

IMPACT REPORT

CEPF | 2001-2020



CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY BY EMPOWERING PEOPLE



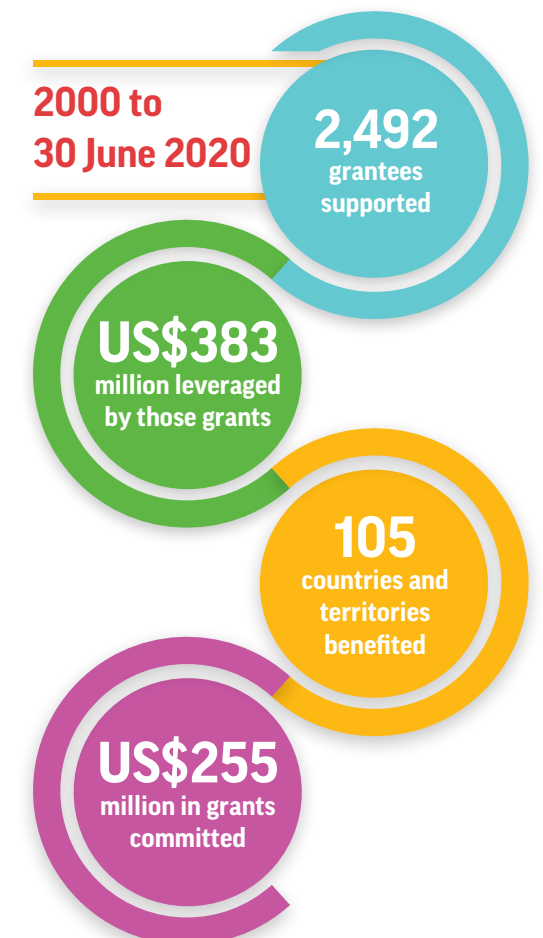
Sobennikoffia poissoniana orchid, listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Madagascar.
© David Rabehivitra

ABOUT CEPF

THE GOAL Empowering locally led conservation of biodiversity hotspots—some of the world’s most biologically rich yet threatened ecosystems.

CEPF’S APPROACH

- **Donor partnership:** Since 2000, CEPF has been bringing together donors to conserve biodiversity, strengthen civil society and support sustainable development.
- **Focused investment:** On the basis of an assessment of opportunities and threats, CEPF donor partners choose which biodiversity hotspots to invest in as funding becomes available.
- **Participatory priority-setting:** Grant-making is guided by ecosystem profiles—analyses of the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions in each hotspot that are produced by, and in consultation with, local stakeholders. The result is a regional conservation strategy tailored to the most urgent needs, using practical solutions.
- **Local management:** CEPF partners with a regional implementation team in the hotspot to help shepherd the investment and build local conservation leadership.
- **Grants to civil society:** Civil society entities—including nongovernmental organizations, communities, Indigenous peoples groups, universities and small businesses—apply for grants that are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that contribute to CEPF’s conservation strategy.
- **Enduring conservation:** Projects funded by CEPF add up to a portfolio of complementary conservation actions addressing critical priorities while also building local conservation communities that will continue to lead protection of the hotspots after CEPF funding is completed.
- **Achieving global goals:** The results achieved by CEPF grantees complement governments’ efforts to meet targets related to the U.N.’s Convention on Biological Diversity (the Aichi Targets), Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Goals.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEPF grantees contribute to four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF:



The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by, and linked to, the other pillars. An empowered, knowledgeable and skilled civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. CEPF measures progress in all four of these interlinked pillars.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

 **4,341**
communities benefiting from CEPF-funded projects

 **103,326**
people receiving cash benefits

 **41**
sustainable finance mechanisms

 **907**
species benefiting from conservation action


 **387**
laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended

 **15.7**
million hectares of protected areas created or expanded

 **163,319**
people receiving structured training

 **50.3**
million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

 **9.9**
million hectares of product landscape with strengthened management

 **570**
networks and partnerships created and/or supported

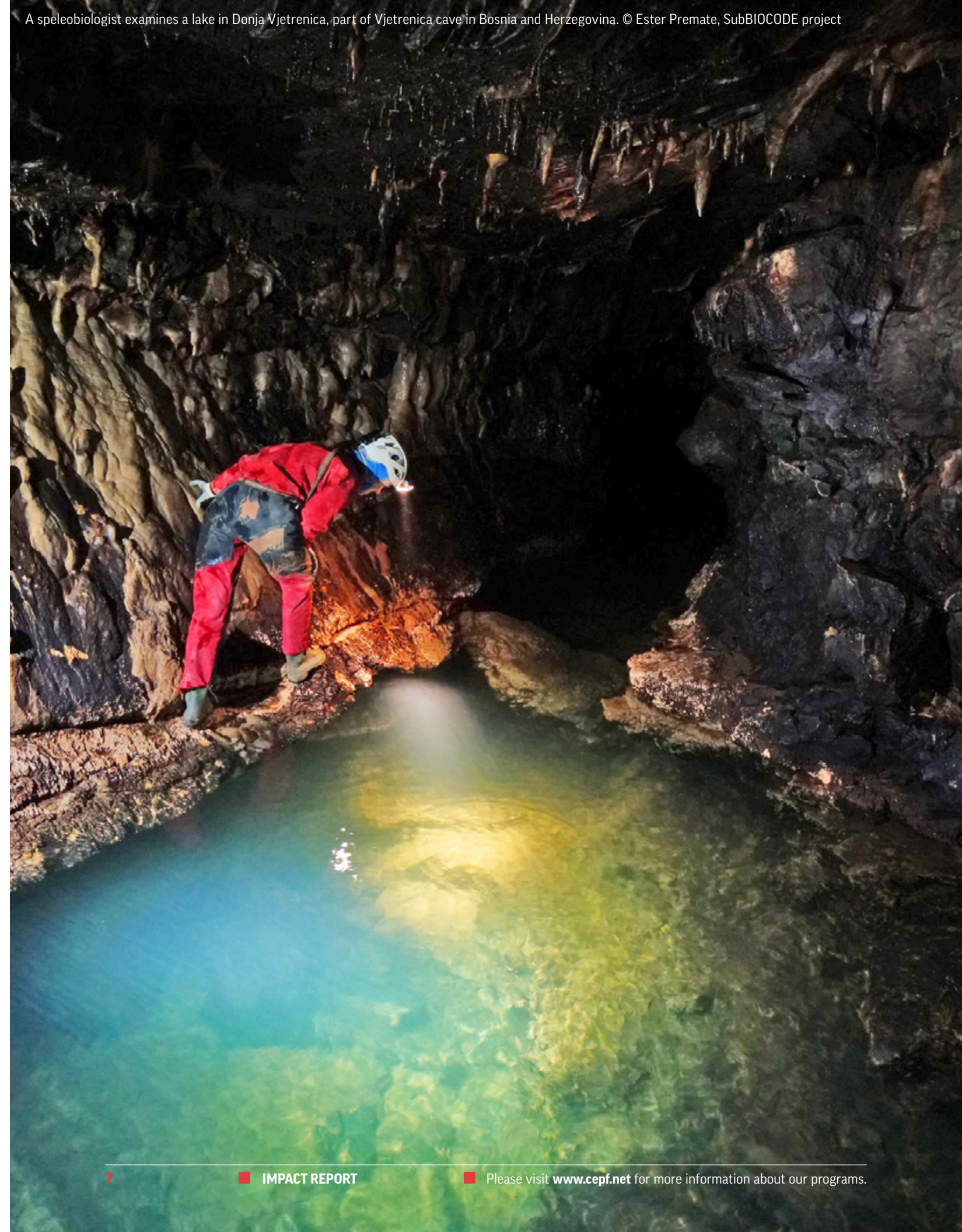
 **96**
of companies adopting best practices

 **298**
organizations with improved capacity

 **83**
CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues

Table of Contents

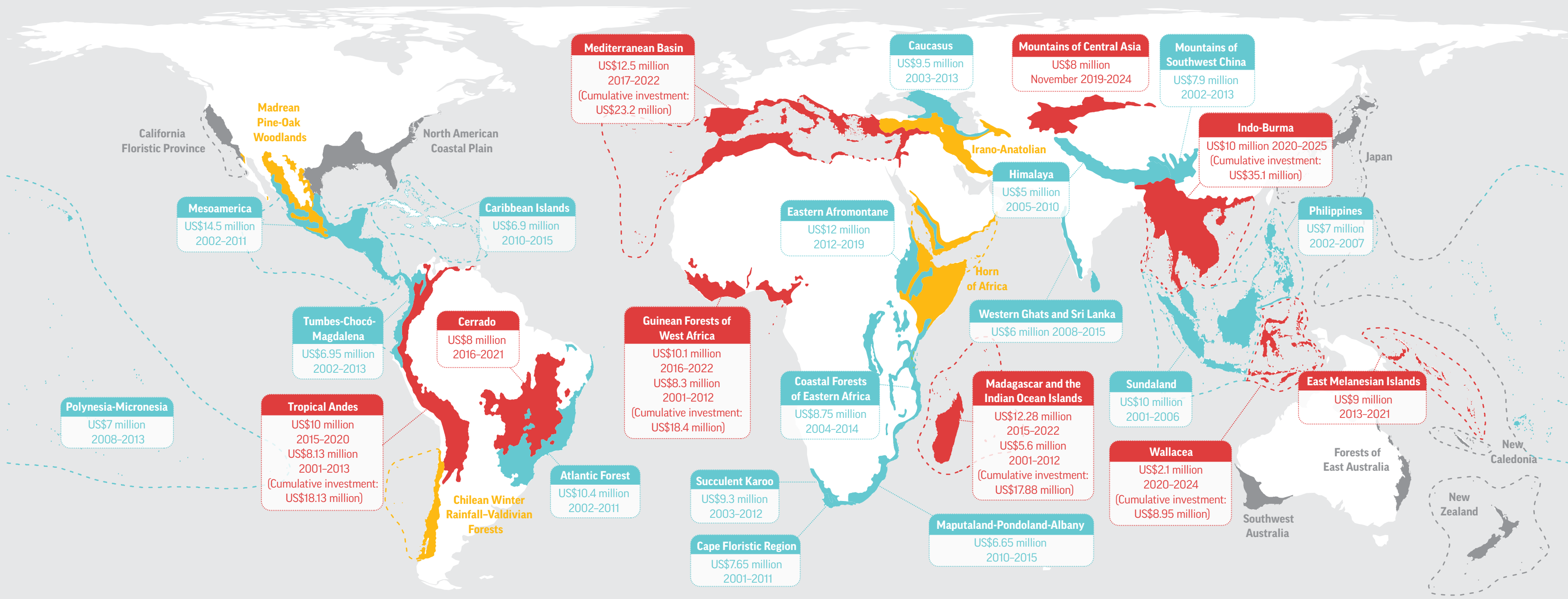
3	About CEPF
4	Executive Summary
8	CEPF and the Biodiversity Hotspots
10	Introduction
12	CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework
15	Data collection and reporting processes
17	Fiscal Year 2020 Results
18	Biodiversity
18	Indicator: Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded
22	Indicator: Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management
26	Indicator: Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity
29	Indicator: Number of protected areas with improved management
32	Indicator: Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action
38	Civil Society
38	Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity
44	Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues
49	Indicator: Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened
52	Human well-being
52	Indicator: Number of people receiving structured training
55	Indicator: Number of people receiving cash benefits
58	Indicator: Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training
61	Indicator: Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change
63	Indicator: Amount of CO ₂ e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats
64	Enabling Conditions for Conservation
64	Indicator: Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended
68	Indicator: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation
71	Indicator: Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices
74	Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
76	Contributions to U.N. Sustainable Development Goals
79	Conclusion



CEPF AND THE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

As of 30 June 2020

- Current CEPF investment
- Eligible for CEPF investment
- Past CEPF investment
- Not eligible for CEPF investment



Popa langur (*Trachypithecus popa*) at Mount Yathe Pyan, Myanmar. The langur was identified as a new species thanks to intensive research by CEPF grantee Fauna & Flora International and its partners. © Aung Ko Lin/FFI

INTRODUCTION



Biodiversity—the rich array of life on Earth—is fundamental to human survival, but under tremendous and growing threat. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was founded in 2000 to address this challenge by empowering civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world’s biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth’s most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems.

Since its inception, CEPF has awarded more than US\$255 million in grants to 2,492 civil society organizations—nongovernmental, private sector and academic entities. These grants have been implemented in 25 biodiversity hotspots, covering 105

countries and territories. The fund is a joint initiative of l’Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Additional donors support regional components of the partnership.

This year has been a challenging one, with the world suffering from a global pandemic and the effects of climate change increasingly evident. Throughout, CEPF grantees have continued to focus their efforts on protecting critical ecosystems and the species and ecological processes they support, as well as improving the lives of the people that depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods. While two hotspots,

Eastern Afromontane and Wallacea, came to a close in fiscal year 2020, all other active investments—in Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia and Tropical Andes—continued implementation, taking into consideration essential health and safety measures, and in many cases extensions of projects due to delays in project timeframes.

CEPF has strived to gather and communicate about results data, and over the years, reporting practic-

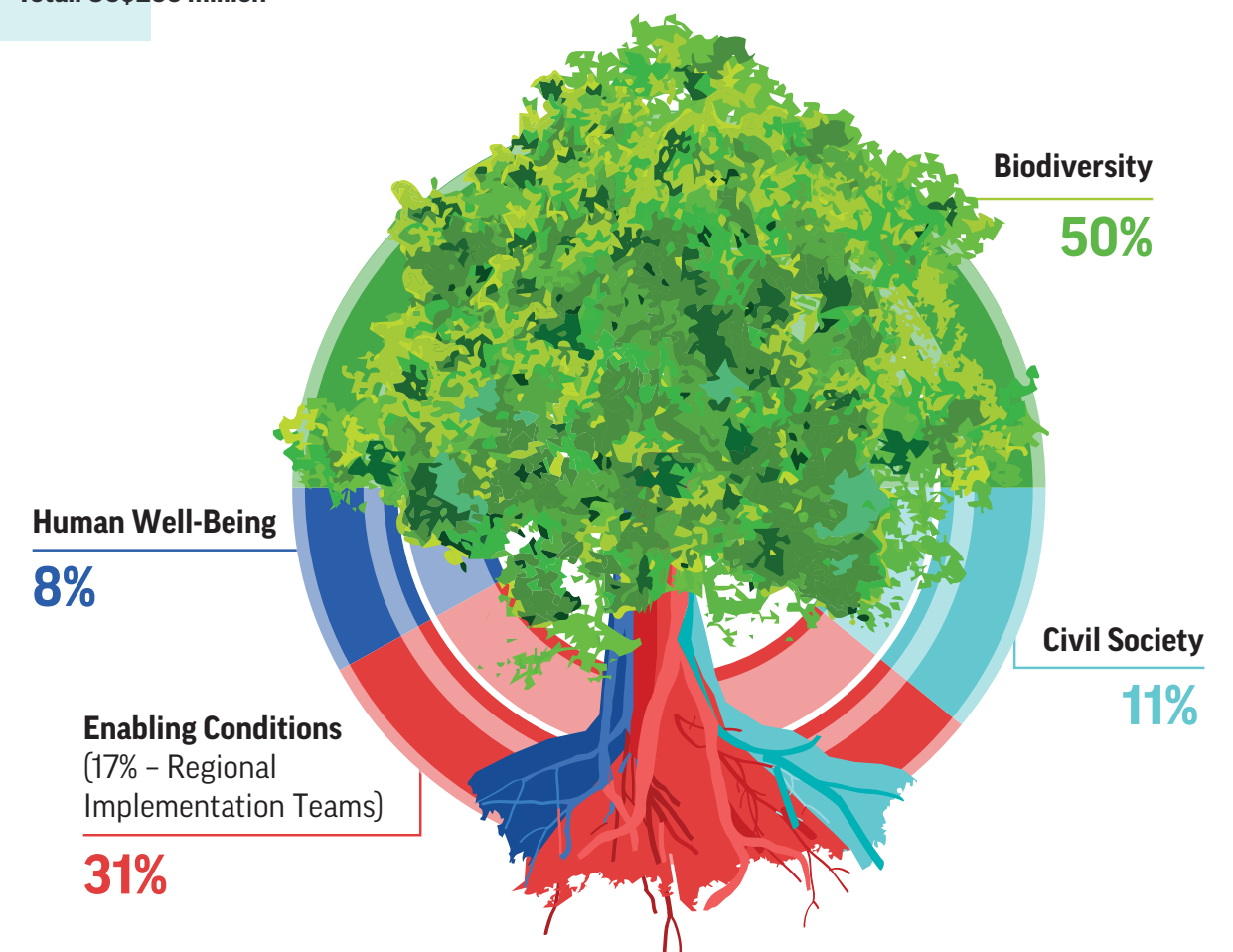
es and frameworks have evolved in an effort to be more accurate, precise and relevant. CEPF’s current monitoring framework comprises four categories of impact measured by 16 indicators. The framework was adopted by the CEPF Donor Council in June 2017. CEPF reports on its global impact on an annual basis.

The four categories of impact are known as the pillars of CEPF: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being and enabling conditions. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. An empowered and

Figure 1

Distribution of Funds by Pillar

Total: US\$255 million



capacitated civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. CEPF measures progress in all four of these interlinked pillars via 16 indicators to gain a holistic and comprehensive understanding of the impact of the fund.

Each CEPF grant is assigned to one of the four pillars, determined by identifying the major focus of the grant. This allows CEPF to determine, broadly, the number of grants and amount allocated for each of the pillars.

To date, CEPF has awarded 50% of its grants under the biodiversity pillar, demonstrating the priority that CEPF gives to this theme. The enabling conditions pillar, encompassing projects dedicated to awareness, mainstreaming, policy, conservation finance and support to regional implementation teams (RITs), received 31% of the allocation. RITs receive the first grant in each hotspot and perform an essential strategic and technical role in CEPF's grant-making, and in managing a small-grants program for the hotspot. The civil society pillar, focused on capacity building and support for networks, received 11% of the allocation while human well-being received 8% (Figure 1).

The following sections of this report include a description of CEPF's monitoring framework and reporting processes, impact results for fiscal year 2020 (1 July 2019–30 June 2020), and a report of global impact from fund inception through 30 June 2020.

CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. The indicators are designed to yield clear and valuable data that articulate CEPF's impact and provides CEPF's donors with relevant results. Each indicator corresponds to one of CEPF's four pillars, described above. CEPF has linked all 16 indicators to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity targets (Table 1). Definitions for each indicator are included in the global impact section of this report.

CBD Aichi Targets	SDGs
1: Awareness increased	2: Zero hunger
2: Biodiversity values integrated	4: Quality education
3: Incentives reformed	5: Gender equality
4: Sustainable production and consumption	6: Clean water and sanitation
7: Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry	8: Decent work and economic growth
9: Invasive alien species prevented and controlled	12: Responsible consumption & production
11: Protected areas increased and improved	13: Climate action
12: Extinction prevented	14: Life below water
20: Financial resources from all sources increased	15: Life on land
	16: Peace and justice strong institutions

For more information on the SDGs, visit www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

Table 1

Pillar and Indicators	CBD Aichi Targets	SDGs
Biodiversity		
• Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.		
• Number of hectares of KBAs with improved management.		
• Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.		
• Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).		
• Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.		
Civil Society		
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).		
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).		
• Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.		
Human Well-Being		
• Number of people receiving structured training.		
• Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.		
• Number of people receiving cash benefits.		
• Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.		
• Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.		
Enabling Conditions		
• Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.		
• Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.		
• Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.		

Achievement toward these global indicators is measured only once for each grant, at the end of each project. CEPF's results are compiled annually for the program. For some indicators, where relevant, CEPF has reported on results by region. Several hotspots span regions. Each region and what it includes is listed below.

- Africa: Cape Floristic Region; Eastern Afromontane (excluding Yemen); Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania, Guinean Forests of West Africa; Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany; Mediterranean Basin (North Africa only); Succulent Karoo.
- Asia: Caucasus; Himalaya; Indo-Burma; Mountains of Central Asia; Mountains of Southwest China; Philippines; Sundaland; Wallacea; Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.
- Caribbean: Caribbean Islands.
- Central America: Mesoamerica.
- Europe: Mediterranean Basin (excluding North Africa, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine).
- Middle East: Eastern Afromontane (Yemen only); Mediterranean Basin (Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine only).
- Pacific Islands: East Melanesian Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia.
- South America: Atlantic Forest; Cerrado; Tropical Andes; Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena.

CEPF grantees report on three levels. The first level is project level, for which grantees report on project-specific targets and deliverables. Grantees provide periodic updates via progress reports during their project, followed by reporting on overall project

accomplishments at the end of the projects. At project completion, grantees also report on their contributions to portfolio and global indicators. All grantee reports are reviewed thoroughly by CEPF and/or regional implementation team staff to ensure accurate and valid reporting of achievements. Where feasible, grantees receive site visits during their projects.

The second level is the hotspot level, for which each portfolio has a logframe and targets associated with the hotspot's specific investment strategy. At the end of their projects, grantees are requested to record their contributions to portfolio targets. Each hotspot has a different set of portfolio indicators, due to the unique characteristics, challenges and opportunities present in the region. Progress toward achievement of hotspot targets is assessed annually and reported on in an annual portfolio overview. Assessment workshops are held at the mid-term and final stages of each portfolio investment.

The third level is the global level. Contributions to the global indicators are recorded by grantees in final reports at the end of their projects, as well as by regional implementation teams who report on collective portfolio achievements that go beyond individual project accomplishments.

Data collection and reporting processes

Each grantee makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. CEPF's monitoring system has evolved from a simplistic effort focused on rudimentary data collection and an emphasis on stories, to a complex framework applicable to grants of all sizes and scope, capable of articulating global impact and contributions to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity targets, in quantitative and qualitative ways.

CEPF's monitoring framework allows for reporting on the program's operational contribution as well as on impact. During the grant application process, prior to project approval, each project is assigned a pillar, a project category (a subset of the pillar), a habitat, one or more taxa if relevant, and applicable keywords. These assignments allow the fund to ascertain the amount of funds spent in certain categories and for various themes, and facilitate analysis of data by hotspot and region. The ability to quantify how much money has been spent on selected themes helps to frame results in terms of what CEPF grantees have been able to do with the funds allocated.

Impact reporting is undertaken via comprehensive reporting tools and templates, available in multiple languages. Each grantee is responsible for completing selected monitoring tools, including regular programmatic progress reports and a final report, as well as tracking tools pertaining to gender, capacity and protected area management. A gender tracking tool measures change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues, and a civil society tracking tool measures change in organizational capacity. Grantees that work on management of protected areas are also asked to complete a management

effectiveness tracking tool, which measures change in various aspects of protected area management. Upon submission of monitoring reports and tracking tools, data are reviewed and validated by the respective regional implementation team and/or CEPF grant director responsible for that grant.

While CEPF has well-established procedures, data collection and compilation are not without challenges. Below are some of the main issues encountered in preparing CEPF's impact numbers.

Interpretation

- Despite translation of CEPF's reporting formats into multiple languages, cultural differences can lead to varying interpretations of the indicators.
- Different interpretations of what an indicator means, irrespective of language: Each indicator has a definition, but even so, people's understanding and experiences can lead to different interpretation.

Overreporting

- Over-ambitious reporting: This can occur when a grantee may have only achieved a partial result, but reports it as achieved. For example, a new protected area must be officially declared to be counted. A grantee may report that an area has been declared because official declaration is imminent. However, such an accomplishment should not be counted until it actually occurs.

Creative reporting

- Grantees are proud of their accomplishments, as is CEPF. However, sometimes a grantee will alter or expand the results reported for a specific indicator such that it is not possible to aggregate the results with those from other projects.

Maintaining a focus on reporting during implementation

- Although grantees receive training at the start of their project about reporting requirements and content, this focus can be sidelined in the enthusiasm to implement the project. If attention to monitoring is not a priority during the project, grantees may not be able to report accurately. For example, CEPF requires sex-disaggregated data for some indicators. If grantees do not record such data during the project, they may not be able to supply the required information in their final report.

Validation of grantee results

- All grantee reports are thoroughly reviewed by a CEPF grant director or the regional implementation team, or both as needed. These efforts are supplemented by reviews of supporting documentation, correspondence with grantees or site visits. If it is not possible to visit a grantee during or at the end their project, because some are located in remote areas, other methods may be considered, including third party observation, photo/video evidence or frequent electronic contact during the project.
- CEPF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach Unit (MEOU) also reviews grantee reports when compiling overall program results, thereby providing an additional avenue of communication with the grantee to verify and clarify results as well as to gather qualitative information to better present grantee results in CEPF's various communications products.

Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting

- CEPF's grants are often awarded for initiatives

that may require a significant amount of time to see a result, such as creation of a protected area. A grant may come to an end before a result is achieved. In such instances, CEPF strives to maintain contact with grantees post-project, so that when the result is achieved, it can be recorded as part of CEPF's impact. Grantees are usually so enthusiastic about a result eventually being achieved that they communicate with CEPF. However, they are under no obligation to do so, and therefore it may be that CEPF is under-reporting for some indicators.

These challenges are a constant focus for CEPF's MEOU, and its staff are dedicated to addressing them so that reporting procedures are better understood and implemented, with the overall aim of ensuring that CEPF's results are as accurate and relevant as possible.

Fiscal Year 2020 Results

CEPF achieved significant results in fiscal year 2020 due in part to numerous projects coming to a close. The Eastern Afromontane and Wallacea investments were completed, and the Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes hotspots reached their final year of implementation. Other hotspots also contributed, in particular the Cerrado, which recorded significant achievements in the management of Key Biodiversity Areas and production landscapes.

Table 2

Indicator	Fiscal Year 2020 achievement
Protected areas created and/or expanded	382,066 hectares
Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management	3,068,771 hectares
Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity	1,712,207 hectares
Protected areas with improved management	8 protected areas
Species benefiting from conservation action	25 species
Grantees with improved organizational capacity	50 grantees
Grantees with improved understanding of gender	29 grantees
Networks partnerships created and/or supported	163 networks/partnerships
People receiving structured training	Total: 25,994
	9,716 women
	14,573 men 1,705 unspecified
People receiving cash benefits	Total: 45,170
	19,112 women
	24,692 men 1,366 unspecified
Communities benefiting	815 communities
People receiving non-cash benefits (excluding training)	827,112 people
Projects promoting nature-based solutions to climate change	151 projects
Laws, policies and regulations enacted or amended	81 laws
Sustainable financing mechanisms delivering funds	10 mechanisms
Companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices	60 companies



CEPF PILLAR 1:

BIODIVERSITY

Indicator: Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded



Monitoring seabirds on Razo Island, Cabo Verde. © N.Van Ingen - Biosfera

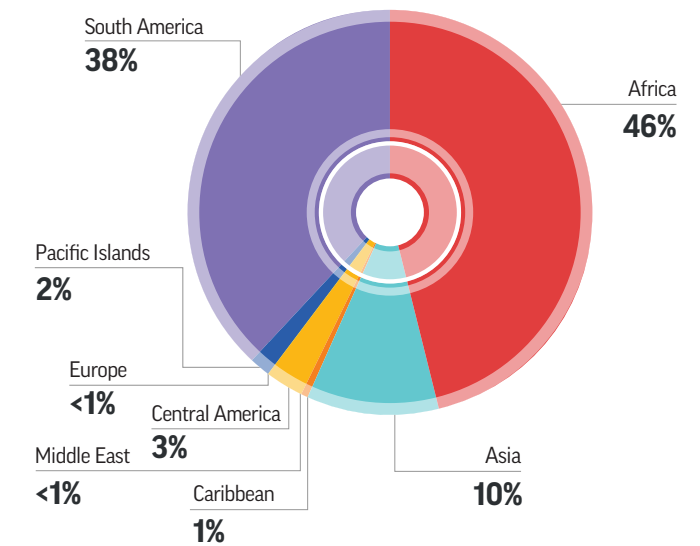
Definition: To be counted, a new protected area must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. If a protected area is expanded due to CEPF efforts, the area of expansion may be counted, but must also demonstrate formal legal declaration. New protected areas include national or local parks and reserves, private protected areas, marine parks and reserves, community protected areas such as fish conservation zones, and lands protected under stewardship and community agreements. Areas that do not have an official formal declaration may be included, insofar as they are legally binding.

In fiscal year 2020, CEPF saw the creation and/or expansion of 382,066 hectares of new protected areas, bringing the overall total since inception to 15,706,716 hectares in 24 biodiversity hotspots. The increase is due to successes in four hotspots in particular: the Eastern Afromontane and Wallacea investments that came to a close in fiscal year 2020, and the investments in the Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes, which reached their fifth year of investment and the resulting completion of a large number of grants. The charts below show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot, and by region, since inception of the fund.

Figure 2

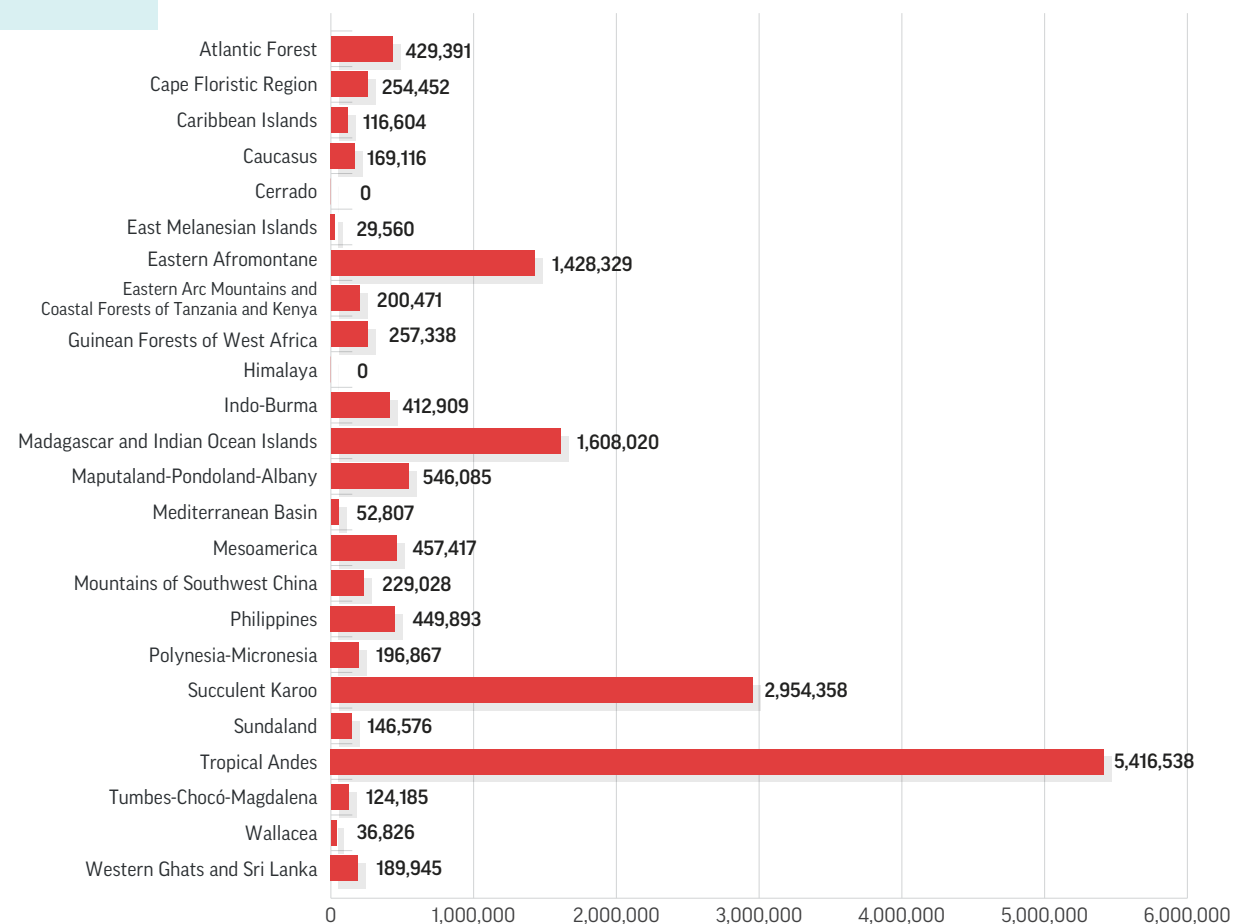
Protected Areas Created or Expanded, By Region

Total: 15.7 million hectares



Protected Areas Created or Expanded, By Hotspot

Total: 15.7 million hectares





Endangered François's langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*). © Xu-Jianming

Piloting a community-managed protected area in Vietnam

In Vietnam, People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) has worked for over 12 years in the karst forest landscape spanning the Lam Binh and Sinh Long Key Biodiversity Areas in northwestern Tuyen Quang Province. This area hosts the country's last known viable population of the Endangered François's langur (*Trachypithecus francoisi*), and several other threatened plant and animal species. It is also home to people of the Tay, H'mong, Dao and Hung ethnic minorities, where PRCF works with 15 stakeholder villages. Local communities rely on the forest for a range of products, including food, fuel

and traditional medicine, but in the past have not had a voice in its management.

PRCF's initial involvement in this landscape aimed to facilitate villager engagement in co-management in tandem with community-based conservation of François's langur and its habitat. Importantly, this funding to the site helped to develop villagers' interest and increase their capacity to coordinate community development in their respective villages as well as supporting conservation of biodiversity and forest resources in their landscape.

CEPF supported PRCF's most recent effort at this site, from 2018–2020. Activities focused on strengthening the position of local communities in decision-making for management of local resources, and in actively participating in conservation of local biodiversity and high-value forests. PRCF continues to work closely with local communities to establish and strengthen village-level institutions to support biodiversity conservation, address village development needs, and serve as conduits for funds from payment for ecosystem services.

The project encountered a number of challenges, such as the difficulty of training local communities from different ethnicities, with different educational backgrounds, and with diverse ways of thinking; the need to improve some government perceptions and attitudes toward the involvement of local communities in conservation; and COVID-19, with its resulting restrictions on movement and health risks.

But the benefits were many. Most importantly, the project succeeded in establishing a community-based conservation area, the François's Langur Pilot Community-Based Conservation Area (24,252 hectares), which was endorsed by Tuyen Quang provincial government in October 2019. This is the first pilot in Vietnam of a conservation model directly managed by local stakeholder communities. Planning and implementation of conservation management at the pilot site is supported through a 2020-2025 conservation and development plan and an operational management plan, both produced through the direct involvement of local stakeholder communities, with participation from Lam Binh District Forest Protection Department. Additional work will be needed to secure continuing support by the local and provincial

government to further the co-management model, and to strengthen the skills and capacities of the local stakeholder communities in conservation management of the site.

Furthermore, the project brought numerous benefits to local stakeholders. Improved farming methods, agroforestry and activities designed to support conservation efforts resulted in increased income for 125 women and 25 men. Training in topics such as water filtration, agroforestry, co-management, patrolling and monitoring benefited 213 women and 129 men. Other community benefits included increased food security and access to clean water, recognition of traditional knowledge, representation in decision-making and governance, and access to ecosystem services.

The project also contributed to the stabilization of the François's langur population in the Lam Binh/Sinh Long conservation landscape. At project onset, the langur population at the site consisted of a minimum of eight groups with 88 individuals. The population counts gradually increased by 36 animals to a minimum of 124 reported during a March 2019 survey. Thereafter, a further increase in the population was found following a June/July 2020 survey, yielding a minimum of 139 individuals. This represents a 58 percent increase over the three years of project implementation.

Indicator: Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

Definition: To be counted, an area must be a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the KBA. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples include increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.

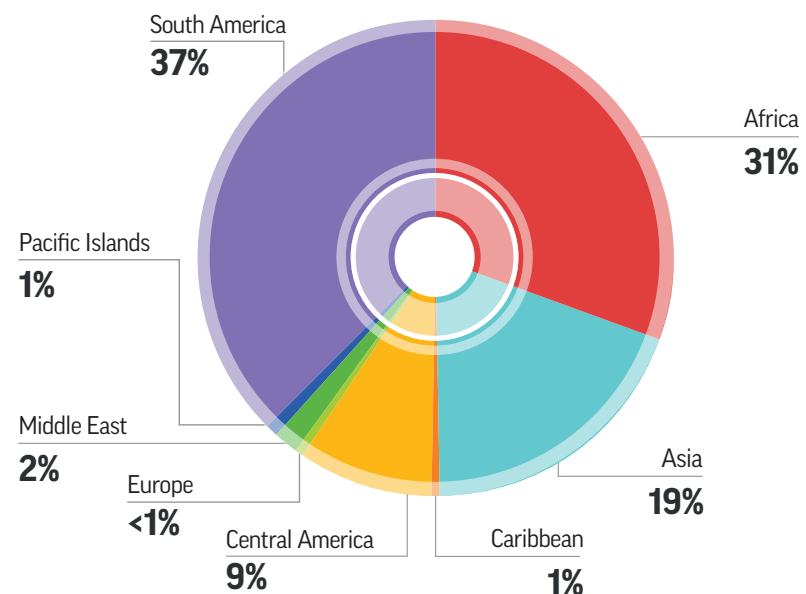
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats, and improving their management and protection is a fundamental objective of CEPF. Key Biodiversity Areas are sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability.

At the close of fiscal year 2020, CEPF had strengthened the management and protection of 50,371,969 hectares in 24 hotspots. This is a significant increase of 3,068,771 hectares in the past year, with Cerrado contributing nearly half of the hectares, and Eastern Afromontane and Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands largely responsible for the remainder.

Figure 3

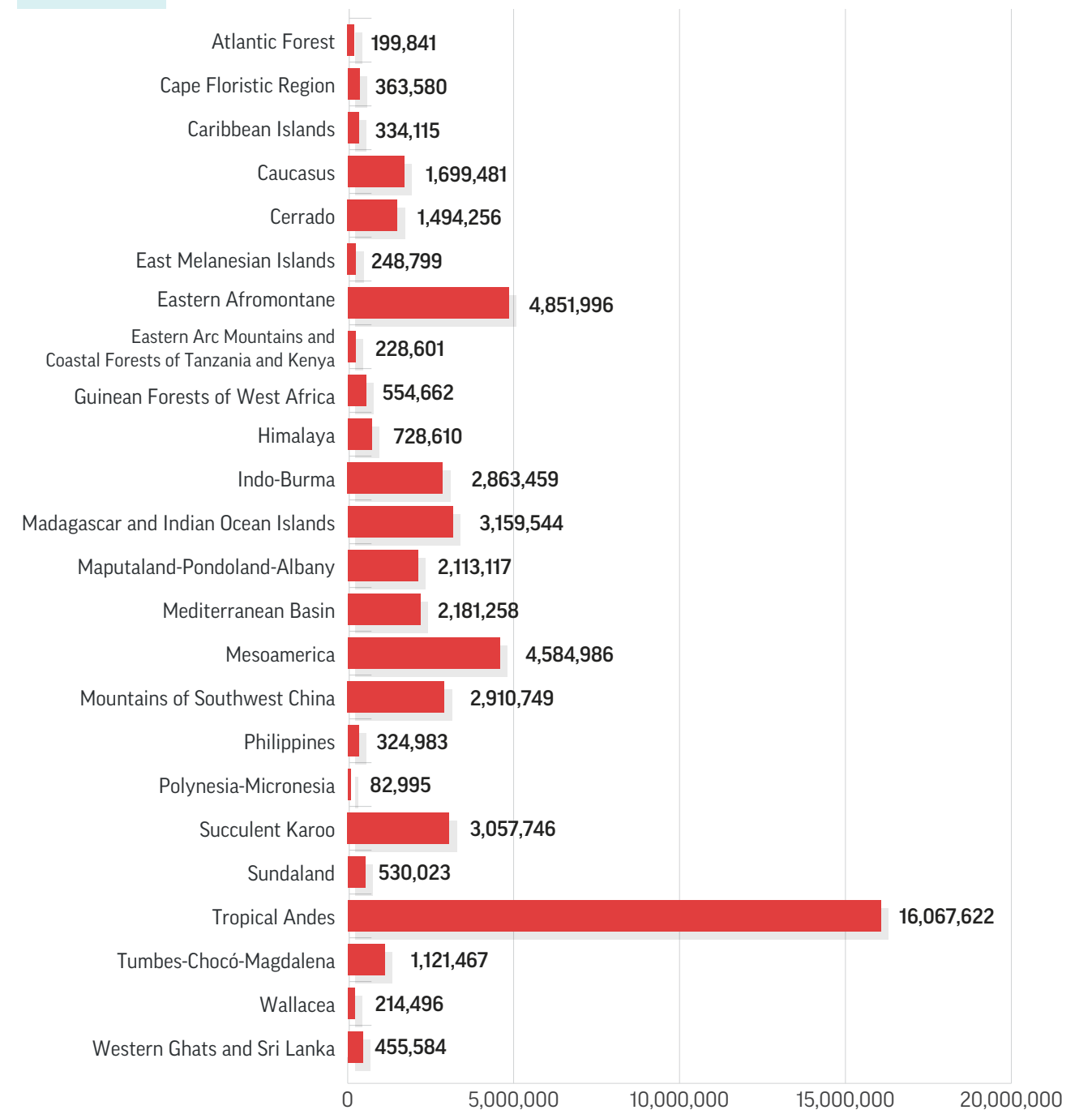
Key Biodiversity Areas, By Region

Total: 50.3 million hectares



Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management, By Hotspot

Total: 50.3 million hectares





Indigenous group leads site management improvements in Bolivia

Pilón Lajas, recognized as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1977, was declared an Indigenous territory by the national government of Bolivia in 1992. At that time, the multiethnic Tsimané MoseTEN Regional Council (CRTM) was formed, and in 1997 they received title to the land.

The reserve—which contains the 249,845-hectare Yungas Inferiores de Pilón Lajas Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)—is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity, hosting an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 species of plants, 73 species of mammals, 485 species of birds and much more. Pressure on land and natural resources in the area is high, with agricultural invasion, colonization, illegal logging, hunting and fishing, and the potential for development projects posing serious threats to the reserve. In addition, the reserve is extremely important for supplying water to numerous urban areas, including Rurrenabaque, one of the main cities in the department of Beni, and for crops and livestock in the region.

The establishment of the CRTM created an opportunity for the Indigenous people of the region to participate in decisions pertaining to their land.

Starting in July 2016, the CRTM used funding from CEPF to strengthen its organization in the areas of representation of women, legal status, technical and administrative capacity, and financial management. This positioned the group to focus on their long-term vision for the territory.

While the CRTM has played a role in the administration and management of the reserve over the past 25 years, it was not until 2017 that they were designated as co-managers of the reserve with the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP). CRTM played a technical role in developing the long-term management instruments for the reserve: the management plan and “life plan”—which includes the Indigenous peoples land planning tool. The plans were completed in 2019.

Development of the management and life plans was undertaken with technical support from Wildlife Conservation Society-Bolivia and National Protected Areas Service (SERNAP), and entailed the participation of 23 communities of the CRTM and other communities of intercultural groups that live within the reserve. The plans identify future priorities such as improved management of the Yungas Inferiores de Pilón Lajas KBA, scientific research, species conservation, sustainable resource management, use and distribution of benefits, identification of threats, and creation of alliances with various stakeholders in the region to further the conservation of the reserve.

Development of these plans is an achievement not only for the CRTM, the KBA and the Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory, but also for Bolivia as a whole, marking the first time an Indigenous organization has led the updating of a national protected area management instrument.

Indicator: Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity

Definition: A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

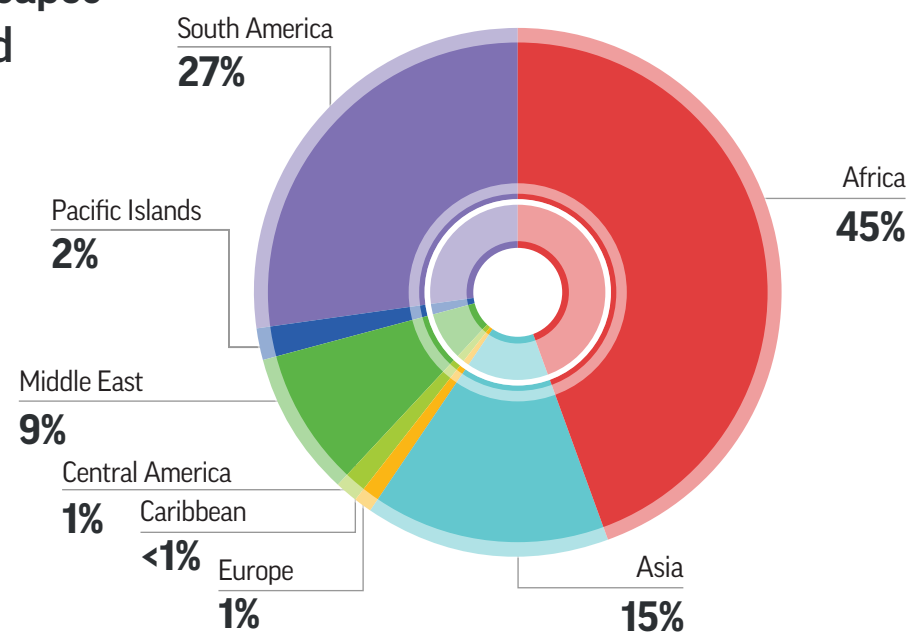
- For an area to be considered as having “strengthened management of biodiversity,” it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator, because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A production landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

Production landscapes, areas where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occur, can be very important for biodiversity. CEPF supports grantees to integrate management of biodiversity into these landscapes, and since 2001, grantees have contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 9,920,055 hectares. This is an increase of 1,712,207 hectares in the past year, with significant contributions from the Cerrado, Guinean Forests of West Africa, and Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspots. In 2008, CEPF began to systematically record achievements in production landscapes, and therefore, hotspots receiving investment prior to this date are underrepresented in global figures.

Figure 4

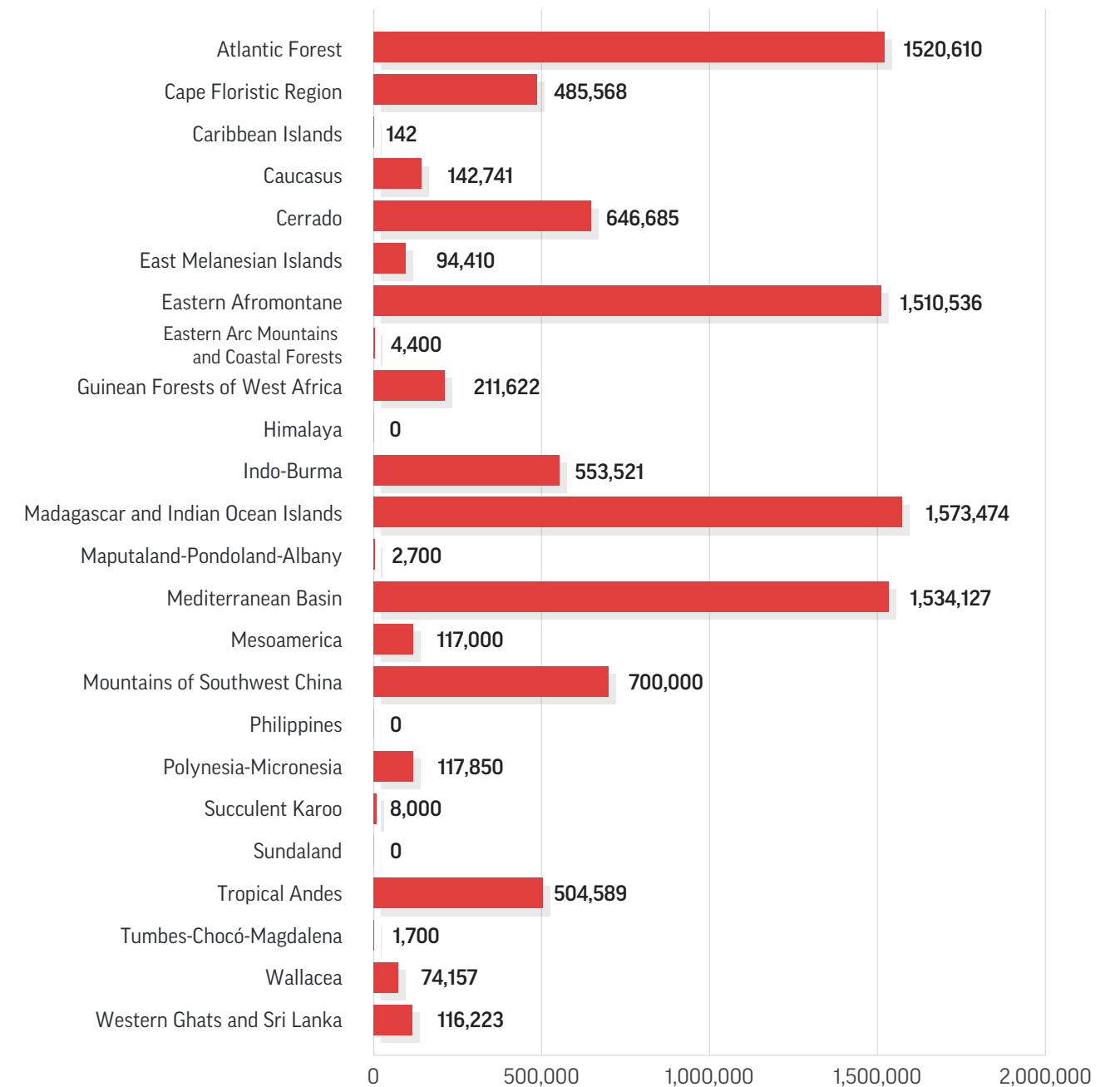
Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management, By Region

Total: 9.9 million hectares



Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management, by Hotspot

Total: 9.9 million hectares





Lake Poso, Indonesia. © Conservation International/photo by Dan Rothberg

Co-management of farms improves watershed management, Indonesia

Central Sulawesi's Lake Poso, the third deepest lake in Indonesia, is surrounded by stunning steep hills. Farming communities inhabit its shores, growing rice, corn, manioc, sweet potato, peanuts, green beans, vanilla and clove.

The lake is suffering from high rates of sedimentation and pollution from agriculture and is threatened by plans to build hydroelectric plants on its tributaries.

The organization Perkumpulan Inovasi Komunitas (IMUNITAS) has been working on the western shore in the four villages of Meko, Salukai, Owini and Uranosari, where for three years it has sought to address watershed degradation by promoting co-management of farms and shores. After forming a conservation group of 15 people from each village, IMUNITAS delivered training in participatory conservation planning to a total of 60 people. The villagers learned about their natural resources and were

trained in forest and lake health monitoring and land rehabilitation. They also established an agreement on participatory management of living natural resources and ecosystems, which is the foundation for co-management of the land in and around their villages.

IMUNITAS then engaged to coordinate and collaborate with academics, the private sector and local government to conduct research on endemic fish species, land rehabilitation and resource monitoring. IMUNITAS also introduced alternative livelihood activities involving non-timber forest products, such as palm sugar production, orchid cultivation and green-label coffee, and worked to reduce fuel wood use via improved cookstoves. In total, the project supported the co-management of 66,035 hectares of production landscape. This figure includes the forested water catchments of Meko (46,793 hectares), Salukai (7,108 hectares), Owini (10,285 hectares) and Uranosari (1,849 hectares).

Indicator: Number of protected areas with improved management

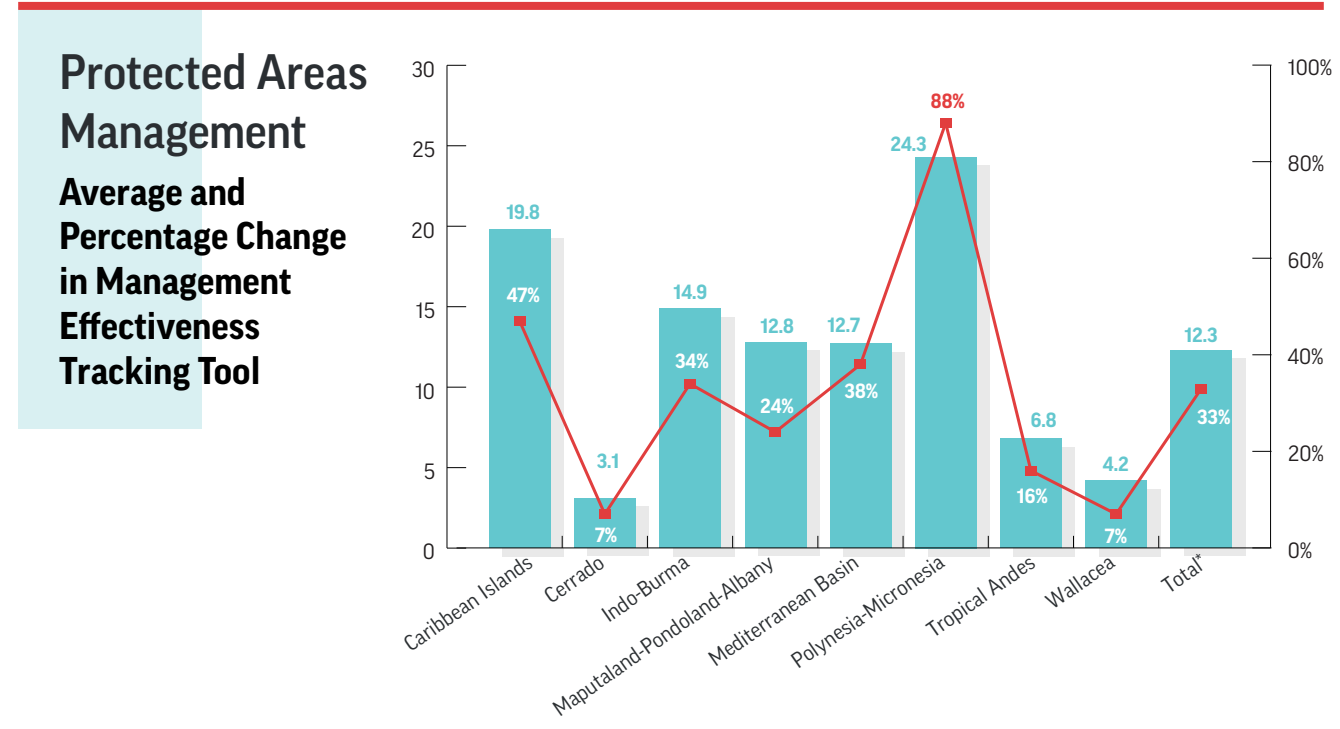
Definition: The purpose of this indicator is to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that receive CEPF investment.

CEPF strives to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Changes in score are determined by comparing a baseline scorecard to a final scorecard completed at the end of investment in a targeted protected area.

To date, CEPF has received 387 METT scorecards from 224 protected areas in 17 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Cerrado, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of

West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, and Wallacea). As of June 2020, 120 of the 224 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 120 protected areas, 97 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness. For eight hotspots with a significant number of completed METT scorecards in fiscal year 2020, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 12.3 points on average (+33 percent) (Figure 5). As such, CEPF has been contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in helping countries increase the percent of coverage of protected area that has been assessed as well as increasing their management effectiveness over time.

Figure 5





Santa Luzia, Cabo Verde. © N.Van Ingen – Biosfera

Organization's growth parallels improved management of Cabo Verde reserve

Cabo Verde's Reserva Natural da Santa Luzia includes the terrestrial habitats of Santa Luzia Island, as well as Branco and Raso islets and the surrounding marine area. The uninhabited site was declared a reserve in 2003, and its high levels of biodiversity and vulnerability to species overexploitation and other threats led CEPF to prioritize the site in its ecosystem profile for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot.

When CEPF first became involved in this area, knowledge of the reserve's biodiversity was very limited. However, local conservation organization Biosfera was already monitoring and protecting turtles and seabirds, and was on its way to playing a key role in protecting the site in collaboration with agents of the National Environment Directorate, which is in

charge of the reserve's management.

CEPF first engaged with Biosfera through a grant to the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA), BirdLife's partner in Portugal. The project's goal was to gain a better understanding of the biodiversity and its functioning on the islands and to consider the reintroduction of the Critically Endangered Raso lark (*Alauda razae*), an endemic species, on the island of Santa Luzia. "Biosfera received a significant boost from CEPF in 2013," said Blandine Melis, director of Biosfera.

These studies have made it possible to determine a baseline of biodiversity on the reserve. Species monitoring protocols have been established and monitoring and resource protection activities are carried

out almost continuously on the islands. "Biosfera is strongly committed to this approach, and is developing its skills and increasing its credibility and visibility at an international level," said Melis.

A management plan for the reserve is awaiting government approval. "We would like to develop a process of co-management of the protected area with the National Environment Directorate and thus officially establish the tasks of each party," said Melis.

"CEPF's support has enabled us to move from conducting biodiversity inventories to concrete conservation actions in the field," said Melis.

According to the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), from a baseline score of 28 in 2013, the reserve reached 45 in 2019. The data gathered by the METT highlights several key improvements:

- The information concerning the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the protected area is now considered sufficient to support planning

and decision-making, and is being maintained. The reserve achieved the maximum score in this category.

- There is now a comprehensive, integrated program of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs. The reserve also reached the maximum score for this category.
- The requirements for active management of critical ecosystems, species and cultural values are better known.
- The reserve does have a budget now. However, there is very little secure budget and the protected area could not function adequately without outside funding.
- There are now programs to enhance local community welfare while conserving protected area resources.

CEPF also is currently supporting a Biosfera project to certify responsible and sustainable artisanal fishing in the area.

Indicator: Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action

Definition: To be counted, a species must benefit from an intervention that has direct conservation action. Examples include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan; captive breeding programs, habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, removal of invasive species.

Since inception, 907 globally threatened species have benefited from conservation action by CEPF grantees. The actions taken are diverse and range from population surveys to site monitoring to captive breeding. During the past year, 25 species have been added to the list, noting that species already included have not been recounted. This would be the case if a species in a single hotspot benefited from multiple interventions from one or more grantees, or if the species occurs in more than one hotspot, such as one of the sea turtles.

Figure 6

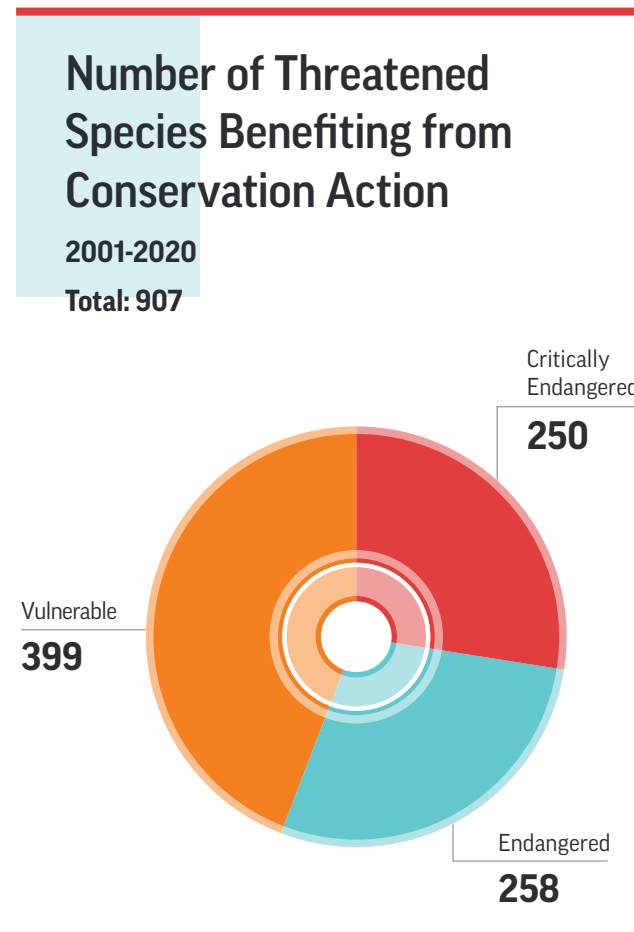
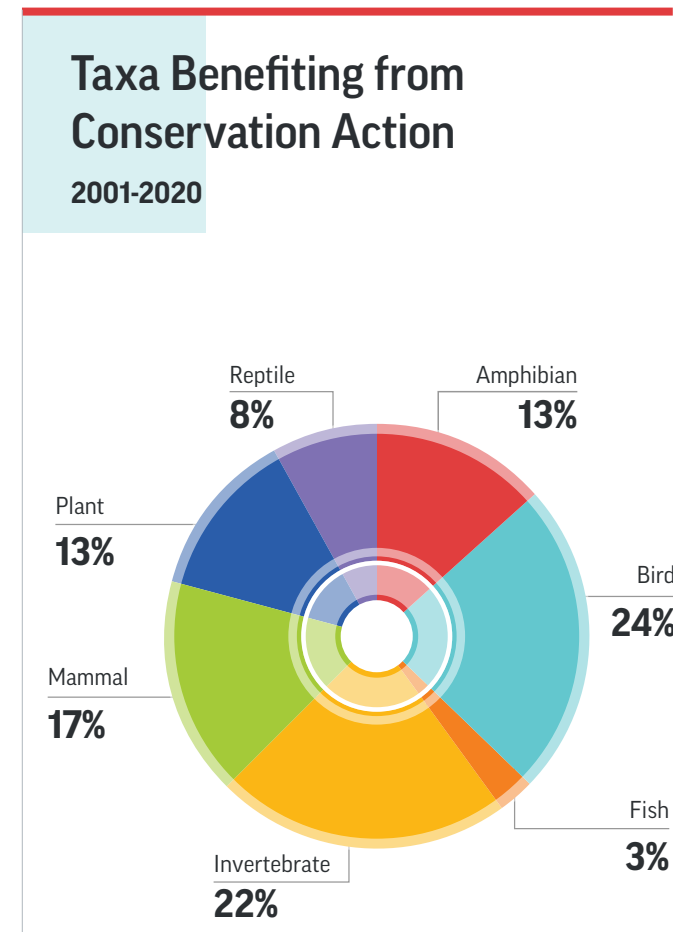


Figure 7



Researchers assess conservation status of Madagascar's trees

Madagascar is home to 3,118 tree species, more than 93% of which are found nowhere else.

Over the past 40 years, Madagascar has lost one-third of its primary forest vegetation, and most of the country's tree species are under threat from habitat loss or overexploitation. In a project coordinated by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), efforts were undertaken to conduct tree inventories, mapping of tree distributions inside and outside Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas, and desk and field-based surveys to determine the conservation status of all of Madagascar's tree species. This project has contributed to a wider initiative, preparation of the "Red List of Trees of Madagascar," a comprehensive assessment involving researchers from the Missouri Botanical Garden Madagascar Program, Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar Plant Specialist Group and other institutions across the world.

During the project, 41 people were trained in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species methodology, and five Red List review workshops were held. In total, over 2,500 Red List assessments of Malagasy tree species

were produced, 2,400 of which were published on the IUCN Red List. An online report, "The Red List of Dry Forest Trees of Madagascar," was published in 2020, with a focus on the status of Madagascar's western dry forest species. The report showed that of the 982 dry forest tree species, 578, or 59%, are threatened with extinction. Data on Madagascar's dry forest trees has been included in the comprehensive report "Red List of Trees of Madagascar," slated for release in March 2021.

The information in the "Red List of Trees of Madagascar" is of critical importance. It will inform land use and forest management, provide data to strengthen national park protection, contribute to the development of policies and regulations pertaining to biodiversity conservation, and inform biodiversity funding decisions. The information will be valued by practitioners involved in ecological restoration, climate mitigation strategies and livelihood development. Most importantly, the data it contains will guide political, economic and natural resource decision-makers to prioritize actions that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of Madagascar's tree resources.



White-thighed colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*). © Edward D. Wiafe



Participants in a community awareness-raising program. © Presbyterian University College Ghana, 2019 permission given by Edward D. Wiafe

Multiple approaches address primate conservation in Ghana

West Africa is home to numerous globally threatened primate species. The threats to these primates abound: They are hunted for bushmeat; captured to be pets; and their habitat is diminishing due to logging, mining, deforestation and conversion to agriculture.

Traditionally, conservation efforts have focused on creating protected areas or reserves to provide essential ecosystem services, protect wildlife and, in the case of forest reserves, yield economic benefits from timber production. Management of parks and reserves is hampered by lack of knowledge about key ecological processes pertaining to many species,

their status and trends, and a lack of recognition of the many social and ecological benefits these areas provide.

The Presbyterian University College Ghana has addressed this challenge by conducting ecological surveys on the diversity, population and distribution patterns of threatened primates in three priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Ghana: Cape Three Points (5,100 hectares), Atewa Range (23,200 hectares) and Tano-Offin (40,200 hectares) forest reserves. The information gathered contributes to the implementation of the IUCN Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa. Field

surveys revealed the presence in Ghana of Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus lowei*), spot-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista*), olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), white-thighed colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) and white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), all at low densities.

The data gathered by Presbyterian University College Ghana will be instrumental in contributing to the long-term survival and conservation of endangered primates and general biodiversity in Ghana. Distribution maps and data have been shared with the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission and the Wildlife Division to support monitoring efforts. Further, the project brought together the Forest Services Division and nongovernmental organizations A Rocha Ghana and West African Primate Conservation Action to organize a range of education and

awareness programs. By the end of the project, training workshops on topics related to primate conservation had been conducted for 45 law enforcement agencies, 33 leaders of school clubs, 200 community-based organizations, 120 villagers and 20 bushmeat dealers. In total, 418 people were educated, including 184 women. A conservation education center also was established near Atewa Range. The project entailed activities such as posting signboards at strategic vantage points near the ranges of the endangered primates and creating T-shirts, flyers and stickers with primate conservation messages, which were distributed to community members. Feedback from a post-project survey on awareness indicated increased knowledge on the need to protect and conserve these primate species among the general public, and specifically bushmeat dealers and market traders.

Species Highlights



© Washington Luís de Oliveira

CERRADO BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Research to prepare a recovery plan for a Critically Endangered cactus

In Brazil, efforts are underway by the Instituto Jurumi para Conservação da Natureza, to conduct research on the status, threats and ecology of the Critically Endangered cactus *Uebelmannia buiningii* in the Serra Negra, part of the Espinhaço Mountains of Minas Gerais. When last assessed in 2010, the cactus population was found to be fragmented, decreasing and subject to many threats, both natural and human-caused. Fire, livestock farming and ranching, as well as collection for the international plant trade, have all taken their toll on the species. Instituto Jurumi's work is focusing on evaluating the preferred habitat of the species with the intent to inform restoration; understanding the life stages of the species that are most critical to its long-term viability; and assessing current population trends. The work will culminate in a recovery plan for the species.

MADAGASCAR AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Documenting the reptiles and amphibians of Comoros

The Association Naturalistes, Environnement et Patrimoine de Mayotte worked in partnership with researchers, students and nongovernmental organizations in Comoros to create the island nation's first-ever atlas of reptiles and amphibians. The effort was comprehensive, reviewing existing data, conducting site inventories for data-deficient taxa, and consolidating 9,395 observations on all four of the archipelago's islands. The atlas serves as a solid reference and baseline to see how species will adapt to climatic and other changes.



© Pablo Venegas

TROPICAL ANDES BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Field surveys yield four reptiles and 22 amphibians new to science

Little was known about the herpetofauna in the Cordillera of Colán, a Key Biodiversity Area in Peru, before the Centro de Investigación en Biodiversidad del Perú (CORBIDI) undertook surveys. At the start of the research, only 11 amphibian species were known to occur there, and nothing was known about the reptiles. Working night and day, the team found a total of 53 species of amphibians, 22 of which are new to science. Thirteen species of reptiles were found, including four new species. The team also found eight globally threatened species and conducted research on the presence of chytrid fungus, which causes an infectious disease linked to mass die-offs and extinctions of amphibian species. A total of 424 frogs were analyzed, revealing that 75 individuals (17.6%) tested positive, indicating that the degree of infection is low. Efforts are underway to prepare papers for submission to scientific journals. One of the lizards new to science, *Stenocercus dracopennatus* sp. nov. is pictured here.



© Antoine Baglan

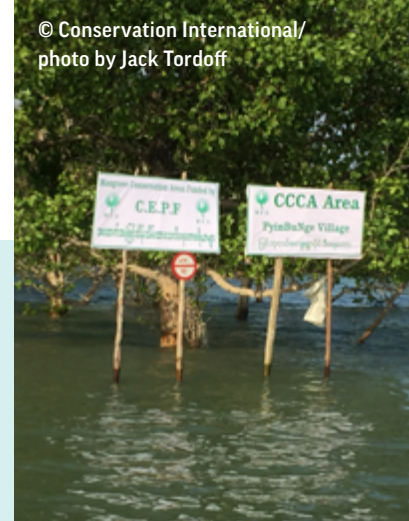


© Enerit Saçdanaku

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

The Albanian water frog now has a species action plan

The Albanian water frog (*Pelophylax shqipericus*) is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It has a severely fragmented population and is threatened by a wide range of factors, including residential and commercial development, mining, quarrying, farming, pollution and hunting. A team at the Center for Protection of Natural Ecosystems in Albania (EcoAlbania) completed a comprehensive study at Vlorë Bay, looking at the biology, distribution and threats to the species in order to develop an action plan for its conservation. The plan details focused conservation actions as well as habitat conservation and management, in particular targeting the private sector (farmers, restaurant managers/owners, tourist agencies/guides) and the need to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation. EcoAlbania complemented the species action plan with awareness raising, promotional materials and the creation of a local action group, which implements conservation actions, increases collaboration among diverse stakeholders and encourages an end to harmful practices.



© Conservation International/
photo by Jack Tordoff

INDO-BURMA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Restoring mangrove ecosystems in the Myeik Archipelago

Myanmar's mangrove forest ecosystem, a critical habitat for many species, has been significantly reduced, with forest cover falling from 659,039 hectares to 462,963 hectares between 1980 and 2015. Threats are numerous as local communities are extremely reliant on mangrove resources, especially for fuel wood and charcoal. The Myanmar Forest Association, working with seven communities on the Khanti and Pyin Bu Nge islands in the Myeik Archipelago, has designated community conservation concessions covering 840 hectares of mangrove, conducted capacity building in resource management, and raised more than 55,000 mangrove seedlings to be planted within the concession areas. Included in these plantings are two globally threatened mangrove species, the Endangered *Heritiera fomes* and the Critically Endangered *Bruguiera hainesii*. Further, a revolving fund was established to provide livelihood support to women and men from the participating communities and sustain project impacts beyond the grant period.



© Yayasan LINI

WALLACEA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Captive breeding of the Banggai cardinalfish

The Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) is an endemic species found only in the Banggai Archipelago in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Its beauty has made it a popular marine aquarium fish, exploited for overseas markets since the mid-1990s. In 2007, it was listed by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered, and recent population studies have shown significant and continuing declines. Fishers sometimes use cyanide to catch reef fish, and dynamite is also used in the area to catch fish for food. The result is a degraded environment and declining fish stocks. Yayasan Alam Indonesia Lestari responded to the threats by working with local communities and district fisheries staff to survey and monitor the reef; develop and implement locally-managed marine areas in Bone Baru and Popisi; establish a community learning center; and build a fish breeding center to produce Banggai cardinalfish for sale in the aquarium market. By project close, local communities had an improved understanding of the benefits of marine management, including temporary closures. They were successfully breeding and raising captive cardinalfish and earning revenue from sales. And the project was instrumental in raising the profile of the Banggai cardinalfish at the national, provincial, regional and village levels, charting a course for recovery of this iconic reef species.



© Biodiversity Preservation Center Nigeria

GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Raising awareness about tortoises

Tortoises in southern Nigeria are subject to myriad threats—mining, logging, habitat degradation and agriculture as well as their use in traditional medicine, as bushmeat and in the live pet trade. The Biodiversity Preservation Center of Nigeria has focused on two species of hinged tortoise in the southeast Niger Delta: Home's hinge-back tortoise (*Kinixys homeana*), a forest tortoise listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; and its cousin *Kinixys erosa*, listed as Data Deficient on the Red List. Population viability assessments were conducted to address the lack of information on the species, and surveys of bushmeat markets were also carried out. The research revealed that while animals can still be found in the wild, populations are declining heavily. The survey did reveal the presence of tortoises in the rural communities of Mbiakong and Esuk Mbat, located in Akwa Ibom and Cross River states, respectively, which led to the establishment of a wildlife sanctuary in each community (8.5 hectares in Mbiakong and 12.8 hectares in Esuk Mbat). In furtherance of the conservation action, the project established multi-purpose tree nurseries with capacity to generate 10,000 seedlings of assorted indigenous trees annually. As a result, community members have planted nearly 1,000 trees and are aware of the importance of tree planting and the ecological role of tortoises in their forest. Through the work of Biodiversity Preservation Center, awareness raising will continue, and a baseline now exists to supplement data held on the Red List for the two hinge-back tortoises.

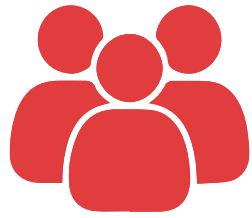


© Dave Waldien/Bat Conservation International

EAST MELANESIAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Bats benefit from awareness and food security initiatives

In the Kunua Plains and Mount Balbi Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) on Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea, Bat Conservation International (BCI) provided technical support to the Rotokas Ecotourism Group (RET) in developing an environmental management plan for the Indigenous Rotokas people. This KBA is rich in biodiversity, including two Endangered fruit-eating bats: the greater monkey-faced bat (*Pteralopex flanneryi*) and the Bougainville monkey-faced bat (*Pteralopex anceps*). Both species are key for pollination and seed-dispersal services, which are vital in forest regeneration. However, both are threatened by hunting, agricultural land conversion and deforestation. BCI worked with RET in the Mount Balbi area of the KBA, holding consultations with nearly 1,500 people and discussing with clan chiefs where community use, traditional use and restricted areas should occur. RET has continued to promote the importance of bats for healthy ecosystems while supporting clan leaders in preserving their cultural heritage. In working with the clans, they are establishing a vision for healthy ecosystems and wildlife populations that not only protects the Rotokas' way of life, but also contributes to the protection and restoration of biodiversity through the development of their management plan.



CEPF PILLAR 2:

CIVIL SOCIETY

Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity



Using a magnifying glass to identify a plant, Toubkal National Park, Morocco. © FondationBiotope

Definition: CEPF measures change in organizational capacity with a self-assessment tool that aims to monitor a civil society organization's capacity to effectively plan, implement and evaluate actions for biodiversity conservation. This is determined by five major factors: (i) its available human resources; (ii) its financial resources; (iii) its management systems, which ensure that available resources are translated into effective actions; (iv) its strategic planning, which ensures that these actions target conservation priorities; and (v) its delivery, which ensures that these actions effect change. The tool should be completed twice, at the start of a project and at the end of the project. Local and national grantees are required to complete the Civil Society Tracking Tool.

CEPF measures change in civil society capacity using the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), which was introduced as a pilot in 2009-2010, in two hotspots, and rolled out to all active hotspots at the start of fiscal year 2013.

At the close of fiscal year 2020, CEPF had received 434 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from recipients of large grants, small grants (US\$50,000 or less) and subgrants. The 434 organizations that submitted a complete assessment come from 16 hotspots:

- Completed investments: Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, and Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.

- Investments completed in fiscal year 2020: Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma and Wallacea.
- Ongoing investments: Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin and Tropical Andes.

Out of the 434 organizations that completed their reporting cycles, 298 recorded an increase in organizational capacity (69%). Figure 8 presents the results per investment status with the ongoing investments presented by hotspot.

As per Figure 9, which presents the average baseline and final scores for completed investments, and each hotspot with either a recently completed or ongoing investment, there is an overall weighted average increase of 6.2 points (+11%) in the capacities of civil society organizations. This weighted average is obtained by multiplying the average of each hotspot by the number of civil society organizations with a complete cycle for this hotspot.

Figure 8

Capacities Improved

Number and percentage of civil society organizations with increased capacities

* Investments completed in fiscal year 2020

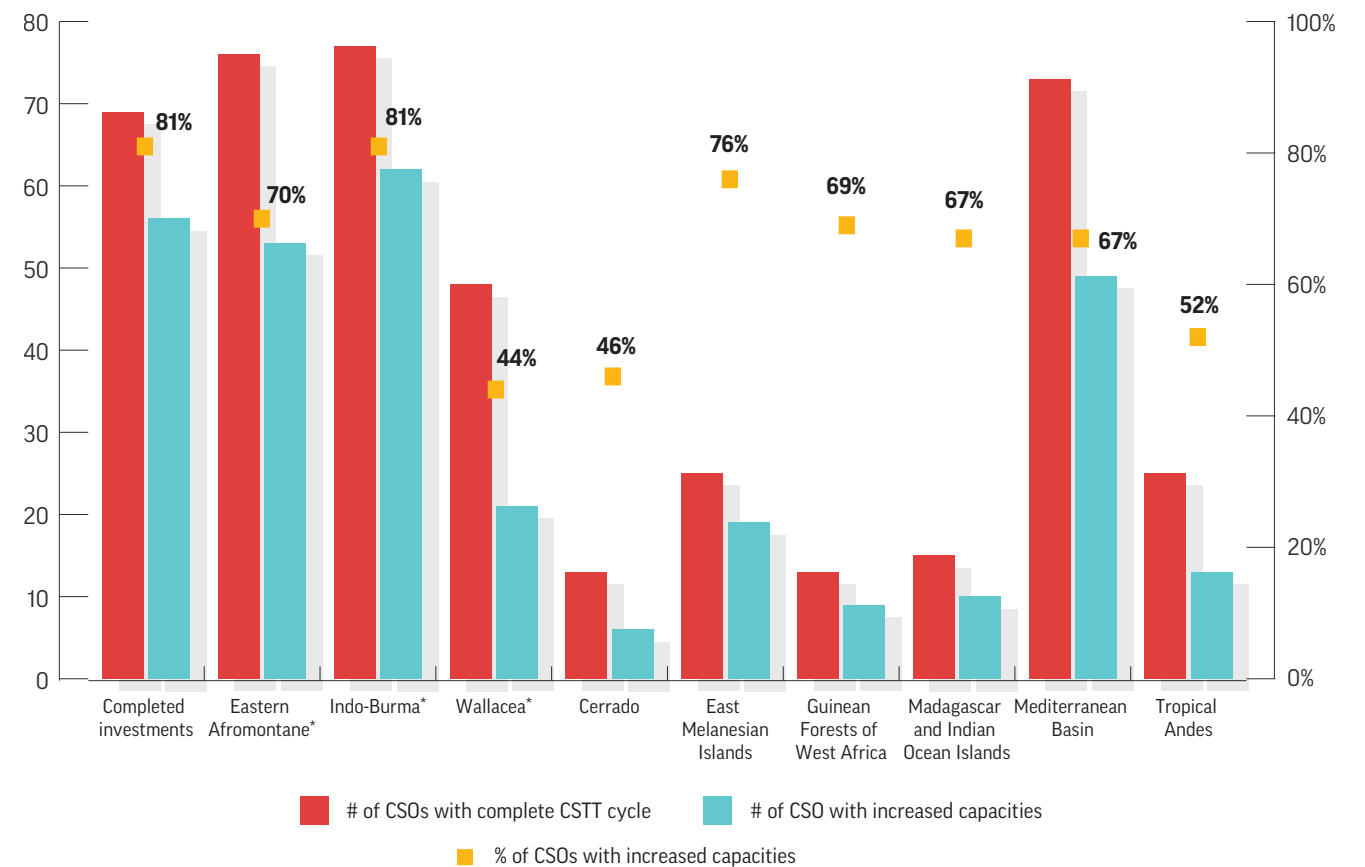
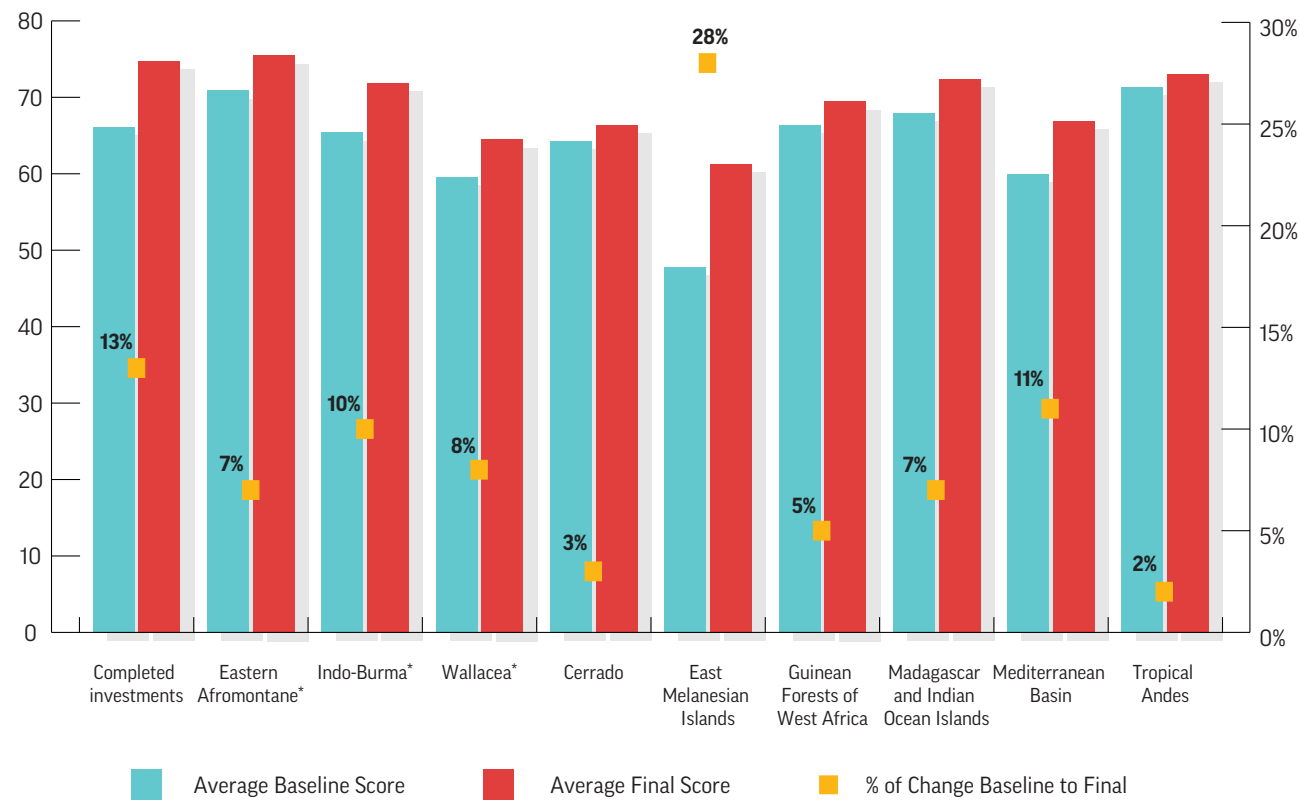


Figure 9

Average Change in Capacity of Civil Society Organizations Per Completed and Open Investments



Civil society organizations from the East Melanesian Islands display the lowest baseline average capacities (average score of 48 points, which is 16 points lower than the global average baseline score). However, these organizations have seen, so far, an increase in their capacities, with an average final score of 61 points. This is the highest increase among the hotspots (+28%). Yet these organizations remain on average 10 points below the global average final capacity level. In this hotspot, CEPF's conservation interventions have been developed gradually to give sufficient time for trust and understanding to be built among partners, for capacity and knowledge to be transferred, and for long-term funding to be secured.

The strategy also focuses on building the capacity of local and national civil society in the hotspot through partnerships, networks and mentoring. For this strategy to sustain on-the-ground results, the CEPF investment period for this hotspot is eight years rather than the usual five. To date, as per Figure 10, organizations have seen the highest improvements in their management systems (+3.3 points), which ensures that available resources are translated into effective actions, and in their delivery (+3.5 points), which ensures that these actions effect change.

Figure 10

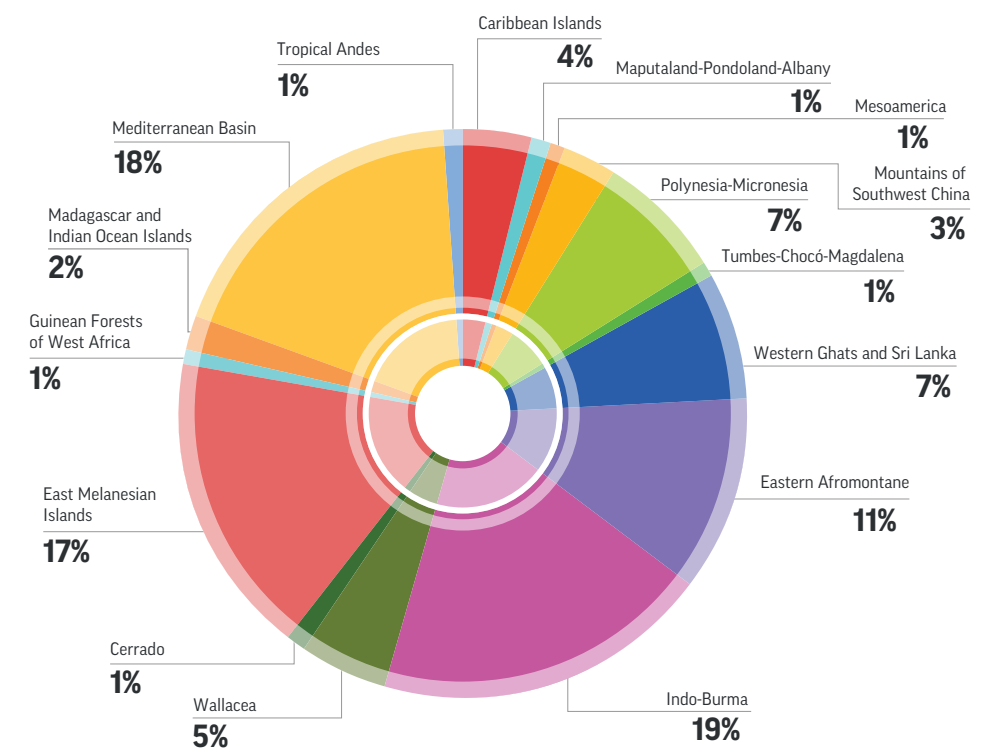
Change in Average CSTT Scores between 2013-2020 in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot



East Melanesian Islands is also the third-highest contributor to CEPF's impact on civil society capacity globally so far. By considering the number of civil society organizations with complete cycles in each hotspot and the percent changes in their CSTT scores, and by relating this to the total number of completed CSTT cycles globally, it is possible to determine which hotspot contributes the most to CEPF's impact on capacity of civil society organizations globally. For example, while 91% of Polynesia-Micronesia's participating grantees showed an increase in capacity, the number of participating grantees was only 11, so this represents a smaller contribution than a hotspot such as Indo-Burma, where 77 grantees participated and 81% of them increased their capacities. As per Figure 11, the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot accounts to date for the highest contribution (19%), followed by the Mediterranean Basin (18%) and the East Melanesian Islands (17%).

Figure 11

Contribution of Each Hotspot to CEPF Global Impact on Civil Society Organizations' Capacities





Solomon Islands organization makes impressive progress

Building resilience and staff expertise can be a real challenge for small conservation organizations in remote locations with modest resources.

Through the US\$9 million, 8-year investment in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot that started in 2013, CEPF and its regional implementation team—IUCN—have strived to fund conservation and organizational development while also providing technical support to the hotspot’s conservation community. Efforts have especially focused on helping grantees develop organizational policies, including financial policies and procedures, as well as building strategic planning and governance.

One example of significant change in capacity is Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation, an organization based

in Waisurione Village, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands. Wai-Hau was formed in 2008 by local communities to protect leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and safeguard their habitat.

The organization received two grants from CEPF, in July 2016 and August 2018. Both focused on building the capacity of the organization to monitor and manage leatherback turtles in West ‘Are’are.

By the end of Wai-Hau’s second CEPF-funded project in June 2019, the organization recorded a score of 66.5 out of 100 on their Civil Society Tracking Tool, up from 26 points at the start of the first CEPF project—a 156% increase. The organization saw especially strong increases in the areas of:

- Delivery:** One of the most significant recent changes for Wai-Hau has been its collaboration with other organizations. Working with other groups with similar goals, such as the Mai-Maasina Greenbelt Organisation and the Baru Conservation Alliance, has opened up new opportunities. “This partnership has provided us with the avenue to share experiences and have access to the technical expertise and advice from various local experts, which are often either unavailable or costly for a community-based organization like us,” said Ben Namo of Wai-Hau. The organization received Geographic Information System (GIS) expertise from Takataka Conservation Association, whose staff taught Wai-Hau’s rangers to use GPS and mapping. This helped Wai-Hau develop its species management plan. Similarly, collaboration with local IT experts aided Wai-Hau in the budget-friendly development of a mobile app to collect data on the leatherback turtles.
- Human resources:** By the end of their second CEPF-funded project, Wai-Hau’s staff had gained experience in managing the organization and its projects; setting conservation priorities; conduct-

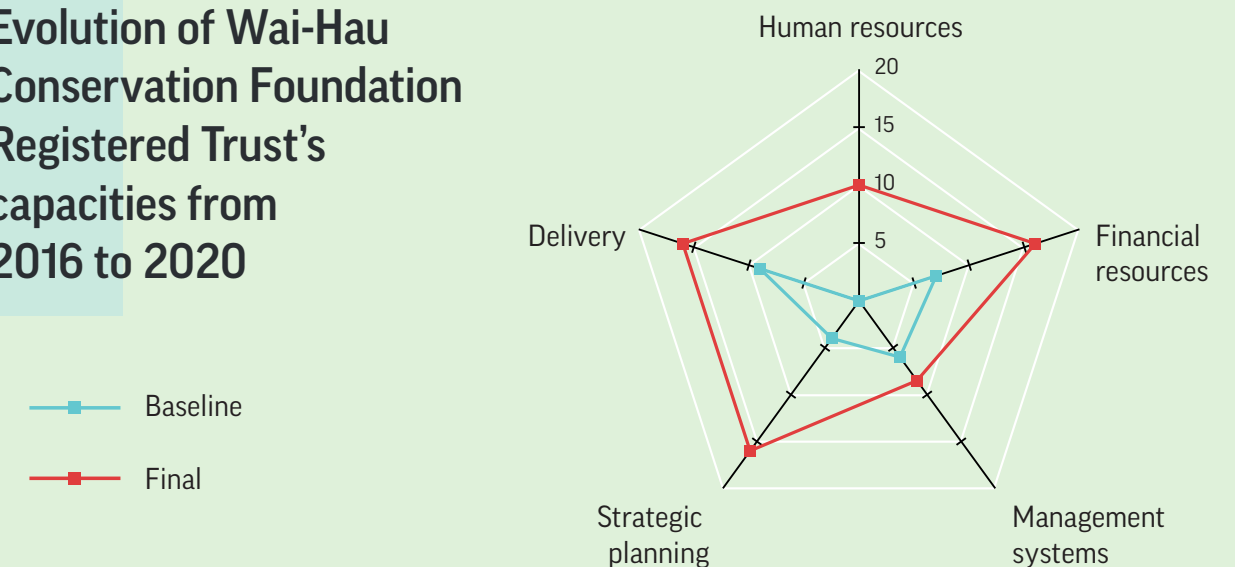
ing participatory appraisals with local stakeholders; conducting biological surveys and research with the mobile app; developing and using a GIS monitoring program; communicating conservation messages; and advocating changes to public policy. The organization went from having no volunteers to having at least five volunteers with clearly defined terms of reference and work-plans.

- Strategic planning:** The organization established a board of directors, one that clearly differentiates between its oversight role and the role of management. Board members are drawn from multiple sectors and are capable of carrying out functions such as fundraising, public relations, financial oversight and advocacy. Wai-Hau also updated its strategic plan and established regular review of the plan with input from staff, board members and external stakeholders.

Wai-Hau still has plenty of challenges ahead. But their example shows the rapid improvement that is possible with continuous funding, technical support and engagement with the wider conservation community.

Figure 12

Evolution of Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation Registered Trust’s capacities from 2016 to 2020





Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues

Participants in a training on bee hive construction, Tojallah, Liberia. © UOF/WCF

Definition: CEPF measures change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues with a tracking tool. It is a self-assessment tool that can be used by an organization to understand if and to what extent gender considerations have been integrated into its program and operations. It consists of eight questions for a total possible score of 20, with the last question being a yes-no-maybe choice on whether the grantee would like to receive more information about gender. The tool should be completed twice, at the start of a project and at the end of the project. All grantees are required to complete the Gender Tracking Tool.

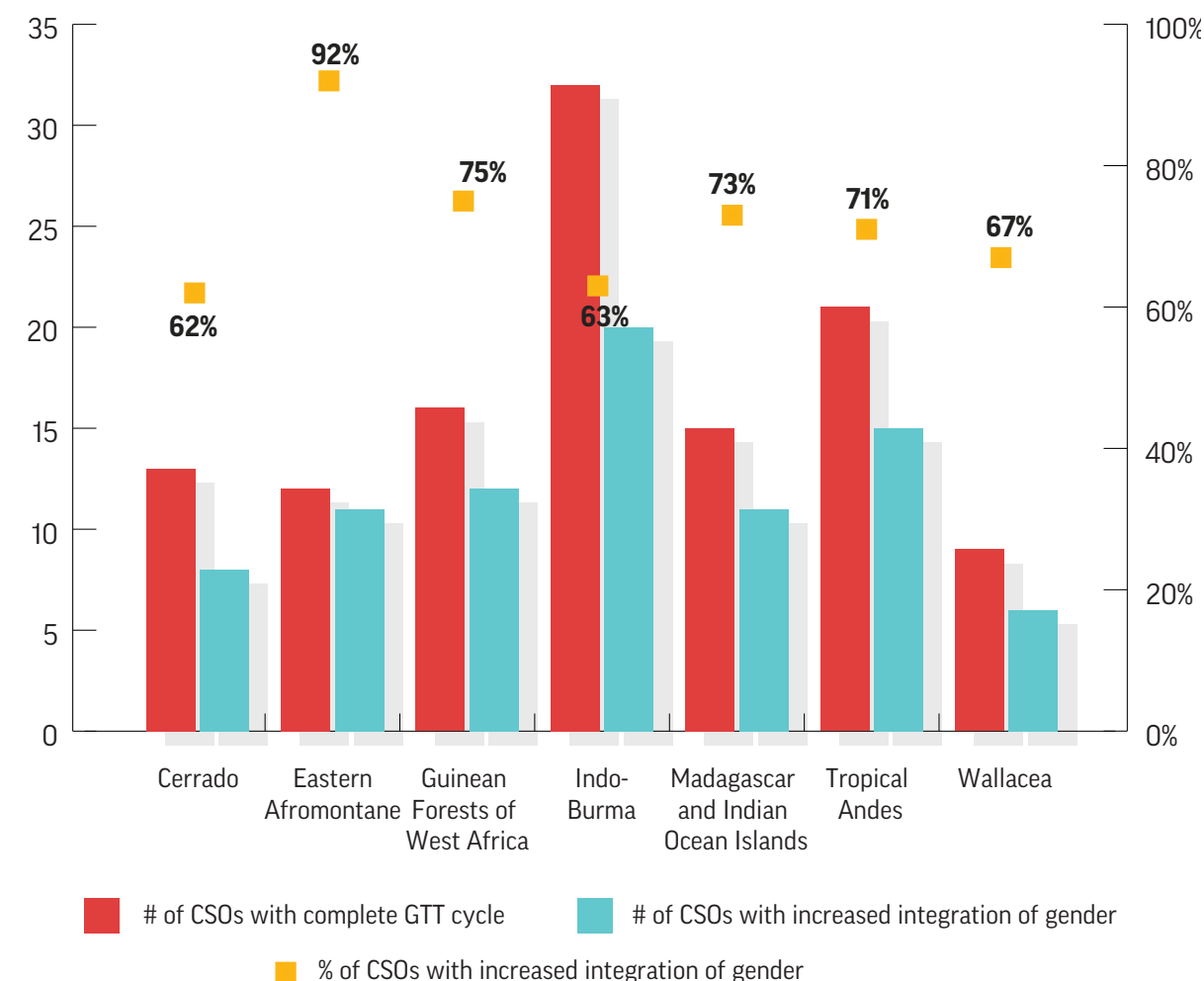
Starting in 2017, when the Gender Tracking Tool (GTT) was launched, through June 2020, CEPF approved 481 assessments from recipients of large grants, small grants (US\$50,000 or less) and subgrants across 10 hotspots: Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. The investment in Mountains of Central Asia started in 2019, therefore, there is no final assessment yet for this hotspot. For East Melanesian Islands and the Mediterranean Basin, six and two final assessments have been received to date, respectively—too few for significant analysis to be carried out on gender integration. Therefore, the 118 organizations with a baseline and a final assessment from the remaining seven hotspots were considered for the CEPF impact on civil society organizations' understanding of and commitment to gender issues.

Out of these 118 organizations, 83 recorded an increase in understanding of and commitment to gender issues (70%). Figure 13 presents the results per hotspot.

Figure 13

Improved Gender Integration

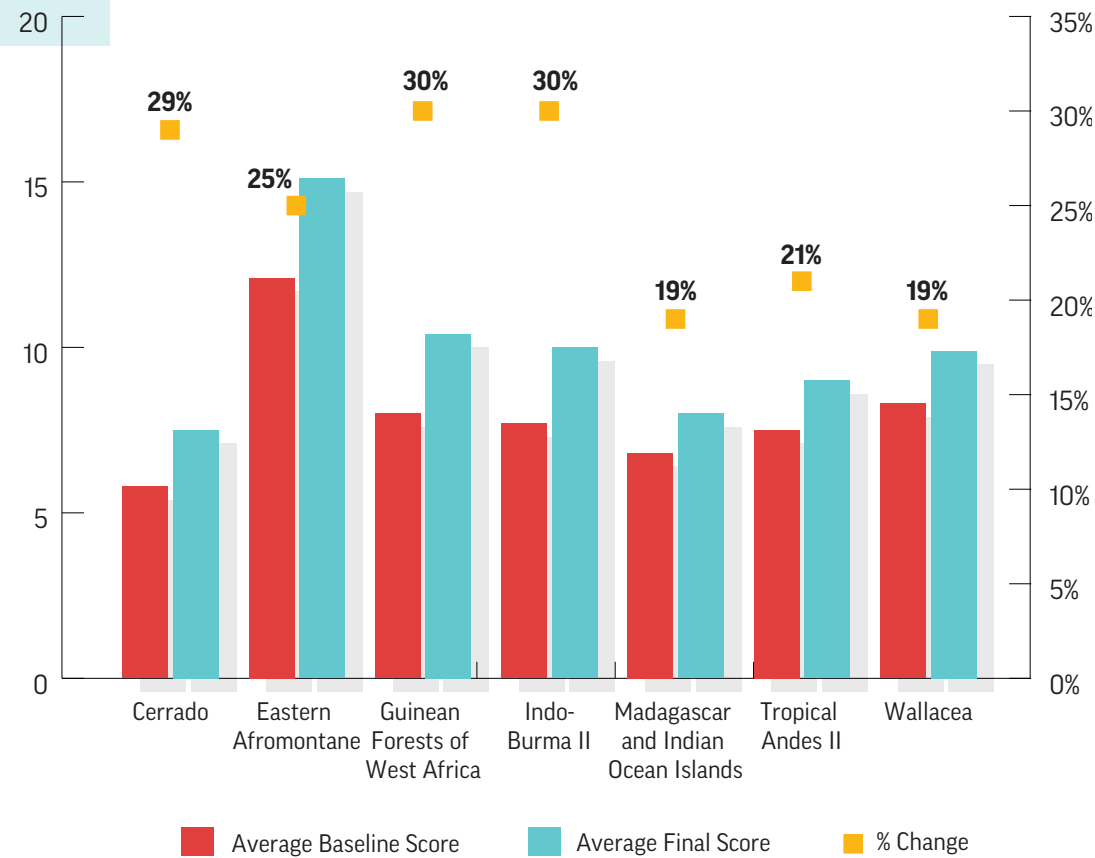
Number and Percentage of Civil Society Organizations with Increased Integration of Gender Per Hotspot



For the 118 organizations, the overall average baseline score was 8 points (40%) and the average final score was 10 (50%). This represents a global increase of 25% in understanding of and commitment to gender issues since CEPF started promoting gender integration in 2017. Figure 14 presents the average evolution of scores per hotspot.

Figure 14

Average Change in Gender Integration Per Hotspot



* "II" after Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes indicates that these scores have been gathered from grantees participating in CEPF's second investment in these two hotspots; the first investments in these hotspots predated the Gender Tracking Tool.

Because the vast majority (83%) of the organizations with a baseline and a final assessment within the 10 hotspots are nongovernmental organizations, no trend can be highlighted in terms of variance in gender integration among types of organizations (other types being academic/research institutions, private sector, cooperatives and community groups).

However, considering the eight specific questions in the Gender Tracking Tool, the trend highlighted last year still prevails (Figure 15). The eight questions are:

1. Does your organization have a written policy that affirms a commitment to gender equality?
2. Are there people in your organization responsible for gender issues?
3. Have any staff in your organization ever received training on gender issues?
4. Is gender analysis built into your program planning procedures?

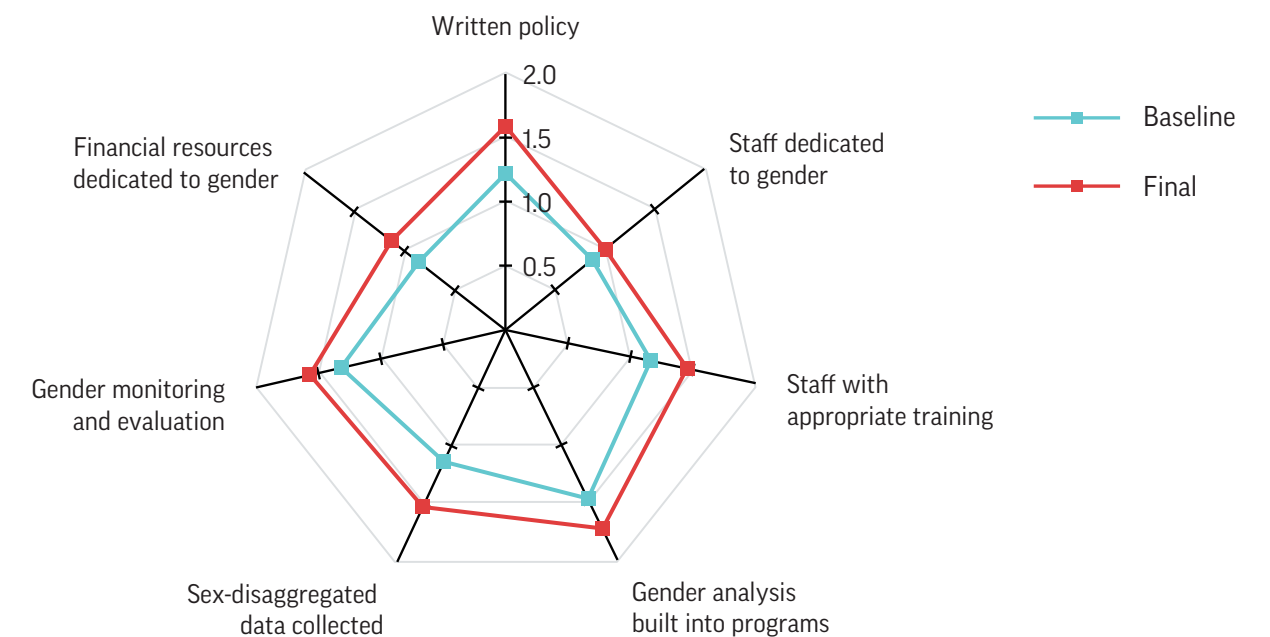
5. Do you collect sex-disaggregated data about the people impacted by your projects?
6. Does your organization monitor and evaluate how your projects and programs impact men and women differently?
7. Does your organization allocate financial resources to incorporate gender into its work?
8. Would your organization be interested in being contacted by the RIT to learn more or receive training about gender issues?

The highest increases of score are on whether the organizations have a written policy that affirms a commitment to gender equality (question 1) and on whether organizations are collecting sex-disaggregated data about the people impacted by their projects

(question 5). Most organizations also said that their staff had received more training on gender integration over the past two years (question 3). Several grantees have pointed out that filling in the Gender Tracking Tool triggered their interest in gender integration. CEPF's Gender Toolkit remains one of the most downloaded documents on the CEPF website. Applicants are also more systematically requested to formulate sex-disaggregated project impacts at proposal stage, while grantees have to report back on the number of men and the number of women directly benefiting from their project at project end. Where gender integration remains low is on the issue of designated staff responsible for gender issues (question 2).

Figure 15

Evolution of Gender Integration Among Civil Society Organizations from Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2020





Weaving gender into sustainable economic opportunity

Among the cloud forests of the Maquipucuna-Río Guayllabamba Key Biodiversity Area in Ecuador, about one hour's drive northwest of Quito, Corporación Microempresarial Yungilla (CMY) is working to give local communities economic opportunities while protecting their high-biodiversity ecosystems.

This community-run organization has gradually grown and strengthened over its more than 20 years of operation, achieving protection for 8,000 hectares of community land and developing ecotourism and supporting activities, such as production and marketing of jams made from native fruits.

CMY received its first grant from CEPF in 2017 to strengthen community management of the protected area. Its second grant from CEPF, from August 2019 to October 2020, focused on improving CMY's capacities to mobilize economic resources. One outcome of its work with CEPF: a notable uptick in CMY's integration of gender considerations into its activities. Germán Collaguazo of CMY said a key to this improvement was the gender integration training his organization received from CEPF's regional implementation team, led in Ecuador by Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano.

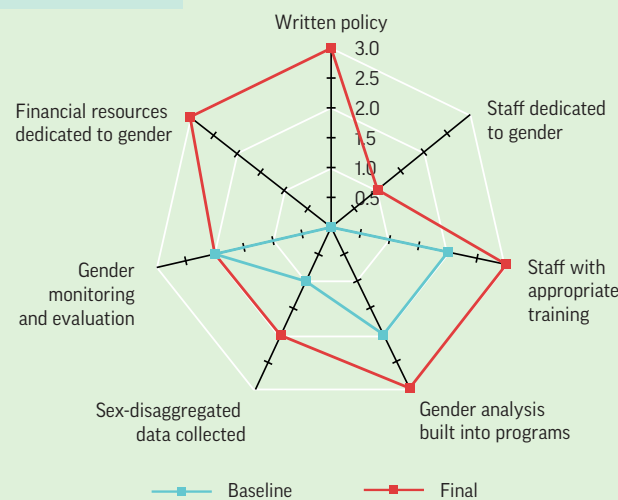
"While filling in the baseline measurement tool, we realized that we had a lot of gaps in our integration of gender. As we were working on our 2019 to 2024 management plan, we decided to take the opportunity to pay particular attention to gender integration," said Collaguazo.

By the end of CMY's second CEPF-funded project, they developed and implemented a gender policy, designated an organization member in charge of gender issues, began systematically conducting gender analysis during planning for projects, and dedicated financial resources to gender integration in all aspects of their programs and operations.

"The participatory approach, including both men and women, as well as youth, made us more effective and inspired to keep doing more," Collaguazo said. "For example, when we opened a new restaurant towards the end of 2017 to generate income for the community, we made sure to offer this opportunity to both young women and men."

Figure 16

Evolution of Gender Integration within Corporación Microempresarial Yungilla over the period of their grant



Indicator: Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened

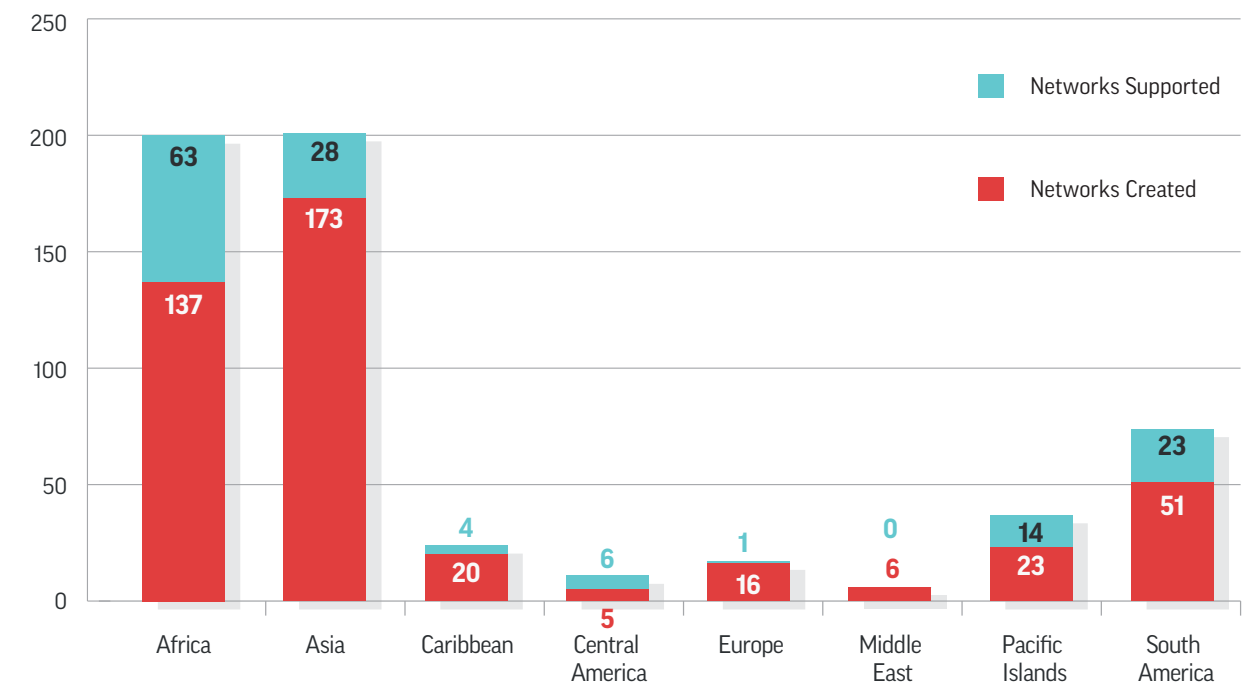
Definition: Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a memorandum of understanding or other type of formal validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more nongovernmental organizations with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, and a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

CEPF encourages grantees to create and support partnerships and networks. These alliances are especially important as they can make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. They can secure broad support for conservation actions, promote inclusion among diverse stakeholders, and increase the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be sustainable. Since CEPF's inception, it has recorded a total of 570 networks/partnerships, 431 of which were created by grantees. This is an increase of 163 since the close of fiscal year 2019. Of these, 53 were created in 2019 and 2020. Table 2 presents examples of several of these new networks/partnerships.

Figure 17

Networks and Partnerships Created and/or Supported By Region

TOTAL: 570 (431 created)





Data informs networking in support of biodiversity-friendly olive farming in Lebanon

The town of Rachaya lies on the western slopes of Mount Hermon, the second highest mountain in Lebanon. The mountain is a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and it contains significant biodiversity as well as commercial groves of olive, apricots and grapes.

Olive farming is widespread and undertaken using a range of techniques, from traditional to conventional to modern. The impacts of the different techniques on the biodiversity of the area have been a source of discussion and contention among local stakeholders. Insufficient information reduced their ability to make informed decisions.

The organization Environment for Life conducted a two-pronged project to generate and share data on the topic. To establish the biodiversity value of the Mount Hermon KBA, they conducted extensive surveys of the flora, fauna and agro-biodiversity. They also studied the impacts of the various olive farming techniques on biodiversity. They are using the gathered data to mainstream biodiversity-friendly practices into the agriculture sector, and one key element of that mainstreaming effort has been connecting local communities, the olive producers and government.

The biodiversity surveys clearly indicate that the site has a wealth of biodiversity. The number of species found there include 221 plants, 12 mammals, 95 birds, one amphibian and 10 reptiles. Six of these species are globally threatened. Meanwhile, the research on agricultural techniques demonstrated traditional farming—characterized by low chemical use, irregular grazing and very limited plowing—resulted in maintenance of biodiversity, reduction in wildfires,

soil and water conservation, and additional positive outcomes. Conventional and modern farming entail systematic use of pesticides/insecticides, regular cultivation around trees, removal of old trees and irrigation. These practices yielded multiple negative impacts, including depletion of aquifers and reduction of biodiversity and herbaceous understory.

Environment for Life sought to leverage local interest in reducing the negative impact of the olive industry and increasing benefits to local farmers who maintain traditional practices. The organization used its research and the workshops to engage stakeholders, make connections and stimulate partnerships within the olive and olive oil sectors.

One example is the establishment of a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jabal Al Sheik (Mount Hermon) Municipality Federation. This led to the ministry's recognition of the importance of the biodiversity value of Mount Hermon KBA to the olive sector, and the declaration to cooperate with the municipality and the agro-cooperatives in the area on guidance for the use of pesticides, harvesting tools and techniques. Especially promising is the creation of a network of local communities, olive landowners, cooperatives, pressing mills and the Municipal Federation, coordinated by Environment for Life, to increase communication and strengthen collaboration. The network will use tools such as a website and social media, one-on-one interviews, formal and public meetings and focus groups. It is through partnerships of this kind that biodiversity can co-exist within the olive sector.



CEPF PILLAR 3:

HUMAN WELL-BEING

Indicator: Number of people receiving structured training



Fisherman, Uzbekistan. © O. Langrand

Definition: Structured training is defined as any organized or formal training opportunity such as a workshop, classroom activity, university program, formal site visit or exchange program. Data is sex-disaggregated. This indicator is specific to training, a key element of CEPF's work, and is not to be combined with the indicator recording beneficiaries receiving non-cash benefits.

This indicator captures the number of men and women who have participated in a structured training opportunity. As with other indicators, sex-disaggregated data are only available since collection started in 2017. To date, 163,319 people have received structured training, including 36,147 women. During the past year, training topics have included coastal zone management, reef ecology, tortoise relocation, bird banding, species monitoring, fire management, organic farming, post-harvest processing, financial and project management, and a range of other topics and skill sets.

Figure 18

Number of Trainees, by Region

Total: 163,319

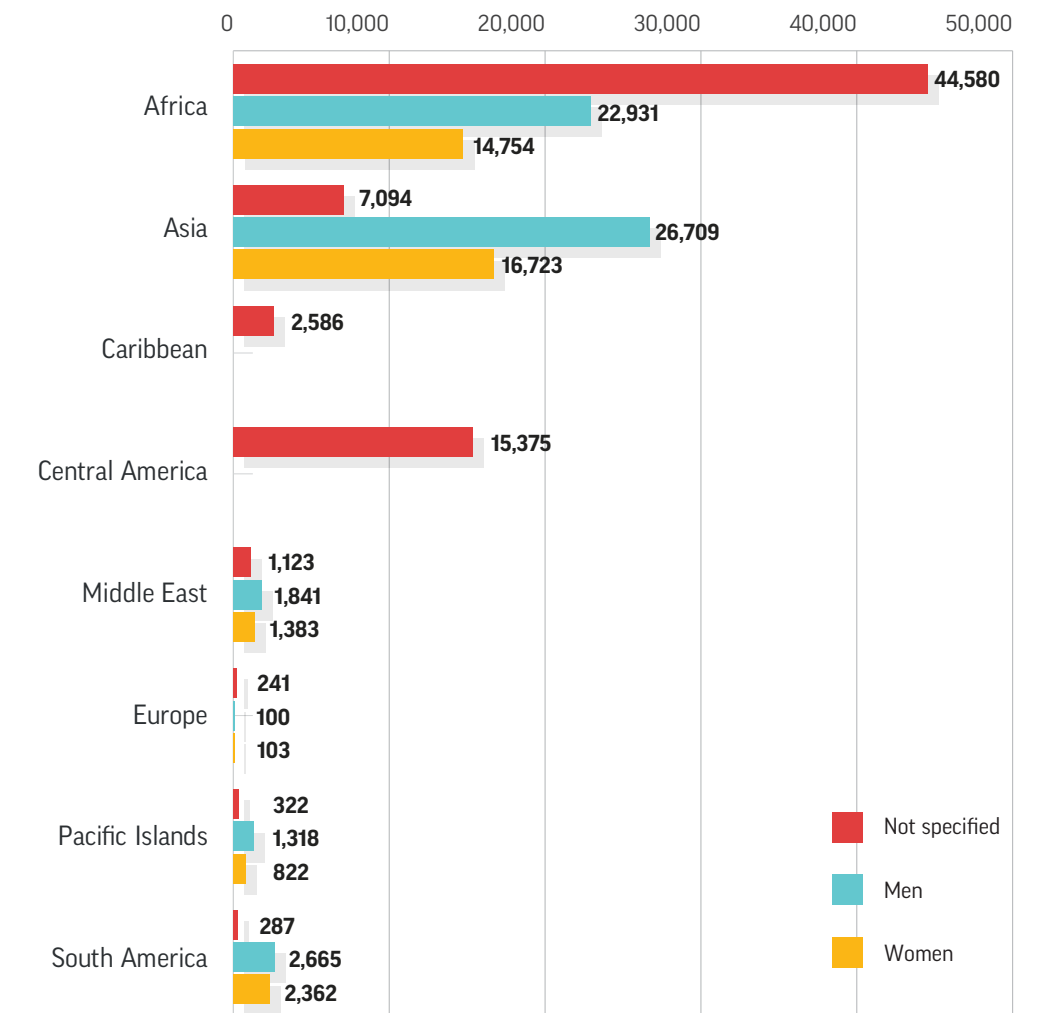
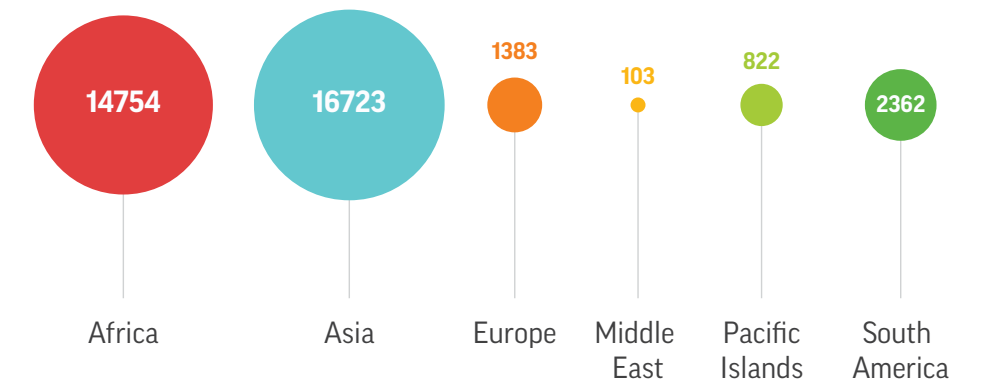


Figure 19

Number of Women Trainees, By Region

Total: 36,147





Rede de Sementes do Cerrado training in seed planting. © Dudu Coladetti / Acervo RSC



© Dudu Coladetti / Acervo RSC

Training tailors restoration skills to Brazil's Cerrado ecosystems

In the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot, conversion of natural ecosystems into farmland is the main threat to biodiversity. The scale of conversion has been intense in recent years, subjecting land to soil erosion and loss of natural plant cover, and effecting water sources. These changes cause serious negative impacts for biodiversity as well as the people who live in the Cerrado. For this reason, there is now great demand for restoration, especially in the hotspot's permanent preservation areas and legal reserves, and CEPF has identified restoration of critical areas as a priority.

However, most of the knowledge regarding restoration of natural vegetation comes from the Atlantic and Amazon forests, where the focus is on the planting of tree seedlings with regular spacing, a practice that has little success when applied to areas originally covered by non-forest vegetation. Practitioners also often overlook the indicators of ecosystem functioning and capacity for self-regeneration by only measuring the survival rate of seedlings of planted trees without considering factors such as

choice of species and presence of invasive species, which could affect overall success.

Fortunately, CEPF grantee Rede de Sementes do Cerrado has been able to intervene to bring much-needed knowledge and training to landowners, local communities and others seeking to restore their lands. The organization is a network of seed collectors and restoration experts with expertise specific to the Cerrado. Working in four districts, the organization delivered training to 354 people who work directly on ecological restoration. Trainees learned about restoration techniques such as direct seeding, planting of seedlings and natural regeneration. Additional monitoring training focused on indicators that represent the success of the restoration to guide actions and define the need for corrective interventions throughout the process. In addition to the training topics, participants were encouraged to reflect and discuss potential paths to restoring the Cerrado. These meetings indirectly contributed to discussions on the formation and updating of state legislation regarding restoration policy in the states of Federal

District and Mato Grosso.

Post-training follow-up revealed that 67% of participants applied the techniques or concepts learned, leading to the potential restoration of approximately 700 hectares of degraded areas in the next five years. More than 80% of the participants consider themselves to be multipliers of the knowledge gained in ecological restoration and monitoring. Of these, 45% reported that they reached an additional one to 10 people, while another 28% said they passed on the information to more than 30 people. This is good news for the Cerrado, where the need for restoration and restoration practitioners grows daily.

Indicator: Number of people receiving cash benefits

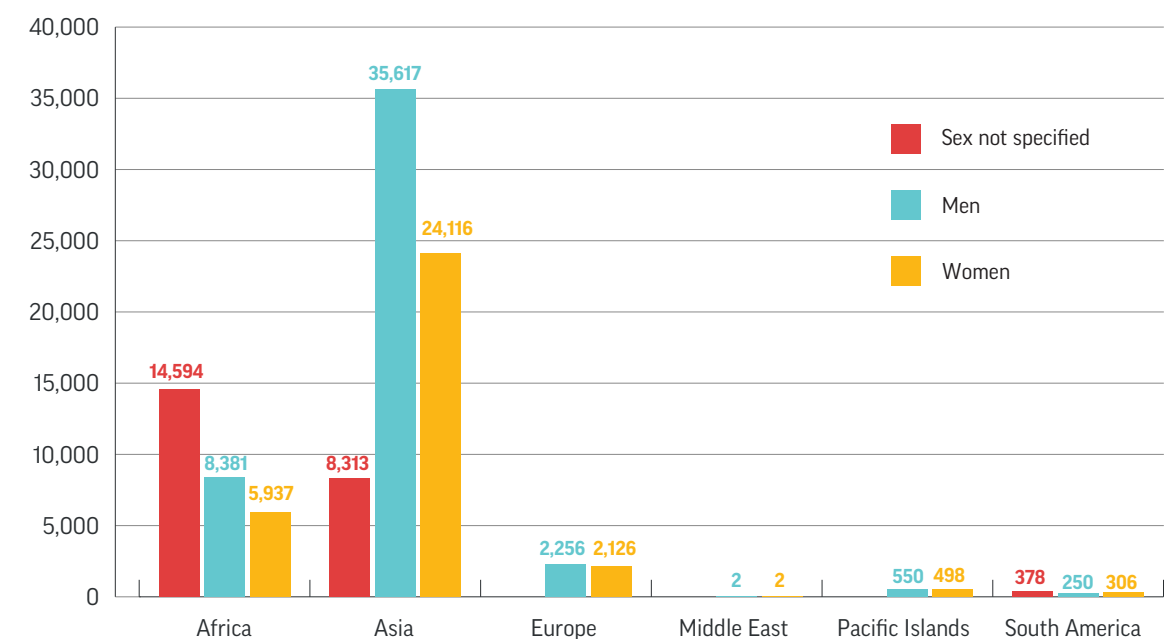
Definition: Cash benefits include those derived from employment and increased income due to livelihood programs. Project employees are excluded.

Since 2017, CEPF has systematically collected data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits. These benefits are derived from employment opportunities, for example in projects where grantees hire people to work in plant nurseries or work as eco-guides, or from small-scale alternative livelihood projects where beneficiaries are able to generate income. Examples of activities yielding cash benefits include essential oil, medicinal plant, handicraft, coconut oil, coffee or cacao production, tourism and sale of vegetables and honey. To date, CEPF has recorded 103,326 people receiving cash benefits, 32,985 of which are women.

Figure 20

Number of People Receiving Cash Benefits, By Region

Total: 103,326





Essential oil producers benefit from innovative technologies in Comoros

Ylang-ylang is an essential oil derived from the flower of the tropical Asian cananga tree (*Cananga odorata*). It is an ingredient in aromatherapy and perfumes, and is used by some for medicinal purposes. It is also found in lotions, food flavoring and soap.

Comoros is the world's largest producer of ylang-ylang essential oil, with an annual production of about 50 tonnes, representing 13% of the country's export income. It is one of the main sources of income for people living in the country's rural areas.

There are significant environmental impacts associated with production of ylang-ylang essential oil, linked to the ylang groves and the distillation process. Intensification of crops leads to the extension of cultivated areas, to the detriment of forest. Distillation requires wood to produce water vapor, which adds to the pressure already exerted on this resource by the construction sector. The distillation process also consumes a lot of water, which is used for the condensation of essential oil vapors. In the dry season, diversion of water from rivers for distilleries leads to conflict. Further, the discharge of distillation sludge into waterways can lead to eutrophication—a condition that causes dense plant life and death of animals from lack of oxygen.

In an effort to address the situation, CEPF grantee Association 2 Mains engaged with the producers, distillers and local communities in the ylang-ylang industry to promote innovative technologies and introduce environmentally friendly practices. They

worked in areas near the Moheli National Park that are rich in biodiversity and known for iconic species such as the Critically Endangered Livingstone flying fox (*Pteropus livingstonii*). The project included awareness raising for more than 4,000 people about the value of ecosystem services and biodiversity, and training on practices favorable to biodiversity such as reforestation, soil restoration and woodlots.

Introduction of new technology, in particular more efficient distillation equipment, has meant that for each new apparatus, 90% less wood is used than for traditional equipment, while improved equipment has resulted in a 50% decrease in wood use. The project has set up two pilot sustainable distillation sites, each with a prototype distilling device, a closed water circuit and flower waste recycling.

Support to 11 cooperatives has allowed for discussion about sustainability and introduction of environmental targets. Examples of sustainable practices include replanting in woodlots, reforestation on degraded lands, setting aside a certain number of trees for distillation purposes, and thinking about agroforestry in a more integrated way.

A total of 568 producers and distillers (including 231 women) reported increased income as a result of the project and the adoption of sustainable practices. Finally, a "Sustainable Ylang Sector" charter incorporating commitments to preserve biodiversity was published and adopted by private and public stakeholders.

Indicator: Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training

Definition: Non-cash benefits are stated as increased access to clean water; increased food security; increased access to energy; increased access to public services; increased resilience to climate change; improved land tenure; improved recognition of traditional knowledge; improved decision-making and governance; improved access to ecosystem services.

CEPF has collected data on the number of communities benefiting from CEPF projects since 2001, but not until 2017 did monitoring expand to include collection of information about community characteristics, types of benefits received, and number of males and females in each community. Since CEPF's inception, a total of 4,341 communities have benefited, and a total of 1,130,054 people (568,081 males and 561,973 females) have been recorded as benefiting from the 3,358 communities counted since 2017. The charts below illustrate the characteristics of the communities CEPF has supported and the types of benefits received.

Figure 21

Communities Benefiting from CEPF Projects, By Region

by Region / TOTAL: 4,341

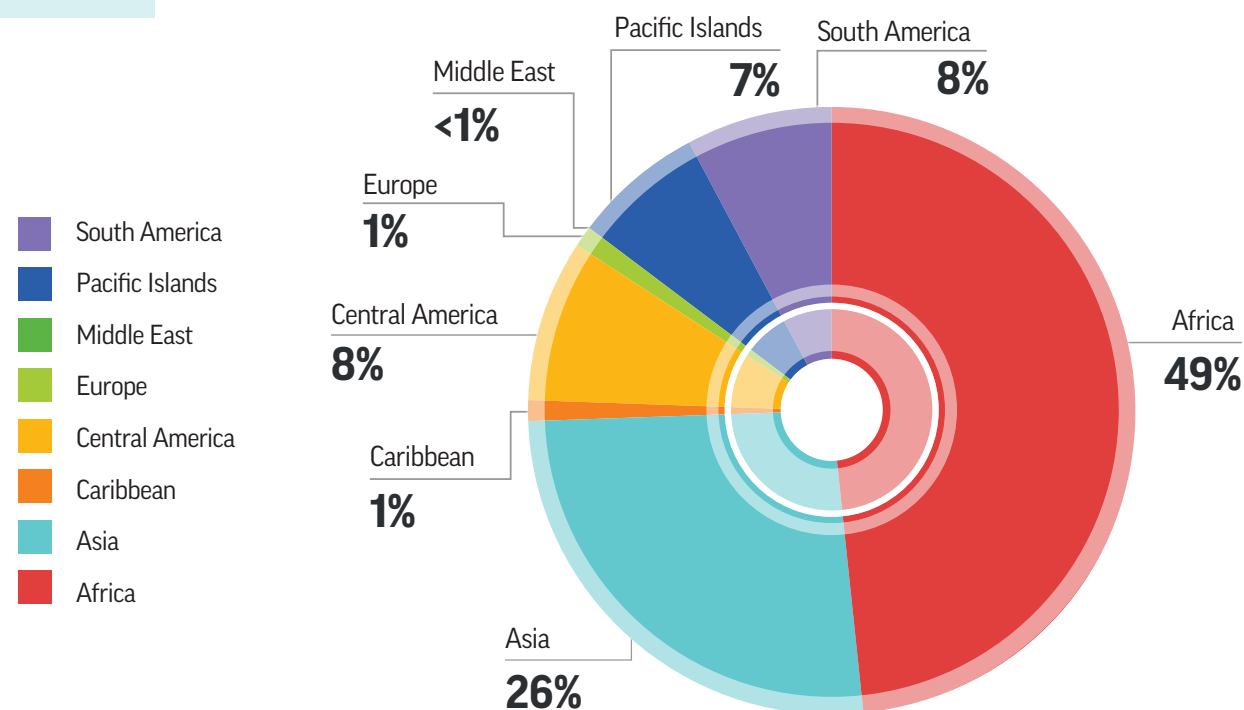


Figure 22

Characteristics of Communities Benefiting, By Region

Total # of COMMUNITIES: 3,358 / FISCAL YEARS 2017-2020

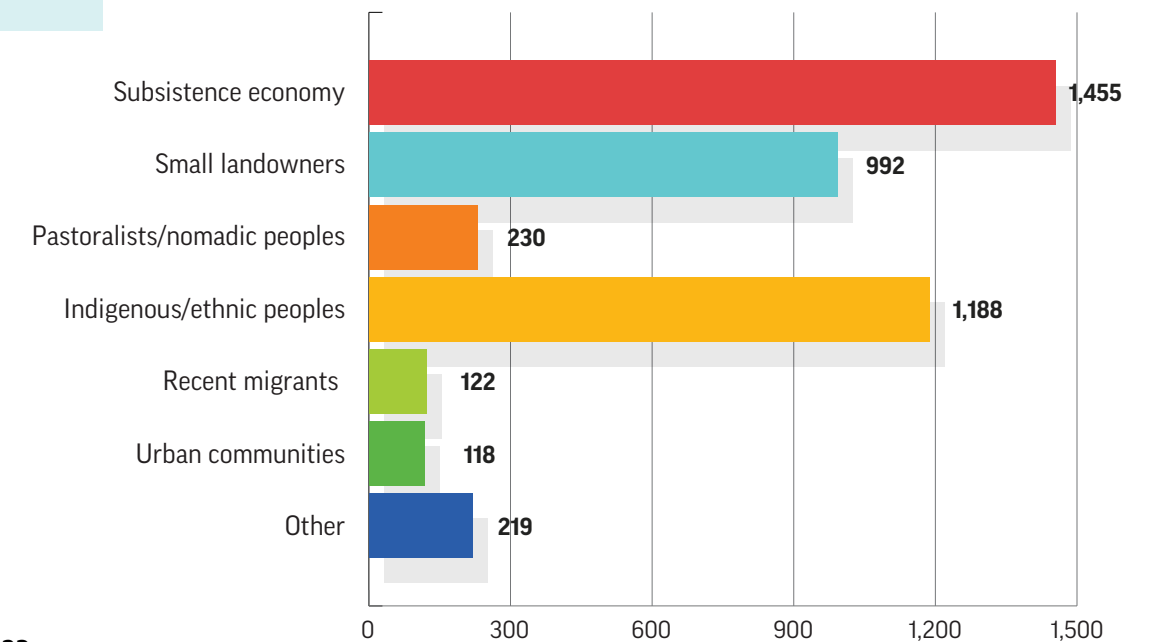
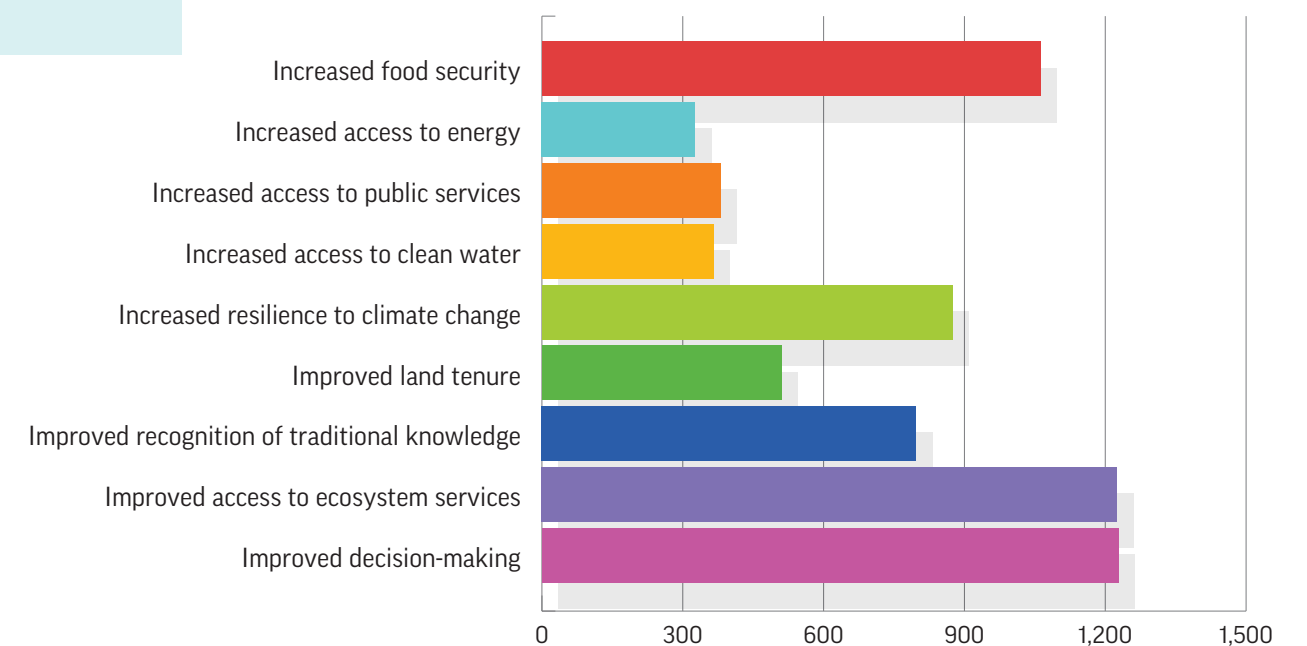


Figure 23

Types of Benefits Received by 3,358 Communities in 9 Hotspots, By Region

FISCAL YEARS 2017-2020





Planting seedlings, Flores Island, Indonesia. © Conservation International/photo by Aulia Erlangga

Empowering communities to sustainably manage their land in Indonesia

The long and narrow island of Flores in eastern Indonesia is remarkable for its steep spine of mountains running east to west that create wet conditions facing south and dry conditions facing north. These mountains also create isolated pockets of forest that are home to species found nowhere else. On the eastern part of the island, in the Ili Wengot Key Biodiversity Area, species include the Vulnerable Flores hanging parrot (*Loriculus flosculus*), threatened primarily by habitat destruction.

Meanwhile, the history of conservation in Flores is somewhat scattershot, with many areas having been designated for protection during the Dutch colonial era—without local consultation and during a time with a far smaller human population. One example of this is the 12,960-hectare Wuko Lewoloroh Forest,

which includes Ili Wengot. Designated in 1932 as state-owned land for production forestry, it is also home to subsistence farmers.

In 2011, the Government of Indonesia recognized that the arrangement—people living in a “protected” forest and being told that trying to earn a livelihood from the land was illegal—was untenable. As a modest step, the government set aside 347 hectares of Ili Wengot for community management. Not much changed, however, until 2016, when CEPF awarded two successive grants to an East Flores-based non-governmental organization Yayasan Ayu Tani Mandiri. Over the next four years, Ayu Tani helped local people benefit from Ili Wengot while also sustaining it.

Ayu Tani organized 422 farm families from three

villages—Hikong, Boru Kedang and Boru—into the Nian Ue Wari Tani Cooperative and helped it to achieve legal status. They then trained cooperative members in the cultivation, post-harvest handling and marketing of various high-value agricultural products, including coffee, avocado, mango and pineapple. At the same time, Ayu Tani helped the communities understand that they were living in a place of biological importance and that better management of the forest would yield better crops, increased water flow in village springs and, importantly, the government offer of legal control of more land.

Ayu Tani’s work demonstrated that the cooperatives could earn as much US\$3,700 more per hectare by following sustainable techniques, which while not yet realized, was enough to motivate people to engage. Ultimately, Ayu Tani’s efforts to help these farm families establish and register a cooperative—and understand what forest management entails—will empower them to manage their land sustainably well into the future.

Indicator: Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change

Definition: Projects that have been tagged with one or more of the following key words: Buffer zones, Carbon offsets, Climate adaptation, Climate mitigation, Community-based conservation, Conservation planning, Ecosystem resilience, Habitat conservation and management, Land use planning, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Private reserves, Protected Areas, Reforestation, Restoration, Soil conservation and Water management.

All CEPF hotspots are experiencing changes in climate, and species, ecosystems and the people who depend on them are feeling the impacts. CEPF’s grantees are addressing the threat by promoting nature-based solutions such as ecosystem resilience, protected areas creation, reforestation and restoration, soil conservation and watershed management, to name just a few of the possible actions. From inception through fiscal year 2020, CEPF has supported a total of 1,446 projects, valued at US\$140,983,992, that are implementing nature-based solutions to climate change.

1,446

PROJECTS PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Strengthening community capacity in sustainable land-use planning, southeast Liberia



Collecting beans, Zwedru, Liberia.
© Society for Environmental Conservation

In the Zwedru Forest Landscape in southeast Liberia, CEPF grantee Society for Environmental Conservation (SEC) has been working with local communities on improving forest management and adopting alternative livelihoods to minimize pressure on natural forests and wildlife.

The area is rich in flora and fauna and hosts a variety of forest types that provide refuge to numerous species found nowhere else. Like many sites in Liberia, this region faces human-caused threats such as overexploitation of resources, unsustainable agriculture, fuel wood and charcoal demands, mining, and pollution. Climate change is increasingly taking a toll, altering rainfall patterns and levels.

This landscape contains the proposed Zwedru National Forest (64,485 hectares) and an extensive buffer zone home to the Garley, Tuzon, Franzay and Zai communities. SEC's work has been to empower and strengthen the capacities of these communities to undertake biodiversity conservation through integrated landscape and forest management. This includes developing and implementing land-use plans for the landscapes these communities live in. To make this happen, SEC conducted trainings on land-use planning that were attended by community members and government and nongovernmental organization participants. Community awareness and discussion platforms were organized on the importance of biodiversity, forest management, climate change and environmental issues. In total, 370 people received structured trainings on these topics.

Most relevant to the changing climate was the promotion of sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices, decreasing the need for farmers to practice slash-and-burn agriculture, which is both labor and natural-resource intensive. The project provided training in diversified agricultural practices, including

production of nontimber forest products like spices, medicinal plants, cola nut and snails. Farmers received improved seeds and supplies and were able to participate in a village saving and loan association (VSLA) program. Communities were supported to identify long-term problems and preferred solutions.

The VSLA approach to forest resources management provides the credit needed to start up agriculture and forestry enterprises while allowing greater numbers of community members to be involved. It also encourages diversified livelihoods, which in turn will lead to reductions in pressure on biodiversity in the forest reserve. The more income community members generate from the community forest through diversified and sustainable livelihood options, the more they will be encouraged to develop and manage community forests on a sustainable basis. The VSLA approach also reduces community reliance on external resources for new initiatives by giving them the means to build up assets.

By project close, more than 100 people had received training in diversified agricultural production, with at least 70% of the trainees engaged in alternative sustainable livelihood activities. At least 200 people received training in biodiversity conservation and the impacts of climate change, and 50% had adopted one or more practices favorable to biodiversity. These accomplishments are helping local communities in Liberia become more resilient in the face of multiple threats to their landscapes and livelihoods.

Indicator: Amount of CO₂e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats

Definition: This indicator will measure carbon stored at sites benefiting from restoration or maintenance of natural habitat.

The methodology to measure this indicator is under development, and as such, impact data is not yet available.



CEPF PILLAR 4:

ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Indicator: Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended



Definition: "Laws and regulations" pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible for inclusion. "Policies" that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

Effective laws, policies and regulations are an essential underpinning for conservation achievements as they contribute to their sustainability. For this reason, CEPF has prioritized the mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy, and since inception has supported the enactment or amendment of 387 laws, policies or regulations, categorized into 15 themes: agriculture, climate, ecosystem management, education, energy, fisheries, forestry, mining/quarrying, planning/zoning, pollution, protected areas, species protection, tourism, transportation and wildlife trade. Protected areas is the most prevalent theme with 163 policies addressing this issue, followed closely by ecosystem management with 154, species protection with 130, and planning/zoning with 103. Some policies address more than one theme.

Figure 24

Number of Laws, Policies and Regulations, by Hotspot

Total = 387

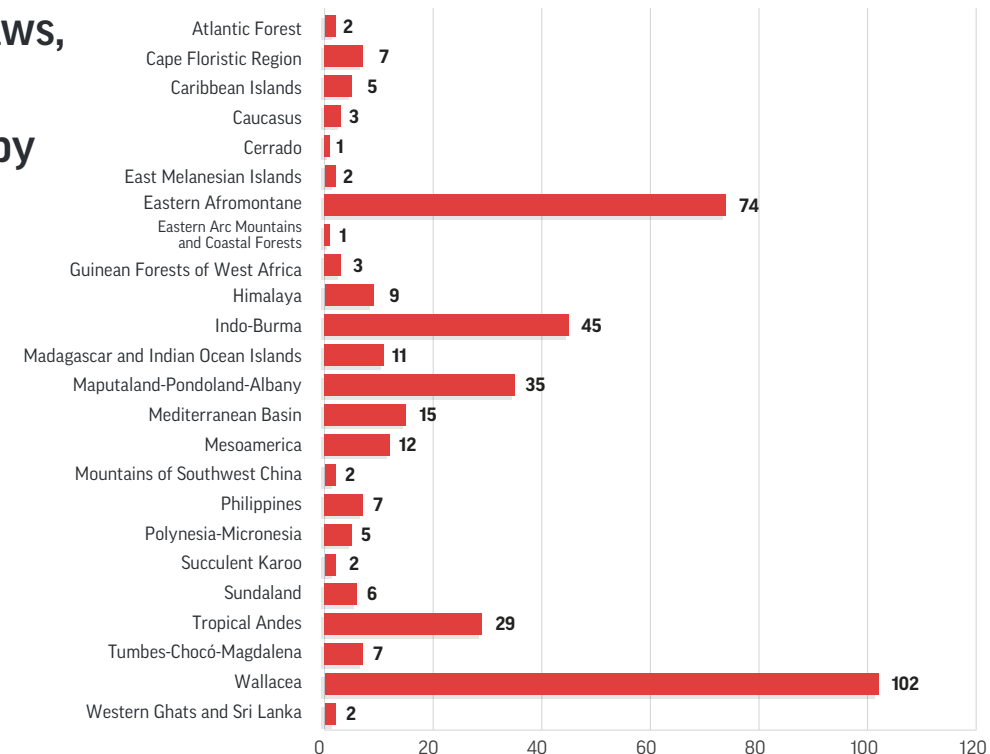


Figure 25

Percent of Policies Addressing Specific Themes

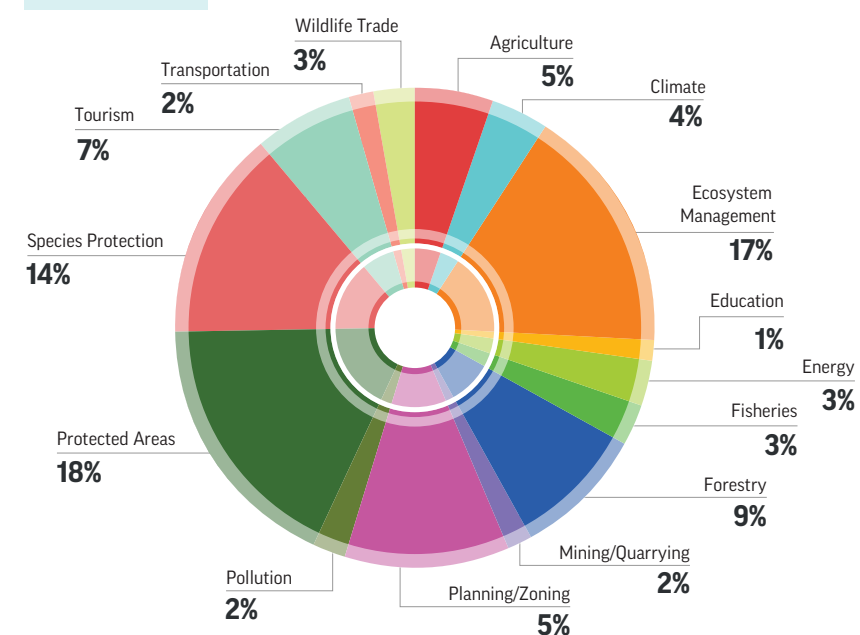
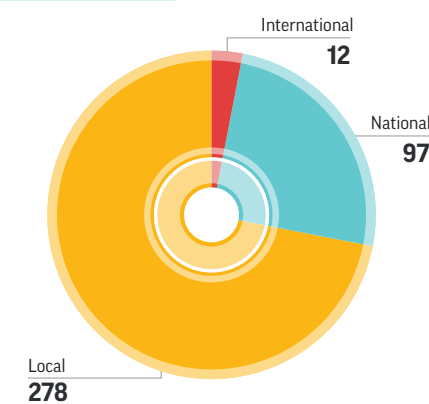


Figure 26

Laws, Policies, Regulations, by Scope

Total = 387





Community members planting local bamboo at the Echuya Forest Reserve. © KIWOCEDU / CORB project

Communities' bylaws protect bamboo forest in Uganda

Bamboo is an integral part of the Echuya Central Forest Reserve, located in the Rubanda and Kisoro districts of southwestern Uganda, part of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. The plants are also vital to the local economy but threatened by overharvesting, inspiring action on the part of the Kigezi Initiative for Women and Children Empowerment and Development-Uganda (KIWOCEDU) and local communities.

This site is mostly forest—the 3,400-hectare Echuya Forest Reserve—but also includes the permanent, high-altitude Muchuya Swamp, which provides water to the surrounding community and the town of Kisoro. Many species of plants and animals can be found in the forest, including approximately 120 bird species known to frequent the site, such as the

Endangered Grauer's swamp-warbler (*Bradypterus graueri*).

The human population around Echuya is among the poorest in Uganda, with per capita income estimated at US\$20 per year, compared to the national average of US\$300. The forest serves as the main livelihood resource for people living adjacent to the reserve, including Indigenous Batwa communities. Bamboo in Echuya is harvested by local people for commercial and domestic purposes including fuel wood, basketry, bean stakes, fencing, poles and building materials. This rare habitat also protects water catchments, prevents soil erosion and provides food for the blue monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*) and olive baboon (*Papio anubis*).

In recent years, the native bamboo in Echuya Central Forest Reserve has come under pressure from overexploitation and competition with invasive species, necessitating improved forest management. KIWOCEDU has played a pivotal role in this effort, working hand in hand with local communities and local government. The group coordinated participatory project design and implementation. Meetings were conducted with leaders of collaborative forest management groups to discuss the dangers of forest encroachment and overharvest, and the need for sustainable management strategies that promote bamboo regeneration and regrowth.

After local communities suggested a temporary ban on bamboo harvest to stimulate regeneration, work ensued to liberate bamboos from invasive species, restore bamboo groves, and prepare and enact a set of comprehensive bylaws to protect their valuable bamboo resource. These bylaws, enacted on 30 October 2019, aim to reduce illegal grazing and harvest

of bamboos in Echuya Central Forest Reserve. The bylaws specify penalties for illegal grazing and harvest, malicious damage to young bamboo, and setting bamboo on fire. Also specified is that the National Forest Authority will liaise with all local councils to develop a livestock registry for tracking of trespassing of animals and illegal grazing, and that all animals caught on the restored and maintained areas will be taken to the police and not released without payment of a fine.

Because of these bylaws, there has been an increase in bamboo vegetation cover on 30 hectares and restoration of 1.5 hectares of degraded areas that had no bamboo stands at all. These were restored with 1,670 bamboo rootstalks, 68% of which had started germinating by project close. An end-of-project evaluation indicated there was steady growth of 5,654 new bamboo shoots on planted clumps, an increase in vegetation cover of 29%. For the local communities of the area, this is a huge success.

Indicator: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation

Definition: The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of functioning financing mechanisms created by or receiving support from CEPF. Sustainable financing mechanisms are secured to help ensure long-term sustainable financing for project or program conservation objectives beyond the project's or program's lifespan. Sustainable financing aims to generate sustaining financial resources over the longer term (five or more years). Sustainable finance goes beyond traditional government or donor funding by introducing innovative market-based approaches such as debt-for-nature swaps, environmental funds, and payment for ecosystem services (PES).

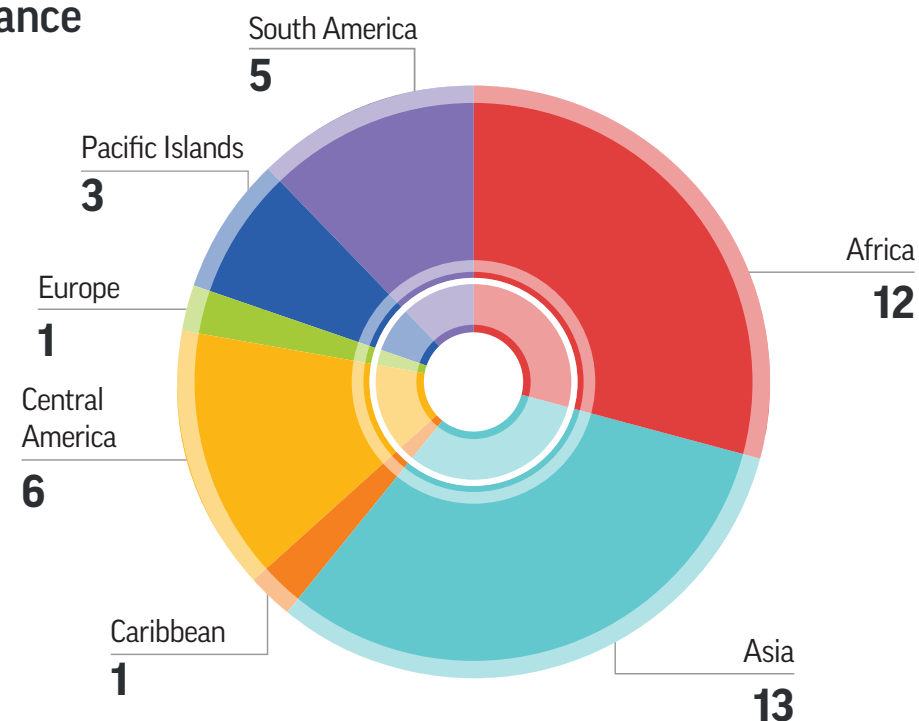
Since 2001, CEPF has created and/or supported 41 sustainable financing mechanisms which vary in size, scope and type. These include conservation trust funds, revolving funds, debt swaps, and tax, credit or payment for ecosystem service schemes. All mechanisms that are counted are functional and delivering funds for conservation. It is not sufficient to simply set up a mechanism without assuring its ability to operate. For some mechanisms, this entails working with potential donors to secure capital, providing funds to define the administrative and governance arrangements, and supporting staff to operate the mechanism. CEPF does not provide the financial capital to create or support any of these mechanisms.



Signing water agreement documents in the Kacapi community. © Carmen Suarez

Figure 27

Sustainable Finance Mechanisms Supported, By Region Total: 41



Watershed agreements benefit 27 communities and biodiversity in Bolivia

The three municipalities of Coroico, Caranavi and Yanacachi in northeast Bolivia harbor upland forests and significant biodiversity. All contain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and all are under threat from extensive cattle ranching—one of the main sources of income for farmers in the region. Cattle enter the upland forests, trample riverbanks to drink and graze, pollute waterways, and compact the soil. This, in turn, leads to increased levels of fecal coliform bacteria in the water, reduced regeneration of vegetation, more floods, erosion and sedimentation, and, eventually, a decline in agricultural production, income, and quality of life for the people and habitats downstream.

To address the problem, CEPF grantee Fundación Natura Bolivia established the institutional framework and financial sustainability to conserve water sources and forests through reciprocal water agreements within the framework of a local fund led by the autonomous municipal government, water cooperatives and Fundación Natura Bolivia. Each reciprocal water agreement is supported by an incentive scheme, with local counterparts providing up to US\$10,000 annually for implementation. The agreements work by compensating upstream landowners to keep livestock out of the upland forests, thereby protecting biodiversity and increasing the quality and quantity of water for down-

Continued on page 70.



Watershed agreements protect important upland forests in Coroico, Bolivia. © Marcelo Perez del Carpio

Continued from page 70.

stream users. Upstream landowners are provided with production tools—such as fruit tree seedlings, bee boxes and irrigation tubes—while downstream users benefit from more and cleaner water, improved livelihoods and supplies such as pipes for drinking water.

Less than three years into implementation, the incentive schemes are delivering results. Nine reciprocal water agreements have been signed with the communities of Tocana, Coroico Viejo, Chuspipata, Copacabana, Porvenir B, Unduavi, San Jacinto, Kacapi and Chillata, leading to a total of 2,277 hectares located in three KBAs being placed under conservation. The Coroico and Caranavi municipalities have integrated the reciprocal water agreements and funds into environmental legislation while the process to do the same in Yanacachi is underway. In Coroico, a new subnational protected area totaling 6,212 hectares has been declared: the Reserva de Agua y Conservación de Ecosistemas Montanos-Río Negro, which is important for connectivity with the Cotapata National Park and

the conservation of other important sites for biodiversity. Documents have been prepared for the Reserva de Agua y Bosques Montanos-Chuñuuma at 8,613 hectares and the Bosques Montanosos Serranías del Mururata at 18,320 hectares.

Local people have also benefited, with 229 families headed by men and 90 families headed by women from the nine communities receiving production tools to undertake sustainable livelihood activities, and equipment such as pipes, cleaning brushes, mesh, wires and bolts to fix and improve their water systems. In total, 819 people benefited from improved access to clean water and ecosystem services.

Fundación Natura's efforts to raise awareness, provide technical support, and orchestrate the management and implementation of the water agreements and water funds are improving lives, livelihoods and the critical ecosystems that are so important to the people of Coroico, Caranavi and Yanacachi municipalities.

Indicator: Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

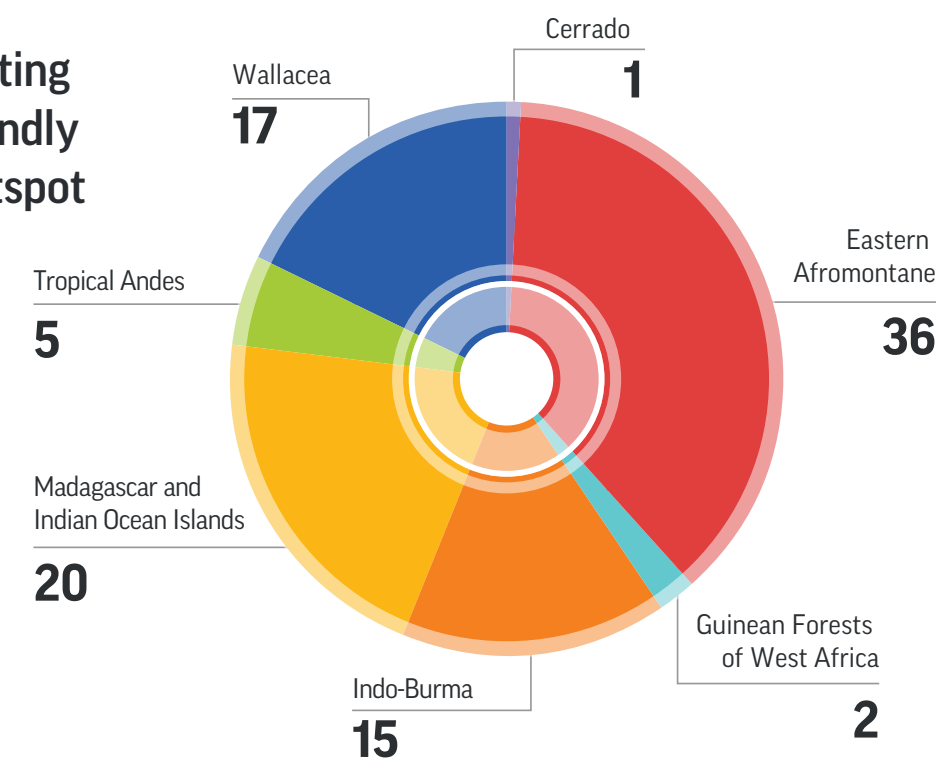
Definition: A company is a legal entity made up of an association of people, be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both, for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. Company members share a common purpose and unite in order to focus their various talents and organize their collectively available skills or resources to achieve specific, declared goals. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity.

While CEPF has worked with the private sector throughout much of its existence, only in 2017 did the fund develop an indicator to measure what we are trying to achieve with our engagement with this group of stakeholders. CEPF's indicator seeks to measure the change in behavior of private sector entities by documenting the specific biodiversity-friendly practice(s) that they adopt and the countries in which they implement these practices. A frequently asked question is whether or not individual farmers are included, as they may aim to make a profit. However, the general guidance is to omit individual farmers, fishers or similar producers, because the goal is to record larger-scale change that will have an impact beyond the household level. To date, CEPF has documented 96 companies in seven hotspots that have adopted practices favorable to biodiversity.

Figure 28

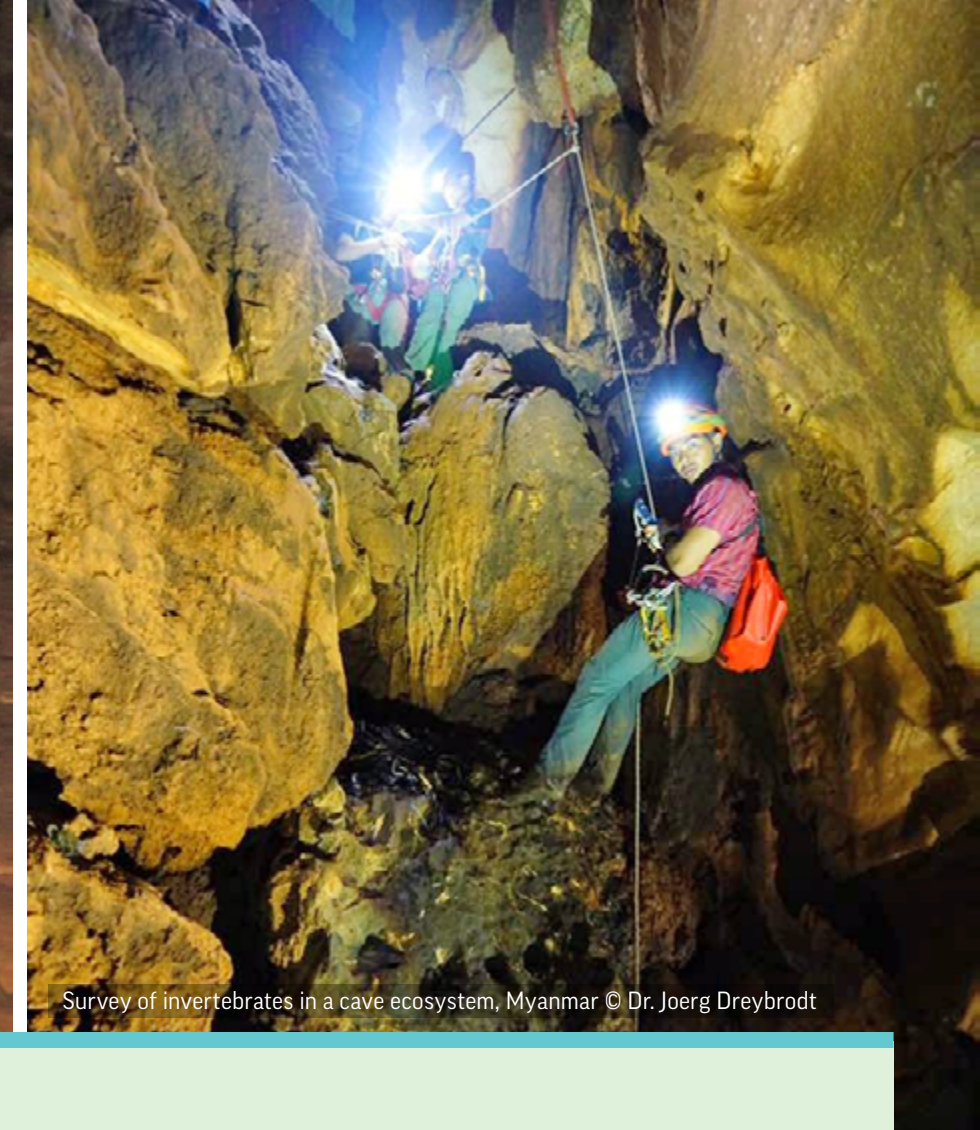
Number of Companies Adopting Biodiversity-Friendly Practices, by Hotspot

TOTAL = 96





Survey of invertebrates in a cave ecosystem, Myanmar © Dr. Joerg Dreybrodt



Survey of invertebrates in a cave ecosystem, Myanmar © Dr. Joerg Dreybrodt

Enlisting communities, government and companies to protect karst ecosystems in Myanmar

The biodiversity of the limestone karst areas of Southeast Asia, and Myanmar specifically, is poorly known. These sites are typically home to large numbers of highly characteristic and severely range-restricted species.

The animal and plant species that live on the surface are adapted to cope with a highly alkaline environment and very dry soil conditions that occur over part of the year. Animals living within the caves and fissures have evolved in dark, humid and relatively stable conditions and are often incapable of living outside. Some species in karst ecosystems are confined to single caves or hills. Many such animals are little-known invertebrates including snails on the surface of the hills, and crabs, crickets, millipedes,

woodlice, spiders and whip scorpions in the caves. Destruction of isolated karst formations poses significant risks to many severely range-restricted invertebrates and certain fish, plant and reptile species, and may already have resulted in global extinctions.

Currently there are very few protected karst ecosystems in Myanmar. The major threats to these areas are poorly planned quarrying for cement, insensitive tourism, wildfires and hunting (particularly of birds). At present, construction is booming, leading to an enormous demand for cement. Without attention to the ecosystems and the species that live in these ecosystems, extinctions are certain.





Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has tackled the






challenge by identifying karst Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) throughout Myanmar and establishing partnerships with government departments, cement companies, local communities and monastery cave management committees to mainstream karst biodiversity conservation into policies, plans and practices. Over the course of a two-year project, 21 karst KBAs were identified, presented to the Forest Department and subsequently added to Myanmar's national list of KBAs. Specific guidelines for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of limestone ecosystems and best practice for limestone quarrying were finalized after a consultation with cement companies, firms that conduct EIAs and nongovernmental organizations. FFI built the capacity of eight cave management committees to conduct cave conservation, management, planning and responsible cave tourism. In addition, 192 people from six villages and 455 students from four local schools received karst

conservation awareness training.

FFI succeeded in helping two cement companies adopt biodiversity-friendly practices. For one of these companies—Apache Cement—FFI provided technical support to prepare an environmental management plan and offset management plan, as well as implementation of best practices for an EIA and quarry management. The offset plan was adopted by Apache Cement and approved by the International Finance Corporation as financing partner, and a letter of intent was signed with the Forest Department to implement the offset management plan. With Shwe Taung Cement, FFI's efforts resulted in the company undertaking a supplementary EIA for the limestone quarrying site and developing a biodiversity offset management plan. This work sets an example for other cement companies in Myanmar and is regarded as a best practice of global importance.






CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Aichi Biodiversity Target	Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
 Target 1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	At least 163,319 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.	CEPF has supported a total of 516 projects with a primary emphasis on education, awareness and capacity building, valued at US\$35,019,081.
 Target 2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has influenced 387 policies, laws or regulations in 24 biodiversity hotspots.	CEPF has supported a total of 165 projects in 24 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at US\$15,648,320.
 Target 3 By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.	CEPF has created and/or supported 18 positive incentive schemes, including payment for ecosystem service, tax and credit schemes.	CEPF has supported 15 projects valued at US\$2,655,450 for positive incentive schemes.
 Target 4 By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	9.9 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices. Enactment or amendment of 387 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.	45 projects totaling US\$3,870,502 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.

 Target 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 9,920,055 hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 287 projects with a primary emphasis on strengthening management outside protected areas, totaling US\$27,354,734.
 Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Biosecurity plans prepared. Eradications undertaken. IAS training delivered. Restoration of critical habitat.	CEPF has supported 97 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive alien species, totaling US\$7,605,818, in 13 biodiversity hotspots.
 Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 15,706,716 hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 50,371,969 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 24 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 9,920,055 hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 669 projects with primary emphases on protected areas creation and improved management, totaling US\$74,097,202.
 Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	At least 907 species have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 545 projects with a component focusing on species conservation, totaling US\$44,034,350.
 Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 41 sustainable finance mechanisms, ranging from trust funds, debt swaps, payment for ecosystem services, and tax and credit schemes.	CEPF has supported 90 projects with a component focusing on conservation finance, totaling US\$14,996,518.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goal	Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
 <p>Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>4,341 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved food security, access to water, improved land tenure and increased representation in decision-making and governance. Since collection of data about types of benefits communities received started in 2017, 1,062 communities have reported increased food security.</p> <p>163,319 people benefiting from structured training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. Topics include beekeeping, horticulture, medicinal plant production, organic farming, poultry farming, salt production, sustainable fishing practices and sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products.</p> <p>9.9 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest and improved land use practices.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 242 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US\$21,010,372.</p> <p>170 projects totaling US\$16,625,199 with specific components on agroforestry and agriculture.</p>
 <p>Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>163,319 people receiving structured training. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, 36,147 women reported to have received training. Training topics were diverse such as handicraft production, sustainable tourism, hygiene, environmental education, leadership, financial management and climate-smart agriculture.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 806 projects with a component/emphasis on capacity building, valued at US\$99,439,867.</p> <p>CEPF has supported 704 projects with a component/emphasis on education and awareness, valued at US\$60,112,335.</p>
 <p>Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 561,973 women and girls were recorded as receiving non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.</p>	<p>Collection of sex-disaggregated data from grantees, since 2017.</p> <p>Monitoring of change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues, since 2017.</p> <p>Preparation and dissemination of a Gender Toolkit.</p>

 <p>Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>Since 2017, 365 communities receiving non-cash benefits report increased access to clean water as a benefit.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 300 projects associated with inland wetland habitats, valued at US\$21,285,785, covering a range of topics such as research and assessment, biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management.</p> <p>81 projects with an emphasis on water management, located in various habitats, valued at US\$7,908,895.</p>
 <p>Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>Since start of collection of number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, 103,326 people have been reported as receiving cash benefits.</p>	<p>Human well-being projects have taken place in 61 countries and territories.</p>
 <p>Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>9.9 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.</p> <p>Enactment or amendment of 387 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.</p>	<p>45 projects totaling US\$3,870,502 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.</p>
 <p>Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration Tree planting Training in forest carbon technical work Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments Watershed management and restoration Mangrove/ coastal zone management Sustainable coastal tourism Climate change modeling Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. 	<p>CEPF has supported at least 1,446 projects that promote nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects are valued at US\$140,853,633.</p> <p>Since 2017, 874 communities have been reported as receiving the non-cash benefit resilience to climate change.</p>
 <p>Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>More than 65 coastal protected areas benefiting from increased protection and management.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 183 projects associated with marine and coastal habitat, valued at US\$13,232,074.</p> <p>32 Small Island Developing States receiving CEPF funds.</p>

<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p>CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 15.7 million hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 50.3 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 24 hotspots.</p> <p>CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 9.9 million hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.</p> <p>At least 907 IUCN Red List species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable have benefited from CEPF support.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 670 projects with primary emphases on protected area creation and improved management, totaling US\$74,097,202.</p> <p>97 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive alien species, totaling US\$7,605,818, in 13 biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>517 projects totaling US\$54,406,488 aimed at strengthening protection and management of areas within and outside of Protected Areas.</p> <p>CEPF has supported 545 projects with a component focusing on species conservation, totaling US\$44,034,350.</p> <p>64 projects totaling US\$6,511,388 with components focusing on reducing wildlife trafficking, with targeted efforts to reduce demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolins, turtles and tortoises and a range of other species, and to address social media and internet sales.</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>570 networks/partnerships supported, 431 of which CEPF helped to create.</p> <p>298 civil society organizations out of 434 (69%), for which two Civil Society Organizational Capacity Assessments have been completed, report an increase in their organizational capacity.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 355 projects with an explicit focus on civil society capacity building and networking, valued at US\$28,627,467.</p> <p>All local CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity.</p>

CONCLUSION



A gathering of sociable lapwings (*Vanellus gregarius*), Uzbekistan. © Oleg Kashkaro

Fiscal year 2020 (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020) started off on a promising note, with grantees reporting on myriad successes as the investments in the Wallacea and Eastern Afrotropical hotspots came to a close. Significant achievements were made in all four of CEPF's pillars, with notable increases in the number of hectares of KBAs and production landscapes with improved management, and the number of people receiving structured training and non-cash benefits. Hotspot investments nearing completion, such as those for the Cerrado, Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes, also recorded key accomplishments, providing a taste of the additional results anticipated next year.

At the same time, the arrival of the pandemic mid-year necessitated a pause in field activities and

caused disruption in project timeframes and in the scope of what grantees could expect to achieve. Many grantees requested project amendments and extensions. The year came to a close with little indication that the situation would improve any time soon. Yet throughout the last months of the year, and into the start of fiscal year 2021, CEPF has continued to support grantees to conduct the essential work of conservation, to the extent possible, and to move ahead with new projects. Grantees are exhibiting sense and caution, while striving to conserve species and ecosystems, and are making important contributions to global conservation and development goals and targets. The CEPF partnership is strong and moving forward, and our grantees' dedication and persistence are producing results that are significant on local and global scales.



Ecuador Cochran frog (*Nymphargus griffithsi*),
El Plata community, Ecuador.
© Víctor Eduardo Obando Clavijo

CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
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PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY BY EMPOWERING PEOPLE