

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
28th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Brussels, Belgium
20 January 2016
2:00 to 5:00 pm CET**

Update on GEF bridge grant

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked to approve an **increase of CEPF's spending authority** by \$5 million for implementation of the GEF bridge grant.

Background

In April 2014, the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF cleared the project concept for a full-sized global project under the biodiversity focal area, and approved a Project Preparation Grant (PPG). This project, which is entitled *Effectively Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into Government Policy and Private Sector Practice: Piloting Sustainability Models to Take the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to Scale*, is intended to bridge the second and third phases of CEPF, by testing elements of the Phase III strategy in three pilot hotspots, documenting lessons learned, and replicating best practice to other hotspots where CEPF works. The project has a particular focus on developing cross-sector partnerships between civil society and government and private sector actors, in order to promote uptake of innovative models for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into public policy and business practices.

A one-year project preparation phase was completed in September 2015, supported by the PPG. The resulting Project Document was submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement on November 26, 2015, and this is expected in January 2016. This will release \$9.8 million in funding from the GEF Trust Fund, over a five-year period, from 2016 to 2021. The bulk of the funds will be used to support additional grant making in the three pilot hotspots, in line with the project objective. The remaining funds will support the global knowledge management component and Secretariat operations.

One of the pilot hotspots will be the Cerrado, for which the Donor Council has been asked to approve the ecosystem profile and increase CEPF's spending authority by \$8 million, under a separate agenda item (Doc. CEPF/DC28/7). It is proposed that the GEF bridge grant contribute \$3.43 million towards the implementation of the Cerrado profile between 2016 and 2021, with funds from the global pool making up the balance of \$4.57 million.

The other two pilot hotspots have existing CEPF investment programs: Eastern Afromontane; and Indo-Burma. The additional funds from the GEF bridge grant will enable these programs to be extended in scope and duration, making additional grant resources available for investment priorities consistent with

the results framework of the grant. In each case, this will require an increase in the spending authority by \$2.2 million, and an extension to the investment period. A portion of the increase will be used to extend the Regional Implementation Team grants for these hotspots.

Finally, the Donor Council is requested to extend CEPF's spending authority by \$600,000, to enable award of multi-hotspot grants, as an element on the knowledge-management component of the GEF bridge grant. The multi-hotspot grants will be used to facilitate South-South exchanges among civil society organizations from different hotspots, by means of case studies, study tours, exchange visits or other appropriate communication activities. The Donor Council approved the use of multi-hotspot grants at its 27th meeting, in Washington DC, on 24 June 2015 (CEPF/DC27/6d), subject to the development of detailed criteria.

Portfolio	Current spending authority (USD)	Current timeframe	Requested increase from GEF bridge grant (USD)	Revised timeframe
Eastern Afromontane	9,800,000	2012-2017	2,200,000	2012-2020
Indo-Burma	10,400,000	2013-2018	2,200,000	2013-2021
Multi-hotspot	n/a	n/a	600,000	2017-2021
TOTAL			5,000,000	