

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
Virtual Meeting  
Wednesday 15 December 2021  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

**Could CEPF invest in CSOs in non-OECD-DAC countries  
if funding becomes available?**

**Recommended Action Item**

The Donor Council is asked to provide guidance on the possibility of CEPF investing in civil society organizations (CSOs) in countries not on the OECD-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, in the eventuality of funding becoming available from public donors and/or private philanthropies.

**Background**

CEPF was created to protect biodiversity in the planet's biodiversity hotspots through the financial and technical assistance provided to nongovernmental and private sector organizations in IBRD borrowing member countries that have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. In total, 36 biodiversity hotspots are recognized worldwide and 29 are eligible to receive funding from CEPF.

Some biodiversity hotspots are entirely located in developed nations such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America. As a result, these hotspots are ineligible for CEPF funding.

There are five biodiversity hotspots where a portion of the hotspot is currently ineligible for CEPF funding because it is located in overseas countries and/or outermost regions of the EU, New Zealand, UK or USA: Caribbean Islands (EU, UK and US); Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (EU); Mediterranean Basin (EU); New Caledonia (EU); and Polynesia-Micronesia (EU, New Zealand, UK and US).

Funding from public and private sources may become available for the protection of biodiversity through projects implemented by local civil society organizations in non-OECD-DAC countries and territories. As a delivery mechanism with 20 years of experience and an excellent track record in supporting the development of civil society organizations, local communities, and Indigenous people to protect biodiversity in over 100 countries worldwide, CEPF may be a delivery mechanism of interest for work in the EU, New Zealand, UK and US overseas territories.

CEPF could be considered by donors for countries and territories that belong to hotspots

where CEPF is already working, such as the Caribbean Islands and Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, or hotspots where it is obvious that the CEPF model would make a difference, such as New Caledonia and Polynesia-Micronesia.

**Proposed Future Direction**

The Secretariat would be interested in pursuing discussions with selected public and private donors interested in the CEPF model applied to overseas countries and territories and outermost regions of the EU, New Zealand, UK and US, and seeks guidance from the Donor Council on whether and how to best pursue such opportunities.