

**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)
14:30 – 17:00 (CET)**

Minutes

1. Welcome by the Chair and Introduction of Participants (CEPF/DC40/1)

The Donor Council remembered Gustavo Fonseca for his energy and passion for conservation and his great support to CEPF when working at Conservation International and thereafter when working at the Global Environment Facility.

See Annex 1, for a list of participants attending the 40th Meeting of the Donor Council.

2. Adoption of [Agenda](#) (CEPF/DC40/2)

**3. Presentation & Discussion of the Executive Director's Report
(CEPF/DC40/3)**

a. [Action Points Review](#) (CEPF/DC40/3/a)

When discussing COP 15 and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Donor Council inquired where Conservation International (CI) stands on the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and whether CEPF was following CI's position. Conservation International shared that its position on the Global Biodiversity Framework can be found [online](#), and that CEPF is aligning with CI's position.

Further, it was recommended that CEPF develop a set of lessons pertaining to the involvement of civil society organizations in the policy arena, that could be shared with CEPF's donors.

b. [Partnership Highlights](#) (CEPF/DC40/3/b)

The Donor Council appreciated the update on the creation of a local foundation in the Indo-Burma Hotspot and would like to follow up on where this new conservation fund channels its money and if it is indeed able to support civil society-based conservation in its country. Of particular interest is understanding what the appropriate level of international support is to ensure that the new fund is successful.

The Donor Council shared that during resource mobilization discussions at COP 15, it is evident that many donors are unaware of the contribution that CEPF is making in numerous countries. In addition, many of the on-the-ground representatives of CEPF's donors are similarly unaware of CEPF's contributions and are therefore subject to unfair criticism. It recommended that CEPF, and members of its Donor Council, engage with other donors and recipient countries to bring CEPF's data and evidence into the conversation. This could entail presenting the CEPF program and its record of financial support to developing countries, and positioning CEPF as a partner of choice for the donor community and how they should channel ODA.

The Donor Council recommended that, at the next Donor Council Meeting, a discussion take place on CEPF's future and how to move forward and present itself as a financing mechanism, working on the ground and building up the organizational capacity of Indigenous and other local organizations organizations. This would mean presenting and positioning CEPF differently from its current stance. Under this topic, it would also be important to highlight the financial and capacity building support received by CEPF recipient countries so that both negotiators and policymakers at national level in those countries have a clear strategic picture of what they receive, as that would help track the international flow of financial investments.

Action Item: CEPF will present how the creation of a local foundation in the Indo-Burma Hotspot came to be, what made it successful, what support CEPF provided, and what the lessons are on how to scale it up.

Action Item: CEPF will include in the next Donor Council agenda the topic of CEPF's future and how to move forward and present itself as a financing mechanism.

- c. [FY23 Q1 Approved Grants](#) (CEPF/DC40/3/c)
- d. [Financial Narrative](#) (CEPF/DC40/3/d)
- e. [Financial Report](#) (CEPF/DC40/3/e)

4. [Diversification of Funding Sources](#) (CEPF/DC40/4)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) noted that donors are confronted with fragmentation, and that a strong focus on biodiversity is needed. To this end, GEF is looking forward to providing additional support to CEPF before the end of GEF-8 (which covers the period from July 2022 to June 2026), as they want to upscale their work with civil society organizations and youth in particular. GEF also looks forward to seeing CEPF more engaged in the new biodiversity framework. The discussions on the GEF Small Grant Program, and the potential involvement of CEPF, continue.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) also expressed its commitment to future funding for CEPF but noted that much work had to be done to make this happen, with action most likely taking place in FY2024-2025. AFD will continue to catalyze funding but noted new philanthropic funding and encouraged CEPF to pursue funding from private sources. This suggestion was echoed by Conservation International.

The European Commission (EU) noted the strong relationship between EU and CEPF and supported the continued focus on biodiversity. At the same time, the EU noted the potential for mission drift to climate but observed that the benefits might outweigh the risks. The link between adaptation/mitigation and conservation is closer than we think.

The World Bank challenged the members to think about what we want CEPF to be, and to think about how to position CEPF as part of the formal resource mobilization menu. It was suggested to put together a task force to determine how CEPF can position itself as a key financing mechanism. Finally, the World Bank re-stated its commitment to biodiversity, and noted that it is undergoing a review to elevate the role of global public goods, including nature, in its mission and operating model, which will be discussed at the April 2023 IMF/WBG Spring Meetings.

Regarding CEPF's query about whether to invest in Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), several Donor Council members stated their support, while several others noted that complications could arise if CEPF were to go beyond working in ODA-eligible countries. Further discussion is needed on this topic.

The Donor Council agreed that CEPF should keep its focus on biodiversity conservation through civil society capacity building.

Action Item: CEPF will lead the development of a task force to determine how to position CEPF as a key financing mechanism to achieve the GBF.

Action Item: CEPF will explore during a working-group session the potential for increased actions in the OCTs and propose options to the DC with due risk and opportunities analysis.

5. [Results of the 2021 CEPF Impact Report](#) (CEPF/DC40/5)

The Impact Report was greatly appreciated by the Donor Council members, especially as it includes restoration results data, which are absolutely key. It was recommended for the Impact Report to be disseminated at regional and national level through the RITs and through the delegations and representations of the donors.

The Impact Report is perceived as a powerful tool that CEPF should use at the upcoming COP 28 on Climate Change, in December 2023. CEPF should plan a side event and encourage the UAE to invest in CEPF and make an announcement to this effect during COP 28.

Action Item: CEPF will work on how to approach UAE as a potential donor.

Action Item: Executive Director Olivier Langrand will make a first approach at the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund as part of its advisory board.

6. Conservation Achievements of the Investment in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot (CEPF/DC40/6)

7. Conclusion and Any Other Business (CEPF/DC40/7)

- Next CEPF Donor Council:

Donor Council members agree that the next meeting should take place in the Mediterranean Basin or the Caribbean Islands hotspot during April, May or June. It would be an opportunity for donors to visit projects, to bring new donors and to have a lengthier Donor Council meeting which would allow a deeper conversation on what CEPF wants to do in the future.

Action Item: CEPF will organize the next Donor Council meeting in the Mediterranean Basin or the Caribbean Islands.

Annex 1: List of Participants of the 40th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council

Donor Council Members:

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chairperson, CEPF Donor Council

Gilles Kleitz, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Solutions, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

M. Sanjayan, Chief Executive Officer, Conservation International (CI)

Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit, Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources (INTPA.F.2), Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission (EU)

Carla Montesi, Director, Green Deal, Digital Agenda (INTPA.F), European Commission (EU)

Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Biodiversity, DG Environment, European Commission (EU)

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

***Ikuko Shirota**, Director for Climate Change and Environmental Issues, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan

Valerie Hickey, Global Director, Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy, World Bank

**Donor Council member did not attend*

Working Group Members and Other Donor Representatives:

Agence Française de Développement

Naïg Cozannet, Senior Investment Manager – Biodiversity and Natural Resources
Guillaume Chiron, Deputy Head of Division, Agriculture, Rural Development, Biodiversity

Conservation International

Kelvin Alie, Senior Vice President, Strategy, Delivery and Field Partnerships

European Commission

Irene Pasqua, Policy Assistant, Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, INTPA
Thierry Dudermel, Team Leader, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Global Environment Facility

Sarah Wyatt, Biodiversity Analyst

Paola Ridolfi, Manager of Policy and Operations

World Bank

Natalia Magradze, Environmental Specialist

CEPF Secretariat:

Olivier Langrand, Executive Director

Nina Marshall, Senior Director, Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach

Walid Mediouni, Senior Director, Finance and Operations

Julie Shaw, Director, Communications

Jack Tordoff, Managing Director

Antonia Cermak-Terzian, Director, Grants Management

Peggy Poncelet, Grant Director

Celine Desbrosses, Executive Assistant