

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
10 November 2008
2 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST

Report on Progress by the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Donor Council on 21 April 2008. For information, a report covering the following activities since that date is attached:

- Partnership Highlights
- Highlights from the Field
- Approved grants (16 March 2008 – 24 October 2008)

Partnership Highlights

The World Bank confirmed its support for the replenishment of CEPF and, in the first instance, committed to provide \$3 million from the Development Grant Facility during this fiscal year for the activities of the Fund.

At the invitation of the Japanese Ministry of Environment, the CEPF Executive Director gave a presentation about CEPF at the Sixteenth Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia 2008) in September. Convened in Nagoya, Japan, this meeting focused on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Since its establishment in 1991, ECO Asia has evolved into an influential regional mechanism for discussing rapidly increasing cross-boundary environmental problems in the region. The Japanese Ministry of Environment has hosted the Congress since its inception as an instrument to catalyze the implementation of the Rio Summit decisions. This session of ECO Asia held on 13 September 2008 chose biodiversity as its theme for the first time as part of preparations for the 10th meeting of the Conference of Parties of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Eleven countries and 16 international organizations participated in ECO Asia to consider 18 key issues that would be critical in determining the success of COP 10, which will also take place in Nagoya, in 2010.

During the visit to Japan, the Executive Director held meetings with senior officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Environment and participated in an informal inter-ministerial workshop organized by the Ministry of Finance to discuss biodiversity conservation and CEPF's role.

Meetings of the Working Group and Donor Council took place during April 2008. The Working Group met on 9 April 2008 to discuss the overall approach to consolidation. The attached paper "Overview of Consolidation Approach" provides a summary of the agreed overarching approach to advance and sustain the conservation gains made to date in up to 13 regions that benefited from previous CEPF investment as approved by the Donor Council in July 2007 as part of the paper entitled "Setting Priorities for Future Investment." The Secretariat subsequently provided the Working Group with detailed summaries for six regions in advanced stages of planning as part of encouraging greater synergies and information sharing with the donor partners. The regions are: Atlantic Forest Hotspot (Brazil), Cape Floristic Region Hotspot, Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot (Upper Guinean Forest), Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot (Madagascar), Mesoamerica Hotspot (Southern Mesoamerica), and Tropical Andes Hotspot (Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor). Planning for consolidation continues to move forward in these regions, with the first new grants awarded in selected regions during the period as reported below.

Noteworthy decisions from the Donor Council meeting included approval of the Ninth Spending Plan, which sets out the budget for grants and operations totaling \$17.7 million for the period 1 July 2008–30 June 2009. The Council also approved Guidelines for Engaging Major Private Sector Entities in the Partnership, in follow up to its approval of the new fund-raising strategy for the global program in late 2007. Corporate partners to be considered will allow the program to further its mission of providing strategic assistance to nongovernmental and other private sector organizations in conserving vital ecosystems.

In addition, the Working Group met in October 2008 in preparation for the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council to take place on 10 November 2008. Topics discussed included an update on the consolidation program for selected regions, as well as ecosystem planning for new regions. The Secretariat also presented a preliminary communications and outreach plan to mark CEPF's tenth anniversary for the Working Group's discussion and feedback (see Agenda Item 6).

Featured New Grants

CEPF awarded 31 new grants during the period, including grants to the new Regional Implementation Teams selected by the Donor Council to lead the 5-year investment programs in the Indo-Burma, Polynesia-Micronesia, and Western Ghats and Sri Lanka hotspots. Each Regional Implementation Team will provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for its respective region. Major functions will include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.

BirdLife in Indochina will lead the \$9.5 million investment program in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, where CEPF will focus on two biodiversity conservation corridors in the Indochina region. The Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor borders China and Vietnam, and is a particularly important area for conservation of primates and plants. The hotspot's Mekong River and Major Tributaries Corridor, which stretches across Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Thailand, represents the best examples of Indochina's remaining riverine ecosystems. The investment will focus on safeguarding priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats; developing innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation at key biodiversity areas; and engaging key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives.

Conservation International's Pacific Islands Program based in Apia, Samoa, will head the program in Polynesia-Micronesia, a biodiversity hotspot with extremely high levels of endemism that faces severe threats including invasive species, alteration or destruction of native habitat and over-exploitation of natural resources. The \$7 million investment will focus on the prevention, control and eradication of invasive species in key biodiversity areas; strengthening the conservation status and management of prioritized key biodiversity areas; and building awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of threatened species recovery plans.

The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment will act as the Regional Implementation Team in the Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Hotspot, where the \$4.5 million investment will focus on the Western Ghats of India. The hotspot is the most densely populated of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, and yet it is extraordinarily rich in species, especially plants, found nowhere else. Its forests face tremendous population pressure and have been dramatically impacted by demands for timber and agricultural land. Funds will be used to enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors, as well as to improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action.

Consolidation programs were also launched in the Atlantic Forest and Cape Floristic Region. The mutually reinforcing grants awarded to date as part of these new programs are included in the list of approved grants (attached) in a new strategic direction for the relevant regions to reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of CEPF investment in the initial 5-year period. The consolidation plan for the Atlantic Forest is comprised of two investment priorities: 1) Capacity building for local institutions in the biodiversity corridors and Improvement of Protected Areas and 2) Ensure the effective management, protection and long-term sustainability of key protected areas within the Atlantic Forest biodiversity corridors. The plan for the Cape Floristic Region includes six investment priorities: 1) Consolidate and Strengthen Implementation Efforts for Corridor Conservation; 2) Improve Project Development and Implementation through

Support to Grassroots Communities; 3) Support the Sharing of Lessons Learned Across and Beyond Corridors within the Cape Floristic Region; 4) Engagement with the Business Sector; 5) Capacity Development in Implementing Agencies; and 6) Securing Support from Government.

Highlights from the Field

Five years ago, conservation in the Taita Hills, Kenya, faced a conundrum: How to throw a lifeline to three endemic bird species dispersed in several forest fragments without reducing the local communities' agricultural livelihood. Through careful study of available data and collaboration among community groups and scientists, conservationists developed a three-pronged solution to the riddle, and it is already seeing success. The plan called for:

- Offering support to local groups for a reforestation effort that would provide a quick boost to priority forest fragments in the ecosystem.
- Developing a scientific model using the most up-to-date information on the region to determine the key stepping stones for recovery of three bird species that are dependent on the forest fragments -- the Critically Endangered Taita thrush (*Turdus helleri*) and Taita apalis (*Apalis fascicularis*), and the Taita white-eye (*Zosterops silvanus*).
- Training local residents in developing nature-based products that generate livelihoods to replace income from activities that denude the forests.

Starting in 2004 CEPF supported the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) work with the Chawia Community Environment Committee to propagate and plant 68,200 indigenous tree seedlings to enrich the understory of the Chawia Forest Reserve. This forest was under tremendous pressure from the neighboring communities through livestock grazing and timber extraction, and was also home to an isolated sub-population of the Taita thrush that had not bred in years. The project provided 9,800 indigenous and exotic trees for planting on farms, and gave 4,000 seedlings to local residents for use on farms, schools, churches and on communal plots to decrease the reliance on forest resources. At the same time, CEPF supported a University of Ghent study to determine forest patches in the Taita Hills that would benefit most from connectivity enhancement based on geographic modelling. The researchers translated their findings into proposed restoration action involving conservation groups in the area. EAWLS is now guiding village forest associations in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service to develop participatory management plans for other forest fragments identified as vital to improve the passage of birds throughout the landscape. It is also working with forest reserves in the area to eliminate exotic trees in favor of indigenous species that support the endemic bird population. Meanwhile, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology is helping local communities develop alternative, nature-based livelihoods to replace income from negative practices.

The reduction in pressure on the forest fragments, the community-led conservation efforts and the Taita thrush's desperate need for help led National Geographic to fund a project that recently released unpaired Taita thrushes from Mbololo Forest into the Chawia Forest to improve its thrushes' chances for survival well into the future.

Improved cookstoves and livelihood alternatives are the tools a conservation group in Eastern Nepal is offering to communities near extremely fragmented forests so they can decrease fuel wood use and harvest less from the forests. The CEPF-funded Namsaling Community Development Centre (NCDC) is working with residents of the Ilam District in the Kanchenjunga-Singalila Complex, part of the Eastern Himalayas Region of the Himalaya Hotspot. This biologically rich landscape is shared by Nepal and India and harbors a wide variety of floral communities and CEPF investment-priority species including 17 mammal species, such as the red panda, and 13 bird species.

NCDC's work is focused in Nepal, in a rugged mountainous area on the border with India. This part of the corridor is characterized by unsustainable harvesting of forest resources, creating forest fragmentation and threatening biodiversity and the transboundary biological corridor. NCDC is providing residents with improved cookstoves, which use less fuel and eliminate some adverse health affects caused by unvented smoke. Initial reports indicate nearly 40 households in the area have installed the new cookstoves, and several more residents were seeking the stoves. NCDC has also trained residents to make the cookstoves. It is offering information and technical assistance on organic farming techniques and diversified crops, and has conducted a value-chain analysis to help residents identify ways to market promising products. Workshops have helped participants identify skill gaps for alternative livelihoods, and training was offered in the making of bio briquettes, a sustainable fuel that can be used for home heating and other purposes. In addition to engaging the community, the project also assessed biodiversity in the area, identifying key flora and fauna, including red pandas. Participants are preparing a detailed plant species monitoring and conservation plan based on the recommendation of the Ethnobotanical Society of Nepal and with the help of Red Panda Network a red panda conservation action plan is in the works. NCDC has used GIS data collected for the area to create a map to identify land use patterns, forest coverage, and habitat and distribution of key species. With this information it will create community-based participatory monitoring plans for key species.

CEPF grant recipient Kashmira Kakati conducted a camera-trapping survey in the sub-tropical evergreen Hollong-Nahor forests of Jeypore-Upper Dehing-Kakojan in northeast India to assess species richness of the carnivore community. By May, Kakati had completed surveys in Jeypore and Upper-Dehing East Block, confirming the presence of 26 species of mammals. The project in the Eastern Himalayas Region, funded by CEPF, Wildlife Conservation Society-India Program and the Rufford Foundation, yielded the first camera-trap photos of the clouded leopard, golden cat, marbled cat and Malayan sun bear from Assam. It also marked the first time that tiger and wild dog have been confirmed in these forests from photographs. Four of the animals photographed by her camera trap — clouded leopard, capped langur, elephant and tiger — are CEPF priority species. With five large carnivores (tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, wild dog and Malayan sun bear) and three species of elusive small cats (golden cat, marbled cat and leopard cat), the Jeypore Reserve Forest now holds the distinction of being the only location in northeast India where the sympatric presence all of these eight charismatic carnivores has been confirmed with photographs. Kakati hopes the findings will convince the Forest Department of Assam to upgrade the protection status of this crucial wildlife habitat and watershed.

Recognizing the link between human poverty and threats to the environment in the Caucasus Hotspot, the CEPF-backed Fund for Biodiversity Conservation of the Armenian Highland is providing financial support to Armenian villages surrounding Shikahogh State Reserve and two planned protected areas—Arevik and Zangezur—to help rebuild economic stability. The geographic diversity of southern Armenia supports an equally wide range of plants and animals, many of them unique and endemic to the region. But Shikahogh is the only established protected area, and the competition among human communities for food and resources in the area puts additional stress on a threatened environment. The Fund launched sustainable sources of income for the villages in an effort to provide opportunities and increase cooperation within the population. For example, in the Shikahogh community next to the reserve, one grant will pay for the purchase of a pair of tractors and a mechanic shop. Through a cooperative, residents will be trained to repair and service the tractors, which will then be shared among the various communities. A cheese-making factory is planned for Kajaran, where the Fund's support enabled the purchase of 200 sheep, 30 goats and food for the animals.

The Biodiversity & Wine Initiative (BWI), a pioneering partnership between the South African wine industry and the conservation sector, recently released its own label. The label, which features a sugar bird on a protea flower, will enable consumers to identify wines produced in accordance with the initiative's conservation requirements. BWI has helped more than 100 winegrowers in the Cape Floristic Region Hotspot incorporate biodiversity into their business practices. Just as this report was being finalized, the initiative announced that the participants have also set more area aside for long-term conservation than is currently planted under vineyard. Wine producers who have committed valuable remaining natural areas to the BWI have succeeded in setting aside more than 103,000 hectares to underpin the long-term sustainability and integrity of the Cape wine lands. South Africa is the 9th biggest wine producer in the world, with 101,957 hectares cultivated to vine. CEPF support helped the South Africa Wine & Brandy Company create BWI in the Cape Floristic Region Hotspot. Together with the Botanical Society of South Africa and other partners, CEPF funding also enabled an expansion of the initiative to the neighboring Succulent Karoo Hotspot. The overall effort is guided by a Botanical Society and Conservation International study that identified critical natural habitat that could be threatened by the expanded production of wine and other agricultural commodities in the region.



**Approved Grants
16 March 2008 – 24 October 2008**

Caucasus Hotspot

Strategic Direction 1. Support civil society efforts to promote transboundary cooperation and improve protected area systems in five target corridors

Supporting the Institutional Development of the Caucasus Protected Areas Fund

Support the institutional development and start-up costs of the Caucasus Protected Areas Fund to provide long-term financial sustainability for priority protected areas in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Establishment of the fund has been made possible through a partnership of Conservation International, the German Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation through the German International Development Bank, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Funding: \$500,000
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 1/31/09
Grantee: Caucasus Protected Areas Fund

Strategic Direction 3. Implement models demonstrating sustainable resource use in five target corridors

Development of the Buffer Zone of Mtirala National Park: Initiation of Sustainable Resource Use Activities

Demonstrate sustainable forest resource management through three models within the buffer zone of Mtirala National Park: a local business center, a valuable plant nursery, and horse-back riding tours. This project is the second phase of the CEPF-supported project "Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Support/Buffer Zone of Mtirala National Park."

Funding: \$95,000
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 4/30/09
Grantee: Association for Nature Protection and Sustainable Use "Mta-Bari"

Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Strategic Direction 4. Establish a small grants program in the hotspot (all 161 sites eligible) that focuses on Critically Endangered species and small-scale efforts to increase connectivity of biologically important habitat patches

Capacity Development for Conservation in Africa

Support nine students to attend at the Pan-African Ornithological Congress in South Africa during September 2008. The students: three each from Upper Guinea Forest region; Kenya, Tanzania, and Madagascar will present papers on their research findings as well as being introduced to a larger body of like-minded conservation scientists.

Funding: \$19,041

Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: BirdLife International

Strategic Direction 5. Develop and support efforts for further fundraising for the hotspot

Long-term Fundraising Opportunities for the Conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Explore opportunities to secure funds to continue to enhance forest conservation and civil society development in this critical region through engaging additional donor support to the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund, securing funds to promote the work of the Coordination Unit and assessing other funding mechanisms.

Funding: \$125,000
Grant Term: 9/1/08 - 12/31/09
Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature

Improving Rewards for Environmental Stewards in Equitable Payment for Watershed Service Scheme

Increase the financial returns to rural communities participating in the equitable payment for watershed services program around the Uluguru Mountains to promote a shift in land-use practices reducing the negative impacts on the watershed functions, improve the quantity and quality of water flow and improve livelihood security in target communities.

Funding: \$56,200
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/09
Grantee: CARE International

Promoting Conservation Through Trees for Carbon Sequestration and Livelihoods Improvement in Madunguni Forest Reserve, Malindi District, Kenya

Establish a pilot project to assess the potential for carbon sequestration as a mechanism for forest conservation. This community-based initiative seeks to develop strategic site management and business plans for voluntary carbon trading and benefits sharing for Madunguni forest in conjunction with the Kenya Forest Service.

Funding: \$50,000
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: East Africa Natural History Society

Convening the CEPF Eastern Arc & Coastal Forests Assessment Workshop

Organize and host a stakeholder workshop to help assess the gains achieved and identify future priorities and strategies for forest conservation in Tanzania and Kenya. Produce a documentary highlighting the approaches taken, as well as showcase these achievements and exchange experiences with members of other CEPF coordination team, including members from the Cape Floristic Region, Caucasus, Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats biodiversity hotspots.

Funding: \$109,539
Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 4/30/09
Grantee: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Eastern Himalayas Region

Strategic Direction 1. Build on existing landscape conservation initiatives to maintain and restore connectivity and to protect wide-ranging threatened species in priority corridors with a particular emphasis on the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex,

Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex, and North Bank Landscape

Pygmy Hog Conservation Program

Contribute to enhancing key habitat areas necessary for the conservation of the Critically Endangered pygmy hog (*Sus salvanius*) as an extension of an ongoing program for pygmy hog recovery through captive breeding. This new phase seeks to establish new populations and to help enhance the capacity of park staff for improving the management of grasslands; monitor and protect pygmy hog; and raise awareness regarding conservation of this species.

Funding: \$80,000
Grant Term: 10/1/08 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Maintain and Restore Habitat Connectivity and Reduce Human-Animal Conflict in the North Bank Landscape

Secure linkages across the Tipi-Dedjling and Bornadi-Khalingduar corridors in the North Bank Landscape for elephant movement to conserve elephant, tiger, and rhino. Mitigate human-wildlife conflict in these corridors that are critical passageways for elephants. Conduct studies on community dynamics, land use, and elephant movements. Develop a conservation action plan based on the studies and in consultation with stakeholders.

Funding: \$80,776
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 1/31/10
Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature - India

Strategic Direction 2. Secure the conservation of priority site outcomes (key biodiversity areas) in the eastern Himalayas with a particular emphasis on the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex, Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex, and North Bank Landscape

Strengthen Civil Societies for Improved Resource Management for Conservation

Organize and support communities in the fringe areas of the Singalila National Park to conserve local biodiversity by promoting environmentally friendly sustainable livelihoods and resource use practices. Establish a system to share skills and knowledge about these practices amongst the communities and to enhance the integrity of the national park by conserving biodiversity and increasing forest cover.

Funding: \$60,000
Grant Term: 4/1/08 - 3/31/11
Grantee: Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna

Mesoamerica Hotspot

Northern Mesoamerica Region

Strategic Direction 2. Collaborate with other donor-funded projects to facilitate and operationalize successful conservation activities in Northern Mesoamerica's eight most important key biodiversity areas

Analysis and Recommendations for Improving Land Tenure Policy for Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala

Conduct policy analysis and hold local and national workshops to prepare a situation analysis of land tenure laws and to develop recommendations to strengthen land tenure policy at the national and municipal levels. The products will be printed and distributed to media and other key stakeholder groups.

Funding: \$55,806
Grant Term: 6/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Fundación Para El Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y Su Entorno

Establishing Private Protected Areas in Huehuetenango, Guatemala

Facilitate the establishment of eight new private protected areas to achieve connectivity in the Cuchumatanes key biodiversity area, through outreach and training workshops to private landowners and through preparation and delivery of application materials.

Funding: \$19,998
Grant Term: 6/1/08 - 6/30/09
Grantee: Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala

Strengthening Protection of La Frailescana Forest and Corridor in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas Key Biodiversity Area

Assist in upgrading the protection status of La Frailescana into a biosphere reserve and expanding its borders to cover about 150,000 hectares through technical studies and local outreach.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 6/1/08 - 3/31/09
Grantee: Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil

Support for the Declaration of the Visis Caba Protected Area as a Community Reserve

Support the approval of a new category of protection - the community reserve - in the parks system of Guatemala and achieve such legal designation for Visis Caba, a forest in the Cuchumatanes key biodiversity area. Activities will include community and media outreach, and preparation of legal documents required for the new designation.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 6/1/08 - 5/31/09
Grantee: Asociación Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala

Sharing Successes and Lessons Learned in Northern Mesoamerica via the Eco-Index

Support the promotion of alliances and information exchange between CEPF partners through the inclusion of CEPF-supported projects in the Eco-Index and through the organization of partner exchanges, including a workshop as part of the final 5-year assessment for the CEPF portfolio in this region.

Funding: \$126,763
Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 6/30/09
Grantee: Rainforest Alliance

Strategic Direction 3. Support priority conservation actions in three priority key biodiversity areas

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Governance of Laguna del Tigre National Park

Support local civil society participation in the Management Council of Laguna del Tigre National Park and assure appropriate financial allocations from the government for park management. This grant will fund local participation of key management meetings, outreach to media and park monitoring.

Funding: \$18,000
Grant Term: 8/1/08 - 7/31/09
Grantee: Asociación Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala

Strategic Direction 4. Support efforts to prevent the extinction of Northern Mesoamerica's 106 Critically Endangered species

Evaluating the Conservation Status of Critically Endangered Amphibians in Eight Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites in Guatemala

Survey priority Alliance for Zero Extinction sites where Critically Endangered amphibians are located to ascertain these species' conservation status and the degree of infestation of the chytrid fungus. Results will include a needs assessment describing the status of the target amphibians in these sites and proposing conservation actions as needed.

Funding: \$44,635
Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 3/31/09
Grantee: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación

A Risk Assessment of the Bats of the Greater Maya Mountains of Belize

Assess the state of bats in the Greater Maya Mountain Massif and develop management recommendations for safeguarding those species facing imminent extinction. In addition, raise awareness among various stakeholders of the importance of conserving bats for ecosystem health.

Funding: \$33,900
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 7/31/09
Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Consolidation Portfolios

Atlantic Forest
(Brazil)

Strategic Direction 5. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of CEPF investment in the initial 5-year investment period for the region

Conservation Network: Linking Social and Environmental Experiences, and Developing Competencies and Organizational Capacities in the Atlantic Forest Central Biodiversity Corridor

Link institutional and individual capacity building with conservation activities to enable conservation action in 18 forest areas in the Central Corridor of the Atlantic Forest. Contribute to the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the Central Corridor by means of organizational development, technical performance, generation of knowledge and communication, and mobilization of resources.

Amount: \$250,000
Grant term: 08/01/08-03/31/11
Grantee: Instituto de Estudos SocioAmbientais do Sul da Bahia

Consolidating Biodiversity Conservation Action in Atlantic Forest Corridors

Consolidate and secure the biodiversity conservation results obtained during the first phase of CEPF investment in the Atlantic Forest by building upon successful partnerships and programs; securing additional alliances and conservation results; supporting private reserves and public protected areas management; further stimulating involvement of local institutions; and addressing capacity needs for protected area and buffer zone management.

Amount: \$665,543
Grant term: 8/01/08-6/30/11

Grantee: Conservação Internacional do Brasil

Consolidating Private and Public Protected Areas in the Atlantic Forest Hotspot Biodiversity Corridors

Organize the physical and logistical structure to initiate operation of the Atlantic Forest Protected Areas Initiative (AFP AI) and its funding mechanism. Prepare the terms of reference and agreement models for the projects to be supported by AFP AI, ensure their approval and implementation, and monitor execution. Maintain close contact with state and federal government to optimize the AFP AI efforts and design, organize and initiate a capacity-building program for private reserves associations.

Amount: \$934,457

Grant term: 8/01/08-6/30/11

Grantee: Fundação SOS Pró-Mata Atlântica

Institutional Strengthening in the Serra do Mar Corridor

Build local capacity and strengthen institutions in the Serra do Mar Corridor as a means to consolidate the mosaics of protected areas, promote landscape restoration and management, and stimulate the connectivity (institutional and biological) essential for the sustainability of the corridor. Conduct a preliminary analysis of the implementation status of four mosaics to determine future actions.

Amount: \$550,000

Grant term: 8/01/08-6/30/10

Grantee: Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado

Cape Floristic Region Hotspot

Strategic Direction 5. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of CEPF investment in the initial 5-year investment period for the region

Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve Consolidation Project

Consolidate and strengthen implementation activities in three focal areas of the Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve: the Biodiversity and Citrus Initiative; stakeholder engagement; and protected area management. Support and mentor Eastern Cape Parks Board staff to take the lead in all aspects of Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve operations and management.

Funding: \$110,000

Grant Term: 10/1/08 - 9/30/11

Grantee: Wilderness Foundation

Cape Floristic Region: Communicating Conservation

Influence and improve awareness among opinion leaders whose actions affect conservation efforts across the region through a series of "decision-maker trails" to be conducted in selected high-biodiversity areas in the hotspot. Facilitate broad support for conservation at government and community leadership levels to secure conservation gains made during CEPF's first five years of investment.

Funding: \$150,000

Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11

Grantee: Wilderness Foundation

Consolidation of CAPE Conservation Gains: Engaging Agricultural Industries in South Africa

Sustain and consolidate the early successes achieved by CEPF in sector-based projects. Address the threats that selected industry pose to the region's biodiversity and develop models and case studies that other industries and partners can learn from. Support existing biodiversity and agricultural initiatives in the region to ensure sustainability of conservation gains, and promote biodiversity-friendly food production and sustainable natural resource harvesting practices.

Funding: \$193,054
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: Conservation International

Consolidation of Conservation Gains: Engaging the Business Sector in South Africa

Sustain and consolidate the early successes achieved by CEPF in sector-based projects. Address the threats that selected industry pose to the region's biodiversity and develop models and case studies that other industries and partners can learn from. Stimulate growth in sales of biodiversity-friendly products from committed retailers and create a more informed consumer base.

Funding: \$106,651
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature - South Africa

Support the Sharing of Lessons Learned Across and Beyond Corridors within the Cape Floristic Region

Ensure lessons learned within the Cape Floristic Region through the initial CEPF investment are shared across the Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.) partnership and built upon. The project will use learning exchanges, learning events, knowledge exchange, publications and the C.A.P.E. Partners' Conference to share lessons. A series of case studies also will be produced to capture lessons and feed them into the C.A.P.E. monitoring and evaluation framework.

Funding: \$150,000
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: South African National Biodiversity Institute

Sustaining the Gains of the Business Plan of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve

Secure conservation gains made in the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve and ensure that they are consolidated and managed through cooperative partnerships with major stakeholders, potential partners and government institutions, as well as with funding and civil society organizations that are active within the area. Implement a financial sustainability model and share lessons with other landscape initiatives and C.A.P.E. partners.

Funding: \$150,000
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve Company

New Regions

Indo-Burma Hotspot

Indochina Region

Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Indochina

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.

Funding: \$899,929
Grant Term: 7/1/08 - 4/30/13
Grantee: BirdLife International

Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Strategic Direction 4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Polynesia-Micronesia

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.

Funding: \$849,930
Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 4/30/13
Grantee: Conservation International

Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Hotspot

Western Ghats Region

Strategic Direction 3. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the Western Ghats

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for this region. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities; reviewing all grant applications; and awarding small grants.

Funding: \$400,000
Grant Term: 5/1/08 - 4/30/13
Grantee: Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment