

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**  
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Operational Manual

September 21, 2021

**Long-term Vision for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked **to endorse on a no-objection basis** the long-term vision for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.

The deadline for no-objection endorsement is **5 October 2021**.

**Background**

At its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 January 2014, the CEPF Donor Council approved the strategic framework for Phase III of CEPF. The new strategy proposed taking CEPF to a scale where it can have a transformational impact on reversing biodiversity loss in the hotspots. To this end, four key outcomes were agreed for the new phase, including:

*Long-term strategic visions developed and implemented for at least 12 hotspots, facilitating the development of credible, effective and well-resourced civil societies, and delivering improved biodiversity conservation, enhanced provision from healthy ecosystems of services important to human wellbeing, and greater alignment of conservation goals with public policy and private sector business practices.*

Unlike an ecosystem profile, which outlines investment priorities for CEPF grant-making over five years, a long-term vision is meant to be a guide for both CEPF and other actors (e.g., host-country government, private sector, donors and NGOs from the economic development community) on how to positively influence conservation in a region over a longer time period. A long-term vision is built around five conditions for graduation from CEPF support, which address issues of: conservation priorities; civil society; financial resources; the enabling environment; and the ability to respond to new issues.

Since the start of the second phase of investment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot in 2015, CEPF has supported civil society to improve protection and management of Key Biodiversity Areas, mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policies and development plans, integrate social and environmental safeguards into infrastructure, mining and agriculture projects, foster private sector approaches for biodiversity conservation, and safeguard globally threatened species. CEPF has also strengthened civil society capacity, stakeholder alliances and communications to achieve these outcomes, focusing on indigenous, Afro-descendent and mestizo groups. Local support to the program is provided by the

Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at Profonanpe (Peru), Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (Ecuador) and Patrimonio Natural (Colombia). To date, more than 100 grants have been awarded, totaling more than \$9.6 million.

The long-term vision for the Tropical Andes Hotspot was developed by a consultant team engaged by the RIT, with inputs from CEPF grantees and other local experts. The consultation and drafting process began in August 2020 and was completed in March 2021.

The draft long-term vision was reviewed by the CEPF Working Group at its 66<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 25 March 2021. Following the meeting, the document was revised to address comments from Working Group members. The final long-term vision and a matrix summarizing the responses to the Working Group's comments are enclosed as Attachments 1 and 2.