

CEPF/DC29/7

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
Arlington, VA  
10 June 2016  
8:00-11 a.m. EST**

**Selection of the new CEPF Donor Council Chairperson (Doc CEPF/DC29/7)**

**Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked to approve the nomination of Julia Marton-Lefèvre as the new chairperson of the CEPF Donor Council.

**Background**

At the end of June 2016 the term of the current CEPF Chairperson, Jean-Michel Severino, will come to an end. Although according to the CEPF Operational Manual Jean-Michel Severino could do another three-year term, he decided to step down. Jean-Michel Severino made this decision on the basis that the time that this function requires is no longer compatible with the rest of his professional activities. This decision was communicated during the 28<sup>th</sup> CEPF Donor Council meeting held in Brussels, on 20 January 2016.

Shortly after this decision was communicated, the CEPF Executive Director prepared a list of potential candidates for this position. A total of 17 high profile candidates have been listed. Priority has been given to female candidates as a way to improve gender balance of the CEPF Donor Council. The three top candidates have been contacted. Two rejected the offer and one accepted it.

The candidate who accepted the offer is Julia Marton-Lefèvre, former General Director of IUCN. Ms Marton-Lefèvre has sent a short biography and a letter of interest to play the role of the CEPF Chairperson for next three years.

The CEPF Secretariat presents the candidature of Julia Marton-Lefèvre to the Donor Council. According to the terms of reference of the CEPF Donor Council appearing in the Operational Manual (OM 5.1), the CEPF Donor Council elects the chairperson.

**Annexes**

- A. Julia Marton-Lefèvre brief bio statement, April 2016
- B. Julia Marton-Lefèvre letter to Olivier Langrand, April 2016

## **Annex A**

April 2016

### **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**

Edward P Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar  
Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies  
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies  
Yale University  
195 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
[Julia.marton-lefevre@yale.edu](mailto:Julia.marton-lefevre@yale.edu)

Julia Marton-Lefèvre was Director General of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) until January 2015. IUCN is the world's largest conservation/environment membership organisation, bringing together a unique worldwide partnership of states, government agencies, non-governmental organisations, scientists and experts. As Director General she was also CEO of IUCN's Secretariat of over 1000 persons with offices in some 50 countries.

Prior to her eight years at IUCN, she was Rector of the UN-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) with its main campus in Costa Rica. UPEACE is a graduate-level international university providing education, training and research on issues related to peace, conflict, and environmental security. Earlier offices held by Ms. Marton-Lefèvre include the Executive Director of LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International, a program established by the Rockefeller Foundation to bring together and train mid-career leaders from all parts of the world and from several sectors to improve their leadership skills around the issues of sustainable development. Ms. Marton-Lefèvre also served for many years as the Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) with its headquarters in Paris. ICSU is non-governmental membership organization of national academies of science and international unions of scientific disciplines. She began her international career working for UNEP and based at Unesco in Paris, as a program specialist on international environmental education.

Ms. Marton-Lefèvre has given hundreds of speeches throughout her career, written articles, op ed pieces, and contributed to several books. Her board memberships today include: the Executive Committee for the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (which she chairs); the Geneva-based Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; Oxford University's James Martin School;

the Global Institute of Sustainability (Arizona State University); the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; Bioversity International; the Turkana Basin Institute, and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI).

In previous years she was a member of the China Council for International Cooperation in Environment and Development; Vice Chair of the Board of the World Resources Institute (WRI), and a member of the Boards of: the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED); LEAD International; UPEACE, and of the Alexandria Library. She remains in touch with all of these organizations

In her efforts to bridge the gap between business and civil society, J. Marton-Lefèvre has served on the environmental advisory boards of the Dow Chemical Company the Coca Cola Company, Nespresso and on the board of the UN Global Compact. Presently she is the Chair of the independent Advisory Board to the Sustainable Biomass Partnership, and is on committees advising Veolia and BNP Paribas.

In recognition of her work at ICSU, Ms. Marton-Lefevre received the prestigious AAAS Award for International Cooperation in Science. She has also been honored as a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the government of France; as a Chevalier dans l'Ordre de Saint-Charles by HSH Prince Albert of Monaco; received the ProNatura award from the government of Hungary and the Presidential citation from the Republic of Korea. She was elected a member of the World Academy of Art and Science, the World Future Council and a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Invited by the Rockefeller Foundation, Ms. Marton-Lefèvre spent a month at the Foundation's Bellagio Center, as a Policy Fellow in 2015, and she is spending 2016 as the Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar, Yale Institute of Biospheric Studies at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies of Yale University. She is also a Fellow of Davenport College at Yale.

Ms. Marton-Lefèvre was born in Hungary, educated in the United States and in France, and having lived in several continents, considers herself a global citizen.

## Annex B

*Julia Marton-Lefèvre*  
Edward P Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar  
Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies  
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

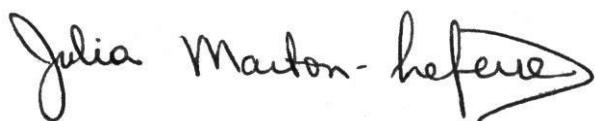
15 April 2016

Olivier Langrand  
Executive Director  
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
By email to [olangrand@cepf.net](mailto:olangrand@cepf.net)

Dear Olivier,

Thank you for your letter of 7 April and for the good phone conversation of the 14<sup>th</sup>. I have always admired the work of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and am delighted to know that you are its Director. As you know, I am particularly interested in the partnership model on which the CEPF is founded, and on the targeted funding support it offers in important conservation areas. Based on our discussion, and on what I know about CEPF, I would be pleased to be considered for the position of Chair of the Donor Council and look forward to the possibility of working with you, the donors, and your team to continue to build on 15 years of accomplishments.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Marton-Lefèvre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Julia" and "Marton-Lefèvre" connected by a single stroke.