

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Terms of Reference

Final External Independent Evaluation of the World Bank/Development Grant Facility Contribution to the CEPF

Background: Founded in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CEPF's main objective is to strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in contributing to the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity and to achieve sustainable conservation and integrated ecosystem management outcomes. CEPF investments are made in developing and transitional countries, where millions of people are highly dependent on the natural resources and ecosystem services hotspots provide. The Fund invests in biodiversity hotspots, a conservation prioritization concept based on high levels of endemism and threat.

CEPF now provides grants to civil society organizations in most of the areas identified as biodiversity hotspots—ecosystems with high levels of species diversity, endemism and threat. CEPF has supported in excess of 2,100 NGOs and other civil society groups in undertaking projects since its inception. Over \$208 million has been committed and at least \$351 million leveraged from other donors for hotspot conservation to date.

CEPF's grant making is guided by ecosystem profiles, strategic planning documents that identify the priorities, biodiversity outcomes and the niche for the fund within each hotspot. CEPF has undergone planning and preparation work in 24 hotspots (four which have received reinvestments) resulting in the creation of 28 ecosystem profiles approved by the CEPF Donor Council to date.

The World Bank/Development Grant Facility (WB/DGF) evaluation follows two World Bank evaluations completed in 2017, for which significant documentation is available. One final report is available to the public and can be supplied upon request.

Further information on CEPF can be found at www.cepf.net.

Purpose of Evaluation: This evaluation fulfils the requirement for an independent evaluation of the WB/DGF contribution to CEPF per Section 3.2 of the Grant Agreement

Scope of Evaluation: The WB/DGF contributed US\$25 million in support of CEPF Phase 2 activities through agreements covering the period from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2017. The independent evaluation shall cover the 1 October 2008 through 31 March 2017 time period.

Terms of Reference: The evaluation will review:

- (a) Relevance. The evaluation will review to what extent is the DGF-funded portion of the program is addressing global challenges and concerns in the sector, consistent with client countries' current development priorities, and consistent with the missions and strategies of partners.
- (b) Efficacy. The evaluation will review the extent to which the DGF-funded portion of the program has achieved or is expected to achieve its stated objectives.
- (c) Efficiency. The evaluation will review the extent to which the DGF-funded portion of the program has achieved or is expected to achieve efficient allocation of resources, benefits that are more cost effective than those that could be achieved by providing the same service on a country-by-country basis, and benefits that are more cost effective than those that could be achieved if individual contributors to the program acted alone.
- (d) Governance and management. The evaluation will review the extent to which the DGF-funded portion of the program is transparent in providing information about the program, clear with respect to roles and responsibilities, fair to clients, and accountable to donors, clients, scientists/professionals and other stakeholders.
- (e) Resource mobilization and financial management. The evaluation will review the extent to which the DGF-funded portion of the program positively or negatively affects the strategic focus of the program, the governance and management of the program, and the sustainability of the program.
- (f) Sustainability and risk. The evaluation will review the extent to which the DGF-funded portion of the program has identified and effectively managed any risks to the program.
- (g) Lessons learned and recommendations for CEPF.

Evaluation Process:

Document review. All relevant CEPF documents, including the financing agreement, project design documents, supervision reports, ecosystem profiles, working group and donor council documents, spending plans, and CEPF grantee reports will be made available. The CEPF management team will provide any related documents that are applicable to the relevant grant periods, upon request.

Consultations. The management team will be available for consultations. Upon request and with appropriate notice, grantees, donor representatives and regional implementation team staff will also be available to meet with evaluators. Interviewees located outside of the Washington, D.C., area can be interviewed via video conference.

Deliverables: A draft report will be submitted to the CEPF Secretariat, accompanied by an in-person debriefing. The draft report shall include review results of all points above (a-f) and recommendations for strengthening CEPF (g). A final report shall be submitted after addressing any comments received from the CEPF Secretariat.

Timeframe:

This assignment is to be undertaken on an urgent basis. The consultant will be expected to commence the review and assessment immediately after the signing of the engagement letter. The consultant shall also provide the CEPF Secretariat with periodic written briefings and meet with CEPF staff, upon request by the CEPF Secretariat. The consultant will report to the CEPF Secretariat who will share progress toward completion of the evaluation to the World Bank.

It is anticipated that this assignment will be conducted within a timeframe of six weeks, with a draft report submitted to CEPF by 1 November, and a final report by 30 November 2018.