

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

Update on Ecosystem Profiles in Development

Recommended Action:

The Donor Council is asked to **acknowledge** the Update on Ecosystem Profiles in Development for the Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean biodiversity hotspots. The ecosystem profiles for the first two hotspots are expected to be submitted to the Donor Council in early December for review and approval. The Council is asked to **consider** an electronic review and no-objection approval process as per previous ecosystem profiles, or including this as an agenda item for the 15 January 2010 meeting.

Background:

The Donor Council approved five new biodiversity hotspots as priorities for CEPF investment in July 2007 based on the paper “Setting Priorities for Future Investment”¹ as follows:

- Mediterranean Basin;
- Caribbean Islands;
- East Melanesian Islands;
- Eastern Afromontane (incorporating the Horn of Africa as appropriate); and
- Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany.

Two other new priorities for investment are expected to be selected at a later date from among the following hotspots: Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands; Cerrado; Wallacea; Chilean Winter Rainfall-Valdivian Forests; and Mountains of Central Asia.

As part of this decision, the Donor Council agreed that the first regions to undergo ecosystem profiling would be the Mediterranean Basin, Caribbean Islands and Eastern Afromontane. The Council approved the necessary funds to begin profiling in these regions for fiscal year 2009 (July 2008-June 2009) as part of approving the Spending Plan for that same year.

The Council subsequently agreed in February 2009 to replace Eastern Afromontane with Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany in this first round of new profiles. This decision was based on the complexity of Eastern Afromontane, as well as the Mediterranean Basin and Caribbean Islands, and therefore the greater staff time and financial resources that would be required to profile all three of these regions simultaneously.

Conservation International is responsible for development of the ecosystem profiles for the global program and often directly engages other partner organizations in leading or participating in key elements of the process. The profiling always includes a series of consultations and meetings with stakeholders. In this round of profiling, CEPF is also scaling up the analysis of the socioeconomic

¹ Setting Priorities for Future Investment paper,
www.cepf.net/Documents/11_10.settingprioritiesforfutureinvestment.pdf (PDF - 246 KB)

and civil society context and introducing an analysis of climate change and opportunities for civil society to contribute to mitigation and adaptation, as agreed by the Donor Council.

Attached is an update on the profiling preparations to date for the Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean Basin hotspots that began during fiscal year 2009.

Profiling of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot is expected to start later during this current fiscal year, while profiling of the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot is likely to take place in fiscal year 2011.

Caribbean Islands Hotspot:

The Caribbean Islands Hotspot is a complex and diverse region of thousands of islands, mainly in three large groups between North and South America: the Bahamas, the Lesser Antilles and the Greater Antilles (Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba and Hispaniola, which includes the Dominican Republic and Haiti). Politically, it comprises 12 independent nations (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines), as well as French, British, U.S. and Dutch overseas territories or jurisdictions.

The ecosystem profile for this hotspot is in an advanced stage of development by BirdLife International's Caribbean Program in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust/Bath University and the New York Botanic Garden, and with technical support from the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International (CI).

Initial research and analysis by the profiling team at the regional level of easily accessible information sources provided draft biodiversity and thematic priorities that were subsequently reviewed by experts within the hotspot. The profiling process has incorporated regional stakeholder input through national workshops and a regional meeting. For example, workshops were held in Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica during June, coordinated by Grupo Jaragua, Société Audubon Haiti and the BirdLife Caribbean Program. These workshops were attended by almost 100 individuals representing 58 institutions that assisted in analyzing current threats to biodiversity, inventorying conservation and development investment taking place within the region, and defining potential priorities for CEPF investment. A hotspot-wide workshop was held in July on Antigua as part of the 17th Regional Meeting of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds. The meeting was attended by more than 70 experts and contributors who helped discuss a draft investment strategy. Participants also included the CEPF Executive Director and Grant Director for the Caribbean, World Bank representatives, and the Latin America and Caribbean Program Officer for the MacArthur Foundation.

In addition, profile coordinators in Bahamas (Bahamas National Trust), Dominican Republic (Grupo Jaragua), Haiti (Société Audubon Haiti), Jamaica (BirdLife), Lesser Antilles (BirdLife on Barbados) and Puerto Rico (Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña) facilitated gathering of information and review within their own countries. As a result, at least 200 individuals representing more than 160 governmental and nongovernmental institutions have contributed to the development of this ecosystem profile.

A working draft of the profile was shared with the CEPF Working Group and stakeholders in July as part of the preparations for the regional meeting. A refined draft will be discussed at a meeting of the Working Group expected to be held in October 2009 in preparation for finalizing and submitting this profile to the Donor Council by early December 2009 for review and approval.

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot:

The Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot lies along the east coast of southern Africa, extending from southern Mozambique and Mpumalanga Province in South Africa in the north, through eastern Swaziland to the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa in the south.

Approval for profiling to begin in this hotspot during fiscal year 2009 was received from the Donor Council in February, and this profile is now the next most advanced in preparation among the profiles in development.

Work began to develop the profile in April under the leadership of the CI Southern Africa Hotspots Program and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), with technical assistance from the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science. Both the CI regional program and SANBI have expertise, data and experience in southern Africa, including successfully implementing CEPF investment programs in the two neighboring southern Africa hotspots (Succulent Karoo and Cape Floristic Region).

Extensive research, analysis and stakeholder consultations have been undertaken to date, including stakeholder meetings held in Mozambique and South Africa as part of the process. A regional stakeholders meeting is scheduled to be held in Swaziland on 8 October.

A working draft of this profile will be shared with stakeholders and Working Group members in late September as part of the preparations for the regional stakeholders meeting. A refined draft is then expected to be discussed at a meeting of the Working Group in November in preparation for finalizing and submitting this profile in December to the Donor Council for review and approval.

Mediterranean Basin Hotspot:

The largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions, the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot stretches across 2 million square kilometers. Like for the Caribbean Islands, the profiling process in this hotspot is challenging because of the large number of countries occurring in the region. Much care and negotiation has gone into getting the process underway in a participatory and inclusive manner. An initial stakeholder meeting was held in December 2008 at Tour du Valat in France organized by Doğa Derneği, the Turkish Nature Association and BirdLife Partner.

It was concluded that Doğa Derneği, in conjunction with Tour du Valat, should take the lead on coordinating the development of the ecosystem profile for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. The profiling team, which began work earlier this year, will also unite IUCN's network around the Mediterranean combined with the WWF Mediterranean Program's work on woodlands together with Plantlife's Important Plant Areas approach to refine existing data and attempt to recruit additional data where available. This work will be supported in part by funds from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) granted directly to IUCN, in addition to AFD's contribution to this profile as a CEPF donor partner. The Center for Applied Biodiversity Science will also provide technical expertise in developing the key biodiversity areas. Notably, the profiling includes an emphasis on considering how best to integrate marine and freshwater priorities.

The work is primarily divided into four sub-regions: North Africa, Northern Mediterranean, Macaronesia Islands and the Middle East. Profiling partners with rich experience and knowledge at the sub-regional level include Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO, BirdLife in Spain), Sociedade Portuguesa Para O Estudo Das Aves (BirdLife in Portugal), Association Les Amis des Oiseaux (BirdLife in Tunisia) and the BirdLife International Middle East Division. In addition to the extensive research and analysis being undertaken throughout the hotspot, stakeholder workshops are expected to be held in at least three of the sub-regions later this year.

As discussed during the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council, the Secretariat is exploring opportunities for new partners and additional donors in support of the ecosystem profiling process and future investment for this region given its large size and complexity, as well as how donor requirements have resulted in the global program's total profiling costs being capped. To date, fund-raising proposals have been submitted to three European foundations: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the MAVA Foundation and Total Foundation. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation subsequently invited a full proposal for the profiling component of the

original request at this time. The Secretariat submitted the full proposal in early August. The outcome of all three fund-raising proposals is still awaited.

A working draft of this profile is expected to be shared with stakeholders and Working Group members in late November. A refined draft is then expected to be discussed at a meeting of the Working Group in early 2010 in preparation for finalizing and submitting this profile to the Donor Council for review and approval.