

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
35th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium
23 October 2019
14:00-17:00 Central European Summer Time (CEST)**

Action Points Review

The 34th CEPF Donor Council meeting took place on 18 February 2019, at Conservation International, Arlington, USA. The agenda included a discussion on how CEPF is addressing gender in its grant making program and a discussion on CEPF's approach to sustainable financing.

Executive Report / Partnership Highlights:

- CEPF to work with the regional implementation teams (RITs) to engage civil society organizations/small stakeholders in the hotspots about the post-2020 biodiversity conservation agenda.
 - ✓ CEPF with IUCN, WWF and BirdLife International through the KBA Partnership, submitted a motion for the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress highlighting the role of KBAs as an innovative approach to target and accelerate efforts to halt biodiversity loss by focusing on those sites most crucial for sustaining global biodiversity. Data on KBAs can be used to track progress toward achievement of targets in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.
- At the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress, CEPF is to ensure that grassroots grantee voices are heard to influence policies.
 - ✓ CEPF will be involved in a side event on the subject of the impact of small grants on biodiversity conservation in collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Programme, IUCN Save-Our-Species and Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.
 - ✓ Under the leadership of IUCN (BIOPAMA, SOS, Tiger, BEST), CEPF will participate in a thematic session that aims to “explore the current status of conservation funding, including duplications and opportunities for collaboration that will maximize return on investment through on the ground conservation outcomes.”
- CEPF will connect with the EU about the process under way for regional meetings on this topic.
 - ✓ Conversations are to be pursued.
- Olivier to reach out to Valerie Hickey, new representative to the Donor Council from the World Bank, as soon as possible regarding the investment in the Caribbean to begin coordinating.
 - ✓ Olivier Langrand reached out to Valerie Hickey on 13 March 2019, to discuss next steps regarding release of the investment for the Caribbean Islands. Valerie responded immediately, and set up a call on 26 March, which was joined by Olivier, Valerie, Jack Tordoff (CEPF Managing Director) and Anna Gueorgueiva (World Bank Task Team Leader for

CEPF). Following this call, Jack and Anna had a series of meetings to plan the project that will channel the World Bank-managed funds to the Caribbean Island. This process is ongoing.

- CEPF will communicate to the Caribbean Hotspot the further delays to be expected.
 - ✓ CANARI, the main partner of CEPF in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot, has been made aware of the expected delays.

Executive / Financial Narrative and Report:

- The Secretariat will share with the EU and AFD the options for investment of cash advances, and the history of the decision to invest prior cash reserves held by CEPF with UBS.
 - ✓ CEPF is discussing the best options given current market conditions with CI's investment advisor, Cambridge Associates, and will present more detailed options to the EU and AFD as part of the agreement negotiation process. These options will include details regarding rates offered and anticipated in money-market savings accounts, as well as an investment portfolio of highly rated issuances that Cambridge Associates could tailor based on CEPF's investment needs, in conformity to CI's investment policy, which will be shared with the EU and AFD for review. CEPF refers to [DC25_8](#) and the Donor Council [meeting minutes](#), topic #7, regarding the prior decision on investment of cash reserves held by CEPF.

Impact Report – Update on the impact of CEPF during fiscal year 2018

- Include a clear explanation of what KBAs, protected areas and landscapes are.
- Include a map, with indications of levels of investment.
- Explain the challenges encountered in preparing the impact numbers and in achieving our goals.
 - ✓ The FY19 report of global impact is in preparation and will include these elements.
- The Secretariat will share the ICF report once it is ready.
 - ✓ The final report of the independent evaluation conducted by ICF on the World Bank Development Grant Facility (WB/DGF) contribution of US\$25 million to CEPF, covering the period 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2017, was shared with the Donor Council via email on 3 April 2019.

Gender: How is CEPF addressing gender in its grant-making program?

- The Secretariat should connect with various donors' units/staff that focus on gender issues.
 - ✓ The Secretariat collaborates with CI's Senior Gender Advisor to conduct gender training sessions and disseminate relevant material to RITs. Outreach to other donors is a priority in FY20.
- The EU will provide information regarding the UN workshop taking place in April in New York on gender.
- The Secretariat should consider including language in the calls for proposals to ensure sensitivity to gender issues.
 - ✓ Calls for proposals now include a link of the "CEPF and Gender" webpage on CEPF website, which directs applicants to the CEPF Gender Policy, the Gender Toolkit, the Gender Tracking Tool and the Gender Factsheet. The Gender Factsheet gives a quick overview of gender as it relates to CEPF and contains advice about what CEPF is looking for in a proposal with regard to gender.