



CEPF and Poverty Reduction: An Overview with Summary Statistics from 13 Regions

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These aggregated statistics, represented in the following table and charts, are part of an ongoing effort to measure the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) contribution to poverty reduction in the regions where it supports civil society groups in biodiversity conservation projects.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. It is a global grant-making initiative that enables conservation action and builds capacity for sustainability in biodiversity hotspots, the Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions.

Together, the hotspots harbor half the diversity of life yet they have already lost 86 percent of their original habitat. The convergence of critical areas for conservation with millions of people who are impoverished and highly dependent on healthy ecosystems for their survival is also more evident in the hotspots than anywhere else.

CEPF investments equip nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and other civil society partners to conserve their environment and influence decisions that affect lives, livelihoods, and, ultimately, the global environment.

The data in this report have been gathered through questionnaire responses from CEPF grant recipients in 13 regions: Atlantic Forest, Cape Floristic Region, Caucasus, Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar, Mountains of Southwest China, Philippines, Southern Mesoamerica, Succulent Karoo, Sundaland, Tropical Andes, and Tumbes-Chocó-Madgalena. Detailed data for each region, as well as additional socioeconomic information and the presentation of this information spatially in the form of maps, are available in hotspot-level reports that have been completed for each region¹.

Table 1 provides key data from each of the 13 CEPF portfolios analyzed, as well as totals for the 13 portfolios. The information presented in this table is a subset of that collected by questionnaire from CEPF grantees in the regions studied. In addition to providing background data to place statistics in a regional and overall context (such as number of projects responding to the questionnaire and amount of CEPF support in each region), the table also presents information on selected data showing CEPF contributions to poverty reduction. These contributions occur at both the individual level (through training and job creation) and the civil society level (through workshops offered, organizational development provided, and networks or alliances created).

Table 1. Summary of CEPF Questionnaire Responses for 13 Project Portfolios

Region	No. of Projects Reporting	CEPF Funding ^a	No. of Projects Offering Training	Workshops Offered	Jobs Created ^b	Persons Trained	Organizations Created or Strengthened	Network or Alliance Organizations
Atlantic Forest	21	4,971	14	40	214	640	109	130
Cape Floristic Region	21	4,486	11	165	451	1,232	117	144
Caucasus	13	2,397	11	4	111	267	30	28
Eastern Arc	23	2,093	15	24	191	1,141	54	51
Guinean Forests	11	949	8	29	291	409	70	77
Madagascar	13	1,608	9	48	219	1,929	212	75
Mountains of SW China	15	1,383	7	21	85	3,356	1	102
Southern Mesoamerica	37	3,581	33	79	385	15,375 ^c	308	135
Philippines	20	3,888	12	57	167	1,138	46	112
Succulent Karoo	21	1,570	12	16	38	246	14	72
Sundaland	13	2,555	5	58	219	575	36	154
Tropical Andes	17	3,455	7	56	215	2,291	30	86
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	19	3,598	11	173	85	2,291	99	118
Total	244	36,534	155	770	2,691	30,890	1,126	1,284

a: US dollars, in thousands

b: Does not include persons receiving training through workshops offered

c: Includes results of one large information distribution campaign, estimated to have reached 10,000 people

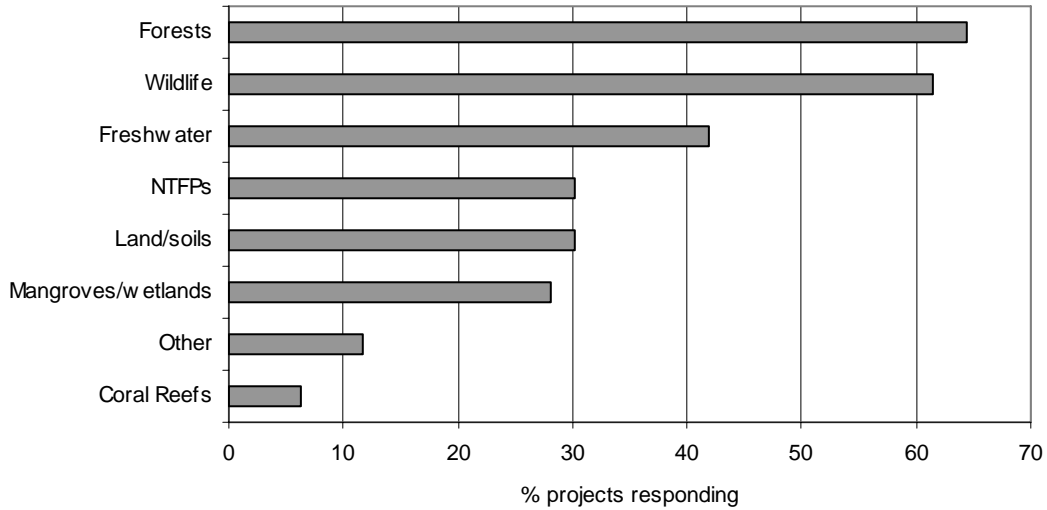
Figures 1 through 7 provide graphic summaries of CEPF-funded projects aggregated across all 13 regions. These charts examine the impacts of CEPF investments from different perspectives in an attempt to provide a thorough picture of the various effects of these investments beyond biodiversity conservation. People in poorer areas in particular benefit from conservation activities, often relying more heavily on their natural surroundings to provide food, other key resources, and a variety of ecosystem services such as water purification. Because these figures are based on questionnaire responses, each uses percent of projects responding as a means of reporting results. One aim of all figures is to identify any trends in the projects analyzed at this point. Although Figures 3 and 4 differ slightly from their corresponding figures in the portfolio-level reports, the data presented here better capture CEPF's overall contributions to poverty reduction in chart format.

Natural Resource Management

Management of natural and biological resources is extremely important for poor rural communities that depend on the products of healthy ecosystems for much of their food, fuel, clothing, medicine, and shelter. Strong support of environmental stewardship (including biodiversity conservation) is therefore an essential component of poverty elimination within the rural context. Figure 1 presents an overview of the natural resources that were the focus of CEPF projects, with resources grouped into broad terrestrial, fresh

water, and marine categories. For the 13 portfolios examined, forest, wildlife, and fresh water emerge as the most frequent foci of CEPF projects that responded to the questionnaire.

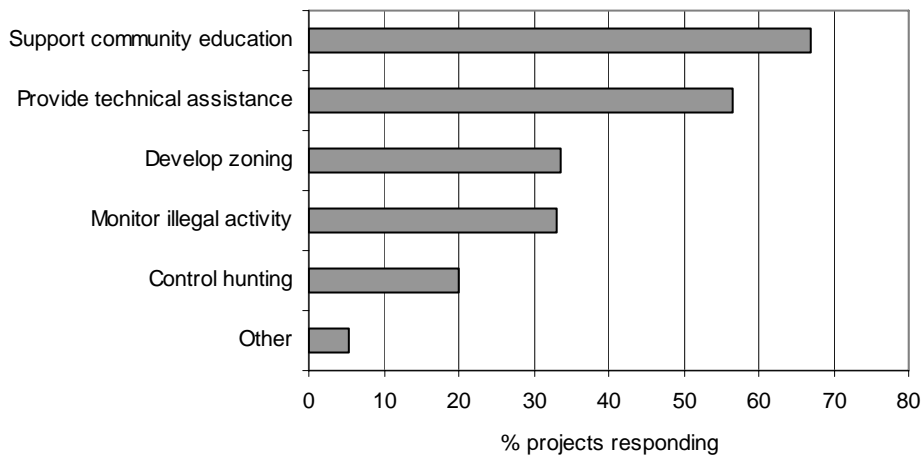
Figure 1. Natural/biological Resource Focus of CEPF Projects (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed) (Note that NTFPs refer to non-timber forest products)



Community Engagement

CEPF-supported projects used a variety of methods to engage communities in natural resource management. By supporting the poor in using these assets responsibly so that they are maintained or increased, contributions are made both to conservation and to poverty reduction. Figure 2 presents the methods that CEPF projects used to engage communities, in terms of more specific approaches (such as establishing zoning) as well as broader categories (such as providing technical assistance) that might involve a number of different community actions. Most of the projects in the 13 portfolios responding to the questionnaire identified community education as the most frequent means employed to engage local communities, though more than half of the projects responding also provided technical assistance to the communities with which they worked.

Figure 2. Principal Method Used for Community Engagement (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)



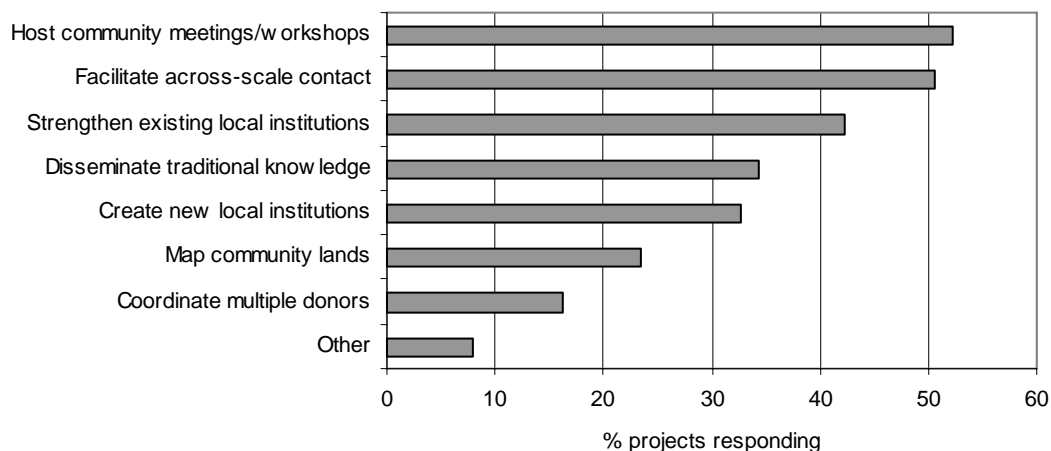
Civil Society

Creating an infrastructure for managing biodiversity is essential. The most appropriate conditions for developing sustainable management of open access resources include involvement at both the household and community level as well as more broadly throughout civil society.

Efforts to create or strengthen local organizations and networks help empower local communities by increasing the information flowing to them and their capacity to respond to markets, government, projects, the legal system, or other sources of change. Effective local institutions have been shown to use such capabilities to help reduce poverty in the communities where they work. The CEPF approach is particularly suited to this imperative as many of its investments directly support civil society efforts to help communities and local people participate in and benefit from conservation efforts.

Figure 3 deals with how projects funded by CEPF aid civil societies and build alliances, including creating new and strengthening existing institutions, compiling and disseminating data on traditional areas and knowledge, and facilitating interaction among different groups. Most of the projects responding identified some sort of information exchange, through hosting meetings and workshops and facilitating interaction between different types of organizations.

Figure 3. Ways Projects Aid Civil Society Or Build Alliances (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)

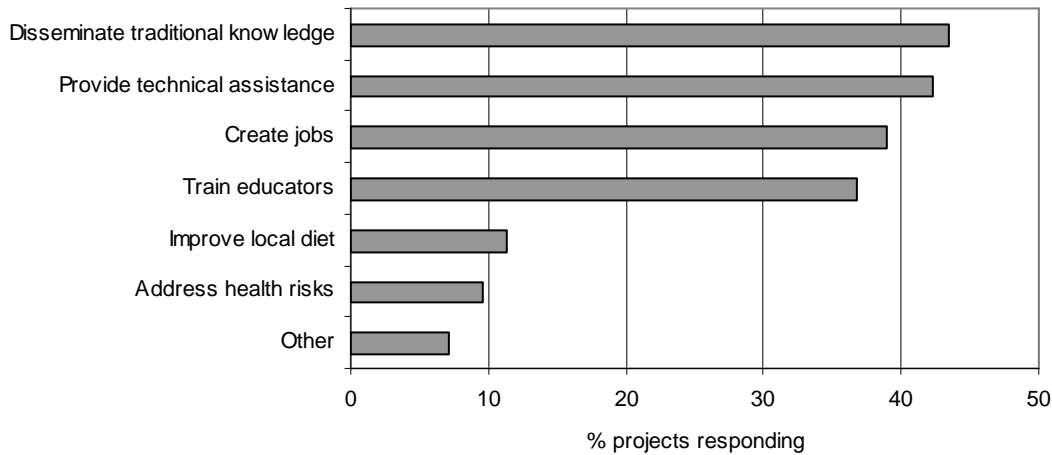


Human Assets

Actions that support human resource assets also contribute to poverty reduction. This includes a wide category of investment, but actions that contribute to people’s education or livelihood options help promote opportunities for the rural poor. Conservation actions can also be linked to creating the conditions for management capacity, both for households and at greater civil scales. These actions also help to safeguard and support the asset base of the poor. This latter category can include helping to support the institutions and the capacity within civil society for transparency, appropriate valuation of resources, and other elements that guide decisions about investment in the rural sector.

Figure 4 presents evidence of ways that CEPF projects have contributed to meeting practical demands of households, including addressing food and health requirements and providing jobs and training. The issues addressed in Figure 4 compose some of the more direct effects of CEPF investments on local peoples. The most frequently reported approaches involved facilitating the dissemination of traditional knowledge and providing technical assistance—in one case promoting reconsideration of old ways of thinking and in the other introducing new ways of thinking. Nearly 40 percent of the projects responding also created jobs in the areas where they worked.

Figure 4. Ways Projects Build Human and Household Assets (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)



Ecosystem Dependence

While affluence in developed countries has freed people from direct dependence on local ecosystem services and buffered them from the consequences of ecological change, the rural poor have no buffers or substitutes. Declines in wild resources, biodiversity, or ecosystem health that provide food, fuel, clothing, medicines, and shelter are linked to declines in rural health and welfare.

The poor and most marginal are vulnerable to ecosystem destruction in three distinct areas: resource depletion, resource degradation, and shocks or natural disasters. Efforts to stop or to restore ecosystem destruction can therefore directly support the poor, as maintaining the quality of these resources is essential to the survival of rural people with limited means.

Figures 5 and 6 focus on similar issues—how projects funded by CEPF help to reduce the depletion (reduction in quantity) and degradation (reduction in quality) of natural resources, respectively. These issues are varied, and although they include efforts to improve understanding and convey this understanding of important natural resources, the main focus of both figures is on actions: creating or enlarging protected areas, assisting in zoning and watershed management, and supporting restoration programs. Efforts to reduce resource depletion most frequently employed collecting baseline data and monitoring, assisting community-based conservation, and conducting education and awareness campaigns. Efforts to reduce resource degradation, in turn, most frequently turned to restoration or corridor programs.

Figure 5. Methods Used to Reduce Resource Depletion (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)

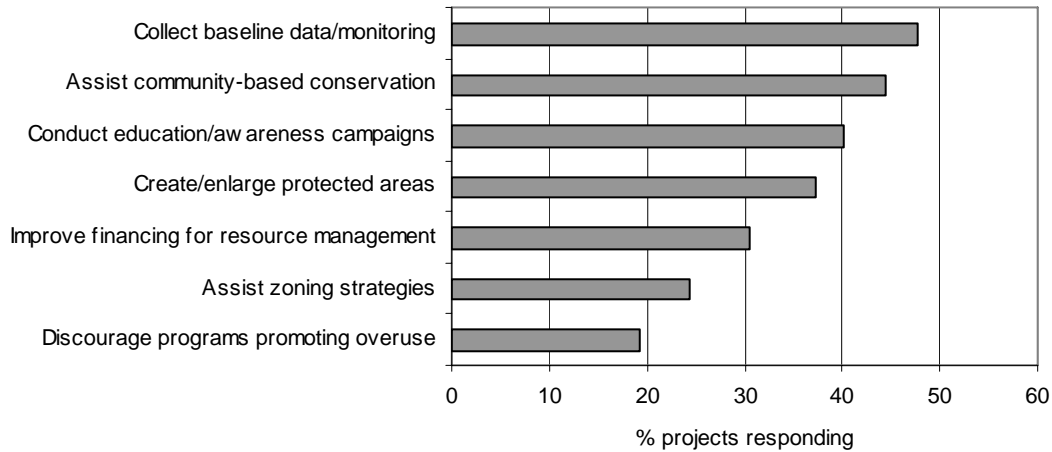
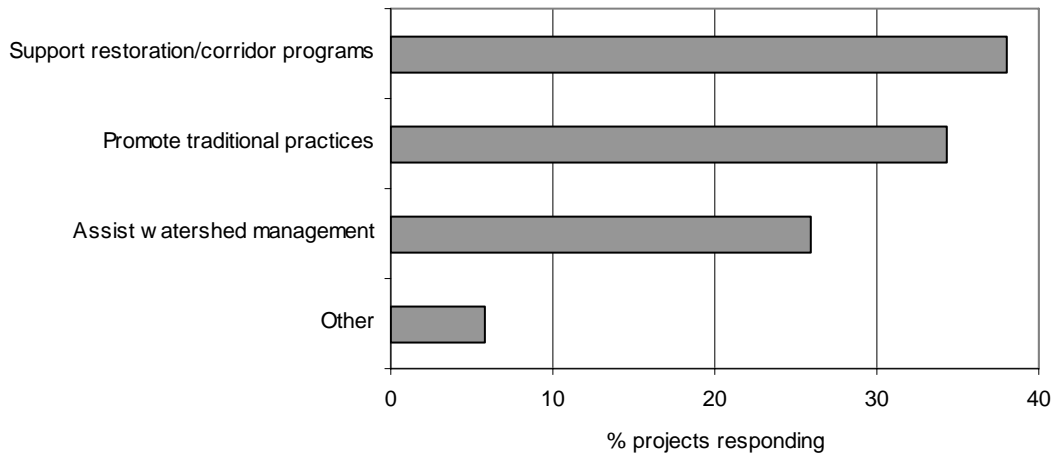
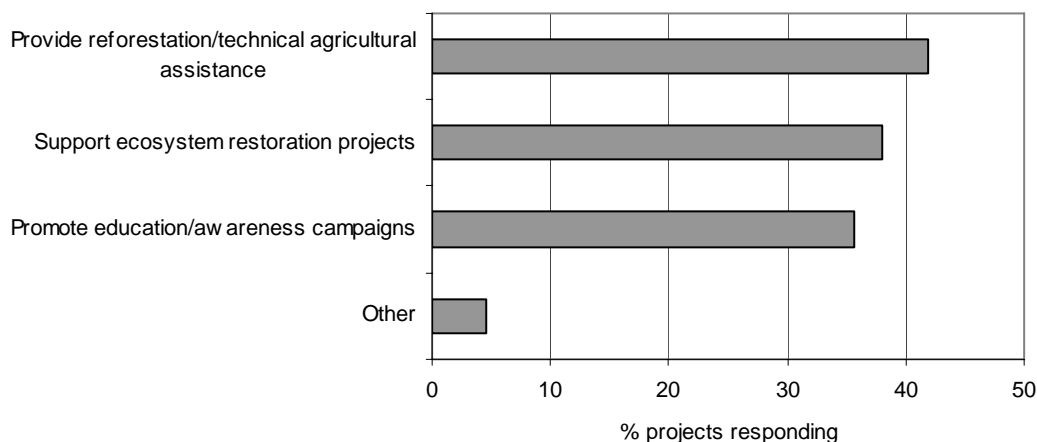


Figure 6. Methods Used to Reduce Resource Degradation (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)



Finally, Figure 7 summarizes activities conducted with CEPF support that help protect humans from natural disasters. Again, reliance on nature to buffer floods, prevent landslides, and offer other forms of protection often occurs in places where the means of protection found in the developed world is unavailable. Almost half of the projects responding identified reforestation or technical agricultural assistance, while nearly 40 percent cited ecosystem restoration projects as means to help reduce vulnerability to natural disasters. Such measures are important in areas where the challenge of meeting basic human needs can lead people toward activities that increase their vulnerability to severe events—such as broad deforestation that increases susceptibility to impacts from storms or the effects of drought—and where other types of protection from shocks and disasters, and assistance following such events, are unavailable.

Figure 7. Methods Used to Reduce Vulnerability to Shocks and Natural Disasters (aggregated for 13 CEPF regions analyzed)



¹ Hotspot-level reports are available for the 13 regions studied as follows:

Atlantic Forest:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_AtlanticForest_Nov05.pdf

Cape Floristic Region:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_CapeFloristic_Dec06.pdf

Caucasus:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_Caucasus_Jan08.pdf

Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_EasternArcCoastalForests_Jan08.pdf

Guinean Forests of West Africa:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_GuineanForests_Dec06.pdf

Madagascar:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_Madagascar_Dec06.pdf

Mountains of Southwest China:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_China_Jan08.pdf

Philippines:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_Philippines_Feb06.pdf

Southern Mesoamerica:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_SouthernMesoamerica_Sept05.pdf

Succulent Karoo:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_SucculentKaroo_May06.pdf

Sundaland:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_Sundaland_Dec06.pdf

Tropical Andes:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_TropicalAndes_Nov06.pdf

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena:

www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/PovertyReduction_TumbesChoco_Dec06.pdf