

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-First Meeting of the Donor Council
Conservation International, Arlington, VA

18 December 2012
8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Twenty-first Meeting of the Donor Council on 11 June 2012. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

Follow-up to decisions made during the Twentieth Meeting of CEPF Donor Council
Partnership Highlights
Featured New Grants
Highlights from the Field
Approved Grants (1 January 2012 – 31 March 2012)

A financial summary is also included.

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

During the 21st meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 11 June 2012, the Donor Council made the following requests of the Secretariat.

- *Circulate to the Donor Council members within two weeks of each Donor Council meeting a list of key questions/issues the Secretariat will follow-up on, which will also be included at the end of the minutes for the meeting (and also, with status updates, in the Executive Director's Report for the next meeting).*

The list of key questions/issues for follow-up was circulated on 22 June 2012.

- *Share its record of communications with GEF focal points in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, and to report back to the Donor Council at the end of the 60-day no-objection period regarding successes and difficulties in engaging the focal points.*

Included in this packet (page 22) is a table showing all interactions with GEF focal points in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot prior to the expiration of the 60-day no-objection period, and through November 2012.

Engagement with GEF operational focal points has been occurring in each of the portfolios at multiple points in the CEPF life cycle, from ecosystem profile development to the final stages of consolidation grants. As indicated by the included table of interactions with the focal points in Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, we continue to meet with varying levels of success in our attempts at engagement, in some cases achieving active endorsement of the profile, in some cases having very positive interactions leading up to the no-objection endorsement, and in some cases being unable to truly interact. CEPF has been able to secure the endorsement of both Ethiopia and Burundi and has had very positive interactions with the focal points of DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. These positive interactions lead us to believe that there would not be any reason for objections from the GEF focal points in these countries. Most recently in the Eastern Afromontane, in advance of the mobilization of the RIT, we have engaged with personnel from the South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation to ensure that this country's nascent government, without a formal focal point, is properly engaged. Efforts to engage focal points and other government officials will continue through the life of the investment. Now that the RIT is contracted and is becoming to be actively functional it will be easier to continue to reach out to responsive and not-so-responsive focal points to secure their support and coordination of the implementation of our portfolio in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot

Other hotspots provide good examples of focal point engagement. In the recently completed ecosystem profiling exercise for the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot, the GEF operational focal points for Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated in the profiling exercise by sending representatives to the national and regional consultation workshops and supporting data collation activities. Throughout the process, close coordination with the focal points was sought to ensure alignment between the CEPF investment strategy and the goals of the respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. In South Africa, a grant director met with that country's focal point in September to provide a briefing on our work and to solicit advice on the future direction of CEPF in the country. In the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, GEF focal points from all 15 eligible countries (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Croatia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Albania and Turkey) have been included in the e-mail updates distributed on 23 March, 16 May, 3 July and finally 27 September 2012 updating them on the progress made in contracting the Regional Implementation Team and the review of the letters of inquiry received. In Polynesia-Micronesia, the focal points have been invited to the planned five-year assessment workshop to ensure future connections between grantees and GEF-funded efforts.

CEPF appreciates the importance of engaging and working with the focal points, who are typically in a position to ensure leveraging of our grants and promulgate the broader goals of the ecosystem profile in a given hotspot. Nevertheless, we also understand that focal points' priorities and workloads may not always align with our outreach efforts. This is particularly likely in countries where CEPF is expected to have only a very small footprint (e.g., some of the countries in the Eastern Afrotropical) or where the focal point's portfolio of responsibility is much greater than that of CEPF. In light of these experiences, the Secretariat will continue to work hard to understand the focal points' individual challenges and ensure that our portfolios complement their efforts.

- *Report to donors at the next meeting on how CEPF is engaging local, regional and national governments.*

Included in this packet (page 24) is a table listing recent engagement with government at national and local levels conducted by CEPF staff, profiling or regional implementation teams and grantees. It demonstrates that government engagement is an integral component of the CEPF program at both the profiling stage (pre-investment) and the investment/strategy implementation stage. Though these are recent examples, such engagement has always been central to CEPF's activities, and will continue to be. It is an element of the program that is emphasized at the start of profiling in a region; during the training of the regional implementation team at the start of the investment; in the RIT and

Secretariat guidance to grantees; through the course of investments via such entities as technical advisory groups; and during portfolio-level mid-term and final assessments.

- *Report back to the donors at the next meeting regarding how to achieve wider use/adoption of the ecosystem profiles.*

CEPF has been successful, particularly in the last 3 years, at making the Ecosystem Profiles become document that extend beyond CEPF's audiences. By emphasizing during the profiling process the process of building a common vision for the civil society in the regions where we work, other donors, particularly private foundations, have begun to see the value of participating in our efforts and adopting the ecosystem profiles as their own strategies.

Examples of this include the Mediterranean region where two private foundations, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Mava Foundation supported the preparation of the profile co-funding with CEPF and accompanying the process through the development of the document. The profiling process of the Mediterranean Basin was the first basin-wide effort bringing together close to 50 organizations to define common priorities to protect its unique biodiversity. The results that the profiling process showed were so well regarded, that both foundations adopted the profile approved by the Donor Council as integral parts of their granting strategies.

Replicating this successful process, a year later in the Indo-Burma hotspot, the Secretariat led the updating of the ecosystem profile, coordinating the effort initially for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the MacKnight Foundation and the nascent Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. CEPF's support was very opportune as the updating of the profile came at a time when the first two foundations were re-defining their investment strategies in the Mekong River and the last was defining their very first granting strategy for the lower Mekong Basin. With financial support of these three foundations CEPF was able to update the profile and then present it to the Donor Council for its approval and consideration of reinvestment in the region. With the approved portfolio for reinvestment in IndoBurma, CEPF's investment of \$8.6 million will be leveraging close to \$30 million from the 3 foundations in this region. Further, the three foundations have adopted the ecosystem profile in its entirety as their investment strategies closely coordinating with CEPF so there is perfect synergy and strong complementarity of funding to achieve the goals of the strategy defined in the ecosystem profile.

The impact of the ecosystem profile as a process goes well beyond the CEPF funded profiles. Thanks to our donors l'Agence Française de Développement and the MacArthur Foundation, other organizations have begun replicating the process in regions where CEPF is not currently investing. For example, with the financial support of AFD, CI's

Pacific Island Program led the development of the ecosystem profile for New Caledonia. Similarly and with the financial support of the MacArthur Foundation, ShanShui, a local organization in China is developing the ecosystem profile for the upper Mekong River Basin.

These experiences are strong evidence that the profiling process is not only useful to other donors who are present and currently investing in the regions where CEPF is active, but the process as a strategy definition method, that brings together a wide arrange of partners and helps build up a common vision that is then shared by many, is something that is being valued and used well beyond CEPF regions and partners.

- *Present a history of CEPF staffing at the next meeting.*
A table showing CEPF's staffing is enclosed on page 28 this packet.
- *Circulate the results of the Mid-Term review that was completed in August 2011.*
Questions about this will be discussed during the next Donor Council Meeting.

During the 22nd meeting of the Donor Council in 11 June 2012, Valerie Hickey of the World Bank was going to walk the donor members through the result of the mid-term review tha the Bank performed in August 2011. Due to time limitations during the meeting, the presentation did not happen. The Secretariat however shared the results of the mid-term review in the package for the 22nd meeting of the Donor Council where we included the copy of the complete report.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Program Overview (as of September 30, 2012)

Hotspot strategies implemented: 22

Partners supported: 1,706

Committed grants: \$151 million

Amount leveraged by those grants: \$343 million

Protected areas created or expanded with CEPF support: 12.7 million hectares

EC's Addition to the Partnership Announced at CBD Conference

During the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Hyderabad, India, the Secretariat held a reception and dinner on 15 October 2012 to announce the European Union's commitment to joining CEPF, and to welcome the EU to the partnership. For more on these events and other activities conducted in conjunction with COP 11, see the brief report included in this packet.

MacArthur Increases Support to CEPF through the Indo-Burma Portfolio

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has added to its commitment to CEPF by contributing \$425,000 for the strategy in Indo-Burma. The focus of the contribution is the small grants program managed by the CEPF regional implementation team and will serve to sustain progress made in the CEPF strategy as CEPF transitions from its initial five-year investment to its recently approved reinvestment in Indo-Burma.

Working Group Meetings Held

The Working Group convened at the Secretariat's request in August and September to provide input and guidance on several key issues. At the meeting held 1 August, the Working Group:

- Reviewed the prioritized list of hotspots where CEPF has previously invested and recommended to the Donor Council reinvestment in two regions: Madagascar and the Guinean Forests of West Africa.
- Reviewed the draft of the updated ecosystem profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot. The draft was very positively received, and Working Group members congratulated the CEPF Secretariat on the level of detail in the document, the extent of the consultation process, and, especially, the use of the profile to coordinate investments by multiple donors under a single strategy. Working Group members' comments were incorporated into the draft profile, which was then submitted to the Donor Council for final approval.
- Provided input and recommended for Donor Council approval a suite of amendments to the Operational Manual to strengthen and clarify a subset of CEPF operational policies related to Secretariat operations and sub-grantee management and monitoring. These modifications reflect developments over the course of the last year such as the updated monitoring framework, and procurement and safeguard policies required by the World Bank.

During the meeting held 26 September the Working Group reviewed the draft ecosystem profile for the East Melanesian Islands. The document was very positively received. Working Group members congratulated the profiling team on the quality of the document, the comprehensiveness of its contents, and the inclusion of quantitative targets. Working Group members were supportive of the strong emphasis on capacity building and the proposal to extend the typical five-year investment period to eight years to allow sufficient time for effective partnerships and enduring capacity to be built. Working Group members' comments were incorporated into the draft profile, which was submitted to the Donor Council for approval. The requested approval of the profile is on the agenda for the 18 December Donor Council meeting.

Electronic Approvals Received from Donor Council

In July, the Donor Council was asked to approve on a no-objection basis an increase of \$378,000 in the spending authority for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, from \$9.5 million to \$9.878 million. The approval, received on 26 July, allows CEPF to expand the Indo-Burma small grants mechanism with \$378,000 of the \$425,000 granted by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

In August, Donor Council members received a request from the Secretariat for electronic no-objection approval of the Secretariat's recommended regions for reinvestment, following review of the prioritized list of regions and the Secretariat's recommendations by the Working Group. The Secretariat also recommended the investment of \$1.5 million remaining in the consolidation budget be invested in a two-year extension of the Western Ghats investment to boost gains being made in the region. Donor Council approval for reinvestment in Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands and the Guinean Forest of West Africa hotspots, and the allocation of the additional funding to the Western Ghats region, was effective 26 September. Also in August, the Donor Council approved on a no-objection basis revisions to the Operational Manual as recommended by the Working Group.

In September, upon the recommendation of the Working Group, the Secretariat submitted to the Donor Council for electronic no-objection approval the final draft of the updated ecosystem profile for Indo-Burma. The document updates the original version, prepared in 2003, which informed the first phase of CEPF investment in the hotspot between 2008 and 2013. The Donor Council decided during the 21st meeting held in 1 June 2012 to approve reinvestment in Indo-Burma and modify the consolidation strategy replacing it with full reinvestment portfolios. On 23 October 2012, the Donor Council approved the updated ecosystem profile allowing for a seamless transition between investment phases, sustaining the momentum of civil society-led conservation efforts in one of the most critically threatened hotspots, and leveraging funding of the foundations that supported the profiling process. It is expected that the RIT for the second phase of CEPF investment in Indo-Burma will be selected during early 2013, in preparation for launch of the investment phase in mid-2013.

In October, upon recommendation of the Working Group, the Secretariat submitted to the Donor Council for approval the final draft of the ecosystem profile of the East Melanesia Islands Hotspot. A presentation is scheduled for the 22nd meeting of the Donor Council to take place on 18 December 2012.

Mediterranean Basin RIT Training Conducted

In September the Secretariat traveled to BirdLife's Global Headquarters in Cambridge, UK, to undertake the training of the Mediterranean Basin regional implementation team (RIT) in CEPF's policies, procedures, World Bank safeguards, best practices that underpin grantmaking, as well as the data management systems. The RIT is lead by Mohammed Yousef and Liz Smith in BirdLife's Middle East and Cambridge offices, respectively, with the assistance of the project officers Awatef Abiadh for North Africa, Sharif al Jbour for Middle East and Borut Rubinić for the Balkan states. The combination of BirdLife International, Birdlife Middle East, La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux and Society for Protection and Study of Birds in Slovenia is proving to be a promising strategy to manage a very diverse region with local organizations that will truly and effectively represent CEPF in the Mediterranean Basin. This is a formidable team that has already provided significant, relevant input combined with regional knowledge and historical perspective on past investments in many of the priority sites and corridors for which we have received applications.

The RIT was also able to review the 40 letters of inquiry (LOIs) that had been pending the recruiting of the RIT as well as planning a second call for proposals, review processes and communication strategy. Four of the submitted LOIs were identified as of sufficient quality to request proposals.

RIT Contracted for Eastern Afromontane Hotspot

Following the approval of the Donor Council in June, the regional implementation team for Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was contracted. The RIT is comprised of three organizations: IUCN, the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and BirdLife International, under the leadership of the latter. The consortium will supervise the implementation of a \$9.8 million investment in this hotspot, with 14 eligible countries stretching over 7,000 kilometers from north to south. Among the assets of the consortium is their large network of local partners in all the eligible countries, and their ability to work in all the priority sites for the hotspot.

A first call for proposals was launched upon contracting of the RIT. This call is restricted so far to the second strategic direction, which focuses on improving the protection and management of the most important and threatened KBAs in the hotspot.

First Steps Taken for Contracting Wallacea Profile Development

Following the Donor Council decision to invest in the Wallacea Hotspot, the Secretariat issued a request for expressions of interest from qualified organizations to lead the profiling process. Following the procurement requirements of the grant agreement with the World Bank for the replenishment of the contribution of the Government of Japan, CEPF is selecting the ecosystem profiling team through Quality Based Selection World Bank procurement procedures. Once the short list of interested organizations is approved by the Bank, the Secretariat will invite respondents to submit a full proposal and proceed to select the best candidate.

CEPF Co-hosted Francophone Event at the World Conservation Congress

On 9 September, CEPF and partner organizations convened a social event for the Francophone conservation community at the venue for the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Jeju, South Korea. Co-hosted by the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), Mava Foundation, IUCN Netherlands and CEPF Secretariat, the event was attended by more than 120 people from all over the world. CEPF donors, including AFD and CI, and representatives of foundations and funding initiatives including Save Our Species, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, le Fonds de dotation pour la Biodiversité, were able to meet and discuss—in French—conservation issues and activities with colleagues, friends and potential partners from about 30 countries.

The event included a brief speech from François-Xavier Duporge, director of FFEM, followed by Lynda Mansson, director of Mava Foundation, and Jan Kamstra from IUCN Netherlands. Among the attendees were André Hoffmann, president of Mava Foundation, Gilles Kleitz from AFD, and Jacques Trouviliez, head of the official French delegation at the WCC.

FEATURED NEW GRANTS

Lao Grant for Critically Endangered Species, Capacity Building

In July 2012, a small grant was awarded to the Lao Wildlife Conservation Association for a project to evaluate the conservation status of the Critically Endangered Indochinese silvered leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus germaini*) in Dong Phou Vieng National Protected Area, Savannakhet province, Lao PDR. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen local capacity for monitoring of the species and responding to threats. The focus of the grant is Dong Sakee Sacred Forest, which supports a viable population of the species that has been protected by traditional beliefs and taboos, which are gradually eroding. In addition to these direct aims, the grant is also intended to support the emergence of the Lao Wildlife Conservation Association: one of a small cohort of biodiversity-focused civil society organizations established in Lao PDR after the government permitted registration of domestic NGOs in 2009.

Complementary Grants in Southern Mozambique

With the award of nine small and large grant in June-September 2012, CEPF now has a suite of grantees operating in Mozambique's southernmost province of Maputo and working to strengthen two large key biodiversity areas—Ponto d'Ouro and the Licuati Forests—with a combined area of 485,000 hectares. The challenges in the area are manifold and are typical of any region with an “emerging” protected area system: unclear understanding of the species and ecosystems; unclear boundaries of protected land and user rights; families previously displaced by war returning to a difficult agricultural landscape; weak governance structures; a weak protected area authority; and looming foreign investment into a major coastal port with associated road and rail infrastructure.

In response, CEPF has made a set of grants that purposefully complement one another or directly work together. These include grants to CESVI, an Italian community development organization; Birdlife South Africa (promoting birding tourism in southern Mozambique); the African Safari Lodge Foundation (helping design an eco-tourism coastal lodge); Centro Terra Viva (conducting sea turtle nesting site monitoring and protection); ORAM (promoting improved local governance in the application of environmental laws); and VIDA, LUPA, and Kuwuka, each promoting improved land use and sustainable livelihood activities in different parts of the province. CESVI has been given the lead role as the coordinator of the other grantees. Together, the grants, for a combined \$1 million, represent one of the largest conservation investments in the region.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

The Wilderness Foundation, an organization based in Port Elizabeth in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, is facilitating the creation of a corridor in an area noted for the presence of a range of Red Listed Species (especially the larger charismatic threatened mammals, such as the Cape Mountain zebra and black wildebeest, and a number of high altitude plant endemics) and its potential importance as a climate change adaptation corridor. Working in the high plains and mountains about three hours drive northwest of Port Elizabeth, the Wilderness Foundation is working in a footprint that covers 520,000 hectares of privately owned farm land, privately

owned conservation areas and two national parks. The two national parks—Mountain Zebra and Camdeboo—are the anchors in an eventual corridor of legally protected lands.

The Foundation is now working with significant and motivated land-owners like those of the Mt. Camdeboo Private Game Reserve and Plains of Camdeboo Private Nature Reserve, plus the approximately other 125 farm owners in the area to discuss stewardship options for conservation. From a political-economic standpoint, the Foundation enjoys an enviable position to foster the cooperation needed for success, with a relatively few and a relatively homogeneous set of stakeholders, a small number of authorities (e.g., one province, four districts, SANParks), clear and step-wise legal mechanisms to effect conservation, and motivated partners. SANParks, in particular, is leveraging part of an \$8.5 million GEF allocation toward corridor creation. The project is well on target to formally place 30,000 hectares of land under protection, but could conceivably triple that amount while affecting the entire production landscape.

We also wish to highlight the RIT itself, Wildlands Conservation Trust, for using its role with CEPF to leverage additional resources toward the goals espoused in the ecosystem profile. With a formal announcement in June 2012, and program beginning in July, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs provided \$3.7 million via the Youth Environmental Services Programme to employ 200 youth (age 18-35) per year over three years to perform community services in the environmental field. They will work on projects such as restoration, alien plant removal and environmental education in key biodiversity areas in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Wildlands, as the formal “implementing agency,” is able to direct this labor toward complementing or directly supporting the work of ongoing and future grants.

Polynesia-Micronesia

The CEPF-funded Pacific Islands Species Forum provided the first opportunity for scientists, researchers, policy-makers, and conservation practitioners to convene and share scientific knowledge and research relating specifically to species conservation in the Pacific. One of the outcomes of the forum was the establishment of the set of recommendations directed at governments and organizations working on species conservation in the region. These recommendations are expected to contribute to national and regional planning as well as understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets. In particular they can be used to assist governments in achieving Target-12: *By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.* At the same time the information received can also feed into Target 5, which relates to the reduction of habitat loss; Target 9, which aims to control and eradicate invasive species and Target 11, concerning the establishment of terrestrial and marine protected areas; and Target 20, which seeks to share and apply biodiversity knowledge.

The success of this forum can be seen in the interest that it has generated through the establishment of the Steering Committee with members from various regional organizations and universities. The University of the South Pacific also has expressed strong interest in leading the second Pacific Islands Species Forum, with the aim to host the event every two years. This is a strong indication of sustainability and that CEPF investment is worthwhile given the interested generated for the next forum.

Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests

In September Conservation International's remote sensing team worked with David Moyer, an experienced aerial survey pilot, biologist and former head of The East Africa Flight Programme with the Wildlife Conservation Society, to undertake the Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) over flights of a number of key sites within the Eastern Arc Mountains. The team completed 23 flying hours and obtained 24,000 high-resolution images. These will be used to ground truth the analysis of satellite images, guiding the classification of the LANDSAT satellite data which will provide an update on the forest cover change since 2000 as a baseline for REDD+ initiatives.

Tropical Andes

In Peru, Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integral (AIDER) helped local governments and stakeholders achieve several critical milestones under the grant entitled Preparing Peru's Madre de Dios Region for REDD+. This project has helped to bring diverse stakeholders together to advance a framework for REDD+ in one of Peru's most important areas for biological and cultural diversity. Stakeholders approved a methodology for measuring deforestation based on analysis developed by Peru's Agrarian University. The project helped build the institutional capacity of the local coordinating stakeholder group by several measures, including helping to develop internal operating procedures and the creation of subcommittees for environmental and social safeguard policies. In addition, several training activities have advanced, including the training of young leaders from five native communities who will in turn provide training on REDD+ in their communities.

Southern Mesoamerica

As part of the closing of the consolidation phase of Southern Mesoamerica by the end of the 2012, CEPF's support to the Fundación Para el Desarrollo Integral, Comunitario y Conservación de los Ecosistemas en Panamá (FUNDICCEP), a local NGO based in the buffer zone of La Amistad International Biosphere Reserve, closed in August. CEPF has supported FUNDICCEP since 2004. The grant helped to achieve several critical advances to build a vibrant local civil society sector which has made important gains in promoting sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Eleven community-based groups on the Pacific Ocean sector of La Amistad have successfully undertaken a variety of sustainable development activities, including environmental education, sustainable agriculture and ecotourism. CEPF's efforts to promote conservation coffee also have borne fruit, as a small coffee growers association built a coffee bean processing plant from a \$300,000 donation from the Government of Japan, based on the CEPF-funded conservation coffee strategy. The plant enabled the association to export their coffee to Europe, and to triple their income, with immense social benefits. On the Caribbean side of La Amistad, formerly disparate and institutionally weak indigenous civil society groups built their capacity and, for the first time in their history, now work under a network. While these groups still require support, they have managed to secure funds beyond CEPF. One very important accomplishment achieved with project staff assistance is a law passed earlier in the year in Panama that prohibits large-scale development—particularly mining, dam and road development—in the Ngobe-Bugle indigenous territory. The passage of the law was a major, hard-won achievement in response to plans to launch of series of large-scale development projects that would have had major environmental and social impacts.

Tumbes- Chocó -Magdalena

As the consolidation portfolio in Ecuador begins to wind down, CEPF's grant to Universidad San Francisco de Quito (ECOLAP) came to fruition, achieving strengthened management of more than 221,860 hectares in Cotacachi-Cayapas and Manglares Cayapas Mataje ecological reserves while helping seven communities to derive direct and indirect benefits.

In Manglares Cayapas Mataje Ecological Reserve, ECOLAP helped to update its management plan and develop a sustainable financing plan that has attracted pledges from the IDB and KfW for 2013, building on the efforts started by CEPF. In Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve, which contains a picturesque crater lake just two hours north of Quito, ECOLAP devoted effort to promoting cultural and ecological tourism, including the development of the "Sacred Route" trail and bicycle touring that will allow local communities and the protected area to generate additional revenues from tourism. These efforts have resulted in the government's approval of the plans and an entrance fee scheme to allow local communities to benefit, while also securing new funding to implement the plan. In both protected areas, the project funded boundary demarcation of strategic areas, establishment of local management committees to formally engage local communities in park management, environmental education that reached more than 1,500 people, and development and implementation of park patrolling plans that included significant park guard training. The impact of these efforts is notable, as ECOLAP reports that pressure from loggers and shrimp farmers in the protected areas has been reduced, while community support has increased.

Western Ghats

In India, CEPF grantee Snehakunja Trust has been working to restore degraded *Myristica* swamps, the most threatened ecosystem in the Western Ghats, and an important source of fresh water and other ecosystem services. The Snehakunja Trust has developed and implemented pilot models to restore degraded swamps, using decentralized, community-managed tree nurseries and engaging local communities in restoration efforts. The approach piloted under the project has been successful in restoring three swamps and providing diverse benefits to local communities, including value addition to non-timber forest products, and seedlings of economically important tree species. The pilot models have been so successful that the project team was invited by the chairman of the Western Ghats Task Force for Karnataka state to prepare a plan of action for long-term conservation and management of *Myristica* swamps. This plan, which covers 67 swamps in Uttara Kannada district mapped by the project, has been included into the 13th five-year plan of the state government, with an indicative budget allocation of nearly \$1 million. This is a good example of the power of CEPF projects in testing innovative approaches to ecosystem conservation and benefit sharing, and using the results to inform government policy and budgetary allocations.

Indo-Burma

In Lao PDR, CEPF grantee ElefantAsia has been working to conserve the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) population in the "Land of a Million Elephants." The French NGO has benefited from CEPF support to secure the captive elephant population in the country and, thereby, safeguard remaining wild populations. Specifically, ElefantAsia has worked with mahouts across the country to microchip and register 479 captive elephants (more than 95

percent of the captive population), thus inhibiting illegal export of these animals (which are vulnerable to illegal transnational trade) or ‘laundering’ of wild elephants (which are taken illegally from the wild and tamed for domestic purposes). The grant also conducted a population viability analysis of Lao's elephants, which concluded that the population had a 100 percent probability of extinction without increased breeding and a halt on export. The results of this analysis were used to promote science-based population management by the government, and to introduce an incentive system for mahouts to increase pregnancies of captive elephants. To date, a “baby bonus scheme” has seen three elephants born and several confirmed pregnancies, considered positive initial results for the long-term conservation of elephants in the country.

Caucasus

In the Caucasus Hotspot, one of the key grants under the consolidation phase has been to the Caucasus Nature Fund, in support of its operations and fundraising. The fund is emerging as a long-term financing mechanism for protected areas in the lower Caucasus countries, and is key to consolidating the results of the initial CEPF investment phase with regard to protected area expansion and capacity strengthening. During 2012, the Caucasus Nature Fund invested €810,000 in the management of 11 protected areas: four in Georgia, six in Armenia and one in Azerbaijan. In total, these three countries contain 48 protected areas, meaning that 20 percent are currently supported by the fund, representing 441,414 hectares out of total protected area coverage of 1.4 million hectares. The three national governments contributed €975,000 in match funding, which is a strong indication of support to protected area management. As well as supporting the operations on the fund, the CEPF grant supports fundraising efforts to attain long-term financial sustainability for the fund. During the first phase, the CNF was able to raise €7 million; today, it is up to €16 million. If the fund keeps growing at its present rate, supporting the entire PA system in the three countries would be a realistic goal. The fund’s success with leveraging funds from the private sector is a positive sign in this regard, with contributions from Bank of Georgia and HSBC Armenia during 2012.

Report on CEPF Activities at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference

In conjunction with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund held a reception October 15, 2012, in Hyderabad, India, announcing the addition of the European Union to its group of global donor partners and its contribution of €18 million to CEPF’s global efforts.



About 170 people attended the reception, which featured speakers Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Karl Falkenberg, Director General of the Environment with the European Commission; Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility; Kazuaki Hoshino, Deputy Director General of the Nature Conservation Bureau with the Japan Ministry of the Environment; and Gilles Kleitz, Senior Biodiversity Programme Manager of l'Agence Française de

Développement. CEPF also took the opportunity to thank its grantees, several of which sent representatives to the event.

Following the reception, a formal dinner was held for CEPF donors, partners, heads of delegations and other conservation and government representatives, providing an opportunity to further discuss CEPF's strategic investments and opportunities for synergies with other initiatives.

CEPF thanks its donor partners, including our new partner the European Union, for its participation and support for these events.

- A gallery of photos from the event can be viewed at:
<http://www.cepf.net/multimedia/Pages/Multimedia.aspx?galleryid=35>
- A new video, shown at the reception, can be viewed at:
http://www.cepf.net/multimedia/Pages/CEPF_overview_video.aspx

Also, During October 2012, two site visits for Working Group members were arranged to CEPF grants in the Western Ghats Region, in conjunction with the CBD meeting. During October 13 and 14, Gilles Kleitz of l'Agence Française de Développement, Jérôme Petit of the European Commission, and Yoko Watanabe of the Global Environment Facility visited the Shencottah Gap in Kerala State, together with CEPF's Patricia Zurita and Jack Tordoff. During the visit, they met with Bhaskar Acharya, RIT Project Coordinator working with ATREE and CEPF grantees Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and French Institute of Pondicherry to learn about work on payment for ecosystem services, bioinformatics and commodity certification as a contribution to green economies. During October 19 to 24, Valerie Hickey and Elisabeth Mealey of the World Bank visited the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu State, accompanied by Jack Tordoff of CEPF and Bhaskar Acharya and Jagdish Krishnaswamy from the RIT at ATREE. The trip was an opportunity to learn about CEPF's systems and policies with regard to proposal review and social and environmental safeguards, as well as to meet with grantees from 10 projects piloting a wide variety of innovative conservation models in the Western Ghats.

Additionally, CEPF hosted a booth at the CBD conference, where the public and participants in the conference could visit, see CEPF videos and talk with CEPF staff. And the following is a translation of a Japanese newspaper story written by a reporter who interviewed CEPF Executive Director Patricia Zurita at the conference.

Ecosystem Conservation: Stop Destruction and Support Protection

By Akemi Kanda
Asahi Newspaper, 2012/11/6, p.12

Nature is being lost at an alarming speed today worldwide. United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity COP11 was held in October in India to discuss the ways to halt this loss and advance the conservation and restoration of ecosystems.

The biggest issue was to secure the needed finance. The developing countries demanded a large increase and proposed in the begging of the conference to double the finance by 2015 and increase by 20% annually thereafter until 2020. Japan insisted that there should be robust criteria before setting a specific target, which met criticism. Japan supported the proposal that EU proposed on the final day to double the finance by 2020.

The conference continued beyond schedule. It was almost the midnight when applause of "agreement" was heard from the room where the COP Presidency India gathered major Parties for an informal meeting.

The interim target after extremely delicate compromises was, against the baseline of 2006-2010, to double the international financial flow to developing countries by 2015 and maintain at least that level until 2020. It was close to what developing countries demanded, but included South-South cooperation to reflect the developed countries' claims. It also includes private funding.

Thus, it does not mean that each country will double the finance, but as the largest donor in this sector, Japan will inevitably be demanded for substantial contribution. Japan's average annual ODA during 2006-2010 was USD1.21 billion, which shared 28% of the total of all developed countries.

Why does it take such a big sum of funds? What has to be done to remove the obstacles? I interviewed Ms Patricia Zurita, the Executive Director of CEPF, a fund that supports developing countries. Japan contributes USD 5 million annually to this fund. She responded: "It costs much more to restore ecosystems. It costs much less to protect than destroy and then restore. It is not a cost, but an investment for the future."

For instance, it costs a huge sum to restore tropical forests after cutting them down for timber or agriculture. It takes long time too. In a "Green Economy" in which environmental conservation and development are both considered, although the short-term return might be small, the long-term expenditure will be kept much lower and be sustainable.

Many industries, such as food and medicine, depend on healthy ecosystems. CBD's Executive Secretary, Dr. Dias, said to the industries that they are the major users of biodiversity and should

be responsible. At the same time, this means that all people who benefits from those industries are also responsible.

Other Recent CEPF Media Placements

- *From Europolitics*

18 mn euro to Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

EU to contribute 18 mn euro to Critical Ecosystem

Partnership Fund

By Anne Eckstein | Monday 15 October 2012

The European Commission announced, on 15 October, at the 11th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) being held in Hyderabad, India, until 19 October, that it will contribute €18 million over five years to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for the protection of biodiversity in threatened areas. The announcement is welcome as the conference heads into the final straight with the high-level ministerial session, from 17 to 19 October, at which the question of the financing of commitments made two years ago in Nagoya, Japan, will be the touchiest subject.

“We see the CEPF as a key mechanism for reaching local communities, civil society organisations and private sector actors in the world’s biodiversity hotspots that are eager to conserve their natural wealth,” said Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik. The commissioner, who will attend the ministerial session in India, adds that the EU “values the efficiency and effectiveness the CEPF has demonstrated over the last 12 years in building capacity in civil society to implement conservation projects that support critical ecosystems and enhance the livelihoods of local communities”.

The EU financing will come from the ‘Environment and sustainable management of natural resources’ programme, which helps developing countries and partner organisations tackle environmental and natural resource management issues. The Commission notes that by joining the CEPF partnership, it confirms its commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Aichi targets for 2020 agreed in Nagoya two years ago. The targets are a master plan for sustaining biological diversity and ecosystem services.

“By joining the CEPF, the Commission is further demonstrating its drive to halt biodiversity loss while improving human well-being,” said CEPF’s Executive Director, Patricia Zurita, who is pleased to see CEPF’s partnership continue to grow. “The contribution of the European Commission will allow the CEPF to expand the impact of the fund, making it possible for a greater number of people and organisations to access international support for local conservation in more places around the world,” she added.

Since its founding in 2000, the CEPF has awarded US\$148 million in grants to more than 1,700 beneficiaries in 60 developing and transition countries. These subsidies have led to the protection of over 12 million hectares, better management of another 29 million hectares of key biodiversity areas, and more than 3.6 million hectares of landscapes used to produce food or other commodities. The fund has also helped grantees leverage an additional €340 million for their initiatives. The additional financing from the Commission will bring total contributions to the CEPF to US\$270 million since its inception.

Background

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency), Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the government of Japan, the MacArthur

Foundation, the World Bank and the European Commission. It aims to engage civil society in biodiversity conservation. Concretely, the CEPF supports a variety of conservation and sustainable development approaches to implement its strategies, including creation and improved management of protected areas, enhanced management of productive landscapes, mainstreaming of environmental concerns into development planning, and sustainable livelihood training and implementation in and near key biodiversity areas. Further information is available at www.cepf.net/Pages/default.aspx

- *From Jaringnews.com, an Indonesia news outlet*

Kamis, 18 Oktober 2012 12:11 WIB

Uni Eropa Sumbang 18 Miliar Euro untuk Kelestarian Hutan dan Habitatnya Silvia Werner



XI Conference of Parties (CoP) on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) di Hyderabad, India (Foto: Ist)

EU menjadi mitra yang ke-7 bagi Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

HYDERABAD, Jaringnews.com - Pada XI Conference of Parties (CoP) on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) di Hyderabad, India terungkap bahwa Program Lingkungan PBB (UNEP) membutuhkan 40 miliar dollar AS (sekitar 30 miliar Euro) per tahun untuk mengurangi kepunahan hutan dan habitat-habitat lainnya sampai tahun 2020. Sampai sekarang ini, Komisi EU hanya menjanjikan akan memberi 18 miliar Euro dalam 5 tahun yang akan datang kepada Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Dengan adanya janji kontribusi 18 miliar Euro pada CEPF, EU menjadi mitra yang ke-7 Fund tersebut, di samping badan bantuan pembangunan Perancis AFD (Agence Francaise de

Development), organisasi konservasi AS Conservation International, pemerintah Jepang, Global Environment Facility PBB dan Bank Dunia. Total dana CEPF ditambah dengan kontribusi Komisi EU kini telah mencapai 270 miliar dollar AS sejak Fund itu didirikan pada tahun 2000.

Walaupun jumlah dananya asih tergolong kecil untuk mengatasi masalah-masalah yang ada, menurut Komisaris Lingkungan EU, Janez Potocnik, CEPF telah menjadi "kunci untuk menjangkau masyarakat lokal, LSM dan protagonis dari sektor swasta yang berkeinginan untuk memelihara kekayaan hayati". Dalam dua belas tahun yang lalu, Fund tersebut sudah membuktikan efektivitasnya dalam penerapan langkah-langkah perlindungan untuk ekosistem-ekosistem yang ada dalam bahaya. Fund ini juga berhasil memperbaiki mata pencaharian masyarakat lokal.

Sejak CEPF mulai bekerja pada tahun 2000 telah tersedia 148 miliar dollar AS untuk 1,700 penerima di 60 negara berkembang. Hasilnya, ada 12 miliar hektar kawasan konservasi baru, serta perluasan daerah konservasi yang ada. Ada juga perbaikan pada pengelolaan lahan untuk 29 juta hektar "daerah kunci untuk biodiversitas" serta sekitar 3.6 juta hektar lahan pertanian.

Sebagaimana diberitakan **Jaringnews.com** sebelumnya, COP ke-11 ini berlangsung mulai **8-19 Oktober 2012** didahului dengan COP-MOP 6 (Meeting on Parties - Cartagena Protocol on Biosavety) pada 1-5 Oktober 2012.

- ***From a Jordanian TV show, an interview on the CEPF Mediterranean Hotspot Investment by Mohammed Yousef***

(In Arabic)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02CaY51a6zM&feature=youtu.be>

- ***From The Jordan Times***

Fund launched to protect biodiversity in Mediterranean Basin

BirdLife International has launched a fund to finance projects that preserve the environment in the Mediterranean Basin, one of the world's largest biodiversity hotspots, representatives of the group said.

AMMAN - BirdLife International has launched a fund to finance projects that preserve the environment in the Mediterranean Basin, one of the world's largest biodiversity hotspots, representatives of the group said.

The fund is a five-year conservation investment in the Mediterranean Basin that seeks to preserve biodiversity and the environment by engaging and building the capacity of civil society

organisations, said Ibrahim Khader, regional director of BirdLife International's Middle East Division. "The Mediterranean Basin is the second largest global biodiversity hotspot, covering more than two million square kilometres across 34 countries and territories. It stretches from Portugal to Jordan and from northern Italy to Cape Verde," Khader said. The Mediterranean Basin is one of the biological wonders of the world and is the third richest biological hotspot in the world, with more than 13,000 endemic species found nowhere else on Earth, he noted. "The primary threat in the hotspot is habitat loss due to increasing pressure on water resources, agricultural intensification, land abandonment, and infrastructure and residential development," Khader told reporters at a meeting on Wednesday.

BirdLife International will announce a call for proposals twice a year for small grants worth up to \$20,000 and large grants of up to \$1 million, according to the regional director. "NGOs, community groups, universities, private enterprises and individuals may apply for funding from all countries eligible for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) support," Khader added. CEPF is a joint conservation initiative that seeks to engage civil society in biodiversity conservation, according to BirdLife International. CEPF Programme Leader at BirdLife International's Middle East Division Mohammed Yousef said that the grants awarded to civil society organisations will work towards safeguarding globally threatened species and critical sites in the Mediterranean Basin. "The investments will promote innovative partnerships to enhance conservation and connectivity in five landscape corridors in the basin and conserve globally threatened species through systematic planning and action," Yousef said.

The concept of biodiversity hotspots was proposed by environmentalist Norman Myers in 1998 to describe regions with significant numbers of endemic plants and high levels of habitat loss. To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria: It must contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics, and it has to have lost at least 70 percent of its primary vegetation, according to Conservation International.

Eastern Afromontane Focal Point Actions as of June 2012

Country	Focal Point Name	Formal Request	Wolfensohn Letter	Subsequent Actions
Burundi	Epimaque Murengerantwari	22-Dec-11	17-Apr-12	E-mail clarifications between Grant Director (GD) and Focal Point in April led to formal endorsement on 23-Apr-12.
Congo, DR	Vincent Kasulu Seya Makonga	22-Dec-11	17-Apr-12	GD e-mail clarifications (25-Jan), telephone briefing (23-Apr), follow-up e-mail to advisor (14-May) and new advisor (30-May). Positive interaction gives no reason to assume any objections.
Eritrea	Mogos Woldeyohannes	7-Feb-12	17-Apr-12	GD e-mail follow-up (27-Apr). No reply to messages.
Ethiopia	Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher	7-Feb-12	17-Apr-12	GD e-mail follow-up in April; endorsement on 2-May-12
Kenya	Ayub Macharia	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	Denied request for personal briefing by GD when he was in-country in February; telephone discussion on 20-Apr. Interaction to date gives no reason to assume any objections.
Malawi	Aloysius Mphatso Kamperewera	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	No reply to messages; no answer at telephone numbers listed on GEF website. Last attempt on 20-Apr-12.
Mozambique	Marilia Telma Antonio Manjate	8-Feb-12	17-Apr-12	GD provided personal briefing to Focal Point's assistant in-country (5-Mar). Confusion from Focal Point's assistant, as well as World Bank and AFD, that endorsement of Maputaland profile (given 2-Nov-11) did not also cover EAM. However, positive interaction gives no reason to assume any objections.
Rwanda	Rose Mukankomeje	22-Dec-11	17-Apr-12	GD e-mail exchanges (23-Apr, 30-May). Positive interaction gives no reason to assume any objections.
South Sudan	No named focal point	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	Ongoing discussion between GD and Minasona Lero Peter, Director within the Directorate of Wildlife Management of the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation between September and November 2012. Peter reports that absent a focal point, the Minister requires the briefing. Hard copy of map and Profile sent via mail on 15-Nov-12.
Tanzania	Julius Ningu	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	Personal briefing by GD in-country (4-Apr).
Uganda	Keith Muhakanizi	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	No reply to messages; no answer at telephone numbers listed on GEF website. Last attempt on 20-Apr-12
Yemen	Mahmoud M. Shidiwah	7-Feb-12	17-Apr-12	No reply to GD follow-up e-mails (23-Apr, 30-May).
Zambia	Kenneth Nkowan	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	No reply to messages; no answer at telephone numbers listed on

				GEF website. Last attempt on 20-Apr-12.
Zimbabwe	Irvin D. Kunene	30-Jan-12	17-Apr-12	Telephone briefing by GD on 20-Apr-12 followed by further e-mail (20-Apr). Positive interaction gives no reason to assume any objections.

CEPF Interactions with Government Agencies

Hotspot	Recent Government Interactions
<p>Caucasus (consolidation)</p>	<p>The four consolidation grantees in the Caucasus continue to coordinate closely with relevant government agencies to ensure smooth implementation of their projects. Three of the four grants have provision of support to government for the establishment and management strengthening of protected areas as an explicit objective. Consequently, they are being implemented in close partnership with relevant government agencies.</p>
<p>East Melanesian Islands (profiling)</p>	<p>Over the last six months, the ecosystem profiling process in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot came to a close. The stakeholder consultation process involved consultations at subnational (provincial), national and regional levels, all of which engaged government staff. The process culminated with a regional workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands in May 2012, which was attended by government representatives from the three hotspot countries. The government of Vanuatu was represented by Donna Kalfatak of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The government of the Solomon Islands was represented by Chanel Iroi, Tia Masolo and Trevor Maeda of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, Disaster Management and Meteorology, and Danny Kennedy of the government of Western Province. The government of Papua New Guinea was represented by Ronald Gumaira of the Department of Environment and Conservation.</p> <p>Throughout the ecosystem profiling process, the GEF Operational Focal Points in the three countries have been regularly updated about progress, and strong efforts have been made to align the CEPF investment strategy with the goals of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The focal points have seconded staff to support the process as national coordinators, which has ensured good alignment between the CEPF strategy and other existing conservation programs. Such alignment is especially important given the limited capacity of governments in these island nations to coordinate development assistance.</p>
<p>Eastern Arc & Coastal Forests (consolidation)</p>	<p>In Kenya and Tanzania, BirdLife as part of the data consolidation grant they have made the following contacts with government representatives, including:</p> <p>Tanzania</p> <p>1. 28-31 May 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hulda Gideon, who heads the Commission of Science & Technology of Tanzania. · Tanzania National REDD taskforce secretariat office: Spoke to Faustine Ninga, who explained that the secretariat's role is to monitor REDD implementation at National level, advise the Tanzanian government on REDD issues, and make recommendations. · University of Dar es Salaam Department of Zoology: Spoke to the head of

	<p>Zoology Department, Cuthbert L. Nahonyo, and Chacha Werema. Visited Department of Botany and spoke to the head of department, Henry Ndangalasi.</p> <p>· Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI): Met the director of production research, Siima Bakengesa.</p> <p>Kenya</p> <p>Contacts have been made through Nature Kenya’s National Liaison Committee, which is mainly composed of relevant government and civil society representation on matters relating to biodiversity conservation. The CEPF data consolidation issues have been on the agenda for the last two meetings: 19 July 2012 and 15 Nov 2012.</p>
Indo-Burma	<p>In Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam (where the bulk of CEPF grant making under the first investment phase has taken place), the RIT has constituted National Advisory Groups (NAGs), comprising representatives of government, donor agencies, NGOs and academia. The NAGs oversee the development of the CEPF portfolio in each country and provide strategic guidance to the RIT. Regional staff from AFD, CI, JICA and the World Bank have been invited to participate, while the GEF is represented in the form of the national operational focal point and the GEF Small Grants Program coordinator in each country. NAG meetings provide an opportunity for coordination with CEPF donors and national governments. Already, a number of opportunities for collaboration have arisen out of these meetings.</p> <p>The NAGs met most recently in July 2012. At the NAG meeting in Cambodia, the government was represented by Om Pisey of the Ministry of Environment (representative of the GEF operational focal point) and Priach Pich Phirun of the Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. At the NAG meeting in Lao PDR, the government was represented by Sangvane Bouavong of the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. At the NAG meeting in Vietnam, the government was represented by Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.</p> <p>All civil society organizations based in the Indo-Burma Hotspot work in close coordination with relevant government agencies, at central and local levels. Indeed, government agencies are implementing partners for the majority of CEPF grants in the hotspot, especially those involving on-the-ground work on conservation management. CEPF grantees report to their government counterparts on a regular basis and, across the portfolio as a whole, these contacts are undoubtedly occurring on a daily basis.</p>
Madagascar (consolidation)	<p>A presentation of the Node Program was made to the Ministry of Environment and Forest representative to explain our strategy and our activities to involve local based community to well manage natural resources by helping them in livelihood micro-projects. The Node assessment document set up by the external evaluator has been given to this MEF representative.</p>

	<p>At a regional level: mayors and local government representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock were invited during a workshop organized by ANAE (one of our Node partners) to together determine a better mechanism and criteria for selecting micro-projects to be funded under the Node project, and to clarify roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and local partners in the implementation of the NODE program.</p>
<p>Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany</p>	<p>The nature of CEPF's work in MPAH practically demands regular engagement with local, provincial and national government representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 ongoing grants promoting formal land stewardship designation by provincial authorities in KwaZulu-Natal or the Eastern Cape require direct partnership with protected-area management agencies and, ultimately, provincial Member of the Executive Council, who formally approves stewardship declaration. • Three grants promoting improved management of existing protected areas in Swaziland, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape require direct partnership with park authorities. • Local economic development and community engagement grants in the city of Port Elizabeth, the town of Keiskammahoek, and in southern Mozambique's Matutuine District require endorsement and partnership with local elected officials. <p>In addition, the chairman of the RIT, Wildlands Conservation Trust, has quarterly meetings with the governor of KwaZulu-Natal to advise him on environmental matters in the province, including the efforts of CEPF grants. Further, the RIT provides regular input to the primary protected area authority in the province, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and in October, led with Ezemvelo a provincial symposium on conservation efforts. The symposium had multiple government stakeholders in attendance.</p>
<p>Mountains of Southwest China (consolidation)</p>	<p>Most of the consolidation grants have explicit goals of supporting formulation and implementation of conservation policy by government, particularly in relation to community co-managed protected areas. There is close and regular liaison with relevant government agencies to implement these grants.</p>
<p>Polynesia-Micronesia</p>	<p>A representative of the RIT met with the assistant chief executive officer of the Samoan Ministry of Environment and Conservation, Faleafaga Toni Tipamaa, and two of his principal officers. Their ministry is very much involved in most of the CEPF projects being implemented in the country. The CEO for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, who is also the GEF operational focal point, officially opened the Regional Myna Bird Workshop, which was attended by government officials from Samoa as well as from other Pacific islands. This was the first type of workshop on invasive birds held in the Pacific, with most funding support coming from CEPF. The Samoan government has made it a priority to remove myna birds and CEPF</p>

	<p>support for this training helps Samoa implement its National Invasive Species Action Strategy capacity building activities.</p>
<p>Succulent Karoo (consolidation)</p>	<p>CEPF has five ongoing consolidation grants in the Succulent Karoo, covering parts of South Africa's Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces and southwest Namibia. By design, each of these grants involves, or even requires, integral engagement with representatives of local, provincial and national agencies, and often with elected officials. Grants in the Western Cape and southwest Namibia are designed to strengthen particular provincial and national parks, respectively, and necessitate engagement with park managers, headquarters-based authorities, and the surrounding municipal and district authorities who are natural stakeholders in sustainable management of these protected areas. Grants in the Northern Cape and its district of Namaqualand promote replication of land stewardship and mainstreaming of biodiversity into development planning at provincial and district levels, thus requiring engagement from the level of municipal leaders up to provincial Members of the Executive Council. It is not an overstatement to say that in this hotspot, CEPF grantees have a consistent, if not daily engagement with their government counterparts.</p>
<p>Western Ghats</p>	<p>Over the last six months a series of mini-workshops were held across the Western Ghats to bring together grantees working in similar geographic areas to share experience, update one another about their work, and identify opportunities for collaboration. It was felt that these workshops would be a good opportunity to engage the government, in the form of the Forest Department, and keep them up to date on progress with CEPF implementation. To this end, the relevant district forest officers were invited to attend each workshop, and were able to do so in some, but not all, cases.</p> <p>More generally, the RIT pays close attention to ensuring that grantees liaise closely with the relevant local government agencies. In particular, the RIT monitors the implementation of each grant to ensure that, wherever required, the grantee applies for and obtains permission from the Forest Department for any fieldwork they intend to carry out.</p> <p>Despite ensuring good communication between grantees and government at the local level, the RIT still needs to do more to communicate the results of the CEPF grants portfolio to key government stakeholders at subnational (state) and national levels. This has been identified as a weakness in RIT performance in the last two supervision missions, and the RIT has agreed to recruit a dedicated communications officer, responsible for disseminating the results of the portfolio to government officers at all levels.</p>

CEPF staff evolution 2000 - 2012														
Position	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Notes
Executive Director	Jorgen Thomsen								Bobbie Jo Kelso	Patricia Zurita				Bobbie Jo Kelso (acting)
Executive Asst	Melinda Threatt/Kim St. Aubin										Ines Castro			
Head, External Affairs & Communications							Bobbie Jo Kelso							
Manager, Ext Affairs							Rebecca Filbey							
Managing/Assistant Director	Nancy Sherman			Roberto Martin		Dan Martin			Nina Marshall					
Senior Director, Business Development	Donnell Oker													
Head, Finance	Lisa Dean					Robert Kurkjian		Lisa Dean			John De Wei		Resource shared with CI	
Manager, Finance	Manager												Carol Hu, Adam Nielsen	
Coordinator, Finance	Coordinator												Kevin McNulty; Whitney Hodde, Deborah Aragao; La Sans Crawford	
Head, GMU	Sarah Douglass						Deborah Rainey						Resource shared with CI	
Coordinator, GMU	Coordinator												Sabrina Boyer, Yantee Neufville, Rebecca Christopher, Jeremy Jarvis, Ani Zamgochian, Tina Schneider, Kristina Razon;	
Coordinator, GMU	Coordinator												Leanne Miller; Kelly Keehan; Monali Patel; Debra Eschmeyer; Amy Gilbert,	
Coordinator, GMU	Coordinator												Alison Blank, Laura Johnston, Russell Frandsen. Some of these coordinators are/were shared resources with CI	
Grant Director	Jason Cole				Daniela Lerda		Dan Rothberg							
Grant Director	Nina Marshall								Pierre Carret				Pierre Carret is a secondee of the French Government	
Grant Director	Michele Zador													
Grant Director	Judy Mills					Chris Holtz			Jack Tordoff					
Grant Director	John Watkin													
Asst Grant Director	Cao Dan													
Asst Grant Director	John Watkin													
Head, Communications													Julie Shaw	
Writer														
Web Manager									Mary Alice	Julie Shaw				
Coordinator, Communications							Christine Potochny			Emily Rudge			Maren Hozempa	
Info Management							Evy Wilkins							
Info Management							Jim Ragle							
Info Management							Kristanne Cornell							

Approved Grants

From: July 01, 2012 To: September 30, 2012

Caribbean Islands

Strategic Direction 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas

Building Local Management Capacity and Conservation Plans to Save Endangered Frogs in Four High Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Hispaniola

In close coordination with sub-grantees Société Audubon in Haiti and Grupo Jaragua in the Dominican Republic, this grant supports amphibian conservation in four key biodiversity areas in Hispaniola. Components include strengthening the technical capacity of 50 local conservationists and community members, establishment of a bi-national network of 17 institutions, conducting baseline ecological field work (including determination of the presence of chytrid fungus), developing site-based amphibian management guidelines, and conducting relevant environmental education for communities and the general public.

Funding: \$152,379

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 8/31/2014

Grantee: The Zoological Society of Philadelphia

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

Ecotourism and Biodiversity Protection Project for the Kamacroubou Mountain and Diamond Village Community

Create a nature trail to preserve the natural environment and increase economic opportunities for the Diamond Village community through the development of ecotourism activities. Reforest the Kamacroubou watershed area in St. Vincent to ensure proper conservation of soil and water, and raise public awareness on the importance of forest conservation and conservation practices.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 7/1/2012 - 3/31/2013

Grantee: Diamond Village Community Heritage Organisation

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Building Capacity for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihoods for the Long-Term Conservation and Management of Key Biodiversity Areas in Grenada

Incorporate the Beausejour/Grenville Vale, Mount Hartman National Park and Moliniere marine protected areas into the Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) project. Develop sustainable local tourism activities and livelihood opportunities for local communities in and around the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Develop a marketing plan, build birding trails and infrastructure (e.g., observation platforms and towers), create interpretive signs and other outreach materials, rehabilitate tourist attractions, develop new recreational activities, and train interpretive guides and small-business owners to provide employment and highlight and conserve the unique biodiversity in Grenada.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 10/1/2012 - 9/30/2013

Grantee: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (RIT) and a broad constituency of civil society groups built across institutional and political boundaries

Eastern Afromontane-1, RIT Administration

Birdlife International leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. The program is based out of Birdlife's Nairobi offices. Birdlife is joined in its consortium by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via its offices in Kenya and Mozambique. Together, this consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.

Funding: \$919,395

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 8/31/2017

Grantee: Birdlife International

Eastern Afromontane-2, RIT Programs

Birdlife International leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. The program is based out of Birdlife's Nairobi offices. Birdlife is joined in its consortium by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), based in Adis Ababa, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via its offices in Kenya and Mozambique. Together, this consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.

Funding: \$477,717

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 8/31/2017

Grantee: Birdlife International

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Strategic Direction 1. Strengthen protection and management in undercapacitated and emerging protected areas in priority Key Biodiversity Areas

A Consortium Approach to the Reduction of Human Pressure on the Futi Corridor in Matutuine District

CESVI, an Italian NGO with long-standing operations in Mozambique, is coordinating its own work and that of three Mozambican CEPF grantees—Kuwuka, LUPA and ORAM—in the southern district of Matutuine. The four groups are working in 11 small communities to promote

sustainable resource use and alternative livelihoods in the area surrounding the Futi Corridor, a protected landscape designed to create an elephant migration corridor across the border to South Africa. CESVI is building the capacity of its partner grantees, working with the local economic development authorities, and creating and strengthening formal community natural resource use committees per Mozambican law.

Funding: \$250,400

Grant Term: 8/1/2012 - 1/31/2014

Grantee: Cesvi Onlus

Biodiversity Conservation in Futi Corridor Project, Matutuine District, Maputo, Mozambique

LUPA is working in the southern Mozambique district of Matutuine along with three parallel grants implemented by CESVI, ORAM, and Kuwuka JDA. LUPA is helping establish natural resource committees in 11 communities, forging links between the private sector and communities, and promoting small income-generating activities.

Funding: \$99,600

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 2/28/2014

Grantee: LUPA – Association for Community Development

Titsonba Ta Hina (Our Wealth) - Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Consolidation of Small-Scale Farmers' Rights in the Use of Land and Other Natural Resources in the Futi Corridor

ORAM is part of a consortium of organizations implementing complementary grants in the Matutuine District of Southern Mozambique, working alongside CEPF grantees CESVI, Kuwuka JDA and LUPA. ORAM, as a local civil society organization, will have formal representation on district and provincial fora dealing with environmental conservation issues, assist 11 communities so that they have functional natural resource committees, work with 330 family farms to have more environmentally friendly production practices, and work with 187 individuals on small-scale sustainable natural resource-based livelihood activities.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 2/28/2014

Grantee: ORAM - Associacao Rural de Ajuda Mutua

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

Wildlife ACT Fund Community Conservation Project

Wildlife Africa Conservation Team (ACT) is conducting an education project around Somkhanda Game Reserve. Their efforts target two main communities: KwaGumbi and Pongola-Ncotshane areas. The project aims to bring participants into wild places for experiential education.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 7/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Grantee: Wildlife ACT Fund

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Using the ‘Growing Together’ principles to support local community participation for conservation action in the Pondoland and Albany hotspots-Phase 1

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Municipal Programme will play a key role in supporting low-income communities to derive socioeconomic benefits from local nature spaces in the Pondoland region. The program draws extensively on the lessons from the CEPF funded Cape Flats Nature project from 10 years ago, and is guided by the principles of the “Growing Together” resource.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013

Grantee: South African National Biodiversity Institute

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

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

Mayday for Rivers: Engaging Local Students in River Health Activities

Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) engages local schools in environmental education with a focus on river health activities. Negative impact on rivers is being observed, with data collected and recorded. The information collected on this project will help local conservation authorities to make informed decisions.

Funding: \$4,605

Grant Term: 8/30/2012 - 6/30/2013

Grantee: Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Strategic Direction 4. Create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites

Strengthening the Capacity of a Local Civil Society Organizations' Platform for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Community Development in Licuáti Sand Forest

Kuwuka JDA is part of a consortium of organizations implementing complementary grants in the Matutuine District of Southern Mozambique, working alongside CEPF grantees CESVI, LUPA and ORAM. Kuwuka is building a platform of small civil society organizations to promote improved governance of natural resources, train people on Licuati Sand Forest conservation, raise community awareness, and promote small-scale sustainable natural resource-based livelihood activities.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 9/1/2012 - 8/31/2013

Grantee: Associacao Kuwuka - Juventude Desenvolvimento e Advocacia Ambiental

Polynesia-Micronesia

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

Tourist-introduced Threats in Marine Lakes: Assessing the Effect of Sunblock on Jellyfish Health to Inform Sustainable Management

Marine lakes are small island-like hotspots of endemic biodiversity particularly susceptible to anthropogenic disturbance. The project consists of two components: (1) investigation of levels of sunscreen pollution and bioaccumulation in Jellyfish Lake, and (2) a public awareness campaign to reduce activities that may exacerbate threats from invasive species and to endemic species. The former will elucidate links between tourism use of marine lakes and the environmental health of the marine lake ecosystems. The latter will produce a glossy booklet for public awareness, “Jellyfish Lake (Ongeim'l Tketau),” printed in Japanese to be distributed to Japanese dive shops and tourist centers in Palau.

Funding: \$8,000

Grant Term: 8/1/2012 - 1/31/2013

Grantee: Coral Reef Research Foundation, Inc.

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Strategic Direction 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Increasing Public Awareness of Fijian Dragonflies: A Pocket Guide to Species on the Main Island of Viti Levu

Publish a user-friendly identification guide to promote Viti Levu dragonfly species diversity to local communities and visitors to Fijian islands. A map will be developed of known localities of about 40 species, more than half of which are endemic to Fiji, and reassessing the species conservation status.

Funding: \$14,690

Grant Term: 8/1/2012 - 2/28/2013

Grantee: Institute of Applied Science, University of the South Pacific IAS-USP)

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team