



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
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Ms Valerie Hickey

Task Manager, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Lead Biodiversity Specialist, Environment Department
The World Bank
1818 11 Street, NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Ms Hickey

Subject: Endorsement of the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

As the GEF Operational Focal Point for Papua New Guinea, by this letter, I am formally informing you that we endorse the investment strategy outlined in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, and the provision of grants to non-government and private sector organisations for projects and activities that fulfil the programme objectives outlined therein.

In endorsing this CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, and in noting that disbursement of funds is through civil society entities, I wish to point out that the Government of Papua New Guinea is working on a national biodiversity trust fund initiative which will serve as a vehicle to effectively coordinate and manage delivery of protected areas in the country. I hope that donors will be able to support this initiative in the future.

We understand that each of the CEPF donor partners (Global Environment Facility, l'Agence Francaise de Developpement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank) has committed funding to the CEPF initiative and that each of these donors supports the Ecosystem Profile.

In providing this endorsement, we confirm that the Ecosystem Profile is in line with our commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Yours sincerely



Gunther Joku
Acting Secretary