

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

25 January 2023

Revised Spending Authority for the Indo-Burma Hotspot

1. Recommended Action Item

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** an increase in the spending authority for the Indo-Burma Hotspot of \$1,958,581 to include additional funding made available by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

The total spending authority for the Indo-Burma Hotspot will become \$11,958,581.

The deadline for no-objection approval is 8 February 2023.

2. Background

On 6 November 2020, the Donor Council approved, by no-objection (CEPF/DC/electronic/67), the ecosystem profile for the third phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, with a spending authority of \$10 million. It was agreed that \$7 million of the initial spending authority would come from CEPF's global donors, leaving a balance of \$3 million. To date, \$2.1 million of this balance has been secured from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, under a grant awarded on 1 December 2019, and a further \$330,181 has been secured from deobligated funding from grants awarded during the second phase of CEPF investment in the hotspot. This means that the total amount of secured funding at the start of the third phase was \$9,430,181.

On 1 July 2022, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies provided a new grant to CEPF for the Indo-Burma Hotspot. The total value of the grant is \$3,010,000, of which \$2,528,400 is available for grant making. This new contribution brings the total amount of secured funding to \$11,958,581. To utilize these funds for additional grant making in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, the CEPF Secretariat requests an increase in the spending authority from \$10,000,000 to \$11,958,581.

3. Next steps

The CEPF Secretariat is actively seeking additional sources of funding to expand and extend the current investment phase in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, which is currently projected to run until the second half of 2025. In parallel, CEPF and the Regional Implementation Team for the hotspot (IUCN Asia Regional Office) are developing an application to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for a 10-year program focused on wetland-based adaptation to climate change, through AFD as the Accredited Entity. This is expected to begin in 2024.