

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
42nd Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Virtual Meeting
Thursday 15 February 2024
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Brussels and Paris Time
10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. (+1 day) Tokyo Time**

Partnership Highlights

Global Donors:

European Union (EU)

CEPF is expecting to sign in the next few weeks the financing agreement with the Agence française de développement (AFD) for a grant of €9.4 million to “Reduce the vulnerability of island populations in the Indian Ocean.” The convention between the European Union and AFD was signed on 30 November 2023.

The GEF

In December 2023, CEPF was informed that the expression of interest (EOI) submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) by CI-GEF and CEPF to serve as a GEF Small Grant Program (SGP) Core Implementing Agency (SGP 2.0) was considered by an ad hoc review committee constituted of senior members from the GEF Secretariat and representatives from STAP, the GEF CSO Network and IPAG. The committee found that CI-CEPF’s EOI scored high against the review criteria and successfully demonstrated CI-CEPF’s institutional strengths, comparative advantages, methodological approach and added value to SGP 2.0. The GEF Secretariat is confident that CEPF’s experience in community-driven grant-making, as well as its demonstrated technical expertise and competence across many of the five priority areas of the SGP 2.0, will be of a considerable benefit to SGP as it continues to expand and evolve as one of the GEF’s flagship programs, generating global environmental benefits and livelihood outcomes in an inclusive, innovative and impactful way. US\$67.5 million will be attributed between the three GEF agencies (UNDP, FAO and CI-CEPF).

Government of Japan/World Bank

In November 2023, the World Bank informed the CEPF Secretariat that an additional US\$1.55 million had been secured through interest earned on the Japan Trust Fund. It was kindly agreed with the Ministry of Finance of Japan to channel those funds into the

ongoing CEPF Caribbean Islands Hotspot project.

Regional Donors:

Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The US\$20 million concept note to support civil society organizations involved in biodiversity conservation through a grant program in three biodiversity hotspots—the Caribbean Islands, Tropical Andes and Mesoamerica—which CEPF had submitted in February 2023 has received green lights, except from the gender and Indigenous peoples advisor. CEPF provided more information on how CEPF addresses gender and supports Indigenous people, youth and women groups. In January 2024, CEPF was invited by the government of Canada to submit a full proposal for a total amount of US\$15 million focusing on the Tropical Andes, the Cerrado and Indo-Burma. The proposal is due by the end of February.

Fondation Hans Wilsdorf

In December 2023, CEPF was informed that the proposal to “Conserve two biodiversity hotspots (Mediterranean Basin and Guinean Forest of West Africa) by engaging and supporting organizational development of Civil Society” submitted to the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf for an amount of US\$15.1 million was approved and granted to CEPF. The contract was signed on 18 January 2024 and the kickoff is scheduled for 14 March 2024.

Franklinia Foundation

The Franklinia Foundation accepted CEPF's proposal for US\$1 million to preserve globally threatened tree species in Madagascar, avoid their extinction in the short term and improve their conservation status over the long term through a program of targeted grant-making to civil society organizations. This three-year project started 1 November 2023.

Margaret A. Cargill Foundation

CEPF signed a grant amendment in October 2023 with Margaret A. Cargill Foundation for US\$1 million to support the reinvestment in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.