

**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**

**Implementing CEPF Phase III: Long-Term Strategic Vision for Graduating Civil Society from CEPF Support in the Albertine Rift and the Eastern Arc Mountains, long-term implementation structures and grant-making modalities**

**Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked to endorse the Technical Framework for Graduating Civil Society from CEPF Support in the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains. The Donor Council is further requested to consider the proposed characteristics and TOR of the long-term implementation structures that will serve as the long-term stewards responsible for implementing the long-term vision, and the proposed Phase III grant-making modalities, and approve that these be piloted in the Eastern Afromontane, IndoBurma and Cerrado hotspots, under the auspices of the GEF bridge grant.

**Background:**

As part of implementing the CEPF Strategy for Phase III, and an input to the Project Preparation Grant for the GEF bridge grant that CEPF received in 2014, CEPF identified the Eastern Afromontane and the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots as the first locations to develop a long-term strategic vision for graduating civil society from CEPF support. CEPF developed detailed terms of reference, with specific deliverables, to define the shape of such long-term visions.

The terms of reference specify the following tasks:

1. Establishment of a senior advisory group.
2. Review of literature, government and donor strategies.
3. Consultation with a diversity of stakeholders.
4. Determination of “graduation” criteria.
5. Determination of targets and milestone.
6. Prioritization of actions.
7. Development of a financing plan to implement the long-term vision.

The terms of reference specify the delivery of a) a background chapter with socioeconomic context, state of civil society, review of conservation financing mechanisms, review of policies, and review of private sector in the hotspot, b) a table with the long-term vision criteria and targets across five parameters, c) a table with a baseline for graduation over five-year periods starting in 2016, 2021 and 2026, d) a table identifying actions to be taken by CEPF, e) a financing plan, and f) a theory of change linking CEPF actions to graduation targets. The terms of reference are ambitious and broad, even more so for a multi-country hotspot. Thus, for the Eastern Afromontane, CEPF decided to make the scope marginally smaller by focusing only on the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains, consisting of the Nile Basin/Albertine Rift lakes (Kivu, Edward, Albert), Lake Tanganyika and Lake Victoria. This includes parts of South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and Tanzania.

The Secretariat awarded a contract to Alex Muhweezi of Future Dialogues International of Kampala, Uganda on 1 November 2014 and an associated agreement to BirdLife International for logistical support from its office in Nairobi, Kenya.

A first draft of the long-term vision was presented to the CEPF Working Group on May 5, 2015, and was further discussed by the Working Group on June 3, 2015. Recommendations from the Working Group have been incorporated into the final draft presented to the Donor Council.

Documents also included for Donor Council review pertain to long-term implementation structures, and proposed revisions to CEPF's grant-making modalities.