

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
22nd Meeting of the Donor Council
Conservation International, Arlington, VA
18 December 2012
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EST

Scope of work to develop CEPF’s Strategic Framework 2013-2017

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked to approve the scope of work for the development of CEPF’s strategic framework for the period 2013-2017 specifically defining the thematic areas the donor members would like to see included in the strategy for the new phase of CEPF.

Background:

Following the 2006 independent evaluation of CEPF, the Donor Council approved in 2008 the 2008-2012 the Strategic Framework for the Fund. This five-year Strategic Framework for 2008-2012 set out the vision for CEPF, “aiming to building on a rich repository of experience and lessons learned during the program’s first years of operation, as well as recommendations from the 2006 independent evaluation.” The framework was designed to expand the program’s potential to act as a mechanism for the conservation community as a whole to align conservation investments for greater impact. It also noted CEPF’s intent to secure at least \$100 million in new commitments from donor partners.

The commitments of \$25 million from of l’Agence Française de Développement and of a similar amount from Conservation International made possible the beginning of the second phase of CEPF.

After five years of implementation under the framework, CEPF has managed to secure more than \$120 million with contributions from all its Phase I donors. Additionally and more recently, CEPF welcomed a new donor member, the European Union, which joins the partnership with a contribution of €18 million.

During this time, CEPF has achieved tremendous results, as reported in the independent evaluation done in 2010 by David Olson as well as the supervision missions and mid-term review performed by the World Bank. The Framework set out four key indicators of success for the program in this second phase:

- At least 14 critical ecosystems/hotspots with active investment programs involving civil society in conservation.
- At least 600 civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the CEPF ecosystem profiles.

- 20 million hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management, including at least 8 million hectares of new protected areas.
- 1 million hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use.

CEPF has exceeded the target of number of hotspots by four, investing in 18 hotspots, out of which half are hotspots where we did not invest during Phase I. Similarly, in the last five years CEPF has more than tripled the target of number of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use impacting over 3.5 million hectares. CEPF has supported over 300 civil society organizations and it is well on track to reach the target of 600 by the end of 2013. Lastly, out of the 20 million hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection, CEPF has reached almost half of this area with close to 600,000 hectares of new protected areas created. The delay in this target is explained by the nature of the hotspots where CEPF has been investing which, unlike the areas during the first phase, do not allow for the creation of big new protected areas, but instead require a greater investment in areas under production, hence the great impact on the productive landscape target.

As the five-year period of the framework comes to a close, and a new donor joins the partnership, the opportunity arises for re-examination of the vision for CEPF in light of changes in the world's critical ecosystems and the conservation field, and to account for donor partner interests in further addressing specific conservation issues and themes. The Donor Council has periodically discussed the need to incorporate new themes in our work and adjust to new opportunities and challenges. How our investments in the conservation of critical ecosystems support the provision of important ecological services is one such issue the Donor Council has raised. Similarly, the donors have emphasized the importance of working more closely with the private sector, and ensuring that the impact of CEPF is extended to marine areas where civil society requires support and where CEPF's model could be tremendously useful. Lastly, emphasis also has been placed on the importance of aligning CEPF investments to international agreements and targets such as the Aichi targets agreed in Nagoya in October 2010 at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

With these considerations in mind, the Secretariat recommends to the Donor Council approve starting the process of developing a new Strategic Framework that will guide CEPF's investment in the next five years, allowing the fund to adjust its targets and incorporate important elements in our strategy that respond to new threats and opportunities.

The Secretariat further recommends that the Donor Council approve the following scope of work for consultants to draft the new framework, which emphasizes close collaboration with all global donor partners, grantees and the Secretariat, as well as thorough research on the program and on the state of biodiversity conservation.

An agreement on the thematic areas to include in our new strategy will allow for the development of detailed terms of reference that will guide the selection of a consultant or group of consultants who will produce the new strategic framework. The terms of reference will be discussed with the Working Group.

Scope of work

In close collaboration with the Secretariat and its donor members, the consultant(s) will be responsible for producing the draft of a new strategic framework for CEPF that will guide the program's implementation of the next five years. The consultant(s) will review evaluation reports produced in 2006, 2010, 2011 as well as all the supervision mission documents produced by the World Bank's continuous review of the program to gather information on CEPF's achievements and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, the consultant(s) will review the evolution of the ecosystem profiles produced during phase II and the type of projects that the program has been funding. It is expected that the consultant(s) will get the input of civil society organizations that have benefited from CEPF's funding both at the regional implementation team and project levels. The consultant(s) also will gather detailed input from each global donor partner and the Secretariat. Lastly, the consultant(s) will be responsible for proposing the incorporation of new themes that respond to the suggestions made by the Donor Council and the realities of the current state of biodiversity conservation. These themes will include but not be limited to:

- a selection of geographical priorities that maintains the terrestrial biodiversity hotspots but includes also a stronger marine emphasis
- greater impact in the conservation of biodiversity as the underpinning element of the provision of ecosystem services (i.e. water, climate stabilization, disaster prevention)
- greater integration with private sector partners seeking opportunities for innovation and scaling up
- better alignment with the Aichi Targets approved by the CBD in Nagoya 2012 helping advance the NBSAPs of the countries where CEPF invests
- greater impact in sustainability of CEPF investments
- greater opportunities to secure future funding from current and new donors by analyzing how CEPF priorities align with those of the donor community.

The consultant(s) will produce a document similar in format to the strategic framework approved in 2008 by the Donor Council proposing indicators of success and defining components that will guide the implementation of this new phase.

Other considerations

The funds to cover the costs of this consultancy were included in the Spending Plan that the Donor Council approved in June 2013.

The Secretariat proposes this to be a five-month process that will closely involve the donor members both at the Working Group and Donor Council levels following this suggested timeline:

Month 1 Review of CEPF evaluations including the 2006 and the 2010 independent evaluations as well as all the supervision mission documents produced by the World Bank and others available. Additional documents for review will include the ecosystem profiles and project portfolios.

- Month 2 Interviews with the Secretariat, Working Group members, selected grantees and RIT members and production of the Global Results Framework.
- Month 3 Review of the draft Global Results Framework during a Working Group Meeting, followed by the drafting of a Strategic Framework incorporating the recommendations of the Secretariat and the Working Group.
- Month 4 Preparation of the draft Strategic Framework for the review of the Working Group and the Donor Council, and participate in the meetings if requested.
- Month 5 Incorporation of changes and recommendations made by the Donor Council.

CEPF will consider the consultant(s) experience crafting strategy documents in the past, knowledge of and experience working with CEPF, and expertise and demonstrated knowledge of biodiversity conservation and grant making programs.