

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
9 September 2009
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST

Report on Progress by the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Acting Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council on 10 November 2008. For information, a report covering the following activities since that date is attached:

- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Approved Grants (25 October 2008 – 14 August 2009)

Partnership Highlights

The Working Group met in April at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. in preparation for this meeting of the Donor Council, originally scheduled to take place in June 2009. The participants reviewed the overall consolidation program designed to sustain gains made by previous CEPF investment, as well as ecosystem profiling preparations underway in three new regions for investment. The Working Group also discussed the communications plan for the program's tenth anniversary in 2010, with key elements to be tied to the tenth meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 10) to take place in Japan that same year as discussed during the last meeting of the Donor Council. The Working Group discussion focused on further elaboration by the Secretariat of a CEPF series of issues papers to be launched in 2010 on key themes and analyzing good practices and lessons learned.

One highly visible first communications success related to CBD 10 was an article about CEPF published in the May issue of the CBD magazine, *Gincana*. The magazine issue, titled Toward the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, also featured an article by the Japan Minister for Environment about the nation's preparations for the 2010 meeting. The article about CEPF is attached to this report and is available as part of the full issue on the CBD Web site.

April also saw the launch of a redesigned CEPF Web site at the same address: www.cepf.net. The site now offers greater ease in navigation, and features an updated, clean look; larger photos; and a multimedia section with photo galleries, videos, audio files, maps and presentations organized in tabs. Visitors to the site can share site content via new bookmark and share buttons; subscribe to an RSS feed in the News section; and more easily filter news and publications by region. The changes provide a greatly enhanced platform for sharing CEPF results and the many reports and lessons from grantees as part of the program's emphasis on dissemination and replication.

Assessments were completed of the five-year CEPF investments in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot and the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania. In the Succulent Karoo, which includes parts of Namibia and South Africa, results made possible by CEPF investment include 2.9 million hectares of rich land added to the conservation estate via establishment of conservancies, signing of stewardship (contractual) agreements and the incorporation and designation of state land. This was an unprecedented rate of increase in land under conservation, which has close to doubled in the South African part of the hotspot in the past five years. CEPF investment also resulted in improved land management, more environmentally friendly jobs and an increase in the number of local civil society groups operating in the hotspot. In the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, results of the investment include the addition of 158,626 hectares to Tanzania's protected areas network; the discovery of a minimum of 29 new vertebrate species; the support of more than 20 students to master's and doctoral level in conservation-related studies through local academic and research institutions; and the awarding of 146 community microgrants directly to civil society organizations actions that improved livelihoods and benefited natural resources. The full reports, previously distributed to Donor Council and Working Group members, are available in the Monitoring and Evaluation Section of the CEPF Web site, http://www.cepf.net/resources/publications/Pages/monitoring_and_evaluation.aspx. Both assessments draw from experience, lessons learned and project monitoring, as well as stakeholder workshops to enable beneficiaries and other partners to help assess the results. The Secretariat and partners are now assessing both needs and opportunities for consolidation in these regions.

To date, CEPF has designed consolidation programs in seven regions:

- 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)
- Tropical Andes Hotspot (Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor)
- Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena Hotspot (Chocó-Manabí Conservation Corridor)

An update on the overall consolidation program will be provided under Agenda Item 6.

The creation of new ecosystem profiles is underway for the Caribbean Islands, the Mediterranean Basin and the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspots as part of a CEPF expansion to new hotspots. The first three regions in the expansion (Indo-Burma, Polynesia-Micronesia and the Western Ghats) are now in implementation. Profiling for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot began in February and is the most advanced. The process is being led by BirdLife in the Caribbean. Stakeholder meetings were held in June and July in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Antigua. The Executive Director and representatives of the World Bank and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation attended the regional stakeholder meeting in Antigua in July. Stakeholder meetings were also held in July and August in Mozambique and South Africa as part of the profiling underway in Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, which is being led by Conservation International's Southern Africa Hotspots Programme and the South African National Biodiversity Institute. In the Mediterranean, work is being led by Doga Derneği, the BirdLife Partner in Turkey. A more in-depth update on the profiling in these three hotspots is discussed further under Agenda Item 7.

Jørgen Thomsen stepped down from his long-time role as Executive Director of CEPF and Senior Vice President of Conservation International May 1 to become the Director of Conservation and Sustainable Development at the MacArthur Foundation. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the MacArthur Foundation's role in the partnership. Bobbie Jo Kelso, Senior Director for External Affairs, was named Acting Executive Director. The interim appointment is designed to help smooth the transition and allow for business to continue as usual as Ms. Kelso has a long history with CEPF and existing relationships with the donor partners and many implementation partners. The appointment of a new Executive Director will be discussed under Agenda Item 8.

Featured New Grants

CEPF awarded more than 70 new grants during the period. Among the new grants is support for targeted projects to sustain and advance the gains made previously in the Atlantic Forest, Cape Floristic Region, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar, Mesoamerica and Tropical Andes hotspots. The consolidation portfolios are particularly designed to scale up sustainability of conservation financing, as well as ensure the long-term viability of other efforts. Examples of grants made under these consolidation programs include:

- Cape Floristic Region: A grant to the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, known as CapeNature, to build on previously successful work in the Cederberg and Gouritz biodiversity conservation corridors and stewardship sites. The project will secure the gains made by improving institutional capacity to address and strengthen corridor, biosphere and World Heritage site planning and implementation.
- Guinean Forests: Support to the Environmental Foundation for Africa to build on previous investment in ecotourism and sustainable community development in and

around the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. Activities include sharing lessons from the Tiwai Island experience with the region via the establishment of a Biodiversity and Alternative Energy Learning Center, which will encourage learning exchanges and opportunities in the region.

- Tropical Andes: A grant for a nongovernmental organization in Bolivia to mitigate potential impacts from construction of the Northern Corridor Road through the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor, close to several protected areas of high biological importance that CEPF supported during its initial investment. The organization, Fundación Para El Desarrollo Del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, will use the funds to support civil society participation in the management and monitoring of highway impacts and those of other regional-scale infrastructure schemes; strengthen management capacity and community support of target protected areas; and establish mechanisms for financial sustainability of the protected areas.

A full list of new grants approved since the last Donor Council meeting is included in this report. The list includes grants of \$20,000 and less awarded by the Regional Implementation Teams in the Indo-Burma and Polynesia-Micronesia hotspots. Where relevant, grants awarded to Conservation International programs were awarded following review and no-objection approval by the Working Group as part of new operational procedures now in place for the global program.

Highlights from the Field

- In December, the Namibian government officially established Sperrgebiet National Park, a 2.6 million-hectare protected area that is the largest single-area proclamation in Africa in the past 20 years. Both the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund supported partners in Namibia to prepare and plan for the gazettelement and future management of the park. The Sperrgebiet, a portion of the Succulent Karoo Hotspot that runs along the southwestern part of the Namibian coast, supports nearly a quarter of Namibia's plant diversity on less than 3 percent of the country's land surface.
- The Tanzanian government announced creation of the Uluguru Nature Reserve, made up of two smaller forest reserves and some farmed areas totaling 25,000 hectares in the Eastern Arc Mountains. The reserve is of critical importance for the provision of water to the Ruvu River, the main water supply to the capital city of Dar es Salaam. The reserve also supports 135 endemic species of plants and many other species that are unique to this region. Through the efforts of the U.N. Development Program and Global Environment Facility, and with support from CEPF, the Tanzanian government recognized the need to preserve the area. During CEPF's five-year investment in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests, grantee CARE International conducted a study of ecological and socioeconomic factors related to a possible reforestation project in the area, and a project conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania found the Endangered Uluguru bush shrike extending its range from Uluguru North to the Uluguru South reserve, adding to the significance of connecting Bunduki Gap, which is about 1 square kilometer in size. These projects provided evidence to support improved protection of the area. The nature reserve designation is internationally recognized and offers more stringent protection to the area.

- The most comprehensive assessment of the world's mammals confirmed an extinction crisis, with almost one in four at risk of disappearing forever, according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, revealed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. The results of the new study, completed with support from CEPF and other partners, were also published by *Science* magazine. The new study found that 1,141 of the world's 5,487 known mammal species are Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. At the same time, 5 percent of mammal species listed as threatened showed signs of recovery in the wild, highlighting the effectiveness of properly targeted and funded conservation efforts. The study showed that 188 mammals are in the highest threat category of Critically Endangered. Nearly 450 mammals are listed as Endangered. Assessing the world's mammals involved more than 1,800 scientists from over 130 countries. The collaboration included Conservation International, Sapienza Università di Roma, Arizona State University, Texas A&M University, University of Virginia, the Zoological Society of London and the IUCN Species Survival Commission.
- CEPF grantees produced and distributed the first Bat Conservation Action Plan for the Caucasus. Field Researchers Union-CAMPESTER of the Republic of Georgia teamed up with the Armenian Nature Protectors Union and the Center of Biological Diversity, Azerbaijan, to produce the plan after receiving a \$175,000 grant. Bats play an important role in human health as predators of insects that are vectors for disease, like mosquitoes, and aid agriculture by consuming pests and serving as pollinators. They also are extremely vulnerable to environmental changes and can serve as indicators for ecosystem health. As part of the project, the participants organized the region's first joint research and field-work initiatives for evaluating the current status of the bats and exploring their key habitats; established a regional transboundary bats monitoring network and developed four national-level bat conservation action plans. Researchers found that in many habitats populations had decreased, and the rarest species, like *Rhinolophus mehelyi* and *Myotis bechsteinii*, were not observed in many places where they were previously found. On the brighter side, new significant habitats were found, and Field Researchers Union-CAMPESTER concludes that with appropriate measures, it will be possible to significantly rehabilitate the population of bats in the Caucasus.
- CEPF grantee G. John Measey led a study of the amphibian populations of the Taita Hills, Kenya. With assistance from the National Museums of Kenya and Mainz University, as well as residents of the area, the project documented the distribution, habitat preference and comparative density of all amphibians—key indicators of ecosystem health—in the region. The study also gathered data concerning the biology of key species. The results revealed that the Taita Hills have a surprisingly low level of amphibian biodiversity. Although it is comparatively rich in endemics, the area shares few amphibians with the neighboring Eastern Arc Mountains. The prime factor appears to be the comparatively low rainfall received by the Taita Hills. The results of the study are being circulated to an international scientific audience, as well as local stakeholders and residents in the form of a local-language book. Work on the book entailed inventing local names for some species, and, in one case, holding a school competition to choose a local name and raise awareness about a Critically Endangered species of caecilian amphibian. It also led to the discovery of some long forgotten local names that can be brought to light again. Some detailed information about the natural history of frogs and caecilians in the Taita Hills, with a guide to their identification, is included in the publication. A Ph.D. student with the National Museums of Kenya obtained his Ph.D. based on his work with the project, and six local assistants trained for the project are now

either working or volunteering on new conservation efforts. The local assistants also have helped raise species and conservation awareness in their communities.

- Guatemala announced in December the first seven projects to receive funding as a result of its debt-for-nature deal with the U.S. government, signed in September 2006. The projects will receive a total of \$1.6 million, with the funding going to FUNDAECO, Defensores de la Naturaleza, Asociación Vivamos Mejor, and Helvetas, for work being done in Cuchumantes, Sierra de las Minas, and Sierra del Lacandon National Park, as well as other areas where CEPF has previously invested. These organizations are also leveraging that support to bring in additional funds from other donors. CEPF and Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund both provided support for development of the debt swap agreement and funding to help make it possible. Carlos Rodriguez of CI-Guatemala and head of CEPF's coordination team in Northern Mesoamerica, serves as president of the Oversight Committee for the debt swap, and provided leadership in establishing the deal and launching the initiative. An existing close coordination between The Nature Conservancy, U.S.AID, Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas, Association of Private Nature Reserves of Guatemala, Instituto de Agricultura Recursos Naturales y Ambiente and CI is vital for successful implementation. Rodriguez and the other committee members, including fellow CI-Guatemala staffer Ingrid Arias, have developed a five-year strategic plan covering topics such as monitoring and evaluation and the leveraging of funds, including development of a strategy for new sources of funding. The fund has been cited by U.S. AID as an example of a highly successful debt-for-nature deal that will help promote the use of these types of efforts globally. At a Tropical Forest Conservation Act global meeting in Belize last December, Guatemala was congratulated for its good work on the initiative. The trust created by the deal is expected to total \$4.9 million in 10 years.
- The AMBIO cooperative in the Sierra Madre area of Chiapas, in the Mesoamerica Hotspot, has established payments for carbon offsets for farmers in eight communities through the voluntary carbon market for coffee. The first payments were issued in April. The program, supported by CEPF, augments the local economy and provides a model for future carbon offset programs in the region, where a new policy is being drafted for payment for environmental services.
- The Armenia Tree Project used CEPF funding to conduct one of the most in-depth studies of the forests in Northern Armenia, with the help of Yale University. It developed a strategy on sustainable forestry practice, carried out a training program on sustainable forestry and a pilot program based on sustainable forestry principles, and provided training and projects for local stakeholders on alternative income-generating activities. The program worked closely with villagers who are most dependent on the forest for survival to tailor forestry models to their needs. Achievements also included a forestry manual for use by professionals in Armenia and two sustainable forestry plots of 10 and 4 hectares for future training.



Approved Grants
25 October 2008 – 14 August 2009

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

Improving Project Development and Implementation through Support to New Entrants to Conservation and Community-Based Organizations in the Cape Floristic Region

Address the lack of project development skills among community-based organizations and new entrants into conservation in the Cape Floristic Region by establishing three project development hubs in selected mega-reserves. Provide capacity building support for micro-grant recipients, and links to established local partners and experienced project developers and managers.

Funding: \$166,000
Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: Table Mountain Fund

Building Capacity in Conservation Implementing Agencies in the Cape Floristic Region

Build on the gains of the C.A.P.E. Capacity Development Program by facilitating capacity development within relevant local government institutions and ensuring a more effective transition of graduates into the workplace and mentoring of interns/subordinates. Improve the understanding of the impact of capacity development interventions.

Funding: \$300,000
Grant Term: 11/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: Table Mountain Fund

Consolidate and Strengthen Cape Nature's Corridor Network

Within CapeNature and partner organizations, develop institutional capacity to address and strengthen corridor, biosphere and World Heritage Site planning and implementation. Strengthen stewardship negotiation and site-maintenance via best practice operational procedures and ensure effective implementation and sustainability of the Cederberg and Gouritz corridors and stewardship sites through improved capacity and performance.

Funding: \$324,000
Grant Term: 8/1/08 - 6/30/11
Grantee: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

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

Biological Corridor Framework for the Kingdom of Bhutan

Prepare a management framework for the 366,000-hectare Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex corridor. Build upon existing WWF work covering socioeconomic and biodiversity data and on government commitment, with the ultimate goal of maintaining ecosystem ecological connectivity within a mosaic of forest corridors. Ensure civil society involvement in development of the framework.

Funding: \$113,000
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 8/31/10
Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

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

Developing a National Ecotourism Framework for Protected Areas in Bhutan and Implementation in a Pilot Site

Develop a national ecotourism framework for the protected areas of Bhutan, the ultimate aim of which will be to conserve the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex through responsible tourism initiatives that benefit the rich natural resources as well as people of Bhutan. Involve civil society in developing and pilot testing of the framework.

Funding: \$90,000
Grant Term: 4/1/09 - 9/30/10
Grantee: Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation & Environment

Restoration of the Wintering Habitat of the Black-Necked Crane In and Around Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary Eastern Bhutan through Community-Based Initiatives

Restore and improve the wintering habitat of the Endangered black-necked crane in Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary through community participation and initiation of alternative livelihood options. Enhance capacity to develop and implement habitat restoration plans and engage local community members in monitoring and assessing habitat and numbers of black-necked cranes.

Funding: \$105,000
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Nature Conservation Committee of Trashiyangtse

Traditional Land Management System and its Impacts on Conservation in the Kanchenjunga-Singalila Complex in Nepal

Study and explore good practices of traditional Kipat system and community forest to come up with a reconciled resource management strategy that supports implementation of conservation programs more effectively and successfully. This project will also identify key issues, gaps and conflicts to recommend ways to address policy gaps related to resource management.

Funding: \$29,606
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 6/30/10
Grantee: Ilam Co-operation Council

Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot

Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem

Strategic Direction 6. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of CEPF investment in the initial 5-year investment period for the region

Ensuring Long Term Sustainable Financing for Key Protected Areas in the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem

Ensure long-term sustainable financing for priority protected areas in the Upper Guinean Forest by assessing and pursuing opportunities for investment, ensuring that legislation is conducive to conservation investment and updating financial plans to support Liberia's protected area system. Explore and where possible establish funding mechanisms to support the recurrent costs of managing Liberia's protected area network and conservation-friendly economic development around protected areas.

Funding: \$799,930
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 3/31/11
Grantee: Conservation International

Sustainable Finance for Protected Areas in Sierra Leone

Contribute to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the 75,000-hectare Gola Forest Reserves, a priority site for conservation within the Upper Guinea Forest, with support from carbon finance. The project team will achieve its goals by developing a carbon project, developing carbon agreements with local communities, building understanding of and capacity to implement carbon projects and enabling the incorporation of carbon financing into national laws.

Funding: \$200,000
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sustaining and Securing Capacity in Biodiversity Conservation Action in the Upper Guinea Forest Area

Sustain and build upon CEPF-supported capacity building gains by working closely with beneficiaries of past capacity building initiatives and academia (university and research staff) to secure existing capacity and support young graduates to pursue higher studies via a small grant scheme. Support the establishment of a platform that facilitates collaboration and exchange of information and expertise among protected area managers and develop an online toolkit for improved protected area management.

Funding: \$599,984
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: BirdLife International

Upscaling and Promoting Biodiversity Conservation and Community Livelihoods in the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem

Secure the gains made possible by the first phase of CEPF funding by conducting further work in ecotourism and sustainable community development in and around the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. Activities include sharing the lessons from the Tiwai Island experience with the region via the establishment of a Biodiversity and Alternative Energy Learning Center in Sierra Leone.

Funding: \$250,000
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa

Consolidating and Learning from Livelihood Interventions in Support of Biodiversity Conservation and Management at Nimba Mountain (Guinea), Sapo National Park (Liberia) and Tiwai Island (Sierra Leone)

Consolidate achievements from the first phase of CEPF funding of the Tiwai Island Tourism initiative in Sierra Leone and the Nimba Hunting and Bushmeat Initiative in Guinea and scale these up in Seringbara and Zoo around Nimba and the most appropriate locations in the Upper Guinean Forests. Document successful interventions in pilot community-based organizations and define the potential for introducing well-researched livelihood activities as alternatives to bushmeat hunting and trade.

Funding: \$249,440
Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 3/31/11
Grantee: Fauna & Flora International

Indo-Burma Hotspot

Indochina Region

Strategic Direction 1. Globally threatened species in Indochina safeguarded by mitigating major threats

Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot: Fishes, Molluscs, Odonates and Plants

Provide essential information for guiding decisions on the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater biodiversity in the Indochina region by assimilating data on the distribution, conservation status and livelihood values of fishes, molluscs, odonates and aquatic plants, using these to define priority areas for conservation and best practices for management, and linking the results to conservation and sustainable development planning.

Funding: \$299,504
Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 1/31/11
Grantee: International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Assessment of the Status and Distribution of Globally Threatened Plant Species in Indochina

Assess and make available to policymakers up-to-date, scientifically based data on globally threatened plant species in Indochina, train local botanists and conservation biologists in the correct application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, and establish an IUCN/SSC Plant Red List Authority for Indochina with members from all of the key botanical institutions in the region.

Funding: \$452,216
Grant Term: 7/1/09 - 6/30/12
Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden

Increasing In-Country Capacity and Regional Cooperation to Promote Bat Conservation in Cambodia with Particular Reference to *Otomops Wroughtoni*

Assess the status and distribution of the poorly-known Wroughton's free-tailed bat by field research in Chhep District, Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia. During this, enhance the capacity of local communities, students and conservationists in bat research and conservation and raise awareness of the important role bats play in the ecosystem through organizing workshops and targeted outreach in the media.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 5/31/11
Grantee: Harrison Zoological Museum (Harrison Institute)

Conservation Ecology of White-Shouldered Ibis and Local Livelihoods

Assess the population, status and habitat preferences of the Critically Endangered white-shouldered ibis in northern Cambodia, identify threats from and synergies with local community livelihoods, and make recommendations for successful conservation management.

Funding: \$19,999
Grant Term: 1/16/09 - 10/31/09
Grantee: University of East Anglia

Northern Plains of Cambodia Bird Nest Protection Project

Increase important populations of nine globally threatened bird species, particularly waterbirds including ibises and cranes, in the Northern Plains of Cambodia by increasing awareness and extending a successful model of providing financial incentives for local people to locate, monitor and protect bird nest sites.

Funding: \$19,673
Grant Term: 3/11/09 - 3/11/10
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Cambodia Vulture Conservation Project

Protect and monitor the largest Indochinese populations of three Critically Endangered vulture species in north and northeastern Cambodia by providing uncontaminated food, protecting nests and working to ban veterinary use of *diclofenac* (a drug toxic to vultures, which has caused enormous declines elsewhere in their range).

Funding: \$19,730
Grant Term: 3/11/09 - 3/11/10
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Improving Linkages for Collaborative Research and Conservation of Plants in Indochina

Support 20 junior botanists and students from Vietnam to attend the first international symposium of the "Flora of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, thus helping to build a strong network of academics, researchers, conservation professionals and institutions working together to generate scientific knowledge and primary baseline data for sound decision-making on the conservation of threatened plant diversity in Indochina.

Funding: \$4,673
Grant Term: 12/7/08 - 12/12/08
Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden

Community Protection of Eastern Sarus Crane and Its Habitat in Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Cambodia

Conserve a third of the non-breeding Indochinese population of sarus crane at Boeung Prek Lapouv Management and Conservation Area, Takeo Province, Cambodia, by strengthening law enforcement, raising awareness of conservation area boundaries, conducting environmental education, enhancing the capacity of the local community for outreach, and seeking long-term funding sources (through ecotourism and other sources).

Funding: \$19,928
Grant Term: 7/1/09 - 6/30/10
Grantee: Chamroien Chiet Khmer

Conservation Ecology of Bengal Florican in Cambodia

Fill key information gaps for conservation management of the Critically Endangered Bengal florican in Integrated Farming and Biodiversity Areas of the Tonle Sap floodplain, Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia by field research - including satellite tracking - to identify important nesting and non-breeding areas.

Funding: \$18,416
Grant Term: 1/16/09 - 10/31/10
Grantee: University of East Anglia

Awareness and Research Conservation Program for Swinhoe's Soft-Shell Turtle in Vietnam

Conduct surveys and strengthen site-based conservation for the Critically Endangered Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*), including awareness activities that focus on the special cultural importance of this species and its need for conservation. Only four individuals are known in existence globally, with both known wild animals near Hanoi.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 8/1/09 - 7/31/11
Grantee: Cleveland Zoological Society

Moving from Planning to Action to Save the Saola: The First Meeting of the Saola Working Group

Support the first technical meeting of the Saola Working Group in Vientiane, gathering national and international technical expertise from Lao PDR, Vietnam and further afield, to identify and prioritize actions and partnerships, and develop a fundraising strategy to ensure the advancement of saola conservation from discussion and planning to action.

Funding: \$19,794
Grant Term: 7/24/09 - 9/24/09
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature, Lao PDR Country Programme

Development of Educational Materials and Information Focused on the Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkey in Northern Vietnam

Develop focused environmental education materials, training and environmental education activities on Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in local languages, and provide them to students, teachers and local communities to increase understanding of, build pride in and reduce threats to this monkey around Khau Ca Proposed Protected Area, Ha Giang Province.

Funding: \$9,150
Grant Term: 8/1/09 - 12/1/10
Grantee: Center for People and Nature Reconciliation

Conserving Non-breeding Populations of Eastern Sarus Crane at Kampong Trach Wetland, Cambodia

Conserve important Indochinese non-breeding site for sarus crane at Kampong Trach Wetland Important Bird Area in the lower Mekong Delta, Kampot Province, Cambodia, by encouraging involvement of communities in conservation activities, raising environmental awareness, providing livelihood alternatives and promoting designation of the site as a Sarus Crane Conservation Area.

Funding: \$19,990
Grant Term: 7/1/09 - 6/30/10
Grantee: Mlup Baitong

Strategic Direction 3. Key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives engages, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries

Thai Baan Research on Aquatic Species on the Nãng River, Tributary of the Gâm River, Na Hang District, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam

Train and support local communities to document and identify aquatic species on the Nãng river, above the Na Hang dam, thus building the capacity of local people to understand the value of aquatic biodiversity in their area, understand and document ecological changes since dam establishment, and participate in decision-making relating to fisheries, fishing gear and future developments that may affect this river.

Funding: \$19,850

Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 5/31/10

Grantee: Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development

Maximizing CEPF Participation of Civil Society in Thailand

Help local Thai civil society organizations access CEPF support, through translation of key documents and Thai language publicity by radio, cell phone network, national newspapers and Web sites.

Funding: \$1,820

Grant Term: 7/24/09 - 9/11/09

Grantee: Thai Fund Foundation

Raising Awareness of Possible Impacts from Dams on the Srepok, Sesan and Sekong

Raise awareness of communities along the Sekong, Sesan and Srepok rivers in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng provinces, Cambodia, of impending hydropower projects and enable - through meetings and development of a film - voices from communities, livelihood impacts, international conservation values and environmental opportunity costs to be taken into account as part of impact assessments and the decision-making process.

Funding: \$19,910

Grant Term: 6/3/09 - 6/3/10

Grantee: 3S Rivers Protection Network

Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

Madagascar

Strategic Direction 7. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in Madagascar

Consolidating the Node Small Grants Program to Engage Local Actors in Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar

Provide support to ensure the long-term conservation of five newly established protected areas in Madagascar: Daraina-Loky-Manambato; Mahavavy-Kinkony; Ankeniheny-Zahamena; Nosivolo; and Menabe. These sites contain unique terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, which is threatened by unsustainable land-use practices. The Node organizations present in these areas will provide alternative opportunities for the people living in and around these sites to reduce degradation and improve livelihoods.

Funding: \$749,837

Grant Term: 8/1/09 – 6/30/12

Grantee: Conservation International

Strengthening Local Community-Based Resource Management for Tambohorano and Bealanana

Promote the community management of two new protected areas, Tambohorano and Bealanana that support several endemic, endangered and threatened species in conjunction with community-based organizations. In so doing, develop community monitoring and fire management strategies and promote improved fishery management and beekeeping practices to provide alternative, sustainable livelihoods.

Funding: \$150,000

Grant Term: 7/1/09 – 12/31/11

Grantee: The Peregrine Fund, Inc.

Education for Conservation

Develop an environmental education center and associated materials featuring the spiny forests of Madagascar. The center will act as a resource for local schools, community groups and visitors, highlighting the importance of this a unique but rare and threatened habitat and educate people on means to improve land-use practices to protect the forest.

Funding: \$110,000

Grant Term: 7/1/09 – 6/30/11

Grantee: Arboretum d'Antsokay

Support to the Malagasy International Association Vahatra

Reinforce the infrastructure, management and profile of Vahatra through increased technical and financial capacity of this fledgling organization. Make publically available research and conservation science findings in the Journal Malagasy Nature, as well as raise awareness amongst the general public of the importance of the unique fauna and the threats faced.

Funding: \$214,391

Grant Term: 7/1/09 – 6/30/11

Grantee: Field Museum of Natural History

Establishing Comprehensive Baselines, Disseminating Efficient Participatory Management Tools and Stimulating Partners Commitment to the Extension of Managed Resources Protected Areas in Madagascar

Undertake an in-depth assessment of the most effective approaches adopted by stakeholders in establishing community-managed protected areas throughout Madagascar. Define the core roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders as well as the most effective tools to protect natural resources and generate benefits from ecosystem services to communities engaged in sustainable natural resource management.

Funding: \$179,392

Grant Term: 8/1/09 – 7/31/10

Mesoamerica Hotspot

Northern Mesoamerica

Strategic Direction 1. Foster civil society participation in regional decision-making on select policies and investments to promote the conservation and sustainable development of the Selva Maya and the Selva Zoque and Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands corridors

Building a Model for Carbon-Coffee for the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico

Develop a conceptual model and good practices for promoting conservation and shade coffee that maximizes the carbon benefits. This grant calls for bringing experts and practitioners together to examine their experiences, document the lessons learned and propose a model for future replication that can support connectivity throughout Mesoamerica's highlands through the promotion of coffee-carbon projects.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 8/31/09

Grantee: El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Mitigating the Impacts on Biodiversity of Road Construction in the Calakmul Key Biodiversity Area and the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve

Develop and institutionalize a series of best practices aimed at mitigating the negative impacts on biodiversity arising from new road construction in the Calakmul key biodiversity area, and establish a bi-national alliance of Guatemalan and Mexican nongovernmental organizations and government officials to collaborate on mitigating the impacts of road construction in the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve.

Funding: \$171,064

Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/09

Grantee: Pronatura Península de Yucatán Asociación Civil

Sustainable Nature Tourism in the Sierra Madre and Selva el Ocote, Chiapas, Mexico

Promote ecotourism in the Highlands Corridor of Southern Mexico by supporting five community groups located in areas with high value for connectivity to three protected areas. The grant supports local capacity building, exchange of lessons learned, establishment of an alliance, planning and implementation of tourism activities, and marketing.

Funding: \$58,251

Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/09

Grantee: Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo, Asociación Civil

Creating the Category of Indigenous and Communal Natural Areas in the Guatemala Protected Areas Law

Support the design, validation and promotion of community and indigenous reserves as a new category of protection in the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas. Activities will include meetings to design the law, workshops to validate it with local actors and meetings with the Guatemala Protected Areas Agency and Congressional representatives to discuss its approval.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 6/30/09

Grantee: Asociación SOTZ'IL ONG

Strengthening Public Policy to Mitigate the Impacts of Road Development in the Maya Biosphere Reserve through Public Outreach

Prevent the construction of new roads through the Mayan Biosphere Reserve that would introduce new threats, especially the Uaxactlán - Arroyo Negro Road. Key activities and results will include approval of a resolution by the CONAP restricting new roads, public outreach, stakeholder awareness building and collaboration, and cooperation between Mexican and Guatemalan authorities and nongovernmental organizations.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 12/31/09

Grantee: Fundacion Kukulcan

Building Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Enterprises in Northern Mesoamerica

Strengthen local capacity and collaboration among community-based ecotourism enterprises to promote nature tourism in Cuchumatanes, Guatemala and Selva Lacandona, México. Activities include training in good management practices for sustainable tourism and marketing, support for pilot operations, ecotourism certification, participation at international trade fairs, and the exchange of lessons learned among participating partners.

Funding: \$70,870
Grant Term: 11/1/08 - 12/31/09
Grantee: Rainforest Alliance, Inc.

Strengthening Public Policy Related to Forest Fire Management in Belize and Guatemala

Support the establishment of forest fire prevention and control policies in Belize and Guatemala. This grant will result in a needs assessment of management requirements in both countries, stakeholder consultations, draft policy legislation, a fire prevention and control strategy for Belize, and outreach to government authorities and other stakeholders to promote policy and strategy adaption.

Funding: \$141,355
Grant Term: 10/1/08 - 9/30/09
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

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

Securing Official Certification for the Voluntary Conservation of Critical Ecosystems in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico

Conduct baseline technical studies and community outreach in eight sites in Chiapas and Oaxaca to obtain official certification of more than 15,000 hectares for inclusion in Mexico's voluntary land conservation program.

Funding: \$50,000
Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 12/31/09
Grantee: Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica, Asociación Civil

Technical and Community Support to Expand Volcan Tacana Biosphere Reserve in Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico

Expand coverage of the Volcán Tacaña Biosphere Reserve to include the 40,000-hectare Boquerón Biological Corridor in Chiapas. Activities include baseline technical studies, community outreach, mapping and data systematization, and policy support for the enlargement process.

Funding: \$49,976
Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 12/31/09
Grantee: Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil

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

Community Capacity-Building Program for Conservation Leadership at Five AZE Sites in Honduras and El Salvador

Increase community conservation capacity in five Alliance for Zero Extinction sites to protect Critically Endangered amphibians. The expected results include 40 community leaders trained in species conservation, baseline conservation information gathered, community conservation projects launched, and educational material produced and distributed.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 12/31/09

Grantee: SalvaNATURA Fundación Ecológica de El Salvador

Strategy Development to Conserve Critically Endangered Amphibians in Chiapas, Mexico

Support the development of a strategy to address the decline of amphibians in the Mexican state of Chiapas. The grant funds the strengthening of the network of experts and institutions working on amphibian conservation, work with various partners to develop a needs assessment, and development of a species conservation strategy.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 12/1/08 - 12/31/09

Grantee: Instituto de Historia Natural

Mesoamerica Hotspot

Southern Mesoamerica

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

Consolidating Key Management Actions in Indio Maiz Biological Reserve, Nicaragua

Consolidate the conservation results achieved by earlier CEPF grants in Southeast Nicaragua, with a focus on Indio Maiz, by promoting mechanisms for social, institutional and financial sustainability. Activities include promoting several options for sustainable financing of the Southeast Reserve system, further build the capacity of local nongovernmental organizations and government agencies to enhance their engagement in decisionmaking, and training local communities in sustainable development and conservation.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 5/31/10

Grantee: Fundación Amigos del Río San Juan

Consolidation of the Conservation Actions and Management of Biodiversity in Cerro Silva and Punta Gorda Reserves

Consolidate the conservation results achieved by earlier CEPF grants in protected areas of southeast Nicaragua, with a focus on Cerro Silva and Punta Gorda. Activities focus on promoting agreement between stakeholders (particularly between mestizo and Rama-Kriol indigenous communities) on environmental, development and land tenure policies. The project will also consolidate initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the southeast reserves system and promote financial sustainability of these initiatives.

Funding: \$300,000

Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 11/30/11

Grantee: Universidad de las Regiones Autónomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaragüense

Consolidating Civil Society Participation in the Conservation of the La Amistad Biosphere Reserve

Consolidate the conservation results made possible by previous CEPF grants in La Amistad

Biosphere Reserve by promoting mechanisms for institutional, financial and social sustainability. Activities include establishing mechanisms for stakeholder collaboration in the management of La Amistad; mitigating the impacts from infrastructure and development projects; promoting financial sustainability through the establishment of a trust fund and development of economic projects; and further strengthening institutional capacity.

Funding: \$375,000

Grant Term: 4/1/09 - 3/31/12

Grantee: Fundación Para el Desarrollo Integral, Comunitario y Conservación de los Ecosistemas en Panamá

Consolidating the Financial, Institutional and Social Sustainability of the La Amistad Biosphere Reserve, With a Focus on the Indigenous Territories of the Caribbean

Consolidate the results achieved by previous CEPF grants in La Amistad Biosphere Reserve by promoting mechanisms for institutional, financial and social sustainability. In particular, activities will target the Caribbean sector of the biosphere reserve and seek to establish mechanisms for stakeholder collaboration in the management of La Amistad; mitigate the impacts arising from infrastructure and development projects; promote financial sustainability; and strengthen institutional capacity of local organizations.

Funding: \$250,000

Grant Term: 4/1/09 - 4/30/12

Grantee: Asociación de Profesionales y Técnicos Ngobes de Bocas del Toro

Consolidating Local Conservation Capacity in the Biosphere Reserves of Southeast Nicaragua and La Amistad in Panama

Sustain and expand upon the conservation gains achieved by the first phase of CEPF funding by working closely with local partners to build sufficient local organizational and technical capacity within key environmental organizations and partner alliances to allow for their self-sufficiency beyond CEPF funding, ensure greater financial sustainability of efforts started by CEPF and its partners, and promote greater collaboration and participatory decision-making on key development and conservation issues.

Funding: \$303,381

Grant Term: 10/1/08 - 7/31/11

Grantee: Conservation International Foundation

Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Strategic Direction 1. Prevent, control and eradicate invasive species in key biodiversity areas

Developing Long-Term Capacity for Invasive Species Management in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Facilitate the provision by the Pacific Invasives Initiative of up-to-date technical advice and training to organizations implementing projects to mitigate the threats posed by invasive species. This will help projects achieve their conservation and/or livelihoods goals and long-term sustainability. This grant will also consolidate the lessons learned from applying techniques developed in temperate climates to tropical systems and disseminate relevant information.

Funding: \$131,000

Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 8/31/10

Grantee: Auckland UniServices Limited

Resolving an Enigma: Conservation Management of the Fiji Petrel

Improve the conservation of the Fiji petrel (*Pseudobulweria macgillivray*) through locating the nesting burrows of this little known species and assessing threats to its long-term survival from invasive species and other factors. With this knowledge, develop appropriate conservation management measures for this highly threatened, endemic species.

Funding: \$226,934
Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 3/31/11
Grantee: Fiji Nature Conservation Trust

Species Recovery Plan for the Fijian Crested Iguana

Implement the IUCN Crested Iguana Species Recovery Plan that calls for urgent action to reverse this species' population decline and ensure its long-term survival in its natural habitat on Yadua Taba Island. This project will undertake an assessment of the causes of habitat loss, degradation and the impact of invasive species on the crested iguana, as well as conducting research on the ecology of this flagship species for conservation in Fiji.

Funding: \$228,930
Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 6/30/12
Grantee: National Trust for Fiji

Restoration of the Aleipata Islands, Samoa through Management of Introduced Rats and Ants

Improve the status of the threatened native birds and invertebrates on Nu'utele and Nu'ulua islands through the management of Pacific rats and yellow crazy ants. This is a flagship invasive species management project in the Pacific and involves a large number of committed partners with the expectation of significant demonstration value in the region on islands that are a natural sanctuary.

Funding: \$227,898
Grant Term: 5/1/09 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Enhance the Breeding Capacity of the Reintroduced Rimatara Lorikeet on Atiu by Reducing Harassment by Common Myna

Reduce the number of myna birds (*Acridotheres tristis*) on Atiu Island (Cook Islands) to provide a better chance for Kuhl's lorikeet (*Vini kuhlii*) to establish a more robust population and enhance their breeding capability. Myna birds on the island are posing a threat to the survival of the lorikeet, a priority species for CEPF investment in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot.

Funding: \$19,220
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: Te Ipukarea Society

Developing an Effective Resource/Tool for the Prioritization of Management Action Against Invasive Alien Species

Develop a resource/tool to support the prioritization of invasive species management action and facilitate conservation action for the 67 globally threatened species in the 60 Key Biodiversity Areas identified as priorities for CEPF investment.

Funding: \$15,227
Grant Term: 3/1/09 - 10/31/09
Grantee: Auckland UniServices Limited

Documenting an Existing Invasion to Prevent Future Introductions of Non-Indigenous Species in the Island-like Marine Lakes

Assess the impact of the invasive species anemone (*Aiptasia* sp., introduced in 2003) in the Ongeim'l Tketau (or Jellyfish Lake) in Palau. Activities include documenting species biodiversity in invaded and non-invaded portions of the lake, monitoring change in the invasive species range including experimental removal, and increasing public awareness.

Funding: \$17,653
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: Coral Reef Research Foundation, Inc.

Biosecurity Plan for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati

Develop a Biosecurity Plan for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), the world's largest marine protected area, to address pest invasions through illegal boat landings, shipwrecks and visitors. The Government of Kiribati will take the lead role to raise awareness and define quarantine standards for visitors to protect this protected area from invasive species. The PIPA has been nominated as a World Heritage site because of its significant natural heritage values.

Funding: \$16,000
Grant Term: 5/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: Eco Oceania Pty Ltd

Preventing the Spread of Crab-Eating Macaques in the Republic of Palau

Control the introduction of the invasive crab-eating macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) moving to the upland forests of Babeldaob Island identified as a priority site in the CEPF investment strategy. A nationwide macaque census will be conducted to determine the number and location of this species for appropriate planned mechanisms to put in place. Activities also include public awareness programs about the negative environmental and health impacts of the macaques.

Funding: \$19,775
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 7/31/09
Grantee: Palau Conservation Society

Traditional Landowner Protection for Endangered Ratak Imperial Pigeon and Overwintering Bristle-Thighed Curlew in Key Atolls of the Marshall Islands

Promote working with community leaders and traditional landowners in establishing conservation areas on islets and implement recovery plans for the Ratak imperial pigeon (*Ducula oceanica ratakensis*) and migratory bristle-thighed curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*). These are two of the most highly threatened species on Marshall Island because of predation by humans and invasive species.

Funding: \$15,000
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: Marshall Islands Conservation Society

Strategic Direction 2. Improve the conservation status and management of a prioritized set of key biodiversity areas

Fijians for Fijians Forests – Supporting Community-Driven Protected Area Establishment in Fiji

Lead the establishment of community-based conservation agreements in two key biodiversity areas in Mt. Nabukelevu and Natewa Peninsula. Together, these sites are home to seven globally threatened bird species. This project will involve creating community "Site Support Groups" to monitor the bird populations and forest health with technical support from BirdLife.

Funding: \$155,346
Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 5/30/11
Grantee: BirdLife International

Phoenix Islands Protected Area Trust Initiative

Support the establishment of a long-term financing mechanism managed by the PIPA Trust Organization to support the terrestrial and marine resources of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) - the world's largest marine protected area. The project will contribute to sustaining habitat protection and global biodiversity benefit, not only by reducing fishing, but also through restoration, research and monitoring.

Funding: \$84,976
Grant Term: 6/1/09 - 12/31/10
Grantee: New England Aquarium

Evaluating Outcomes of Conservation Actions Across the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Compile data on existing conservation actions and identify biological and socio-economic factors that influenced their management effectiveness to assist decision-makers in identifying sites requiring immediate attention.

Funding: \$6,000
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: Applied Environmental Decision Analysis Centre, The University of Queensland

Strategic Direction 3. Safeguard and restore a prioritized set of threatened species

Developing Model Species Recovery Plans in Tonga

Develop and implement a Community Species Recovery Plan for the Niuafu'ou megapode or Malau (*Megapodius pritchardii*), a Critically Endangered bird and priority species for CEPF support. The success of this recovery plan will demonstrate lessons learned for replication of such a plan for other threatened species in the country.

Funding: \$50,000
Grant Term: 7/1/09 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Tonga Community Development Trust

Building Community Capacity to Achieve Conservation Outcomes for Priority Bat Species in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot: A Pilot Study on Samoa

Develop a model protocol for community capacity building to survey and monitor priority bat species across the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot. Lessons from engaging local partners in assessing bats on Samoa and the possible success of survey techniques are expected to leverage further long-term funding to implement future training in survey and monitoring techniques.

Funding: \$19,996
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 9/30/09
Grantee: Ecosure Pty Ltd

Conservation of the Endangered Fiji Flying Fox on Taveuni Island, Fiji

Undertake field research to enable identification of the Fiji flying fox (*Mirimiri acrodonta*) in the field and develop a species recovery plan. The Critically Endangered species is endemic to the highlands of Taveuni Island.

Funding: \$19,993

Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: NatureFiji-MareqetiVIIti

Capacity Building to Secure Endemic Samoan Swallowtail Butterfly as a Model for Valuing and Conserving Butterflies Distinctive in the Polynesia–Micronesia Hotspot

Conduct an investigation into the existence of the endemic Samoan swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio godeffroyi*) to determine its conservation status. Activities include capacity building for community awareness, habitat study and monitoring.

Funding: \$18,600
Grant Term: 2/1/09 - 1/31/10
Grantee: New Zealand Butterfly Enterprises Ltd.

Tropical Andes Hotspot

Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Strategic Direction 7. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of CEPF investment in the initial 5-year investment period for the region

Strengthening of the Management and Financial Sustainability of Key Protected Areas along the Southern Inter-Oceanic Highway in Madre de Dios, Peru

Mitigate the impacts of the Southern Inter-Oceanic Highway along priority sites in the Peruvian side of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. Support community-based management committees to strengthen governance in the protected areas of Alto Purus, Bahuaja-Sonene and Tambopata. The project also supports two long-term sustainable funding initiatives through the preparation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) projects.

Funding: \$465,000
Grant Term: 7/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: Fondo de las Americas del Peru

Fostering Stakeholder Collaboration and Monitoring the Impacts and the Conservation Actions Around Infrastructure Projects in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Enable effective collaboration at a bi-national scale between high-level policymakers, donors and civil society organizations to mitigate the impacts of infrastructure development in the corridor. Activities include monitoring land-use change (deforestation) associated with road construction and ensuring compliance with safeguard policies within CEPF's portfolio in this region.

Funding: \$250,000
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: Conservation International

Mitigating the Potential Environmental and Social Impacts Generated by the Northern Corridor Road Construction Project in Bolivia

Implement measures to mitigate the potential impacts arising from the construction of the Northern Corridor Road through the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor. Components include supporting civil society participation in the management and monitoring of highway impacts and of other large regional-scale infrastructure schemes, strengthening management capacity and community support of target protected areas, and establishing mechanisms for financial sustainability.

Funding: \$655,000
Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11

Grantee: Fundación Para El Desarrollo Del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

Promoting Civil Society Participation and Field-Level Monitoring to Mitigate the Environmental and Social Impacts of the Peruvian Inter-Oceanic Highway in the Vilcabamba–Amboró Conservation Corridor

Support Peruvian organizations in their efforts to mitigate the impacts emerging from the construction of the Inter-Oceanic Highway through areas of high biodiversity in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor. The project seeks to improve public policies and development plans; conduct a public awareness campaign; and support field-based socioeconomic and environmental monitoring to assess highway impacts.

Funding: \$330,000

Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 6/30/11

Grantee: Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

Strengthening Connectivity Along Peru’s Inter-Oceanic Highway in Madre de Dios through the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Economic Development

Mitigate the impact of the Inter-Oceanic Highway in Madre de Dios, particularly in those biological corridors identified as high priorities for conservation based on their value for hotspot-wide connectivity and proximity to protected areas. This grant will support Brazil nut management and production, agroforestry and livestock management along the Manuripe-Iberia and Puerto Maldonado-Santa Rosa corridors.

Funding: \$235,000

Grant Term: 1/1/09 - 12/31/11

Grantee: Fondo de las Americas del Peru

Impact Mitigation for Biodiversity Conservation in High Risk Areas of the Northern Corridor Highway in Bolivia

Mitigate the impacts stemming from the construction of the Northern Corridor Highway along highly vulnerable segments lying along Pilon Lajas and Madidi protected areas by working with 20 communities to build eco-enterprises, strengthen community capacity and organizations, and introduce and/or strengthen agroforestry for maintaining and expanding forest cover.

Funding: \$250,000

Grant Term: 11/1/08 - 12/31/11

Grantee: Fundación Protección y Uso Sostenible del Medio Ambiente



Jorgen B. Thomsen, *Executive Director, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Senior Vice President, Conservation International*

Engaging Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation



The threats facing our global biodiversity and all its benefits to people have never been clearer. No less clear is the need for united effort to face the challenges.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) unites global leaders to enable civil society participation in protecting the Earth’s biologically richest regions—its biodiversity hotspots. Our unique focus on civil society recognizes the need to engage all stakeholders in addressing the many challenges effectively. The convergence of critical areas for conservation with millions of people who are living in poverty and highly dependent on healthy ecosystems is also more evident in the hotspots than anywhere else.

CEPF is a partnership between Conservation International, the French Development Agency, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Collaboration is the hallmark at all levels of the program, including in the development of each of the program’s regional investment strategies together with stakeholders.

CEPF grants go directly to nongovernmental and private sector organizations to build this vital constituency for conservation alongside governmental partners.

Since its founding in 2000, CEPF has provided \$103 million in grants to more than 1,300 civil society groups in 33 countries to help conserve the natural wealth of the hotspots. Grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives to local and international NGOs. Many grants support community groups and fledgling organizations that are often outside the reach of traditional funding mechanisms.

The work of these civil society groups together with communities and national governments has resulted in significant contributions toward the CBD goal to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at

the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. Among the most recent results is a new community-led way of managing Madagascar’s wetlands and a blueprint

“What could be more fundamental in our vision than the intertwined well-being of humanity and nature with all its life-sustaining services?”

for reversing destruction of Laguna Del Tigre, Guatemala’s largest national park and one of the most critical ecosystems in Mesoamerica.

Overall, key achievements to date include:

- Improved management of 20 million hectares of protected areas, including creation of nearly 10 million hectares of new protected areas
- Introduction of sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes through improved use and management of natural resources, reduction or elimination of harmful practices, and development and adoption of a variety of alternative livelihood opportunities
- Strengthened protection of critical biological corridors through improved land-use planning, collaboration with the private sector and development of supportive policy and legislative frameworks
- Successful piloting of new financing mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services.

While the conservation outcomes are critical to meet the international community’s goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss, the genesis of these results may be the most profound and durable tie to sustainability: a stronger voice, influence

and action by civil societies. Together, these partners are creating strong, local institutions and stewardship of our global biodiversity where it matters most. They are also creating new partnerships working in unity toward this common vision.

Each of us can make a difference, yet together we can do more and, importantly, enable others to join us. This year, CEPF embarked on a major consolidation and expansion that will include more than doubling the number of civil society partners supported through new investments in up to 10 additional hotspots. This new phase focuses on strengthening protection and management of globally significant biodiversity, and increasing local and national capacity to integrate biodiversity conservation into development and landscape planning.

Our emphasis on the direct link between biodiversity conservation and human well-being will continue as well. What could be more fundamental in our vision than the intertwined well-being of humanity and nature with all its life-sustaining services?

In all the critical ecosystems in which we invest, we have worked hand-in-hand with diverse partners and stand ready to further assist in developing and supporting new, innovative approaches to achieve our shared goal of a sustainable future for the benefit of all life on Earth. ♻️