

## Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

### CEPF INVESTMENT PLANNED

\$7 million

### QUICK FACTS

Deforestation in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot is occurring at a rate of up to 4 percent a year.

CEPF completed a one-year pilot investment program in this hotspot in 2006 supported by the Australian government's Regional Natural Heritage Program and focused specifically on invasive species.

More than 30 non-native, invasive plant species pose a serious threat to the native habitats of the Pacific Islands.

Critically Endangered species targeted for conservation include flying foxes, bats, frogs, turtles, iguanas, birds, land snails and plants that are vital for the health of the hotspot's ecosystems and also the many people who rely on them.

The 4,500 islands of the Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspot include Micronesia, tropical Polynesia and Fiji, and are home to more than 3 million people in 20 different countries and territories. Despite its expansive ocean coverage, the land area of the hotspot covers only 46,315 square kilometers or about the size of Switzerland.

The varied lands of this unique region include rain forests, temperate forests, wetlands and savannas. These fragile areas host 476 globally threatened species that are crucial to maintaining ecosystem function as well as the livelihoods of the Pacific islanders.

The biological diversity of the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot is among the most threatened in the world, with just 21 percent of the region's original vegetation remaining in pristine condition.

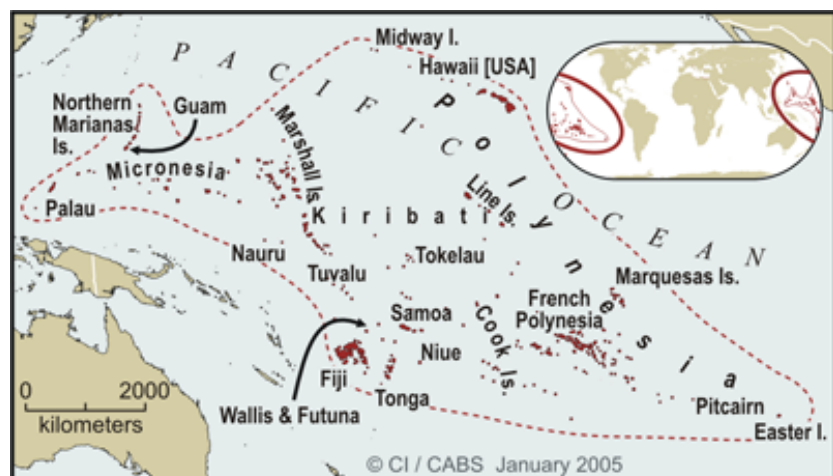
### THREATS

Approximately three-fourths of the Endangered species in the hotspot are threatened by invasive animal and plant species.

Socioeconomic changes and population growth in the region have meant more dependence on cash-crop production, increased deforestation, over-harvesting of resources and the use of destructive harvesting techniques. These practices have significantly reduced and degraded existing habitats of threatened species.

These threats are compounded by lack of environmental awareness in the area. Existing conservation attempts have often been hampered by incomplete data, inadequate funding and projects that did not take into account traditional cultural practices of local communities.

The enormous expanse of ocean in this hotspot includes more than 4,500 islands, representing 11 countries, eight territories and one U.S. state (Hawaii). For CEPF grant eligibility, see [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).



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## CEPF INVESTMENT STRATEGY

CEPF provides grants enabling nongovernmental and private sector entities to protect vital ecosystems.

CEPF began its investment in this hotspot in June 2008 following the selection of Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program as the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.

The objective of CEPF in the hotspot is to catalyze action by civil society to counteract threats to biodiversity, especially from invasive species, in key biodiversity areas.

The investment strategy developed with experts and stakeholders in the region focuses on supporting efforts to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in 60 key biodiversity areas. Investment priorities also include promoting community-based invasive species control projects that provide employment and alleviate poverty.

Creating strengthened or new environmental protection and management for these 60 key biodiversity areas is emphasized. Key biodiversity areas were identified in the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, the Pitcairn Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

Sixty-seven globally threatened plant and animal species are targeted for conservation action in the hotspot. In addition, CEPF investment may support marine conservation efforts where key biodiversity areas overlap with marine priorities and conservation needs.

### *Strategic Funding Directions*

CEPF investments in this region are guided by three strategic directions and related investment priorities, a full description of which can be found on [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net). Each project must be linked to a strategic direction to be approved for funding:

1. Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas
2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas
3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

A fourth strategic direction is designed for the Regional Implementation Team to provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment.



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### ABOUT US

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint program of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. As one of the founding partners, CI administers the program.

CEPF provides grants to nongovernmental organizations and other private sector partners to help safeguard biodiversity hotspots—the biologically richest and most threatened regions on Earth. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in conserving the hotspots.

Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program acts as the CEPF Regional Implementation Team for Polynesia-Micronesia.

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### LEARN MORE

For more information about CEPF, the strategy for this region and how to apply for grants, visit [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net) or e-mail [cipacific@conservation.org](mailto:cipacific@conservation.org).