saw the close of one of the region's most inspiring grants. The Wild Bird Trust (WBT), working in the Hogsback/Amathole Mountains key biodiversity area, a mystical region famous for being the home to J.R.R. Tolkien when he wrote *The Lord of the Rings*, used CEPF funding to address issues of habitat conservation and species rehabilitation for the Critically Endangered Cape parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*), known as the IziKhwenene in the local language, Xhosa. The Cape parrot suffered initially and most massively from the loss of habitat, notably the yellow wood tree (*Podocarpus*), in which it preferred to nest and feed. The species was further threatened by bird collectors and then, critically, Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBF). The Wild Bird Trust has pooled funds from several donors to address the numerous threats facing the Cape parrot.

CEPF funding focused on replanting of native tree species and placement of nest boxes. After two years, achievements were numerous and included:

- 20,810 indigenous trees planted.
- Five fenced-off indigenous tree orchards of 500-1,000 trees created, with survival rates of 70-95 percent.
- Almost 7,500 *Harpephyllum caffrum* and *Olea Europaea Africana* planted in areas where Cape parrots and Samago monkeys are known to feed, with estimates that fruit will be available within 3-5 years.
- 258 wooden nest boxes placed.
- More than 460 local community members benefitting with up to 40 community members employed in the planting, seed-collecting, fencing or clearing teams, as well as the nest box construction and erection teams, at any one time.
- The outbreak of the PBF virus has declined in the local Cape parrot population and **the first breeding successes in three years were recorded last year**. Population assessments demonstrate that the local population is now breeding successfully and juvenile mortality appears to be declining. The project aims to have positive population growth by 2015.
- Village partnerships established in five villages – Hala, Sompondo, Zincuka, Hogsback and Gilton – along the Amathole Mountains. IziKhwenene project village forums established in each village, and meetings with senior community members occurring once or twice a month.
- 30 micro-nurseries (household-based nurseries) established.
- More than **\$110,000 in funding leveraged** from additional sources.

The head of WBT, Steve Boyes, has written extensively on this project as a National Geographic Explorer. Click [here](#) to read his NewsWatch posting from May 2012. This project was also featured as a top story on CEPF's website earlier this year. Click [here](#) to read the full story.

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena

Connecting Indigenous Communities in Ecuador

CEPF grantees Altropico and Conservation International organized exchange visits between the ethnic nationalities of Awa, Chachi, Epera and Afro-Ecuadorian communities in northwest Ecuador to share experience under Ecuador's Socio Bosque program. Under this program, the Government of Ecuador enters into 20-year agreements to finance tropical forest conservation. CEPF helped pilot Socio Bosque during the first investment phase in the hotspot and under consolidation helped to expand the program's adoption elsewhere. The community exchanges allowed 30 participants to visit Socio Bosque sites and to discuss various aspects of the program, including development and implementation of community investment plans, accountability and reporting and surveillance of conservation areas. As one immediate result of the visits, several Awa communities expressed interest in entering the program and agreed to discuss the subject in their next national assembly. This could be an important turning point within Awa communities, who have been very reluctant to pursue Socio Bosque even though their lands contain large and well maintained tracks of tropical forest of vital importance for hotspot-wide connectivity.

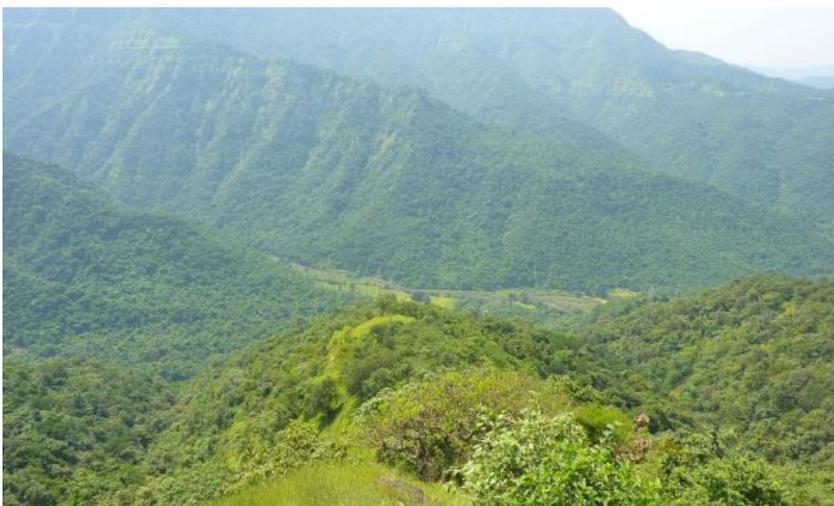


Community exchange visit in Centro Chachi Guadual, Ecuador. © Altropico/photo by Ramiro V.

Western Ghats

Protecting Private Forests in India

In India, local grantee, Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) successfully completed a large grant focused on conservation solutions for forest on private lands, in a landscape with a very low coverage of protected areas and accelerating habitat fragmentation and loss. The project established a network of civil society organizations active in the northern Western Ghats. This filled an important gap in organized conservation efforts for the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor in southern Maharashtra state, which had hitherto received limited attention relative to areas further south. The project also had important impacts on the ground, most notably the successful piloting of 'conservation agreements' as a model for incentivizing small landowners to conserve forest on private land, and provide an economic alternative to allowing logging or conversion of their forests.



Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor. © CI/photo by Pierre Carret

Under the project, AERF successfully negotiated conservation agreements with small landowners in 13 villages. All participating community members received direct cash incentives, while some also received legal support to challenge mining projects impinging on their rights to land and resources. The agreements covered 400 hectares of forest, including in the buffer zones of three CEPF priority sites. As well as being biodiversity-rich in their own right, these demonstration sites establish proof of concept for the conservation agreement approach, which has considerable potential for replication, especially in southern Maharashtra, where large areas of forest are present on private land.

Updates on New Investments

East Melanesian Islands

During 12-14 September, the CEPF Secretariat set up training for the team from IUCN's Oceania Regional Office who will coordinate the new CEPF investment in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot. The training was held at CEPF's offices in Arlington, Virginia, USA, which allowed Luisa Tagicakibau, Helen Pippard and Alan Saunders from the new regional implementation team to meet with the entire CEPF team and start to develop a common understanding of how to build an effective investment program in East Melanesia. Their training was scheduled back-to-back with the RIT Exchange (page 2) so they not only benefited from meeting all the Secretariat staff but also the other RITs of CEPF.



Members of the East Melanesian Islands RIT with secretariat staff during training. © CI/photo by Laura Johnston

The East Melanesia portfolio will be implemented over eight years to allow more time to build local capacity and leadership for conservation among civil society in a hotspot characterized by extreme linguistic diversity, customary land tenure and political instability. During the training, the participants discussed strategies for engaging local civil society and delivering enduring impacts, as well as how the programs and networks of IUCN could be leveraged in support of the RIT role. All participants left enthusiastic to face together the challenges to come.

The first call for proposal in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot was announced on 19 August. This call covered the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It was followed by a call covering the islands region of Papua New Guinea on 2 September. In line with the eight-year investment strategy, the scope of the calls was restricted to activities that strengthen local civil society capacity and networks, and build relationships and trust with local communities around the 20 CEPF priority sites. The intention is that grants made under the first call will establish a platform on which grants under future rounds can build. The response to the two calls was very encouraging, with good coverage of the different geographies in the hotspot and a diverse mix of applicant organizations.



Members of the Indo-Burma II RIT with secretariat staff during training. © CI/photo by Laura Johnston

Indo-Burma II

During 22-26 July, a team from the CEPF Secretariat traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, to train the RIT for the second phase of CEPF investment in Indo-Burma, a multi-country hotspot with the largest terrestrial area of any hotspot. To cope with the demands of such a large and complex region, the RIT role is being performed by a consortium, led by IUCN's Asia Regional Office in partnership with Kadoorie Farm and Botanical Garden (KFBG) and the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN). The RIT draws on inputs from staff based in all six hotspot countries, and the training was provided for 13 people, making it one of the largest trainings to date. In addition to explaining CEPF policies and elucidating grant making processes, the training provided an opportunity to discuss how the approach should be tailored to the specific challenges and opportunities in each country, and how CEPF and the RIT could best complement each other to deliver an effective program.

(continued on page 15)

The most important outcome of the training was that it allowed the different participants to get to know one another and forge a team.

The first call for proposals in the Indo-Burma Hotspot was announced on 29 July. This call received a tremendous response, with more than 230 applications for large and small grants. This level of response can be attributed to this being the second phase of CEPF investment in the region occurring right after the first phase had ended, and the profile of CEPF having been raised among potential applicants through the successful first phase. The first call for proposals covered four of the six countries in the hotspot. A second call, covering the remaining two countries was issued on 30 October. In response to this call, CEPF received 105 LOIs - 52 for large grants and 53 for small grants. This brings the total number of LOIs submitted in 2013 for all six countries of the hotspot to 333. The review process for these LOIs has now commenced and will include meetings of the CEPF National Advisory Committees for Myanmar and Vietnam in February and March.

Consequently, the second phase of CEPF investment in Indo-Burma II is off to a solid start, thanks to strong partners and to the vision of CEPF's donors approving a second phase for this region immediately following the first phase of investment.

A supervision mission currently underway in Thailand is the first for that country, and the Secretariat is taking the opportunity to provide additional training, diving deeper into some of the more complex policies as they relate to project proposals submitted.

CEPF Upcoming Travel Schedule

Please join CEPF for any of our upcoming field visits, which provide good opportunities to meet our grantees and learn about CEPF in the field. Contact Patricia Zurita if you are interested in joining any of the following trips:

February

- 3-4, Ecosystem profile stakeholder consultation, Tropical Andes – Santiago, Chile
- 6-7, Ecosystem profile stakeholder consultation, Tropical Andes – La Paz, Bolivia
- 17-18, Ecosystem profile stakeholder consultation, Guinean Forests of West Africa – Lome, Togo
- 24-25, Ecosystem profile stakeholder consultation, Guinean Forests of West Africa – Douala, Cameroon

March

- TBD, Supervision mission and donor roundtable, Eastern Afromontane – Ethiopia
- TBD, Supervision mission, Caribbean Islands – Haiti
- TBD, Supervision mission, Caribbean Islands – Dominican Republic
- 1st week, RIT supervision mission, Mediterranean Basin – Balkans and the United Kingdom
- 3-5, RIT supervision mission and site visits, Western Ghats – Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, India

April/May

- TBD, RIT supervision mission, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany – South Africa and Mozambique

May

- TBD, RIT supervision mission, East Melanesian Islands –Fiji and Solomon Islands

CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement for 3 Months Ending 9/30/2013

<i>Revenue - CEPF II</i>	<i>Current Year</i>
Contributions	
Interest earned	31,575
Total revenue	31,575

<i>Grants by region</i>	<i>Grants Awarded¹</i> <i>7/01/13 - 9/30/13</i>			<i>Payments on Grants²</i> <i>7/01/13 - 9/30/13</i>		
	<i>FY14 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>FY14 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Caribbean	1,700,000	134,645	8%	1,741,223	454,452	26%
Caucasus			0%	214,510	58,419	27%
East Melanesian Islands ³	1,000,000	1,850,000	185%	370,000	50,130	14%
Eastern Afromontane	3,200,000	501,900	16%	1,730,000	668,045	39%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests		(8)	0%	579,027	249,014	43%
Indo-Burma		50,867	0%	520,583	273,003	52%
Indo-Burma Reinvestment	2,000,000		0%	860,000	442,161	51%
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	610,022	33,666	6%	1,722,693	408,780	24%
Mediterranean	3,500,000	1,033,320	30%	1,501,551	570,545	38%
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Reinvestment ⁴	1,250,000		0%	250,000	0	0%
Mountains of Southwest China			0%	146,670	34,651	24%
Polynesia-Micronesia		(2,232)	0%	117,449	99,044	84%
Tropical Andes			0%	29,873		0%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena			0%	45,000	22,363	50%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	563,522	101,428	18%	611,288	185,911	30%
Total Grants	13,823,544	3,703,585	27%	10,439,867	3,516,518	34%

<i>Operational Costs</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Operating Costs	2,319,243	453,274	20%
Management Fee	449,237	87,800	20%
Total Operations	2,768,480	541,074	20%

<i>Preparation</i>			<i>%</i>
Total Preparation	800,000	367,957	46%

<i>Special Projects</i>			<i>%</i>
Audit Fee	55,000	0	0%
Fundraising	99,068	3,075	3%
Special Events ⁵	150,000	58,809	39%
Total Special Projects	304,068	61,884	20%

Total expense	17,696,092	4,674,500	26%
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Fund Balance at 9/30/2013

Bank Balance	41,340,907
Accounts Receivable	9,558,765
Conservation International	2,500,000
Global Environment Facility	4,343,807
Government of Japan	1,734,958
MacArthur Foundation	200,000
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	780,000
Grants Payable	(17,958,537)
Operating Expenses (due to)/from CI	171,431
Total Fund Balance	33,112,567

¹ Negative amounts represent grant deobligations

² Includes payments on grants awarded in prior years

³ East Melanesian Islands RIT was planned for FY13; contract was signed early in FY14

⁴ Region still being profiled

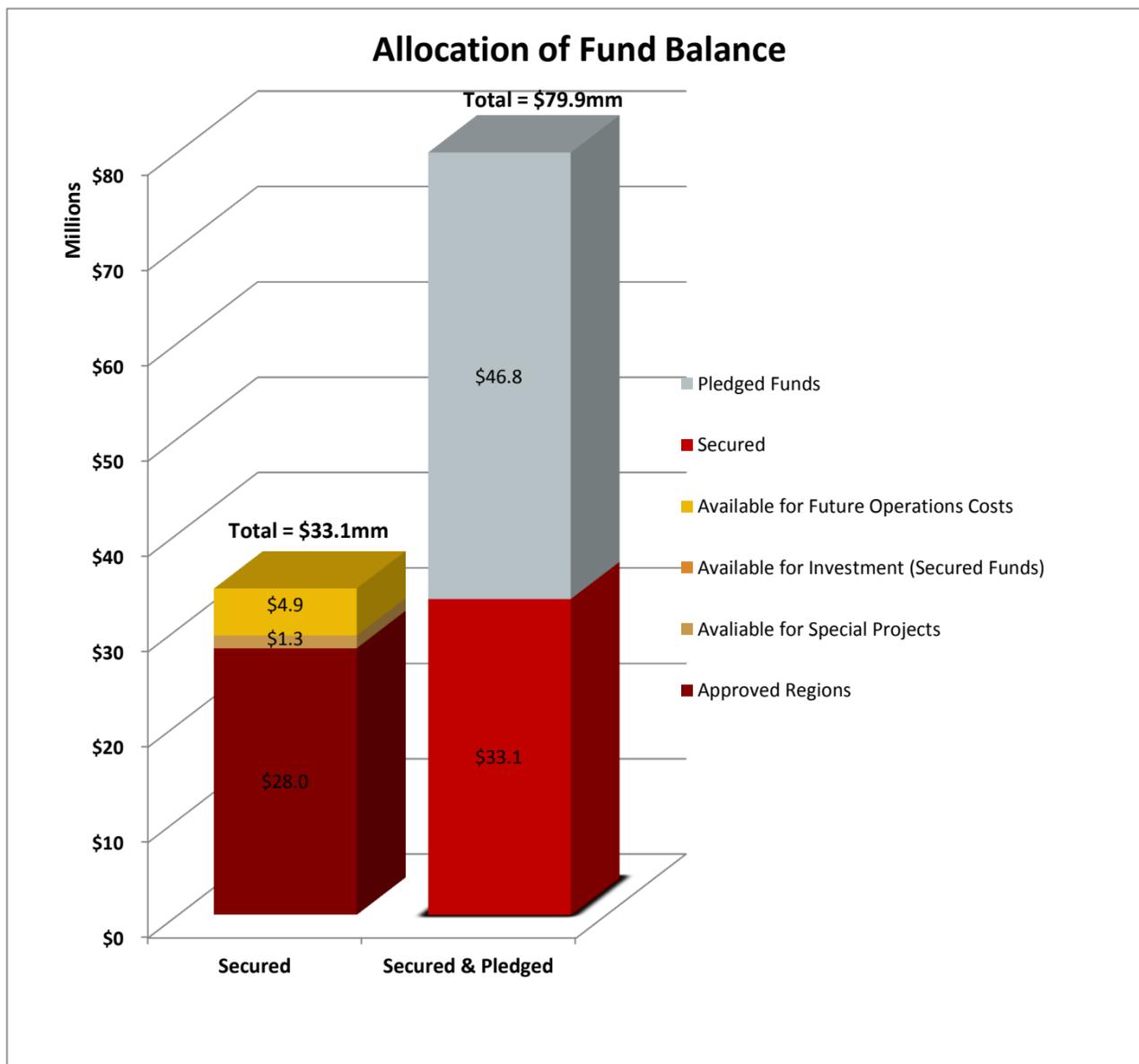
⁵ Actual costs for events include expenses for Regional Implementation Team (RIT) exchange

Summary of Available Resources as of 9/30/2013

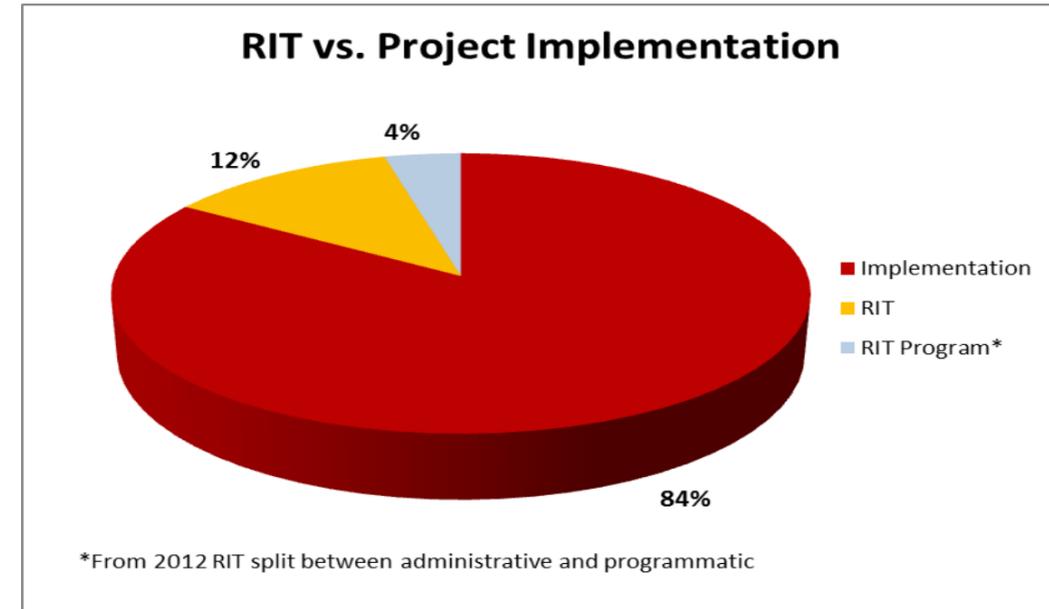
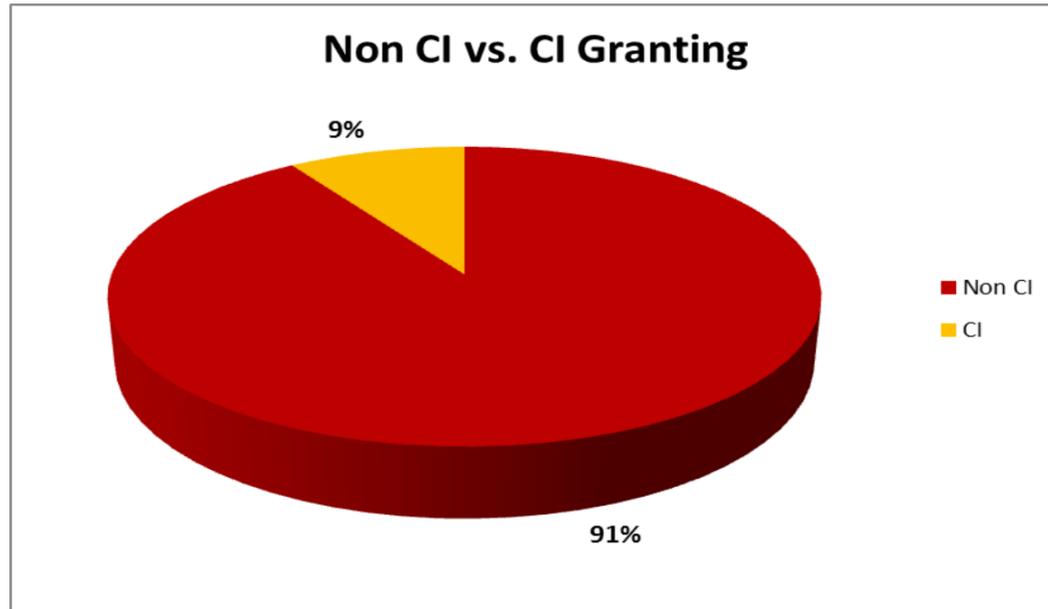
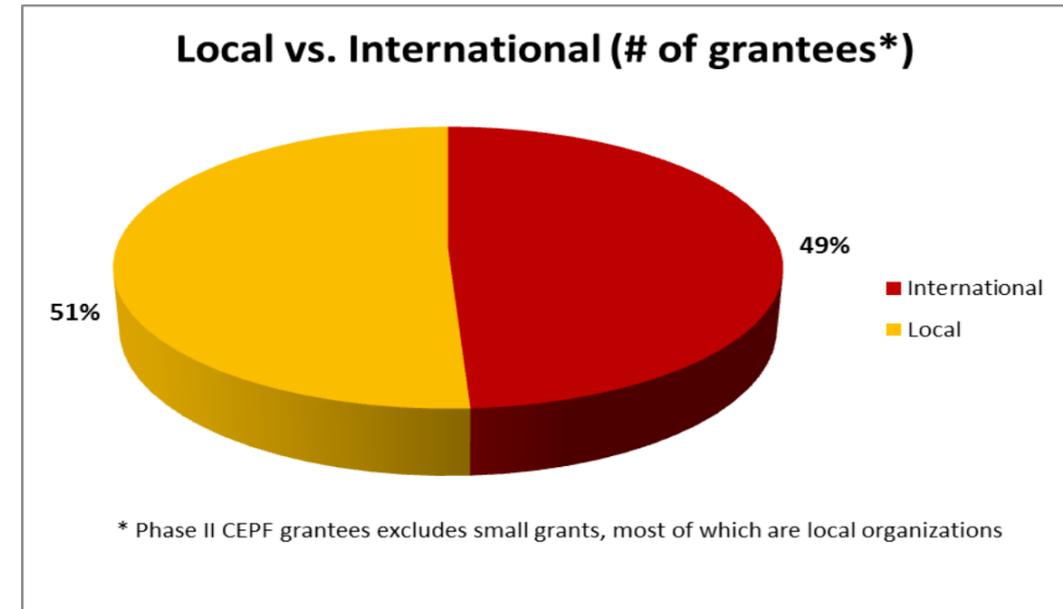
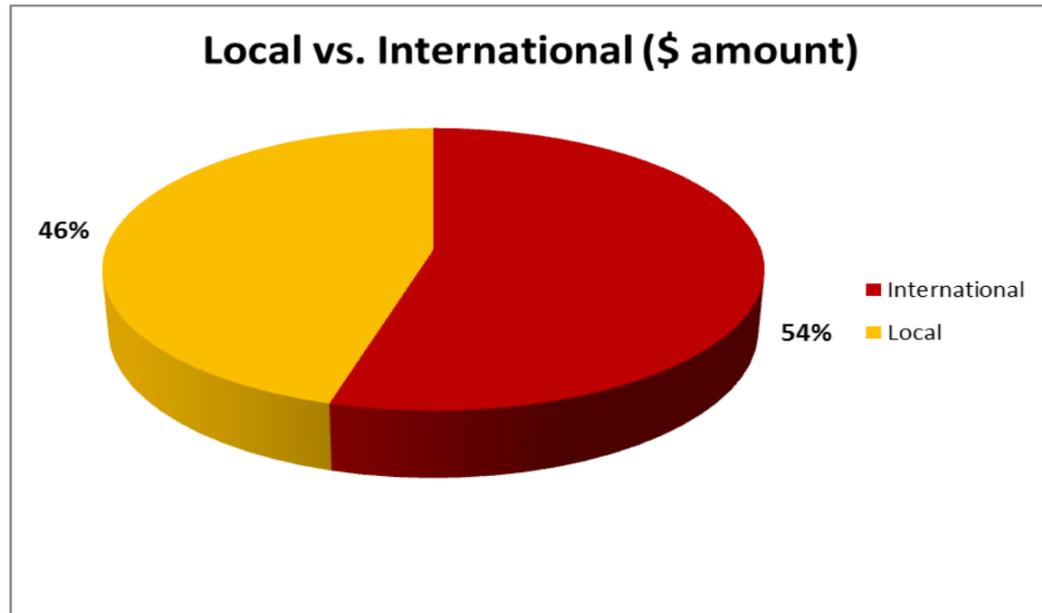
Revenue to Date	238,407,803	
Expenses to Date	205,295,236	
Fund Balance		33,112,567
Allocated to:		
Approved Regions	27,959,714	
Special Projects	1,312,262	
Available for Future Operations Costs	4,940,545	
Available for Investment (Secured Funds)¹		(1,099,953)
Pledged Funds ²		
Operations Costs on Pledged Funds	46,813,000	
Preparation	7,021,950	
Balance for Investment (Pledged Funds)		39,059,007
Total Available for Investment - secured and pledged funds		37,959,054
Total Available Resources - secured and pledged funds		79,925,567

¹ The secured funds available for investment are in a temporary deficit due to the delay in finalizing new donor agreements including the agreement with the WB for the European Union contribution. This will reverse as soon as the new agreements are signed

² Includes \$15mm from the Government of Japan, \$10mm from The World Bank and \$22mm from the European Union



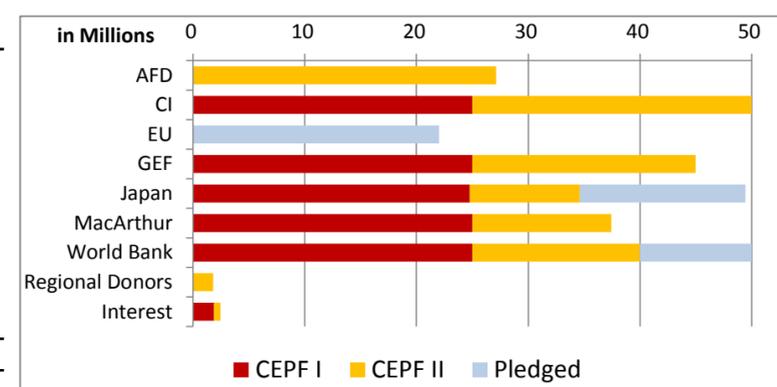
CEPF Phase II Grant Portfolio as of 9/30/13



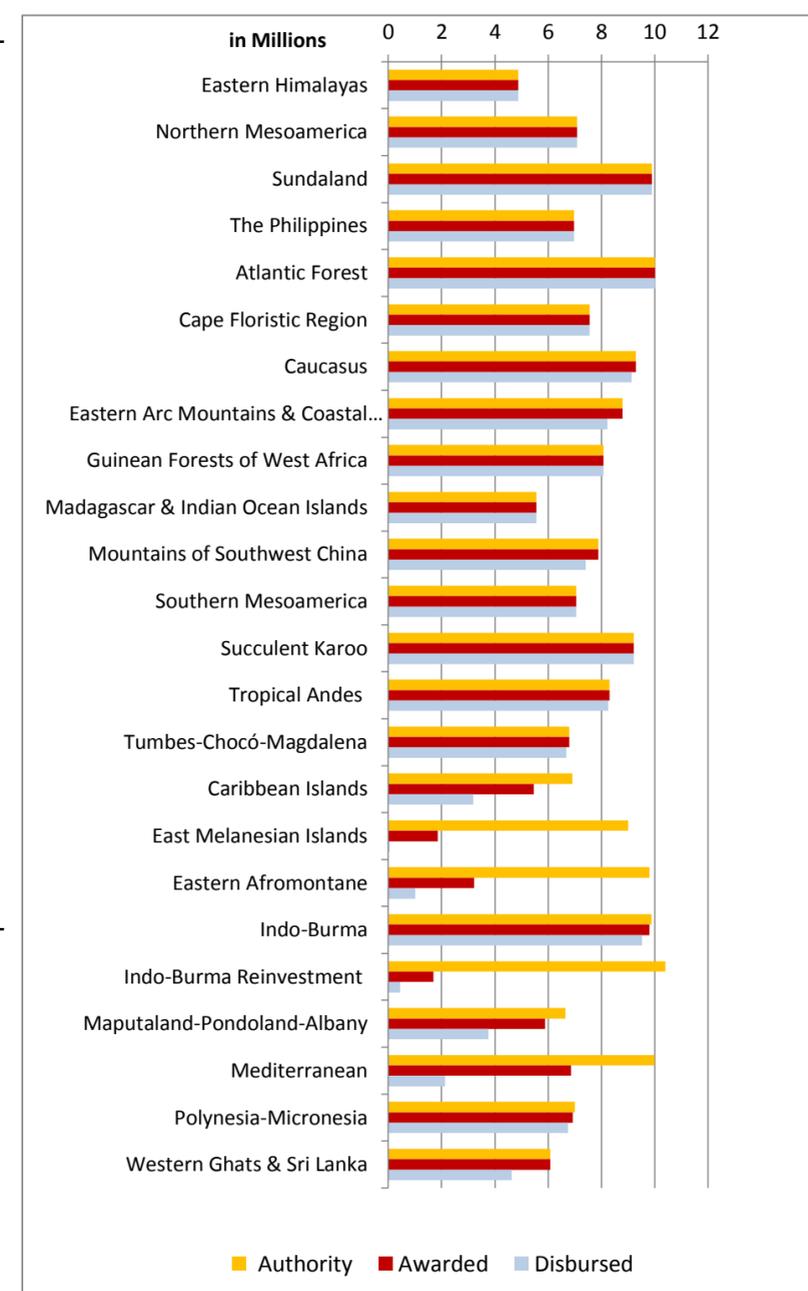
CEPF Quarterly Report

Income Statement from Inception to 9/30/2013 (in US\$ 1,000's)

Revenue	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Pledged
l'Agence Française de Développement	0	27,117	27,117	0
Conservation International	25,000	25,000	50,000	0
European Union	0	0	0	22,000
Global Environmental Facility	25,000	20,000	45,000	0
Government of Japan	24,750	9,875	34,625	14,813
MacArthur Foundation	25,000	12,425	37,425	0
The World Bank	25,000	15,000	40,000	10,000
Regional Donors ¹	0	1,800	1,800	0
Interest earned	1,871	570	2,441	0
Total Revenue to Date	126,621	111,787	238,408	46,813



Expense	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Total	CEPF II
Grants by region	Awarded	Awarded	Awarded	Disbursed	Balance
CEPF I only					
Eastern Himalayas	4,883	0	4,883	4,883	0
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079	0	7,079	7,079	0
Sundaland	9,901	0	9,901	9,901	0
The Philippines	6,970	0	6,970	6,970	0
CEPF I and CEPF II consolidation					
Atlantic Forest	7,615	2,395	10,010	10,010	0
Cape Floristic Region	5,966	1,585	7,551	7,551	0
Caucasus	8,298	998	9,295	9,138	0
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	7,064	1,736	8,800	8,226	0
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165	1,907	8,073	8,073	0
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands	4,170	1,386	5,556	5,556	0
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535	1,350	7,885	7,410	0
Southern Mesoamerica	5,411	1,636	7,047	7,047	0
Succulent Karoo	7,834	1,387	9,221	9,221	0
Tropical Andes	6,130	2,168	8,298	8,253	0
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,952	1,847	6,798	6,677	0
Consolidation (unallocated)	0	0	0	0	28
CEPF II only					
Caribbean Islands	0	5,457	5,457	3,188	1,443
East Melanesian Islands	0	1,850	1,850	50	7,150
Eastern Afromontane	0	3,222	3,222	1,008	6,578
Indo-Burma	0	9,802	9,802	9,521	76
Indo-Burma Reinvestment	0	1,700	1,700	442	8,700
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	0	5,877	5,877	3,749	773
Mediterranean	0	6,859	6,859	2,125	3,141
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	6,930	6,930	6,738	70
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	0	6,077	6,077	4,635	(0)
Total Grants to Date	98,974	66,168	165,142	147,452	27,960
Other Expenses to Date					
Preparation	6,714	2,910	9,624		
Special Projects	345	784	1,128		
Operations Costs	17,659	11,742	29,401		
Total Other Expenses to Date	24,718	15,435	40,153		
Total Expense	123,691	81,604	205,295		
Fund Balance			33,113		



¹ Regional donors include Margaret A Cargill Foundation for Indo Burma Reinvestment



Report of CEPF Monitoring Framework
November 2013

Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
II.	CEPF’s MONITORING FRAMEWORK.....	4
	Table 1: Impact categories and associated statements of success	4
III.	BIODIVERSITY	5
	SPECIES.....	5
	<i>Indicator 1: Change in Red List Index</i>	5
	<i>Indicator 2: Change in threat levels of target species</i>	6
	Box 1: Reducing threats to hornbills in Kerala State, India.....	7
	SITES.....	8
	<i>Indicator 3: Change in habitat extent</i>	8
	<i>Indicator 4: Change in the number of hectares of KBAs with strengthened protection and management</i>	9
	Chart 1: Number of hectares of KBAs with strengthened management and protection, by hotspot.....	9
	<i>Indicator 5: Change in the number of hectares of new protected areas</i>	10
	Chart 2: Number of hectares of new or expanded protected areas, by hotspot	10
	<i>Indicator 6: Change in threat levels of target sites</i>	10
	CORRIDORS	10
	<i>Indicator 7: Change in habitat extent</i>	10
	<i>Indicator 8: Change in the number of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation</i>	10
	Chart 3: Number of Hectares in Production Landscapes with strengthened conservation management.....	10
IV.	HUMAN WELL-BEING	11
	<i>Indicator 9: Change in the number of direct beneficiaries</i>	11
	<i>Indicator 10: Change in the number of communities directly benefitting</i>	11
	Chart 4: Number of communities directly benefitting from CEPF investment	11
	Box 2: Protecting the sarus crane and local livelihoods in Cambodia	12
	<i>Indicator 11: Change in the amount of CO2e stored at CEPF invested sites</i>	13
	<i>Indicator 12: Change in the amount of fresh water secured at CEPF invested sites and delivered to downstream users</i>	13

V.	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	13
	<i>Indicator 13: Change in the number of policies (legislative, regulatory or strategic) that include provisions for conservation management</i>	13
	Table 2: Selected examples of CEPF policy interventions.....	14
	<i>Indicator 14: Change in the number of sustainable finance mechanisms with improved management.....</i>	16
	Table 3: Sustainable financing mechanisms benefiting from CEPF support.....	16
	<i>Indicator 15: Change in the amount of money housed in sustainable finance mechanisms</i>	17
	Box 3: Phoenix Islands Protected Area	19
	<i>Indicator 16: Change in the financial performance of funds</i>	20
	<i>Indicator 17: Change in the timing of financial delivery of funds to conservation projects</i>	20
	<i>Indicator 18: Change in the number of sites (protected areas) with improved management</i>	20
	Chart 5: Protected area sites showing a change in management effectiveness	20
	Table 4: Change in protected area management effectiveness (METT) scores	21
	<i>Indicator 19: Change in the number of best management practices</i>	21
	<i>Indicator 20: Change in the number and percentage of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity.....</i>	21
	Chart 6: Number of CSTTs collected across all active CEPF hotspots, since 2010	22
	Table 5: Number and percent of CSOs with improved organizational capacity, by hotspot	23
	Table 6: Change in civil society organizational capacity, by hotspot.....	23
	Chart 7: Average percent change in civil society capacity, globally and by region	24
	<i>Indicator 21: Change in the collective civil society capacity at relevant scale.....</i>	24
	Table 7: Assessment of collective civil society capacity in the Western Ghats	25
	<i>Indicator 22: Change in the number of networks and partnerships</i>	26
	Table 8: Partnerships/networks that CEPF has helped to establish	26
	Chart 8: Increase in the number of partnerships CEPF has helped to create.....	30
	<i>Indicator 23: Change in the ability of civil society to respond to emerging issues</i>	30
VI.	PLANS FOR THE FUTURE	30
VII.	CONCLUSION.....	30
	Annex A. Indicators in CEPF’s Monitoring Framework	31
	Annex B. Long Term Financing Tracking Tool	33

I. INTRODUCTION

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund awarded its first grants in 2001. Over the course of program implementation, efforts were made to collect information on CEPF's achievements. Initial efforts centered on generating data on achievements pertaining to species, site and corridor conservation, as well as to responding to the standard World Bank biodiversity indicators. Review and revision of these monitoring efforts have formed part of ongoing learning and management of the Fund. Initial adjustments focused on streamlining grant making processes. Discussion and recommendations from CEPF's Donor Council and independent evaluations (in 2006, 2009 and 2010) revealed an interest in more clearly measuring the impact of CEPF investments in order to tell the story and achievements of the Fund. Reviews documented the need for CEPF to build a more robust impact evaluation framework, and in response, CEPF developed a new monitoring framework which was formally approved by the CEPF Donor Council in June 2012. This report is the first measure of progress on the framework, and it covers the entire CEPF investment, from inception to November 2013. Information is not yet available for the full set of indicators, as information collection methods are still being developed for a number of the indicators. CEPF's Secretariat plans on updating this report on an annual basis and is working on setting up the systems and methods for data collection for all indicators to be reported to the Donor Council and to serve as the basis for the production of better communication materials.

II. CEPF's MONITORING FRAMEWORK

CEPF's Monitoring Framework includes four main categories of impact. These four impact categories are interwoven and interactive. CEPF's first two categories, to conserve biodiversity and to build civil society capacity to achieve conservation, are closely linked and report on the pillars of the mission of CEPF. Strong civil society capacity is essential for a sustainable foundation for biodiversity conservation. Underpinning both these goals are two additional pillars. The first, human well-being, is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for human well-being, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need, such as fresh water and resilience and adaptation to climate change, among others. The fourth category, enabling conditions, is a critical factor for successful conservation, but can be altered and improved by civil society, in particular a civil society that is empowered, informed and influential. CEPF aims to measure progress in all four of these interlinked categories to gain a holistic understanding of impact of the Fund.

Table 1: Impact categories and associated statements of success

Biodiversity Improve the status of globally significant biodiversity in critical ecosystems within hotspots	Human well-being Improve the well-being of people living in and dependent on critical ecosystems within hotspots
Civil society Strengthen the capacity of civil society to be stewards and effective advocates for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity	Enabling environment Establish the conditions needed for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity

The framework has 23 indicators designed to inform about CEPF's impact in these four categories ([Annex A](#)).

Following the recommendations of the Donor Council, the Secretariat is combining in this report quantitative information provided by the measurement of the indicators with qualitative examples to demonstrate the impact of the Fund in a more meaningful way.

III. BIODIVERSITY

This impact category seeks to answer the question regarding what changes in biodiversity have taken place. There are three sub-categories: species, sites and corridors.

SPECIES

Indicator 1: Change in Red List Index

The purpose of this indicator is to track the change in the status of species using the Red List Index (RLI). The RLI measures trends in the overall extinction risk ('conservation status') of sets of species, as an indicator of trends in the status of biodiversity; it measures the proportion of species expected to remain extant in the near future in the absence of any conservation action. The value is calculated from the number of species in each Red List Category (Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered), and the number changing Categories between assessments as a result of genuine improvement or deterioration in status (Category changes owing to improved knowledge or revised taxonomy are excluded). CEPF will calculate the RLI of each hotspot that has received funding and use it as a proxy to report on how the species status has changed in the hotspot. While impact, positive or negative, on the index will not be solely attributable to CEPF projects and investments, this is deemed as a good measure of how the status of biodiversity is changing in the hotspot, and this information can be used for adaptive management.

This value measures the status of species biodiversity in each hotspot, irrespective of CEPF investment. Its use is that it allows CEPF to compare each hotspot to the global RLI and be aware of the trend in species status for the hotspot. Certain caveats do exist, however, in this analysis. First, the analysis can only be undertaken for species that have already been assessed twice before, and at present, the list of such taxa includes birds, mammals, amphibians, and to a more limited extent, conifers and cycads.

CEPF has engaged BirdLife International to undertake the initial analysis of the RLI for all hotspots that have received investment to date. BirdLife International was selected to undertake this work because its staff has expertise in developing RLI methodology and in interpreting results and trends (e.g. staff contributed to preparing the publication *IUCN Red List Index: Guidance for national and regional use*). Results are expected in June 2014 and will be reported on the 2014 CEPF Monitoring Report.

While we obtain the RLI values for each hotspot, this year's report highlights two projects where CEPF has invested in threatened species. These two projects pertain to Critically Endangered species where CEPF has invested in conservation measures to safeguard the survival of these species.

- a. White-shouldered ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*): CEPF's support to a consortium of local and international NGOs and government agencies has led to efforts to monitor and conserve the Critically Endangered White-shouldered ibis and its forest habitat in Cambodia. Cambodia holds approximately 95% (a 2011 census counted 548 individuals) of the global population of the species. Conservation efforts across the country include guarding of nests, community-based

ecotourism, law enforcement to prevent hunting and the “Ibis Rice” scheme, in which local people grow wildlife-friendly rice that gets better prices.

b. Pygmy hog (*Porcula salvania*): CEPF supported a project of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust’s Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) in India. The global population is estimated to be only a few hundred animals in the wild in northeastern India, with a small captive population of around 62 maintained in two PHCP breeding centers. The aim of the project was to improve the conservation status of the Critically Endangered Pygmy hog in Assam, enhance habitat management practices of tall grasslands, which support the last remaining population of this species in Manas National Park, and expand the species’ distribution by establishing new populations with local captive-bred hogs in a former range area, the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri National Park, and Orang National Park. The major result of the project was the successful management of a captive breeding and release program for the species that led to three releases into Sonai Rupai (a total of 35 individuals). Other outputs included capacity building of frontline forest department staff, production of training manuals on monitoring and protection of wildlife, initiation of community-based conservation action in fringe villages, and research on the species and its habitat by graduate and postgraduate students. This is the most successful captive breeding project in India and the PHCP continues to hold the entire global captive population of the species.

Indicator 2: Change in threat levels of target species

The purpose of this indicator is to track major threats associated with threatened species identified as targets in ecosystem profiles. Threats have been identified in ecosystem profiles, and often are the focus of one or more strategic directions, and therefore are addressed in portfolio logframes. Historically, CEPF has not collected this information, but in the future will track threats using a threat rating scale applicable on the portfolio level. Since approval of the monitoring framework no new ecosystem profiles have been approved, but four ecosystem profiles are slated for approval in 2014, thus implementation of this indicator will only commence in early 2014. Frequency of assessment of change in threat level is at the beginning, mid-term and end of each investment period.

An example of how CEPF will track threats is the use of the veterinary drug Diclofenac, and its impact on threatened vulture species. When birds ingest meat tainted with Diclofenac, the result is fatal. Vulture populations declined dramatically since the mid-1990s, with numbers of some species having decreased by 99% primarily due to Diclofenac.

CEPF has supported projects in several hotspots to address this threat, ranging from setting up community-run vulture restaurants in the Rupandehi and Dang districts in Nepal’s Terai Region, to promoting the International Vulture Awareness Day in the Western Ghats. Even though production of Diclofenac is banned in India, Pakistan and Nepal, surveys show that Diclofenac manufactured for human use is now being used for veterinary purposes, particularly in Nepal. There is a clear need to promote the alternative drug, Meloxicam, which is safe for vultures. There are now three vulture restaurants in Nepal, close to vulture colonies, all of which provide Diclofenac-free carcasses for the birds. CEPF’s support to the restaurants that provide safe food to vultures through vulture restaurants is not only providing Diclofenac-free food to Endangered vultures but also raising awareness about the value of vultures and the threat that Diclofenac poses. Vulture restaurants have become tourist attractions generating additional income for local communities that are benefiting from protecting Endangered vultures.

In addition to the major threats identified in ecosystem profiles, CEPF grantees are working to reduce threats at the project level. For each project that targets a priority species, CEPF is recording the threat, the efforts to reduce that threat and the change in threat level. Data collection is ongoing, but can be exemplified by a project supporting hornbill monitoring guards in Kerala State, India.

Box 1: Reducing threats to hornbills in Kerala State, India



Great hornbill in south India. © Kalyanvarma

Traditionally, the Kadar tribal group of India's Western Ghats Region hunted hornbills. Once this practice was declared illegal, the government employed members of the Kadar tribe to perform work outside of the forest. A CEPF-supported project, however, brings some of the tribe members back to their traditional environment, using their skills and knowledge to help protect the birds they used to hunt via community-based conservation and monitoring of great hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*) and Malabar pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros coronatus*). The project leader, Amitha Bachan, trained as a botanist and began his career studying riparian flora. He became interested in hornbills, having

studied their important ecological role in dispersing the seeds of forest canopy trees, and has devoted the last seven years researching the birds and their conservation.

The project is located in Vazhachal Forest Division, Kerala State, in the last remaining intact riparian forest in Kerala, which is the last nesting locality for Malabar pied hornbill in the state. It also supports a sizeable population of great hornbill. Both species are cavity nesters, with the female nesting inside a hollow tree and being fed by her partner throughout the nesting season. Both species are threatened by loss of suitable nesting trees, and by hunting due to their large size and predictable movements as they go between their nesting sites and fruiting figs.

Vazhachal is also home to the Kadar tribal group, who still depend on forest and aquatic resources for their livelihoods. Of the 1,400 Kaders in the world, around 850 live in the Vazhachal Forest Division, together with around 150 people from the Malayan tribal group. Following the construction of hydroelectric dams in the mid-20th century, the forest-dwelling Kaders were settled into colonies. Many are now engaged on a daily wage basis by the Forest Department to carry out habitat improvement and tourism management work inside the forest.

In 2004, Amitha began to survey the hornbill population of the forest division, finding a total of 62 active nests by 2007. In order to benefit from their traditional knowledge of the forest and its ecology, Amitha engaged Kadar men as research assistants. Over several years, Amitha trained a core of around 15 former hunters as hornbill monitoring guards. In 2006, Amitha approached the Forest Department for support, and they began to provide three months' wages per year for each man to monitor the hornbill nests during the nesting period.

The CEPF small grant is enabling Amitha and his tribal assistants to consolidate the hornbill nest monitoring program at Vazhachal and expand it into three neighboring forest landscapes: Pambikulam, Chalakudy and Nelliampathi. Amitha started the CEPF project with an awareness program in each Kadar settlement, generating significant interest in the project, and resulting in many

people asking to become hornbill monitoring guards. Amitha selected 31 guards, conducted field training and set them to work monitoring nesting trees, thereby tripling the scale of the project in terms of area covered and people engaged.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests recognized the scale and significance of the project and, in 2010, provided funding for the hornbill monitoring guards for the first time. This is a major achievement, because it ensures sustainability of the initiative at scale. Amitha is now planning to help the hornbill monitoring guards to form a community-based organization so they can raise and manage their own funding.

Both the Kadar community and the Forest Department have taken great pride and ownership of the project, and view it as prestigious. For example, a local producers' cooperative has adopted the hornbill as its logo. The hornbill monitoring guards are also enthusiastic about their achievements. The project has allowed them to do what they love, spend time in the forest observing wildlife. Some of the guards reported that the project supports their traditional skills and customs, and that they prefer it to all other work. And although the Forest Department only provides salaries for three months of the year, the local people also collect data opportunistically for the remaining nine months without pay, because of their enthusiasm.

The proof of the initiative's success can be found in the fact that, over the last five years, there have only been two recorded cases of hunting or nest predation of hornbills. After talking to the people responsible, Amitha believes that they too have ceased these activities. Numbers of Malabar pied hornbill, the rarer of the two species, increased **from one active nest in 2005 to five active nests in 2010**, and the species is believed to be moving into neighboring areas. Around 80 nests of great hornbill have been identified and are being actively monitored.

SITES

Indicator 3: Change in habitat extent

The purpose of this indicator is to track the change in natural habitat cover in priority areas identified in the profile. This indicator responds to the main threat to biodiversity: habitat loss. CEPF is contracting Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) to develop a cost-effective methodology to track the quantum of impact of the CEPF investments in terms of improved habitat and ecosystem services. The project will have three specific objectives: a) to measure the extent of improvement in habitat as a proxy for biodiversity services; b) to measure the extent of improvement in hydrological services; and c) to measure the extent of improvement in carbon services. The last two objectives will serve to report back on the indicators related to human well-being, using hydrological and carbon services as proxies for the benefits that people get from healthy ecosystems.

The project is expected to take nine months. For the 2014 monitoring report the team will deliver a technical report along with sample outputs on at least five different study sites in the Western Ghats. Once this methodology is determined, CEPF will be able to proceed with generating data for all the hotspots that have received funding from CEPF. A report on all hotspots is expected to be included in the report shared with the donors in 2015.

In the interim, CEPF is supporting efforts to generate data on forest cover change in selected hotspots. In Tanzania, Conservation International (CI), in partnership with the Forest and Beekeeping Division, are

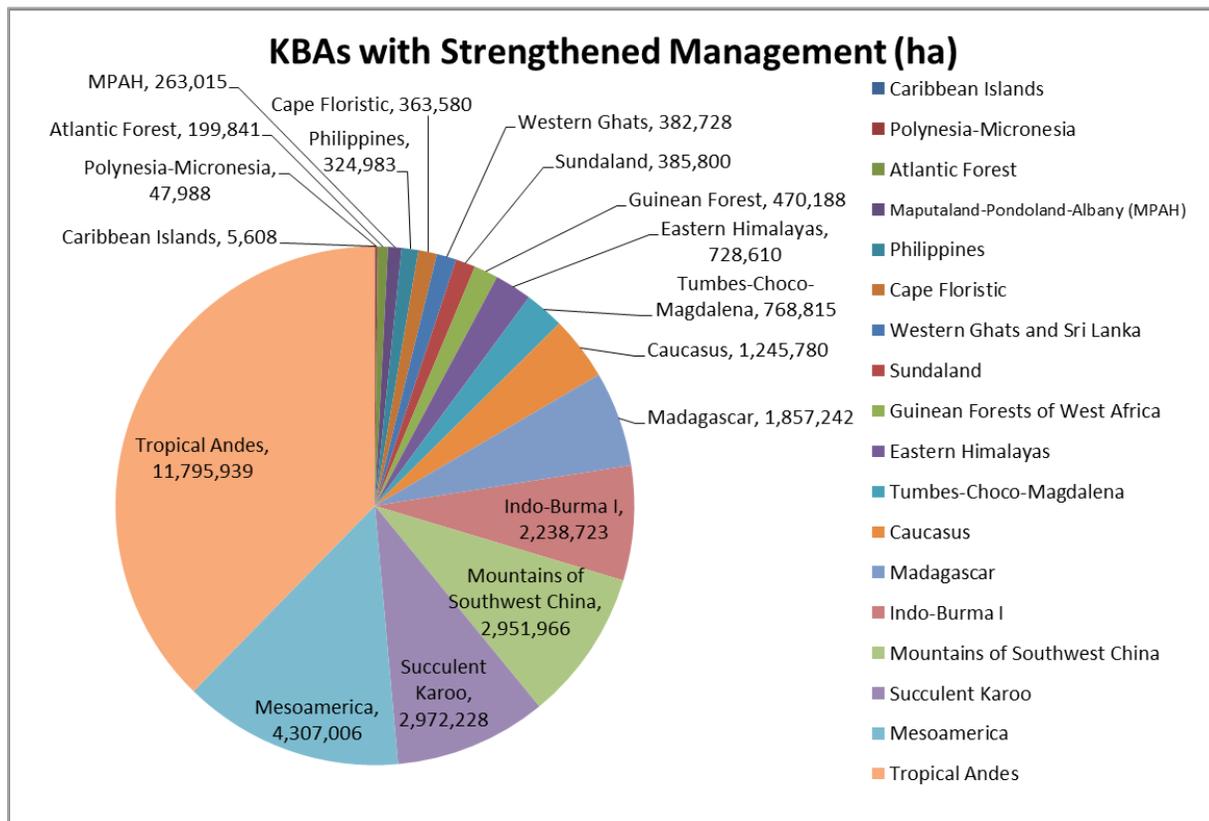
working to produce an update of the deforestation map, provide technical assistance in satellite-image analysis for monitoring deforestation, including improved pre-processing and classification approaches, and conduct aerial surveys to validate the updated deforestation map and analyses. This project was to be undertaken in a phased approach to allow for preparatory work, the time necessary for technical assistance and strategizing, as well as for schedule fluctuations due to weather, which affects the aerial survey component. Originally scheduled for completion in December 2013, this project has experienced significant delays due to procurement requirements, which although now resolved, necessitated a project extension. Results and the updated deforestation map are now scheduled for delivery in June 2014.

Indicator 4: Change in the number of hectares of KBAs with strengthened protection and management

This indicator measures the total number of KBAs with strengthened protection and management. To be counted, an area must be a KBA, must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the KBA. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples include: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Of note is that hectares counted in this category may include hectares already counted under Indicator #5 (change in # of hectares of new protected areas).

As of November 2013, CEPF has contributed to the strengthening and management of a total of 31,310,039 hectares (ha) of KBAs (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Number of hectares of KBAs with strengthened management and protection, by hotspot

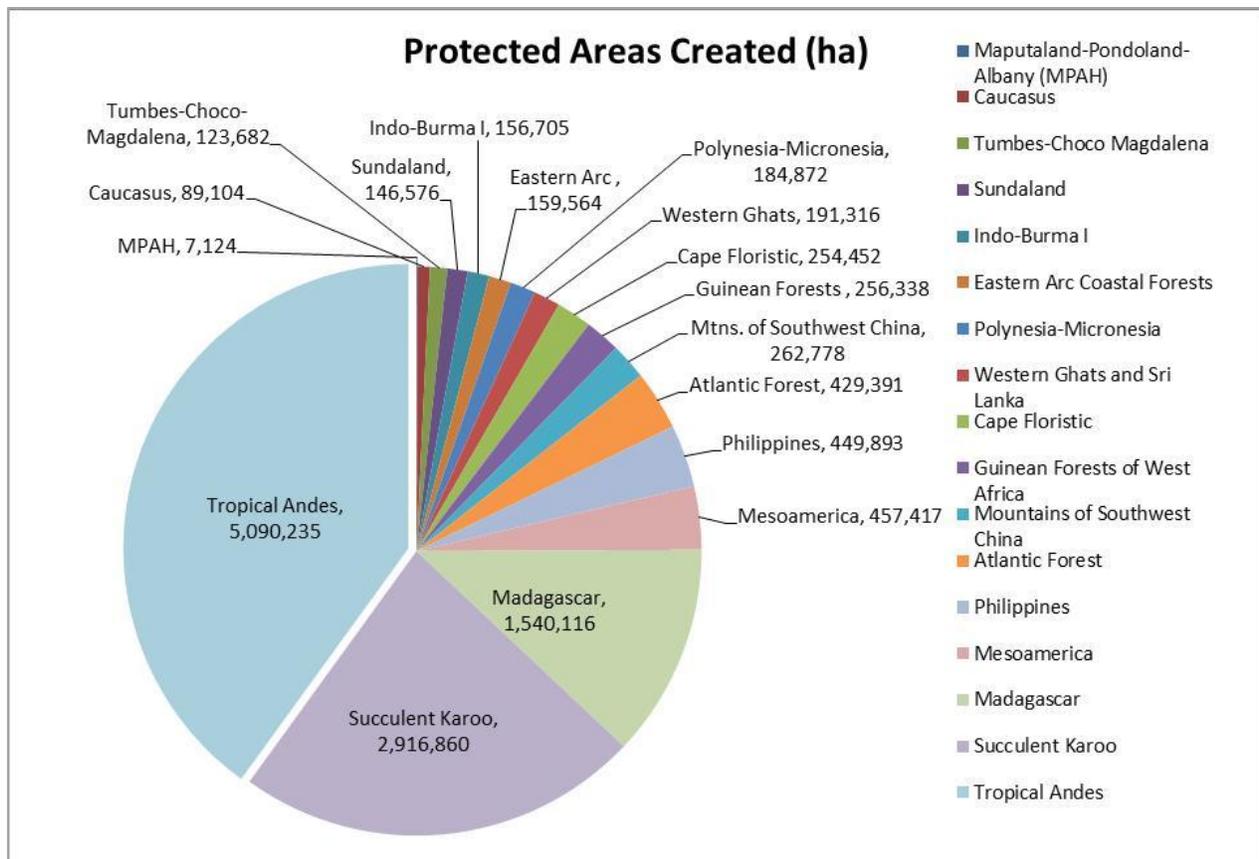


Indicator 5: Change in the number of hectares of new protected areas

This indicator measures the total number of hectares of new protected areas that have benefited from CEPF investment. To be counted, an area must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. Formal legal declaration can include a stewardship agreement or community agreement, in so far as it is legally binding. Achievements vary significantly across the hotspots for numerous reasons, the most significant being that some hotspots have large land areas with potential for protected area creation, whereas others comprise many small islands, or have high population density across the area.

As of November 2013, CEPF has contributed to the creation of 12,716,123 hectares of new protected areas (Chart 2). These range from the very large 2,600,000 hectare Sperrgebiet National Park in Namibia, to the tiny Chermall Sacred Site & Atoll Forest Preserve in Palau, measuring only 0.3186 hectares.

Chart 2: Number of hectares of new or expanded protected areas, by hotspot



Indicator 6: Change in threat levels of target sites

The purpose of this indicator is to track major threats associated with CEPF priority sites identified in ecosystem profiles. Measurement of this indicator will start in earnest with the four ecosystem profiles slated for approval in 2014 (there have not been any new profiles since June 2012, when the monitoring framework was approved). For each KBA identified as an investment priority in a profile, information will be collected at the beginning, mid-term and end of investment, to gauge change in level of threat to target sites. Noting that the METT scorecard already requests information on the status of threats for protected areas, CEPF's future monitoring will pertain to all priority sites, not just those that have

protected status. CEPF’s 2014 Monitoring Report will include information on the status of baselines of this indicator.

CORRIDORS

Indicator 7: Change in habitat extent

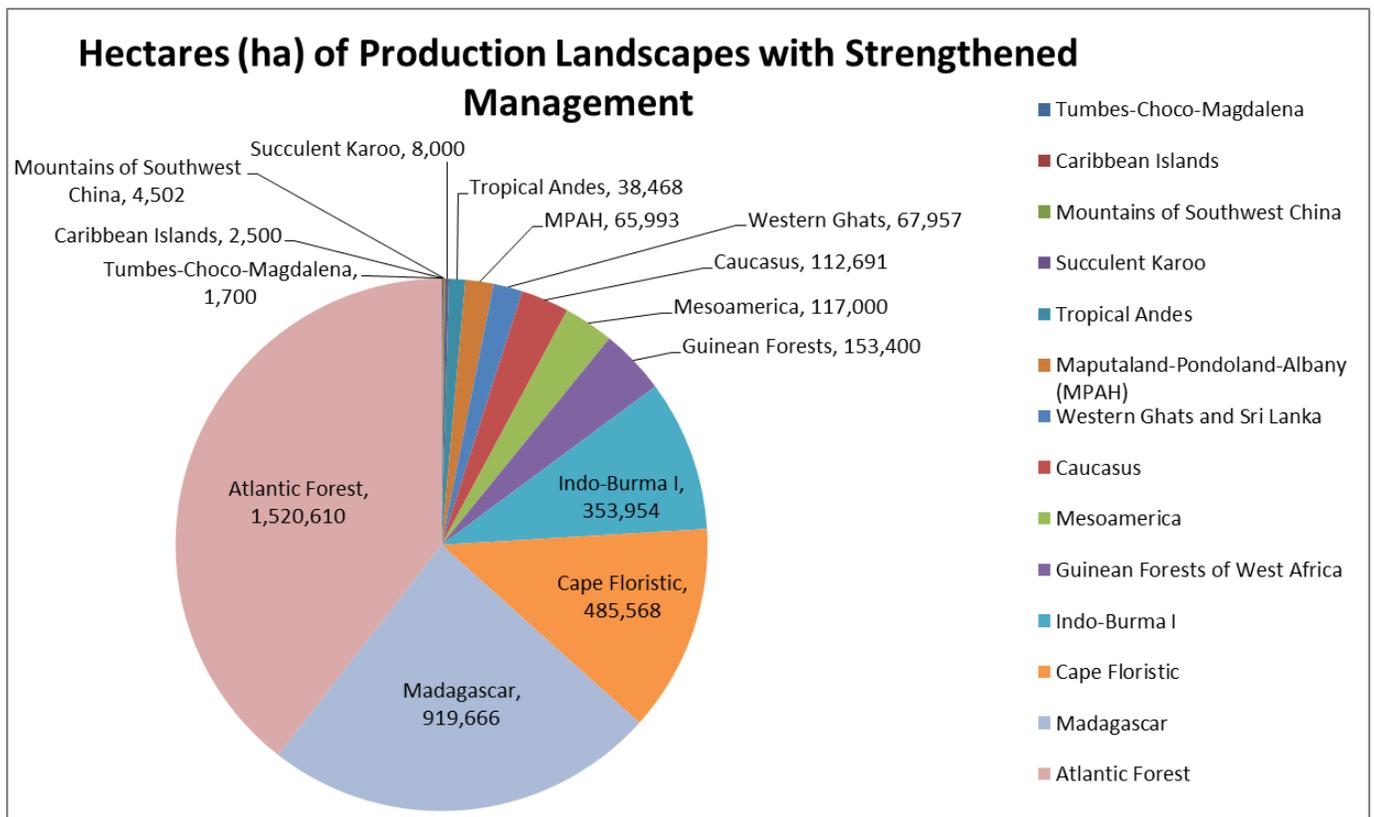
The purpose of this indicator is to track the change in natural habitat cover in priority corridors identified in the ecosystem profiles. As with Indicator #3, this indicator responds to habitat loss and will be addressed through the support FERAL is providing, which is described above.

Indicator 8: Change in the number of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation

This indicator captures results achieved through site-based projects in productive landscapes as well as those grants that have a broader, sectoral or corridor-wide impact. Examples include best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced. It should be noted that hectares counted in this category may include hectares accounted for under Indicators 4 and 5.

As of November 2013, CEPF has contributed to the improved management of 3,852,009 hectares of production landscapes. Contributions to this indicator by hotspot are presented in Chart 3.

Chart 3: Number of hectares in production landscapes with strengthened conservation management



IV. HUMAN WELL-BEING

This impact category seeks to answer the question regarding whether people have benefited from CEPF investment. There are two sub-categories: direct beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries.

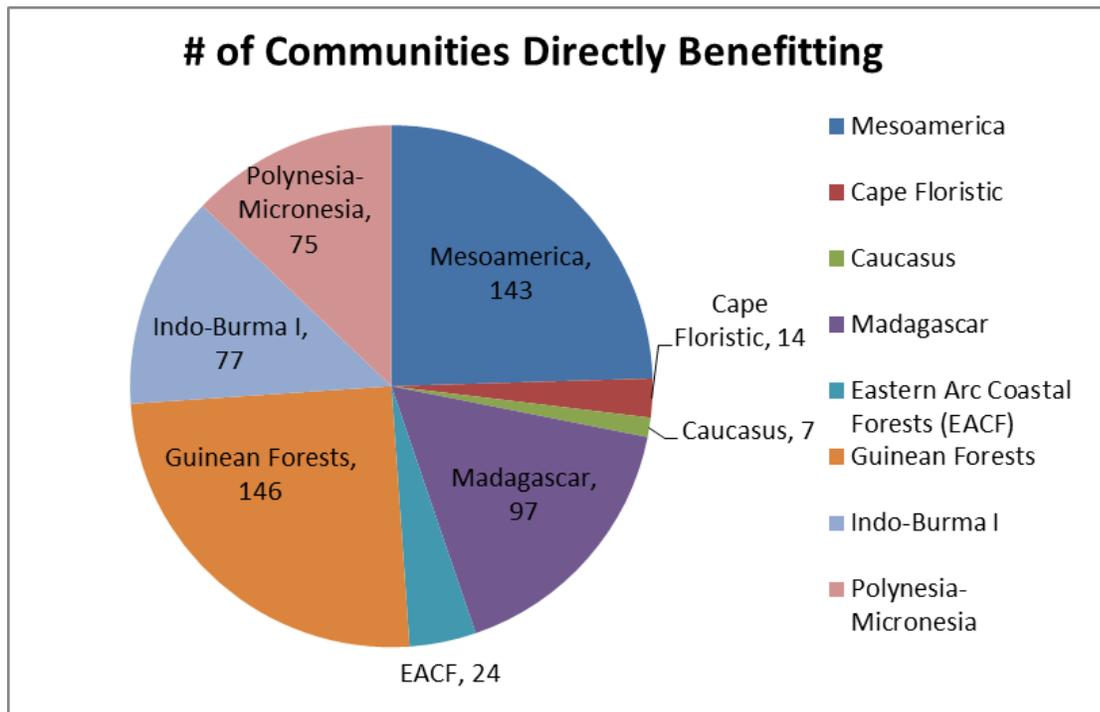
Indicator 9: Change in the number of direct beneficiaries

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of individuals that CEPF investments benefit through direct employment, income generation, secured energy, improved land tenure, improved household conditions and training. In the past, CEPF did not collect this information systematically across all hotspots, to quantify each and every beneficiary. Moving forward, grantees are being asked to report against this indicator and thus figures will be available for the next monitoring report.

Indicator 10: Change in the number of communities directly benefitting

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of communities that CEPF investments benefit through direct employment, income generation, secured energy, improved land tenure, improved household conditions and training. Collection of this information has not been systematic since CEPF's inception, and only in CEPF Phase II was a specific reporting addendum added to the standard reporting package to collect data on number of communities benefitting, and type of benefit. Therefore, quantification of the number of communities benefitting from CEPF investment has not been collected in a consistent manner over the 13 years of the Fund. Nevertheless, to date CEPF can say that as of November 2013, at least 581 communities have benefited from CEPF support. Chart 4 shows the number of communities and the corresponding hotspots.

Chart 4: Number of communities directly benefitting from CEPF investment



As mentioned above, CEPF has collected information on the type of benefit accruing to each community. The example below from Indo-Burma provides a description of how local communities are benefitting from provision of alternative livelihood opportunities.

Box 2: Protecting the sarus crane and local livelihoods in Cambodia



Sarus crane. © CI/photo by Haroldo Castro

The Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve lies on the western edge of the Mekong Delta in Cambodia. It contains an extensive area of seasonally inundated grassland, one of the main habitats in the region for the Vulnerable sarus crane. Habitat loss and degradation caused by wetland encroachment and unsustainable exploitation are the main threats to the sarus crane in this area.

In 2011, the reserve was established to provide protection for the non-breeding habitat of sarus crane and other bird species. However, this limited the local community members' ability to earn a living, as they were restricted from growing rice and collecting animals, fish and raw materials within the conservation area. To provide the local community with alternative means for sustainable income generation while supporting sarus crane conservation, the local group Mlup Baitong implemented a community livelihood development project. In close cooperation with local authorities and other related agencies, Mlup Baitong also provided awareness-raising activities on the importance of environmental protection and the conservation of sarus cranes to local communities.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) were established to provide microloans for agricultural micro-enterprises. More than 120 local people – 43 men and 77 women – participated, forming 10 SHGs to operate saving and revolving funds. The SHG executives were trained in financial management activities including bookkeeping and financial reporting. The SHG members were taught micro-enterprise development and agricultural skills including raising pigs and chickens, planting subsidiary crops, gardening, and developing handicraft and spice shops.

To date, the SHGs have provided 180 loans, totaling \$24,636, to their members for implementing the five types of agricultural skills that they were trained in. As a result, 10 percent of the total household incomes of the SHG members are now generated by the micro-enterprise activities.

Mlup Baitong has also supported the construction of 35 wells to provide clean and safe drinking water for the households living around the Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve under the condition that they no longer collect water from the reserve, since this disturbs the



Raising pigs through loans from the SHG. © Mlup Baitong

sarus cranes. Farmers were also encouraged to use water from the wells to improve home gardening.

The local communities' commitment to sarus crane conservation is included in the regulations of the Self Help Groups as well as in the construction contracts for the wells. A Community Livelihood Development Management Committee (CLDMC) was established, and its members, together with the local conservation group that manages the reserve, patrol the Anlung Pring Sarus Crane Reserve to further ensure protection. Disturbance of the sarus crane and other bird species has declined, with the number of cranes living in the reserve increasing by 45 percent over the course of the project, from 238 in 2011 to 345 in 2013.

Indicator 11: Change in the amount of CO₂e stored at CEPF invested sites

The purpose of this indicator is to track the amount of ecosystem services, specifically carbon, protected through CEPF investment. The assumption is that CEPF projects are contributing to reduce emissions by enabling carbon to be stored in forests whether they are protected from deforestation or restored. As with Indicators #3 and 7, this indicator will be addressed through a project to FERAL. A report of the impact in the Western Ghats is expected to be included in the 2014 monitoring report as a first test of the methodology. This will then be replicated in all the rest of the hotspots to report wider contribution to carbon stored in 2015.

Indicator 12: Change in the amount of fresh water secured at CEPF invested sites and delivered to downstream users

The purpose of this indicator is to track the amount of ecosystem services, specifically fresh water protected through CEPF investment. The assumption is that the provision of fresh water is a key contribution of healthy ecosystems to the well-being of people in the hotspots. As with Indicators #3, 7 and 11, this indicator will be addressed through the project to FERAL. An initial report for the Western Ghats will be included in the 2014 report, with the methodology tested in India to then be replicated in other hotspots to report more widely on in 2015.

V. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

This impact category pertains to the measuring conditions for sustainability and seeks to answer the question asking if any gains will be sustained. There are three sub-categories: regulatory environment, long-term financing and conservation best practices.

Indicator 13: Change in the number of policies (legislative, regulatory or strategic) that include provisions for conservation management

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of policy changes that CEPF investments have contributed to. CEPF is tracking this indicator to register grantee actions that have influenced decision-making, many of which have resulted in policies being adopted, regulations being passed or simply better decision-making for biodiversity. The extent of CEPF's interventions vary considerably, and frequently efforts to redesign a policy or plan or to ensure that an inappropriate plan is not approved, are as important as helping to design and adopt policies and plans with explicit mention of conservation objectives. The interventions range from working to enact or amend legislation, to preventing implementation of a policy that would result in negative repercussions to biodiversity, such as highway

construction through a national park. As of November 2013, CEPF has influenced at least 67 policies, plans or laws. A selection of interventions is presented below.

Table 2: Selected examples of CEPF policy interventions

Hotspot	Name of Policy/Law	Date	Action, i.e. enacted a law/ revised a policy	Country	Expected Impact
Atlantic Forest	Decree No. 5746	pre-2007	Redesign of this decree, which incorporates private reserves into Brazil's National Protected Area System	Brazil	Increase in number of hectares with protected status; strengthened and streamlined process for creating private reserves.
Cape Floristic	National Biodiversity Act	pre-2006	Enacted a law	South Africa	The Act mandates SANBI and the Bioregional Programs to make recommendations to organs of state or municipalities to align their plans with the national biodiversity framework and bioregional plans.
Caucasus	A government decision to redirect a highway	2005	A coalition influenced the government to redirect part of a transnational highway originally planned to cut through the nation's Shikahogh Reserve	Armenia	The highway will not go through the park.
Eastern Arc Coastal Forests	A national indigenous hardwood harvest ban	2004	Conducted a study on the impact of the new Mkapa Bridge across the Rufiji River that provided access to the coastal forests of southern Tanzania. This study revealed significant illegal logging of the coastal forests of Rufiji, Kilwa and Lindi districts in the southeast of the country. This information informed the government's decision to institute the ban	Tanzania	Reduction in harvest.
Eastern Himalayas	Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex regulatory framework	2010	Defines rights and responsibilities of government and community bodies in relation to operations and management of Bhutan's wildlife corridors	Bhutan	Improved land use.
Guinean Forests of West Africa	New National Forestry Act of 2000	pre-2006	Amendment of the Act	Liberia	Defined protected area types and the uses permitted and prohibitions for each. The action capped an extensive forest reassessment effort by local and international partners that enabled the most complete picture to date of Liberia's forest cover and the delineation of the park's new borders as well as the creation of Nimba Nature Reserve.
Madagascar	Presidential pledge to increase Madagascar's	2003	Provided information and data to support the pledge	Madagascar	Laid the groundwork for the increase in the size of the protected area network.

	protected area network from 1.7 to 6 million hectares (the Durban Vision)				
Mesoamerica	National policy for responsible tourism	pre-2010	Review of existing (conflicting) policies and preparation of a single more appropriate policy	Belize	Improved ecotourism development across the country.
Mountains of Southwest China	Plans to build dams on the Nujiang River	pre-2006	A Green Earth Volunteers initiative to raise awareness of the value of Nujiang River helped convince the government to shelve plans to build a series of power generation dams along the river, which is located in a World Heritage Site	China	No dams on the Nujiang River.
Philippines	Presidential Executive Order 578	pre-2007	Helped to develop legislation that declared all KBAs identified by CEPF to be "critical habitats" and directed DENR to promulgate guidelines for their management and protection	Philippines	Increased protection for critical ecosystems.
Succulent Karoo	Spatial Development Plan of the Kamiesberg Municipality	pre-2006	Incorporation of management guidelines for aquatic resources included in the plan	South Africa	Conservation of aquatic resources.
Sundaland	Logging plans	pre-2006	Cancellation of logging plans for nearly 50,000 hectares in the northwest of Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, home to one of the largest areas of remaining lowland forest on the Indonesian island. The cancellation by the district chief who had already issued tentative permits to private companies capped a six-month effort led by a local foundation to help the Talang Mamak and other traditional forest-dwelling communities advocate against the logging.	Indonesia	Reduction in unsustainable logging.
Tropical Andes	Fire control plans for Madidi and Apolobamba protected areas	pre-2006	Madidi and Apolobamba protected areas administrators included fire control plans in their programs with park guards who are now conducting their own workshops in fire prevention.	Bolivia	Reduction in fire.
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	Manabi Province development plan	pre-2007	Integration of the corridor concept into development plans	Ecuador	Improved management.
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	Guidelines for highways passing through the Anamalai landscape	2012	Mitigation measures to reduce road kill along highways passing through Anamalai Tiger Reserve and surrounding areas have been adopted by Tamil Nadu Highways Department, such as	India	Decreased mortality of lion-tailed macaques, Nilgiri tahr and other threatened and endemic wildlife in a priority corridor.

		replacement of safety barriers with ones more permeable to wildlife movement, placement of rumble strips and signage in areas of high wildlife mortality, and construction of canopy bridges to facilitate movement of arboreal mammals over roads.	
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CEPF's work to influence decision-makers has been extremely varied, and tailored to the local needs and situations. Some efforts have had national impact, such as in Madagascar where efforts were undertaken to convince the president to pledge to triple the size of the country's protected area network. Others have been on a protected area or landscape level and have addressed, for example, plans or guidelines for highway development.

Indicator 14: Change in the number of sustainable finance mechanisms with improved management

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of long term financial instruments created by or receiving support from CEPF that are managed well. The assumption of this indicator is that financial instruments such as endowments or funds allow for improved biodiversity management by sustainably making resources available for conservation. CEPF has compiled information on the long-term financing mechanisms that CEPF has either helped to establish or has provided funds to strengthen operations. In 2011, CEPF compiled information on investments in sustainable financing and, at that time, recorded a total of 24 funds that had benefited from CEPF support (Table 3).

Table 3: Sustainable financing mechanisms benefitting from CEPF support

Hotspot	Country	Date of Establishment	Name	2011 Value	2013 Value
Cape Floristic	South Africa	1998	Table Mountain Fund	\$9,000,000	
Caribbean Islands	Jamaica	in the 1990s	C-CAM Trust Fund		\$0
Caucasus	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	2007	Caucasus Nature Fund	\$20,778,416	\$30,977,307
Eastern Afromontane	Tanzania	2001	Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund	\$6,000,000	
Guinean Forests of West Africa	Sierra Leone		Gola REDD Project	\$0	\$0
Madagascar	Madagascar	2005	Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity (sinking fund)	\$10,420,000	
			Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity (endowment)	\$50,000,000	\$51,000,000
Mesoamerica	Costa Rica	2006	Canje de Deuda por Naturaleza EE.UU – CR	\$26,075,942	
		2011	Fondo para la biodiversidad sostenible - OSA Conservation Fund	\$2,000,000	
	Guatemala	2003	Fondo del Agua del Sistema Motagua Polochic	N/A	
		2008	Fondo para la Conservación de Bosque Tropicales FCA (sinking fund)	\$6,027,123	
			Fondo para la Conservación de Bosque Tropicales FCA (endowment)	\$2,052,072	
	Nicaragua, Costa Rica,	2012	Mecanismo de captación de fondos - Fundación Amigos del Río San Juan (sinking	\$0	

	Panama		fund)		
	Nicaragua	2012	Mecanismo de captación de fondos - Fundación Amigos del Rio San Juan (revolving fund)	\$0	
	Costa Rica	1996	FONANFIFO		
Polynesia-Micronesia	Kiribati	2011	Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust Fund	\$0	\$5,000,000
Succulent Karoo	South Africa	1997	Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust		\$2,000,000
	South Africa; Namibia	2006	SKEPPIES Fund	\$350,000	
Tropical Andes	Peru	1997	Acuerdo para la Conservación de Bosques Tropicales - PROFONANPE	\$8,480,000	
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	Colombia	2010	Fondo Minga Por el Agua (Corredor de Conservacion Munchique pinche)	\$28,000	
		2012	Munchique Investment Fund		\$25,000
	Ecuador	2010	Awacachi Ecological Corridor Trust Fund	\$0	
		pre-2007	Fiduciary fund for Mache-Chindul Ecological Reserve	\$1,000,000	
		2012	Socio Bosque - expansion into Gran Chachi Reserve and Gologrinas Protected forest		\$37,204

In order to determine whether or not there has been an improvement in the management of any of these funds, CEPF is currently in the process of requesting that these funds, where possible, complete a Long Term Financing Tracking Tool that will allow measurement of fund performance. The Long Term Financing Tracking Tool has been tested by the Global Conservation Fund of CI with interesting results. It is for this reason that CEPF has adopted it and is in the process of rolling it out to gather additional information to report back to the donor members.

Data collection is in the initial stages, noting that a key challenge with this indicator is that many of the funds that CEPF would like to monitor are not current CEPF grantees. Nevertheless, efforts are being made to request that these funds supply CEPF with information about fund performance. An example of what CEPF expects to have for each fund that receives CEPF support pertains to the Caucasus Nature Fund. This fund initially received support in 2008, and thus they have been able to provide two data points – for 2008 and 2012. In 2008, the fund scored 15 out of a total possible score of 48. In 2012, the fund had improved significantly and earned a score of 41. The Long Term Financing Tracking Tool for this organization is attached as [Annex B](#).

Indicator 15: Change in the amount of money housed in sustainable finance mechanisms

The purpose of this indicator is to track the amount of funding generating income in long-term financing structures that have received support from CEPF. Efforts are ongoing to collect data on the values of the funds that have received CEPF support. As per Table 3, the data is still spotty, but at the same time efforts are ongoing to fill in the gaps. In three specific instances funds supported by CEPF have increased their value. Two funds in which CEPF was involved in their creation are the Caucasus Nature Fund and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust Fund. The Caucasus Nature Fund started as the Caucasus Protected Area Fund in 2008, with the goal of generating sustainable financing for protected areas in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. From an initial sum of \$10,000,000 in 2008, the fund has grown to more than \$30 million in 2013. The Phoenix Islands Protected Area Fund was established in 2011, but only recently in 2013 was it able to secure funds which now total \$5,000,000. CEPF's support to these and the other financial mechanisms was geared toward creating or strengthening the institutional

capacity of these financial instruments and not their capitalization. Hence the strength of the funds could be used as a proxy for enhanced sustainability allowing for greater amounts of funding to be made available for conservation projects in the areas where CEPF invested.

Box 3: Phoenix Islands Protected Area



Great frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) colony on Rawaki, part of the Phoenix Islands. © Ray Pierce

The Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), a 408,250 square-kilometer multi-use protected area in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot is one of the most pristine, ambitious and globally-important protected areas in the world. Located about halfway between Fiji and Hawaii within the territorial waters of Kiribati, PIPA is the world's largest and deepest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Key to the richness of PIPA is the fact that the protected area includes eight atolls, two submerged reef systems and numerous seamounts, and supports a healthy and biodiverse marine ecosystem that is home to globally threatened species like sperm whales, Napoleon

wrasse, hawksbill turtles, giant clams, and numerous species of seabirds, cetaceans, sharks and tunas. PIPA also hosts a collection of unique coral communities on seamounts, large submerged volcanoes that typically rise 4,500 to 6,000 meters from the ocean floor. Its terrestrial areas provide vital nesting grounds for seabirds and its waters spawning grounds for fish, including highly valuable skipjack tuna.

CEPF has supported the protected area through funding to several projects, including a grant to the New England Aquarium to help establish the PIPA Trust to address the need for a long-term, sustainable approach to funding the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the Phoenix Islands group. The Trust will manage the PIPA endowment.

In September 2013, the PIPA Trust received an important influx of financing, \$5 million to the PIPA endowment that lays the foundation for its fiscal sustainability. The endowment is designed to ensure the long-term viability and management of PIPA, which is part of the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati. The Phoenix Islands Protected Area Conservation Trust announced the initial capitalization of the endowment. The funds were received in two contributions of \$2.5 million each from the Republic of Kiribati and CI through its Global Conservation Fund (GCF).

In addition to supporting the establishment of the Trust, CEPF has funded multiple projects to restore the natural balance that has been disturbed by invasive species on several of PIPA's islands, as well as boosting the natural resources management capacity of the Wildlife Conservation Unit of Kiribati.

"PIPA is more than just a marine protected area. It is an investment the future of Kiribati. With PIPA we are investing in our economy, our children, our cultural heritage and on a more global scale, we are investing in preserving food security for the world," said His Excellency Anote Tong, president of Kiribati, in a press release issued by CI. "This brings us a step closer in achieving our ultimate goal for PIPA: phasing-out commercial fishing over time. In this way PIPA will act as an insurance policy for fishing effort more widely in Kiribati and the region."

Indicator 16: Change in the financial performance of funds

The purpose of this indicator is to track how well long-term financing mechanisms are doing at generating return on investment that can then be delivered to conservation. This information will be collected via CEPF's Long Term Financing Tracking Tool. As with Indicator #14, data collection is in the initial stages. CEPF is in the process of requesting that funds that have received support from CEPF complete the Long Term Financing Tracking Tool. The tool has a section on Financial Management that specifically requests information on returns on investments. The key challenge with this indicator is that many of the funds that CEPF would like to monitor are not current CEPF grantees. Nevertheless, it is expected that CEPF will be able to report on this indicator in 2014, with data collected from former grantees who are amenable to completing CEPF's tracking tool.

Indicator 17: Change in the timing of financial delivery of funds to conservation projects

The purpose of this indicator is to track how well long-term financing mechanisms are doing at delivering financial resources to conservation projects. CEPF is not collecting this information at present, because CEPF is not currently granting any funds to any long-term financing mechanisms. As with Indicators #14 and 16, CEPF will attempt to collect this information from funds that have received CEPF funding in the past. However, it should be noted that this indicator is seeking detailed information on timing/efficiency of delivery of funds to conservation projects, and funds that are not current grantees may not be enthusiastic about providing detailed information about efficiency to CEPF. This should not be a problem, however, for future funds that will be receiving grant support from CEPF.

Indicator 18: Change in the number of sites (protected areas) with improved management

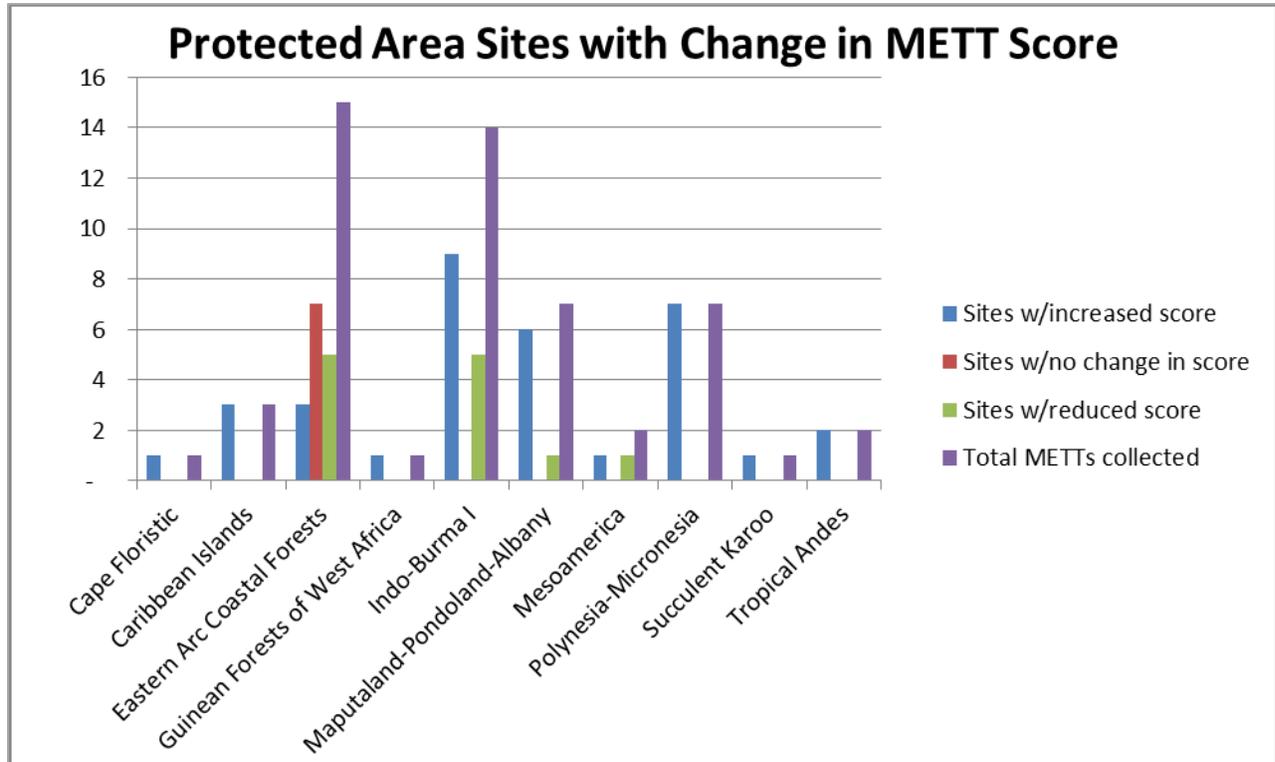
The purpose of this indicator is to track the management effectiveness of protected areas with CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The METT was developed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), one of CEPF's donors. The methodology is a rapid assessment based on a scorecard questionnaire of all six elements (context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes) of protected area management identified in the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Framework, with an emphasis on context, planning, inputs and processes. It is basic and simple to use, and provides a mechanism for monitoring progress toward more effective management over time. It is used to enable park managers and donors to identify needs, constraints and priority actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.

It is important to note that that in the early years of CEPF's implementation, METTs were delivered to the GEF in hard copy only. Since 2006 CEPF has kept any electronic copies of METTs received in its records. The data for this indicator and CEPF's impact on management effectiveness therefore is based on the electronic copies of METTs received since 2006.

In total, since 2006 CEPF received 203 METT scorecards (or scores) from 11 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Eastern Arc Coastal Forests, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes and Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena). As of November 2013, these include 134 baseline, 19 mid-term, and 50 final METTs. Of those protected areas where CEPF has received two METT scorecards, i.e. a baseline and a subsequent METT for the same site, CEPF is able to measure change in management effectiveness as either improved management (increase in METT score), no change (zero change in METT score) or decreased management effectiveness (decrease in METT score). Of those sites with two points of METT

scores, there are 34 protected area sites that show an increase in management effectiveness, seven that show no change and 12 that show a decrease in management effectiveness.

Chart 5: Protected area sites showing a change in management effectiveness



The results of this indicator vary across CEPF hotspots of investment for a couple of reasons. Because METTs are collected for protected area sites, there is some variation across regions as to how many and which METTs have been collected based on the number of protected area sites in a particular hotspot. Some hotspots have more protected areas than others due to strong protected area networks, while others are more nascent and building their protected areas. In the hotspots with more protected area sites, there were often more METT scores to collect and submit to CEPF. Additionally some hotspots have greater consistency or ease in submitting the METTs due to the enabling conditions, and the organization or political will of those countries. There are some protected areas which CEPF invested in or is currently invested in where METTs have not been collected due to a variety of reasons, including but not limited to a lack of a protected area managers who could complete the METT scorecards, grantee oversight to submit the METT scorecard to CEPF, or grantee failure to collect the METT scorecard.

In the protected area sites where METTs were collected, there is a noticeable change from baseline to final assessment. Whether an increase in score, indicating improved management, or a decrease in score, indicating a reduction in management effectiveness, the numbers deserve further explanation in each site and hotspot. There can be significant variation in scores in a site due to factors such as increased or decreased funding for management, political stability or instability, and/or environmental change including an increase in fire or other threats, e.g. mining or development. Some noteworthy examples of improved management – a positive change in score over time – include the protected area sites listed below.

Table 4: Examples of change in protected area management effectiveness (METT) scores

CEPF Hotspot	Protected Area Site	Baseline score	Final score	Change in score
Cape Floristic	Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve	57	74	+17
Caribbean Islands	Bahoruco Oriental	22	35	+13
	Beausejour/Grenville Vale and Mt. Hartman	44	67	+23
Indo-Burma	Anlung Pring Management and Conservation Area	55	69	+14
	Eld's Deer Sanctuary	40	56.5	+16.5

Additionally, it is important to note that at both the grantee and CEPF Secretariat level, there may have been METT scorecards that were lost due to staff turnover or changes in organizational email systems. The ability to measure change over time for some of these protected area sites therefore is not possible at this time; however it would be possible to collect the METTs from partners or grantees if curious about specific sites.

CEPF would like to note as well that we have recently submitted all METTs to Neil Burgess of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre, who is coordinating a review of METTs from GEF-funded sites.

Indicator 19: Change in the number of best management practices

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of projects with CEPF investment that adopt better management practices for activities in the production landscape. Historically, CEPF has not collected this information, but in the future will track best management practices. Implementation of tracking this indicator will commence in 2014.

Indicator 20: Change in the number and percentage of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity

The purpose of this indicator is to track the collective ability of civil society to influence conservation at the relevant scale of CEPF investment.

Between 2009 and 2010, CEPF developed the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), a tool for grantees to self-assess and score their organizational capacity. The tool asks 20 questions across five thematic areas: human resources, financial resources, management systems, strategic planning and delivery. Of a possible total score of 100 points, or 20 points per theme, a completed CSTT shows a score (or percent out of 100) of an organization's civil society capacity. In the first year that the tool was piloted CEPF asked grantees in only two regions, Western Ghats and Indo-Burma, to complete the tool and assess their individual organization's capacity.

Following the tool's successful pilot in Indo-Burma and the Western Ghats, and the CEPF Donor Council's June 2012 decision to approve a new CEPF monitoring framework with civil society indicators, CEPF adopted the CSTT across all active regions to track and measure the number and percent of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity. CEPF now collects completed CSTT tools at two points

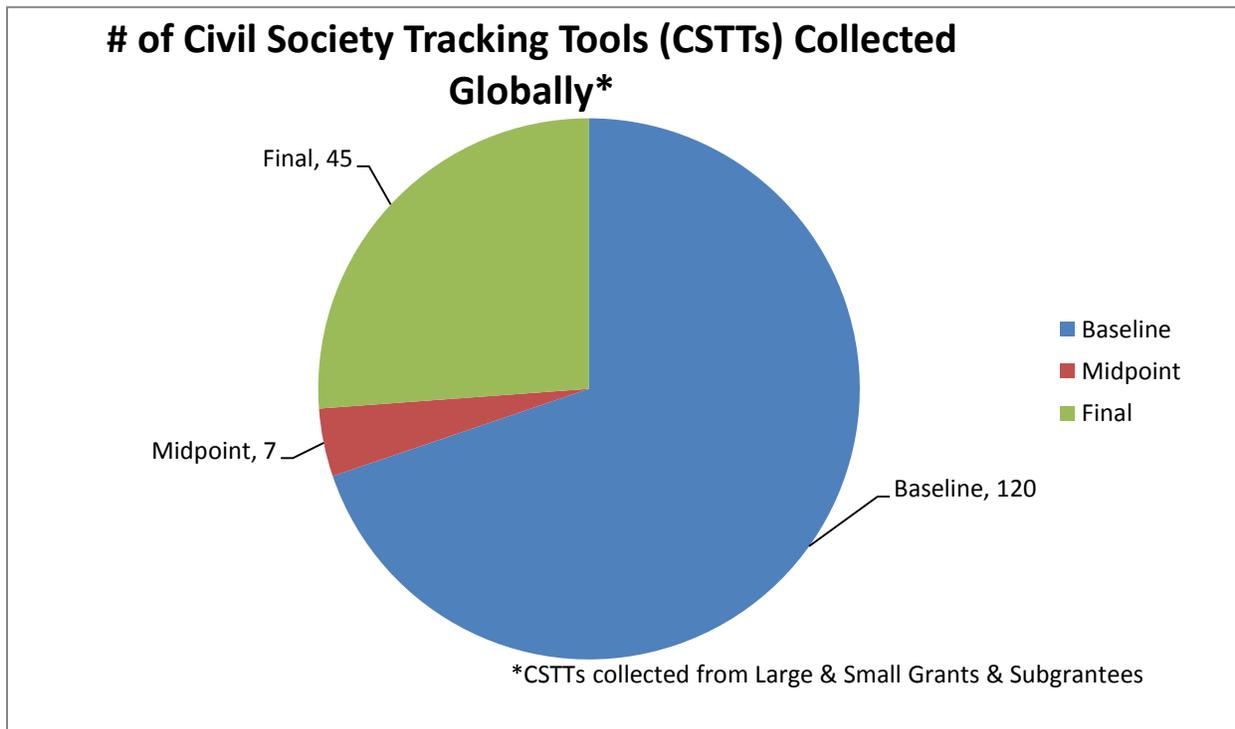
of grant implementation: at the baseline or beginning of a grant and at the final stage of the grant. It is important to note that depending on the points of investment of the hotspot portfolio (beginning, midpoint, final), adopting and rolling out the CSTT across regions has been staggered.

Where there are only baseline CSTT assessments, CEPF cannot measure any change in an organization's capacity. Where there are two points of collection, baseline and midpoint, or baseline and final, CEPF can measure change in capacity. Therefore there are also more tools and more data for some regions than others. In hotspots where CEPF investment has ended, there is more conclusive data.

Because of when the CSTT was adopted, there are some organizations that only submitted final assessments, without previously submitting an earlier point of collection, either at the beginning or midpoint of their project. For these organizations that lack two points of measurement, CEPF omitted them from the regional and global calculations for number and percent change of civil society capacity.

As of November 2013, CEPF received 172 Civil Society Tracking Tools (CSTTs) from 127 organizations (large grants, small grants and subgrantees) across 11 regions of investment: Caribbean Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Mountains of Southwest China, Mesoamerica, Mediterranean Basin, Maputoland-Pondaland-Albany, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tropical Andes and the Western Ghats. These include 120 tools of baseline assessment, 7 tools for midpoint assessment and 45 tools for final assessment as depicted in Chart 6. Of these, only 40 have two points of measurement.

Chart 6: Number of CSTTs collected across all active CEPF hotspots, since 2010



Of the 40 organizations with two CSTTs or two points of collection, 34 (85%) showed an increase in civil society capacity, and six (15%) reported no change or a slight decrease in civil society capacity.

As per Table 5, three regions in particular, Indo-Burma, Polynesia-Micronesia and the Western Ghats, have the most organizations to demonstrate comprehensive and illustrious data to the overall increase in grantee civil society capacity as pictured below.

Table 5: Number and percent of CSOs with improved organizational capacity, by hotspot

Hotspot	# local, national and regional CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity	% local, national and regional CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity
Indo-Burma	16	84%
Polynesia-Micronesia	10	91%
Western Ghats	4	67%
Caribbean	2	100%
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	1	100%
Mesoamerica	1	100%

Note: percentages calculated on the basis of number of organizations that have two points of collection

Of the CSTTs collected since 2010 from the Caribbean Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Mediterranean Basin, Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia and the Western Ghats, CEPF found an average increase of 12.8% or 12.8 points between the first CSTT score collected and the second score collected during CEPF investment. This therefore attributes an average 12.8% increase in organizational capacity based on CEPF investment in an organization.

In the regions with final assessments, including Polynesia-Micronesia, Indo-Burma and the Western Ghats, there is clear evidence that the overall civil society capacity of CEPF grantees rose throughout investment because of CEPF funding. Table 7 shows the average baseline score (out of a possible 100) and the average final score (out of a possible 100).

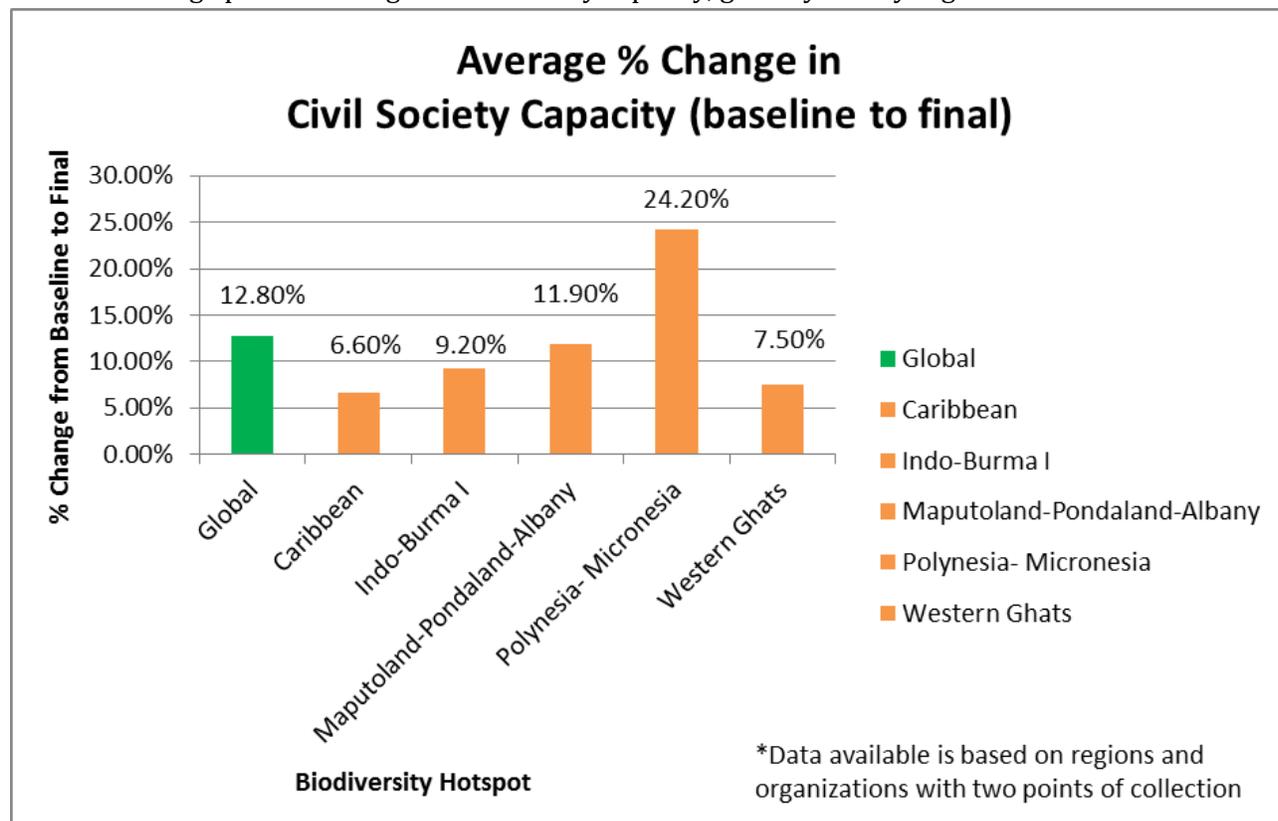
Table 6: Change in civil society organizational capacity, by hotspot

Region	Baseline score (out of 100)	Final score (out of 100)
Global	63.91	72.09
Caribbean	64.75	69.00
Eastern Afromontane	69.70	n/a
Indo-Burma	68.71	75.03
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	80.00	89.50
Mediterranean Basin	62.40	n/a
Polynesia-Micronesia	56.80	70.50
Western Ghats	58.67	63.08

As stated before, globally there is an average 12.8% increase in civil society capacity in in civil society capacity from beginning to of CEPF investment. Chart 7 shows this percent change in civil society

capacity globally and by region during CEPF investment. Polynesia-Micronesia had the largest increase, with an average 24% increase in civil society capacity from beginning to end of CEPF investment.

Chart 7: Average percent change in civil society capacity, globally and by region



Indicator 21: Change in the collective civil society capacity at relevant scale

The purpose of this indicator is to track connections between civil society groups and across to other sectors and is meant to demonstrate resilience and a stronger ability of civil society to collectively make change. Because this indicator measures broad changes across the breadth of civil society within a hotspot, the frequency of data collection is twice per investment cycle at the hotspot level – at the start and end of investment. A tool, the Civil Society Collective Assessment Tool, has been developed and is now starting to be used. This tool seeks to measure change in collective civil society capacity for five criteria: human resources, management systems and strategic planning, partnerships, financial resources and transboundary cooperation.

Noting that no new regions have been approved since 2012, when the monitoring framework was approved, efforts have nevertheless been made to apply the Civil Society Collective Assessment Tool in hotspots that have either had their midterm assessment or been completed. To date, assessments have been conducted for Indo-Burma (at the final assessment), the Western Ghats (at the five-year investment review) and the Eastern Himalayas. Table 8 illustrates results for the Western Ghats.

Eventually, CEPF will have data for all active hotspots.

Table 7: Assessment of collective civil society capacity in the Western Ghats

Criterion	2008		2011		2013		Notes
i. Human resources. Local and national civil society groups collectively possess technical competencies of critical importance to conservation.	X	Not Met		Not met		Not met	Civil society, collectively, has attained a higher level of technical competence between 2008 and 2013. However, civil society groups involved in conservation are still few in number, many groups need more technical expertise, many staff are on short-term contracts due to funding constraints, and capacity building is diluted by staff turnover.
		Partially met	X	Partially met	X	Partially met	
		Fully met		Fully met		Fully met	
ii. Management systems and strategic planning. Local and national civil society groups collectively possess sufficient institutional and operational capacity and structures to raise funds for conservation and to ensure the efficient management of conservation projects and strategies.	X	Not Met		Not met		Not met	Operational capacity and management structures are gradually improving for NGOs but not for community groups. Between 2008 and 2013, the number of proposals generated by NGOs increased, due to new funding sources, such as CEPF. However, there remains a lack of long-term funding, especially at local levels, and many smaller organizations exist on an insecure, grant-to-grant basis.
		Partially met	X	Partially met	X	Partially met	
		Fully met		Fully met		Fully met	
iii. Partnerships. Effective mechanisms exist for conservation-focused civil society groups to work in partnership with one another, and through networks with local communities, governments, the private sector, donors, and other important stakeholders, in pursuit of common objectives.		Not met		Not met		Not met	In 2008, some informal civil society networks (e.g. Save the Western Ghats Movement) existed among civil society groups. By 2013, new cooperation mechanisms had emerged (e.g. the Western Ghats Portal), and were being formalized. CEPF has brought together groups that did not work (or even talk) together in the past but there is still a need for greater openness towards collaboration and data sharing.
	X	Partially met	X	Partially met	X	Partially met	
		Fully met		Fully met		Fully met	
iv. Financial resources. Local civil society organizations have access to long-term funding sources to maintain the conservation results achieved via CEPF grants and/or other initiatives, through access to new donor funds, conservation enterprises, memberships, endowments, and/or other funding mechanisms.	X	Not met	X	Not met	X	Not met	Availability of financial resources improved slightly between 2008 and 2013 due to the availability of grants from CEPF and other donors. Small, local groups still face severe financial challenges, and need capacity building in fundraising. Donor priorities are shifting from conservation, and NGOs have not yet learned how to tap into government programs. Project funding creates uncertainty and is a major barrier to long-term planning and delivery.
		Partially met		Partially met		Partially met	
		Fully met		Fully met		Fully met	
v. Transboundary cooperation. In multi-country hotspots, mechanisms exist for collaboration across political boundaries at site, corridor and/or national scales.	X	Not met	X	Not met		Not met	Within India, planning is still at the state level but civil society is increasingly able to collaborate across boundaries, in part thanks to CEPF. The Save the Western Ghats Movement has been instrumental in bringing NGOs, activists and other actors from different states together, although the future direction of the movement is unclear.
		Partially met		Partially met	X	Partially met	
		Fully met		Fully met		Fully met	

This tool shows that civil society capacity has improved for three of the five indicators, and has remained the same for two of the five. None of the indicators have reached the desired status of “Fully met.” Results will be based on assessing whether there is a net positive change in the five indicators, and aggregated across all hotspots. Since three of the five indicators have improved, this hotspot receives a score of 1. In contrast, application of the criteria to the Eastern Himalayas, comparing the situation in 2006 with that in 2011, revealed that no criteria changed over the period of investment, thereby earning a score of 0.

While data for recently completed hotspots Indo-Burma and Polynesia-Micronesia will be available in the next monitoring report, we can at present say that as of November 2013, one hotspot (out of a total of two hotspots) can demonstrate a positive change in collective civil society capacity.

Indicator 22: Change in the number of networks and partnerships

The purpose of this indicator is to track new connections between civil society groups and across to other sectors and is meant to demonstrate resilience and a stronger ability of civil society to collectively make change. As of November 2013, CEPF has helped to establish 42 partnerships, and to strengthen an additional 36. A list of the 42 partnerships established with CEPF funds is provided below.

Table 8: Partnerships/networks that CEPF has helped to establish

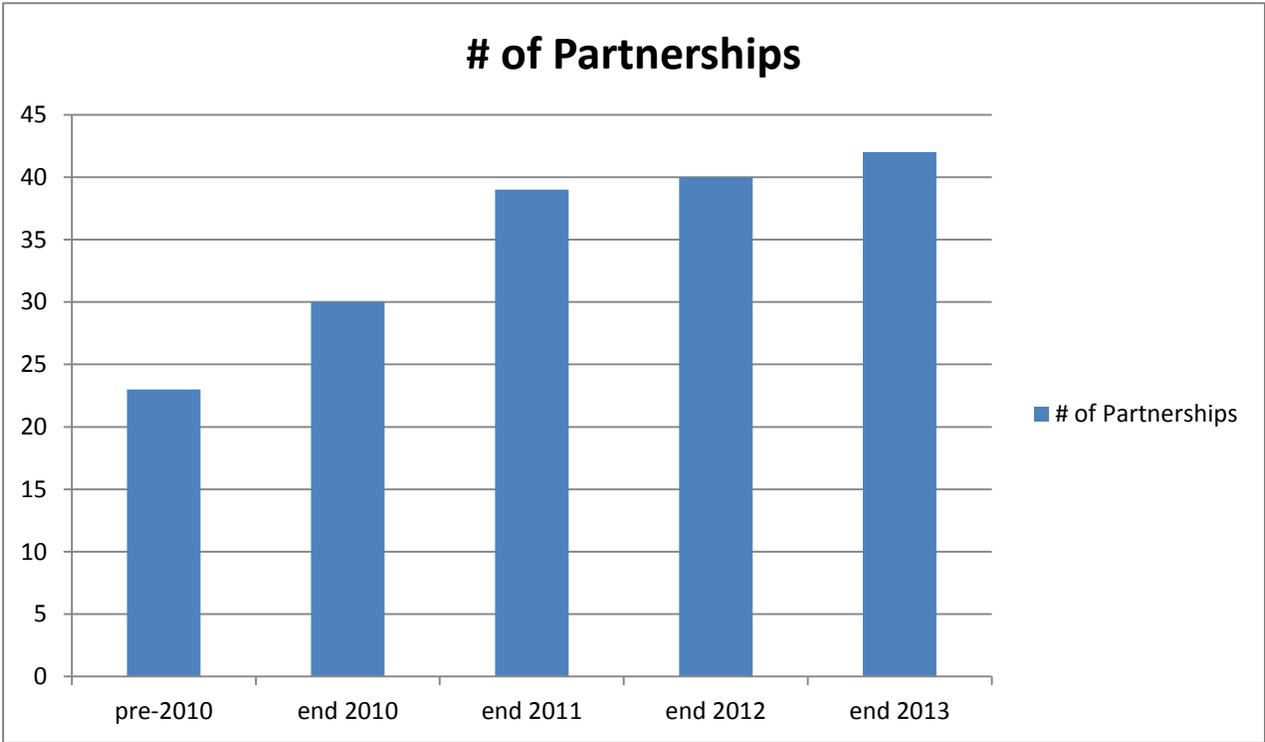
Hotspot	Country	Name of Partnership	Date established	Reason for establishment
Atlantic Forest	Brazil	Atlantic Forest Central Corridor network	2010	Network of about 80 local institutions for the sharing of experiences for consolidation of Atlantic Forest Central Corridor
Cape Floristic	South Africa	GreenChoice Alliance	2009	To promote sustainable production and consumption with a focus on citrus, rooibos, potato, meat, wine, etc.
		GreenChoice's Rooibos tea partnership	2010	To promote sustainable production and consumption
		GreenChoice's Mohair partnership	2010	To promote sustainable production and consumption
		GreenChoice's Red Meat partnership	2010	To promote sustainable production and consumption
		GreenChoice's Dairy partnership	2010	To promote sustainable production and consumption
		GreenChoice's Citrus partnership	2010	To promote sustainable production and consumption
Caucasus	Regional	Regional Biodiversity Monitoring Network for the Caucasus Hotspot	2005	To initiate regional efforts for biodiversity monitoring
	Armenia	EcoLur Network	pre-2010	To make environmental information available to the public
Eastern Arc Coastal Forests	Tanzania	A public private community partnership between the East Usambara Farmers Conservation Group (EUFCG), the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), Tanzania and ICIPE	2013	To coordinate the registration and manufacture of Ocimum kilimandscharicum-based products
Eastern Himalayas	Nepal	Transboundary working group in Panchthar District	pre-2010	To coordinate anti-poaching units, site support groups, and conservation coordination committees in specified areas of Panchthar, Ilam and

				Tablejung
Guinean Forests of West Africa	Sierra Leone	Environmental Forum for Action in Sierra Leone (ENFORAC)	2005	To coordinate all environmental/ biodiversity conservation actors in the country.
Madagascar	Madagascar	Nodes Program	2007	To promote sustainable natural resource management via micro grants to civil society, especially community groups
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	South Africa	MPAH Network	2013	SANBI and Wildlands-sponsored network of grantees analogous to other SANBI biome networks
		Midlands Conservancies Forum	2012	Collection of private land-owners with contiguous conservancies moving toward full stewardship
	Mozambique	Tri-Country Lebombo Spine	pre-2010	Transboundary park and rhino anti-poaching network connecting national, provincial, communal and private lands
		Matutuine Network	2012	Multiple grantees working in purposefully coordinated fashion with long-term collaboration a goal
	South Africa	Umvimzubu River Partnership Programme	2012	Multiple public and private entities working to coordinate data collection, management, and ultimately PES on last major undammed river in the country
Mesoamerica	Nicaragua	Coalition of 14 NGOs	pre-2007	To ensure they pursue common environmental and development goals
	Panama	An association of community and environmental groups	pre-2007	To resist a controversial road project through Volcan Baru National Park
		National network of CSOs	2009	To collaborate on environmental and social mitigation of new dam and mining concessions
	Costa Rica	A partnership between Delicafe, S.A., Fundacion Neotropica and Conservation International	pre-2007	Support for a conservation coffee scheme that allows farmers to earn a premium on their coffee beans
	Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama	International Foundation for Sustainable Conservation Alliance (FINCOS)	2010	To foster the collaboration and sustainability of conservation efforts between CEPF partners
Philippines	Philippines	Private sector partnership of Unilever, Nestle and Johnson & Johnson	pre-2007	To support conservation and sustainable development in the Southern Sierra Madre (Mt. Irid-Angilo) Protected Area
		Outcomes Monitoring Alliance	pre-2007	To develop a framework for monitoring progress of conservation efforts in KBAs at site, corridor and hotspot level
		Philippine Eagle Alliance	pre-2007	To coordinate the Philippine eagle conservation activities of CI, WWF-Philippines, Philippine Eagle Foundation, BirdLife International and the Haribon Foundation and to enable collective advocacy on issues of importance
Polynesia-Micronesia	French Polynesia	Sea Turtle Observatory	2012	To bring together the islands to collaborate on sea turtle conservation and monitoring

	Palau	Belau Watershed Alliance	pre-2012	Belau Watershed Alliance which produced eight management plans for the protection of watershed areas in Palau (Babeldoab Island)
Succulent Karoo	Namibia	A partnership between Namibia, Namibian Nature Foundation, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and Namdeb for the establishment of the Sperrgebiet National Park	2005	To establish and plan for the management of the Sperrgebiet National Park
	South Africa	A public-private partnership between Anglo Base Metals and the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation	2006	To manage the Black Mountain Conservation Area
		A public-private partnership between Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation, the Botanical Society of South Africa and Anglo Mining Company	2006	To establish a network of reserves expanding on existing private land owned by Anglo Mining Company
		A partnership between Botanical Society, the CapeNature Stewardship Programme, Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation and Northern Cape Department of Agriculture	pre-2006	To establish a stewardship program for the Northern Cape
		A partnership within the Gouritz Initiative with the Department of Agriculture, Land Care, the Ostrich Chamber, Department of Education and others	pre-2006	To improve land use within the Gouritz megareserve
		SKEPPIES partnership of CI and the Development Bank of Southern Africa	pre-2006	To create a small grants fund to support people and conservation in the Succulent Karoo
		Namaqualand Biodiversity Advisory Forum	pre-2006	To coordinate conservation efforts in Namaqualand
Sundaland	Indonesia	A partnership between Yayasan WWF Indonesia and pulp and paper companies and forest concessionaires	pre-2007	To save High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Teso Nilo
		Public-private partnerships were established with four oil palm consortia comprising more than 50 individual companies and two pulp and paper companies in Riau Province by which High Conservation Value Forest operational guidelines were adopted	pre-2007	To adopt operational guidelines for High Conservation Value Forest
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	Ecuador	A community-based coffee growers association (ASOCORREDOR) was established	pre-2007	To support conservation coffee practices and promote sustainable practices in coffee growing regions of the Valle del Cauca
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	India	Network of amphibian experts	2012	To promote conservation and research on amphibians in the

				Western Ghats
		Western Ghats EIA Watch	2012	To network stakeholders to monitor and engage in the environmental approval process for development projects
		Nilgiri Natural History Society	2012	To network and exchange information among organizations and individuals with interests in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
		An alliance for setting standards for sustainably produced coffee and tea	2012	An alliance set up by Rainforest Alliance and Nature Conservation Foundation to set standards for sustainably produced tea and coffee
		A network of freshwater biodiversity experts	2012	IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, through its local partner Zoo Outreach Organization, has created a network of freshwater biodiversity experts to update the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Chart 8: Increase in the number of partnerships CEPF has helped to create



Indicator 23: Change in the ability of civil society to respond to emerging issues

The purpose of this indicator is to understand the availability of information necessary to make informed decisions about the conservation of biodiversity, e.g. the availability of information in the public sphere, such that conservation issues are regularly discussed, and these discussions have the potential to influence public policy.

This indicator is intended to measure broad changes across the breadth of civil society within a hotspot, with frequency of data collection scheduled to be at the beginning, midpoint and end of investment. A tool, the Civil Society Responsiveness Tracking Tool, has been developed and is now starting to be used. This tool seeks to measure change with five criteria: biodiversity monitoring, threats monitoring, ecosystem services monitoring, adaptive management and public sphere.

To date, only one hotspot, the Western Ghats, has applied the tracking tool for this indicator, resulting in positive change for only one criterion. Therefore, as of November 2013, we can say that one hotspot demonstrates a positive change in the ability of civil society to respond to emerging issues.

VI. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In order to move towards full implementation of the monitoring framework, CEPF will pursue several tasks in the initial months of 2014, including:

- Implementation of agreements for the development of the methodology for selected indicators
- Refinement of selected indicators to ensure full understanding of what data is to be collected and how
- Design of a new online automated reporting system
- Incorporation of Aichi Targets in the reporting system
- Preparation of training and guidance materials for RITs and grantees
- Design of a monitoring webpage, showcasing goals, process and results

Of paramount importance is the design of a new automated reporting system. CEPF aims to create a system in which grantees will be able to document their contributions to the monitoring framework on a regular and cumulative basis. This system will facilitate the collection of data for aggregation of results, as well as the ability to identify the qualitative results that can provide the stories that make CEPF's achievements come to life.

VII. CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that CEPF has accomplished a great amount in its 13 years of existence. It also shows the gaps to be filled up to ensure that what is reported is complete and that the impact that is reported is clearly understood. CEPF has much to be proud of, and refinement and implementation of the monitoring system will set the Fund on a clear path to being able to report on its achievements.

Annex A. Indicators in CEPF's Monitoring Framework

1. Change in Red List Index
2. Change in threat levels of target
3. Change in habitat extent
4. Change in # of hectares of KBAs with strengthened protection and management
5. Change in # of hectares of new protected areas
6. Change in threat levels of target sites
7. Change in habitat extent
8. Change in the # of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation
9. Change in the # of direct beneficiaries
10. Change in the # of communities directly benefitting
11. Change in the amount of CO₂e stored at CEPF invested sites
12. Change in the amount of fresh water secured at CEPF invested sites and delivered to downstream users
13. Change in the # of policies (legislative, regulatory or strategic) that include provisions for conservation management
14. Change in the # of sustainable finance mechanisms with improved management
15. Change in the amount of \$ housed in sustainable finance mechanisms
16. Change in the financial performance of funds
17. Change in the timing of financial delivery of funds to conservation projects
18. Change in the # of sites (protected areas) with improved management
19. Change in the # of best management practices
20. Change in the # and % of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity
21. Change in the collective civil society capacity at relevant scale
22. Change in the # of networks and partnerships
23. Change in the ability of civil society to respond to emerging issues

CEPF Regional Implementation Team Exchange – September 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since establishment in 2000, CEPF has supported a multitude of learning exchanges and forums for sharing lessons and experiences. These exchanges have been extremely useful and have shown great potential to strengthen civil society groups in each hotspot. With this in mind, CEPF decided to host a forum to strengthen the exchanges between hotspots and Regional Implementation Teams (RITs). This event, the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) Exchange, was held 16-18 September, 2013, at the Smithsonian-George Mason University School of Conservation in Front Royal, Virginia, USA, and was the first of its kind. The exchange was attended by 18 members of the CEPF Secretariat and 28 members of former and current RITs from 14 hotspots.

The primary objective of the RIT Exchange was to ensure exchange of experiences, lessons and tools among Regional Implementation Teams across multiple CEPF-funded hotspots. The three-day workshop covered multiple themes and allowed for stimulating discussion in small group discussions as well as in plenary sessions. Participants were afforded the opportunity to meet and discuss in working sessions and in informal settings. Thus participants not only shared experiences, but they also were able to interact on a personal basis, thereby strengthening the ties between RITs for professional networks and personal friendships, and setting a firm foundation for future dialogs. Nine formal sessions were held covering the following topics: 1) the Experience of CEPF – the good and the bad; 2) Networking; 3) Capacity Building; 4) Monitoring; 5) Communications; 6) Sustainability and Fundraising; 7) Procedures; 8) Designing the Ideal RIT; and 9) Changes I will make. Discussion and conclusions arising from key sessions are detailed below.

The opening session of the workshop, “The Experience of CEPF,” allowed participants to get to know each other and to think in general and creative terms what they like about CEPF, and what they found to be difficult or a challenge. This session was an excellent way to start the meeting, and it stimulated contributions from all participants. The lists of positive and negative experiences demonstrate that participants were candid and willing to express their frustrations as well as their successes. The topics raised were many and varied, and catalytic in terms of getting people thinking for the ensuing sessions of the workshop. The session on networking focused on barriers and enabling conditions for networks, with the main messages being that networking is key for creating an enabling environment, and an important element in the transfer of skills and capacity building. Networks shouldn’t be forced though, but should be allowed to grow organically. Examples of successful and unsuccessful networks were discussed, so that participants could better understand the RIT role in creating and supporting networks.

The capacity-building session revealed the incredible importance of this theme in CEPF’s mission and day-to-day work, but also identified several issues and actions that could help RITs to better deliver capacity building to stakeholders. In particular, it was noted that in order to be strategic, a needs assessment should be undertaken before determining capacity-building activities in each hotspot, and ideally we should be looking ahead 20 years.

The monitoring session generated much discussion and many questions, reflecting that RITs need to have a better understanding of their role in the monitoring effort, as well as clarification on CEPF’s monitoring objectives and tools. CEPF has many tools and practices that are valuable, but there is room for improvement. Ecosystem profiles, for example, need to do a better job of generating baselines that

correspond to the new monitoring framework approved in 2012. Further, if RITs are to have a significant role in monitoring, budgets need to be increased to account for the additional time and effort that would be required.

The communications session revealed that RITs are using a wide variety of tools and materials to get the word out about CEPF, but in order to be really effective, they need to have a person dedicated to the task. Additionally, to fully support the Secretariat's needs, it was noted that visits from CEPF Communications staff to each region would be very helpful to understand needs and have capacity built as necessary.

During the fundraising session, time was devoted to determining the right roles for the RIT and the Secretariat. The RIT role is to work with local and regional donors, and to generate interest and interaction via donor roundtables or experiential opportunities such as site visits. Ways to interact with donors were discussed, and RITs shared positive and negative experiences. The Secretariat role was identified as pursuing large and U.S.-based donors, and to facilitate links with regional donors.

The session on procedures was hailed as the most valuable of the entire workshop. Starting with a RIT-only session, participants devoted time to exploring what works and what could be improved. Detailed discussions were held on ecosystem profiles, RIT training, TOR and budget, grant forms and granting procedures, and reporting. Key messages arising from this session were that RIT TOR and budgets should reflect the work that is expected of them, proposal templates/forms need to be revised, certain CEPF procedures need to have improved standardization, and guidance materials for proposal preparation and monitoring would improve implementation.

The final session on designing the ideal RIT brought it all together, concluding that a successful RIT must have sufficient resources (both money and information), sufficient technical and financial capacity, access to data and information, sound processes and procedures that allow for efficiency, transparency and fairness, buy-in from stakeholders including governments, and a sound strategy that is supported by stakeholders.

A post-Exchange survey revealed that participants enjoyed meeting other RIT staff, getting to know the Secretariat, learning about different perspectives and experiences, and having the opportunity to explore what works and what doesn't and to talk openly about how the program could be improved. Further, participants praised the openness of the Secretariat to hearing different viewpoints, and in general described the ambiance of the workshop as energetic, enthusiastic and honest.

There was unanimous support for holding regular RIT exchanges, with an event every two years receiving the most support. Participants were divided on where to hold the exchange, with a higher portion preferring that the event be held in a CEPF hotspot rather than in the Washington area. All noted the exceptional organization of the meeting, and the opportunity to meet all Secretariat staff. All in all, every participant indicated that they benefitted immensely from the experience.

Finally, the workshop generated a number of action points that could be acted upon by the Secretariat. Tasks have been assigned to the appropriate staff member, with deadlines determined where possible. The Secretariat plans to act swiftly and comprehensively to implement this list of tasks. Quarterly progress reports will be shared with all RIT Exchange participants.

Table 1. List of tasks arising from the RIT Exchange discussions

Task #	Theme	Task	Task Lead	Deadline	Progress (Completed, In Progress, TBD) as of November 2013
1	<i>Networking</i>	Clarify responsibility for network creation. Is it the RIT or the grantee?	Nina	1/31/2014	In progress
2	<i>Monitoring</i>	Ensure that the CEPF monitoring framework covers the functionality of networks	Nina	TBD	In progress
3		Develop standardized tools for monitoring	Nina	Preliminary package due 1/31/2014; some tools will be finalized in mid-late 2014	In progress
4		Increase donor awareness of the challenges of producing impact data after a five year investment period	Nina and Patricia	12/31/2013	In progress
5		RITs need clarification and training on the monitoring plan.	Nina and Grant Directors	TBD	In progress
6		Publicize CEPF's monitoring plan	Nina	TBD	Will happen in 2014 when tools and reporting kit are completed.
7		Ensure the ecosystem profile provides an adequate baseline	Nina and Grant Directors	Ongoing	Ongoing
8		Try to understand what other ongoing monitoring programs (e.g. by governments) are doing so that duplication of effort is avoided.	Grant Directors and RITs	TBD	Will happen in 2014
9	<i>Procedures and Processes</i>	Standardize LOI to Closeout processes among GMU & Grant Directors	Deborah & Nina	October 2013	Completed
10		Procurement Guidance and Q&A	GMU	November 2013	Completed
11		The LOI and full proposal templates need to be revised	Deborah & Nina	12/31/2013	Ongoing
12		RIT proposals need to accurately reflect the TOR that RITs are expected to fulfill	Grant Directors and RITs	Ongoing	Ongoing
13		RIT budgets need to accurately reflect the work that RITs are expected to do	Grant Directors and RITs	Ongoing	Ongoing
14		Augment RIT training program to include additional experts, delivery by module and bit by bit	Laura	1/31/2014	In progress
15		Better guidance in proposal preparation is needed for applicants – e.g. a webinar.	GMU	TBD	In progress
16	<i>Communication</i>	Quarterly CEPF Orientation Calls	GMU	November 2013	Completed & ongoing
17		Clarify lines of communication with the Secretariat	Julie	Ongoing	Ongoing
18		Secretariat to take the lead on newsletter and blog development	Julie	Ongoing	Ongoing
19		Communications staff to visit RITs	Julie	Ongoing	Visit to MPAH undertaken in October 2013
20		Develop better products to make the ecosystem profile more accessible to	Julie	Late 2014	

		applicants			
21	<i>Capacity Building</i>	To be strategic in each portfolio, undertake a needs assessment before determining what to do	Grant Directors	Ongoing at the start of each portfolio	
22		Determine how much effort RITs should put into individual capacity building	Grant Directors	Ongoing at the start of each portfolio	
23		Announce Maaiké Mantén's publication, "Institutional Fundraising for Conservation Projects", on the CEPF website	Maren		Completed
24	<i>Sustainability and Fundraising</i>	Facilitate communication between RIT and regional donors	Patricia and Grant Directors	Ongoing	Ongoing
25		Attend donor roundtables	Patricia, Nina and Grant Directors	Ongoing	Ongoing

Annex B. Long Term Financing Tracking Tool

CEPF's Long Term Financing Indicators

Project Name:

Project Manager:

Date of Baseline:

Date of Year End Report:

**Name of Long Term
Financing Mechanism (Trust
Fund/Endowment)**

Code	Category	Indicator	Baseline	Year 2	Year 3	etc
	Value					
	Value in US\$	Change in \$ housed in sustainable finance mechanism				
	Governance					
GO1	Operational Procedures	0 = No credible and transparent operational procedures in place; no effective checks and balances 1 = Operational procedures and effective checks and balances contemplated but not implemented 2 = Some operational procedures and minimally effective checks and balances in place 3 = Credible and transparent operational procedures and effective checks and balances in place				
GO2	Stakeholder Participation	0 = The creation of the financing mechanism included no stakeholder participation 1 = The creation of the financing mechanism included participation by some stakeholders 2 = The creation of the financing mechanism included participation by an appropriate cross-section of stakeholders but insufficient participation from interested parties 3 = The creation of the financing mechanism included the appropriate cross-section of stakeholders and had sufficient participation from interested parties				

G03	Composition of Board/Oversight Committee	<p>0 = Board / oversight committee structure does not exist</p> <p>1 = Board / oversight committee structure composition does not include individuals from a variety of sectors</p> <p>2 = Board / oversight committee structure composition includes individuals from some sectors</p> <p>3 = Board / oversight committee structure composition includes individuals from a variety of sectors (government, NGOs, business, academia, community)</p>				
G04	Government Support	<p>0 = No active government support and participation where relevant</p> <p>1 = Little active government support and participation where relevant</p> <p>2 = Considerable government support and participation where relevant</p> <p>3 = Broad-based active government support and participation where relevant</p>				
G05	Fund management	<p>0 = No lead manager (executive director) of the organization exists</p> <p>1 = Lead manager of the organization is not well qualified</p> <p>2 = Lead manager of the organization is well qualified but spends insufficient time on fund management</p> <p>3 = Lead manager of the organization is well qualified and spends sufficient time on fund management</p>				
G06	Flow of funds to PA	<p>0 = Funds do not flow from LTF to PA at all</p> <p>1 = Funds from LTF flow to PA but not in the timeframe expected</p> <p>2 = Funds from LTF flow to PA in an efficient, timely manner</p>				
G07	Communication between fund and PA	<p>0 = PA managers and fund managers/oversight committee do not communicate</p> <p>1 = PA managers and fund managers/oversight committee communicate, but infrequently</p> <p>2 = PA managers and fund managers/oversight committee communicate regularly</p>				
G08	PA reporting to fund	<p>0 = PA managers do not provide required reporting and other requested information to fund managers</p> <p>1 = PA managers provide reporting and other information to fund managers but infrequently</p> <p>2 = PA managers provide all required reporting and other requested information to fund managers in a timely manner</p>				
G09	Fund assessment of PA mngt	<p>0 = Fund managers do not review PA reporting or monitoring data</p> <p>1 = Fund managers review some reporting or monitoring data but do not incorporate information into funding decisions</p> <p>2 = Fund managers review all reporting and monitoring data and evaluate information, and incorporate this information into funding decisions</p>				

GO10	Fund learning	<p>0 = Fund managers do not participate in learning exchanges with other similar funds</p> <p>1 = Fund managers participate in learning exchanges with other similar funds but infrequently</p> <p>2 = Fund managers participate in learning exchanges with other similar funds often.</p>				
GO11	External Audits	<p>0 = Fund does not have external auditors</p> <p>1 = Fund has external auditors and audits reveal shortcomings (breaches to existing agreements, outstanding debts, pending litigation, etc.)</p> <p>2 = Fund has external auditors and audits are positive (no breaches to existing agreements, no outstanding debts, no pending litigation, etc.)</p>				
Financial Management						
FM1	Administrative costs	<p>0 = Administrative costs are above the industry standard (>15%)</p> <p>1 = Administrative costs are above the industry standard (>15%) but controlled and monitored</p> <p>2 = Administrative costs are reasonable (<15%) but not controlled and monitored</p> <p>3 = Administrative costs are reasonable (<15%), controlled and monitored</p>				
FM2	Strategic planning	<p>0 = Managers do not have ability to develop growth-oriented strategic plans, and to assess and adapt for risks</p> <p>1 = Managers have ability to develop growth-oriented strategic plans, and to assess and adapt for risks</p> <p>2 = Managers have ability to develop, adapt and utilize growth-oriented strategic plans, and to assess and adapt for risks</p>				
FM3	Investment Policy	<p>0 = Investment Policy is inadequate to guide and control effective allocation of fund assets (as managed by fund manager).</p> <p>1= Investment Policy lacks elements of industry best practice for fund asset allocation.</p> <p>2= Investment Policy adheres to industry best practices but is not regularly updated.</p> <p>3= Investment Policy adheres to industry best practices and is regularly updated.</p>				
FM4	Financial management	<p>0 = No system of financial management</p> <p>1 = Ad hoc system of financial management</p> <p>2 = Well developed system of financial management</p>				

FM5	Financial capacity of fund managers	<p>0 = Managers of fund provide no oversight and possess little technical capacity to monitor fund's financial performance</p> <p>1 = Managers of fund provide minimal oversight and possess little technical know-how and control to monitor fund's financial performance</p> <p>2 = Managers of fund provide sufficient oversight and possess sufficient technical know-how and control to monitor fund's financial performance</p> <p>3 = Managers of fund provide rigorous oversight and possess significant technical know-how and control to monitor fund's financial performance</p>				
FM6	Financial Returns	<p>0 = Returns on investments (net of expenses) are negative.</p> <p>1 = Returns on investments exist but do not meet industry benchmarks (5%)</p> <p>2 = Returns on investments meet or exceed industry benchmarks (5%)</p>				
FM7	Sufficient finances to support annual recurrent management costs of target PA(s) secured	<p>0 = No financing secured</p> <p>1 = Up to 50% of target financing secured</p> <p>2 = 50 to 99% of target financing secured</p> <p>3 = Entire target capitalization secured</p>				
FM8	Subjective assessment of the extent to which financial plan is being implemented	<p>0 = financial plan needs modification and there is high risk of missing financial targets</p> <p>1 = financial plan is correct, but not on the right track and there is risk of missing financial targets</p> <p>2 = financial plan is correct, relatively on the right track, going according to plan and there is some risk of missing financial targets</p> <p>3 = financial plan is correct, on the right track, going according to plan and there is little risk of missing financial targets</p>				
TOTAL Scores			0	0	0	0

CEPF's Response to Improve its Procedures and Practices

New tool in place	Location	Purpose	Audience	Results
<i>Procedure Tools</i>				
Regional Report Review	Shared Google Worksheet	A centralized online tool for RITs and CEPF Secretariat team members to log their comments during reports reviews periods.	RIT & Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduces the volume of email exchange ● Provides a clear picture of review status ● Provides a clear idea of each grant status (reports overdue? Payment requested? Comments sent?)
Process Roles & Responsibilities	Shared Google Worksheet	A collaboration tool to standardize across regions each step and role of each party in the granting process from a call for proposals to a project close out.	Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid RIT receiving conflicting information from different members of the Secretariat ● Provides the RIT with a clear understanding of its involvement in the process ● Improvement of Secretariat processes to avoid excessive email exchanges ● Reduces duplication of effort and maximizes efficiencies ● Facilitates new participants stepping into the process as needed
CEPF Procurement Policies Flowchart	Shared PDF (Google)	A flowchart that allows RITs, grantees and the Secretariat to easily explain/understand when and what type of procurement procedures are triggered, as well as the potential documents requested.	Secretariat, RIT & Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting tool for the multiple questions frequently asked on procurement procedures ● Easy to understand and visualize
CEPF Procurement Policies FAQ	Shared PDF (Google)	Cluster of frequently asked questions around procurement policies in one document with	Secretariat, RIT & Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quick and easy to copy paste into an email ● Helps the grantee to receive the same clear answer from any members of the RIT or the Secretariat

		clear answers.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helps the grantee to find the answer directly
New Grantee Orientation Call	Online call and supporting files on CEPF website and posted to the RIT Yahoo group	Quarterly call for new grantees during which the GMU and the communication team walks grantees through high level compliance and reporting policies. (RIT and any member of the Secretariat can attend).	RIT & Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sets the tone for a supportive and open grantor-grantee working arrangement. ● Allows RIT and members of the Secretariat to meet new grantees virtually ● Provides a platform where the GMU can answer one question for multiple grantees
GMU Site Visit Guide	Shared Word document (Google)	Guidance for the GMU staff for participating in field visits.	Secretariat (GMU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide the user to understand what type of information the GMU is looking for ● Serves as a checklist ● Standardization of project review
Communication				
RIT Yahoo Group	Yahoo group	Group for the RIT to have a central place to find and share any useful document as well as share best practices.	RITs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network among RIT teams ● Facilitate communication among teams that are facing similar problems across the global portfolio
Updated RIT Communications Toolkit	PDF available on the Yahoo group	Toolkit that gathers all the information linked with communications such as logo usage, story/blog and photography guidelines, project summary guidelines and more.	Secretariat & RIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All the information linked to communications gathered in one clear document ● Support the RITs understanding of the different ways to promote their grantees' projects
Grantee Communication Toolkit	PDF available on the Yahoo group and shared with new grantees prior to the	Toolkit that gathers all the information linked with communications such as logo usage, and story/blog and	External: Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All the information linked to communications gathered in one clear document ● Support grantee understanding of the

	orientation call	photography guidelines. It also provides guidance to grantees on communication strategies and content development.		different ways to promote their project
Guidelines for photos, blogs and articles	PDF available on the Yahoo group	Documents available upon request to support RIT or grantees on these specific topics.	External: Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide grantees or RIT to provide the best quality photos or articles to promote their project ● Standardization in article writing and photography across CEPF projects
<i>Correspondence</i>				
Template emails at countersignature	Word document in English, French and Spanish shared (Google)	Standard communication sent to grantee upon request for countersignature.	Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New version worked on by the GMU to provide clearer and relevant information to grantee at countersignature stage ● Shorter version to avoid confusion ● Less repetition to avoid confusion ● Standard messaging across global portfolio
Template emails at project activation	Word document in English, French and Spanish shared (Google)	Standard communication sent to grantee upon project activation.	Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New version worked on by the GMU to provide clearer and relevant information at project activation countersignature stage ● Shorter version to avoid confusion ● Less repetition to avoid confusion ● Standard messaging across global portfolio
Template email communications at project activation	Word document in English	Standard communication sent to grantee prior to orientation call.	Grantees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New template developed by Communications Team to provide clear and relevant information at project activation countersign stage



Approved Grants

From: July 01, 2013 To: September 30, 2013

Caribbean Islands

Strategic Direction 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas

Rescuing Eckmanni Junipers and Conserving Plant Species in the Context of Updating the Management Plan for the Pine Forest in Massif de la Selle, Haiti

Identify rare and threatened plants species from La Foret des Pins in Haiti and develop activities for their long-term survival, which will be integrated into the forest's management plan. Create two nurseries for native species, with the purpose of strengthening plant populations. *Juniperus eckmannii*, one of Earth's rarest trees with only one damaged specimen remaining, will benefit from a special in-vitro reproduction program led by Conservatoire Botanique de Brest in France, prior to reintroduction in the wild.

Funding: \$135,140

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 9/30/2015

Grantee: Arche aux Plantes

East Melanesia Islands

Strategic Direction 5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a Regional Implementation Team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the East Melanesia Islands-Administrative

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.

Funding: \$900,000

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 7/31/2021

Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the East Melanesia Islands-Programmatic

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include coordinating and communicating CEPF's investment in the region; assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities; and building the capacity of civil society organizations.

Funding: \$600,000

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 7/31/2021

Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction 1. Biodiversity mainstreamed into wider development policies, plans and projects, delivering the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in four priority corridors (and associated key biodiversity area groups) and seven countries

Promoting the Recognition of the Eastern Afromontane Key Biodiversity Areas and Corridors to an International Audience of Ecologists and Climate Change Scientists

Mainstream biodiversity conservation into national development policies and plans by promoting the recognition of Eastern Afromontane key biodiversity areas (KBAs) within the global scientific community at the 2013 London International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) Conference, specifically during the symposium dedicated to climate change and African mountain ecosystems: Modeling ecological change at different scales. The presenter is also the main author and compiler of the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot ecosystem profile.

Funding: \$4,000

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Ian Gordon

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Protecting Biodiversity Through Conservation Agriculture in Lake Niassa, Mozambique

Train community members from 15 villages on the shores of Lake Malawi/Niassa, a freshwater key biodiversity area in Mozambique, in biodiversity-friendly agricultural and agroforestry methods and techniques to increase the provision of habitat for endemic species that are crucial to the success and sustainability of ecological agriculture.

Funding: \$19,996

Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014

Grantee: Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Improved protection and management of the key biodiversity area network through involvement of civil society

Building Advocacy and Developing a Management Plan for the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area

Lead inventories of the largely unknown biodiversity in the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area and identify the most important sites and the level of threats in order to prepare participatory management plans. An important component of the grant is advocacy and awareness-raising activities with communities, government officials and traditional authorities, preparing the ground for the official protection of the most important parts of this key biodiversity area.

Funding: \$120,000

Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 9/30/2015

Grantee: Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (Yemen)

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Establishment and Management of the Itombwe Massif and Misotshi-Kabogo as New Protected Areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Establish two important protected areas in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Itombwe Massif and the Ngamikka Forest. Working closely with local communities and the Congolese authorities, the project team gathers the necessary data and ensures the legal requirements are fulfilled; and organizes consultations with local communities to ensure their rights and their vision are fully taken into account. For both sites, preliminary management plans will be prepared in consultation with local communities. Determine the feasibility of REDD+ at both sites as a means to sustainably cover the costs associated with conservation of the protected areas and some local development needs.

Funding: \$147,300

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2015

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Protecting Priority Conservation Sites in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania

Work with eight communities to form the Tongwe West Forest Protected Area in order to directly protect 120,488 hectares via the creation of village land forest reserves. The Frankfurt Zoological Society and Fauna & Flora International are receiving parallel grants to work in the Greater Mahale Landscape along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania.

Funding: \$160,200

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2015

Grantee: Frankfurt Zoological Society

Restoration and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika

Identify and map the major threats on an area that stretches over 120 kilometers of coast, south of Bujumbura, where the coastal biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi is threatened by pollution, erosion and the destruction of the remaining natural sites. Prepare a holistic management plan for this area, which will be discussed with all stakeholders and in particular the government agencies. For each threat, implement pilot activities such as the planting of bamboo to limit erosion or advocating for the creation of small protected areas along the coast of Lake Tanganyika.

Funding: \$74,400

Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 9/30/2015

Grantee: Burundi Nature Action

Strategic Direction 3. Financing mechanisms established in four priority corridors and two additional sites ensuring substantial long-term financing for conservation activities in the most important sites, and conservation community enabled to raise funds and develop similar mechanisms in the hotspot

The Lost Mountain: Mt Namuli, Mozambique

Coordinate and lead the inception of a long-term integrated conservation plan of Mt. Namuli and surrounding environs, one of the most significant, threatened and understudied massifs in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. In doing so, the goal is to build the capacity of local project partners and establish relationships among diverse stakeholders such that the conservation plan is sustainable in the long term and that it is carried out under the leadership of a Mozambican civil society organization with local buy-in and broad-based support.

Funding: \$20,000

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 4/30/2014

Grantee: Ukalene Productions LLC

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats

Conserving Three Critically Endangered Vulture Species in Cambodia

Conserve three Critically Endangered vulture species at Preah Vihear Protected Forest, Western Siem Pang Important Bird Area (IBA) and Sesan and Lumphat Wildlife Sanctuary by providing supplementary food, coordinating censuses, improving nest success by protecting all nests found, and promoting awareness on accidental poisoning. The project will improve the experience and knowledge of students and professors from Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, which specializes in species conservation.

Funding: \$19,901

Grant Term: 7/31/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Keeping the Legend Alive: Research and Conservation of Swinhoe's Soft-Shell Turtle in Vietnam

Secure the only known habitat of Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) at Dong Mo Lake by installing two additional large nets before the dam to prevent the species from escaping; gaining support from national authorities for construction of a permanent fence/net; using environmental DNA (eDNA) and potential trapping; and bringing remaining animals together to a semi-wild area for conservation breeding and awareness activities.

Funding: \$9,218

Grant Term: 9/15/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Cleveland Zoological Society (CZS)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Develop innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at 28 key biodiversity areas

Developing a Conservation Action Plan and Working Group for Hog Deer in Cambodia

Hold a workshop with all relevant stakeholders to develop a draft conservation action plan for hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) in Cambodia and conduct key conservation actions with stakeholders after the workshop to finalize the action plan, which may include captive management as a proposed conservation option to secure the hog deer species. Key stakeholders to attend the workshop will include the Forest Administration, Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, Wildlife Alliance, the Ministry of Environment, Save Cambodia's Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature and local NGOs.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 7/15/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Fauna & Flora International - Cambodia Program

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Strategic Direction 1. Strengthen protection and management in undercapacitated and emerging protected areas in priority key biodiversity areas

The Conservation and Study of White-Backed Vultures

Change the public perception of the often reviled white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*) in Africa by emphasizing their ecological importance to help encourage people to protect vultures and increase the vulture population.

Funding: \$19,665

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014

Grantee: All Out Africa

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 22 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches that sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services

Exploring the Opportunity to Pilot Mitigation Banking in the eThekweni Municipality

Build local capacity in the eThekweni Municipality to implement biodiversity banking as a tool in development planning. Biodiversity banking presents an innovative way of assessing biodiversity loss as a result of development and provides scientific answers for offset planning and implementation.

Funding: \$25,000

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2014

Grantee: Eco-Pulse Consulting cc

Strategic Direction 3. Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors

Feasibility Study for the Development Forum's KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Green Map

Complete a feasibility study on Green Maps – locally created environmentally themed maps – in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban by engaging with the administrators of these sites to establish clarity on their financial models; the criteria for membership inclusion; and the roles and responsibilities of administrators in terms of populating, maintaining, assessing and auditing members. Approach Imagine Durban to see about possibly linking their green guide handbooks to the Sustainability Forum website in order to provide access to relevant reference material.

Funding: \$8,235

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 9/30/2013

Grantee: Sustainability Forum

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Thicket Forum Annual Conference

Co-host the 2013 Thicket Forum Annual Conference where researchers, managers, farmers, rural community members and other interested parties will discuss the sustainable management of Thicket, one of South Africa's major ecosystems. Continue activities aiming to improve the implementation of environmental regulations to maintain functional ecosystem corridors.

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Funding: \$8,235
Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Living Lands
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Mediterranean Basin

Strategic Direction 1. Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkans; Cyrenaican Peninsula; and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors

Environmental Initiatives to Enhance Ecotourism in Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde

Enhance ecotourism on Boa Vista Island by developing information on the beach, increasing environmental awareness and encouraging outdoor tourism in the region. The project will target fisherman, visitors, tourists, tourist agents and local stakeholders. A good comprehension of green tourism and the development of an official "environmentally friendly" logo for companies and organizations that stick to eco-friendly tourism are expected.

Funding: \$19,800
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014
Grantee: BIOS.CV – Association for the Conservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Land of Eagles and Castles: Pilot Sustainable Tourism Model for the Albanian Adriatic Coastline

Identify, develop and market environmentally sound tourism opportunities along the Albanian coast in conjunction with relevant stakeholders such as local community associations, the tourism industry and government departments. These nature-based tourism activities will benefit biodiversity conservation, especially in priority key biodiversity areas, as well as the region's historical and cultural heritage.

Funding: \$248,623
Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 6/30/2016
Grantee: Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

Preserve and Enhance Sustainable Tourism Between Lalzi Bay and Berat, Albania

Engage young Albanians, civil society organizations and government entities in promoting sustainable tourism practices, especially in Berat and Lalzi Bay. This includes the creation of a "Green Radio" station and website aimed at promoting a balanced ecosystem approach that addresses pollution, waste management and other impacts of mass tourism in coastal areas.

Funding: \$63,632
Grant Term: 6/1/2013 - 11/30/2014
Grantee: Istituto Sindacale Per La Cooperazione Allo Sviluppo

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Raising Awareness of Local Communities who are Decision Makers in Tabraq City and Ein Ghazalah

Raise awareness about the importance of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and their protection, particularly around Ain Alghazalah and Toubrouk in the Cyrenaican Peninsula. The target groups include hunters, Imams, relevant stakeholders, and an environmental club that will be created in two schools around the KBAs.

Funding: \$19,960

Grant Term: 10/1/2013 - 10/30/2014

Grantee: Libyan Society for Birds (LSB)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Atlas Mountains, (2) Taurus Mountains, (3) Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains and (4) Southwest Balkans

Ensuring the Preservation and Enhancement of Atlas Mountain Ecosystems by Building the Capacity of Local Stakeholders in Sustainable Water Management

Build the capacity of local communities in the protection of water resources; promote production techniques concerned with the conservation of resources; and strengthen programs of education and awareness on water management with civil society.

Funding: \$19,700

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 7/31/2014

Grantee: Enda Maghreb

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas

Educating the Public on Sustainable Water Use and the Protection of Endemic Fish in the Neretva River Valley

Inform and educate the public about the need for the sustainable use of water in the karst fields of Eastern eastern Herzegovina that are essential for the ecological vitality of the lower Neretva Valley. Protect endemic fish species and their spawning grounds in the Buna, Bunica and Bregava rivers of the Neretva catchment area.

Funding: \$18,750

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 7/30/2014

Grantee: Hrvatska Ekološka Udruga (BUNA)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Integrated Local Management of Tal Al Arbeen in the Jordan River Key Biodiversity Area

Conserve the Endangered ana tree (*Acacia albida*), and its associated flora and fauna, in its last standing habitat in the Jordan River Basin. The project also includes promoting sustainable agriculture through the establishment of pilot local farms, demonstrating a model for integrating nature conservation into socioeconomic development in local communities, and providing an incentive for local communities to conserve and sustain their surrounding ecosystems, which are critical for the Jordan River Basin.

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Funding: \$19,700
Grant Term: 6/25/2013 - 6/24/2014
Grantee: Bab Assalam Women's Cooperative
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Production of Speleological Cadaster for the Trebižat Area

Produce a cadaster of underground objects and evaluate their ecological importance in the area of the Trebižat River, which is known for its richness of caves, underground water and land ecosystems, and cave fauna that have not been systematically surveyed and remain largely unexplored.

Funding: \$18,684
Grant Term: 8/23/2013 - 5/30/2014
Grantee: Mountain Rescue Service of Herzegovina (Hercegovska Gorska Sluzba Spasavanja)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Promote the Value of Key Biodiversity Areas by Strengthening the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Their Management and Conservation in North Africa

Improve the management of six key biodiversity areas in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya by undertaking a thorough review of previous approaches to assess their effectiveness and by promoting communication and dialogue between nongovernmental organizations and management authorities. Set up an exchange visit with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan to compare the respective management approaches as a learning opportunity.

Funding: \$392,502
Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Raising Awareness on Hunting and Biodiversity Conservation in Al Chouf Cedars Nature Reserve Key Biodiversity Area

Raise the awareness of local community, local authority and law enforcement officers on the importance and the methods for fighting illegal hunting. The proposed strategy will be implemented through two training workshops during the hunting season on advanced and fast techniques on bird identification that will allow the local community to support law enforcement officers, forest guards and guards of protected areas to control illegal hunting practices mainly in Chouf Niha, one of the most important bottleneck sites in Lebanon.

Funding: \$16,000
Grant Term: 7/20/2013 - 6/30/2014
Grantee: Environment For Life
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Supporting the Long-Term Sustainable Management of Transboundary Lake Skadar

Enable the effective transboundary management of Lake Skadar, which is located between Albania and Montenegro, by improving the capacity and management practices of its protected areas. Diminish illegal activities by strengthening law enforcement and increasing the participation of local civil society organizations in monitoring and management. Raise awareness and increase transparency among key stakeholders on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Funding: \$328,563

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 6/30/2016

Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Western Ghats & Sri Lanka

Western Ghats Region

Strategic Direction 1. Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors

Building Stake to Conserve River-Related Biodiversity Using Otters as a Flagship Species in the Cauvery River Basin in Karnataka

Involve local stakeholders to raise awareness and develop a sense of responsibility toward sustainable utilization of river resources and conservation of river-related biodiversity in the Cauvery River Basin, an important freshwater ecosystem and stronghold of smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*). Using otters as the flagship species, pilot various methods of community engagement such as Village River Committees and community-based otter protection programs.

Funding: \$18,496

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 10/31/2014

Grantee: Paadhai Trust

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Coexistence Bottom Up: Strengthening Asian Elephant Conservation in Human Dominated Landscapes

Work in the Gudalur region of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve to develop a better understanding of human-elephant interaction in the region, focusing more on tolerance of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) rather than on conflict with them. Experiment with a range of site-specific interventions that could facilitate long-term human-elephant coexistence.

Funding: \$18,000

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

Grantee: Nature Conservation Foundation

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Facilitating Partnerships for Community Forest Resource Use Areas in the Southern Western Ghats

Strengthen capacity of grassroots institutions for natural resource management and conservation of community forest resource use areas (CFRs) in the Anamalai and Periyar-Agasthyamalai Corridors, ensuring long-term involvement of local communities. Support the gram sabhas (village councils) of tribal villages to claim community and CFR rights, undertake resource mapping and form CFR management committees and plans by facilitating partnerships with relevant government departments.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 5/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

Grantee: Centre for Environment and Development (CED)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Integrated Management of Latana in Lokkere Reserve Forest, Bandipura

Combine removal of alien invasive lantana (*Lantana camara*) with restoration of cleared areas using a green economy model that involves the local communities in a reserve forest contiguous with Bandipur Riger Reserve. Engage local community members in lantana removal and restoration activities, and develop market-linked alternative livelihood options based on the removed lantana such as handicraft and charcoal production.

Funding: \$11,469

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 7/31/2014

Grantee: Paadhai Trust

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Promoting Coordinated Civil Society Action for Biodiversity Conservation in the Malnad-Kodagu Corridor of the Western Ghats

Connect motivated individuals and civil society organizations in the Western Ghats districts of Udupi and Shimoga to create a network for positive action in conservation of key biodiversity areas. Provide capacity building measures to people in villages outside protected areas through a series of training programs and meetings and by introducing suitable technological solutions such as mobile phone applications.

Funding: \$19,989

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 9/30/2014

Grantee: Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Threatened and Endemic Freshwater Fish in the Southern Western Ghats: Improving Local Capacity to Link Conservation and Livelihoods

Develop and implement a community-based monitoring program to assess the status and trends of endemic and threatened freshwater fish in Kulathupuzha Reserve Forest and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, with the participation of local fishermen, gram sabhas (village councils) and the Kerala State Forest Department, and the assistance of participatory rural appraisal tools and monitoring methods.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 8/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

Grantee: Navadarsanan Public Charitable Trust

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Strategic Direction 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action

Bridging the Gap: Community Outreach for Wildlife Conservation

Improve the reach and impact of conservation in the Mysore-Nilgiri Corridor and strengthen the support of local communities, opinion builders and policy makers through outreach campaigns to promote partnerships. Utilize the time and skills of urban-based wildlife enthusiasts to bring about on-the-ground changes, thus bridging the gap between two sectors of the society for the common cause of wildlife conservation.

Funding: \$19,000

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2014

Grantee: Nature Conservation Foundation

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Establishing a Vulture Safe Zone in South India: Conservation of Critically Endangered Vultures in Wayanad and the Neighbouring Areas of Kerala

Implement targeted awareness activities and sampling within at least a 100 kilometer radius and establish a 'vulture safe zone' in the Wayanad District, where a breeding population of vultures survives. Engage a network of indigenous communities, cattle owners and veterinarians to support implementation and monitoring of the ban on veterinary use of diclofenac and other drugs toxic to vultures.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 8/31/2014

Grantee: Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement (RASTA)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Distribution and Assessment of the Population Status of Critically Endangered Kondana Soft-Furred Rat

Examine the taxonomic and distribution status, population density and habitat selection of the Critically Endangered Kondana Soft-furred Rat (*Millardia kondana*) in the northern Western Ghats. Apply the results to develop and implement a conservation management plan for the species at Sinhgad, with active participation of all stakeholders.

Funding: \$18,963

Grant Term: 9/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

Grantee: Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Sahyadri's Science Reaches the Communities: Disseminating the Results of CEPF Projects in the Western Ghats

Pilot three innovative strategies for disseminating results of CEPF grants in the Western Ghats: close reading-cum-discussion sessions for community members, short orientation training for frontline forestry staff and nature immersion visits for pupils and teachers. Test their effectiveness in developing pro-environmental understanding among target audiences. Promote wider adoption of information dissemination strategies with objectively verified effectiveness emerging from this project.

Funding: \$29,975

Approved Grants—July-September 2013

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 2/28/2015

Grantee: Green India Trust

Status of Freshwater Fish in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor: Diversity, Distribution and Conservation Assessments in Raigad

Develop a database on the diversity and distribution of freshwater fish in the Konkan region while building local capacity through the involvement of experts from various academic institutes, NGOs, civil society and local/tribal fishing communities. Identify and document traditional ecological knowledge that can help understand the ecology and threats to the region's fish.

Funding: \$18,366

Grant Term: 7/1/2013 - 1/31/2015

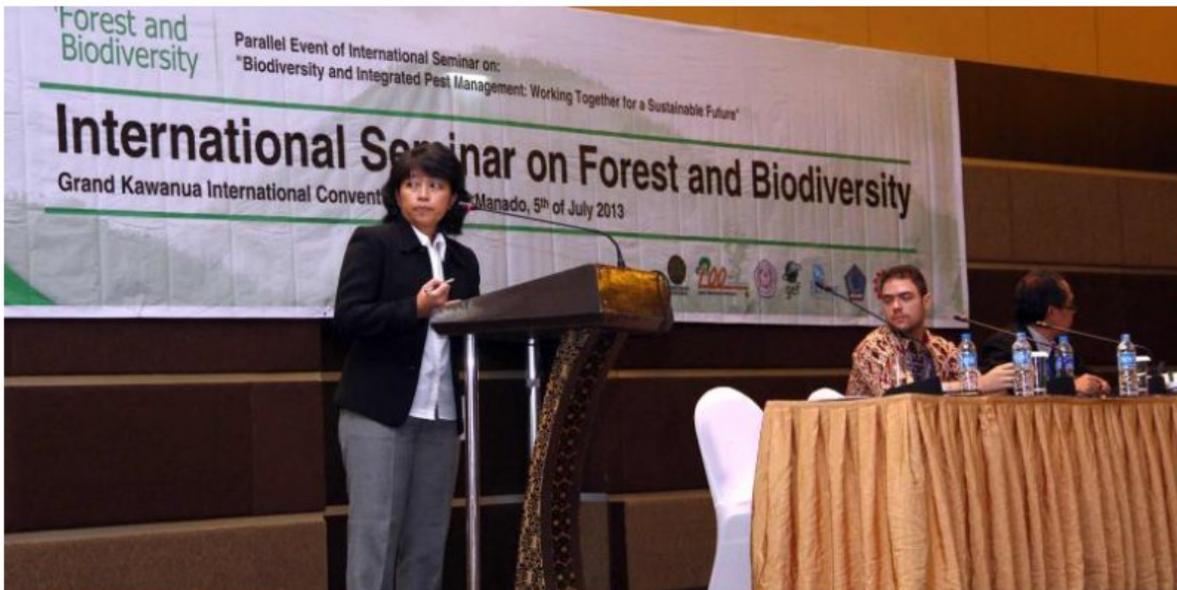
Grantee: Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Kepunahan Burung, Indikasi Rusaknya Kelestarian Alam

Penulis :Kontributor Manado, Ronny Adolof Buol

Jumat, 5 Juli 2013 | 18:38 WIB



Advisor Conservation Research Burung Indonesia, Ria Saryanthi, sedang menyampaikan materi dalam Seminar Internasional Hutan dan Biodiversitas yang diselenggarakan di Manado. | Kompas.com/Ronny Adolof Buol

MANADO, KOMPAS.com — Keberadaan jenis burung di satu daerah ternyata menjadi indikator baik atau tidaknya kelestarian alam di lokasi tersebut. "Punahnya satu jenis burung endemis bisa mengindikasikan bahwa ada kerusakan dalam kelestarian alam di sekitarnya," ujar Advisor Conservation Research Burung Indonesia, Ria Saryanthi, Jumat (5/7/2013).

Burung menjadi entry point bagi pelestarian alam secara keseluruhan dan upaya konservasi terhadap keanekaragaman hayati.

Dalam Seminar Internasional Hutan dan Biodiversitas yang diselenggarakan di

Manado, Burung Indonesia turut mempromosikan profil penyusunan ekosistem Wallacea. "Wallacea memiliki keragaman hayati luar biasa yang perlu dilestarikan. Sayangnya, investasi untuk konservasi di kawasan ini masih kalah jauh dibanding kawasan lain di Indonesia, misalnya Sumatera dan Kalimantan," tutur Direktur Eksekutif Burung Indonesia Agus Budi Utomo.

Profil penyusunan ekosistem untuk kawasan Wallacea sendiri secara resmi diluncurkan pada 1 Juni 2013. Profil ini akan memuat wilayah prioritas untuk aksi penyelamatan, sekaligus menjadi pedoman bagi CEPF dalam mengucurkan dana hibah senilai 5 juta dollar AS selama lima tahun mendatang.

"Hibah tersebut akan diberikan kepada organisasi non-pemerintah untuk mendukung upaya-upaya konservasi di wilayah Wallacea," tambah Ria.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) atau Dana Kemitraan Ekosistem Kritis yang secara resmi menunjukkan perhatiannya pada penyelamatan kawasan penting bagi keragaman hayati Indonesia dan Timor Leste, Wallacea.

Kawasan Wallacea meliputi kepulauan Nusantara di sebelah timur Bali hingga sebelah barat Papua (Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara) serta Timor Leste. Wallacea dipilih dalam program ini karena kaya keragaman hayati.

Namun, keragaman hayati tersebut terancam perusakan, pemanfaatan berlebihan, dan invasi jenis-jenis asing. Wallacea juga terkenal dengan jenis-jenis endemis alias khas yang tidak dijumpai di tempat lain, tetapi sebagian di antaranya telah masuk dalam daftar jenis terancam punah World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Penyusunan profil akan selesai sebelum pertengahan 2014. Burung Indonesia merupakan organisasi yang bertindak sebagai koordinator konsorsium tim

Namun, keragaman hayati tersebut terancam perusakan, pemanfaatan berlebihan, dan invasi jenis-jenis asing. Wallacea juga terkenal dengan jenis-jenis endemis alias khas yang tidak dijumpai di tempat lain, tetapi sebagian di antaranya telah masuk dalam daftar jenis terancam punah World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Penyusunan profil akan selesai sebelum pertengahan 2014. Burung Indonesia merupakan organisasi yang bertindak sebagai koordinator konsorsium tim penyusun profil. Tim penyusun profil juga berasal dari organisasi Wildlife Conservation Society, BirdLife International, Samdhana Institute, dan Pusat Kajian Sumberdaya Pesisir, dan Lautan Institut Pertanian Bogor.

Editor : Glori K. Wadrianto



Protected Areas Master Plan to be Completed Soon

WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 2013 16:53

WRITTEN BY JIS

Jamaica's much anticipated Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) is expected to be completed and presented to Cabinet within the next few months.

Consultant in the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Leonie Barnaby, made the pronouncement as she addressed regional representatives at the opening of the mid-term evaluation workshop on the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's (CEPF) Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot project on Wednesday, July 10, at the Hotel Four Seasons in Kingston.

The PASMP is the primary national policy document for strengthening the management and protection of the country's natural and cultural heritage. It sets out guidelines for establishing and managing a comprehensive network of protected areas that supports national development by

Media Clips—July-September 2013

contributing to long-term ecological viability and maintaining ecological processes and systems.

It also sets out the strategies and activities that will lead to the establishment of a network of protected areas that is representative, effectively managed, and sustainably financed. It covers the five-year period 2013 to 2017.

Ms. Barnaby informed that the Master Plan has been worked on by a dedicated core of persons and was widely consulted on with members of civil society.

She also pointed out that the CEPF features in the master plan. The five-year Caribbean programme, which started in 2010, provides grants to civil organisations to help protect the Caribbean biodiversity hotspot. A fundamental goal is to ensure that civil society plays a critical role in achieving biodiversity conservation.

Noting that advocacy is a critical part of the work of CEPF, Ms. Barnaby said that the Government welcomes collaboration with civil society in protecting the environment.

“I think it is true to say that today, collaboration is a given for dealing with protected areas management. We will not be able to sit in our offices in the capital of the island and deal with these issues in a practical way. So we really are looking forward to, not adversarial contact, but a true understanding from all sides, of how we can all work together for the one goal of protecting our environment,” she stated.

Ms. Barnaby stated that the Government is fully behind the CEPF and will do all that it can to support the projects.

Jamaica is one of 11 countries in the Caribbean that is eligible for CEPF support. The others are Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Bahamas; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; St. Lucia; St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Currently Haiti (30 per cent), the Dominican Republic (23 per cent) and Jamaica (14 per cent), receive the greater share of the grant funding from CEPF.

The funding for Jamaica goes to projects in the highest priority biodiversity hotspots such as Catadupa, Cockpit Country, Dolphin Head, Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge and Portland Bight areas.

Regional Implementation Team Country Coordinator for Jamaica, Nicole Brown, explained that to date, the CEPF Caribbean programme has supported 55 projects throughout the region, committing over US\$5 million.

She informed that the mid-term evaluation workshop, which concludes on July 12, is bringing together

stakeholders from across the Caribbean region, who are focusing on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, to assess where the countries are in meeting the objectives under the programme at the half-way mark, and to map out the strategies for the remaining 2 1/2 years.

Contact: Andrea Braham



Association des amis des oiseaux

Lancement d'un projet en écotourisme au nordde la Tunisie

L'Association les amis des oiseaux (AAO) lance un projet de développement d'activités écotouristiques pour la conservation des sites-clés pour la biodiversité.

Lancé en juillet 2013, pour durer jusqu'en décembre 2015, le projet est réalisé par cinq partenaires associatifs, à savoir l'AAO, l'Association Tunisienne de Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Korba (ATPNE Korba), le Réseau des Enfants de la Terre (RET), l'Association Ecotourisme Environnement (ETE+) et la section régionale de l'AAO du Cap Bon (AAO Section Cap Bon), avec l'appui financier du Fonds de Partenariat pour les Ecosystèmes Critiques (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – CEPF).

Mise en réseau

L'objectif global est de contribuer à la conservation et à la surveillance de la biodiversité de la Méditerranée, par la gestion locale et participative des sites naturels. Les cinq sites concernés par le projet sont reconnus comme Zones humides d'importance Internationale sous la convention de Ramsar et/ou Zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux (ZICO). Il s'agit du Djebel El Haouaria (AAO Section Cap Bon), la Lagune de Korba (ATPNE Korba), la Lagune de Maâmoura (ETE+), la Sebkheth Soliman (RET) et le Lac de Tunis (AAO).

Le potentiel écotouristique de ces zones, toutes situées dans le nord de la Tunisie, est justifié par leurs caractéristiques environnementales et paysagères, et par l'existence d'infrastructures et de services à caractère touristique.

De nombreux gîtes ruraux et maisons d'hôtes existent dans la région, et se présentent comme une alternative au tourisme de masse.

Les partenaires associatifs du projet tenteront de les mettre en réseau et de renforcer leurs capacités, afin d'améliorer leur impact et leur synergie. Le projet leur permettra également de développer des activités en relation

Media Clips—July-September 2013

avec la nature, telles que des circuits et animations ornithologiques. Des guides, formés et opérationnels, participeront au programme, avec le concours des associations locales.

En outre, une plateforme de promotion et de vente des services en ligne (guides, hébergement, transport, animation, restauration, visites, circuits, etc.) sera créée pour améliorer la visibilité des activités écotouristiques.

Un programme de suivi et d'évaluation du projet et son impact sur l'état de conservation des sites et l'environnement socioéconomique sera mené, afin d'identifier et de développer les mécanismes permettant d'assurer la pérennité Des activités les plus pertinentes.

« C'est un petit projet, mais s'il réussit, on pourra reproduire les méthodes utilisées et les adapter à d'autres régions », affirme Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf, directeur exécutif de l'AAO.

Auteur : M.D. Ajouté le : 06-08-2013



Vientiane Times

www.vientianetimes.org.la

www.vientianetimes.la

Monday August 19, 2013



The Mekong is a vital aspect of the livelihood of riverbank communities.

Conserving biodiversity, sustaining Mekong livelihoods

Times Reporters

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Laos Office and the National University of Laos (NUOL) met in Vientiane on Friday to review the results of the first ecological surveys of the Mekong River between Luang Prabang and Vientiane.

The objectives of the surveys, which took place in 2011 and 2012, were to document the diversity and richness of flora and fauna along the Mekong River and to assess the status of endemic, restricted-range or threatened species.

This project concluded the first two phases of a three phase programme. The IUCN and NUOL's Faculty of Science worked closely to produce the first biodiversity survey for the area (the Mekong from Luang Prabang to Vientiane) recording all plants, aquatic invertebrates, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish found in this section as well as a livelihood assessment of all 97 villages found in this stretch of the Mekong.

The third phase will be a series of small projects aiming to conserve biodiversity while also improving local livelihoods.

This was the first step of a five-year Mekong conservation project, financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The results identified 23 new records for Lao flora while, regarding fauna, there were two records of national significance for birds and seven species of reptiles identified with national conservation significance.

Spawning sites for *Probarbus jullieni*, an endangered fish species, have been also identified as well as the occurrence of *Phoenix roebelenii*, a dwarf palm species common in horticultural use but rare in the wild.

Some sites still have a relatively high level of biodiversity but the results showed that natural habitats and wildlife populations have been heavily impacted by human activity and their future is in jeopardy.

The Mekong River is of great importance for Lao people

who live along the river and rely on its biodiversity, said Faculty of Science Dean Dr Somchan Bounphamy. She noted that the study would provide valuable data and information to the government and other development projects to provide a framework for monitoring and conservation in the future.

“The project is a combined effort by international researchers along with counterparts from the Faculty of Science, who are working together to not only expand upon the knowledge of biodiversity in Laos but also to train the future generation of scientists and conservationists, which is crucial to the sustainability of this amazing place,” said IUCN Project Coordinator, Mr Raphael Glemet.

The event saw over 100 people in attendance including faculty, students and researchers from the faculties of Science, Forestry, and Environment, Living Aquatic Resources Research Centre, Lao Biodiversity Association, and the ministries of Agriculture and Forestry and Natural Resources and the Environment.



IUCN and CEPF Launch US\$10.4 million of New Funding for Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

AKP Phnom Penh, August 30, 2013 –

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) have launched a US\$10.4 million, five-year investment in the conservation of the globally important biodiversity found in the Indo-Burma region including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, plus parts of southern China.

According to the IUCN's press release issued this morning, the funding will be delivered in the form of small and large grants to civil society organizations – both NGOs and the private sector to enable them to run projects that will conserve biodiversity.

"The CEPF grants for Indo-Burma offer a fantastic opportunity to support civil society organizations working on conservation issues in one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots in the world. IUCN is delighted to be leading this initiative, and looks forward to working with partners across the Region to make a real difference for conservation," said Dr Scott Perkin, Head of the IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Programme, Asia and Manager of the CEPF Fund for Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot Conservation.

The Indo-Burma region ranks among the world's top 10 biodiversity "hotspots", a term which is used to describe the planet's most biologically rich and threatened regions. The Indo-Burma Hotspot includes all non-marine parts of 6 countries. Along with its high levels of plant and animal endemism, and limited remaining natural habitat, Indo-Burma is also home to more people than any other hotspot, and its remaining natural ecosystems are subject to intense and growing pressure from habitat loss and over-exploitation of natural resources, it added.

By Khan Sophirom

Listin Diario

VIDA VERDE, Página Verde 5 Septiembre 2013

El potencial hídrico de La Humeadora



Altura. La Humeadora es la montaña más alta de su zona, con 1,315 metros.

Solange de la Cruz Matos
Especial para LISTÍN DIARIO

El Parque Nacional Loma La Humeadora tiene una importancia vital. En sus 290 kilómetros cuadrados, distribuidos entre Monseñor Nouel, San José de Ocoa y San Cristóbal, nacen más de un centenar de ríos y arroyos, entre ellos Yuna, Maimón, Yuboa, Maiboa, Nigua, Mahomita, Mahoma, Banilejo y Avispa. Allí también brotan los ríos que abastecen gran parte de la demanda de agua de Santo Domingo y el Distrito Nacional: Haina, Guanaito, Duey, Isa y Mana.

“El potencial hídrico de esa zona es increíble”, argumenta Fausto Gómez Pezzotti, del Fondo Pro Naturaleza (Pronatura), entidad que trabaja en esa zona en aras de la preservación de ese hábitat natural con toda su biodiversidad y servicios ambientales.

En ese tenor, con el aval del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Pronatura preparó un plan de manejo para el parque, que ya fue revisado por un equipo técnico del Ministerio por lo que esperan su adopción oficial. En su proceso de diseño participaron representantes de las comunidades localizadas en la periferia del área protegida, quienes integraron un comité de trabajo.

Uno de los resultados esperados con el plan de manejo es reducir el impacto agrícola en el parque

nacional, para lo cual implementan una experiencia piloto en la microcuenca de Haina-Duey, con la finalidad de cambiar los hábitos de siembra.

Con el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente se acordó que se va a respetar el derecho de estadía de los agricultores que tienen sus predios agrícolas allí, quienes deberán convertirse en vigilantes del área protegida. Además, se delimitaron las áreas agrícolas y ellos se comprometieron a no agrandar sus conucos y se está trabajando para que implementen sistemas agrícolas más amigables.

“Estamos promoviendo que cambien de los cultivos de ciclo corto a cultivos permanentes como el café y el cacao. Se les dio un curso completo de cacao, también se les ha dado cursos de conservación de suelos, una introducción a la agricultura orgánica y cómo combatir las plagas sin químicos”, cuenta Gómez.

Indica que no se ha hecho un censo en la zona, pero que los productores de El Duey y El Negro refieren que hay más de 400 agricultores.

Este mes Pronatura inicia el proyecto denominado Acciones participativas en la implementación del Plan de Manejo para la gobernanza y la conservación de la biodiversidad en el Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora.

“Son acciones que ya se identificaron en el plan de manejo y se van a implementar. La idea es que la gente entienda lo que es un área protegida, cómo afecta sus actividades familiares y productivas y cómo logramos una armonía para que puedan vivir del área protegida pero afectándola lo menos posible, y si es posible mejorar lo que hay”, precisa.

Cuidando anfibios y aves

Este parque nacional posee el 21% de los anfibios endémicos del país. El proyecto que implementará Pronatura incluye el estudio de tres tipos de ranas que se encuentran en peligro, así como dos especies de aves. Juan Llamacho, especialista en biodiversidad de la entidad, indica que darán seguimiento a la rana gigante de La Española, a la amarilla y a la verde, con un muestreo para determinar su población en esa área protegida y que evaluarán, preliminarmente, sus condiciones a fin de implementar medidas para su conservación. Se procurará que los guardaparques y comunitarios se integren al monitoreo.

“La mayor extinción de especies a nivel mundial está en los anfibios. Esos anfibios están amenazados pero no se conoce bien todo sobre su ecología y su distribución en el país”, indica Llamacho.

Entre las principales amenazas para los anfibios de esa área protegida está la presencia de hongos quitridos y la presión sobre la cobertura boscosa, cuya reducción está relacionada con la expansión de la agricultura y la ganadería, los incendios forestales y el corte ilegal.

Respecto a las aves en peligro, refirió que las cotorras y pericos se encuentran amenazados debido a

su comercialización. Un pichón de cotorra se vende en más de dos mil pesos. Con los pichoneros, que son quienes se dedican a su caza, explorarán otras opciones para obtener ingresos a fin de desestimular la captura y venta de esas especies amenazadas.

D

ETALLES DEL PROYECTO

El proyecto Acciones participativas en la implementación del plan de manejo para la gobernanza y la conservación de la biodiversidad en el Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora tiene como una de sus estrategias promover la creación y el fortalecimiento de una alianza interinstitucional y comunitaria para la gestión participativa del área protegida.

Las acciones sobre gobernanza del área protegida estarán basadas en el desarrollo de un proceso de articulación entre actores claves para la creación de comités de seguimiento al plan de manejo, con espacios de diálogo orientados a desarrollar estrategias y acciones que permitan la sostenibilidad del área protegida y la conservación de sus recursos.

Integrará la participación a nivel local de los gobiernos municipales, las direcciones provinciales y municipales del Ministerio de Ambiente, las asociaciones de agricultores y caficultores de los municipios Rancho Arriba, Villa Altagracia, Los Cacaos, Bonaó y el Distrito Municipal Juan Adrián; el Comité de Medio Ambiente de El Duey, en Villa Altagracia, la Federación de Campesinos Hacia el Progreso, de Bonaó, entre otras entidades, con quienes se promoverá la construcción de espacios permanentes de gestión participativa del área protegida con miras a fortalecer la gobernanza ambiental del Parque Nacional.

El proyecto recibe apoyo del Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF por su sigla en inglés), una iniciativa conjunta de la Agencia Francesa de Desarrollo, Conservación Internacional, el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial, el Gobierno de Japón, el Banco Mundial y la Fundación John D. y Catherine T. MacArthur.

THE HINDU

Programme to mark International Vulture Day

COIMBATORE, , September 6, 2013



Students form the shape of a vulture at a programme organised by Arulagam, a nature conservation trust, in the city on Thursday.—Photo: M. Periasamy.

As many as 300 students of the Railway High School at Podanur formed an image of a vulture to mark the International Vulture Day that falls on Saturday.

The event was organised by Arulagam, an NGO working on vulture conservation in Tamil Nadu. Arulagam is working towards the objective to save vultures with the help of Save Asia Vulture from Extinction (SAVE) and is working with Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The event was inaugurated by K. Rathinam — Director of Arulagam. Navitha Singh of Signal and Telecommunications Workshop, Podanur, was the chief guest.

TEMPO.CO

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013 | 4:10 PM

Dozens of Animals in North Maluku Endangered



Goffin cockatoo. Theatlanticwire.com

TEMPO.CO, Ternate - As many as 23 species of rare animals in North Maluku are on the brink of extinction.

Coordinator of the Indonesian Biodiversity Association, Hanom Bashari said those animals include twelve species of birds, five species of fish, three species of mammals, two species of reptiles and one species of dragonfly. Additionally, he said that twelve kinds of rare plants in the province also face extinction.

"White cockatoo bird, Gaharu plant and Napoleon fish for example, are now less than 500 in number," Hanom told Tempo in the sideline of his program of designing a critical ecosystem profile in the Wallacea Region yesterday.

Several rare animals and plants in North Maluku province which also face extinction include Ternate musk, Bayan, Kalung Ungu parrot, Gebe polecat, Matabiru polecat, one species of dragonfly and Halmahera orchid.

"They all are found in Halmahera," said Hanom, citing the shrinking of their habitat and the high number of illegal hunting as the factors leading to their extinction.

In the meantime, Coordinator of the Outcome Indonesia Foundation, Ria Sarianti said that the Wallacea region serves as a habitat for hundreds of rare and unique animals and plants. The regions include West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi Island, Maluku Province, North Maluku Province and Timor Leste. "Many animals in these regions face extinction. Therefore, those animals have to be protected," she said.

THE HINDU

Dwindling vulture population, a cause for concern: study

V. S. PALANIAPPAN

COIMBATORE, , September 8, 2013



A white-backed vulture. File photo

In the absence of a stable population, the presence of meagre number of vultures in Moyar region and that too presence of only four of the nine species of vultures in Moyar valley is a cause for concern, pointed out a study titled 'Preliminary Report on Status of Vultures and the availability of banned drug Diclofenac in Coimbatore, Nilgiris and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu.'

The study gains significance as September 7 is observed as International Vulture Day.

According to S. Bharathidasan of Arulagam, the study was taken up in Moyar Valley in the Nilgiris, considered the hub for vultures. Arulagam is working towards the objective of Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) in association with the Critical Eco-System Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Moyar comprises four forest divisions such as Nilgiris North, Nilgiris Easten slopes, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam and these pockets support the stronghold population of vulture. Tall trees such as Terminalia, arjuna and Manginfera indica along the river banks of Moyar serve as a breeding and roosting site for vultures.

Forty eight villages and tribal settlements in around Moyar valley and villagers rear cattle for manure collection, agricultural activities and for milking purposes. These villagers resort to veterinary use of Diclofenac for ailments of their cattle.

Despite the ban imposed on veterinary use of Diclofenac (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug – NSAID), the drug is available at eleven shops in Nilgiris district; 22 in Coimbatore and 30 in Erode. The ban, which came into effect in 2006, was reiterated through a gazette notification on July 5, 2008.

Listin Diario

VIDA VERDE, Página Verde 19 Septiembre 2013

Recursos para la conservación

Solange de la Cruz Matos
Especial para LISTÍN DIARIO
Santo Domingo



La sostenibilidad ambiental y financiera para la conservación de la biodiversidad mediante mecanismos como el pago por servicios ambientales y el mercado de carbono forestal son algunas de las fórmulas que promueve el Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD).

Sésar Rodríguez, director ejecutivo de la entidad, indica que, ante la falta de recursos para destinarlos al cuidado de las áreas protegidas, proponen la implementación de mecanismos de financiamiento sostenible. ¿Cómo podrán generar recursos para dedicarlos a la conservación?

Una de las propuestas es que la gente que se beneficia de los bienes naturales pueda hacer compensaciones económicas a quienes garantizan la preservación de estos. Una aplicación de esa fórmula sería que los agricultores que se dedican al cultivo de diferentes rubros y que necesitan el agua de regadío, así como los pobladores de las comunidades con acueducto, retribuyan a los campesinos que cuidan los nacimientos de los ríos para que no tengan que afectar ese entorno.

La otra iniciativa consiste en la siembra de árboles con fines de crear bosques que capturen dióxido de carbono (CO₂), evitando que ese gas vaya a la atmósfera e incida en un mayor incremento de la temperatura global, con la posibilidad de optar por bonos de carbono en el mercado voluntario.

Una experiencia con ese perfil fue desarrollada en El Cachote, un área protegida localizada en Barahona y que pertenece al Parque Nacional Bahuco Oriental, la cual recibe mucha presión por los cortes de árboles y por la agricultura migratoria.

El proyecto

El CAD implementó allí el Proyecto Fortaleciendo la Planificación y Gestión en la Creación de Alianzas para la Conservación Sostenible en el Área Clave de Biodiversidad Bahuco Oriental, con financiamiento del Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF, por su sigla en inglés).

Consistió en una evaluación para determinar la viabilidad de desarrollar mecanismos de financiamiento sostenible en esa área, a fin de mejorar la conservación de la biodiversidad con la participación de comunitarios y autoridades.

Luego de un año de trabajo, de marzo de 2012 a marzo de 2013, y tras el levantamiento de la biodiversidad existente en la zona, la evaluación determinó que la mayor dificultad para la implementación de un proyecto de carbono allí es la tenencia de la tierra, “lo que dificulta su desarrollo porque se necesita la titularidad”, expone Rodríguez.

Respecto al otro componente que promueven, el pago por servicios ambientales, observa que si bien en el área no hay grandes ríos superficiales, puesto que son subterráneos y afloran al pie de la montaña, se trata de una zona productora de agua, por lo que consideran viable el pago por servicios ambientales, aunque reconocen la pobreza existente.

Iniciativa paralela

Otro proyecto similar es implementado por el CAD en el corredor de las reservas Loma Quita Espuela y Loma Guaconejo, en procura de crear la primera área protegida privada del país para fomentar su sostenibilidad financiera a través de la venta de créditos de carbono forestal y el pago por el servicio hídrico.

Rodríguez indica que algunos de los objetivos de este proyecto son aumentar el área de conservación con la participación del sector privado, que ese sector entienda que todas sus acciones tienen que desarrollarlas con un enfoque de sostenibilidad, y crear un corredor ecológico o biológico entre las dos reservas.

“En ese sentido, trabajamos para la creación de la Reserva Científica El Zorzal. Un grupo de inversionistas compró una finca de 7,250 tareas en la zona, donde más del 50 por ciento estaba cubierto de árboles. Nosotros apostamos a garantizar esa cobertura vegetal, que es parte del hábitat del zorzal de Bicknell o zorzal migratorio, que está en peligro de extinción”, explica. Y añade que conjuntamente con el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales trabajan para declarar la finca como la primera reserva privada.

En su apuesta a la sostenibilidad mediante el incremento del bosque, siembran especies endémicas y nativas de la zona, como roble, mara, samán, capá y cola.

ENCUENTROS COMUNITARIOS

Para mostrar la viabilidad y los beneficios que ofrece el pago por servicios ambientales, a fin de que la gente esté dispuesta a aportar una cuota por el agua que recibe, agotan un proceso de concienciación en Nagua y San Francisco de Macorís.

“Es con el Ministerio -de Medio Ambiente- que estamos haciendo esto... Se paga menos de agua y más de celular y de cable. ¿Qué es más importante? Estamos hablando de algo vital para la existencia humana, el agua”, argumenta Sésar Rodríguez. Cuenta que fruto de ese proceso, la Junta de Regantes de Nagua ha dicho que está en disposición de pagar a los que protegen el agua.

La próxima etapa consistirá en la formulación de los acuerdos de pago por servicios ambientales con los propietarios de la tierra y los usuarios del recurso. “Donde nace un río o arroyo hay que conservarlo. No se pueden hacer actividades agrícolas ni criar animales”, por lo que el propietario recibe un pago acordado. Una experiencia piloto se implementa en la cuenca del río Yaque del Norte, y a los propietarios les entregan dos pagos en el año.

Refleksija

24. Septembar 2013

Sjutra Press konferencija povodom Dana Obale

Multimedijalna sala Ministarstva održivog razvoja i turizma (IV Proleterske 19), će sutra, 25. septembra, biti domaćin održavanja press konferencije povodom Dana obale.



Dan obale 25. septembra obilježava se tradicionalno od 2007. godine. Manifestacija ima za cilj podizanje svijesti o vrijednosti obale, kao prirodnog i privrednog resursa, istovremeno upozoravajući na opasnosti kojima je izložena zbog prirodnih pojava i djelovanja čovjeka.

Ovaj dan se obilježava u svim mediteranskim zemljama, a centralna regionalna proslava se svake godine održava u drugoj zemlji. Dosadašnji domaćini su bili Italija, Turska, Slovenija, Alžir i Hrvatska. Ove godine centralna manifestacija biće održana 25. septembra u gradu Rimini, Italija Tema ovogodišnjeg obilježavanja su plaže u kontekstu njihovog održivog upravljanja i zaštite.

Ispred Crne Gore na centralnom obilježavanju u Riminiju učestvovali predstavnici JP “Morsko dobro”, dok je u organizaciji Ministarstva održivog razvoja i turizma, Centrom za preduzetništvo i ekonomski razvoj (CEED) i JP “Morsko dobro” realizovan niz aktivnosti sa ciljem promovisanja značaja očuvanja obale.

Na sutrašnjoj press konferenciji biće prezentovani rezultati ostvareni kroz Program integralnog upravljanja obalnim područjem Crne Gore (CAMP CG)¹, koji se realizuje u okviru podrške UNEP/MAPA2 Crnoj Gori.

Program je značajan jer su, između ostalog, u njegovim okvirima, izrađene analize osjetljivosti obalnog područja sa više aspekata (buka, biodiverzitet, vode, seizmičnost itd.), izgrađenosti i atraktivnosti, te njegovo zoniranje u skladu sa tim analizama. Takođe, biće izrađena i Nacionalna strategija za upravljanje obalnim područjem.

Na Konferenciji će biti riječi i o projektu „Uključivanje civilnog društva u planiranje integralnog upravljanja obalnim područjem“ sa čijom se realizacijom upravo otpočinje, a koji sprovodi Centar za preduzetništvo i ekonomski razvoj (CEED).

Projekat je finansiran posredstvom CEPF fonda¹. Cilj je da se kroz angažovanje javnosti i civilnog društva u obalnom području, naročito javnosti na teritoriji Ulcinja (obzirom na izuzetnost plaža u ovoj opštini), podstakne održivo upravljanje kroz širenje informacija o vrijednostima i ugroženosti obale.

Na dešavanju će govoriti: Daliborka Pejović, državni sekretar u Ministarstvu održivog razvoja i turizma, a početak je zakazan za 13:00 časova.



Hutan Lindung di Sulawesi jadi Sasaran Konversi Lahan

Oleh Wahyu Chandra (Kontributor Sulawesi Selatan), September 26, 2013 10:38 pm

Konversi lahan menjadi ancaman besar bagi keberlangsungan keragaman hayati di Sulawesi, lebih parah lagi banyak terjadi di hutan lindung. Alih fungsi lahan ini antara lain menjadi pertambangan, pemukiman, maupun tambak.

Hal ini menjadi salah satu point dalam workshop para pemangku kepentingan Penyusunan Profil Ekosistem Wallacea di Makassar, 24-25 September 2013. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan Burung Indonesia, Wildlife Conservation Society, BirdLife International, The Samdhana Institute, dan Pusat Kajian Sumberdaya Pesisir dan Lautan IPB dan didukung Dana Kemitraan Ekosistem Kritis (CEPF).

Ria Saryanthi, Koordinator Tim Biodiversity Penyusunan Profil Ekosistem Wallacea, mengatakan, meski banyak isu lingkungan yang teridentifikasi tetapi alih fungsi lahan yang paling banyak terjadi. Ironisnya, sejumlah lahan yang teralihfungsi banyak berada di kawasan hutan lindung, seperti di Barambang Katute, Kabupaten Sinjai Sulawesi Selatan (Sulsel).



Kawasan Wallacea memuat seluruh Pulau Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, dan Maluku, dikenal dengan kekayaan flora dan fauna. Sayangnya, kekayaan alam ini terancam hancur dengan maraknya berbagai aktivitas manusia, termasuk alih fungsi lahan, pembalakan liar, dan eksploitasi tambang. Foto: Burung Indonesia

“Beberapa isu lain juga teridentifikasi, seperti *illegal logging*, *illegal fishing*, reklamasi pantai, pengambilan terumbu karang menjadi bahan bangunan dan penangkapan satwa. Ditemukan juga limbah hasil buangan tambang, seperti terjadi di Sulawesi Tenggara,” katanya Rabu, (25/9/13).

Selain merangkum berbagai isu lingkungan di sejumlah daerah di Sulawesi, diskusi ini juga mendapatkan informasi tambahan terkait spesies langka di Sulawesi, sebagai salah satu kawasan terbesar dari Wallacea.

Dalam Workshop ini tim berhasil mendapatkan usulan penambahan 50 *key biodiversity area* (KBA) baru. Salah satu Hutan Routa terletak di Kecamatan Routa, Kabupaten Konawe dan Konawe Utara, Sulawesi Tenggara, disulkan Balai Konservasi Sumberdaya Alam Sulawesi Tenggara (BKSDA) dan masyarakat Sultra.

Adhi Andriyamsyah dari BKSDA Sultra, mengatakan, kawasan hutan seluas kurang lebih 700.000 hektar di perbatasan Sulawesi Selatan, Sulawesi Tengah, dan Sulawesi Tenggara itu menjadi habitat keragaman hayati terancam punah. Jenis-jenis itu seperti anoa dataran tinggi (*Bubalus quarlesi*), anoa dataran rendah (*Bubalus depressicornis*), kayu kalappia (*Kalappia celebica*), kayu bayam (*Intsia bijuga*), hada (*Macaca ochreata*), dan kayu hitam (*Diospyros celebica*).



*Yaki, salah satu spesies endemik Sulawesi, terutama Sulawesi Utara, yang terancam dari habitat yang hilang sam
Pai perburuan untuk dipelihara maupun dikonsumsi warga. Foto: Sapariah Saturi*

Hutan Routa juga menjadi habitat bagi satwa endemik Sulawesi, seperti elang Sulawesi (*Nisaetus lanceolatus*). Routa memiliki keunikan lain karena salah satu situs arkeologi asal usul Suku Tolaki. Namun, daerah penting ini terancam karena mulai tergusur investasi perkebunan sawit dan tambang. *Land clearing* kurun 10 tahun terakhir merusak vegetasi dan habitat satwa sekaligus mengancam ketersediaan sumber air bersih warga.

Dengan menjadi KBA, Adhi berharap, kawasan ini bisa mendapat perhatian CEPF atau pemerintah maupun pemerhati lingkungan. Selain Routa, ada sejumlah daerah lain yang diusulkan masyarakat Sulawesi menjadi KBA, antara lain Pulau Wawonii di Sulawesi Tenggara dan Tanakeke di Sulsel.

Meski demikian, kata Ria, status KBA tak mengubah lokasi menjadi kawasan konservasi. “Sebenarnya kita tidak berupaya menciptakan kawasan konservasi baru. Identifikasi KBA salah satu bentuk strategi CEPF untuk menentukan prioritas dukungan serta menggerakkan para pelaku konservasi di tingkat lokal, regional, maupun global guna menciptakan visi konservasi yang sama.” Strategi ini disusun agar bantuan CEPF dapat memberi dampak paling efektif.

Strategi CEPF, fokus pada konservasi spesies terancam secara global, kawasan-kawasan prioritas, dan koridor konservasi—daerah yang menghubungkan habitat-habitat kunci keragaman hayati. CEPF berharap, bisa memberi sumbangsih pada pengentasan kemiskinan dan pengembangan ekonomi masyarakat.

Saat ini, Tim *biodiversity* Penyusunan Profil Ekosistem Wallacea berhasil mengidentifikasi 293 calon KBA dengan total 13,89-juta hektar, baik di kawasan konservasi maupun bukan. Dari jumlah itu, 230 area KBA darat dan 63 KBA

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laut. Sulawesi memiliki KBA terbanyak yaitu 117 disusul Nusa Tenggara dengan 114 KBA termasuk Timor-Leste memiliki 16 KBA darat dan satu KBA laut serta Maluku 62 KBA.

Khusus Sulawesi, wilayah Sulawesi Utara memiliki KBA terbanyak yaitu 30. Di Gorontalo ada delapan KBA, Sulawesi Tengah 22, Sulawesi Barat tujuh, Sulawesi Selatan 22 dan Sulawesi Tenggara 22 KBA.

Jenis berupa hibah utama Rp400 juta–Rp1, 25 miliar (18 – 24 bulan), melalui CEPF di Amerika Serikat. Ada juga hibah kecil di bawah Rp200 juta (12 bulan), melalui lembaga pelaksana di tingkat lokal.



Salah satu masalah lingkungan di Sulawesi Selatan adalah alih fungsi hutan mangrove menjadi tambak. Ironisnya, ketika tambak tidak lagi produktif dibiarkan terbengkalai. Foto: Wahyu Chandra