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Date: 15th January 2013

Ms. Valerie Hickey
Task Manager, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Lead Biodiversity Specialist, Environment Department
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433,
USA

Fax: ++1 202-522-0367

**Subject: GEF Operational Focal Point for Vanuatu endorsement of the CEPF
Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

Dear Ms. Hickey,

As the Global Environment Facility Operational Focal Point for the Government of Vanuatu, I endorse the investment strategy outlined in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Ecosystem Profile for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, and the provision of grants to nongovernment and private sector organizations for projects and activities that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined therein.

We understand that each of the CEPF donor partners (Global Environment Facility, l'Agence Française de Développement, 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. We also understand that CEPF has made the Ecosystem Profile publicly available.

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

Yours sincerely,

fw *Al Williams*

Mr. Albert Abel Williams,

Director,

Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation,
PMB 9063, George Pompidou Building,
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