

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
38th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Virtual Meeting
26 May 2021
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Newly Approved Grants

From 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021

Grants are reported based on the effective date of the grant agreement.

CERRADO BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 6. Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to promote better management of territories and of natural resources and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot.

Accelerate the Conservation of the Cerrado: Program for Strengthening Civil Society Organizations

Strengthen 40 civil society organizations working on the conservation of the Cerrado by building their organizational skills to achieve their mission. Implement a knowledge transmission approach based on most current social technologies that considers the behavioral change of organizations' managers, providing technical training and specialized mentoring, while addressing their motivations and concerns.

Funding: US\$99,912
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 2/28/22
Grantee: Impact Hub Brasilia

CEPF Cerrado Communication, Brazil

Develop a communication plan for the dissemination of information about the Cerrado within the scope of CEPF, its strategic directions and its funded projects, developing communication products and materials (website, video, publication and others) to give visibility and reach to the actions of Cerrado conservation and CEPF successes in the 2016-2021 cycle.

Funding: US\$50,000
Grant Term: 2/10/21 – 9/30/21
Grantee: Fato Relevante

Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Babassu Palm, Maranhão and Tocantins States, Brazil

Develop and multiply capacities that promote the sustainable use of babassu palm, a native species of the Cerrado, to demonstrate that a sustainable development model can help preserve biodiversity and be a viable alternative to conversion of forest to monoculture. Create a sustainable agro-extractive corridor through a consortium of community enterprises that work with the processing of babassu in the states of Maranhão and Tocantins.

Funding: US\$97,731
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 11/30/21
Grantee: Cooperativa Central do Cerrado Ltda

EAST MELANESIAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.

Reinforcing the Solomon Islands Ranger Network for the Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas in Solomon Islands

Assist the Solomon Islands Rangers Association (SIRA) in building capacity for its rangers throughout the Solomon Islands archipelago, as well as reinvigorate and strengthen SIRA as an association. The project activities will include finalizing the everyday guide to being a ranger in Solomon Islands, as well as providing complementary training based upon this guide. Concurrently, the organization will aim to revise its strategic plan, develop a financial sustainability plan and maintain organizational governance through regular meetings of the executive committee. Following the successful implementation, rangers will be better placed and supported to monitor and conserve their community conserved areas.

Funding: US\$20,000
Grant Term: 4/1/21 – 12/31/21
Grantee: Solomon Islands Rangers Association Trust Board Inc.

GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels.

Building Capacity and Sustainable Partnerships for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Nigeria

Strengthen the enforcement of Environmental Impact Assessment legislations and regulations in Nigeria, and integrate biodiversity considerations into policies, as well as in private sector practices, using the country's main oil palm company, adjacent to Okomu National Park as a case study. Support the development of a growing local civil society organization in the Nigerian landscape.

Funding: US\$180,000
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Society for Sustainability and Conservation Education for Rural Areas (SCERA)

Conserving the Yawri Bay Ecosystem in Sierra Leone's Coastal Corridor

Strengthen the management of Yawri Bay in Sierra Leone by increasing its protection status through nomination as a Ramsar Site and initiation of the protected area gazettal process. Design a state-of-the-art management plan with a detailed and budgeted action plan; raise funds to implement the plan; and promote compliance with the plan by local communities and private companies in the fisheries and salt production sectors.

Funding: US\$169,906
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

Expanding Guinea's Protected Area Network Including Important Plant Areas

Influence the national protected area legislation of Guinea by introducing plant-specific data into the management plans of three Tropical Important Plant Areas with existing protection, by designating two other area as Community Protected Areas and by drafting plant-specific conservation management plans for them. Research wild-harvested plant species that could provide alternative income streams for local people.

Funding: US\$146,533
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Improving Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation in Côte d'Ivoire Using DNA-based Monitoring

Carry out innovative environmental DNA (eDNA) biodiversity surveys to understand the state of freshwater systems of the lower Bandama river in Cote d'Ivoire. Work closely with Université Nangui Abrogué in Abidjan, a network of conservation organizations, government stakeholders and the private sector to use this innovative method and data to better inform decision-making in environmental management.

Funding: US\$148,400
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: NatureMetrics

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry in Liberia

Conduct policy-relevant research and outreach to influence the Liberian government's community forestry policies. Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem consideration into community forest management plans. Facilitate partnerships among communities, civil society, private sector, and the government as a demonstration model for best practice in sustainable community forest management.

Funding: US\$147,976
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Volunteers for Sustainable Development in Africa (VOSIEDA)

Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing Business Contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union Countries

Create an enabling environment for the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, restore, offset) by development projects (especially extractive and agricultural sectors, but also public infrastructure) in conservation corridors of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia. Develop practical and user-friendly guidelines for private-sector engaged in Public Private Partnerships and Public Private Community Partnerships. Enhance capacity to support international best practices.

Funding: US\$343,000
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Fondation Biotope

Protecting Atewa Forest Critical Ecosystem, Ghana, Through Biodiversity Assessments and Participatory Monitoring

Support the on-going campaign to protect Atewa Forest (Ghana) from government's authorization to mine bauxite by empowering communities and stakeholders, particularly the Forestry Commission, with new monitoring skills and technologies to gather additional information on the global biodiversity values of Atewa, providing evidence for a court case against bauxite mining, and engaging the private sector in sustainable management of the forest range.

Funding: US\$179,984
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: A Rocha Ghana

INDO-BURMA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Regional Implementation Team: CEPF Indo-Burma Phase III

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for the hotspot. Assist civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities. Ensure that the collective impact of the CEPF investment exceeds the sum of its parts.

Funding: US\$1,400,000
Grant Term: 1/1/21 – 9/30/25
Grantee: IUCN

MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL ASIA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 1. Address threats to priority species.

Advancing Cooperative Biodiversity Conservation in Kazakhstan's Dzungaria Ecological Corridor

Promote the conservation of the endangered Semirechensk Salamander in Kazakhstan. Strengthen the management of the Koxsu State Nature Sanctuary and nearby nature reserves, work with a hunting concession bordering Koxsu, and promote improved pasture management practices by nearby communities. This will improve the freshwater habitat of the salamander.

Funding: US\$149,254
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 1/31/23
Grantee: Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan

Strategic Direction 2. Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status.

Building Multi-Stakeholder Capacity for Co-Management of Wakhan National Park, Afghanistan

Strengthen Afghanistan's Wakhan National Park by instituting a parkwide stakeholder forum and various stakeholder working groups, leading to true co-management between communities of interest and park authorities.

Funding: US\$250,000
Grant Term: 12/1/20 – 11/30/22
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Conservation of Key Natural Complexes in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley

Study the unique biota of the sandy areas and foothills of the Ferghana and Namangan regions in order to strengthen the environmental significance. Prepare a justification for the preservation of territories and improvement of the system of protected areas in the most significant and vulnerable spots.

Funding: US\$18,757
Grant Term: 4/10/21 – 7/31/22
Grantee: Michael Succow Foundation for the Protection of Nature

Identify Necessary Measure to Conserve Species in the Northern Foothill Plain of the Nuratau Range in Uzbekistan

Develop optimal, alternative and sustainable methods and measures for the conservation of priority species by conducting research on the project site, establishing partnerships with the local community, raising the level of knowledge of the population, and developing a joint action plan for the conservation of species based on the research.

Funding: US\$19,700
Grant Term: 4/10/21 – 7/31/22
Grantee: Jonli Tabiat

Public Monitoring of Plans and Activities for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Development of Tourism in the Mountain Regions of Southern Kazakhstan

Assess the opportunities and capacity for the development of ecotourism in the protected areas of southern Kazakhstan to develop and submit to the government alternative approaches to the development of ecotourism, measures to preserve biodiversity, as well as

to eliminate legislative gaps that create serious risks to the conservation of landscape and biological diversity.

Funding: US\$19,970
Grant Term: 4/1/21 – 3/31/22
Grantee: Social Ecological Fund

Strategic Direction 4. Engage communities of interest and economic sectors, including the private sector, in improved management of production landscapes (i.e., priority sites and corridors that are not formally protected).

Supporting Private Sector and Community Conservation Co-Management in Baljuvan Key Biodiversity Area, Tajikistan

Strengthen the management of Baljuvon Key Biodiversity Area, focusing on a hunting concession within it. Work with the hunting operator to train its personnel to be better land and species managers, while also working with the surrounding communities.

Funding: US\$33,487
Grant Term: 12/1/20 – 5/31/22
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.

Assessing Underwater Macro-pollution and Abandoned Fishing Gear Around Zembra Island, Tunisia

Assess the spread of ghost nets around Zembra island within the marine and coastal protected area of Zembra and Zembretta. Prepare the protocol involving relevant stakeholders for underwater cleaning.

Funding: US\$2,130
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 9/30/21
Grantee: Société Ras Adar pour Divertissements Touristiques

Conservation of the Coastal Biodiversity of the Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia

Protect biodiversity richness in Kerkennah archipelago in Tunisia through supporting traditional fishing practices of Charfia and Drina. The project aim to raise awareness on sustainable practices to preserve the natural resources and to promote local product by setting a three days fair. The project is also an opportunity to ensure the transfer of knowledge through generations.

Funding: US\$20,000
Grant Term: 4/1/21 – 3/31/22
Grantee: Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie

Conservation Through Observation: Creating an Underwater Pathway for Mteris Cove in Jbel Haouaria, Tunisia

Promote the Mtaris site in Jbel Haouaria by creating an underwater path. Improve the awareness of visitors around Haouaria to better conserve its natural resources, through changing behaviors educational approach.

Funding: US\$7,900
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 8/31/21
Grantee: Escapade Tunisie

Improving Resilience of Local Communities and Ecosystems of the Coastal Zone of Souss-Massa and Tamri, Morocco (ARCOLE Project)

Support the participation of local communities in management of Souss-Massa National Park and the site Tamri, key habitats for the critically endangered northern bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*). Work with female collectors to improve the value chain for wild mussels and manage the resource sustainably. Work with artisanal fishermen on improved practices and initiation of a no-take zone, and with farmers to move towards organic farming in the feeding areas of the ibis.

Funding: US\$217,498
Grant Term: 1/1/21 – 8/31/22
Grantee: Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)

Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Protection of Endangered Sea Turtles on the Island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde

Build the capacity of the organisation to successfully implement conservation projects. Prepare and engage young people from local communities for conservation work. Strengthen partnership network policy makers to support the conservation efforts. Raise awareness of stakeholders on species conservation.

Funding: US\$19,972
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 2/28/22
Grantee: Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo (PVPN)

Seabirds of Baía do Inferno, Cabo Verde: Studying Them Now, to Ensure Their Promising Future

Study the seabird colonies of coastal cliffs between Porto Mosquito and Baía do Inferno Important Bird Area to understand population trends and threats. Work with local fishermen to assess fishing effort and possible disturbance to bird populations. Raise awareness with local communities and authorities about the importance of the area, to prepare the ground for potential future protection of the site.

Funding: US\$107,265
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 5/31/22
Grantee: Associação Lantuna

Strategic Direction 3. Promote the maintenance of traditional land use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value.

Biodiversity Conservation Through Traditional Agroforestry Practices in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan

Support sustainable traditional land-use and agroforestry practices through conducting baseline assessment of communities' socioeconomics and potential agroforestry products.

Identify and implement traditional agricultural practices with potential economic opportunities and benefits to habitats and species.

Funding: US\$39,973
Grant Term: 1/1/21 – 1/31/22
Grantee: WADI

Conserving Biodiversity in Kroumirie Through the Involvement of Women Shepherds, Tunisia

Support women shepherd on maintaining the traditional Land use in favor of biodiversity conservation in Kroumerie around Feija key biodiversity area. Raise awareness on sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation. Facilitate access of local product to new markets. Develop a pastoral management plan in order to regulate the grazing in the region.

Funding: US\$16,830
Grant Term: 4/1/21 – 1/31/22
Grantee: Association Sidi Bouzitoun

Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area, Jordan

Support farmers in the buffer zone of Dibeed Forest Reserve to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. Enter into agreements with pilot farmers, raise awareness and provide training to the wider rural communities, develop markets for specific, biodiversity-friendly productions (through on-line market), and work at policy level for mainstreaming biodiversity into local agricultural regulations.

Funding: US\$176,159
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 8/31/22
Grantee: Enviromatics - Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company

Promoting Traditional Land-use Practices in the Upper Beirut River Valley, Lebanon

Promote the "Hima Farms" approach in the upper Beirut River Valley, with support to local farmers to adopt and maintain biodiversity-friendly practices, and marketing approaches for traditional products. Conduct extensive biodiversity assessments and monitoring, and advocate for inclusion of good practices in land-use planning at the municipality level.

Funding: US\$150,450
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 8/31/22
Grantee: Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)

Strengthening Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in the Central High Atlas, Morocco

Support the establishment of a network of communities for piloting Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) and promoting this governance model in Morocco. Provide human wellbeing benefits through community-based livelihood activities (agriculture, eco-tourism) and development of land-use plans and governance models for community-based conservation.

Funding: US\$249,332
Grant Term: 1/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre Maroc (AESVT-Maroc)

Supporting Traditional Farming and Protecting Biodiversity in Ajloun, Northern Jordan

Support a local farmers' association to engage in biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices and marketing of local products, and enhance nature-based tourism in Ajloun region, Jordan. Support marketing of local products and work with the local municipality on a sustainable ecotourism plan. With local stakeholders, initiate the process for designation of a Special Conservation Area.

Funding: US\$97,978
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 8/31/22
Grantee: Jordan BirdWatch Association

Supporting Traditional Management Practices to Preserve Barbary Macaque and its Habitats in Morocco

Support local communities to adopt agro-ecological practices and increase revenues from biodiversity-friendly practices (including ecotourism) in the region of Bouhachem Nature Park. Support a participatory management of natural areas, integrating traditional practices, to reduce threats on montane forest habitats and the barbary macaque population.

Funding: US\$135,641
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 7/31/22
Grantee: Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif Mountains

Traditional Farming as a Tool to Maintain a Viable Landscape, Jordan

Promote environmental-friendly traditional agricultural practices at landscape level in Ajloun Key Biodiversity Area and enhance the knowledge about the importance of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Conduct analysis of the agricultural sector policy and recommend integration of biodiversity conservation into these policies.

Funding: US\$24,990
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 2/28/22
Grantee: Eco Values for Sustainable Development

Traditional Pastoral Practices for the Conservation of Vultures in Jbel Moussa, Morocco

Support local sheep farmers in Jbel Moussa protected area improve their livelihood while adopting practices favorable to biodiversity, and in particular vultures. Initiate a participatory process to establish a sustainable grazing management plan, and support farmers by improving water sources, setting up rendering platforms and improving access to market through a certification scheme.

Funding: US\$140,023
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 7/31/22
Grantee: Groupe de REcherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc

Strategic Direction 4. Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.

Endemic Plant Conservation and a Feasibility Evaluation of a Protected Area in Brava, Cabo Verde

Increase scientific knowledge and data on the extant endemic flora of the protected area and potential threats. Improve partnership with stakeholders, communities and other NGOs. Raise awareness on conservation of Brava's endemic species locally. Encourage and involve students and young people in plant conservation.

Funding: US\$19,842
Grant Term: 3/1/21 – 2/28/22
Grantee: Biflores

Strategic Direction 5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot.

Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Eastern Libya and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement

Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian Tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) across its native range in Cyrenaica, Eastern Libya. Develop an action plan for the species conservation.

Funding: US\$15,000
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 8/31/21
Grantee: Alhayat Organization to Protect Wildlife and Marine Organisms

Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for their Resettlement

Assess the habitat requirements and threats for the Critically Endangered Egyptian Tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) across its native range in Northern Western Egypt and develop local capacity in Egypt and Libya to address conservation needs for the species.

Funding: US\$15,000
Grant Term: 2/1/21 – 8/31/21
Grantee: Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services

Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Plant Conservation in Lebanon and Palestine

Support civil societies in Lebanon and Palestine to implement innovative conservation approaches for threatened and endemic plants and integrate plant conservation into management plans of protected areas.

Funding: US\$28,700
Grant Term: 1/1/21 – 7/31/21
Grantee: Jouzour Loubnan Association