

Newly Approved Grants

From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021

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

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 4. Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with priority sites.

Promoting Collaborative Social Accountability in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Apply collaborative social accountability methodologies and tools to facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships for biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation in priority Key Biodiversity Areas and corridors in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. Build local capacity for collaborative social accountability, plan and implement pilot collaborative agreements, and improve knowledge and learning on the topic.

Funding: US\$500,000
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 8/31/25
Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Strategic Direction 6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.

CEPF Regional Implementation Team for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working collaboratively across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for the hotspot. Build capacity of civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities.

Funding: US\$1,500,000
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 7/31/26
Grantee: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

CERRADO BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 4. Support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot.

An Integrative Approach for Advancing Conservation of Threatened Species of the Brazilian Cerrado

Improve the integration of national and international species conservation tools (the national fauna extinction risk assessment system, the Green Status protocol and the National Action Plans) to advance conservation actions of priority species *Uebelmannia*

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buiningii and *Dimorphandra wilsonii*, both Critically Endangered plants) and management of natural resources in the Cerrado Hotspot.

Funding: US\$100,908
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 1/31/22
Grantee: Instituto Claravis/IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival Brazil

EAST MELANESIAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas under-served by current conservation efforts

Protecting Indigenous Forests from Emerging Logging Threats in the Santo Mountain Chain Key Biodiversity Area, Vanuatu

Raise awareness about the threats from logging and development in Vanuatu’s largest Key Biodiversity Area, the Santo Mountain Chain. Consult with at least 25 communities in remote West Coast Santo. Install signboards displaying key messages about unsustainable logging and agriculture. Launch a social media campaign. Support local communities to formalize long-term sustainable forest management, including bans on timber extraction and sale.

Funding: US\$12,000
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 12/31/21
Grantee: Santo Sunset Environment Network

INDO-BURMA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

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

Building Capacity and Networks for Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey in China

Conserve a core population of Myanmar snub-nosed monkey at Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve by improving a community patrol team’s capacity to monitor the monkey population and threats to it, raising conservation awareness and promoting sustainable livelihoods among local villagers, and developing a conservation network to alleviate threats to the species and its habitat and provide long-term support to the nature reserve and local communities.

Funding: US\$99,981
Grant Term: 4/1/22 – 3/31/24
Grantee: Shan Shui Conservation Center

Conservation of Annamite Biodiversity through a Social Business Model in Lao PDR

Protect populations of six priority species and an area of critical habitat within the Annamite Mountains through intensive direct management of the first forest ecosystem services concession in Lao PDR. Secure sustainable funding through a unique social business model,

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based on a research and training center of excellence. Generate employment and income opportunities for people from forest edge communities to support the local economy.

Funding: US\$150,000
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 6/30/23
Grantee: Asian Arks

In Search of Vietnam Pheasant in Ke Go Nature Reserve, Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam

Determine the presence/absence of the surviving populations of the Critically Endangered Vietnam pheasant (*Lophura hatinhensis*) in the wild within Ke Go Nature Reserve in order to define the appropriate conservation response, either by studying the species in depth where still found in order to manage its remaining population (possibly through supplementation) or by assuming its extinction at the site and planning and implementing a reintroduction program using captive-bred birds.

Funding: US\$40,000
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 8/31/23
Grantee: Viet Nature Conservation Centre

Protecting Priority Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Populations in Vietnam

Develop site-based conservation projects for five priority turtle species: secure a group of Swinhoe's softshell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) for conservation breeding; secure a viable population of big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) at Pu Mat National Park; secure a population of Bourret's box turtle (*Cuora bourreti*) through reintroduction; establish a new protected area for southern Vietnamese box turtle (*Cuora picturata*); and re-establish a wild population of Vietnamese pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*) by creating a new protected habitat.

Funding: US\$200,060
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 6/30/24
Grantee: Indo-Myanmar Conservation

Rediscovering Saola: State-of-the-Art Methods to Detect Endangered Annamite Species in Lao PDR

Make possible an intensive search program that aims to find some of the remaining Critically Endangered saolas (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*) in Lao PDR, in a manner that will allow their safe capture for ex situ conservation breeding, by developing: tools to rapidly test samples in the field for saola DNA; a highly trained, effective detection dog team; and a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Lao PDR.

Funding: US\$236,999
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 6/30/24
Grantee: Saola Foundation

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Strategic Direction 2. Mitigate zoonotic disease risks by reducing illegal trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife.

Reducing Wildlife Trafficking Across Logistics Supply Chains and Online Platforms, Vietnam and China

Combat the illegal wildlife trade between Vietnam and China by targeting key links in the chain facilitated by online sales and logistics companies. Encourage targeted companies to join an Alliance to End Wildlife Trafficking and take direction action to tackle illegal wildlife trade. Increase capacity to tackle transportation of wildlife through trainings, and promote behavior change by logistics industry employees and customers through an online campaign.

Funding: US\$225,000
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 7/31/23
Grantee: TRAFFIC International

Strengthening Capacity and Collaboration for Combating Illegal Trade of Pangolin and Other Wildlife in Thailand

Overcome barriers to combating illegal trade of pangolins and other species along overland routes in Thailand by collating, analyzing and sharing data and intelligence, building the capacity of wildlife detector dogs and handlers, improving co-ordination among law enforcement agencies, and engaging leadership from relevant logistics companies to share intelligence and take action to reduce involvement in illegal wildlife trade.

Funding: US\$209,827
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 7/31/23
Grantee: Zoological Society of London

Using Crime Script Analysis to Understand Wildlife Crime in Annamite Mountains, Vietnam

Use criminological analysis to understand the reality of wildlife hunting among professional hunters; the relationship between professional hunters and merchant networks; and solutions to reduce wildlife consumption.

Funding: US\$39,975
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 8/31/23
Grantee: Institute of Biology, Chemistry and Environment, Vinh University

Strategic Direction 6. Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors.

Inundated Forest Conservation Through Wetland Restoration and Disease Reduction in Northeast Cambodia

Restore seasonal wetlands throughout Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary in northeastern Cambodia, in collaboration with local communities, to increase food sources for local people and habitat for Critically Endangered bird species. Conduct a cattle and buffalo vaccination program, to support healthy livestock herds that help maintain wetland integrity in the sanctuary.

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Funding: US\$62,903
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.

Organic Livelihoods Conserving Cambodia's "Big Five"

Reduce threats to populations of five Critically Endangered bird species and their habitats within Cambodia's Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary by expanding a scheme for certified organic, wildlife-friendly rice for sale under the "Ibis Rice" brand. Increase food security of at least 750 participating people and assist at least 1,300 people to obtain provincially recognized land certificates for their rice fields.

Funding: US\$90,231
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.

MADAGASCAR AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority Key Biodiversity Areas.

A Future for Radiated Tortoises Confiscated in Madagascar

Release confiscated, Critically Endangered radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*) back into their natural environment in southwestern Madagascar. Monitor the tortoises post release with the active involvement of the local community. Build awareness and support for tortoises among local people, and train them to conduct follow-up monitoring and long-term turtle custodianship.

Funding: US\$74,740
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Station d'Observation des Tortues et de leurs Milieux (SOPTOM)

MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL ASIA BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 1. Address threats to priority species.

Conservation of Threatened Wild Fruit Tree Species in South Tajikistan by Establishing Micro-Nurseries

Increase the number of two threatened wild species of fruit tree: the Tajik pear (*Pyrus tadshikistanica*) and the wild apple *Malus Sieversii* by organizing micro-nurseries and tree-growing activities.

Funding: US\$19,999
Grant Term: 9/1/21 – 6/30/22
Grantee: Ganji Tabiat

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Protect Wild Relict Endemic Pear Species in Tajikistan

Eliminate threats to priority species; renewal and preservation of the natural grove of *Pyrus cajan* on the example of the village of Ridzhist of the Shahdara Valley. This project proposes measures for the protection of *Pyrus cajan*, listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Tajikistan as Endangered.

Funding: US\$19,588
Grant Term: 7/15/21 – 7/15/22
Grantee: Kukhoi Pomir

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

Conserving Pistachio Orchards in Turkmenistan's Koitendag State Nature Reserve

Create a sustainable platform for growing pistachio seedlings in order to increase the acreage of pistachio trees, which will favorably affect the conservation of biodiversity, human well-being and strengthen the potential of the civil society and Koitendag State Nature Reserve in the region.

Funding: US\$20,000
Grant Term: 6/1/21 – 5/31/22
Grantee: Obadeskahyzmat

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Strategic Direction 2. Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.

Building a Network of Freshwater Ecosystems Important for Biodiversity in Morocco

Support the creation of a network of experts and organizations, associated with national authorities, to identify and document sites of high freshwater biodiversity value in Morocco, and advocate for the designation of 10 sites under the Ramsar Convention. Contribute to the review of the National Plan for Protected Areas by giving increased attention to freshwater species.

Funding: US\$140,297
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 7/31/22
Grantee: Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM)

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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.

Conservation of Pastures Through the Support of Pastoralism and Sustainable Ecotourism in Lura Natural Park, Albania

Explore pastoral practices in stalls and dairies in the Lura National Park. Increase the capacity of shepherds and stalls to improve the shepherds' traditional products by promoting sustainable practices to maintain pastures and forests. Promote ecotourism by traditional and dairy processing activities preparing the stalls to host tourists for overnight staying as tourist destination.

Funding: US\$14,170
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 12/31/21
Grantee: ECOVOLIS

Creating Traditional Alpine Water Ponds for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Livestock Breeders of Shkrel Locality in Malësi e Madhe Area in Albania

Improve pastoralism activities through constructing two alpine water ponds for livestock with traditional methods and materials in order to bring models of success. Build capacity of local farmers to strengthen their local economy and ecotourism activities, which will help improve their livelihoods. Improve local community cooperation with protected area management and the private sector.

Funding: US\$24,500
Grant Term: 7/1/21 – 5/31/22
Grantee: GO2 (Organizatë për Planifikim të Qëndrueshëm Urban)

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

Facilitate Regional Networking and Develop the Technical Capacities of Civil Society Through the Third Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week

Provide training and experience sharing in the field of plant conservation. Enable botanists, researchers, project managers and students within CEPF grants to participate at this event, in person and virtually, representing their projects from around the Mediterranean. This project will facilitate the presence of these individuals, through logistical support and funding, and guidance throughout the event. Facilitate sharing knowledge and technical experience amongst botanists. Showcase the impact data of CEPF plant conservation projects at a side event, in order to broaden the understanding of plant conservation progress and challenges at a regional level, and reflect on the role of civil society on plant conservation.

Funding: US\$24,803
Grant Term: 8/15/21 – 11/15/21
Grantee: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (CHEAM-MAICH)

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TROPICAL ANDES BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Validation and Database Management of Updated Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes Hotspot

Based on the 2021 update of the Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile, validate and enter updates to Key Biodiversity Areas into the World KBA Database.

Funding: US\$3,000
Grant Term: 8/1/21 – 12/31/21
Grantee: BirdLife International