

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Donor Council
Arlington, Virginia, USA
Wednesday, 24 June 2015
8 a.m.-11 a.m. EDT**

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the 26th meeting of the Donor Council on 27 January 2015. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Follow-up to decisions made during the 26th meeting of CEPF Donor Council
- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Financial Summary (*summary as of 31 March 2015; numbers updated through May will be presented at the Donor Council meeting)
- Approved Grants (1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015)

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 26th MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

During the 26th meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 27 January 2015, the Donor Council requested the following actions.

- *Distribute the Communications Workshop recap document on 23 February 2015.*

A full report on the workshop and a summary were sent to Donor Council and Working Group members, as well as other participants, on 24 February 2015.

- *Distribute the Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile on 2 February 2015.*

The profile was distributed on 2 February, and the Donor Council approved the profile as of March 18, 2015.

- *Engage Conservation International to determine if the Financial Overview information presented can be more up-to-date, closer to the date of the meeting. If not, engage the Donor Council to determine if the meeting schedule should be revised.*

At the January meeting, the Secretariat was unable to provide the most up-to-date financial figures because of CI's transition to a new accounting system, which resulted in delayed reports during the transition process. We are now back on schedule and will be able to present the most recent month-end reports to May at the Donor Council meeting.

- *Follow up with Daniela Lerda of PADMA Consulting to ensure that the CEPF Phase III Business Plan Executive Summary includes the latest biodiversity funding data from foundations and multilaterals, specifically from the Global Environment Facility and the European Union, as well as biodiversity funding data from the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).*

The Secretariat has followed up with Ms. Lerda to ensure that the latest biodiversity funding data is used in the Business Plan. This document will be shared with the Donor Council upon receipt.

- *Present the final draft long-term vision for graduating civil society from CEPF support in the Albertine Rift and the Eastern Arc Mountains within the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot to the Working Group in April and the Donor Council in June.*

The Secretariat presented the long-term vision to the Working Group on May 5, 2015, and will present the final draft for Donor Council endorsement at the 27th meeting of the Donor Council in June 2015.

- *Work with the Donor Council to determine if funds remaining from the CEPF investment in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot (\$171,424) can be reallocated to fund development of the long-term visions.*

On 18 March 2015, the Secretariat sent a request for no-objection approval of a reduction in the Spending Authority for the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot with the funds to be used to support the Long-Term Visioning process. At the same time the Secretariat requested a no-objection approval to increase the FY 15 Spending Plan budget for the Preparation category to fund development of selected long-term visions. The Donor Council approved the changes, effective 2 April 2015.

My first six months as CEPF executive director

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly six months since I began my tenure as executive director for CEPF. The time has gone especially quickly because I have dedicated myself to learning about the Secretariat, the portfolio of CEPF and the people we're collaborating with around the globe.

CEPF is a complex mechanism. I have come to understand the hard work and coordination that goes into making the many aspects of our program effective, from the selection of the eligible hotspots and ecosystem profiling to the selection and training of RITs, implementation of portfolios through to the completion and closing of investments. My travels and consultations have also increased my already high esteem for CEPF's donor partners, who have offered thoughtful guidance and eager collaboration at every turn.



In Jamaica, from left, the World Bank's Sara Thompson; Melisa March and Donovan Campbell of CEPF grantee caribsave; Nicole Brown of CANARI, the RIT; Michelle McNaught and Tashana Malcolm of caribsave; and CEPF Executive Director Olivier Langrand. © Olivier Langrand

Visiting the hotspots

Part of my education has taken place through visits to the hotspots where we're currently investing to meet our grantees and get updates on our results.

- In mid-February I visited the Caribbean Islands Hotspot with Grant Director Michele Zador and **World Bank** Program Specialist Sara Thompson to participate in a supervision mission in Jamaica as the Caribbean investment portfolio progresses toward its completion in February 2016. We visited grantees in the field at four different locations, engaged in dialogue with selected grantees in Kingston, and also met local representatives of the **World Bank and the Government of Japan**.
- In March, I traveled to Cambodia in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, joining Grant Director Jack Tordoff, Dominique Kayser from the Implementing Agency Coordination Unit at the **World Bank and a representative of the GEF Operational Focal Point for Cambodia within the Ministry of Environment**. We attended the mid-term assessment workshop, which

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At a glance

- Hotspot strategies implemented 23
- Partners supported 1,971
- Committed grants 185 million
- Amount leveraged by those grants 346 million
- Protected areas created [hectares] 13 million
- KBAs with strengthened management and protection [hectares] 35 million

drew 130 participants under the leadership of IUCN Asia as the RIT for this hotspot. The workshop was also attended by regional donors such as the **Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, and by the MacArthur Foundation**. These foundations and the **McKnight Foundation** came together with CEPF in 2011 to update the ecosystem profile for the region, setting the foundation for coordinated strategic investments in Indo-Burma’s civil society corresponding with CEPF’s second phase of funding to the hotspot. I also participated in workshops organized by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation organized after the CEPF workshop. These excellent meetings allowed me to witness the strong relationships that have developed between the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT and the grantees, from the smallest NGO from Myanmar to large international NGOs such as BirdLife International or WCS. The Indo-Burma investment also serves as a good example of how to attract regional donors and build a relationship that is mutually beneficial.

- Also in March, I had planned to attend the mid-term assessment for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot set for Tunis, but at the Frankfurt airport on my way to Tunis, I learned that the workshop had been cancelled due to the terrorist attack against visitors to Tunis’ Bardo National Museum. The Mediterranean team—the RIT led by BirdLife International under the supervision of Grant Director Pierre Carret—deeply regretted the need to cancel the meeting, and were able to quickly pull together another plan, ultimately holding the meeting instead in May in Montenegro. I was delighted to attend that meeting with Grant Director Pierre Carret and 50 participants from across the hotspot. The RIT has done an impressive job of coordinating the investment in this economically and culturally complex hotspot, especially as some of the countries are experiencing major civil conflicts.

- I visited Brasilia in the Cerrado Hotspot in April with CEPF Senior Grant Manager Peggy Poncelet to attend a private sector consultation workshop organized in the context of the preparation of the ecosystem profile for the Cerrado, which is being developed by CI-Brazil and Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN). While in Brasilia, I also visited representatives of **AFD, the World Bank, the European Union and the Government of Japan (JICA)**.

Meeting with the donor partners

In addition to the connections made with donor representatives in the hotspots, I have taken the opportunity to hold several meetings with representatives of CEPF’s donor partners. In Washington, I have had the pleasure of meeting with Practice Manager Valerie Hickey of the **World Bank’s Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice**, Megumi Ishizuka of the **Government of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ World Bank Office**, French Ambassador to the U.S. Gérard Arau, and **Conservation International** COO Jennifer Morris.

I also visited Laurence Breton-Moyet, **AFD’s Directrice, Département Développement Durable**, in Paris, and Arnold Jacques de Dixmude of the **European Commission’s Directorate General for Development and Cooperation-EuropeAid (DEVCO)** in Brussels. During the Indo-Burma workshop in Cambodia, the **MacArthur Foundation’s** Jørgen Thomsen, director of the Conservation and Sustainable Development Program Area, and Chris Holtz, Asia program officer, joined me in extensive discussions about CEPF.

In May, I traveled to Tokyo for a series of meetings with representatives of the **World Bank Group, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Finance and JICA**. I participated in a working lunch with Akinori Ogawa, vice minister for Nature Conservation, Ministry of Environment, and CI Japan’s Yasu Hibi. The vice minister was accompanied by two of his staff, Naohisa Okuda, director for Global Diversity Strategy Office, and Akiko Tabata, deputy director, Global Diversity Strategy Office, and member of the CEPF Working Group. We discussed CEPF’s achievements as well as the vision for CEPF III. We also participated in a meeting at the Ministry of Finance, chaired by Shuichi Hosoda, director of



Discovering the unique biodiversity of the Cerrado Hotspot with local expert Fernando Henrique Presidente. © Peggy Poncelet

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development issues, International Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, and member of the CEPF Donor Council. He was accompanied by two staff members from the Development Policy Division International Bureau: Kazutoshi Numamoto, section chief, and Taro Kimura. The meeting also was attended by the Ministry of Environment's Naohisa Okuda, Morio Tsuchiya, and Akiko Tabata; and by JICA's Koji Mitomori, deputy director of the Global Environment Division; and Kayo Terada from CI Japan. After this meeting, Mr. Hosoda, Mr. Okuda and Mr. Hibi accompanied me to meet with Noriyuki Mita, deputy vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of Finance. Our colleagues in Japan were gracious hosts and demonstrated a strong knowledge and support of CEPF. I plan to return to Tokyo in September to meet with the new Ministry of Finance team that will be put in place in July.

Connecting with potential donors

In support of CEPF's third phase, I initiated discussions with representatives of the **governments of Germany and Switzerland** about the potential for them to join the CEPF donor partnership.

With Vice President of Finance and Operations John de Wet and Grant Director Michele Zador, I visited **German Development Bank KfW** in Frankfurt in March and gave a presentation on the forthcoming investment of CEPF in the Tropical Andes to Jens Mackensen, head of division for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two of his team members. KfW is interested in becoming a regional donor for South America and possibly becoming a global donor. Internal support for CEPF seems to be effective, and approval by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is being solicited.



Vice President of Finance and Operations John de Wet and CEPF Grant Director Michele Zador outside the offices of German Development Bank KfW. © Olivier Langrand

I traveled with CI's Jennifer Morris to Bern, **Switzerland**, in April to meet with Bruno Oberle, state secretary, **Federal Office of the Environment**. This meeting happened after Karl Falkenberg introduced CEPF to Secretary Oberle. As in the case of KfW, the Swiss Confederation does not have a mechanism to participate in a global scheme like CEPF. Their financial engagement is directed towards themes or geographies. However, Secretary Oberle is supportive of the idea of contributing to CEPF and is reviewing options. Engagement would probably start at a regional level as a first step.

Getting to know the Secretariat

At the CEPF Secretariat level, I invested time working with the team members involved in designing CEPF III's long-term vision, communication and business plans, the latter of which includes governance and fundraising. Regarding communications, we are currently evaluating expressions of interest for a consultant to assist in the development of the Phase III communications strategy, and we tentatively plan to contract with a consultant in July. The long-term visions and governance are part of the agenda for the June 24, 2015 meeting.

An important aspect of the Executive Director role is understanding the rules and procedures that govern CEPF. I had a session with our operations team led Megan Oliver during which the Operational Manual was explained to me. We had a follow-up with a quiz where we tested the CEPF Secretariat's knowledge of the manual. I have also spent time with the team understanding specific donor requirements, such as the World Bank's procurement guidelines and the submission of the quarterly withdrawal application requests through the Bank's online systems. The finance team led by John De Wet regularly updates me on CEPF's financial performance, and we worked together on the FY16 budget.

My plan for the forthcoming quarter is to put the emphasis on fundraising. I will **follow up with Germany and Switzerland; visit Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom in Europe;** and pursue connections with the **United States and Canada** in North America, and **Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates**. I also plan to engage with potential regional donors from private foundations including **Helmsley and Rockefeller**, and several regional development banks.

Partnership Highlights

Libya's Civil Society Celebrates its Wetland Wildlife and Looks to the Future

On 2 February, World Wetlands Day celebrated wetlands and the numerous services and benefits they provide for people and biodiversity. This year's theme, "Wetlands for our future: Act now to prevent, stop and reverse wetland loss," resonated in Libya, where significant threats including habitat loss and traditional hunting are impacting wetlands and several waterbird species.

To showcase the importance of wetlands by explaining the services they provide and the various species they support, the Libyan Society for Birds (LSB) and the Environment General Authority of Libya hosted an event on World Wetlands Day for waterbird specialists, students of the Department of Zoology at the University of Tripoli and a group of young scouts.



Children in Libya out enjoying their local birdlife for World Wetlands Day. © Libyan Society for Birds

CEPF was the first donor to directly fund an environmental NGO in Libya, providing support to LSB to build its capacity. Now additional NGOs in Libya are working to raise awareness about the significance of biodiversity. Read more [here](#).

CEPF Supervision Mission Visit to Jamaica

To get a first-hand look at some CEPF grantees' projects and learn more about CEPF grant-making in Jamaica, CEPF's new Executive Director Olivier Langrand visited the island in mid-February. Sara Thompson, program specialist with the World Bank, also participated in the supervision mission, along with Michele Zador, CEPF's grant director for the hotspot, and Nicole Brown, the RIT's Jamaica country coordinator for the hotspot. During the supervision mission, participants learned how CEPF's 14 grants totaling \$1.1 million in Jamaica are playing an important role in building capacity for biodiversity conservation within local civil society organizations and communities.

The group met in Kingston with representatives from key government agencies and grantee staff. The team also visited the Embassy of Japan and the World Bank Resident Mission to exchange information about their programs and to identify opportunities for collaboration. In total, the group visited eight grantees working in three key biodiversity areas (KBAs). Read more [here](#).



Field visit to CEPF-supported project in Stung Bengal Florican Conservation Area in the inundation zone of Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia. © Olivier Langrand

Grantees Assess Progress of Investment in Indo-Burma

In March, more than 130 representatives of civil society organizations, government conservation agencies and donors gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to attend the mid-term assessment of the CEPF Phase II investment in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. Hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office, which leads the CEPF RIT for the hotspot, the mid-term assessment workshop gave participants the opportunity to assess progress of the \$10.4 million investment in six countries (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) toward the goals set out in the ecosystem profile.

CEPF Grant Director Jack Tordoff played an active role in facilitating the workshop, which Olivier Langrand also attended. Also present was Dominique Kayser from the Implementing Agency Coordination Unit at the

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World Bank and a representative of the GEF Operational Focal Point for Cambodia within the Ministry of Environment, along with regional staff of four CEPF donors: Conservation International, MacArthur Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Foundation and the World Bank.

The mid-term assessment workshop allowed grantees to share results and lessons learned from their individual CEPF-supported projects and revalidate underlying assumptions of the ecosystem profile. CEPF grantees also revisited the CEPF investment priorities in the hotspot, providing revisions and/or clarifications for 26 of the 38 CEPF investment priorities.

The workshop was bookended by a convening of Margaret A. Cargill Foundation grantees and an evaluation of the MacArthur Foundation's conservation and sustainable development program in the Lower Mekong Region. These meetings provided opportunities to strengthen cross-linkages between the CEPF portfolio and those of the other two funders, especially given the number of grantees and sub-grantees the three have in common. Grantees of the two foundations were invited to participate in the CEPF mid-term assessment, creating further opportunities for networking and experience exchange among grantees. Read more [here](#).

Goldman Environmental Prize

CEPF was recently invited to become an organizational nominator for the Goldman Environmental Prize. The prize, which is one of the most prestigious in the field of environment, is awarded to individuals who have attained an important environmental achievement through grassroots activism. As a nominator, CEPF will have the opportunity to nominate up to four candidates annually. This provides an opportunity to raise the profile of local actors who are striving to conserve biodiversity under very challenging conditions.

In April, the Goldman Environmental Foundation announced that Haitian conservationist Jean Wiener was one of six recipients of the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize. Wiener, a CEPF grantee in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot, was recognized by the Goldman Environmental Foundation for his work leading “community efforts to establish Haiti’s first marine protected areas by empowering Haitians to see the long-term value in sustainably managing fisheries and mangrove forests.” These efforts began in 1992 when he founded the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM). Read more [here](#).



Jean Wiener, 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize winner for Islands and Island Nations. © Goldman Environmental Prize

Long-Term Vision for the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains

Alex Muhweezi of Future Dialogues International, working closely with BirdLife International in Nairobi, consulted multiple stakeholders from the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains Region □ Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda □ of the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot as part of CEPF’s effort to pilot a long-term vision for the region. This document aims to outline when a hotspot will “graduate” from CEPF donor support by establishing baselines and 20+ year targets for five graduation conditions: conservation, civil society, financing, enabling environment and ability to respond to emerging issues. CEPF will present drafts of this vision to donors and stakeholders in the region over the next several months.

CEPF Support for the BEST Initiative for Biodiversity in the European Overseas

In 2013, CEPF welcomed the proposition of IUCN for the fund to join a partnership for the third phase of BEST (Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas). Before then, with the

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exception of French Polynesia between 2008 and 2013, CEPF was not granted permission to invest in EU overseas, leaving gaps in geographical coverage of the CEPF portfolios since most of the EU overseas fall in the biodiversity hotspots.

The BEST III program was designed to prepare long-term funding for the conservation of biodiversity in the EU overseas. The EC’s Directorates General for Environment and for Development and Cooperation developed the design concept for BEST III, which mentioned CEPF’s ecosystem profiles as models for designing conservation strategies adapted to each territory. CEPF offered to join forces with the BEST III consortium to provide methodological support for the preparation of EU overseas ecosystem profiles.

Since early 2014, CEPF Grant Director Pierre Carret has provided advice to the seven regional hubs—the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, South Atlantic, New Caledonia, Polynesia, Amazonia, Polar and Sub-Polar—for the development of their profiles. A methodological guidance has been prepared, including the necessary adaptations to the specificities of the overseas territories.



The Caribbean Region is home to 16 European overseas entities. © CI/photo by Michele Zador

CEPF’s participation in BEST III demonstrates the value and growing interest for the science-based, participatory process of ecosystem profiling. It has also proved to be beneficial to CEPF for future profiles, with feedback and questions from the regional hubs helping CEPF fine-tune its methodology and adapt it to new ecosystems. This first collaboration paves the way for future synergies between CEPF, IUCN and the regional hubs for the implementation of conservation strategies in the hotspots where EU is present through its overseas.

Biodiversity Hotspot Exhibit on Display at Green Week

The traveling photo exhibit “34 Wonders of the World,” was featured at Green Week at The Egg Conference Centre in Brussels June 3-5. The event is the biggest annual conference on European environment policy. Developed in parallel with the publication of the 300th issue of Terre Sauvage magazine, the exhibit is the result of a partnership between CEPF, Terre Sauvage and the Nature Picture Library. It features beautiful full-color images of life in the world’s biodiversity hotspots, the most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems.



Exhibit on display at Montier Festival, Montier-en-Der, France, November 2014. © Terre Sauvage

The exhibit was presented in partnership with the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, l’Agence française de développement and le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes.

Since its debut in 2014, the exhibit has been displayed at multiple venues in France and in more than 20 other countries.

Communications Update

Compelling stories from the biodiversity hotspots

Since the last Donor Council meeting, CEPF has both produced and been featured in multiple stories focusing on the productive efforts of civil society to conserve biodiversity in the hotspots. Here are some examples.

CEPF Featured in Deutsche Welle Article on Community Forests in Nepal

CEPF Executive Director Olivier Langrand and Managing Director Nina Marshall were interviewed by the major German media company Deutsche Welle for a story on community forests in Nepal as a tool to fight poverty. Read the story [here](#).

BBC Earth, Other Outlets Cite CEPF in New Species Discovery

Several news outlets, including BBC Earth, cited CEPF's support for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in stories on the WCS discovery of new species in Papua New Guinea. Read the BBC Earth piece [here](#).

Communities in Burundi Share Solutions for Sustainability

In Burundi, French NGO Resilience Now is leading capacity-building activities with communities near Kibira National Park to improve agricultural practices and preserve wood resources. Read the full story in English [here](#), or in French [here](#).



Participants unanimously acclaim the improved cook stove, one of the many solutions identified during a Resilience Now workshop to improve climate change resilience in Burundi.
© Resilience Now – Florence Gibert

Tunisian project focuses on ecotourism

With support from CEPF, the Association Les Amis des Oiseaux (AAO) has been developing ecotourism activities for the conservation of key biodiversity areas in northern Tunisia since July 2013. AAO is supporting local communities to manage five of the most important bird areas in Tunisia. The five sites are organized as a network, and are benefiting from support to rehabilitate tourism infrastructure and train birding guides. Read the full story [here](#).



European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) photographed at Ichleul Lake in Tunisia.
© El Goulli Mohamed

2015 Photo Contest Winners

CEPF recently announced the winners of the 2015 CEPF Photo Contest. These striking images celebrate the people, species and ecosystems that CEPF supports through its grants to civil society organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots. They also include images of nature-based solutions to climate change. [See the winning images.](#)

Updates on Profiling

Cerrado

CI-Brasil and Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPAN) have continued working on the ecosystem profile for the hotspot, completing a literature review and holding consultation workshops in February and March in Brazil, as well as a private sector consultation in April. These workshops involved more than 50 people from civil society, the private sector, government agencies and representatives, donors, researchers and academic institutions. The team also updated the KBA list based on the KBA+ model, which takes into account ecosystem services, and the newly updated Brazilian Red List of Threatened Species.



Cerrado sky. © Olivier Langrand

Guinean Forests of West Africa

The IUCN team preparing the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot ecosystem profile concluded its remote consultation with stakeholders throughout the hotspot to collect data required to prepare the ecosystem profile. Responses from more than 70 experts helped to define and prioritize KBAs, civil society capacity building targets and policy priorities for CEPF support. The profiling team proceeded to finish drafting the profile, which is now undergoing review by CEPF.



Paramos in Ecuador in the Tropical Andes, the top hotspot for plant diversity. © CI/photo by Michele Zador

Tropical Andes

On 18 March, the Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot for a five-year, \$10 million investment. The profile funds seven strategic directions dedicated to strengthening local civil society organizations to conserve 36 KBAs and to mainstream biodiversity conservation into private sector practices and development policy and plans.

During the third quarter, the Secretariat launched the recruitment process to hire the RIT for the hotspot. A request for expressions of interest attracted 15 organizations, who were invited by CEPF to submit full proposals. In mid-March, CEPF received five proposals for the RIT and subsequently evaluated these with the Working Group. A request for no-objection approval of the organization Fundación para el Desarrollo del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de Bolivia (FUNDESNA) to serve as RIT was sent to donors on May 11, and the Donor Council approval was

received on May 26.

From the Field

Caribbean Islands

Meaningful collaboration across borders in Hispaniola

In March, 17 community-based civil society, academic and government counterparts from the Dominican Republic

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and Haiti, including CEPF grantee the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, gathered at the first meeting of the Caribbean Chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (Carib-PARC) in Santo Domingo.

With support from CEPF, three local community partners in Hispaniola have enhanced their relationship to protect the Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordii*), an IUCN Critically Endangered species endemic to the island. The International Iguana Foundation (IIF) has partnered with Société Audubon Haiti (SAH) and their Dominican neighbor, Grupo Jaragua, to not only lay the groundwork for the creation of Haiti's first municipal reserve in Anse-à-Pitres, but to partner with local community-based organizations on both sides of the border, providing technical assistance, building capacity and raising awareness about what local communities can do to get involved in conservation actions for the Ricord's iguana.

Grupo Jaragua is also collaborating with IIF to adapt beekeeping systems to provide sustainable livelihood options in Oviedo, Dominican Republic, for local families across the border from Anse-à-Pitres, who currently make their living from charcoal production. Even though each country requires tailor-made strategies, they are tackling similar challenges that can only be overcome by working together.

This increased focus by CEPF on supporting bi-national coordination and cooperation in Hispaniola was one recommendation made by key stakeholders during the mid-term evaluation for the hotspot in 2013, which CEPF responded to by including a specific focus on bi-national initiatives in its sixth call for proposals in the region.

East Melanesian Islands

Tropical Cyclone Pam devastates Vanuatu

In March, both Vanuatu and parts of the Solomon Islands were severely affected by Cyclone Pam, which was the second most intense storm ever recorded in the South Pacific. Several CEPF grantees are in unique positions to assess and respond to the needs of people in remote communities, due to their access to boats, satellite phones and other communications equipment. The CEPF Secretariat has worked with several grantees, including Live and Learn Vanuatu, the New York Botanical Garden and OceansWatch, to restructure their grants to enable them to respond to relief and recovery needs of communities at project sites in the short and medium term. As well as meeting a moral imperative to respond to this disaster, addressing relief and recovery needs is expected to build trust with local people, and to put grantees in a better position to address conservation priorities in the long term.

Advancing a conservation strategy for Guadalcanal's Uplands

In the Solomon Islands, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and its local partner, Island Knowledge Institute, completed a robust and extensive process of landowner engagement to frame a process for socializing a broader vision for conservation of customary lands in upland Guadalcanal — one of the most biologically diverse sites in the hotspot. This year-long process culminated in a traditional ceremony with leaders of



Macaya breast-spot landfrog (*Eleutherodactylus thorectes*), a Critically Endangered species, endemic to Haiti. © Robin Moore



The uplands of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. © Chris Filardi

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the indigenous Uluna tribe to formalize a partnership with AMNH to advance formal conservation status for Haiaja, the highest ridge lines within Guadalcanal Watersheds KBA.

As a first step in this partnership, at the request of Uluna leadership, AMNH will carry out a scoping expedition through collaboration with national biologists and Uluna people. This scoping expedition is an important social advance in catalyzing this new partnership, and represents a commitment toward the long-term stewardship of Guadalcanal Watersheds. This is particularly important in the context of a World Bank hydropower project along the Tina River, downstream of the KBA. The CEPF project is helping frame options for offsetting the biodiversity impacts of the dam and financing catchment protection to prolong the operational life of the dam.

Eastern Afromontane

Working with communities near Ethiopia's Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve

The Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve consists of 238,750 hectares of mixed use landscape, of which 52,255 hectares are designated as core protection areas. The area includes 300 plant species, 50 species of mammals, 200 species of birds and 20 species of amphibians. With support from CEPF, Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA) worked with local government partners and communities to strengthen the management of this area, building off of work previously funded by the Ethiopian government and other donors. This included continuing a participatory process to develop a management plan which is now published in Amharic and English for public comment and awaiting endorsement by the Sheka Zone House of People's representatives.



Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, Ethiopia. © Ethiopian Ministry of Science & Technology

MELCA also helped make a multi-stakeholder management structure become functional, having placed 92 signposts around the core zones, trained 40 community rangers and trained four focal people as community ombudsmen. MELCA also raised community awareness about the biosphere reserve and core zones among 300 students and 3,000 community members; trained cooperatives in beekeeping and wild spice collection and propagation; and managed forums with the community and local industry.

Indo-Burma

Reducing wildlife consumption in Da Nang City

During the quarter, GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center, a Vietnamese NGO, organized an integrated public awareness campaign to coincide with the Tet (lunar new year) holiday. The aim of the campaign was to change attitudes toward consumption of wildlife and wildlife products among the rapidly growing urban middle class in Da Nang, a major city in central Vietnam, and thereby reduce demand for wildlife, which is driving unsustainable exploitation of species across the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot and further afield.



GreenViet participating in a wildlife trade talk show in February. © GreenViet

The campaign was designed through a participatory workshop with public officials, which identified five communication tools. GreenViet partnered with Da Nang Radio and Television to broadcast a talk show entitled “Threats from using wildlife products to nature and your health” on local television in the run-up to the Tet holiday. Another partnership,

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this time with Mai Linh Taxi, the leading taxi company in Da Nang, resulted in 300 taxis in the city carrying communication materials about the impacts of wildlife consumption. GreenViet also collaborated with Da Nang Tourism Promotion Center to organize a communication campaign in Da Nang Airport, which is the major entry and exit point to the city for residents. Through these efforts, Green Viet is addressing one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss, while helping broaden the constituency for conservation among a key section of society. Read more [here](#).

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Planning for an integrated approach to conservation of priority sites

Multiple events are taking place in Maputaland as CEPF's investment in the hotspot comes to a close in late 2015. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is developing networks and fostering learning among grantees, while the Lubombo Conservancy, a collection of contiguous public and private land units in the southeastern corner of Swaziland, bordering both Mozambique and South Africa, is promoting better management of a Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) area connecting the three countries.

In March, SANBI convened a meeting in Swaziland consisting of the Lubombo Conservancy, several southern Mozambique grantees, grantees from the northern part of South Africa's Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, government representatives from South Africa and Swaziland, and a representative of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) from the Southern African Development Community TFCA Unit in Gaborone. The meeting provided training on natural resources accounting and allowed participants to reach agreement on how parties from the three countries can approach the GIZ for appropriate funding for the TFCA.



Lubombo Mountains, Swaziland. © CI/photo by Brenna Ranzen

Mediterranean Basin

Freshwater biodiversity assessment and conservation priorities

The results of a freshwater biodiversity study completed by IUCN were made public on World Wetlands Day (2 February). The study assessed the conservation status of 1,236 species (plants, decapods, mollusks, dragonflies and damselflies, amphibians, fishes, birds, and mammals) of the Eastern Mediterranean Region – just under one third of which are found nowhere else on the planet. IUCN found that almost one in five, or 19 percent, of these species, and more than half (58 percent) of those endemic to the region, are threatened with extinction.

The study was the result of a collaborative effort involving a large number of scientists and conservation civil society organizations, aiming to raise the current low profile of freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean, promote integrated water resource management practices, and provide a reliable and up-to-date data set to inform decision makers. It has already helped by supporting efforts to qualify sites under the RAMSAR Convention and promote sustainable management. Read more [here](#).



Inlet on Lake Skadar, a freshwater key biodiversity area in the Mediterranean. © Geert De Knijf

Western Ghats

Advancing sustainability of the Satoyama landscapes

In February, the Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) became the first FairWild certified project in India. With support from CEPF, AERF is advancing sustainability of the Satoyama landscapes in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor. Here, AERF is testing innovative models for biodiversity conservation on private lands, scaling up the successful incentive-based conservation agreements model piloted in the landscape, promoting sustainable collection of selected medicinal plants under certification schemes (including FairWild), and creating opportunities for private sector sponsorship of biodiversity conservation. Read more [here](#).



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

Featured New Grants

Contribute to the Conservation of Kuriat Islands and the Bay of Monastir Through the Involvement of Civil Society and the Private Sector, Mediterranean Basin

Notre Grand Bleu, a recently created local association composed of divers and nature enthusiasts from the Monastir Region in Tunisia, received a large grant from CEPF in January to build their capacity and actively participate in the implementation of the management plan for the future marine protected area of the Kuriat Islands. The active partnership between a local NGO and the National Agency for the Protection of Coastal Zones (APAL) for management of a protected area would be a first, possibly demonstrating the value of co-management and civil society engagement in a country where the government was traditionally solely responsible for protected areas management. Notre Grand Bleu will work with local tourism operators to improve their practices, raise awareness with local communities and fishermen, and support activities to manage invasive species on the islands.

Mapping Customary Lands from Mount Maetambe to Kolobangara River, East Melanesian Islands

In March, CEPF awarded an \$80,000 grant to local NGO Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands (ESSI) to establish a solid foundation for long-term, community-owned conservation initiatives for Mount Maetambe to Kolobangara River Key Biodiversity Area on the Solomon Islands' Choiseul Island by mapping and registering customary ownership of land by local tribes, supporting customary land owners to develop a comprehensive land-use plan that enshrines the cultural and biological values of the area, and assisting customary landowners to form and register tribal associations responsible for natural resource governance.

Rehabilitation and Sustainable Utilization of Little Abbai River Mouth Wetlands, Eastern Afromontane

Building on a previous small grant to Bahir Dar University (BDU) and complementing an ongoing grant to Addis Ababa University to restore fisheries in Lake Tana, CEPF awarded a \$149,000, 30-month grant to BDU in February to improve the management of the wetland area where Ethiopia's Little Abbai River flows into Lake Tana. BDU is working with community members, representatives from fishing cooperatives, and representatives from papyrus crafters to train people in improved production practices.

Updates on New Investments

Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands



Tany Meva and the CEPF Secretariat team. © CI/photo by Antonia Cermak-Terzian

In early March, CEPF welcomed Tany Meva Foundation as the new RIT for the hotspot. As the RIT, Fondation Tany Meva, based in Antananarivo, Madagascar, will be involved in selecting proposals, supporting organizations in the preparation and implementation of their projects, monitoring and evaluating the portfolio, and ensuring collaboration with other stakeholders in the hotspot.

Tany Meva and CEPF are now assessing the first project proposals, received from the call launched in December 2014, and new calls for proposals will be launched in the coming months. Read more [here](#).

Wallacea

In January, Burung Indonesia, in its role as the RIT for the hotspot, released a call for letters of inquiry (LOIs) for large grants in Indonesia. This call invited applications to submit LOIs that will contribute to building the capacity of individual civil society organizations, building a network among them and improve the enabling conditions for such groups. The team is now reviewing the first 19 letters of inquiry received under the call.

In early February, members of the CEPF Secretariat traveled to Bogor, Indonesia, to welcome Burung Indonesia's team as the RIT and to train members of Burung Indonesia in CEPF systems. The Secretariat and RIT members also met with donor representatives in Jakarta, Indonesia, including representatives from l'Agence Française de Développement, the EU and the World Bank, as well as with Indonesia's GEF Operational Focal Point.



Burung Indonesia and the CEPF Secretariat team. © CI/photo by Laura Johnston

CEPF Upcoming Travel Schedule

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

July

- 22-28, Mid-term assessment, Eastern Afrotropical – Nairobi, Kenya
- TBC, Supervision mission, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands – Madagascar

August

- TBC, Final stakeholder workshop for the ecosystem profile, Cerrado – Brazil

September

- 28-Oct 3, Final assessment workshop, Caribbean Islands – Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica
- TBC, Supervision mission, Wallacea – Bogor, Indonesia

October

- 13-16, Final assessment workshop, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany – Durban, South Africa

November

- TBC, Supervision mission, Indo-Burma – China and Vietnam

Financial Narrative

General

The detailed financial report for the nine months of FY15, through 31 March 2015, is included on the following pages. In brief summary:

- Total expenses to date are 59% of the Spending Plan – this is below the expected 75% after 9 months.
- It is unlikely that CEPF will achieve its budget this year as planned grants, especially in the Guinean Forests of West Africa, will not all be awarded.
- The balance available for investment based on secured funds is negative by \$860,462, due mainly to the losses incurred on the foreign currency exchange rate changes on the unpaid balance of the EU commitment. This temporary loss situation will reverse once new donor agreements are signed, such as with the Government of Japan through the World Bank as trustee.
- CEPF is still in a strong cash positive situation with cash and investments on hand in excess of \$45 million.

Revenue

CEPF has received contributions during the fiscal year from:

- Global Environment Facility (\$200,000), through CI as the GEF Project Agency, for the Project Preparation Grant as an initial contribution toward the \$10 million bridging grant for CEPF Phase III;
- The World Bank (\$1,500,000); and
- The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust (\$900,000) as a regional donor in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot.

CEPF has experienced significant losses of \$3,505,186 million entirely due to foreign exchange rate changes applied to the unpaid balance on the contribution from the EU.

Grantmaking

Main observations on grantmaking for the year are:

- CEPF has committed total new grants of \$9,302,918 during the fiscal year, or 57% of the budgeted \$16,427,899.
- Delays in finalizing the Ecosystem Profile due to the Ebola crisis in the Guinean Forests of West Africa will result in CEPF not making any grants as had been planned in that region. This will impact total grantmaking for the year and we are unlikely to achieve the budgeted amount.
- Payments on grants is at 71% of the Spending Plan amount after 9 months and on track to achieve the total budget for the year.
- During the year the Donor Council has approved the Ecosystem Profiles and Spending Authorities for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands (\$7.5 million) and Tropical Andes (\$10 million) hotspots.

Financial Narrative

Operational Costs

CEPF has spent 63% or \$2,066,460 of the Total Operations and Management Costs budget of \$3,237,344 as of 31 March 31. This is lower than the benchmark burn rate of 75% after 9 months, which is attributed to lower than planned consultant and travel expenses over the course of the year.

Preparation/Ecosystem Profiles

The reported expenses of \$437,798 represent 81% of the budget of \$540,000. Actual costs reported are from the Ecosystem Profile Preparation for the Guinean Forests of West Africa and Cerrado hotspots. The remaining budget is planned for the long-term visions for the Balkans and Cerrado, which have not yet been contracted.

Special Projects

The Special Projects budget is supported by interest earned through CEPF's bank accounts and investments. The priorities funded this year through the Special Projects budget of \$456,463 are the audit fee; fundraising and special events (such as the CBD COP and World Parks Congress); and an upgrade to CEPF's grants management system. Actual expenditures on Special Projects total \$348,739 representing 76% spent.

CEPF Investments

As approved by the Donor Council in June 2014, \$30 million of surplus cash was transferred into a conservative bond portfolio, managed by the Arbor Group at UBS. On 31 March 31, the performance of the portfolio is as follows:

Cost	\$30,000,000
Accrued interest (net of fees)	\$85,625
Reported value	\$30,085,625
Unrealized gain / loss	\$26,096
Portfolio market value	30,111,721
Net Return (Inception To Date for 4 months)	0.37%

CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement for 9 Months Ending 03/31/15

<i>Revenue - CEPF II</i>	Current Year
Contributions	(905,186)
Gain/(Loss) on EU Foreign Exchange ¹	(3,505,186)
Global Environment Facility (CI Project Agency) ²	200,000
The World Bank	1,500,000
Regional Donors ⁸	900,000
Bank Interest Earned	158,076
Total revenue	(747,110)

<i>Grants by region</i>	Grants Awarded³ 07/01/14 - 03/31/15			Payments on Grants⁴ 07/01/14 - 03/31/15		
	FY15 Approved Spending Plan	Actual YTD	%	FY15 Approved Spending Plan	Actual YTD	%
Caribbean	277,899	251,888	91%	1,042,860	1,121,326	108%
Caucasus	-	-	0%	61,849	16,000	26%
East Melanesian Islands	2,000,000	320,549	16%	1,132,823	545,236	48%
Eastern Afromontane	2,500,000	1,485,036	59%	1,985,994	1,224,046	62%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	-	(9,822)	0%	348,583	244,887	70%
Guinean Forests of West Africa Reinvestment	1,700,000	-	0%	425,000	-	0%
Indo-Burma Reinvestment	2,500,000	3,213,486	129%	1,885,527	1,423,719	76%
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Reinvestment	2,250,000	1,425,000	63%	562,500	146,590	26%
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	100,000	166,282	166%	663,433	1,070,383	161%
Mediterranean	1,600,000	951,887	59%	2,633,773	2,140,015	81%
Mountains of Southwest China	-	(592)	0%	159,251	106,705	67%
Tropical Andes Reinvestment	2,000,000	-	0%	500,000	-	0%
Wallacea	1,500,000	1,499,389	100%	375,000	159,623	43%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	-	(185)	0%	461,447	446,837	97%
Total Grants	16,427,899	9,302,918	57%	12,238,041	8,645,366	71%

<i>Operational Costs</i>	Spending plan	Actual YTD	%
Operating Costs	2,712,025	1,710,867	63%
Management Fee	525,319	355,593	68%
Total Operations	3,237,344	2,066,460	64%

<i>Preparation</i>			%
Total Preparation⁷	540,000	437,798	81%

<i>GEF-PPG</i>			%
Total PPG²	-	73,398	0%

<i>Special Projects</i>			%
Audit Fee	45,000	40,000	89%
Fundraising & Special Events ⁵	138,463	57,077	41%
New CEPF Grant System ⁶	273,000	251,662	92%
Total Special Projects	456,463	348,739	76%

Total expense	20,661,706	12,229,312	59%
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Fund Balance at 03/31/15

Bank Balance	15,228,980
Investments ⁹	30,085,625
Accounts Receivable	13,422,861
European Union	11,892,147
Global Environment Facility (CI Project Agency) ²	200,000
The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust	600,000
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	260,000
Mava Foundation	470,714
Grants Payable	(20,009,960)
Operating Expenses (due to)/from CI	(480,494)
Total Fund Balance	38,247,012

¹ Gain/(Loss) on Foreign Exchange: Loss due to foreign exchange rate change applied to the unpaid contribution from the EU (entrusted to the WB) from June 30, 2014 to March 31, 2015 of 1.3645 to 1.0850.

² Global Environment Facility (CI Project Agency): Contribution of \$200k is for Project Preparation Grant (not included in the Spending Plan).

³ Grants Awarded: Negative amounts represent grant deobligations.

⁴ Payments on Grants: Includes payments on grants awarded in prior years.

⁵ Fundraising & Special Events: Actual costs for events include expenses for CBD in Korea and WPC in Australia.

⁶ Upgrade of CEPF granting system approved by Donor Council in January 2014.

⁷ Preparation: Budget adjustment per no objection approval request dated 03/18/15 to incorporate long-term visions for the Balkans and Cerrado Hotspots, and extended timeline for Guinean Forests of West Africa.

⁸ Regional Donors: The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust (\$900k).

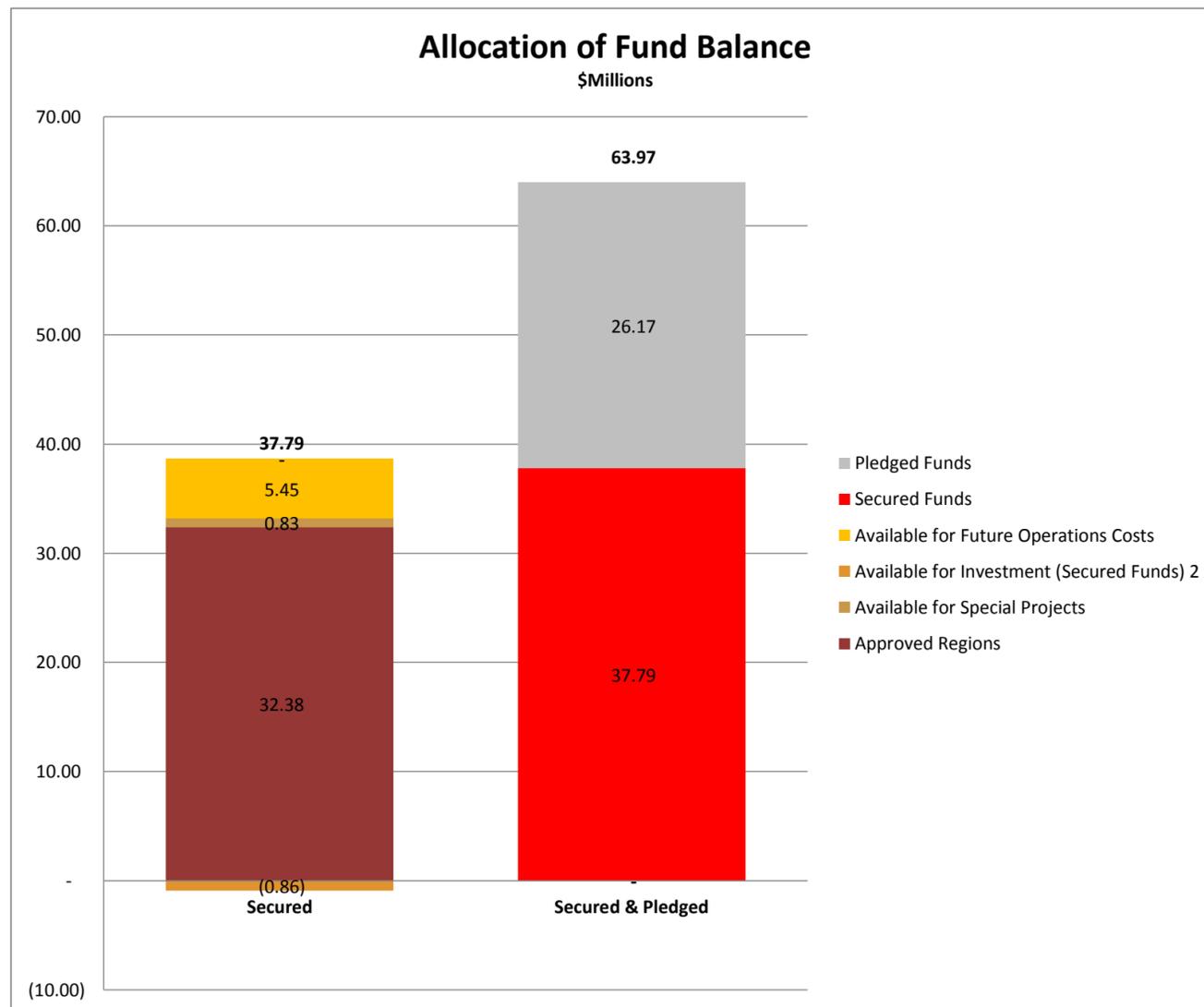
⁹ Investments: \$30M transferred to UBS investment account in December 2014.

Summary of Available Resources as of 03/31/15

Revenue to Date	269,191,563	
Expenses to Date	230,944,551	
Fund Balance		38,247,012
Allocated to:		
Approved Regions	32,379,159	
Available for Special Projects	827,241	
Reserved for Preparation	452,202	
Available for Future Operations Costs	5,448,873	
Available for Investment (Secured Funds) ²		(860,462)
Pledged Funds ¹		
Operations Costs on Pledged Funds	3,925,950	
Balance for Investment (Pledged Funds)		22,247,050
Total Available for Investment - secured and pledged funds		21,386,588
Total Available Resources - secured and pledged funds		64,420,012

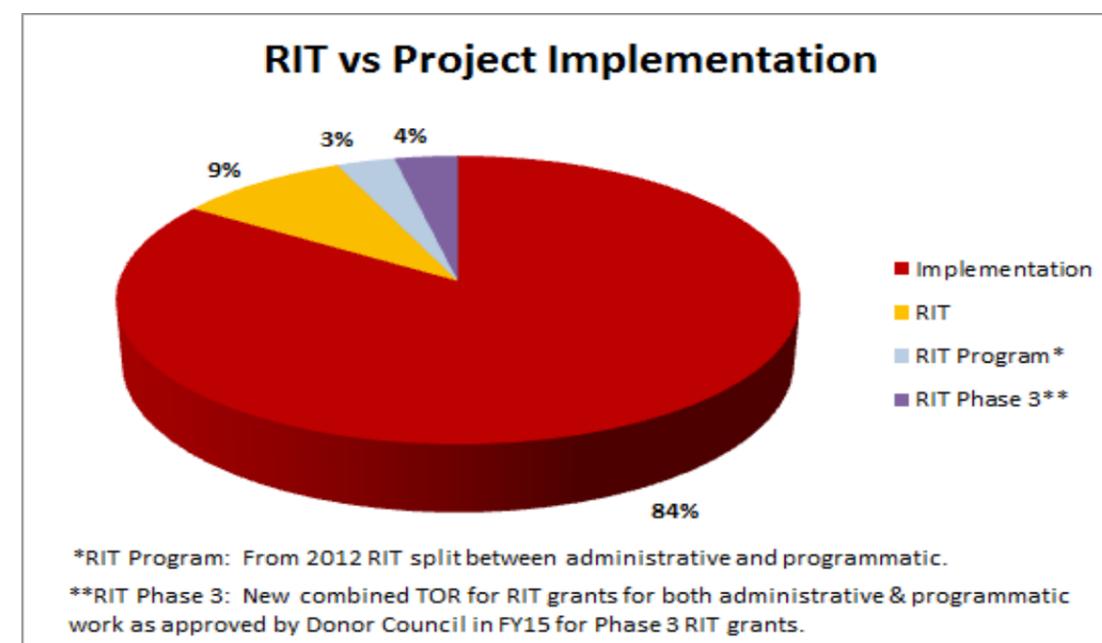
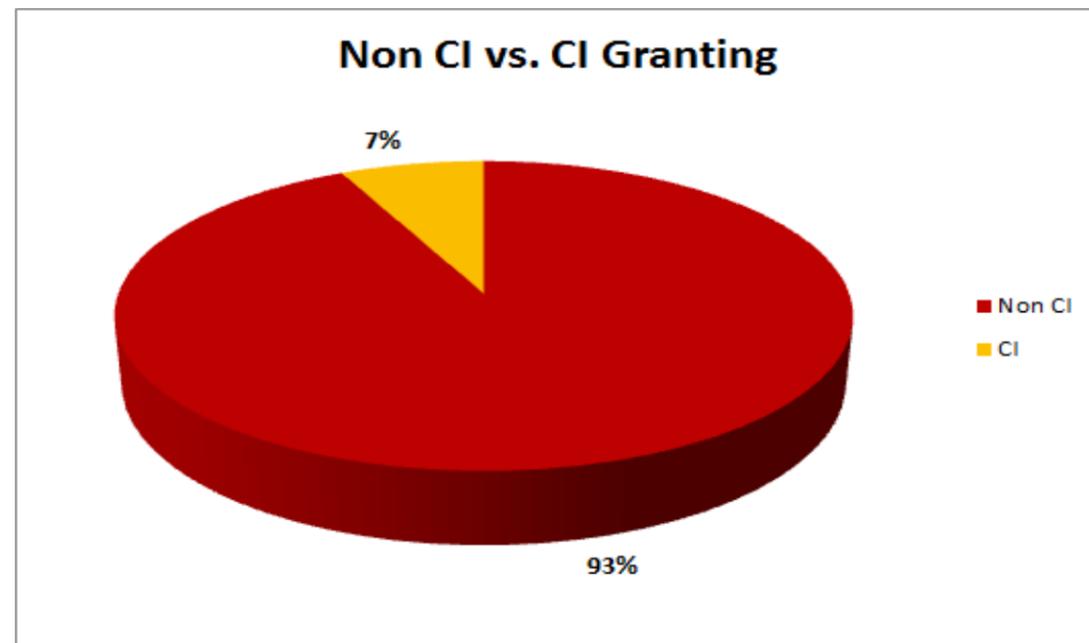
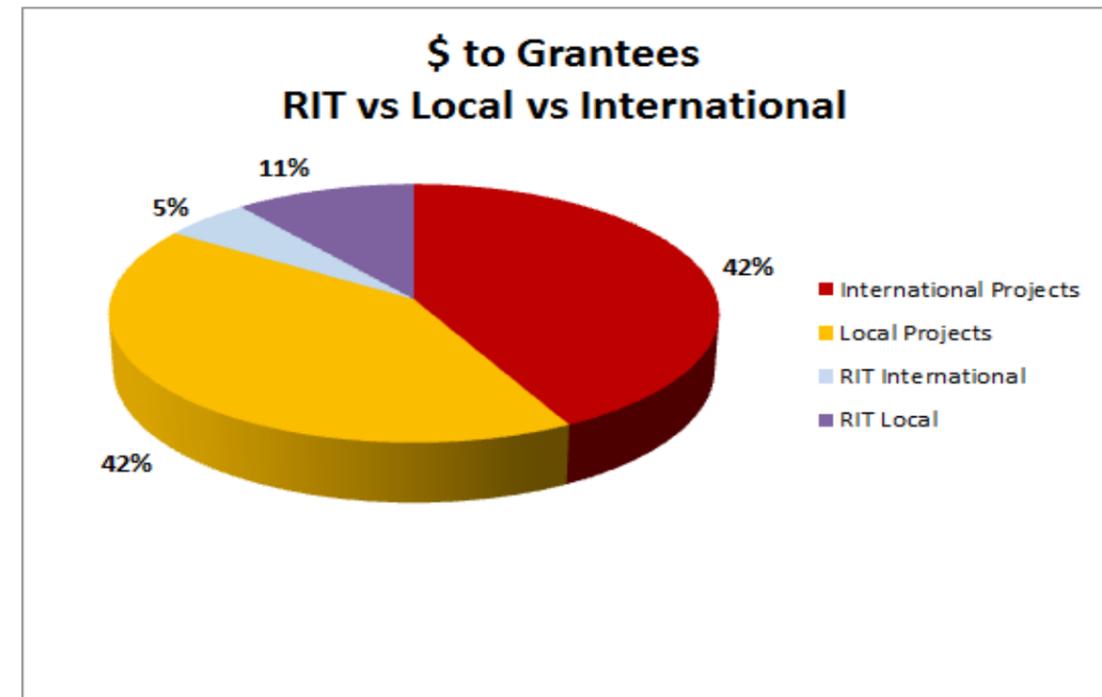
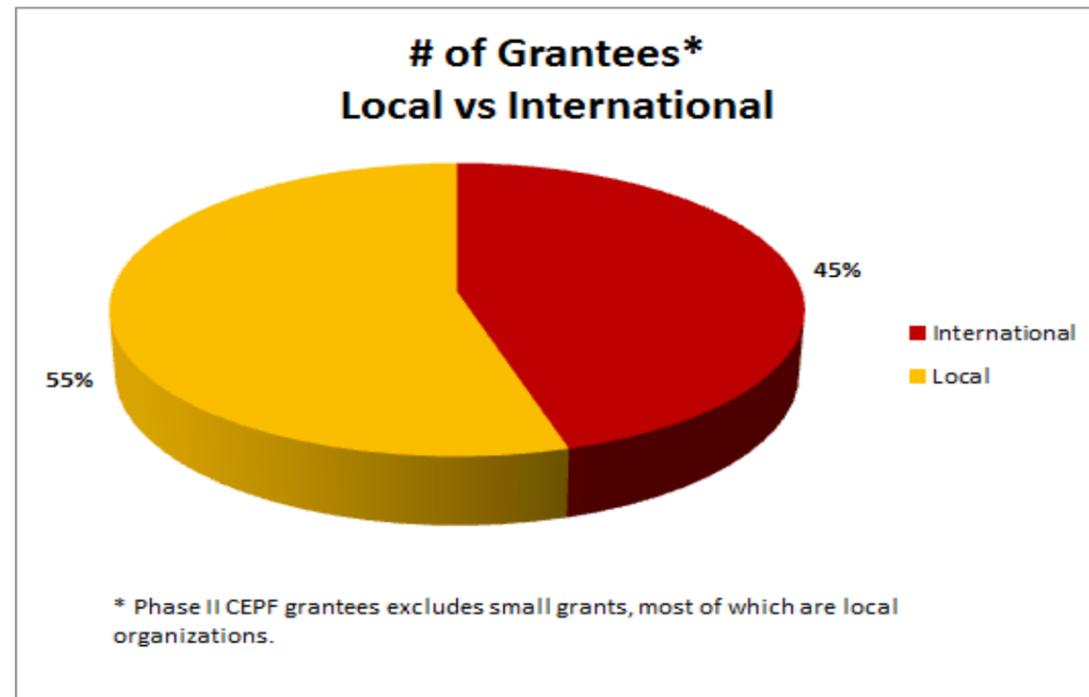
¹ Includes \$14,813,000 from the Government of Japan, \$1,560,000 from The World Bank, and \$9,800,000 from the Global Environment Facility.

² The secured funds available for investment are in a temporary deficit, with the currency loss on the EUR a major factor. This will reverse as soon as the new agreements are signed, including the Government of Japan.



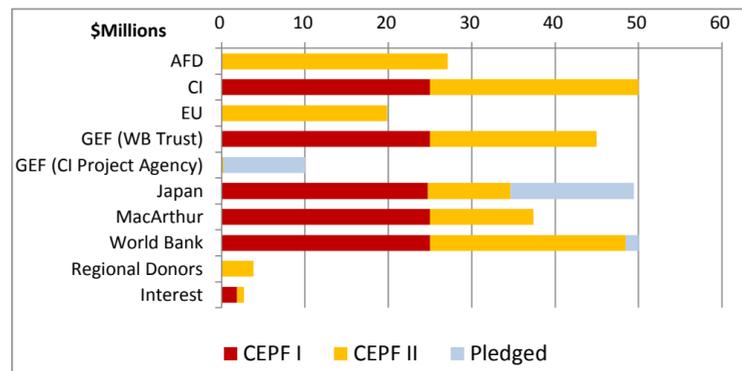
CEPF Phase II Grant Portfolio as of 03/31/15

Number of Grantees:	434
Amount Granted (US \$000s):	\$ 86,094

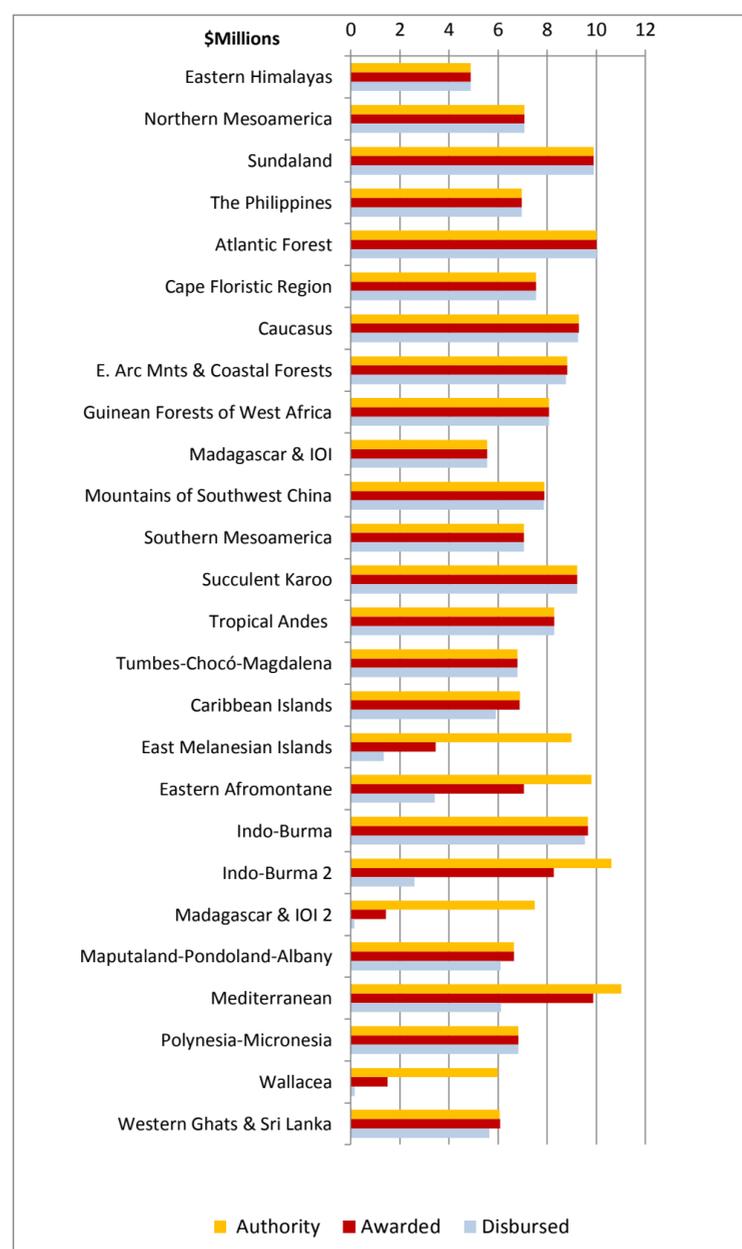


CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement from Inception to 03/31/15 (US \$000s)

<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	19,855	19,855	0
Global Environmental Facility (WB Trust)	25,000	20,000	45,000	0
Global Environmental Facility (CI Project Agency)	0	200	200	9,800
Government of Japan	24,750	9,875	34,625	14,813
MacArthur Foundation	25,000	12,425	37,425	0
The World Bank	25,000	23,440	48,440	1,560
Regional Donors ¹	0	3,830	3,830	0
Bank Interest earned	1,871	829	2,699	0
Total Revenue to Date	126,621	142,571	269,192	26,173



<i>Expense</i>	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Total	CEPF II
<i>Grants by region</i>	Awarded	Awarded	Awarded	Disbursed	Balance
CEPF I only					
Eastern Himalayas	4,883	0	4,883	4,883	0
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079	0	7,079	7,079	0
Sundaland	9,901	0	9,901	9,901	0
The Philippines	6,970	0	6,970	6,970	0
CEPF I and CEPF II consolidation					
Atlantic Forest	7,615	2,395	10,010	10,010	0
Cape Floristic Region	5,966	1,585	7,551	7,551	0
Caucasus	8,298	998	9,295	9,252	0
E. Arc Mnts & Coastal Forests	7,064	1,749	8,813	8,757	0
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165	1,907	8,073	8,073	0
Madagascar & IOI	4,170	1,386	5,556	5,556	0
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535	1,351	7,886	7,863	0
Southern Mesoamerica	5,411	1,636	7,047	7,047	0
Succulent Karoo	7,834	1,387	9,221	9,221	0
Tropical Andes	6,130	2,157	8,287	8,287	0
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,952	1,846	6,798	6,798	0
Consolidation (unallocated)	0	0	0	0	25
CEPF II only					
Caribbean Islands	0	6,873	6,873	5,911	27
East Melanesian Islands	0	3,464	3,464	1,337	5,536
Eastern Afromontane	0	7,056	7,056	3,428	2,744
Indo-Burma	0	9,657	9,657	9,539	0
Indo-Burma 2	0	8,272	8,272	2,590	2,350
Madagascar & IOI 2	0	1,425	1,425	147	6,075
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	0	6,646	6,646	6,102	4
Mediterranean	0	9,883	9,883	6,128	1,134
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	6,829	6,829	6,829	0
Tropical Andes Reinvestment	0	0	0	0	10,000
Wallacea	0	1,499	1,499	160	4,501
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka ²	0	6,093	6,093	5,639	(16)
Total Grants to Date	98,974	86,094	185,068	165,058	32,379
Other Expenses to Date					
Preparation	6,714	3,746	10,460		
GEF-PPG	0	73	73		
Special Projects	349	1,523	1,872		
Operations Costs	17,659	15,812	33,471		
Total Other Expenses to Date	24,722	21,155	45,877		
Total Expense	123,695	107,249	230,945		
Fund Balance			38,247		



¹ Regional donors include Margaret A Cargill Foundation for Indo Burma Reinvestment; Mava Foundation for the Mediterranean; and The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands.

² Western Ghats is temporarily overspent against Spending Authority and will reverse on deobligations.



Approved Grants

From: January 01, 2015 To: March 31, 2015

East Melanesian Islands

Strategic Direction 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning

Mapping Customary Lands from Mount Maetambe to Kolombangara River

Establish a solid foundation for long-term, community-owned conservation initiatives for Mount Maetambe to Kolombangara River Key Biodiversity Area on the Solomon Islands' Choiseul Island by mapping and registering customary ownership of land by local tribes, supporting customary land owners to develop a comprehensive land-use plan that enshrines the cultural and biological values of the area, and assisting customary landowners to form and register tribal associations responsible for natural resource governance.

Funding: \$80,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 2/29/2016
Grantee: Ecological Solutions, Solomon Islands

Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction 1. Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors

Improved Conservation, Agribusiness and Land Use Planning at Mount Rungwe, Tanzania

Work in the villages of Bujingijila and Nbumbulu, between the Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve and Kitulo Plateau National Park in Tanzania, to train farmers in conservation-friendly farm management.

Funding: \$159,432
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 1/31/2017
Grantee: African Wildlife Foundation

Lost Mountain Phase III: Scalable Innovative Conservation and Development on Mount Namuli

Promote conservation of Mozambique's Mount Namuli and improved human welfare for local communities with support from Mozambican NGO LUPA; and work with community members and local governments to promote cooperative planning that mainstreams conservation of the Namuli Key Biodiversity Area into local development objectives.

Funding: \$150,000
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 7/31/2017
Grantee: Additive Adventure

Strategic Direction 2. Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot

Catalyzing the Application of Site Safeguard Policies and Procedures in Kenya: Using Lake Bogoria National Reserve Key Biodiversity Area as a Case Study

Establish and empower the local people and the county government of Baringo, Kenya, to maintain the conservation and environmental values of Lake Bogoria in the face of planned geothermal explorations at the key biodiversity area. Develop and promote a safeguard guide for the Baringo County Government to ensure high-quality environmental impact assessments will be carried out, and complied with, when needed. Develop a geothermal energy safeguard policy and monitor new geothermal developments across Kenya.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2014 - 2/29/2016
Grantee: Nature Kenya
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Community Information, Education and Communication for Healthy Biodiversity Habitats and Ecosystems Around Murchison Falls National Park Key Biodiversity Area, Uganda

Enhance biodiversity conservation in and around Murchison Falls Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Uganda, in the face of increasing oil and gas exploration in the region by enabling 120 community leaders in the districts of Amuru and Nwoya to actively engage in environmental impact assessment (EIA) implementation and compliance. Help local communities and their leaders understand what the EIA process is and how it can be used to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts of industrial developments at the KBA.

Funding: \$9,944
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: Gulu University
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Designing Management and Monitoring Plans for the Livingstone Mountain Forests

Work with the community managers of four forest reserves in Tanzania's Livingstone Mountain Region, Madenge, Mdandu, Mshola and Sakaranyuma, to improve community buy-in and engagement for forest conservation activities and a reduction in direct and indirect threats via environmental education activities. The goal is to reach at least half of each village, totaling 7,300 people across seven villages. Coordinate with village environmental committees to demarcate and protect corridors between the forest reserves.

Funding: \$185,403
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 2/28/2017
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Applying the World Bank Safeguard Policies and Procedures on Natural Habitats in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area, Tanzania

Work with Nyakitonto Youth for Development Tanzania to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships among local authorities, community conservation groups, private sector entities and the media at the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Tanzania. Build their capacities to prepare, implement and monitor World Bank safeguard policies and procedures on natural habitats, as part of the KBA, Igamba Falls, is reported to be highly threatened by a planned hydropower scheme.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 2/29/2016
Grantee: Governance Links Tanzania
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Participatory Action to Safeguard Ecosystems and Enforce Environmental Impact Assessments in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area, Tanzania

Work with Governance Links Tanzania to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and strengthen their capacity to coordinate, monitor and enforce environmental impact assessments (EIA) and environmental conservation laws. Establish a task force and provide Governance Links Tanzania with the knowledge and tools needed to share information on developments in the KBA, including on issues related to compliance with EIA audits and suggested mitigation measures.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 2/29/2016
Grantee: Nyakitonto Youth for Development Tanzania
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Rabies Emergency Response in Ethiopian Wolves

Work to halt rabies infections in Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) in the Bale Mountains Key Biodiversity Area of Ethiopia through vaccination of domestic dogs, development of community awareness campaigns, monitoring of wolf populations, analysis of demographic data pre- and post-rabies outbreak, and the production of a "Disease Management Plan" for Ethiopian wolves, based on the new information and on the lessons learned during the current intervention.

Funding: \$9,925
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 7/31/2015
Grantee: Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Rehabilitation and Sustainable Utilization of Little Abbai River Mouth Wetlands

Improve the management of Ethiopia's Little Abbai River Mouth Wetlands, where the Little Abbai River flows into Lake Tana, by working with community members, representatives from fishing cooperatives and representatives from papyrus crafters to train people in improved production practices.

Funding: \$149,307

Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 7/31/2017

Grantee: Bahir Dar University

Strategic Direction 3. Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors

Systematic Evaluation of CEPF and Capacity Development of CEPF Grantees

Work with Fauna & Flora International to collaboratively run a series of region-wide capacity-building and networking events. This includes running the portfolio-level mid-term and final assessments, and purposefully connecting practitioners and providing them with tools to deliver successful conservation projects.

Funding: \$249,938

Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 7/31/2017

Grantee: Tropical Biology Association

Systematic Evaluation of CEPF and Capacity Development of CEPF Grantees

Work with the Tropical Biology Association to collaboratively run a series of region-wide capacity-building and networking events. This includes running the portfolio-level mid-term and final assessments, and purposefully connecting practitioners and providing them with tools to deliver successful conservation projects.

Funding: \$249,999

Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 7/31/2017

Grantee: Fauna and Flora International

Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction 8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels

Core Capacity Building for Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden

Assist the emergence of Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden as a national center for botanical research and education in Lao PDR through provision of training in horticulture and herbarium techniques, field botany, ethno-botany, propagation techniques and nursery management, development of a master plan for herbarium and seed bank management, establishment of a botanic garden database and installation of a reference library for staff and visiting researchers.

Funding: \$74,810

Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 9/30/2016

Grantee: Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden

Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands

Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands

Serve as the regional implementation team for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot, responsible for guiding grantmaking in the hotspot; conducting outreach to civil society, government and the private sector; promulgating the goals outlined in the ecosystem profile; and managing the small grants program for the hotspot.

Funding: \$1,425,000
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 1/31/2020
Grantee: Fondation Tany Meva

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

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

Supporting Estuary Management on the Eastern Cape Wild Coast

Build capacity within stakeholder groups who live alongside the Ntafufu, Mngazana and Umngazi estuaries on the Eastern Cape Wild Coast of South Africa. Assist in the implementation of the estuary management plans, which have been or are in the process of being drawn up for these vital estuaries. Transfer lessons learned to other estuaries in the region.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 10/1/2014 - 7/31/2015
Grantee: University of KwaZulu-Natal Foundation
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Mediterranean Basin

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

Contribute to the Conservation of Bou Areg Laguna Through the Involvement of Civil Society in Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Work with the fishermen cooperative in the Bou Areg (Mar Chica) Laguna, a priority area for tourism development on the coast of Morocco, to explain the benefits of the area, introduce more sustainable fishing practices, and encourage cooperative actions that will bring economic benefits while helping preserve the area's resources. Consult with a wide range of stakeholders to set up economic alternatives to activities detrimental to the environment.

Funding: \$172,072
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 8/31/2016
Grantee: Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources

Contribute to the Conservation of Kuriat Islands and the Bay of Monastir Through the Involvement of Civil Society and the Private Sector

Build capacity of Notre Grand Bleu to become an efficient local partner of the National Agency for the Protection of Coastal Zones to implement the management plan for the future marine protected area on Kuriat Islands in Tunisia.

Funding: \$159,994
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 6/30/2016
Grantee: Notre Grand Bleu

Fair Access: Managing Turtle Watching and Quad Bike Traffic on the Nesting Beaches of Boavista

Create a "turtle hotline" to ensure fair distribution of turtle watching tours on Boavista, an island in Cape Verde, and minimize human disturbance, which could be damaging to turtle nesting sites. Coordinate a series of workshops and discussions with all stakeholders involved to ensure acceptance and to build a sustainable financing mechanism based on a user fee for the turtle hotline. Mark quad trails to minimize the environmental impact of turtle watching on nesting sites, coastal wetlands and other natural areas.

Funding: \$77,922
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 10/31/2016
Grantee: Turtle Foundation

Montenegro Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Montenegro in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$1,945
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: ZELENI DOM - Green Home
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strengthening Tunisian Organizations Environmental and Technical Skills

Work to build a more effective civil society community for the conservation of coastal biodiversity, directly supporting 14 local organizations working at seven important coastal sites in Tunisia. Coordinate the program to strengthen civil society capacities in technical skills, including training on integrated coastal zone management, and to build administrative and financial capacities, as well as strategic planning.

Funding: \$76,770
Grant Term: 2/1/2015 - 7/31/2016
Grantee: Association tunisienne des Ingénieurs Agronomes

Tunisian and Libyan Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Tunisia and Libya in relation to the environmental challenges faced,

including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,308
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: Reseau Enfant de la Terre (RET)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

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

Albanian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Albania in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,270
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: Urban Research Institute
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Macedonian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Macedonia in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,996
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC Com)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

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

Bosnian and Herzegovina Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$4,830
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015

Grantee: Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe Country Office Bosnia and Herzegovina
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Jordanian Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Jordan in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,231
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Lebanon Mid-Term Stakeholder Assessment of the CEPF Investment

Assess the role and needs of civil society in Lebanon in relation to the environmental challenges faced, including cooperation, communications and capacity; identify future conservation priorities; and report recommendations and feedback to the CEPF Secretariat as part of the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Mid-Term Assessment.

Funding: \$2,690
Grant Term: 1/1/2015 - 3/15/2015
Grantee: Université Saint Joseph de Beyrouth
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

Mediterranean Mid-Term Assessment Regional Meeting

Organize the regional meetings of CEPF partners in the context of the mid-term assessment of CEPF investment in the Mediterranean Basin.

Funding: \$56,520
Grant Term: 3/1/2015 - 5/31/2015
Grantee: Association Les Amis des Oiseaux

Wallacea

Strategic Direction 7. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Wallacea

Serve as the regional implementation team for the Wallacea biodiversity hotspot, responsible for guiding

grantmaking in the hotspot; conducting outreach to civil society, government and the private sector; and promulgating the goals outlined in the hotspot's ecosystem profile.

Funding: \$1,499,389
Grant Term: 12/1/2014 - 11/30/2019
Grantee: Burung Indonesia

CEPF-supported initiatives are often reported in news articles and magazine features. Below is a sampling of recent stories featuring CEPF. Click [here](#) to view all news about CEPF.

Listin Diario

[Invierte \\$1.8 MM para proteger biodiversidad](#)

EN LA REGIÓN DEL CARIBE EL APOYO A PROYECTOS ASCIENDE A US\$6.6 MILLONES

07 Enero 2015

By Solange de la Cruz Matos

Las actividades de protección de la biodiversidad en el país recibieron aportaciones provenientes del Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF, por su sigla en inglés) que ascendieron a US\$1,785,733,00, en el período de 2010 a 2014. Esos recursos fueron canalizados a través de 32 proyectos, entre ellos dos binacionales y nueve de alcance regional, algunos de ellos todavía en curso.



Proyectos. Se ejecutaron en áreas relevantes como los parques nacionales.

Los proyectos se ejecutaron en áreas identificadas como relevantes para la conservación, como son los parques nacionales Bahoruco Oriental, Jaragua, Loma La Humeadora, Sierra de Bahoruco, Valle Nuevo, Los Haitises y Nalga de Maco, y las reservas Loma Guaconejo y Loma Quita Espuela.

El CEPF es un programa que cuenta con el apoyo de siete donantes, que son la Agencia Francesa para el Desarrollo, la Unión Europea, el Banco Mundial, el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial, el Gobierno de Japón, la Fundación MacArthur y Conservación Internacional.

Esas instituciones y gobiernos se unieron para garantizar que los fondos que destinan a la conservación lleguen a la sociedad civil local a fin de empoderarla y crear capacidades, pues la consideran un factor muy importante en esa materia.

Michele Zador, directora de CEPF, informó que ese organismo tiene presencia en nueve países del Caribe que han sido reconocidos por los donantes como poseedores de una riqueza importante de biodiversidad que se encuentra en peligro.

“En el Caribe hemos identificado 290 áreas críticas para la biodiversidad, por lo que

ocupa el tercer lugar en zonas del mundo con más especies en vías de extinción”, dijo. Subrayó que esas áreas también son importantes porque en ellas se localizan cuencas altas de ríos y juegan un papel trascendental para la resiliencia al cambio climático y la prevención y mitigación de desastres, por lo que se está hablando no solo de protección de ecosistemas, sino de garantizar un mayor bienestar a las comunidades.

Zador informó que para el quinquenio de 2010 a 2015 ese fondo habrá destinado US\$46 millones a la protección de la biodiversidad en América Latina y el Caribe, y que de ese monto US\$6.9 millones habrán sido invertidos en el Caribe, mediante la estrategia de entregar financiamiento a grupos de la sociedad civil. Esa cifra actualmente asciende a US\$6.6 millones. Los proyectos apoyados son 75.46 de ellos con aportaciones superiores a los US\$20,000, y 29, con aportes inferiores a esa cifra.

Proceso de evaluación

Al ser preguntada sobre nuevos fondos para apoyar otros proyectos en el país, la directora de CEPF informó que ello dependerá de los resultados de la evaluación que realizarán a los proyectos ejecutados.

“Vamos a analizar nuestro portafolio para ver si hubo un buen desempeño y si hay necesidad de continuar con este fondo. Yo espero que este análisis va a mostrar la importancia de continuar, pero no sabremos hasta hacer este análisis”, dijo.

Precisó que para el análisis toman en cuenta si todavía hay necesidades en la conservación de la biodiversidad en el país en cuestión y si los grupos de la sociedad civil requieren continuar aumentando sus capacidades. Puso como ejemplos los casos de Sudáfrica y algunas zonas de Brasil, en donde los donantes de CEPF han decidido que no van a regresar. “Hay algunas regiones que estamos considerando que han sido graduadas... yo creo que en el Caribe y sus islas es obvio que hay necesidad, pero necesitamos hacer este tipo de análisis y mirar cómo están nuestros fondos, y después los donantes nuestros toman la decisión”.

La funcionaria de CEPF consideró que las organizaciones dominicanas han tenido una buena ejecución: “Creo que fue muy bueno el desempeño, los proyectos han hecho cosas muy concretas para mejorar la conservación y al mismo tiempo lograr beneficios para las comunidades locales, que es super importante para nosotros”.

Michele Zador estuvo en el país recientemente participando de un encuentro de socialización en la embajada de Francia, organizado por el CEPF con algunas de las entidades ejecutoras de los proyectos que han patrocinado.

Allí expusieron los logros alcanzados en el tema de la conservación de la biodiversidad las entidades Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, Sociedad para el Desarrollo del Nordeste, Pronatura, Intec, Sociedad Ornitológica de La Hispaniola,

Grupo Jaragua y Red de Conservación de la Biodiversidad en R.D. Zador también realizó visitas a algunos de los proyectos ejecutados.



[A green makeover](#)

January 13, 2015

By Narasimha Hedge



Under a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Snehakunja Trust, Life Trust of Sirsi and other local community organisations have undertaken the restoration of degraded freshwater swamps in the Central Western Ghats with a participatory approach.

Freshwater swamps are marshy areas with typical habitats, where water oozes out in perennial streams at constant level throughout the year. The swamps host at least two dozens of species that are listed as rare, endangered and threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Major ecosystem services of these swamps include underground water recharging, erosion control, sediment retention and water purification. Some biologists argue that these special ecosystems must have originated during the pre-historic period of dinosaurs in Mesozoic time, even before the continental drifting started. These habitats are now reduced to highly fragmented pockets because of degradation and are critically endangered ecosystems.

Altering natural hydrologic regimes, draining, pollution, introduction of exotic or invasive species and land use change are the major threats to these swamps. Like their tropical counterparts, these wetland ecosystems are being heavily exploited by human society, often with little regard to ecological consequences.

To reverse this trend of forest degradation, a novel approach of ecological restoration was put into action. The initiative made significant contribution to the science and practice of ecological restoration. Community knowledge and their participation was ingrained into this ingenious approach.

An extensive restoration

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery and management of ecological integrity. Ecological integrity includes a critical range of variability in

biodiversity, ecological processes and structures, regional and historical context and sustainable cultural practices. Impacts of long-term habitat conversion may occur over a much longer period of time as individual species become threatened and eventually go extinct.

Restoration ecology provides a powerful suite of tools for speeding the recovery of degraded lands.

The first thing was the classification of swamps based on physical characteristics and vegetation elements to suggest effective management plans for the swamps in the Central and Northern Western Ghats region. Some of the methods used in the process were: identification and mapping of the tropical freshwater swamps using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS), through extensive field work and meetings with local communities, forest department staff and identifying critical micro-corridors to link the fragmented patches through restoration. Detailed vegetation survey in listing of obligatory swamp species and facultative swamp species was made and demographic studies were also carried out.

By establishing decentralised community nurseries near the swamp forests, swamp species and commercially important species were cultivated and distributed to the local farmers for planting. More than 10,000 seedlings were planted with an average survival rate of 65 per cent. Around 45 species of plants including some critically endangered species like *Syzygium travencoricum*, *Vateria indica*, *Myristica fatua*, *Gymnacranthera canarica*, *Arenga wightii* and *Pinanga dicksonii* were planted. Communities were also technically empowered to collectively cultivate nurseries of swamp species for an operation level planting. This collective effort demonstrated how species recovery and habitat restoration could go hand-in-hand.

Working towards progress

Further, rewetting of the degraded swamp land was done by installing appropriate soil and moisture conservation structures in the affected areas. Fuel efficient ovens and dryers, solar electricity were installed in the villages and the local villagers were given training on processing, value chain development and marketing of non-timber forest products. Involving the local people ensured long-term commitment to the restoration work.

“If these swamp forests have such an enormous ecological importance, we will assist you in the conservation and restoration,” says Sridhar (70), a local resident and farmer of Torme village. “This is for the first time, local people in our village participated in the protection of these wetland forests, which are dynamic natural environments. For us, it is rewarding to be part of this scholarly project as the entire process was integrated

and participatory,” says Padmanabha, a local, who was actively involved throughout the initiative.

These wetland forest are critical to the environment. Protecting and preserving them is highly imperative. Commercial activities in such vulnerable areas can destroy the ecosystem and may also cause extinction of animals over a long period of time. By combining ecosystem knowledge and local participation, it is possible to save these forests.

DOMINICAN TODAY



Groups join to protect Sierra de Bahoruco National Park

20 January 2015



S.D.- The Sierra de Bahoruco is currently considered Dominican Republic’s most biologically important area and one of the Caribbean’s largest.

Its mountains are home to the widest diversity of flora and fauna throughout the island and combines various ecosystems such as dry forests, hardwood forests and pine forests.

Unfortunately, some of these species are threatened with extinction due to the effects of climate change, increasing human pressures and the lack of effective park management.

During the past five years the NGO Hispaniola Ornithological Society (SOH Conservation) and the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry of the Dominican Republic, with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the Foundation Tropigas Natural have been working together to help reduce the incidence of the most serious threats affecting mainly the northern slope of Sierra de Bahoruco National Park.

Read More:

www.ecoindexsp.wordpress.com/2014/12/23/conservacion-sierra-de-bahoruco/

The Gleaner Jamaica WI **Lifeline for Cockpit**
Established 1834 **Country NGO**

February 13, 2015

By Petre Williams-Raynor

FACED with a lack of donor funding, the Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency (STEA) is pursuing alternative financing to continue its conservation work while sustaining its operations.

They have found an alternative in ecotourism, an option identified as ideal, given their location in one of Jamaica's key biodiversity areas - the Cockpit Country.

"STEA has decided to come out of the business of straight cap-in-hand, and to instead try and generate some of its operating costs through independent income generation," said Executive Director Hugh Dixon.

"We took the view that one way to achieve that would be to increase our ecotourism activities in Cockpit Country and primarily in the area we are closest to - south-east Cockpit Country," he added.

And so it was that Cockpit Country Adventure Tours (CCAT) was born.

"Essentially, what we have done is developed attractions that are showcasing the unique characteristics of Cockpit Country," Dixon said.

Included in its offerings are hiking, birding and guided cave tours.

"Naturally, we would add to that picnicking," the STEA boss said.

They have managed to get this far, in part, because of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund's Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), started in 2011.

Under REDI, 600 metres of walking trail has been established; safety rails, posts and signage put in; safety equipment provided, including helmets, headlamps and flashlights; and a new kiosk, with seats, sanitary conveniences and changing rooms, set up.

But things have not been smooth sailing. There have been many delays, with what

Dixon considers a critical component still left to be rolled out - the rebranding.

Their predicament is reflected in the number of visitors, which has fluctuated since 2011 when they had 787. That number fell drastically in 2012 to 312. Whereas it jumped to 947 - including 61 foreigners - in 2013, it again fell to 739 last year, though the number of foreigners grew to 68.

"The marketing is really the bugbear. Three quarters of the project has been implemented, except this critical piece to really get the word out and the place into the market," Dixon said.

"I would have hoped it would have been finished a year ago and, more so, that we would have been seeing Cockpit Country Adventure Tours kicking off. We are [instead] still awaiting the deliverables on the rebranding," he added.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

But there appears to be hope yet. JSIF has said it will move full speed ahead this year, with significant strides already made.

"CCAT's branding strategy has been completed; logo, website and collateral material designed [and] a 30-day social media campaign mounted," the entity said in a written response to **Gleaner** queries.

"A challenge identified by the organisation is an individual to focus on ongoing marketing activities. We will be working with CCAT, in the short term, to see how best to address this situation and they will be included in the cluster/group marketing strategy to facilitate participation at JAPEX, the Jamaican Tourism Trade Show [in] September," JSIF added.

While they wait, Dixon said STEA has taken advantage of the recent Panos Caribbean project, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Fund, which targeted civil society organisations (CSOs) for training and networking on biodiversity conservation.

"I would have to say that Panos helped STEA to not just be sitting, waiting on this rebranding. We have gone the route of doing up our own brochure in-house [and] tackled the social media on our own merit. We are working on our Facebook page because of the initiation from Panos," he said.

At the same time, Dixon said CCAT embodied the best of what is possible for the Cockpit Country.

"People who work as tour guides are finding employment, as well as the people who provide us with food, and the people who we pay user fees, because we have to access these places through their properties," he noted.

"The people who provide accommodation are also in the loop and, by virtue of our interaction at that level with farmers, we are able to pass on some of the best practices for environmental sustainability. Lastly, we are able to showcase the Cockpit Country as having the potential for a different kind of resource use other than mining," he added.

The Cockpit Country — home to diverse plants and animals, and the source for freshwater for 40 per cent of Jamaicans — has been the centre of debate between CSOs and Government over mining in the area, which could force a permanent loss of ecosystem services. Stakeholders are currently awaiting a decision on a designated boundary for the area — one that is expected to inform Government's decision on whether to allow mining.

The Gleaner
Jamaica WI
Established 1834

Best Kept Environmental Practices in the Portland Bight

Monday, March 2, 2015
By Keisha Hill

Goat Islands, a cay located less than a mile off the coast of Jamaica and southwest of the Hellshire Hills, is a part of the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) that is home to the biodiversity found only in Jamaica.

The PBPA is located in St Catherine and Clarendon with 520 square kilometres of land and 1,356 square kilometres of marine space - a total of 1,876 square kilometres. During a recent tour of sections of the PBPA, starting at Salt River in Clarendon, visitors observed the serene untouched habitat, seagrass beds, fish and bird sanctuaries and even caught a brief glimpse of a manatee. Just on the outskirts of the Goat Islands, and some 25 feet below sea level, was the sunken Careening Islands that went under the sea following the passage of Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Of major concern over the years has been pollution of both freshwater and marine ecosystems in the area. However, according to Dr Olivier Langrand, executive director

of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), the pristine ecosystems indicate that the necessary work has been done to ensure conservation and sustainability.



Contributed

Students and environmentalists learning about the wetlands in the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) hike along the boardwalk constructed at the Wetlands Interpretation Centre in the Salt River area in Clarendon. The project is being guided by the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation, which has responsibility for the PBPA.

GREAT COMMITMENT

"There is a great commitment here for conserving the natural habitats here. Everyone is informed and a pragmatic approach has been applied and directed to getting results on the ground. This is important value not only for Jamaica but, by extension, the Caribbean. There are challenges, but we have to ensure that we reconcile development and conservation needs and find a working solution for all," Langrand said.

In just over 15 years, the CEPF has invested more than US\$180 million in 80 different countries. Seven institutions, including the World Bank, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Conservation International, the governments of Japan and France, the European Union and the McArthur Institute, have pooled resources to conserve biodiversity and natural ecosystems in biodiversity hotspots around the world.

HOTSPOTS

There are 34 such hotspots in the world and the islands of the Caribbean, including Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, The Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda. Langard and a team, including a representative of the World Bank, were among the delegates on the tour that was aimed at assessing how the money the CEPF and its donors invested in the Caribbean is being used by the NGOs.

A budget of US\$6.9 million has been allocated to the Caribbean since 2010 with work being conducted in nine countries in the region, including three major areas - Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

"Our analysis found that these three countries have the most biodiversity in the entire Caribbean. The findings also showed that these biodiversity also have important value for the development of these countries, including generating water, protecting the shore from storm surges, and protecting the rivers and the mangroves," said Michelle Zador, grant director at the CEPF. The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation also promotes sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment in the PBPA.

THE TIMES OF INDIA [NGO seeks higher compensation for coconut growers to conserve vulture nests](#)

March 3, 2015

PUNE: Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in the field of nature conservation, has urged the forest department to increase the amount of the compensation awarded to coconut growers in Shrivardhan taluka to encourage them to preserve nests of White Backed and Long Billed vultures.

The birds are currently listed as critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) because of their rapid population decline.

The government recently approved compensation of Rs 400 per nesting tree every year to urge coconut tree owners to conserve these nests. The NGO has suggested that the amount be increased to Rs 1,000 per annum.

"Shrivardhan taluka in Raigad district has recorded the maximum number of vulture nests (30). The nesting sites being on coconut trees, the owners usually have to forego their produce for about six months. We are also working to engage tourists who visit the habitat of these birds to participate in conserving the species," a statement issued by the organisation said.

Drastic decline in the vulture population and the fact that the bird lays only one egg in a year make it necessary to protect every nest to stabilise the population of the species. The protection and conservation attempts are being carried out in Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts in Konkan. Surveys and constant monitoring have revealed that while the White Backed vultures reside in Shrivardhan and Chirgaon, the Long Billed Vultures nest in Vihali, Nane Machi and Ranavadi.

The NGO has been working to conserve the vulture species with assistance from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) under the guidance of forest department. In January this year, the organisation celebrated 'Jatayu Mohatsav' to create awareness about vultures and the need for their protection and conservation. Locals, village panchayats, the department of animal husbandry, chemists and druggists are being roped in for the efforts.

Activists in the Sahyadri region is also campaigning for successful implementation of the ban on veterinary usage of Diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is detrimental to the vulture population.

Besides, Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra has been organising a variety of events, like cattle health checkup camps and providing animal health-cards, to maintain cattle health. It has been proactive in providing information about the appropriate ways to dispose of dead cattle and about fencing the disposal plots in open.

THE ORACLE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966

[USF professor raises awareness for threatened Jamaican forest](#)

March 10, 2015
By Ariana Matos

As April, the environmental awareness month, quickly approaches, thoughts begin to turn toward human impact on the natural environment. People are well aware of recycling and water conservation, but USF's herbarium curator and professor of medical botany, Alan Franck, is doing his part in a more innovative way.

In February, Franck, along with a slew of scientists from around the world, was chosen to



participate in a research study on biodiversity sponsored by the Clarendon Parish Development Committee and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to preserve and document a fragile ecosystem in Jamaica full of endemic species.

Franck said informing the public about resources they may not be aware of leads people to protect those resources and may lead to a greater interest in biodiversity.

“It is about preserving what we have,” Franck said. “We don’t tend to value something unless we know about it. There are other people besides botanists on this trip, there are people working with snails or birds to find out what we have. I guess it’s the wisdom of holding on to all parts until you know what you need. Its important that students know there are threats to losing biodiversity.”

The ecosystem in question, Peckham Woods, is a forest located in the central area of Jamaica. Because the need to grow food is so great, Franck said endangered species sometimes take a back seat to easier farming practices.

“They try to cultivate the ground and sometimes, to clear the land, they set fires,” Franck said. “There are not a lot of enforced land boundaries — even if there was a preserve or a forest, it doesn’t really mean anything, so some people just start cultivating the land. They will start fires and it will carry up the hillside and get into the forest.”

Franck said most of the problematic results of slash-and-burn farming stem from a lack of education on the Jamaican habitat.

“In Florida we get a lot of tropical storms, so we get a lot of lightning. In Jamaica, of course they get tropical storms during the summer, but we have a lot of forestry and a lot of plants, like Saw Palmettos, that prevent the spread of fire,” Franck said.

“Jamaican habitats aren’t adapted to fire. Plants evolved either to fire or in the absence of fire. Lightning frequency is part of why Florida’s habitat can resist fire.”

Jamaica’s preeminent botanist, George Proctor, identified Peckham Woods as, “having outstanding importance for endemic plants,” and it has one of the highest densities of site-specific endemic plants on the island.

“One genus is called ‘Portlandia,’ (and) it makes these beautiful, big flowers,” Franck said. “The area is composed of rugged limestone, so these limestone hills can be jagged and steep. The very top of these hills are very dry, so that is one of the plants that you always see at the top.”

The study will not stay in Jamaica, however. After coming back from his second trip in

May, Franck plans to map, take pictures of and archive the specimens he brings home. Discovering an unknown species and assisting the scientific community in species preservation is the ultimate goal.

Franck finds the research important because Jamaica doesn't have many resources to protect their endangered land and needs help preserving it.

"In Jamaica they don't have a lot of resources to devote to protecting forests and through international efforts, we can try to make a greater difference," Franck said. "The tropics harbor better diversity so that is where we tend to focus, especially the countries that don't have the ability to protect their biodiversity."

The Gleaner Jamaica WI Established 1834 **Wetlands Conservation Centre Under Construction**

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
By Keisha Hill



Construction has begun on the much-anticipated, 40x40 square-foot Wetlands Interpretation Centre in the Salt River area of the Portland Bight Protected Area

(PBPA). It will comprise a boardwalk, dipping pond, dock, solar panel fencing, sewage system and parking lot.

Ingrid Parchment, executive director of the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM), said the objective of building the facility is to create public awareness on the importance of wetlands and the habitats that they provide for including the various species of birds, fish, plants and other animals in the PBPA.

"We want to demonstrate sustainability and best practices for energy, water conservation, recycling, and hurricane and flood resistance. We also want to provide an educational and tourist facility that generates an income for C-CAM and residents of the Portland Bight," Parchment said.

An essential component of this programme is that the facility will also serve as an educational centre for persons living in the PBPA.

"About 50,000 persons live within the boundaries of the PBPA in an estimated 44 residential areas. Of the approximately 18,000 fishers in Jamaica, some 4,000 are based in the coastal communities of Clarendon and St Catherine, home to 21 per cent of registered fishing vessels," Parchment said.

This centre is being funded by the Sugar Transformation Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in partnership with the Alcoa Foundation, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Seacology, a non-profit environmental conservation organisation.

PLANT NURSERY

The centre will also serve as a plant nursery - part of a conservation garden programme, and by extension, people in the community will be encouraged to take indigenous native plants that are under threat into their homes and care for them.

The natural ecosystems of the PBPA provide services that have economic value. These include shoreline protection from storm surges, flooding and beach erosion, fisheries, carbon fixation by forests and tourism opportunities.

The valuable natural resources of this region include dry limestone forests, wetlands, mangrove forests, beaches, seagrass beds, coral reefs, caves, and approximately 379 species of plants and 18 species of native animals, seven of which are found only in the PBPA.

The Rakyat Post™ Small victory! Fewer turtles ending up in the pot in major Chinese city

March 12, 2015

By Nurjehan Mohamed



SCORE one for the turtle conservationists.

Wildlife trade monitoring network Traffic recently announced a dramatic decline in the illegal marine turtle trade in Beihai, China, which had previously been identified by the organisation as a hotspot for the activity.

Surveys this January found just five Hawksbill turtle specimens concealed in a single retail outlet in the city.

This is a stark contrast to May last year when Traffic found more than 80 Hawksbill specimens and thousands of Hawksbill shell products during just two days of monitoring.

The decline follows a suit of measures that were taken, including a concerted

clampdown.

The May findings last year were included with a letter by the Guangxi Management Authority for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES MA) to the Beihai municipal government, urging it to take prompt action against the trade.

The latter responded by working together with the Industrial and Commercial Administration, Fishery Department, Forest and Security Police Forces on an intensive enforcement action against the marine turtle trade.

Between June and October last year, 12 marine turtle cases were detected while 14 Hawksbill specimens and 959 Hawksbill shell products were confiscated.

Aside from enforcement, the authorities also conducted initiatives for greater public awareness on the issue, adopted measures to improve the cooperation between the different enforcement agencies and conducted regular inspections of retail outlets in Beihai.

“Traffic applauds the firm action taken by the authorities in Beihai, who are key to combating the illegal marine turtle trade,” says Zhou Fei, Traffic’s China office head.

“The trade has clearly been suppressed for months after the intensive enforcement action took place.

“Most dealers now clearly understand the trade is illegal and forbidden, but the challenge will be to maintain this situation into the foreseeable future,” adds Zhou.

The environmental organisation hopes the latest success in Beihai will be replicated in other Chinese cities to help reduce marine turtle trade nationally.

Based on a 2012 Traffic East Asia study (*Market Forces — An Examination of Marine Turtle Trade in China and Japan*), the growth of the trade in China and persistent demand from the bekko industry in Japan are factors influencing source country turtle populations in the Coral Triangle region, particularly Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Hopefully, this blow to the illegal trade in China will have positive effects on the turtle populations in the source countries.

Traffic’s work in combating illegal marine turtle trade in China is supported by WWF’s Coral Triangle Programme and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).



Environnement – Les sites « orphelins » intéressent des bailleurs

17.03.2015

Forêt sèche de l'Ouest ainsi que les zones humides côtières et terrestres. Ces sites à haute valeur écologique mais n'ayant pas bénéficié de financement conséquent comme les forêts de l'Est ont finalement obtenu un fonds de 7,5 millions de dollars pour une durée de cinq ans grâce au Critical ecosystem partnership fund (CEPF). Ce dernier est une initiative conjointe de plusieurs bailleurs comme l'Agence française de développement, l'Union européenne, Conservation International et la fondation John D. Le fonds sera ensuite géré par la fondation Tany Meva. « Ces sites font face à des sérieuses menaces comme les feux de brousse et les différentes exploitations illégales. Ils font ainsi partie des zones critiques en danger aujourd'hui », a expliqué Pierre Carret, directeur de Subventions du CEPF.

Afin de protéger ces biodiversités uniques, la société civile a été appelée à se mobiliser. « Les communautés locales, le secteur privé et les ONG font face à des adversaires de taille comme la pauvreté dans la protection de l'environnement. Nous sommes conscients que beaucoup reste à faire par la société civile. Mais si elle ne s'engage pas, la Grande île n'aurait plus de biodiversité à protéger », poursuit Pierre Carret.



Ne dozvolite da pelikani nestanu sa Skadarskog jezera!

24.3.2015

"Pelikani su skoro potopili splavove jer ove godine svi gnijezde na njima. Nažalost ove godine ima ih svega 39 na jezeru, od toga 32 gnijezde. To pokazuje kako smo blizu da ih izgubimo", kažu stručnjaci

Francuska organizacija Noe conservation je pokrenula akciju prikupljanje sredstava za izgradnju splavova za gniježđenje pelikana na Skadarskom jezeru. Noe conservation je koordinator projekta "Očuvanje pelikana, ključne vrste biodiverziteta Skadarskog jezera".



Zainteresovani da pomognu akciju, koja traje još 39 dana, sredstva mogu da uplate na stranici Ulule.com.

"Pelikani gnijezde na prirodnim ostrvima ali zbog mnogih faktora takvih ostrva je sve manje, a kada ih pelikani nađu i gnijezde se na njima, godišnje poplave im unište jaja ili podave ptiće. Broj pelikana se od 70-tih smanjio za 80 odsto i postoji mogućnost da izgubimo ovu najveću plovušu sa rasponom krila od preko tri metra. Pelikan je simbol Skadarskog jezera i divan prizor na njemu", kazala je Bjanka Prakljačić, koordinatorka projekta u Crnoj Gori.

Splavovi za gniježđenje koji su izgrađeni 2013. su prepuni i skoro potopljeni pod težinom pelikana.

"Trebaju nam bar još četiri takva velika splava kako bi im omogućili sigurno gniježđenje u narednim godinama", kazala je Prakljačić.

Za pelikane je, u ranijem periodu, prema njenim riječima, urađeno jako puno.

"Postavljena je zonacija i napravljena sigurna zona bez uznemiravanja za njih, radi se monitoring, tu su splavovi za gniježđenje, radi se sa lokalnom zajednicom i na tome da se razvija turizam na posmatranju pelikana - pelikan sela. Ali problem je što

Media Clips—January-March 2015

nemamo više novca za još splavova, a pelikani su skoro potopili splavove jer ove godine svi gnijezde na njima. Nažalost ove godine ima ih svega 39 na jezeru, od toga 32 gnijezde. To pokazuje kako smo blizu da ih izgubimo", rekla je Prakiljačić.

Projekat očuvanja pelikana u Crnoj Gori traje od 2013. do 2016. godine, a partneri su, osim francuske NVO, Nacionalni parkovi Crne Gore - NP Skadarsko jezero, Prirodnački muzej, CZIP, Tour du Valat, EuroNatur i Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife Albania. Većinski donator projekta je Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Centar za proučavanje i zaštitu ptica nedavno je pozvao zainteresovane volontere da se priključe monitoringu pelikana, koji je planiran do kraja juna, sa ukupno dvadeset izlazaka.

Monitoring se vrši drugu godinu zaredom u okviru projekta "Očuvanje pelikana, ključne vrste biodiverziteta Skadarskog jezera". Ta aktivnost se vrši u cilju praćenja uspješnosti gniježđenja i sprečavanja ilegalnih aktivnosti koje bi mogle da naškode pelikanima. Zainteresovani mogu da se jave na broj telefona 067207117 ili da kontaktiraju CZIP [putem emaila](#).
