

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Sixteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA
15 January 2010
8 a.m. - 11 a.m. EST

Adoption of the Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council

Recommended Action Item:

*The Donor Council is asked to **adopt** the minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council, which took place on 9 September 2009. A draft of the minutes was distributed to the Donor Council on 6 October 2009, and all comments received were incorporated.*

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
9 September 2009

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome and introductions** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/1)
The Chairman welcomed the participants.
2. **Adoption of agenda** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/2)
The agenda was adopted.
3. **Adoption of minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/3)
The Donor Council adopted the minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council, which took place on 10 November 2008.
4. **Follow up to decisions taken at the Fourteenth Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/4)
The Chairman introduced the document providing an update on actions taken in follow up to decisions from the Fourteenth Meeting of the Donor Council. This included completed updates to the Operational Manual to incorporate climate change considerations into the information requirements for future Ecosystem Profiles, and the new Terms of Reference for the External Audit. In addition, the Acting Executive Director highlighted progress in developing a Communications Plan for CEPF's tenth Anniversary in 2010, working with the partners and particularly the Government of Japan as host of the CBD 10 that same year.

The GEF representative asked that a task force of partner representatives be established to help coordinate the partners' communications efforts related to the tenth anniversary and particularly activities that may take place in Japan. The Acting Executive Director agreed to establish the task force and report back on it at the next Donor Council meeting. The Chairman asked Council members to inform the Acting Executive Director of interest in participating. The representative for Japan noted that it is also important to explore possible collaboration opportunities with JICA and other organizations in Japan.

In relation to the new requirements for Ecosystem Profiles related to climate change, several Council members expressed concern that CEPF should maintain its biodiversity focus and not focus too strongly on climate change at the expense of biodiversity and also given the attention paid to climate change by other initiatives and funding. The Acting Executive Director reported that incorporating climate change into the profiles would have a strict focus on and benefit for biodiversity conservation, such as supporting civil society efforts to integrate biodiversity considerations into climate change policies and programs, and could have great importance for ensuring the sustainability of the partnership's results.
5. **Report from the Executive Director** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/5)
The Acting Executive Director highlighted recent activities from her written report on progress since the last meeting of the Donor Council, and briefed the Council members on additional developments. Items discussed included:

- The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has moved forward with its offer to second a staff member to support the CEPF Secretariat, which will further strengthen synergies between the partners. The Ministry has provided a short list of candidates from a public call for applications, the Secretariat has interviews planned and it is expected that the seconded staff person could be in place within the next quarter.
- The Japan Ministry of Environment has invited GEF to give a presentation on GEF and also incorporating CEPF at the upcoming International Dialogue on Biodiversity to be held in Kobe, Japan, which is being organized by the Ministry. The Secretariat is working with GEF on the presentation for the meeting, which is set for mid-October 2009.
- 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. The Secretariat and partners are now assessing both needs and opportunities for consolidation in these regions. Assessments also will be taking place soon in the Caucasus and Northern Mesoamerica regions. The Eastern Himalayas region is now the only active Phase 1 investment region. It will reach the end of its investment period in 2010.
- As of June 30, 2009, the CEPF global portfolio rose to \$113 million in grants, which have leveraged \$221 million in additional funding for conservation in the biodiversity hotspots. The Acting Executive Director noted that a full financial report would be included in the quarterly report to be sent to Council members on or before September 15. The Donor Council Chair directed the Secretariat to provide full financial reports in Council member packets for future meetings, and asked that visuals also be included in the presentations to aid Council members' understanding of the matters under discussion.

The GEF representative suggested CEPF conduct an evaluation in the near future as a tool to demonstrate the impact of CEPF to stakeholders, particularly as part of the CEPF tenth anniversary plans. The Acting Executive Director noted that the program was due for an evaluation in 2011 per its agreement with the World Bank. Council members supported a more immediate, yet streamlined evaluation in conjunction with the tenth anniversary and involving the donor representatives, emphasizing the benefits at this time for communications. The Chairman directed the Secretariat to work on a terms of reference and methodology for such an evaluation and report back to the Council as soon as possible. The representative from the MacArthur Foundation noted that MacArthur is about to conduct a 10-year review of its own grant-making, including its support to CEPF, and said there might be opportunities for cooperation.

6. Overview of consolidation program (Doc. CEPF/DC15/6)

The Acting Executive Director provided an overview of the CEPF Consolidation Program. She noted that regional consolidation portfolios are linked to the program's Global Results Framework and monitoring guided by the CEPF Strategic Framework (FY 2008-2012) and the paper "Overview of Consolidation Approach," which provides a summary of the overarching approach for consolidation in up to 13 regions that benefited from previous CEPF investment.

As of August 2009, three-year consolidation programs have been designed and are being implemented in seven regions for which assessments have concluded:

- 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)

These regional portfolios comprise \$13.3 million in targeted grants, more than \$11 million of which has been committed to date. Consolidation plans are now in development for the Mountains of Southwest China and the Succulent Karoo in Namibia and South Africa. Needs and opportunities are also expected to be explored for at least two other regions: the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, and the Caucasus.

Council members congratulated CEPF on the development of the overall Consolidation Program to date, and particularly noted the importance of the monitoring plans as well as the consolidation program recently moved forward in Madagascar. Regarding Madagascar, they discussed the importance of continuing to support civil society and conservation efforts during this critical time for the nation when most other support has been discontinued.

The Council also discussed ways to potentially assess the impact of the global financial crisis on civil society and known related efforts to date, for example MacArthur had conducted a similar type of assessment focused on how its grant recipients have responded. The MacArthur representative said discussion of such an assessment might be most appropriate at the upcoming meeting of the Environmental Grantmakers Association it would attend.

7. **Update on ecosystem profiles in development for the Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean biodiversity hotspots** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/7)

The Acting Executive Director introduced an update on the ecosystem profiling underway in the Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean Basin biodiversity hotspots and sought guidance on whether the Council would like to review the forthcoming profiles through an electronic, no-objection process or during a meeting of the Council.

The Council acknowledged the update and asked for a presentation and discussion of one of the profiles at the next Donor Council meeting, during which the Council would consider approval of the profile. Subsequent profiles could be submitted for approval through a no-objection process. The Acting Executive Director suggested the Caribbean Islands profile be presented at the next meeting, as it is in the most advanced state of development. The Chair also requested a monthly or bimonthly notice of upcoming profiling events. A representative of Agence Française de Développement noted that such enhanced communication could help develop synergies among the donors and CEPF. He also inquired about the timeline for ecosystem profiling and whether delays would impact grant disbursements.

The Acting Executive Director reported that grant-making in these new regions is expected to commence in the three new regions during this fiscal year as originally planned.

The Council discussed how attending selected CEPF meetings, such as those with stakeholders as part of developing new ecosystem profiles or assessing gains made possible to date, could be an excellent way for partner representatives to further learn about the unique program and impacts. The Acting Executive Director said that Working Group members are

currently provided with regular updates and invitations to attend these types of meetings, and said she would extend those updates to the Council members.

The representative of Conservation International asked how much of the Caribbean Islands profiling involved marine area versus terrestrial area. The Acting Executive Director said that the emphasis is on the terrestrial part of the Caribbean given both the hotspot boundaries and extensive investment underway in the marine realm, however a number of the key biodiversity areas and corridors being focused on in the profiling include important coastal or near shore areas and resources.

The Government of Japan representative noted that it would prefer the Wallacea biodiversity hotspot to be selected as a future investment priority because of Japan's long-time support to Indonesia. Following future profile development in the Eastern Afrotropical and East Melanesian Islands hotspots, the Council expects to select two others at a later date for investment from among the following five hotspots: Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands; Cerrado; Wallacea; Chilean Winter Rainfall-Valdivian Forests; and Mountains of Central Asia.

8. **CEPF Executive Director appointment** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/8)

The Donor Council representative for Conservation International reported that a job description has been developed for the Executive Director position and would be shared with the Council members and posted to solicit interested candidates. He noted that the Acting Executive Director is welcome to apply for the post and that a permanent appointment is hoped to take place by the end of the year. At the suggestion of the World Bank Council representative, he agreed to put together a panel, including donor representatives, to assist in the review of candidates.

9. **Time and place for the next meeting of the Donor Council** (Doc. CEPF/DC15/9)

The Council noted the previously agreed upon date for its next meeting, 15 January 2010, and requested that the Secretariat inform the Council if a reason or opportunity arises for consideration of a location for the meeting other than Washington DC.

10. **Other business**

No other business was discussed.

List of Follow-up Actions:

1. The Secretariat will establish a task force of partner representatives to help coordinate the partners' communications efforts related to the tenth anniversary and particularly activities that may take place in Japan and report back at the next meeting.
2. The Secretariat will provide the Council with a comprehensive financial report in future meetings and incorporate greater use of visuals to aid understanding of the geographies and topics under discussion. In addition, invitations to attend CEPF meetings with stakeholders on developing new investment strategies and assessing gains made possible to date and related information will be extended to Council members.
3. The Secretariat will begin work on terms of reference and methodology for an evaluation and report back to the Council as soon as possible.
4. The Secretariat will present the new ecosystem profile and investment strategy for the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot for consideration at the next meeting of the Council on 15 January 2010. Other ecosystem profiles in development will be submitted for review and approval through an electronic no-objection approval process.
5. Conservation International will develop a process to incorporate donor representatives in the consideration of candidates for the Acting Executive Director post.

List of Attendees

Donor Council Members

James Wolfensohn, Donor Council Chairman

Monique Barbut, CEO	Global	Environment Facility
Pierre Jacquet, Executive Director for Strategy		Agence Française de Développement
Peter Seligmann, CEO and Chairman		Conservation International
Katherine Sierra, Vice President, Sustainable Development		The World Bank
Yasuo Takamura, Alternate Executive Director, Office of the Executive Director, Japan, The World Bank on behalf of Toshinori Doi		Government of Japan
Director of Development Issues, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance		
Jørgen Thomsen, Director, Conservation and Sustainable Development on behalf of Robert Gallucci, President		The MacArthur Foundation

Staff

CEPF

Bobbie Jo Kelso, Acting Executive Director & Senior Director for External Affairs
Julie Shaw, Writer/Editor, External Affairs

Agence Française de Développement

Gilles Kleitz, Project Manager, Environment – Biodiversity

Conservation International

Jennifer Morris, Senior Vice President, Ecosystem Finance

Global Environment Facility

Gustavo Fonseca, Team Leader, Natural Resources

Government of Japan

Motoo Kakihara, Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, Japan, The World Bank

World Bank

Michele de Nevers, Senior Manager, Environment Department
Kathy MacKinnon, Lead Biodiversity Specialist and CEPF Task Team Leader