

## Consultation and Participation

Engaging a rich mix of civil society, governmental partners, and other stakeholders in the various levels of CEPF operations, from design to monitoring and evaluation, has proven to be a critical foundation for the unique CEPF approach to biodiversity conservation and for its effectiveness.

The impact of individual projects, ecosystem portfolios, and the overall global program are improved through the shared accountability, collaboration, and sensitivity to social, economic, and cultural needs that result from sustained engagement of key stakeholders.

The CEPF approach to stakeholder participation includes a commitment to:

Consultation – The broad involvement of many regional actors in the preparation of every ecosystem profile informs and shapes CEPF’s strategic plans. Subsequent, frequent information exchange among the CEPF Secretariat, regional implementation teams, project applicants and implementers, and stakeholders affected by CEPF-supported projects with regard to critical decisions, including investment strategies, project design, implementation, and evaluation amplifies the impact of CEPF grants.

Participation – Collaborative engagement among the CEPF Secretariat, Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), project implementers, and stakeholders in project design, implementation, and evaluation activities makes grants more likely to succeed. Varied stakeholders will also participate in mid-term and final assessments of the ecosystem portfolios.

Information Dissemination – Accessibility and sharing of information relevant to CEPF investment strategies, projects, results, and lessons learned is a cornerstone of the CEPF approach to help avoid duplication of effort as well as to foster transparency, learning, and replication within and across ecosystems and at the global level.

These three components of the CEPF approach to stakeholder involvement are fundamental to achieving CEPF objectives and enhancing the benefits to critical ecosystems and the local communities and others they support.

The following are principles by which these components are implemented:

- Responsibility for ensuring stakeholder involvement rests with the CEPF Secretariat and RITs. The RITs will support effective involvement at the ecosystem and project level through information exchange and facilitating discussion among stakeholders. Where necessary, CEPF grant resources can be used to ensure adequate consultation in the design of major CEPF-supported initiatives.
- The extent and quality of stakeholder consultation in developing a project, maintaining stakeholder participation over time, and the degree to which stakeholder

involvement enhances sustainability are criteria against which all project proposals are evaluated. These factors are also considered during implementation.

- Differences in requirements for public involvement will exist across project types, and appropriate stakeholder engagement will vary among projects depending on specific circumstances. For example, a project that affects Indigenous communities and the management of Indigenous lands or impacts the livelihoods of local communities will require a more extensive approach to consultation and participation than one that provides technical assistance to a government agency for improving its ability to implement its commitments under an international convention.
- Non-proprietary information associated with projects and activities supported by CEPF, including the ecosystem profiles and assessments, are made available to the public. In particular, information such as awarded grants, project designs, results, best practices, and lessons learned are posted on the CEPF Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).