

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-Third Meeting of the Donor Council
Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA

25 June 2013

1 pm – 3 pm CDT

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the 22nd meeting of the Donor Council on 18 December 2012. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Follow-up to decisions made during the 22nd meeting of CEPF Donor Council
- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Financial summary
- Approved Grants (1 January 2013 – 31 March 2013)

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 22nd MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

During the 22nd meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 18 December 2012, the Donor Council made the following requests of the Secretariat.

- *The Secretariat will update the report to donors on how CEPF is engaging local, regional, and national governments in active regions to include all active hotspots. Going forward, the Secretariat will produce this report on a regular basis for the Donor Council prior to each Donor Council meeting.*

An updated report will be shared with the donor members during the 23rd meeting of the Donor Council on June 25, 2013.

- *The Secretariat, in coordination with CI, will schedule a meeting to explain to donors the breakdown of the cost and functions of the IDC. This will include information on the split of functions and related budget implications between CI and the Secretariat.*
- *The Secretariat will circulate to the Donor Council members the IDC documents shared during the 21st meeting, with a request for name and contact details of the Donor Council representative who should participate in the IDC meeting.*

A request for representatives has been sent to the Donor Council and a meeting is being organized for the end of July 2013. The background documents were circulated with this request.

- *The Secretariat will determine locked dates for Donor Council meetings to take place each year in January and June.*

Two Donor Council meetings will be scheduled each year, the first of which will be held during the last week of January, and the second of which will be held during the last week of June. The next Donor Council meeting is scheduled for January 2014 and will be held in Paris.

- *The Secretariat will schedule a spring retreat for Donor Council members to launch the development of the CEPF Strategic Framework and gather council member input. The Executive Director will give a presentation on the evolution of CEPF during this retreat. The Secretariat will provide assessment on CEPF stated objectives and achievements by reviewing the final logframes produced in each region's final assessment report. These logframes compare outcomes to targets stated in the ecosystem profiles.*
- *The consultants selected to develop the Strategic Framework will produce a draft to be presented during a summer meeting to take place in conjunction with the June Donor Council meeting.*

At the time of this Donor Council meeting we'll be in the midst of this retreat. Following the retreat, consultants meet with the Secretariat, regional implementation teams (RITs) and selected grantees to gather more information and prepare a draft framework that will be shared with the Working Group

in the late fall of 2013. The draft framework is expected to be presented to the Donor Council for approval during the January 2014 meeting.

- *The Secretariat will develop political assessments for the Mountains of Central Asia and Cerrado to determine if CEPF investment in either hotspot could be successful. The analyses will include input from Donor Council members working in the corresponding countries of each hotspot. The political analysis of each hotspot will be presented during the Twenty-third meeting of the Donor Council in June 2013.*

The analyses have been conducted and the results are presented in this packet for review and discussion later in the agenda of this meeting.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Program Overview (as of March 31, 2013)

Hotspot strategies implemented: 22

Partners supported: 1,803

Committed grants: \$153 million

Amount leveraged by those grants: \$321 million

Protected areas created or expanded with CEPF support: 11.2 million hectares

CEPF presented with award, featured in side event at BirdLife Congress

BirdLife International is presenting CEPF with the “BirdLife International Conservation Award” on June 22 during the BirdLife Congress event held in Ontario, Canada. This is the highest BirdLife recognition for conservation achievements outside the BirdLife Partnership. The award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution of CEPF to priority conservation actions in the world’s hotspots and key biodiversity areas, and the long-term collaboration with the BirdLife Partnership. Also at the congress, CEPF is participating in a side event titled “The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and BirdLife International: Working Together for Conservation of Biodiversity Hotspots.”

Regional Implementation Team approved for IndoBurma

In May, Donor Council members approved, via electronic no-objection process, contracting the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the Regional Implementation Team for the IndoBurma investment. The Secretariat expects to complete contracting with the RIT by June 30, 2013 and issue the first call for proposals in July.

Regional Implementation Team approved for East Melanesia Islands

In June 10, 2013, Donor Council members approved, via electronic no-objection process, contracting the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the Regional Implementation Team for the East Melanesia Islands investment. The Secretariat expects to complete contracting with the RIT by June 30, 2013 and issue the first call for proposals in September.

Mid-term assessment held for Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

In early April, at the mid-point of CEPF’s five-year investment in the region, CEPF brought together many of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot (MPAH) grantees to share experiences, exchange ideas and foster the creation of a conservation network across the political boundaries. The forum, which will now be held annually, laid the foundation for organizations in the hotspot – which stretches across 275,000 square kilometers through parts of Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa – to share ideas and create meaningful and lasting partnerships aimed at building on results of the catalytic investment of CEPF.

At the time of the forum, 60 individual grants had been awarded in the region. Grants have been awarded in all three countries that are spanned by the MPAH – Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland – and in 20 of the 22 key biodiversity areas identified and prioritized during the ecosystem profiling.

Although many projects are still in progress, some have already been completed and show meaningful results in terms of biodiversity management and conservation as well as benefits for people. As part of the mid-term assessment, project implementers and facilitators have completed surveys on project progress. The initial review of these surveys indicated several highlights from projects across the MPAH, such as:

- Significant co-financing to promote sustainable tourism and private sector employment in Mozambique;
- Expected proclamation of a 25,000-hectare protected area in Lubombo Conservancy, Swaziland;
- Biodiversity stewardship helping to secure 75,000 hectares of threatened grasslands in South Africa;
- Innovative initiatives for investment in restoration of wetlands, alien plant removal, and biodiversity stewardship that have multiple benefits, such as water supply and job creation; and
- Capacity building through training, learning exchanges, knowledge-capture and sharing.

Donor roundtable in Maputaland

Following the mid-term assessment for the Maputaland Pondoland Albany hotspot, the Secretariat in close collaboration with Wildlands and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) organized the first donor round table discussion in a CEPF hotspot. Representatives of UNDP, the Small Grants Program, the World Bank, the South African Development Bank, Conservation International, BirdLife South Africa, among others got together for an afternoon discussion on how to build synergies and leverage CEPF's funding in the region. The discussion allowed for donors to share their views and funding priorities as well as setting up the basis for future conversations and greater donor integration in the region.

Workshop marks end of initial investment in Indo-Burma

In March, CEPF's initial five-year (2008-2013), \$10 million investment in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot came to a close. CEPF and the RIT, BirdLife Indo-Burma, convened a grantees' workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, that brought together more than 100 representatives of more than 60 community groups, universities, local NGOs, international conservation organizations and the other civil society groups supported under the first phase of CEPF grant making. Participants exchanged experiences, reflected on lessons learned and built relationships for future collaboration.

Achievements through the investment to date include:

- More than 2 million hectares across 28 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) have strengthened protection and management.
- Core populations of 20 globally threatened species were secured from overexploitation and illegal trade.
- The sustainable use of natural resources provided tangible benefits for 105 communities.

- More than 30 local civil society organizations received support from CEPF, with almost 90 percent reporting strengthened capacity.

Prior to the CEPF Final Assessment Workshop, Rikiya Konishi from the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan, and David Gordon from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation joined CEPF Grant Director Jack Tordoff and RIT member Bou Vorsak for site visits to six CEPF grants along the mainstream of the Mekong River in Cambodia. This was an excellent opportunity to witness first-hand the tremendous work that CEPF grantees are doing in engaging local communities in initiatives that deliver tangible results of local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. The site visits also demonstrated the value that the RIT adds by forging partnerships between international and national civil society organizations to leverage complementary capacities. Plans for hydropower development along the Mekong present urgent challenges for conservation, but the achievements of grantees in addressing local threats, such as over-fishing and encroachment by agro-business, as well as the capacity building to local organizations to deal with the difficulties that hydropower development brings does give cause for hope. Following the first investment, and per the approval of the Donor Council in October 2012, CEPF has begun the process for a second five-year investment in the region, this time including Myanmar. In April, CEPF's Donor Council approved contracting with the IUCN-Asia Regional Office to become the regional implementation team for this region, overseeing CEPF's second investment in the hotspot, \$10.4 million during 2013-2018.

First supervision mission held for Mediterranean Basin

The first RIT supervision mission for the Mediterranean Basin investment was held in Amman, Jordan, at the BirdLife Middle East offices in March, with a follow-up visit to BirdLife International's office in Cambridge, UK. The visit allowed the Secretariat to assess the progress of the RIT to date, review the lines of communication and respective roles and responsibilities. The mission also provided an opportunity to collectively review the full proposals that had been submitted from the second call for proposals as well as the letters of inquiry that resulted from a special call for proposals for Algeria and Libya. Being able to work on these jointly as a team was an extremely important learning opportunity for the RIT with respect to CEPF's policies and procedures and how these need to be incorporated into the proposals and monitored throughout the lifetime of the grant.

CEPF Managing Director Nina Marshall and Grant Director John Watkin also were able to visit the GEF Jordanian Operational Focal Point Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh and provide an update on the grant recently awarded to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature to improve the management of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve. Dr. Al-Kharabsheh was extremely interested in the conservation outcomes maps and offered to assist in promoting CEPF within the network of GEF focal points in the Mediterranean region.

Donor Council approves changes to Operational Manual

In March, Donor Council members approved by electronic no-objection amendments to the CEPF Operational Manual designed to strengthen and clarify a subset of CEPF operational policies related to Secretariat operations and sub-grantee management and monitoring. One set of modifications clarified the purpose and allowable expenditures for a subgrantee's organizational management support costs. A

second set of modifications strengthened the external grant agreement template to include specific reference and instruction for the CEPF Grievance Mechanism, additional required approvals for vehicle purchases and sole-sourced procurements, and inclusion of the World Bank's Guidelines on Fraud and Corruption.

Regional launch events held for Eastern Afromontane investment

In late January, CEPF Executive Director Patricia Zurita traveled to Saudi Arabia to attend a launch event for CEPF's investment in the Arabian Peninsula, part of its new \$9.8 million investment in the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, which stretches from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The event was held at King Khalid University in Abha, Saudi Arabia, and was co-hosted by the Saudi Wildlife Authority. His Highness Prince Bandar bin Saud bin Mohammad Al-Saud, president of the board of the Saudi Wildlife Authority, hosted Patricia in Riyadh and welcomed the opportunity to further collaborate in the Arabian Peninsula with CEPF. The Saudi Wildlife Authority, Yemen's Ministry of the Environment, biologists and other stakeholders from the peninsula provided data and helped guide CEPF's investment strategy for the Eastern Afromontane. The Director of the World Bank Mission in Riyadh, Faruk Iqbal, and the General Counsel of France in Jeddah, Louis Blin, also attended the event in Abha representing the CEPF donors.

Another launch event was held for the Eastern Afromontane investment in March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, hosted at the Alliance Ethio-Française and organized by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), one of three nongovernmental organizations in the region that are implementing the CEPF Eastern Afromontane strategy as the RIT. The other two organizations are BirdLife International and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). H.E. Mrs. Brigitte Collet, ambassador of France to Ethiopia, was the keynote speaker.

The second call for proposals in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was issued in February. The RIT and Secretariat have worked on reaching out to a wide diversity of potential civil society organizations, including outreach conducted with the events in Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia, as well as a launch for the call for proposals in Kigali, Rwanda, on 21 February that was held in conjunction with the launch of the MacArthur Foundation's call for proposals for the Great Lakes Region. The objectives of these events were to increase local knowledge about CEPF in this vast hotspot and to include outreach to development organizations.

Also with the objective of enhancing the communication within the region, the RIT has launched the first Eastern Afromontane Newsletter, the SASA bulletin, which is already sent to more than 534 stakeholders. Also to check out, the Facebook page for the Eastern Afromontane has reached more than 3,927 people (who saw page posts) within the period of January to end of March.

FEATURED NEW GRANTS

Two new grantees work with local communities in Massif de la Hotte, Haiti

While Massif de la Hotte is one of the most important key biodiversity areas of the Caribbean, reaching out to civil society organizations and funding projects in this region – the most remote of Haiti – has been challenging. Last year, with the support of the local organization, Organisation pour la Rehabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE), CEPF organized a workshop in La Borde, the southern gate of the Massif. The workshop attracted more than 60 participants representing civil society, municipalities, donors and the Haitian government. A subsequent call for proposals specifically for Massif de la Hotte resulted in grants to four NGOs, two small grants and two core grants.

Both core grants focus on engaging communities in the preservation of their environment. Fondation Macaya launched a pilot initiative creating local Friends of the Environment Clubs (CLADE - Club Local des Amis de l'Environnement) in villages in the buffer zone of Parc Macaya. CLADE will be supported for the implementation activities ranging from environmental education to ecosystem restoration. For the second core grant, Fondation Nouvelle Grand'Anse will apply a similar approach on the remote northern slopes of Parc Macaya. Ten committees from communities near the park will be trained on environmental issues and organized under an association promoting community participation in park management. Committees will receive micro-grants of a few hundred dollars to start up environment-friendly activities related to soil restoration, water harvesting or energy.

Grant promotes private-sector sustainable finance to support Jamaica's protected areas

Generating about 50 percent of Jamaica's foreign exchange earnings, tourism is highly dependent on the country's biodiversity and natural wealth. Despite this dependence, the sector has yet to provide meaningful and systematic support to conserve this wealth. To address this gap, The Nature Conservancy will work closely with leading Jamaican tourism operators and the national government to undertake a multi-pronged, two-year campaign to establish two new financial mechanisms for Jamaica's protected areas system. The project will focus on two promising options: (i) a new national fee from visitors to Jamaica for conservation, and (ii) a voluntary guest contribution program where hotel guests are given the opportunity to contribute directly to the conservation of the tropical forest while they are on vacation.

Through TNC's Jamaica Advisory Council, where relationships have been built with some leading hotel owners, business leaders will champion the private-sector-led effort to establish voluntary contributions within the hotel sector as well as champion the process to promote government implementation of a national conservation tourism fee. Funds from the new fee will be earmarked for the National Protected Areas/Conservation Trust Fund to support the protected areas system across Jamaica.

The project will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, the groundwork will be laid for the development of the new funding mechanism(s) through feasibility assessments. The new mechanism(s) will be designed, piloted, evaluated and institutionalized. In the second phase, TNC will hand over institutionalization and operational management of the funding streams to the Environmental Fund of

Jamaica (EFJ) and share lessons learned in the project implementation with other Caribbean countries.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Indo-Burma

One of the most exciting results from the Indo-Burma Hotspot during the last quarter was the designation of the Central Section of the Mekong River in Cambodia as a Biodiversity Conservation Area by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, His Excellency Chan Sarun. This is only the third stretch of the Mekong mainstream to be formally designated as a protected area, and extends much-needed protection to the most biologically important site along the river. The area supports the best remaining examples of flooded forest and core populations of a long list of globally threatened species, including Asian giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*), white-shouldered ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*) and Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). This declaration is the result of four years of hard work by CEPF grantees Cambodian Rural Development Team, Community Economic Development and WWF, requiring detailed planning, negotiations with key stakeholders and capacity building for communitybased organizations. A crowning achievement of the first phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, the new biodiversity conservation area will provide strong legal protection against large-scale conversion of natural habitats to monoculture plantations by outside business interests, and help secure local communities' access to the forest and aquatic resources on which they depend for their livelihoods.

Western Ghats

In the Western Ghats, a High Level Working Group formed by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests came out with its long-awaited recommendations on balancing economic development and environmental protection in the Western Ghats. The key recommendation was the designation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs), which would be subject to a strict regulatory regime, including a complete ban on new mining, quarrying and sand mining, and a phasing out of existing mining operations within five years. Several CEPF grantees engaged with the High Level Working Group and its precursor, the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, and provided technical assistance to local communities to develop proposals for ESAs. These efforts have now borne fruit. For instance, in the Sindhurdurg district of Maharashtra state, the working group report recognized ESAs in 22 villages, for which CEPF grantee Applied Ecological Research Foundation prepared biodiversity assessments, conducted public hearings, got resolutions for village governing bodies and helped communities map and agree on EZA boundaries. This is a tremendous result for these villages, as it removes a cloud of uncertainty created by pending mining applications in these areas.

Caribbean Islands

Fauna & Flora International and Environmental Awareness Group got off to a flying start with their CEPF project by achieving the complete eradication of Eurasian black rats from Green Island in Antigua. One of the largest islands in Antigua's offshore islands KBAs, Green Island is vitally important for rare birds, plants and endemic reptiles, including more than half the global population of Critically Endangered Antiguan racers, a species of snake. Using the bait Klerat® at 25-meter intervals, project staff, trainees and volunteers successfully removed every rat without harming a single non-target animal based on their Pest Management Plan. Through 2013, the two grantees will train more than 30 Lesser

Antilles nationals, conserve and restore 15 islands in at least three KBAs, and monitor the recovery of Caribbean birds, plants and other species that have been saved from alien attack.

Southern Mesoamerica

CEPF achieved a successful milestone during the quarter with the closure of its last grant in the Mesoamerica Hotspot, to the University of the Caribbean Autonomous Region of Nicaraguan (URACCAN). CEPF's longstanding support to URACCAN and other local organizations in the southeast corner of the country put communities and their protected areas on a sustainable development trajectory. In 2002, when CEPF first entered the hotspot, forests there were under severe threat from agricultural encroachment, logging and forest fire. Rama indigenous people and Creoles residing there for centuries faced eviction as waves of landless poor colonized their ancestral territory.

A lot has changed in the last decade, in part due to CEPF support. In 2011, URACCAN helped the Rama and Creole gain legal title to 407,000 hectares. Since then, URACCAN has focused on empowering these local communities. Forty-two indigenous, mestizo, and Creole leaders received certifications and diplomas in environmental and land management and in ecotourism. They visited organic cacao projects supported by CEPF to learn about compatible livelihood projects. They also undertook a study tour of CEPF sustainable livelihoods projects in Panama, where such projects are more advanced. Environmental awareness increased in the region through radio spots, festivals and workshops. More than 100 local community members received training in relevant environmental and land-use laws and in leadership and mediation. The project also supported community consultations as part of management planning for the Cerro Silva Reserve.

Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

The nesting site of the endangered Clarke's weaver (*Ploceus golandi*), a bird found only in Kilifi County, Kenya, was recently discovered by a monitoring team from Nature Kenya – the East Africa Natural History Society – and Dakatcha Woodland Conservation Group (DWCG).

Nature Kenya has had activities to monitor Clarke's weavers and raise community awareness in the Dakatcha Woodland Important Bird Area (IBA) since 2005. With support from CEPF, Nature Kenya began engaging the local community in 2006 in an ecological monitoring program by providing training on methods to measure environmental factors. The community undertook a baseline assessment of the woodlands and continued to monitor changes and effects on the bird community.

In early January, the team first observed small flocks of Clarke's weaver in the Dakatcha Woodland. The team observed an estimated 100 birds flying within the seasonal wetland. Subsequent trips to the area in late January and March also resulted in Clarke's weaver sightings. On March 23, the monitoring team discovered the nesting site at another seasonal wetland in the Dakatcha Woodland. Here the team estimated there to be about 500 nests, thus confirming the breeding of Clarke's weavers in Dakatcha Woodland.

DWCG, with support from Nature Kenya, is taking steps to protect this first known breeding site. DWCG members have talked to local elders and informed government representatives of the breeding site. The hope is that once the people living near the seasonal wetland realize the importance of these birds—found nowhere else in the world—they will take steps to see the wetland and forest are conserved.

CEPF MISSION SCHEDULE

DATES	HOTSPOT	DESCRIPTION	AGENDA and LOCATION
June 6-15	Caribbean Islands	Supervision mission; mid-term assessment national workshops	June 6-7: Trinidad June 10-11: Jamaica national workshop June 13-14: Dominican Republic national workshop
June 9-16	Eastern Arc/Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya	Site visits	Tanzania June 9: Dar es Salaam, roundtable with grantees June 10: Drive to Morogoro, then to Uluguru Nature Reserve to meet community groups and WWF June 11: Drive to Udzungwa Ecological Monitoring Centre; visit the WWF team involved in upgrading the protected area status of Uzungwa Scarp Nature Reserve and defining the proposed Mngeta corridor between Kilombero and Uzungwa Scarp Nature Reserves June 12: Overflight of the Udzungwa Forest; visit Magombera forest and visit the community groups and village scouts from Katurukila, Nyange and Magombera villages; overnight in Mikumi National Park June 13/14: Mikumi National Park June 15: Return to Dar es Salaam
June 24-July 7	Western Ghats	Five-year assessment	Three workshops and site visits in northern, central and southern locations in the Western Ghats.
July 10-12	Caribbean Islands	Mid-term regional assessment	Kingston, Jamaica
July 22-28	Indo-Burma	RIT Training	Bangkok, Thailand
August 26-September 5	Eastern Afromontane	Supervision Mission	Burundi and Kenya
September 9 (TBD)	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands	Regional Stakeholder Consultation	Madagascar
October TBD	Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	Supervision Mission	South Africa and Mozambique
October TBD	Mediterranean	Supervision Mission	TBD
November TBD	Wallacea	Regional Stakeholder Consultation	Jakarta, Indonesia

Approved Grants

From: January 1, 2013 To: March 31, 2013

Caribbean Islands

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

Alternatives for Sustainable Socio-Ecological Conservation in the Macaya Key Biodiversity Area, Massif de la Hotte, Haiti

Raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems, and lower the pressure on Parc National Macaya's natural resources. The project includes a participatory reforestation scheme using native species, awareness-raising activities and support to the CLADEs (Clubs locaux d'action pour le développement et l'environnement), which are grassroots environmental organizations.

Funding: \$94,700

Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 11/30/2015

Grantee: Fondation Macaya pour le Développement Local

San Salvador Island: Designation of Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes Key Biodiversity Areas as National Parks in the Bahamas

Achieve formal protection status for two key biodiversity areas on the island of San Salvador that cover approximately 4,700 hectares of habitat for the Endangered San Salvador rock iguana (*Cyclura rileyi*) and large populations of 10 seabird species. The grant supports several components, including community awareness-building, outreach to local and national decision makers, capacity strengthening for long-term management and monitoring, and development of a proposal for legal designation.

Funding: \$62,380

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

Grantee: The Bahamas National Trust

Strategic Direction 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors

Biodiversity Conservation and Protection Project: Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area, Soucède, South of Parc Macaya

Restore biodiversity and the ecological balance of the Pic Macaya watershed. The grant supports the reduction of soil erosion and restoration of forest cover in the watershed through reforestation activities with native species, as well as training in environmental management and biodiversity conservation for youth groups living in the area so that they can contribute to reforestation activities and maintenance of areas replanted. The grant also contributes to improving the livelihoods of farmers in the area.

Funding: \$18,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 11/30/2013
Grantee: Collectif Developpement
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Integrating Northern Cockpit Country Communities Into Climate Change Mitigation Policymaking

Revise the estimate of the carbon sequestration value of Cockpit Country through the participatory development and use of a survey among communities within northern Cockpit Country. An analysis of the results will be disseminated to the communities and key stakeholders via public meetings, newsletters and reports to target audiences. The results will also be made available for revision of the estimate of the carbon sequestration value of Cockpit Country and used to formulate recommendations for action on climate change.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 11/30/2013
Grantee: Windsor Research Centre Limited (WRC)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration

Environmental Education for Community Participation in Conservation of Macaya, Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area

Support the creation of local environmental committees in 10 rural communities in the northern part of the buffer zone of Parc Macaya, one of the most important sites for biodiversity in Haiti. These committees are organized under a common network, which will advocate for stronger participation of local communities in the management of natural resources in the area. Local committees will also identify and implement environmental micro-projects in the 10 communities.

Funding: \$45,200

Grant Term: 1/1/2013 - 11/30/2013

Grantee: Fondation Nouvelle Grand'Anse

Indo-Burma

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

Confirming the Existence of Zhou's Box Turtle in Northern Vietnam and Developing a Conservation Plan for the Species

Conduct interviews and field surveys to collect data to identify the presence of the Zhou's box turtle (*Cuora zhoui*). This species is believed to be highly endemic and restricted to a small area in Ha Giang, Cao Bang and Tuyen Quang Province. Currently there are no known wild populations of this species. A subsequent conservation plan is to be developed if the species is located.

Funding: \$18,509

Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 10/30/2013
Grantee: Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Pilot Different Survey Methods to Identify Saola Population in the Pu Mat National Park of Nghe An Province

To confirm the existence of the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) population in Pu Mat National Park, Nghe An Province, CERD will conduct interviews, make observations for possible footprints and feeding traces, collect and analyze dung specimens, coordinate camera trapping and collect leeches for DNA analysis. A follow-up proposal for the survey of the species in the Northern Annamites will be submitted to the Darwin Initiative.

Funding: \$18,483
Grant Term: 2/15/2013 - 10/30/2013
Grantee: Center for Environmental and Rural development (CERD), Vinh University
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

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

Strengthening White-Shouldered Ibis Conservation Initiatives and Bolstering Local Stakeholder-Led Initiatives in the Lomphat Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia

Protect white-shouldered ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*) nests by applying three different methods to compare the effectiveness of the nest protection protocol. One-third of the nests found will be protected by employed nest guardians with regular nest progressing records, another one-third will be left as control with regular monitoring by ibis rangers, and another one-third will be encircled by plastic baffles to protect ibis chicks from their predators. A white-shouldered ibis roost count will be conducted during the wet season to keep the status of the overall population of the species updated.

Funding: \$15,592
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 10/31/2013
Grantee: People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries

Assessing the Status and Distribution of Eld's Deer in Western Siem Pang Dry Dipterocarp Forest, Stung Treng Province

This is the first project in Western Siem Pang to survey population distribution of Eld's deer (*Panolia eldi*) by using survey methods such as camera traps; interviewing elders, former hunters and foresters; and using line transect surveys. The project methodology was developed under consultation with a deer expert and guided by a deer advisor to make sure the survey will meet the overall expectations.

Funding: \$19,995
Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 10/31/2013
Grantee: Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Finding a Place for the Bengal Florican in an Agricultural Landscape

Quantify current land use in the Tonle Sap grassland zone in areas occupied by the three remaining Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) conservation units, briefly document development plans and evaluate feasibility of potential conservation options for the Bengal florican in the Tonle Sap grassland

zone.

Funding: \$19,165

Grant Term: 2/1/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society - Cambodia Program (WCS Cambodia)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Integrating Bengal Florican Conservation in Community Forest Management

Integrate the conservation action plan for the Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), a Critically Endangered bustard, into five community forestry management plans. Action for Development (AFD) will work closely with the Forestry Administration, Wildlife Conservation Society and the community forestry committees to conduct regular patrol activities and allow suitable tree harvesting to make favorable habitat for the Bengal florican during the wet season.

Funding: \$19,995

Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 10/31/2013

Grantee: Action For Development (AFD)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Mediterranean

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

Engaging Civil Society in Integrated Coastal Zone Management Planning

Assist in the implementation of the Coastal Area Management Program Project in the municipality of Ulcinj with a focus on the Delta Bojana Key Biodiversity Area. Improve the capacity of national and

local institutions to implement Integrated Coastal Zone Management (IZCM) by raising the level of awareness of the value of natural resources and the threats from unsustainable development patterns.

Funding: \$58,550

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

Grantee: Centre for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

Protecting Threatened and Endemic Species in Cape Verde: A Major Island Restoration Project

Undertake the planning phase for the rehabilitation of Santa Luzia Island and establish biosecurity protocols with a view to the future translocation of the Critically Endangered Raso lark (*Alauda razae*). Engage with the Cape Verde protected-area authorities and local fishing communities and explore the potential for ecotourism activities within the Santa Luzia Island Natural Reserve and the Brancos and Raso Islets Integrated Reserve.

Funding: \$222,298

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

Grantee: Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves

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

Demonstrating Sustainable Management of Important Eastern Mediterranean Forests and Key Biodiversity Areas in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains

Revive the traditional Hima approach of land husbandry, integrating the grazing needs of the local shepherds into a sustainable management plan within a collaboratively agreed-upon zone of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains Key Biodiversity Area.

Funding: \$167,750

Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 8/31/2014

Grantee: Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

Strengthening Management Planning of Mujib as a Biosphere Reserve in Jordan

Adopt a collaborative approach involving the local communities in the revision and update of the Mujib Reserve new management plan for the period 2013-2018. This process will adopt the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) zonation schemes as well as improve the capacity of local civil society organizations and socioeconomic development opportunities.

Funding: \$242,160

Grant Term: 3/1/2013 - 3/31/2015

Grantee: The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement for the 9 Months Ending 3/31/2013

<i>Revenue - CEPF II</i>	<i>Current Year</i>
Contributions	
The World Bank	3,000,000
MacArthur Foundation	425,000
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	1,800,000
Interest earned	93,486
Total revenue	5,318,486

<i>Grants by region</i>	<i>Grants Awarded¹</i> 7/01/12 - 3/31/13			<i>Payments on Grants²</i> 7/01/12 - 3/31/13		
	<i>FY13 Approved</i> <i>Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>FY13 Approved</i> <i>Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Caribbean	2,000,000	645,264	32%	925,000	826,005	89%
Caucasus		(2,498)	0%	327,000	225,541	69%
Eastern Afromontane	2,000,000	2,000,000	100%	500,000	183,720	37%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests			0%	561,747	266,195	47%
East Melanesian Islands	600,000		0%	120,000		0%
Guinean Forests of West Africa			0%	14,250	10,442	73%
Indo-Burma ³	378,000	275,443	73%	1,692,946	1,692,483	100%
Indo-Burma Reinvestment ⁴	1,500,000		0%	300,000		0%
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands			0%	4,722	48,791	1033%
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	1,500,000	1,257,279	84%	1,076,587	1,212,648	113%
Mediterranean	3,500,000	690,758	20%	1,355,000	636,658	47%
Mountains of Southwest China		1,266	0%	250,000	341,210	136%
Polynesia-Micronesia	100,000	82,148	82%	1,424,201	1,033,907	73%
Southern Mesoamerica		(444)	0%	117,309	74,740	64%
Succulent Karoo		(12,699)	0%	258,009	159,462	62%
Tropical Andes		(61)	0%	234,172	176,661	75%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena		(15,521)	0%	384,510	294,747	77%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka ⁵	1,560,000	466,110	30%	1,147,671	651,354	57%
Total Grants	13,138,000	5,387,045	41%	10,693,124	7,834,564	73%
Pending Regions						
Pending	372,000		0%	372,500		0%
Total All Regions	13,510,000	5,387,045	40%	11,065,624	7,834,564	71%

<i>Operational Costs</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Operating Costs	2,120,736	1,438,014	68%
Management Fee	504,735	278,543	55%
Total Operations	2,625,471	1,716,557	65%

<i>Preparation</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Total Preparation	1,400,000	29,065	2%

<i>Special Projects</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Audit Fee	55,000	40,000	73%
Fundraising ⁶	112,627	97,598	87%
Total Special Projects	167,627	137,598	82%

Total expense	17,703,098	7,270,265	41%
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Fund Balance at 3/31/2013

Bank Balance	45,459,139
Accounts Receivable	14,657,867
Conservation International	5,000,000
Global Environment Facility	5,023,532
Government of Japan	2,634,335
The World Bank	0
MacArthur Foundation	200,000
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	1,800,000
Grants Payable	(12,919,718)
Operating Expenses due to/from CI	(3,982)
Total Fund Balance	47,193,306

¹ Negative amounts represent grant deobligations

² Includes payments on grants awarded in prior years

³ \$378k for Indo Burma received from the MacArthur Foundation and awarded during Q1 was not in original Spending Plan.

⁴ Indo-Burma Reinvestment \$1.5mm budgeted in "Pending Regions" in Spending Plan; moved to region following approval to reinvest by Donor Council in October 2012

⁵ Western Ghats \$1.5mm budgeted in "Pending Regions" in Spending Plan; moved to region following approval to increase the spending authority in September 2012

⁶ Includes expenses incurred for the events in Hyderabad welcoming the EU to the partnership

Summary of Available Resources as of 3/31/2013

Revenue to Date	238,344,573	
Expenses to Date	191,151,267	
Fund Balance		47,193,306

Allocated to:

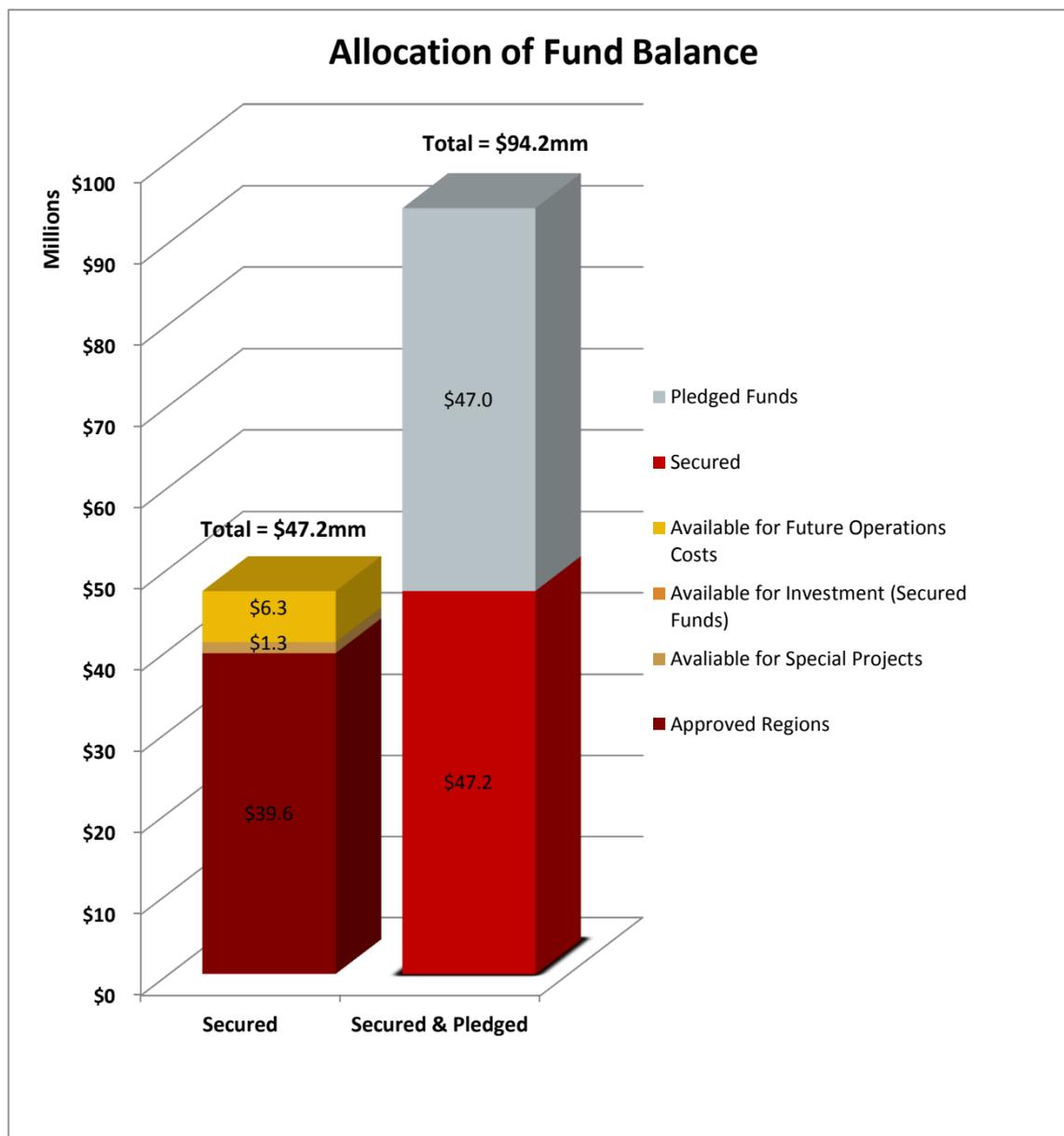
Approved Regions	39,573,392	
Special Projects	1,353,935	
Available for Future Operations Costs	6,265,223	
Available for Investment (Secured Funds)		755

Pledged Funds ¹

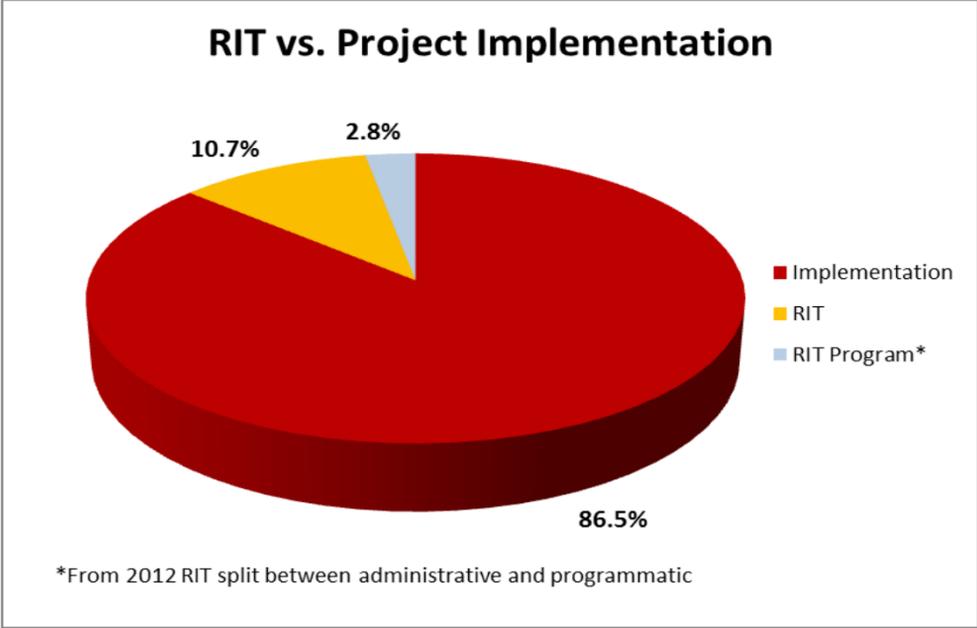
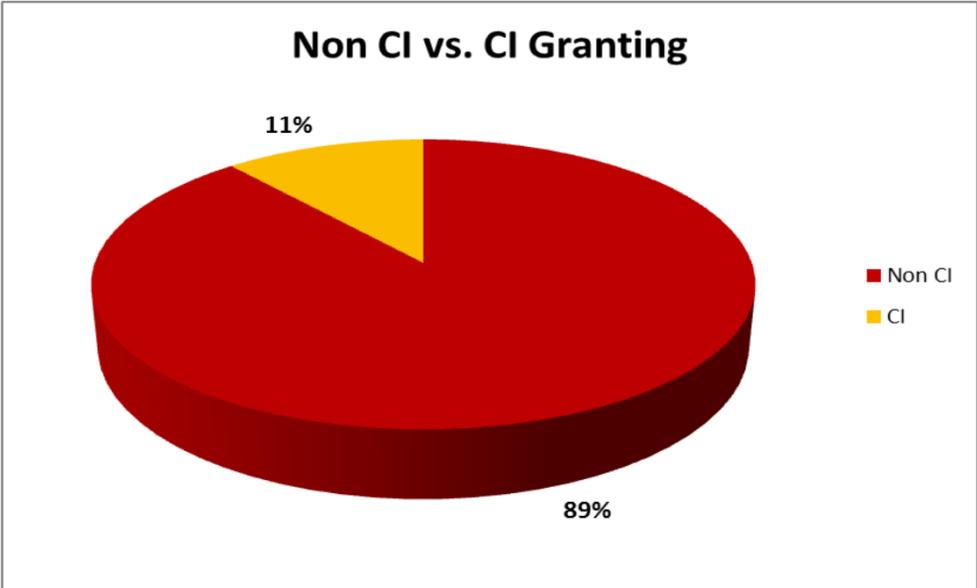
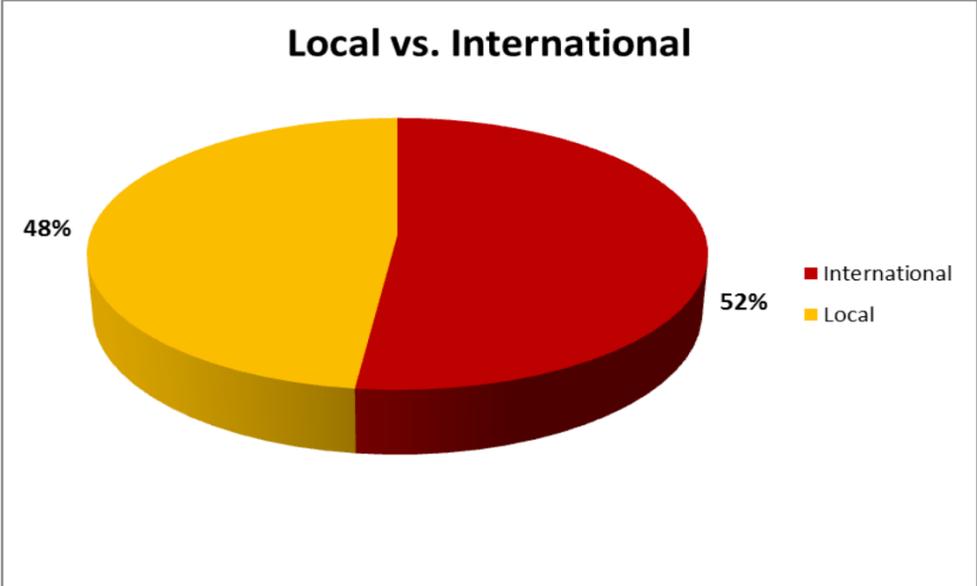
Operations Costs on Pledged Funds	7,050,000	
Balance for Investment (Pledged Funds)		39,950,000

Total Available for Investment - secured and pledged funds		39,950,755
Total Available Resources - secured and pledged funds		94,193,306

¹ Includes \$15mm from the Government of Japan, \$10mm from The World Bank and \$22mm from the European Union



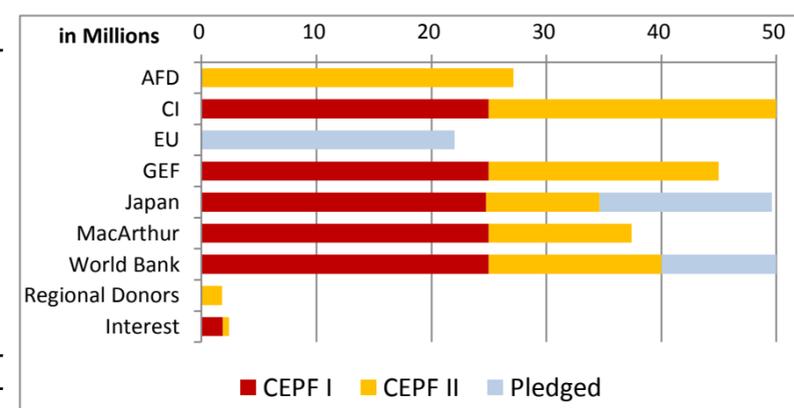
CEPF Phase II Grant Portfolio as of 3/31/13



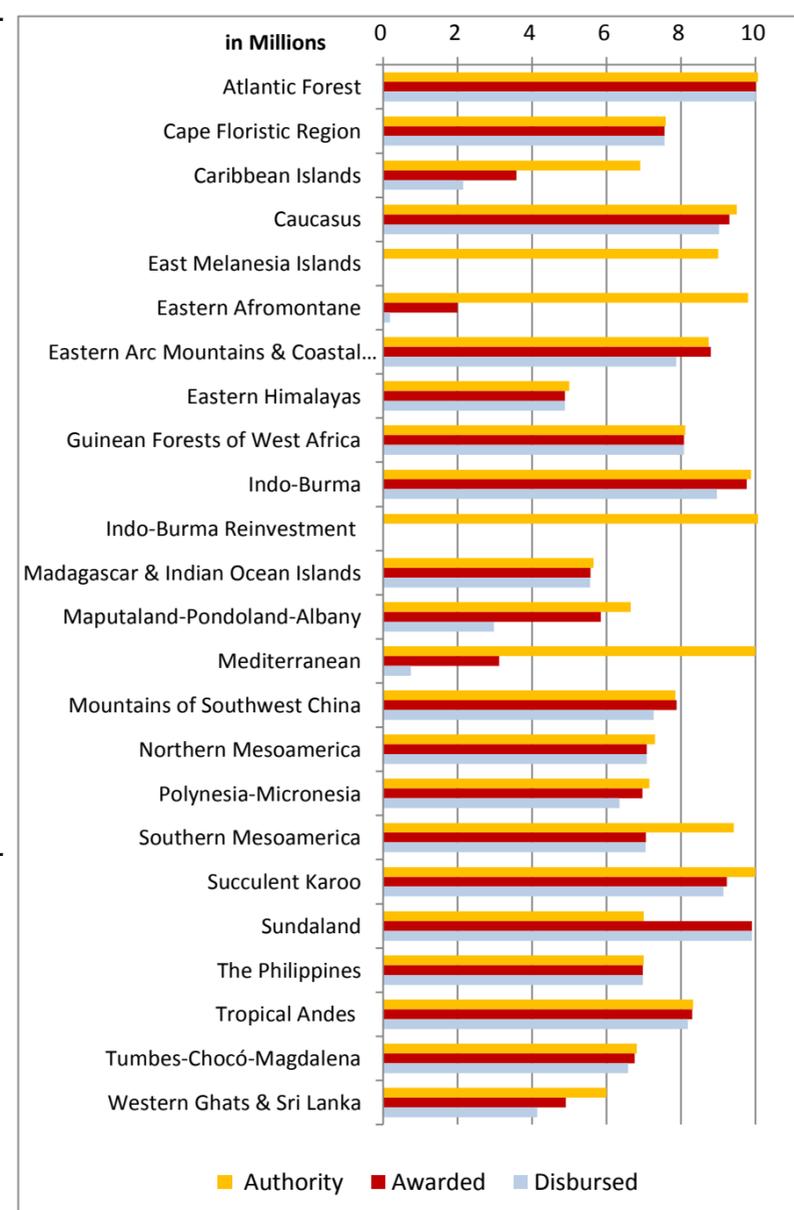
CEPF Quarterly Report

Income Statement from Inception to 3/31/2013 (in US\$ 1,000's)

<i>Revenue</i>	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	15,000
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	507	2,377	0
Total Revenue to Date	126,621	111,724	238,345	47,000



<i>Expense</i>	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Total	CEPF II
<i>Grants by region</i>	Awarded	Awarded	Awarded	Disbursed	Balance
Atlantic Forest	7,615	2,395	10,010	10,010	0
Cape Floristic Region	5,966	1,585	7,551	7,551	0
Caribbean Islands	0	3,578	3,578	2,150	3,322
Caucasus	8,298	998	9,295	9,025	0
East Melanesia Islands	0	0	0	0	9,000
Eastern Afromontane	0	2,000	2,000	184	7,800
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	7,064	1,736	8,800	7,868	0
Eastern Himalayas	4,883	0	4,883	4,883	0
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165	1,907	8,073	8,073	0
Indo-Burma	0	9,768	9,768	8,964	110
Indo-Burma Reinvestment	0	0	0	0	10,400
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands	4,170	1,403	5,573	5,556	0
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	0	5,843	5,843	2,979	807
Mediterranean	0	3,116	3,116	744	6,884
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535	1,350	7,885	7,267	0
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079	0	7,079	7,079	0
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	6,966	6,966	6,343	34
Southern Mesoamerica	5,411	1,643	7,053	7,044	0
Succulent Karoo	7,834	1,396	9,230	9,131	0
Sundaland	9,901	0	9,901	9,901	0
The Philippines	6,970	0	6,970	6,970	0
Tropical Andes	6,130	2,171	8,301	8,177	0
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,952	1,798	6,750	6,577	0
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	0	4,903	4,903	4,132	1,097
Consolidation (unallocated)	0	0	0	0	118
Total Grants to Date	98,974	54,555	153,528	140,610	39,573



Other Expenses to Date

Preparation	6,714	1,809	8,523
Special Projects	345	679	1,024
Operations Costs	17,659	10,417	28,076
Total Other Expenses to Date	24,718	12,905	37,623
Total Expense	123,691	67,460	191,151
Fund Balance			47,193

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

محلّيات

«الحياة الفطرية» تتعاون مع صندوق النظم الإيكولوجية الحرجة



الجزيرة - عبدالله الجبيري:

استقبل صاحب السمو الأمير بندر بن سعود بن محمد آل سعود رئيس الهيئة السعودية للحياة الفطرية بمكتبه بمقر الهيئة المديرة التكنولوجية لصندوق شراكة النظم الإيكولوجية الحرجة، وذلك ليحت سبل التعاون بين الهيئة والصندوق.

ويأتي ذلك ضمن برنامج زيارة المديرة التكنولوجية للصندوق للمملكة وحضور حفل تقديم تقرير صندوق شراكة النظم الإيكولوجية الحرجة عن المناطق الحرجة في شرق الهندسة الإفريقية، والذي أقيم يوم أمس الثلاثاء 3-17-1434هـ تحت رعاية كريمة من صاحب السمو رئيس الهيئة السعودية للحياة الفطرية وتحت إشراف جامعة الملك خالد بأبها وبمشاركة عدد من الباحثين والمهتمين من الجامعات السعودية والوزارات والشركات الوطنية بالإضافة إلى ممثلية كل من فرنسا واليابان وممثلين عن البنك الدولي والمجموعة الأوروبية.

ويدعم صندوق الشراكة مشاريع المحافظة على المناطق الحرجة وتقوم به منظمات غير حكومية ويهدف الصندوق للمحافظة على مناطق التنوع الأحيائي الهامة في العالم عبر تمويل هذه المشاريع. وتجدر الإشارة إلى أنه تم إنشاء الصندوق كبادرة مشتركة بين الوكالة الفرنسية للتنمية ومرفق البيئة العالمي والحكومة اليابانية ومؤسسة ماك آرثر والبنك الدولي ومنظمة المحافظة الدولية.



ORNITHOLOGIE - Campagne de piégeage des espèces envahissantes à l'entrée des trois vallées Papehue, Maruapo et Tiapa

Le Monarque à la reconquête de son territoire

Afin de préserver la biodiversité et de permettre au Monarque de Tahiti, un oiseau en danger d'extinction, de recouvrer son habitat, l'association ornithologique de Polynésie a mis en place un réseau de piégeurs. La mission de cette cinquantaine de bénévoles capturer les merles et autres bulbul. Deux espèces envahissantes qui menacent 'o mama'o. En six mois, 2700 oiseaux ont été capturés et éliminés. Une vraie bouffée d'oxygène pour le Monarque qui a pu reconquérir sept nouveaux territoires.

Le Monarque de Tahiti ou 'Omama'o est menacé par les espèces exotiques envahissantes (Rat noir, merle des Moluques, busard de Gould, bulbul à ventre rouge, miconia, tulipier du Gabon, chèvre...) qui exercent une prédation, perturbent les couples ou détériorent son habitat. Depuis 13 ans la Société d'ornithologie de Polynésie Manu (SOP) protège les derniers couples de cet oiseau contre les rats noirs, première cause de disparition de l'espèce, qu'elle contrôle avec du raticide. Elle s'attache depuis peu à les protéger contre l'ensemble des menaces, en particulier deux oiseaux introduits, les merles

et les bulbul, qui attaquent les nids et les reproducteurs et ont déjà causé la destruction de nombreux nids de Monarque. Ces deux espèces introduites sont classées parmi les 100 espèces les plus envahissantes de la planète et parmi celles menaçant la biodiversité en Polynésie française (arrêté 1301 CM du 15 novembre 2006). Leur destruction est donc encouragée, notamment afin de préserver la biodiversité mais également les cultures car elles peuvent se révéler des calamités agricoles (destructeurs de fruits). Dimanche 13 janvier dernier, une fête des piégeurs a été organisée par l'association SOP Manu dans les



Les volontaires ont assisté à la présentation de résultats de la campagne, avant de partager un bon repas. Grâce à leurs efforts, le Monarque de Tahiti occupe de nouveaux territoires.

locaux de l'école de Papehue, grâce à Bertho Roomataaroa, adjoint au maire de Paea et Natti Pita, directeur de l'école. Elle a rassemblé 50 personnes qui ont suivi avec attention les résultats de la saison de la reproduction 2012 du Monarque de Tahiti, les résultats des piégeages, compilés par Susana Saavedra,

et qui ont ensuite festoyé et reçu un tee-shirt en remerciement de leurs efforts.

Une bouffée d'oxygène

Sur le modèle de l'Australie qui a développé un réseau national de piégeurs et a donc ainsi fait passer le Merle des Moluques de la 2e à la 50e place des oiseaux les plus observés dans ce pays, la SOP a donc initié, grâce au dynamisme de son équipe de sauvegarde et à Susana Saavedra, une spécialiste mondiale de la capture de ces oiseaux, une campagne de piégeage des oiseaux introduits à l'entrée des trois vallées où le Monarque survit : Papehue, Maruapo et Tiapa. La population, mise à contribution, a répondu présent et des cages ont été distribuées chez des particuliers (215 personnes s'étaient portées volontaires et 60 d'entre elles ont effectivement participé au piégeage). Pendant 6 mois, ces piégeurs assistés de l'équipe de la SOP ont positionné des pièges avec des oiseaux leurres dans les jar-

dins. Et ils ont été formidables : plus de 1500 Merles des Moluques et de 1200 bulbul ont ainsi été éliminés de ces zones. Ces captures ont été une vraie bouffée d'oxygène pour le Monarque de Tahiti, qui a pu établir sept nouveaux territoires tandis que pas moins de quatre nouveaux couples se sont fixés dans les vallées et que 8 jeunes s'envolaient durant la saison de reproduction, contre 2 à 3 jeunes par an de 1998 à 2008. Pour cette espèce en danger critique



Photo DR

d'extinction, ces victoires sont sans doute déterminantes pour sa survie.

Une nouvelle campagne de piégeage aura lieu à partir de juin 2013. ■



Susana Saavedra, la piégeuse et Caroline Blanvillain, la biologiste

► De nombreux partenaires

L'équipe de la Société d'ornithologie de Polynésie Manu souhaite remercier chaleureusement tous les habitants de Paea et Punaauia qui se sont impliqués cette saison de reproduction dans le sauvetage du 'omama'o, les associations 2D attitude et Tamarii pointe des pêcheurs, les communes de Paea et Punaauia, l'école de Papehue et tous les financeurs : l'Union européenne, La Diren de Polynésie française, le Sefi, le Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Bird-Life International, la Cepa (Conservation des espèces et populations animales), la fondation Nature et Découverte et la Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité (ministère de l'Équipement et du Développement durable France), EDT, OPT, ATN Magazine et Vini.

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\$9.8m environmental investment to include grants to Arabian Peninsula - CEPF

Saudi Arabia: Saturday, February 02 - 2013 at 15:17

Funding to protect the unique biological diversity and vital ecosystems found in the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula is now available through a new conservation strategy and investment plan supporting human well-being as well as nature.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), which funds nongovernmental efforts to conserve the world's most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems, launched a plan to invest \$9.8m over five years in conserving the Eastern Afrotropical biodiversity hotspot. A launch event was held in Abha, Saudi Arabia, hosted by the Saudi Wildlife Authority and King Khalid University in Abha.

The hotspot is made up of natural areas stretching from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Of the more than 10,000 species identified in the hotspot, almost one-third are unique to the hotspot. The hotspot provides massive ecosystem services that people rely on—particularly as watersheds for vast areas of the region, extending far beyond its formal boundaries. Its ecosystems also provide crucial support to agriculture and ultimately food security.

In the Arabian Peninsula portion of the hotspot, located in the mountains that parallel the coast of western Yemen and southwestern Saudi Arabia, 110 species of plants are known to be found only in this region, including the *Centaurothamnus maximus*, a member of the daisy family. Seven bird species are also unique to this part of the hotspot, such as the Yemen linnet, a species of finch. The area also is important for migratory birds, with an estimated 1.5 million storks and birds of prey using the highlands of the Arabian Peninsula and Ethiopia as a flyway each year.

"The Arabian Peninsula is incredibly important for its unique natural attributes and culture," said Patricia Zurita, executive director of CEPF. "We are eager to work with regional universities, foundations and other partners to provide grants that support local civil society groups in their efforts to protect nature and improve livelihoods."

"We are excited to expand CEPF's impact to the Arabian Peninsula. This investment complements the work CEPF has begun in the Mediterranean Basin, which will provide funding for conservation of North African and Middle Eastern countries, including Jordan and Lebanon," Zurita said

In the Arabian Peninsula, biodiversity is closely associated with agricultural landscapes such as the traditional terrace agriculture, which creates micro-climates that are favorable to plants and reptiles. "The decline of traditional agricultural techniques is one of the main threats to biodiversity, together with unsustainable use of water resources and urbanization," said Ibrahim Khader, regional director for BirdLife International's Middle East Division, which will guide the CEPF investment in the Arabian Peninsula. "The conservation of biodiversity in the region will also result in the protection of important

cultural heritage and traditions."

There is a substantial gap in terms of natural resources conservation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Protected areas and conservation efforts are strong in Saudi Arabia, and have yielded positive results, such as the reintroduction to the wild of the Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*). There are also 15 protected areas officially declared and managed in Saudi Arabia one of them, Raydah near Abha, is within the hotspot, as well as Asir National Park. On the other hand, Yemen has only six formal protected areas, and only three on the mainland. CEPF's strategy seeks to act on the opportunity that regional cooperation could provide to improve conservation and human well-being.

"The Saudi Wildlife Authority is proud to host the launch of CEPF's portfolio for the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot. This is a reflection of the SWA's strong commitment to protecting the unique biodiversity of Saudi Arabia and the region," said His Highness Prince Bandar bin Saud bin Mohammad Al-Saud, President of the Saudi Wildlife Authority.

The Saudi Wildlife Authority, Yemen's Ministry of the Environment, biologists and other stakeholders from the peninsula provided data and helped guide CEPF's investment strategy.

"We are very happy to co-host this event and look forward to working with stakeholders and partners for the conservation and best sustainable management of the hotspot in Saudi Arabia," said HE Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al Daoud, President, King Khalid University.

CEPF will target its funding in the Arabian Peninsula to supporting civil society organizations working in Yemen on projects related to:

Mainstreaming biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects while supporting local livelihoods and economic development.

Improving the protection and management of the key biodiversity area (KBA) network throughout the hotspot.

Initiating and supporting sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and ecological corridors.

CEPF will call for grant proposals from civil society groups ranging from small farming cooperatives and community associations to international organizations working in the Arabian Peninsula.



EDITORIAL



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PORTADA IMPRESA



10/2/2013

Presentan estudio socioeconómico parque nacional Montaña La Humeadora

11:07 AM -SANTO DOMINGO, RD.- Como parte del Plan de Manejo del Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Conservation International Foundation y el Fondo Pro Naturaleza (PRONATURA) realizaron un estudio socioeconómico de la zona.



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El estudio social visualiza en grandes líneas las informaciones sobre características socioeconómicas generales revelando que la pobreza resalta, hay escasas fuentes de empleo, y precariedad de las infraestructuras y servicios.

La actividad económica local predominante es la agricultura. Es evidente la presencia de asentamientos humanos establecidos y el desarrollo de actividades agrícolas para subsistencia y comercial dentro del Parque.

El estudio arrojó que el sistema agrícola más utilizado es de tumba y quema por lo que la presión ejercida sobre el territorio del Área Protegida es notable.

Los problemas ambientales que más afectan a la población y los recursos naturales son tala y quema de vegetación, deforestación, extracción de materiales de ríos, erosión de suelos, polvo de la carretera, contaminación ambiental por vertido de basura y el uso de agroquímicos.

En el Parque hay zonas de bosques bien conservadas que garantizan la conservación de los ecosistemas, la flora, la fauna y el agua.

El 95% de las personas consultadas desconoce los términos área protegida, parque nacional, plan de manejo, cambio climático, y adaptación al cambio climático.

Las personas que viven tanto dentro como fuera de los límites del Parque son ocupantes que no tienen título.

Este proceso de elaboración del Plan de Manejo ha contribuido al fortalecimiento y reactivación de algunas organizaciones comunitarias como asociaciones, comités de desarrollo, juntas de vecinos que existen en tres franjas territoriales.

La metodología utilizada para el estudio consistió en realizar grupos de discusión, entrevistas y talleres.



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DEPORTES



Andrew Nicholson reemplaza a Andre Drummond en el



Alcaldía SDN otorga reconocimiento al pelotero Sta



Las genialidades de James y Westbrook los dejan co



Nadal suma sus primeros puntos en su vuelta a la c



Luis Rafael Méndez es exaltado al Salón de la Fama



Escogon Comité Organizador nacional de damas



Bauger, nuevo líder de Liga Mayor aprovecha tropie



Reyes, Goico, Mateo y Oliva campeones II Torneo Go

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Published: February 12, 2013 03:53 IST | Updated: February 12, 2013 03:53 IST

Vulture population stabilising in Moyar Valley

P. Oppili



A white-backed vulture seen in Moyar Valley in Nilgiris North Division.

Special Arrangement

Thanks to the efforts of NGOs and State Forest Department

The population of vultures, a critically endangered species, is stabilising in the Moyar Valley in The Nilgiris North Forest Division in the State, thanks to the efforts of non-governmental organisations and the State Forest Department.

S. Bharatidasan, Director, CareEarth Arulagam, the non-governmental organisation involved in the vulture conservation in the Moyar Valley, told *The Hindu* that through systematic protection measures the number of the forest scavengers' nests had increased to 50 in January this year. Similarly, the number of vultures sighted also had also gone up.

The vulture nests were found in Semmanatham, Jallikadavu and Siriyur in the Nilgiris North Forest Division.

A year ago, when the organisation began its work in the region, the local people had reported that only about 20 nests of vultures were spotted in the area.

The area is habitat to four species of vultures – Oriental White-backed, Indian, Red-headed and White Scavenger vultures.

Mr. Bharatidasan said volunteers from his organisation recorded the sighting of 105 vultures a few months ago and about 50 of them feeding on a carcass recently. Another volunteer from the organisation had sighted 130 vultures in the Moyar Valley, he said.

Jayashree Vencatesan of CareEarth said they evolved a strategy and an action plan for conserving the critically endangered vultures for in-situ conservation in the Moyar Valley region. This was being done with the support of local community, she said.

Use of diclofenac, a drug, which directly affected the vulture population, is virtually absent in the Moyar Valley, which could be one of the reasons for the stabilisation of the four species of vulture population in the region. The State

Forest Department on its part to help the conservation effort, has appointed nearly half a dozen vulture watchers.

These watchers were selected from the local tribal community, who regularly monitor the nests and breeding of the forest scavengers.

The conservation efforts are funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, an organisation involved in funding various wildlife conservation projects in the Western Ghats, Ms. Vencatesan said. When contacted the Forest Department sources said they identified the pockets in the Moyar Valley wherein the vulture population is found. These sites were accorded better protection, particularly during the breeding season, which begins in October when the adults start gathering the nesting materials.

During that time the males also started the courtship for a female, the authorities added.

Keywords: [vulture population](#), [Moyar Valley](#), [vulture conservation](#)



Funds for Conservation in Eastern Afromontane Hotspot & Great Lakes Region of East & Central Africa

Published on 21-02-2013 - at 11:41' by [IGIHE](#)



Two major donors for conservation action, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the MacArthur Foundation, launched their new calls for proposals during a joint event in Kigali, Rwanda.

In the context of the Regional Great Lakes Stakeholders Forum, organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) on 21 and 22 February 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda, representatives of CEPF and the MacArthur Foundation announced their new calls for proposals.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is looking for proposals that aim to mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot.

CEPF is also interested in proposals that aim to initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) and corridors in the hotspot.

The hotspot runs from Yemen in the Arabian Peninsula, to Mozambique and Zimbabwe in southern Africa, and includes 14 countries that are eligible for funding under this call for proposals.

“This hotspot is extremely important for its biodiversity - it is home to more than 500 mammal species of which more than 100 are endemic,” said Pierre Carret, CEPF Grant Director for the Eastern Afromontane hotspot.

“About 1,300 bird species occur in the hotspot, 350 reptile species, 230 amphibian species, and more than 890 species of fish - and a large number of these are unique to the region.

Protecting this biodiversity is a key priority for CEPF, as this region is among the most important, most diverse and most threatened places in the world.

The hotspot also provides a wide range of ecosystem services which are of immense value to local development and the lives and livelihoods of the people - water, soil, clean air... It is also home to inspiring sceneries of great cultural value.”

The MacArthur Foundation is looking for projects in the Great Lakes Region of East and Central Africa that understand and respond to increased environmental pressures from development and climate change impacts; that create and expand incentives to conserve ecosystems; and that will assist the rural poor in managing their resources for multiple benefits - with special attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups (including women and ethnic minorities).

Geographic focus will be on the Omo/Turkana, Tanganyika, and Malawi/Nyasa Lake Basins.

“The fact that both calls for proposals are launched at the same time, at the same place, with aligned application and assessment processes, shows the good intention of these two donor agencies to coordinate their approaches to supporting conservation in this African region,” said Dr Julius Arinaitwe, Africa Regional Director for BirdLife International, which - together with IUCN and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society - coordinates the CEPF Regional Implementation Team for the Eastern Afromontane hotspot.

“This can only be a good thing, as it will enhance donor collaboration, programmatic synergies, and more and better opportunities for civil society in this region to find the financial resources needed to address the increasingly severe threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Africa. We very much welcome this joint initiative.”

Eligibility criteria and more information about both calls for proposals are available at (for CEPF): www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/de... and (for MacArthur Foundation)

www.macfound.org/press/publi...

Solar energy holds vital key to sustainable exploitation of Aloe species

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Written by Henry Neondo

A study led by researchers from icipe and its partners has demonstrated the superiority of solar concentrating technology. Dr. Wilber Lwande, icipe scientist says the findings of the research, which was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the Swiss-based Biovision Foundation, present a major breakthrough towards unlocking the full commercial potential of *A. secundiflora*, a succulent perennial herb that is one of about 450 species of the genus *Aloe*.

"The *A. secundiflora* species, which is found in the arid and semi-arid regions in Kenya, southern Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania, is a significant source of livelihood for marginalised communities. Indeed, based on its potential in that regard, various programmes have been initiated by a variety of organisations to promote the cultivation and processing of *A. secundiflora*. For instance, in Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), has established regulations and developed a long term strategy for the sustainable exploitation of *Aloe* species," explains Dr. Lwande.

He, however, observes that the unsustainable and environmentally destructive methods currently used in the processing of *A. secundiflora* pose a major draw-back in its exploitation.

The main source of the commercial value of *A. secundiflora*, Dr Lwande explains, is a yellow bitter sap paste, which is used in the manufacture of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products and in alcoholic beverages. Local communities cut the leaves of the plant at the base and drain the sap, which they then sell to dealers who process it into a rock-hard dark green paste, primarily for export.

"The sap from the leaves of *A. secundiflora* has a high percentage of water, which has to be removed to form a stable paste. Local dealers process the sap into paste by heating it in drums mounted on traditional three-stone fuelwood cooking stoves. The *icipe*-led study found that this processing method utilises approximately 4.1 tonnes (4,100 kilogrammes) of fuelwood to process one tonne of paste," notes Dr Lwande.

Given that about 11 tonnes of *A. secundiflora* paste is produced annually in Kenya, its processing therefore consumes an estimated 45 tonnes of fuelwood, which is sourced from the meager vegetation resources in the semi-arid areas. Such large quantities of fuelwood not only contribute to deforestation and loss of biodiversity but also to carbon dioxide green house gas emissions, whose long term effects include environmental and land degradation and climate change respectively, observes Dr Lwande.

However, the *icipe*-led researchers found that the required temperature range of 90 to 100°centigrades is easily attainable using solar cookers, utilising solar energy that is free and abundant, especially in the semi-arid and arid areas of Africa where *A. secundiflora* grows, Dr Lwande further explains.

The researchers also established that the paste obtained from *A. secundiflora* sap using solar concentrating technology was more stable and of higher quality and value. For instance, the paste had a higher content of Aloin A, compared to that produced using either electricity or fuelwood.

Aloin A (or Barbaloin) is an anthraquinone glycoside, a bitter, yellow-brown coloured compound found in the exudates of *Aloe* species.

The compound is used as a stimulant laxative in treating constipation and as a bittering agent in commercial alcoholic beverages. Aloin content is generally used as a standard measure of the quality of *Aloe* extracts.

"The variations in Aloin content in *A. secundiflora* paste produced using solar, electricity and fuelwood energy could be attributed to possible changes in thermo-chemical reactions in the sap. For instance, the use of fuelwood could result in overheating, while solar energy provides a more gentle heating process. We also found solar energy to be more efficient in reducing the water content of *A. secundiflora* leaf sap as compared to electricity and fuelwood energy, thereby providing a more stable paste," explains *icipe* scientist, Dr. Wilber Lwande.

"Based on the results of the study, we conclude that solar concentration technology is an attractive alternative to using fuelwood to process *A. secundiflora* leaf sap into paste. In the long term, the use of solar energy as a substitute for fuelwood energy would contribute to reduced deforestation, environmental degradation, global warming and climate change. It would also improve biodiversity conservation and reduce the burden on women and children associated with collecting and transporting fuelwood," Dr Lwande said.



The Ethiopian Herald

CEPF launches 9.8 mln. USD to preserve Eastern Afromontane Hotspot



Bale Mountains National Park Ethiopia (source CEPF)

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) launched 9.8 million USD investment programme to preserve Eastern Afromontane hotspot that includes the Arabian Peninsula, the Ethiopian Highlands, the Albertine Rift and the Eastern Arc and Southern Highlands.

French Ambassador to Ethiopia, Brigitte Collet said at the launching ceremony which was held last Friday on the premises of Alliance Ethio-Française that active involvement of civil societies and NGOs in environmental protection is key to sustain the planet.

She indicated that both economic and human development cannot be realized at the expense of the environment. Thus, it is essential to preserve nature for the sake of human survival. In this regard, the French government with other stakeholders is ready to support these kind of initiatives, the Ambassador added.

The French government together with local environmental protection agencies have been undertaking in environmental protection activities in various parts of Ethiopia, the Ambassador noted.

“Since 1990 important efforts have been made in Ethiopia. But much is expected to protect the country's unique ecosystem and its exceptional biodiversity,” she added.

Pierre Carret, adviser to CEPF Executive Director said on the occasion that Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot is one of the most extraordinary places on Earth, and is remarkable for both its high level biological diversity and life sustaining systems it maintains for the benefit of millions of peoples. Thus, active involvement of civil societies, NGOs and government will have a key role in sustaining mother earth.

The region's unique biological attributes, as well as its economic and cultural importance, led the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to prioritize the region and develop an investment strategy and develop an investment strategy, he noted.

Institute of Biodiversity Conservation Director General, Gemedo Dale (PhD) said because of its geographical position, altitude, rainfall pattern and soil variability, Ethiopia has an immense ecological diversity and has vital contribution to the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, he added.

“Climate change and unsustainable utilization of natural resources have increased the pressure on Ethiopian's natural resources, and it is our responsibility to ensure that the necessary systems are in place to promote conservation and sustainable utilization of Ethiopia's Biodiversity.”

CPEF Investment programme in Afromontane Hotspot will address the human well being, biodiversity challenges, Gemedo said.

The region's unique biological attributes, as well as its economic and cultural importance, led the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to prioritize the region and develop an investment strategy.

The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot which stretches over a curving arc of widely scattered but biogeographically similar mountains from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique and Zimbabwe is one of the Earth's 35 biodiversity hotspots, the most biologically rich yet threatened areas around the globe. It covers an area of more than 1 million square kilometers and runs over a distance of more than 7,000 kilometers.

CJ Caribbean Journal

Protecting Grenada's Biodiversity

March 15, 2013 | 5:27 pm | Print



Above: Grenada (Photo: DG)

By the Caribbean Journal staff

Grenada's government is leading an initiative to strengthen environmental protection for the country's Key Biodiversity Areas, which include the Mount Hartman National Park and the Beausejour/Grenville Vale.

The initiative is a partnership between Grenada's Forestry and National Parks Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Grenada Dove Conservation Programme. Both are home to the critically endangered Grenada Dove.

The government said it will be implementing several activities in each area to ensure the conservation of Grenada's ecosystem, particularly the Dove. That will be done jointly with the Grenada Dove Conservation Programme.

Both areas have been recognized as Important Bird Areas by Bird Life International.

Grenada is preparing an "awareness plan," which will include a song competition and school presentations; the erection of billboards and boundary signs and the construction of a birding trail at Beausejour.

The Grenada Dove Conservation Programme received funding for the project from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, which launched in November 2012 and will last through April 2014.

An additional plan is to create livelihood opportunities in surrounding areas, the government said this week.

SCIENCE CODEX

UEA research reveals catastrophic loss of Cambodia's tropical flooded grasslands

posted on: march 17, 2013 - 11:30pm



Around half of Cambodia's tropical flooded grasslands have been lost in just 10 years according to new research from the University of East Anglia.

The seasonally flooded grasslands around the Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake, are of great importance for biodiversity and a refuge for 11 globally-threatened bird species. They are also a vital fishing, grazing, and traditional rice farming resource for around 1.1 million people.

Research published today in the journal *Conservation Biology* quantifies for the first time the area's catastrophic loss of tropical flooded grassland.

The grassland area spanned 3349 km² in 1995, but by 2005 it had been reduced to just 1817 km² – a loss of 46 per cent.

Despite conservation efforts in some areas, it has continued to shrink rapidly since, with a further 19 per cent lost in four years (2005-2009) from the key remaining grassland area in the southeast of the Tonle Sap floodplain.

Factors include intensive commercial rice farming with construction of irrigation channels, which is often illegal. Some areas have also been lost to scrubland where traditional, low-intensity agricultural activity has been abandoned.

The research has been led by Dr Charlotte Packman from UEA's school of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Program and BirdLife International. It was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

Dr Packman said: "Tropical and flooded grasslands are among the most threatened ecosystems globally. The area around the Tonle Sap lake is the largest remaining tropical flooded grassland in Southeast Asia. It is hugely important to both biodiversity and the livelihoods of some of the world's poorest communities. Our research shows that these grasslands are disappearing at an alarming rate.

"These unique grasslands are home to many threatened birds including by far the largest remaining population of the critically endangered Bengal florican - the world's rarest bustard. This bird has experienced a dramatic population decline of 44 per cent in seven years due to the destruction of its grassland habitat. Other birds under threat in this area include sarus cranes, storks, ibises and eagles.

"Rural communities have been left vulnerable to land-grabbing and privatisation of -communal grasslands. Traditional, low-intensity use of the grasslands by these communities, such as burning and cattle-grazing, help to maintain the grasslands and prevent scrubland from invading.



Around half of Cambodia's tropical flooded grasslands have been lost in just 10 years according to new research from the University of East Anglia. The seasonally flooded grasslands around the Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake, are of great importance for biodiversity and a refuge for 11 globally-threatened bird species, including the Bengal Florican. They are also a vital fishing, grazing, and traditional rice farming resource for around 1.1 million people.

(Photo Credit: Dr. Charlotte Packman / University of East Anglia)

"Intensive commercial rice production by private companies, involving the construction of huge channels and reservoirs for irrigation, is denying local communities access to the grasslands on which their livelihoods depend and destroying a very important habitat for threatened wildlife.

"This high-speed conversion and land-grabbing has intensified pressure on already threatened species and on the marginalised rural communities that depend on the grassland ecosystem.

"The loss of this entire ecosystem from Southeast Asia is imminent without immediate intervention. In 2009 only 173 km² of grassland were under some form of protection, but by 2011 even these protected areas were shrinking – with 28 per cent lost to intensive cultivation.

"Flooded grasslands in Thailand and Vietnam have already been almost completely lost. Only a strong political commitment to protection and restoration can prevent the impending loss of the last major flooded grassland in Southeast Asia."

Researchers compared aerial photographs taken in 2005 with land cover maps from 1995 and 1996. They found that the greatest losses had occurred in the north and west and in inner floodplain areas. The least affected area was in the southeast of the floodplain.

They then collected habitat information from almost 1,000 points to establish the rate of habitat change between 2005 and 2009 in the largest remaining area of grassland. This showed that grassland in the key

southeast area had declined from 923 km² to 751 km² in just four years. Almost all of this loss was attributable to either intensive rice cultivation, which had risen by 666 per cent during that period, or associated newly constructed reservoirs.

Dr Packman added: "Between 1995/1996 and 2005, the encroachment of scrubland was the major cause of grassland loss, due to a reduction in traditional, low intensity agricultural practices in the grasslands. Since 2005, intensive rice cultivation by private companies has rapidly become the most serious threat to these grasslands, destroying huge areas at a very alarming rate."



The seasonally flooded grasslands around the Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake, are of great importance for biodiversity and a refuge for 11 globally-threatened bird species, including Sarus Cranes.

(Photo Credit: Dr. Charlotte Packman / University of East Anglia)

Source: University of East Anglia

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STRENGTHEN PROTECTION OF GRENADA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Monday, 18 March 2013 15:51



The Forestry and National Parks Department (FNPD) in the Ministry of Agriculture has collaborated with the Grenada Dove Conservation Programme (GDGP) on an initiative to further strengthen the protection of two of Grenada's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) – the Mt. Hartman National Park KBA and the recently cabinet approved Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA.

These KBAs are home to the critically endangered Grenada Dove, and have received international recognition by Bird Life International as Important Bird Areas.

The Forestry Department and GDGP will be implementing several activities in these KBAs that will enable the conservation of Grenada's ecosystems and biodiversity particularly the Grenada Dove.

Additionally, this initiative will create livelihood opportunities for neighbouring communities and assist Grenada in meeting its obligations to international conventions.

Some of the planned activities include the implementation of an awareness plan which comprises a song competition and school presentations; the erection of billboards and boundary signs at these sites and the construction of a birding trail at the Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA.

Presently, community meetings are being held and are continuing to identify livelihood opportunities for residents and the establishment of a stakeholder management team.

Funding for this Project was received from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and was started in November 2012 and is intended to continue until April 2014.

The Project is titled "Strengthening the Legal Protection of Mt. Hartman National Park KBA and Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA in Grenada" and is facilitated by Ms. Bonnie Rusk, Founding Director of GDGP.

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THE JORDAN TIMES

RSCN ‘first Jordanian partner’ in Mediterranean Basin biodiversity project

by Rhiannon Williams | Mar 20, 2013 | 22:18

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature will use a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to develop a management plan for the Mujib Biosphere Reserve (Photo by Muath Freij)

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) has become the first beneficiary of a grant that seeks to protect biodiversity in Jordan and the surrounding Mediterranean Basin, according to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The RSCN will use the grant to develop a management plan for the Mujib Biosphere Reserve.

Birdlife International, in cooperation with the CEPF, will distribute grants to civil society organisations that submit proposals pertaining to relevant conservation efforts in Jordan.

There are two types of grants, ranging between \$20,000 and \$1 million, according to Nina Marshall, managing director of CEPF.

A total of \$10.4 million has been allocated by CEPF donors to the region, Marshall told The Jordan Times in an interview on Wednesday.

The contract with RSCN, signed last week, is the first of its kind in Jordan.

Marshall highlighted the importance of the role that the RSCN will play in the Mujib area.

“It [RSCN’s work] is really exciting. . . without a definitive management plan, it will be hard to ensure the long-term survival of this area,” she said.

The collaboration will fund non-governmental groups working in biodiversity hotspots, enabling “civil society to participate in and benefit from conserving some of the world’s most critical ecosystems”, according to the CEPF website.

The importance of the project, Marshall said, is the involvement of civil society groups in the process, as this integrates normal people into the culture of biodiversity and conservation, thus making it more sustainable and approachable.

The venture seeks to create networks and partnerships in the region as “going it alone, without the participation of civil society, simply is not sustainable in the long run”.

“We have seen that in this region there is a lack of awareness about the importance of biodiversity,” Marshall said, voicing hope that this will change as more factions of civil society become involved, through funding, in the conservation of the environment.

“We are seeking the positive interaction and integration of major organisations and civil society in the realm of sustaining ecosystems,” Mohammed Yousef, programme leader of Birdlife’s regional implementation team, said.

Those eligible for funding come under the collaboration’s broad definition of what constitutes civil society.

“NGOs, community groups, universities, groups from the private sector and individuals may apply,” Marshall said.

In addition to the Mujib reserve, the Jordan River is the only other “priority hotspot” in the Kingdom.

According to Marshall, there have so far been no applications made to Birdlife International and CEPF to implement projects there.

Jordan falls into the category of the South Syria and North Jordan corridor, which has 16 priority biodiversity hotspots in total.

Currently, conservation in Syria has been halted due to the two-year old crisis.

Jordan is also part of the Mediterranean Basin, the second largest global biodiversity hotspot in the world. Stretching across 34 countries, it covers more than two-million square kilometres in total.

It is the third richest hotspot in the world in terms of diversity of plants, hosting over 13,000 endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.

After five years of success, CEPF commits \$10 million more to Indo-Burma hotspot

Posted by **admin** on March 26th, 2013



Bengal Florican is one of the many species to benefit from CEPF investment in Indochina (Allan Michaud) Five years ago, in response to the environmental crisis engulfing mainland South-East Asia, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) launched a \$ 10 million grantsprogramme to conserve the critical ecosystems of the Indo-Burma Hotspot.

The programme is guided by a strategy developed by hundreds of conservationists and researchers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, and coordinated by a Regional Implementation Team from BirdLife International.

Now grant recipients, donors and government partners from across the region have come together for a three-day workshop, to reflect on the lessons of the first five years, and look forward to an expanded second phase of investment.

To date CEPF has awarded more than 110 grants to international and national NGOs, universities, community groups and other types of civil society organisation. Collectively, the recipients of these grants have strengthened the management of conservation areas covering over 1.5 million hectares; established four new protected areas to fill key gaps in the region's protected area system; integrated biodiversity-friendly management practices into production landscapes in the fisheries, forestry and agriculture sectors; and delivered tangible livelihood benefits to over 100 rural communities.

“Thanks to CEPF, the last five years have seen the emergence of a broader, more active and more confident conservation community in the Indo-Burma Hotspot”, said Jonathan C. Eames OBE, manager of BirdLife's

Regional Implementation Team. “We see local civil society most active in areas where international organisations are not, such as supporting livelihood-based conservation interventions, advocacy and education. Correspondingly, international organisations can be expected to play continued vital roles in applied conservation science and planning, capacities that local civil society organisations often lack and struggle to build.”

The second phase of CEPF funding will involve a geographic expansion to China and Myanmar, bringing the list of countries eligible for grants to six.

[The list of CEPF-funded projects in Indo-Burma](#)

[Download the ecosystem profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot](#)

CEPF is a joint program of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

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ដាក់បញ្ចូលថ្ងៃ 27 March 2013, 17:36 AEST

តាមសេចក្តីប្រកាសព័ត៌មានរបស់អង្គការជីវិតសត្វស្លាបអន្តរជាតិ (BirdLife International) បានឲ្យដឹងថា មូលនិធិជីវចម្រុះបានកំពុងពិនិត្យមើលលើភាពជោគជ័យក្នុងរយៈពេលប្រាំឆ្នាំកន្លងមក និងប្តេជ្ញាបន្តផ្តល់មូលនិធិចំនួន ១០លានដុល្លារបន្ថែមទៀត ដល់ការងារអភិរក្សនៅអាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍សម្រាប់ទីតាំងភូមិសាស្ត្រសំខាន់ៗដែលគេហៅថាតំបន់ឥណ្ឌូភូមាហត់ស្តុត (Indo-Burma Hotspot)។



សត្វកន្ទាយក្បាលកង្កែបជាសត្វកម្រដែលមាននៅកម្ពុជា។ រូបភាពផ្តល់ដោយអង្គការ BirdLife (Credit: Audience Submitted)

ថ្ងៃនេះក្រុមអ្នកទទួលបានជំនួយ ម្ចាស់ជំនួយ និងដៃគូដែលជាភ្នាក់ងាររដ្ឋាភិបាលមកពីគ្រប់ប្រទេសក្នុងតំបន់បានមកជួបជុំគ្នាក្នុងសិក្ខាសាលារយៈពេលបីថ្ងៃនៅទីក្រុងភ្នំពេញ ដើម្បីបង្ហាញពីករណីសិក្សាដែលទទួលបានបន្ទាប់ពីអនុវត្តគម្រោងអភិរក្សបរិស្ថានរយៈពេលចំនួន ៥ឆ្នាំកន្លងមកនៅតំបន់អាស៊ីអាគ្នេយ៍។

មូលនិធិភាពជាដៃគូប្រព័ន្ធអេកូឡូស៊ីទទួលបានការគាំទ្រកំហែង (CEPF) នឹងផ្តល់មូលនិធិប្រមាណ ១០លានដុល្លារអាមេរិក ដោយផ្អែកលើផែនការយុទ្ធសាស្ត្រដែលបានចងក្រងដោយក្រុមអ្នកអភិរក្ស និងអ្នកស្រាវជ្រាវជាច្រើនរយនាក់មកពីប្រទេសកម្ពុជា ឡាវ ថៃ និងវៀតណាម។

Expert pushes for more research in Western Ghats

Stanley Pinto, TNN Mar 30, 2013, 12.48PM IST

MANGALORE: Researchers at the Conservation Research Group (CRG) at St. Albert's College, Kochi who described four new fish species during the last one year, have added one more in its kitty. The group discovered a new species of stone loach from the Silent Valley National Park. The findings have been published in the latest issue of the peer reviewed journal, Journal of Threatened Taxa.

The new species of freshwater fish, named *Balitora jalpalli*, is a species of ray-finned fish in the Balitoridae family.

The species is currently known only from a single stream of the Kunthipuzha tributary of the larger Bharatapuzha River and has been named the species 'jalpalli' - sanskrit word jal for water and palli for lizard - for the lizard like appearance and its habit of clinging on to rocks.

Discoveries such as this shows that our understanding of fish diversity in the Western Ghats is still limited, and there is a need for increased surveys and taxonomic research in this region," said Rajeev Raghavan, [South Asia](#) Co-Chair: IUCN-SSC Freshwater Fish Specialist Group and one of the co-authors of the study.

He said the new species (*Balitora jalpalli*) was collected in June 2010 by the team comprising of Josin Tharian, Anvar Ali, Neelesh Dahanukar, and himself when they were exploring the streams of Silent Valley as part of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) project that focused on assessing the status of poorly known freshwater fishes of Western Ghats .

Rajeev said: The paper describing the new species was submitted to the Journal in July 2012 and the review process - where at least two experts go through the findings and validate the results - took around seven months before it was finally accepted last month.

Regarding the significance, Rajeev said: Significance of the discovery from a regional point of view is that although there have been many ichthyological surveys conducted in the Silent Valley in the last two decades, a new fish is being described after a gap of 11 years since 2002. Apart from *Balitora jalpalli*, the group's other discoveries in the last one year have been: *Pristolepis rubripinnis* - described from Pampa river in Kerala, the other three species - *Pseudolaguvia lapillicola*, *Pangio ammophila* and *Dario urops* - were described from Karnataka. *Pseudolaguvia lapillicola* and *Pangio ammophila* were described from Kumaradhara near the town of Subrahmanya in Dakshina Kannada District while *Dario urops* was described from near Barapole in Kodagu.



Liz Smith

CEPF RIT Manager: Mediterranean Basin Hotspot

"I manage the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's (CEPF) Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation, and promote innovative partnerships between NGOs, government, local communities and landowners to enhance conservation and connectivity in the region. The RIT is still fairly new, formed in October 2012, but we've already granted a number of large and small projects and initiated new partnerships within the Hotspot.

After my Geography degree I worked in the online fundraising sector managing

charities, and volunteered for a few wildlife NGOs. I did an internship in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, carrying out biodiversity surveys. I witnessed the impact of oil in the region, and the pressures on indigenous people, as well as the incredible range of species in the relatively small reserve I was working in. After my time there, I knew it was a sector that I needed to work in.

The Mediterranean Basin is the world's second largest hotspot, and covers a vast range of habitats including cedar forests in the mountains of Lebanon, the unique aquatic ecosystems of the Macedonian lakes, and Algerian wetlands that are vitally important for wintering waterbirds. This size is a challenge when we want to

communicate the fund to all stakeholders in the region. The RIT is made up of members spread throughout the Hotspot, looking after their key regions—the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East.

There are many threats to biodiversity, especially poor water management, and pressure from over-population, tourism and agriculture, with some countries dealing with significant socioeconomic problems and civil unrest. In countries such as Libya and Algeria, NGOs need targeted support, and so the RIT has focused on capacity-building and encouraging civil society participation.

The team includes experts from two BirdLife Partners, Slovenia and France, as well as

staff in the Middle East office. The team have worked in their regions for decades and know first-hand the challenges civil society organisations face when attempting to work on these projects. We believe in the importance of local knowledge and partnerships.

I feel incredibly lucky to be working with both BirdLife and CEPF, as both have such similar priorities. BirdLife's Partners are incredibly important, with their expert insight and contacts with key stakeholders, and their deep knowledge of what is needed by their regional ecosystems, giving us a richer understanding of the challenges we face, and more importantly, the vast potential for successful projects."