

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Nineteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
Arlington, Virginia, USA
18 March 2011
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**UPGRADING CEPF's MONITORING SYSTEM
For information only**

Introduction

Recent input from the Donor Council and assessments of CEPF have led the Secretariat to develop a plan for enhancing CEPF's monitoring system.

Background

- The 2006 evaluation of the fund performed by Michael Wells recommended that CEPF improve its impact monitoring, while recognizing that the Fund has made concerted efforts to report on performance.
“While worthy efforts have been made, the overall efforts to monitor impacts and progress have not been particularly convincing so far” (Michael Wells, 2006)
- The evaluation also recommended that the impact monitoring system should cost effectively demonstrate how CEPF is achieving conservation, development and capacity-building impact, recognizing that these outcomes are well beyond the scope of five-year investment periods.
“(…) the use of conservation outcomes as long-term operational targets should be complemented by the development and adoption of socioeconomic, political and civil society measures and indicators that will provide more feedback on CEPF's interim progress towards these outcomes.” (Michael Wells, 2006)
- In 2007, CEPF developed its strategic framework to “set out the vision for FY 2008-2012,” and specifically to “expand the program's potential to act as a mechanism for the conservation community as a whole to align conservation investments for greater impact by among other things an ‘improved monitoring and learning to demonstrate biodiversity impact and enable adaptive management and replication.’”
- Moreover, the strategic framework proposed strengthening monitoring and evaluation at the ecosystem level including systematic analyses and documentation of CEPF results and experiences. The framework proposed specific conservation targets and indicators to be developed as part of the ecosystem profiles for each hotspot. Additionally a selected set of indicators would report on global results at the midterm and end of investment periods.

- The strategic framework includes a set of outcomes and targets that the fund should be reporting on. Per the strategic framework, RITs are responsible for collecting the ecosystem-level data and the Secretariat conducts the analysis. July 2010 was the first time that the Secretariat received reports from the RITs on these targets and indicators.
- More recently, the assessment performed by Conservation International’s Science and Knowledge Division that was presented in Nagoya in October 2010 emphasized the need to improve the monitoring system of CEPF to ensure that the program can report on results that are attributable to our investment and not just products to which CEPF contributed.
- Donor Council members, particularly those representing the Government of Japan, have encouraged the development of a stronger monitoring system. The Government of Japan is suggesting specific impact indicators as part of the negotiation of the financing agreement of the replenishment of the grant.

Objective

Develop a cost-effective monitoring system for CEPF to track and report on its impact, complementing the indicators approved for the 2008-2012 Strategic Framework.

Timeline

Date	Activity	Product (Milestone)
Feb 15 – March 15, 2011	Series of internal meetings to continue discussion on CEPF needs, constraints, reasonable expectations from grantees / RITs, etc. Initial suggestions on impact indicators and assessment of feasibility / cost for collecting data	Results of the assessment of the current monitoring system. Definition of what works, what doesn’t work. - A draft set of indicators - A proposal for data collection - A first estimate of costs
March 15 – April 15, 2011	First draft of monitoring framework, including options for indicators, proposed budget and roll-out plan, budget. Likely to include at least two scenarios and associated budgets	A complete draft (with two scenarios) of the monitoring framework including - Indicators - Data collection protocol - Budget - Roll out plan
March 18, 2011	Initial presentation to the Donor Council	Donor Council informed about Secretariat’s intention of reforming the Global Framework and

		improving the monitoring program
April 15 – May 15, 2011	Consultations with appropriate internal and external partners. Ensure alignment with CEPF goals, donor needs, CI institutional reporting, feasibility, etc. Revisions as necessary	Validation of proposed draft and selection of best scenario
May 15 – June 15, 2011	Consolidation of input, including operational rollout plan and budget needs for FY12	Final draft of monitoring framework including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Data collection protocol - Budget - Rollout plan
June – July 2011	Review and discussion with Working Group, inclusion of Working Group input, and electronic review of proposal by Donor Council	Decision by Donor Council
July 2011 – June 2012	Implementation of first round of monitoring program if approved	

The Secretariat is receiving support from the monitoring team of the Science and Knowledge Division of Conservation International. The new monitoring system and protocol will be presented for approval to the Donor Council in the summer of 2011 after the Working Group has reviewed and provided its comments to the proposal.