

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
40th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
In-Person, Hotel Place d'Armes, Montreal and Virtual Meeting
Monday 12 December 2022
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Partnership Highlights

Global Donors

L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Implementation of the US\$49.2 million program—US\$38 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and US\$11.2 million of co-financing—in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is well on its way, following the selection of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). The RIT is a consortium that includes IUCN-Netherlands as the lead organization and four national partners: SAF/FJKM (Development Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar) in Madagascar; Initiative Development in Comoros; Fondation Ressources et Nature (FORENA) in Mauritius; and the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT). The RIT will oversee, under CEPF leadership, a portfolio of US\$16 million over five years. The funds aim to enhance communities' resilience to climate change by restoring and managing the most vulnerable wetlands so that they continue acting as effective nature-based solutions for drought management, flood risk mitigation and food security. This will be achieved through support to civil society organizations working with local communities and to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as enhancement of wetland-related policy and planning. The initial phase of RIT training was carried out in the week of 5 September in Antananarivo, Madagascar, with participation of all five consortium members plus five staff from the CEPF Secretariat.

Regional Donors

KfW

The investment of €7 million in Ecuador, funded by KfW, has started. Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA), with sub-grantee Environmental Incentives (EI), who will provide capacity building support on the ground, was selected for the RIT position. FFLA and EI have received their initial training, and the first call for proposals has been issued. It is for both large and small grants.

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)

CEPF signed a grant agreement in June 2022 with MACP for US\$3 million to support the current investment in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. The grant has a particular focus on maintaining healthy freshwater ecosystems in the Lower Mekong Region.

Bezos Earth Fund

Based on an agreement with Bezos Earth Fund, CEPF received US\$1 million through Conservation International to support the current investment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot.

Fundraising efforts with the Regional Implementation Teams

CEPF has encouraged RITs to fundraise to continue to support civil society organizations once the funding of CEPF has come to an end or to prepare with the CEPF Secretariat a new phase of funding for a hotspot.

In 2022, CEPF concluded a successful five-year investment phase in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot in Brazil with International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) as the RIT. IEB has applied for funding directly from the GEF to continue supporting civil society organizations in Cerrado.

CEPF is working with regional implementation teams in Indo-Burma, the Mediterranean Basin and the Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspots to submit proposals to the Green Climate Fund. AFD would be the accredited entity of the GCF for the Indo-Burma and Mediterranean Basin proposals, and Conservation International would serve as the accredited entity of the GCF for the Guinean Forests proposal.