

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

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

Executive Director Report

For Information Only:

The Acting Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council on 9 September 2009. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Approved Grants (15 August 2009 – 1 December 2009)

A financial summary is also included.

Program Overview

Hotspot strategies implemented:	18
Countries and territories covered within those hotspots:	51
Partners supported:	1,500+
Committed grants:	\$116 million
Amount leveraged by those grants:	\$222 million

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Summary Fund Statement
As of September 30, 2009**

Revenue	Cumulative
Grants and Contributions	\$210,386,650
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Exchange	1,888,006
Interest Earned	<u>1,956,822</u>
Total Revenue	214,231,479
Expenses	
Grants	116,111,639
Ecosystem Profile Preparation	7,576,812
External Evaluation and Compliance Audit	344,653
Operations	<u>20,005,668</u>
Total Expenses	144,038,772
	<u>\$70,192,707</u>
FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD CONSISTING OF:	
Cash Net of Amount Due to/from CI	\$33,654,669
Accounts Receivable	51,873,558
Grants Payable	<u>(15,335,521)</u>
Fund balance at end of the period	<u>\$70,192,707</u>

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Summary Fund Statement

As of September 30, 2009

Revenue	Total	Cumulative Total
Grants and Contributions	-	210,386,650
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Exchange	-	1,888,006
Interest Earned	-	1,956,822
Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ 214,231,479
Expenses		
Grants: *		
Atlantic Forest	(377,878)	10,015,144
Cape Floristic Region	(17,785)	7,623,377
Caucasus	-	8,498,255
Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests	-	7,113,233
Eastern Himalayas	45,299	4,591,054
Guinean Forests of West Africa	-	8,266,611
Indo-Burma	978,414	2,880,063
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands	1,403,620	5,573,422
Mountains of Southwest China	-	6,535,418
Northern Mesoamerica	(632)	7,223,267
The Philippines	-	6,970,399
Polynesia-Micronesia	263,853	2,418,867
Southern Mesoamerica	-	6,739,253
Succulent Karoo	(17,624)	7,868,460
Sundaland	-	9,901,465
Tropical Andes	-	8,314,972
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	-	4,953,378
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	-	625,000
	2,277,266	116,111,639
Ecosystem Profile Preparation	58,786	7,576,812
External Evaluation and Compliance Audit	-	344,653
Operations	420,211	20,005,668
	478,997	27,927,133
Total Expenses	\$ 2,756,264	\$ 144,038,772
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	(2,756,264)	\$ 70,192,707
Fund balance at beginning of the year	72,948,970	
Fund balance at end of the period	\$ 70,192,707	
FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE CURRENT PERIOD CONSISTING OF:		
Cash Net of Amount Due to/from CI		33,654,669
Accounts Receivable		51,873,558
Grants Payable		(15,335,521)
Fund balance at end of the period		\$ 70,192,707

* Negative amounts on grants represent grant deobligations

CEPF Summary Fund Statement

Grant Summary

Inception through September 30, 2009

Spending Category: Grants

<u>Funding Region</u>	<u>Funding Phase I</u>	<u>Funding Phase II</u>	<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>Available Resources*</u>	<u>%</u>
Atlantic Forest	7,615,144	2,400,000	10,015,144	10,400,000	96%
Cape Floristic Region	5,973,672	1,649,705	7,623,377	7,649,705	100%
Caucasus	8,498,255	0	8,498,255	8,500,000	100%
Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests	7,113,233	0	7,113,233	7,000,000	102%
Eastern Himalayas	4,591,054	0	4,591,054	5,000,000	92%
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,167,257	2,099,354	8,266,611	8,299,354	100%
Indo-Burma	0	2,880,063	2,880,063	9,500,000	30%
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands	4,169,802	1,403,620	5,573,422	5,850,000	95%
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535,418	0	6,535,418	6,500,000	101%
Northern Mesoamerica	7,223,267	0	7,223,267	7,300,000	99%
The Philippines	6,970,399	0	6,970,399	7,000,000	100%
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	2,418,867	2,418,867	7,000,000	35%
Southern Mesoamerica	5,410,872	1,328,381	6,739,253	7,128,381	95%
Succulent Karoo	7,868,460	0	7,868,460	8,000,000	98%
Sundaland	9,901,465	0	9,901,465	10,000,000	99%
Tropical Andes	6,129,972	2,185,000	8,314,972	8,335,000	100%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,953,378	0	4,953,378	6,950,000	71%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	0	625,000	625,000	4,500,000	14%
Consolidation (unallocated)				6,487,560	
Total Ecosystem Grants	<u>99,121,649</u>	<u>16,989,990</u>	<u>116,111,639</u>	<u>141,400,000</u>	<u>82%</u>

*Available resources = approved spending authority, plus approved and allocated consolidation funding

Quarterly Partnership Highlights

The Working Group met on 15 October 2009 and 18 November 2009 to review draft ecosystem profiles for the Caribbean Islands and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspots.

At the October meeting, David Wege of BirdLife International's Caribbean Program gave a presentation on the process and draft ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot developed by BirdLife in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Bath University, the New York Botanical Garden and Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science. At the November 18 meeting, Sarah Frazee, director of CI's Southern Africa Hotspots Program, gave a presentation on the process and draft profile for Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany developed by the program together with the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute. The ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot is presented for review and approval by the Donor Council under Agenda Item #6. The profile for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot is expected to be submitted to the Donor Council for no-objection approval by mid February 2010.

Two workshops were held with stakeholders in December 2009 as part of developing the ecosystem profile for the Mediterranean Basin. The first stakeholder workshop held in Istanbul, Turkey on 1-2 December was organized by Doga Dernegi, which is leading the profiling effort. The meeting served to introduce CEPF to relevant actors and experts in the Balkan States, the Middle East sub-regions and Cape Verde and enabled the participants to review and help further strengthen key biodiversity areas and corridors proposed, threats and conservation actions needed. Participants also were asked to contribute to the development of CEPF's investment strategy by examining information on threats and conservation actions, and proposing themes for the strategic directions and investment priorities. The second workshop was held for the North Africa sub-region in Kenitra, Morocco on 6-7 December as part of a meeting on the Strengthening Waterbird and Wetland Conservation Capacities in North Africa (WetCap) project sponsored by the Spanish Agency on International Development Cooperation. The profiling team is also capitalizing on a number of other planned events to consult with stakeholders about needs and opportunities in the region. A final, region-wide stakeholder consultation for this profile is expected to take place in March 2010.

CEPF was also a focus at two recent events hosted by donor partners.

- GEF and CEPF were among the topics discussed at the International Dialogue on Biodiversity hosted by the Japan Ministry of Environment in Kobe, Japan in October 2009. The objective of the event was to facilitate international biodiversity-related discussions on key issues in the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity's 10th Conference of the Parties, also to be hosted by the Government of Japan, in October 2010. At the Ministry's request, Mark Zimsky, GEF program manager and senior biodiversity specialist, gave a presentation about GEF and CEPF.
- CEPF joined representatives from the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP on 9 November 2009 at the GEF Secretariat for a panel discussion on challenges, lessons learned and opportunities for civil society inclusion in GEF projects. The discussion was part of a day-long meeting to examine strengthening the participation of civil society under the fifth replenishment of the GEF. Representing CEPF, Grant Director Michele Zador noted how CEPF is an example of how GEF is currently supporting civil society. Ms. Zador discussed the wealth of experience and lessons learned CEPF offers on how to successfully channel funding to organizations representing diverse civil society groups

that possess varying levels of capacity. She also pointed out that CEPF has helped build robust networks of local civil society groups that have gained valuable experience working with international donors and could be natural recipients of future GEF support.

Featured New Grants

CEPF awarded 49 new grants during the period. Those grants include, for example:

- In the Indo-Burma Hotspot, grantee POH KAO des Tigres et des Hommes will conduct environmental awareness-raising and implement pilot conservation agreements in the Voeun Sai and Siem Pang districts in the Ratanakiri and Stung Treng provinces of northeast Cambodia. The organization aims to secure commitment by local communities to wildlife and forest conservation in return for agreed livelihood activities and development benefits.
- Grantee Arulagam, based in Tamil Nadu, India, will work to build a grassroots constituency to conserve the Moyar River in the Mysore-Nilgiri Corridor in the Western Ghats region. The organization's will develop support for conservation of riverine habitats along the River Moyar among local communities and create a basis for incorporating biodiversity values into local development planning. To this end, Arulagam will identify and train local partners at the grassroots level, provide them with firsthand experience of biodiversity and socioeconomic studies, and assist them to develop "micro-plans" for conservation action, which would facilitate community engagement in conservation.

A full list of new grants approved since the last Donor Council meeting is included in this report.

From the Field

Workshops were held in the Caucasus biodiversity hotspot and the Northern Mesoamerica region as part of assessing the results of the five-year CEPF investment in these regions.

WWF Caucasus hosted a stakeholders' workshop in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia on 28-29 September 2009 as part of assessing the CEPF investment in the Caucasus Hotspot. More than 40 people participated, including grantees from each of the countries where grants were funded, as well as representatives of the CEPF Secretariat, Conservation International and the World Bank. The Caucasus Hotspot spans 580,000 square kilometers of mountains in Eurasia, between the Black and Caspian seas, and it includes all of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the North Caucasus portion of the Russian Federation, northeastern Turkey and part of northwestern Iran.

With CEPF support, grantees in the hotspot achieved:

- Expansion of the regional protected area system by 83,093 hectares through creation of new protected areas and expansion of existing ones.
- Protection proposed for a further 194,443 hectares, with planning well advanced and proposals submitted to relevant government bodies.
- Strengthened management of more than 17 protected areas, with a total area of more than 1.2 million hectares.
- Conservation actions implemented for 47 of the 50 priority species.
- Global threat assessments conducted of all vascular plants, mammals and amphibians endemic to the Caucasus Hotspot.

- Initiation and strengthening of transboundary cooperation, including joint working groups, joint training courses, and exchange programs.
- Strengthened capacity of civil society to become directly involved in biodiversity conservation activities, including the creation of a regional platform to involve civil society in implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy in the southern Caucasus, and the emergence of the Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds as a fully fledged NGO.
- Establishment of a regional biodiversity monitoring network with common monitoring indicators, data sharing and dissemination protocols, and model monitoring plans.
- Raised public environmental awareness, with a special focus on biodiversity values and conservation issues, resulting in changes to development plans and policies, such as the rerouting of a highway to minimize impact on Armenia's Shikahogh Nature Reserve.
- Development of alternative livelihoods for local communities, including honey production, ecotourism and fruit orchards.
- Demonstration of various approaches for sustainable natural resource use, including sustainable forestry demonstration plots in Armenia and an integrated river basin management plan for the Firtina Valley in Turkey.
- National, regional and international partnerships enabled to support biodiversity conservation, including the Caucasus Biodiversity Council, whose semi-annual meetings are attended by representatives from all six Caucasian countries.
- Leveraging of more than \$22 million for conservation activities in the hotspot, more than matching the CEPF investment.
- Attainment of 71 percent of the medium-term targets of the Ecoregional Conservation Plan of the Caucasus.

On 20-21 October 2009, more than 60 environmental specialists and government authorities from Belize, Guatemala and Mexico gathered in Antigua, Guatemala to discuss the impacts achieved by CEPF grant recipients in Northern Mesoamerica during CEPF's investment there. The region, part of the Mesoamerica Hotspot, includes parts of northwest Belize, El Salvador, north and central Guatemala, Honduras and the southern Mexican states of Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco and Yucatan.

With CEPF support, achievements by grantees working closely with government counterparts, other organizations and communities included:

- Improved management of 963,505 hectares located in eight protected areas, including the realization of significant reductions in the incidence of forest fires and agricultural encroachment.
- Adoption of 11 policies in support of mainstreaming conservation into development policy at the local, state and national levels in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico. Through policy analysis, stakeholder consultations, media and community outreach, training and technical assistance, local civil society groups gained important new capacities that allowed them to work collaboratively with local and federal agencies to strengthen public policies. Grant partners achieved important policy results in forest fire management, nature tourism, road development, and protected areas management. In Guatemala, for example, CEPF funding provided the basis for the National Council of Protected Areas to issue a decree prohibiting the construction of new roads in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a wilderness area of more than 2.1 million hectares.
- A total of 170 communities benefited directly from CEPF projects across a broad array of activities, including forest fire control, park management implementation, carbon credits from conservation coffee, sustainable agriculture, watershed management and ecotourism.

- Nine multi-stakeholder collaborative networks were established and/or strengthened at various levels of decisionmaking and on numerous topics, signaling a new approach to conservation in a region which historically has been characterized by isolated and fragmented approaches to conservation.
- Leverage of \$38.3 million. Several important sustainable financing schemes emerged, including a \$24 million debt-for-nature swap in Guatemala, a pilot project linking carbon credits with conservation coffee, and a water fund bringing together conservation financing with the provision of water.

Full reports on the assessments for both regions are expected to be completed in January 2010. Drafts of these reports were also shared with Donor Council and Working Group members prior to the assessment workshops.

During the reporting period, two new protected areas were established in the Caucasus, bringing the total numbers of hectares newly protected with CEPF support to 83,093 in the hotspot as reported above. With CEPF support, two civil society organizations helped the government of Armenia establish the two new protected areas—Arevik National Park and Zangezur Sanctuary—that will not only help globally threatened species survive, but will also protect water resources and provide ecotourism opportunities for nearby communities. Both parks are in the southernmost region of Armenia, and their establishment was among the targets for CEPF’s five-year investment in the Caucasus Hotspot. Grantee Ecotourism Association Public Organization helped the government set up the protected area at Arevik, about 34,000 hectares on the borders with Iran and Azerbaijan. Its diverse ecosystems include broad-leaf forest, Juniper open woodlands, subalpine and alpine meadows, semidesert and mountain steppes. It is home to the Caucasian leopard, Vulnerable Bezoar goat, brown bear, lynx and wild cat, in addition to more than 1,500 species of vascular plants. Grantee Khustup Nature Protection NGO helped the government establish Zangezur at 17,368 hectares, on the border with Azerbaijan. It includes subalpine and alpine meadows and high mountain lakes, and is home to endemic, rare and threatened flora and fauna species including the Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat and the Armenian mouflon. Establishment of the two protected areas simultaneously creates a strong basis for developing ecological network in the South Caucasus. Working with community leaders, the Fund for Biodiversity Conservation of the Armenian Highland is providing financial support to the villages surrounding these areas to launch new, sustainable sources of income. Each village, in turn, plays a key role with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the government of the Syunik region. The new protected areas also create new opportunities for transboundary cooperation between Armenia and its neighbors.

In other news also related to the assessment results, in the Mesoamerica Hotspot, CEPF grantee Fundación Kukulcan in Guatemala developed and aired a series of radio advertisements outlining the threats to resources and livelihoods associated with building new roads in the Maya Forest. The Maya Forest is the largest contiguous tropical forest in the Americas north of the Amazon and is home to a large concentration of ancient Mayan cities. Kukulcan has also been meeting with authorities at all levels in Guatemala regarding potential road projects in the Maya Forest. It produced a video that promotes prevention of road construction in the forest, and has shown it to government officials, school students, local organizations and other key actors. The group’s efforts, combined with those of other CEPF grantees and Conservation International, resulted in a declaration issued by the Guatemalan Council of Protected Areas, the ultimate authority on the Maya Biosphere Reserve, prohibiting the construction of a network of roads through the large protected area. This decision came despite strong pressure to build the roads to develop the tourism sector in northern Guatemala and southern Mexico.

Finally, as part of CEPF's efforts to facilitate the sharing of conservation information, a grant supporting the *Journal of East African Natural History* helped the peer-reviewed scientific journal continue providing research data and a means for increased understanding of the ecosystems of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forest region of Africa, as well as other areas. It also helped the journal establish a new stream of revenue to help it achieve long-term sustainability. With the CEPF support, the journal was able to establish itself as a full electronic publication, making abstracts and full issues between 1994 and 2004 available for free to all, and those from 2005 onward available via a subscription that is free to developing countries through the Online Access to Research in the Environment initiative. The journal also joined electronic aggregator BioOne, which provides participants with revenue via library subscription receipts and downloads. Information published in the journal can now be found much more easily through search engines and professional databases, and the number of citations per year has doubled over the course of the past two years.



Approved Grants
15 August 2009 – 1 December 2009

Eastern Himalayas Region

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

Community-Initiated Red Panda Conservation Project in North-East Region of Sankhuwasabha District in Eastern Nepal, Himalaya

Improve red panda conservation through the increased involvement of communities in the Makalu Barun area of Nepal. This includes community capacity building, incorporation of red panda conservation into community forest operation plans, scientific and community-based surveys to identify red panda priority areas and promotion of conservation-friendly livelihood opportunities.

Funding: \$45,300
Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 11/30/10
Grantee: The East Foundation

Indo-Burma

Indochina Region

Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats

Assessing the Taxonomic Validity of Lowe's Otter Civet

Assess the validity of Lowe's otter civet (*Cynogale lowei*) through comparative review of pertinent specimens with related museum specimens in Vietnam, England and Singapore, including microscopic hair analysis and DNA analysis, in order to provide clear, evidence-based recommendations to the IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Group and Vietnamese government authorities, and to guide decisionmaking for donors currently listing this as a priority species for funding.

Funding: \$5,039
Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 2/28/11
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Conserving a Suite of Cambodia's Highly Threatened Bird Species

Secure core populations of a suite of globally threatened bird species at four sites in Cambodia through a series of innovative conservation interventions focusing on providing direct incentives to local communities, namely payments for birds' nest protection, improved value-chains for "wildlife-friendly" produce and ecotourism development. Strengthen the capacity of local

organizations to engage in long-term conservation efforts for these species.

Funding: \$699,125
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 6/30/13
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Improving Wildlife Law Enforcement in Cambodia to Protect CEPF Priority Species from Overexploitation and Illegal Wildlife Trade

Address the cross-border trade of wildlife from Cambodia into Vietnam by facilitating inter-agency collaboration and information exchange and supporting the establishment of a Coordination Unit for the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network focal point to allow Cambodia to participate more effectively in regional and global initiatives to combat illegal wildlife trade.

Funding: \$99,291
Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 1/31/11
Grantee: Wildlife Alliance, Inc.

Measuring the Effectiveness of Conservation Interventions for White-Shouldered Ibis in Cambodia

Improve knowledge of the ecology of the Critically Endangered white-shouldered ibis in northern Cambodia and make recommendations for conservation management, particularly focusing on factors influencing the species' patchy distribution, nest failures and effectiveness of nest protection, and positive and negative influences of local livelihoods on ibis habitat requirements.

Funding: \$13,943
Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 10/31/10
Grantee: University of East Anglia
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Research and Conservation Action for Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Indo-Burma

Materially improve the conservation outlook for several of Indo-Burma's most threatened tortoise and freshwater turtle species by undertaking high-priority conservation actions, including protecting the remaining habitat of Vietnamese pond turtle; identifying priority sites for the conservation of Indochinese box turtle; increasing the protection of mangrove terrapin breeding sites through community ranger programs; and enhancing protection under national laws.

Funding: \$154,950
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/12
Grantee: Cleveland Zoological Society

Safeguarding Vietnam's Douc Langur Population through Conservation and Sustainable Ecotourism

Implement priority conservation actions for a core population of red-shanked douc langur at Son Tra Nature Reserve, Vietnam, by promoting sustainable tourism, including certification of tour guides, and reinforcing protection measures. Determine the status of douc langur populations at a second protected area, Chu Mom Ray National Park, and assess the feasibility of conservation action for them.

Funding: \$40,773
Grant Term: 1/1/10 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Douc Langur Foundation

Strengthening Public Participation in Tackling the Wildlife Trade in Vietnam

Mobilize Vietnamese citizens to participate in efforts to tackle the wildlife trade, encourage and support enforcement by government agencies, and work with government leaders to strengthen

the application of wildlife protection laws by strengthening a national wildlife trade hotline, developing a national volunteer network, building the capacity of staff and trainers, and securing long-term financing from corporate and membership donations.

Funding: \$167,556
Grant Term: 1/1/10 - 12/31/12
Grantee: Education for Nature-Vietnam

Wildlife–Human Friendly Landscape in Northeast Cambodia: Agricultural Development and Awareness for Forest and Wildlife Protection in a Key Biodiversity Area in Northeast Cambodia

Conduct environmental awareness-raising and pilot conservation agreements in Voeun Sai and Siem Pang districts in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng provinces of northeast Cambodia, with the aim of securing commitment by local communities to wildlife and forest conservation in return for agreed livelihood activities and development benefits.

Funding: \$19,998
Grant Term: 10/27/09 - 10/27/10
Grantee: POH KAO des Tigres et des Hommes
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

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

Balancing Conservation and Development in the Northern Highlands Limestone through Policy Dialogue, Capacity Development and Regional Planning: Phase I

Mainstream biodiversity into development planning in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor by identifying policy issues and options and initiating dialogue between local government and relevant stakeholders on alternative development scenarios in two pilot provinces, building relationships with local government and civil society in three other provinces, and enhancing the role of a local research center as a regional information hub.

Funding: \$99,469
Grant Term: 8/1/09 - 7/31/10
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature

Biodiversity and Development of the Hydropower Sector: Lessons from the Vietnamese Experience

Collate information on effects of hydropower development on biodiversity in Vietnam to produce a set of educational and guidance materials on mainstreaming biodiversity issues into hydropower sector development, including the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment, and then disseminate these materials to civil society groups, relevant government authorities and key hydropower project donors throughout the Indo-Burma region.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 12/1/09 - 4/30/10
Grantee: International Centre for Environmental Management
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Building Awareness and Capacity to Reduce the Illegal Cross-Border Trade of Wildlife from Vietnam to China

Achieve a demonstrable reduction in the illegal cross-border trade of wildlife from Vietnam to China by implementing a targeted program of training, outreach and awareness-raising in a key

border province aimed at strengthening capacity and building political will. The project will directly target the main driver of overexploitation in the hotspot and build a constituency for conservation among civil society.

Funding: \$106,719
Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 8/31/11
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Raising Concerns – Reducing Impacts: Providing Inputs to Local Development Policies Related to Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Engaging the Media

Promote sustainable development and good governance in the Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor of Vietnam by engaging the media to investigate the impacts of development policies and projects on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will organize field-based trainings for journalists, support them to undertake regular investigative missions and disseminate the findings through national and local media and a policy workshop.

Funding: \$104,670
Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 8/31/12
Grantee: Center for People and Nature Reconciliation

River at Risk: Modeling and Monitoring the Potential Impacts from Large-scale Disruptions to the Hydrological Cycles of the Mekong River Basin

Broaden partnerships and improve joint-planning among the University of Canterbury, Conservation International, Mekong River Commission and other key stakeholders interested in modeling and monitoring potential hydrological changes owing to hydropower development on the Mekong River and its major tributaries.

Funding: \$6,000
Grant Term: 11/2/09 - 11/23/10
Grantee: University of Canterbury, Dept. of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

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

Habitat Restoration of Priority Islands in the Phoenix Islands Protected Area

Improve the breeding success of indigenous seabirds on Orona, Enderbury and Birnie Islands in the Phoenix Island Protected Area by eliminating invasive species. Also enact measures that keep these important seabird breeding sites pest-free in perpetuity. The lessons learned from these activities will be published and assist in improving pest management techniques on other tropical islands.

Funding: \$132,000
Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 12/31/10
Grantee: Pacific Expeditions, Limited

Holding the Lines — Restoration of the Northern Line Islands, Kiribati

Assist the Government of Kiribati's Line and Phoenix Islands Wildlife Conservation Unit to implement established conservation and management recommendations in a comprehensive and integrated approach to restore the ecology of Northern Line Islands; a key biodiversity area with globally significant sea bird colonies. This project will help improve quarantine controls and

address urgent threats from invasive species.

Funding: \$165,000

Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11

Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Workshop to Develop a Biocontrol Strategy for the Pacific

Bring together key people from the Pacific and international organizations to discuss possible approaches and ideas in developing a bio-control strategy for the Pacific region. It is expected that the workshop will produce a list of invasive species in the Pacific suitable for biocontrol because other control methods are inadequate or not cost effective.

Funding: \$15,000

Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 2/28/10

Grantee: Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

The Sustainable Management of Rarotonga Flycatcher and its Habitat

Ensure the conservation of the endangered kakerori (*Pomarea dimidiata*) through continuing core scientific monitoring and undertake activities to safeguard this flagship species in the Takitimu Conservation Area, Cook Islands. The project will also assist in establishing a trust fund for long-term sustainable funding of the kakerori and its habitat.

Funding: \$87,200

Grant Term: 9/1/09 - 8/30/12

Grantee: Te Ipukarea Society

Strategic Direction 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Community Turtle Conservation and Monitoring Network

Support a learning exchange by representatives of community groups to experience the successful community turtle monitoring program by the Vanua-Tai Resource Monitors Network. This project will allow the representatives from two Fijian communities to learn from the Vanua-Tai's long experience in turtle monitoring. The two groups will share experiences and approaches, as well as resolve questions on sustainable use of marine resources.

Funding: \$35,255

Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 12/31/10

Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Leading the Recovery of Two of Samoa's Most Threatened Bird Species, the Tooth-Billed Pigeon (manumea) and the Mao (ma'oma'o), through Ecological Research to Identify Current Threats

Implement the recovery plans for two Endangered flagship Samoan bird species, the tooth-billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the ma'oma'o (*Gymnomyza samoensis*). Identify current threats through ecological research and engage the local communities to participate in the development of village management regimes for the conservation of these endemic bird species.

Funding: \$176,653

Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 12/31/12

Grantee: David Butler Associates Ltd

Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Hotspot

Western Ghats Region

Strategic Direction 1. Action by diverse communities and partnerships enabled to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and to enhance connectivity in the target corridors.

Bridging the Shencottah Gap: How Payments for Ecosystem Services Can Restore Biodiversity outside Protected Areas in India

Catalyze payments for ecosystem services mechanisms to strengthen ecological connectivity across the Shencottah Gap within the Periyar-Agastiyamalai Corridor. Identify critical linkages for wildlife movement across the gap, and then target payments to private landholders and community groups to restore, enhance and secure wildlife habitats within them. Monitor the effectiveness of these mechanisms, leverage funding to ensure sustainability and promote replication elsewhere.

Funding: \$499,443

Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/12

Grantee: Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning

Building a Grassroots Constituency to Conserve the River Moyar in the Mysore-Nilgiri Corridor

Build a constituency for conservation of riverine habitats along the River Moyar among local communities and create a basis for incorporating biodiversity values into local development planning by identifying and training local partners at the grassroots level, training and providing them with firsthand experience of biodiversity and socio-economic studies, and assisting them to develop "micro-plans" for conservation action.

Funding: \$40,756

Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 9/30/11

Grantee: Arulagam

Capacity Building of Forest-Dependent Communities through Organic Farming in Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary of North Kanara District, Karnataka, India

Identify major native species threatened by intensive chemical agriculture on selected farms in and around Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and assess the positive effect of organic farming on endemic biodiversity. Project also aims to document indigenous agricultural knowledge in reducing the effect of chemicals on flora and fauna, while promoting organic farming with active participation of stakeholders, and to minimize the use of in-organic inputs to crops

Funding: \$3,615.99

Grant Term: 12/01/09 – 11/30/10

Grantee: Ganapati Bhat

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Conservation Plan for Securing Selected Elephant Corridors in Southern Western Ghats

Facilitate the conservation of critical elephant corridors within the Mysore-Nilgiri Corridor by evaluating the current status of each corridor, assessing local communities' dependence on them, monitoring usage by elephants and other animals, and preparing plans for securing them. Fix signage along each corridor to inform people about their importance, advise them how to minimize impacts on elephants and warn drivers.

Funding: \$45,000
Grant Term: 12/1/09 - 5/31/11
Grantee: Wildlife Trust of India

Conserving Native Trees in the Coffee Agroforestry Landscape of Kodagu

Identify strategies that would enable farmers to conserve native trees within privately owned coffee estates in Kodagu that harbor a high diversity of tree species, even though economic and legal constraints are driving farmers to reduce native tree cover. Other project outcomes include production of scientific articles and development of linkages between stakeholders.

Funding: \$9,979
Grant Term: 10/01/09 – 07/31/10
Grantee: Cheryl Dwarka Nath
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Critical Links – Forging Community-Civil Society Partnerships to Enhance Connectivity in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor

Enhance ecological connectivity in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor by establishing a network of nongovernmental organizations to jointly develop and implement a plan of action for restoring connectivity, and use the "conservation agreements" approach to develop and implement innovative models for community-based conservation that create a steady stream of benefits for local people at Koyna and Chandoli wildlife sanctuaries and Amboli Reserve Forest.

Funding: \$151,010
Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 7/31/12
Grantee: Applied Environmental Research Foundation

Empowering Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations in Using Environmental Impact Assessment Process as a Conservation Tool in the Western Ghats

Empower local communities and civil society groups in the Western Ghats to address the negative environmental impacts of development projects by strengthening their capacity to engage in the EIA process; monitoring and challenging EIA reports; conducting alternative "Citizens' EIAs;" responding to issues of urgent concern for communities and groups impacted by faulty EIAs; and establishing a network of interested groups.

Funding: \$52,920
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11
Grantee: Environics Trust

Fostering Sustainable Agriculture Practices for Conservation of Tropical Biodiversity in Plantation Landscapes of Western Ghats

Demonstrate a market-based approach to enhancing ecological connectivity while safeguarding agricultural production by introducing the Rainforest Alliance's "Sustainable Agriculture Standard" into tea and coffee estates in the Anamalai and Mysore-Nilgiri corridors, raising awareness and promoting adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, and developing a set of local indicators that adapts the Sustainable Agriculture Standard to the context of the Western Ghats.

Funding: \$115,300
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11
Grantee: Nature Conservation Foundation

Fostering Sustainable Agriculture Practices for Conservation of Tropical Biodiversity in Plantation Landscapes of Western Ghats

Demonstrate a market-based approach to enhancing ecological connectivity while safeguarding

agricultural production by introducing the Rainforest Alliance's "Sustainable Agriculture Standard" into tea and coffee estates in the Anamalai and Mysore-Nilgiri corridors, forging linkages between producers in the Western Ghats and sustainability-conscious companies in the international market, and approaching domestic retailers to promote a domestic market for certified tea and coffee.

Funding: \$84,700
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11
Grantee: Rainforest Alliance

Grassland and Shola Research and Restoration of the Palni Hills

Evaluate the status and restore three high altitude patches of forest land in Palni Hills presently occupied by invasive monocultures of eucalyptus and wattle, with an objective to create habitat for native biodiversity, especially Nilgiri tahr, while exposing the hill communities to biodiversity conservation and restoration that can provide vital resources and income. The project also aims to research and identify suitable pioneer native species that can replace invasive wattle.

Funding: \$19,465
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 11/30/10
Grantee: Palni Hills Conservation Council
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Hill Biodiversity and Indigenous People: The God of Small Ecosystems

Channel local interest in the biodiversity of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve toward addressing conservation issues through establishing a Nilgiris Natural History Society, implementing activities through the society with direct conservation benefits to local communities (including conservation awards, protection of sacred groves, nature interpretation sites and conservation villages) and developing a hub for outreach, training and extension in biodiversity conservation.

Funding: \$199,845
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11
Grantee: Keystone Foundation

Identifying Critical Areas for a Landscape-Level Wildlife Corridor in Uttara Kannada District (Northern Part of Malnad-Kodagu Corridor to Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor) of Central Western Ghats

Assess conservation priority areas in the northern part of Malnad-Kodagu Corridor in Western Ghats. Activities include compiling the research done in the landscape over the years and collecting baseline ecological and diversity status data for Aghanashini and Bedthi river valley. Based on this, proposals would be developed to identify the priority regions in the corridor under better protection strategies with different legal options.

Funding: \$9,900
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 10/31/10
Grantee: B.L. Hegde
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Identifying Potential Areas as "Conservation Reserves" in Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Develop criteria for the establishment of conservation reserves in the reserved forests of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve and to delineate and map the potential conservation reserves. The project will assist in promoting and strengthening the partnerships and mechanisms in the management of biological corridors within and outside protected Area networks in the Biosphere

Reserve.
Funding: \$16,700
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 07/31/10
Grantee: Centre for Environment and Development
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Investigating Congruence Between Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Across Production Landscapes in the Mysore-Nilgiri Landscape Corridor in the Western Ghats

Assess patterns of and congruence between biodiversity (birds) and ecosystem services (carbon storage) outside protected areas in Kodagu. Besides documenting impacts on ecosystem services by land-use intensification for increased economic returns, this study will provide a quantitative understanding of biodiversity and economic aspects for planning private reserve models on private lands, as well as state-supported models on public lands.

Funding: \$15,455
Grant Term: 10/01/09 – 09/30/10
Grantee: M.O. Anand
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Promotion of Organic Farming through Introduction of Analog Forestry Concept in Kollegal Forest District

Explore the possibilities of initiating Analog Forestry, a system of forest management that combines the values of local forest biodiversity with organic crop cultivation, in Kollegal Forest District. Activities include providing an overview of the causes of the biodiversity loss and current situation in the project area, including human-wildlife conflict and threats from chemical farming.

Funding: \$3,080
Grant Term: 10/01/09 – 07/31/10
Grantee: G. Krishna Prasad
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Regeneration of Traditionally Used Indigenous Species to Reduce Pressure on the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Create a nursery of traditionally used species such as various medicinal plants and tubers and provide saplings to the numerous tribal families and settlements along the edge of the critical tiger habitat of Gudalur Division near Mudumalai. The project aims to help tribal communities retain their traditional resource base while reducing pressure on the tiger habitat.

Funding: \$14,996.82
Grant Term: 10/01/09 – 09/30/10
Grantee: Action for Community Organisation, Rehabilitation and Development
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Revitalizing the Indigenous Farming System to Enhance the Ecological and Livelihood Security in Anamalai Corridor of Western Ghats, southern India

Revitalize capacity of tribal farmers for traditional farming, maintaining on-farm crop diversity and practicing sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products harvest, thereby improving quality of critical habitats for biodiversity conservation in the Palni Hills (Anamalai).

Funding: \$16,337.50
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 08/31/10
Grantee: ACT India Foundation
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Study of Distribution, Status and Dynamics of Private and Group Private Forests in Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor in Southern Maharashtra

Form partnerships for protection of private and group private forests in the Sahyadri-Konkan to help maintain tree cover on group private forests, thereby enhancing biodiversity in priority sites and assisting in consolidation of corridors. Activities also include analyzing policy issues and making recommendations that will help to protect tree cover on private forests.

Funding: \$12,879
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 10/31/10
Grantee: Jayant Kulkarni
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Conserve globally threatened species and habitats through systematic conservation planning and action

Addressing the "Wallacean Shortfall" for Small Vertebrates in the Western Ghats across Space and Time

Address the "Wallacean shortfall" (i.e. the lack data on the geographic distribution of taxa) with respect to key reptile and amphibian species in the Western Ghats through systematic field assessments of poorly known taxa, predictive distribution modeling, producing field guides, and feeding the results into other conservation planning and priority-setting exercises.

Funding: \$149,716
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 3/31/13
Grantee: Indian Institute of Science

Bat Communities in the Western Ghats: Status, Ecology and Conservation

Quantify and characterize spatial variation in bat communities, and develop echo-location call libraries for bats in priority conservation areas in the Western Ghats. The work will contribute to an enhanced recognition of the biological value of this unstudied taxonomic group, and evaluate the efficacy of the current protected area network for bat conservation in the region.

Funding: \$15,740
Grant Term: 12/01/09 – 11/30/10
Grantee: Mahesh Sankaran
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Cinnamon Plant Resources of the Central Western Ghats: Impact Assessment, Livelihood Issues and Conservation Through A Participatory Approach

Assess the impact of harvesting *Cinnamomum malabattrum* and related livelihood issues, prospects for green-labeling and promotion of the sustainable harvest and multiplication of species in agro-forestry systems through participatory approaches. Outcomes expected include knowledge of cinnamon regeneration status, level of disturbance and impact on regeneration, sustainable harvesting methods, importance of resources to the family income, and prospects for green-labeling, community nurseries and planting of species.

Funding: \$12,000
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 10/31/10
Grantee: Narsimha Hegde
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Community-Based Conservation and Monitoring of Great Hornbills and Malabar Pied Hornbills and their Habitats of the Anamalai Part of Southern Western Ghats, India

through Empowering the Endemic "Kadar" Tribe

Develop a long-term conservation strategy for hornbills and their habitat with the support of the Kadar tribe by assessing availability of hornbill nesting trees, nest characteristics, habitat details and threat factors. Activities include strengthening of ongoing participatory conservation activity in the Vazhachal forest division with the support of the Forest Department, the Kadar tribe and its community groups.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 09/30/10
Grantee: Amitha Bachan
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Enhancing Knowledge about the Conservation Status of Globally Threatened Species in the Western Ghats, with a Particular Emphasis on Reptiles

Assess the global conservation status of all 265 reptile species found in the Western Ghats, compile detailed information on each species and make the results freely available through the IUCN Red List site and other online portals. Solicit and publish articles on Western Ghats biodiversity in an open-access, peer-reviewed journal, provide tutoring to authors and disseminate widely among key stakeholders.

Funding: \$111,925
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 12/31/11
Grantee: Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society

Evaluation of Aquatic Insect Diversity in Natural Water-Filled Tree Holes and Their Artificial Analogues in a Tropical Forest of Western Ghats

Perform a much-needed scientific evaluation on the dynamics of the canopy-aquatic insects and other fauna of natural tree holes (*phytotelmata*) and their artificial analogues. Project explores how insects in tree holes are active colonizers trapped in a risky, mostly ephemeral habitat and along with other fauna play a significant role in the ecosystem functioning in the forest canopy.

Funding: \$9,627.55
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 10/31/10
Grantee: K.S. Anoop Das
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Freshwater Biodiversity Assessments in the Western Ghats: Fishes, Molluscs, Odonates and Plants

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

Funding: \$179,756
Grant Term: 11/1/09 - 4/30/11
Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Pilot Study for Mitigation of Human-Elephant Conflict in Affected Areas of Northern Karnataka and Southern Maharashtra, India

Address the issue of conservation of Endangered Asian elephant in the fragmented landscape of northern Karnataka and southern Maharashtra by involving local communities in conflict mitigation along with the Forest Department. Identify and implement activities that will motivate local communities, create social awareness and strengthen the efforts of the Forest Department

toward elephant conservation.

Funding: \$14,800
Grant Term: 10/01/09 – 11/30/10
Grantee: Prachi Mehta
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

**Status of Freshwater Fishes in the Kerala Region of the Western Ghats Hotspot:
Determining Distribution, Abundance and Threats to Data Deficient Species from 10 Major
River Systems**

Assess the status of Data Deficient freshwater fish from 10 major rivers of Kerala as freshwater fish remain one of the most poorly studied and documented taxa in the Western Ghats. Project will generate baseline information to help in systematic conservation planning and action, as well as monitoring and assessing the conservation status of globally threatened species of fish in the Western Ghats.

Funding: \$16,995
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 11/30/10
Grantee: Rajeev Raghavan
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

**Tarantula (*Araneae: Theraphosidae*) Spider Diversity, Distribution and Habitat-Use: A
Study on Protected Area Adequacy and Conservation Planning at a Landscape Level in the
Western Ghats of Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka**

Document the diversity, distribution and habitat use of *theraphosid* species of tarantula spiders in various land-use categories in the Uttara Kannada district to help in population assessments of Indian Theraphosid spiders of the region, creating awareness among local citizens about the importance of conserving tarantulas and improving conservation efforts for these poorly known but globally threatened taxa.

Funding: \$8,770
Grant Term: 09/01/09 – 08/31/10
Grantee: Manju Siliwal
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

WNPATA: Western Ghats Network of Protected Areas for Threatened Amphibians

Synthesize available information and use it to prepare reference materials and plans to guide amphibian conservation efforts. Produce a comprehensive guide to the taxonomy, ecology and conservation of Western Ghats amphibians, and a national plan for their management. Map sites in critical need of protection to avoid further amphibian extinctions, and advocate for the establishment of a dedicated amphibian sanctuary.

Funding: \$100,000
Grant Term: 10/1/09 - 9/30/11
Grantee: University of Delhi