

Executive Director's Report

45th Donor Council Meeting
25 November 2025



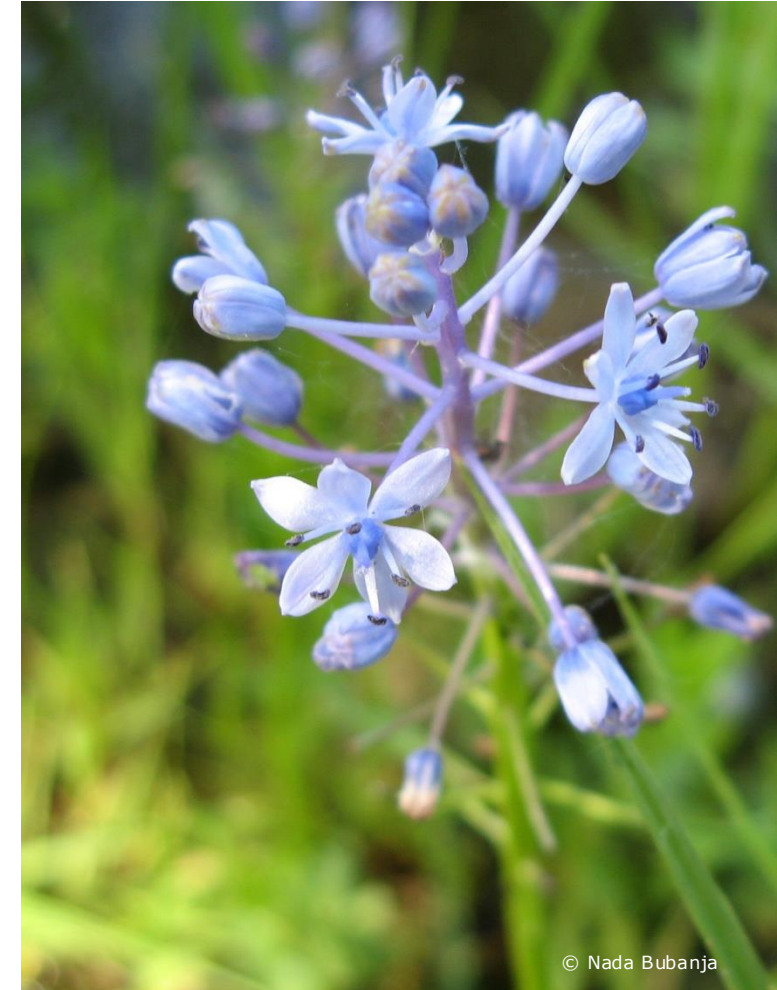
Follow-Up to Decisions of the 44th Donor Council Meeting: Secretariat Action Points

- Action Item: The Secretariat will develop guidelines for private sector engagement. The TOR for these guidelines will be put on the agenda of the next Donor Council meeting.
- Action Item: The Secretariat will share the Concept Note of the R2C2 with the Donor Council.
- Action Item: The Secretariat will provide a report at the next Donor Council meeting on progress with the R2C2 initiative.



Secretariat Action Points Continued

- Action Item: The Secretariat will report at the next Donor Council meeting on the findings of the stakeholder consultations for the GEF Small Grants Program.
- Action Item: The Secretariat will update the Donor Council at its next meeting on what CEPF is doing to promote NBSAPs.
- Action Item: The Secretariat will include a discussion on strategic communication on the agenda of the next Donor Council meeting.



© Nada Bujanja



Partnership Highlights

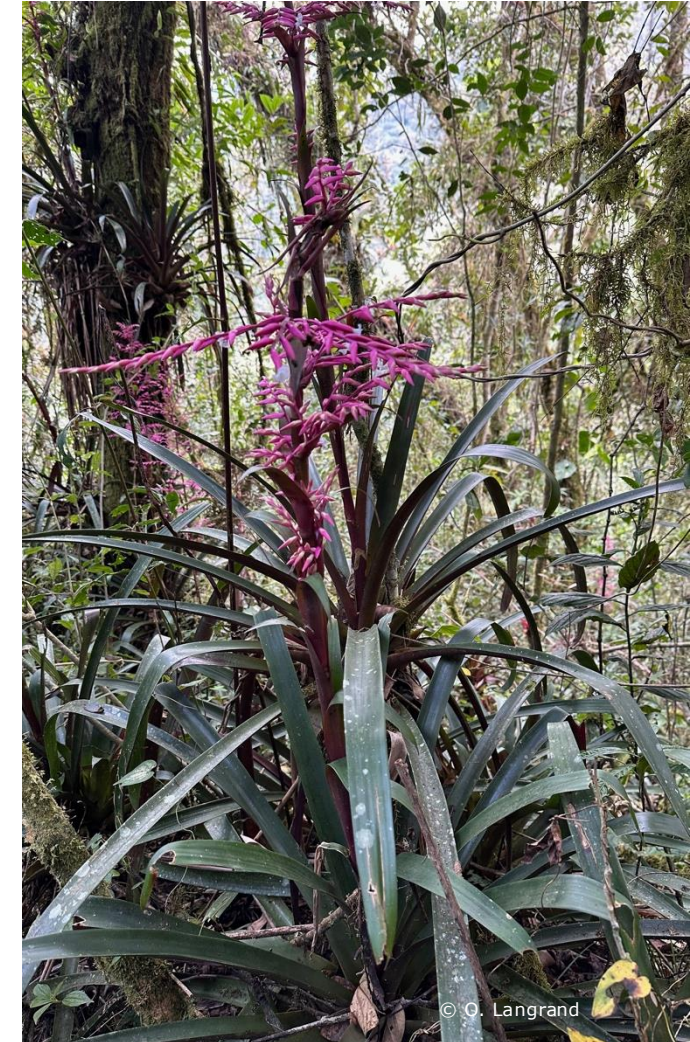
Global Partners

- Agence Française de Développement: Signed a new grant agreement for US\$17.5 million for biodiversity conservation in the Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Indo-Burma, and Mountains of Central Asia hotspots.
- Conservation International: Renewed commitment of US\$2 million for FY26.
- European Union and Agence Française de Développement: Convention for US\$5.5 million to support Rapid Rescue for Conservation Crises (R2C2).

Partnership Highlights Continued

Global Partners

- Fondation Hans Wilsdorf: CEPF's Organizational Development Strategy was completed and a new US\$5 million grant agreement signed for the Wallacea Hotspot.
- World Bank and Government of Japan: Provided a grant of an additional US\$2.35 million to complement the investment in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot.
- Global Environment Facility: National consultations took place in five countries as part of the engagement of CEPF as an executing entity of the GEF Small Grants Program with Conservation International as a GEF Implementing Agency. Allocation per country is US\$885,000 (excluding agency fee); funding should be available in January 2026.



Partnership Highlights Continued

Regional Partners

- Hempel Foundation: Signed a grant agreement of US\$5 million for conservation of terrestrial biodiversity of the Wallacea Hotspot. Hempel Foundation will increase its support to a level that will allow its participation in the governance of CEPF, if Donor Council members approve.
- Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies: Signed a new US\$2 million grant toward the next phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot. Discussions are taking place for this long-term supporter to become a global donor.
- Fondation Audemars-Watkins: Signed a new grant agreement for US\$0.9 million for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.



© Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation



Approved Grants

First and Second Quarter
FY26



BIODIVERSITY



CIVIL SOCIETY



HUMAN WELL-BEING



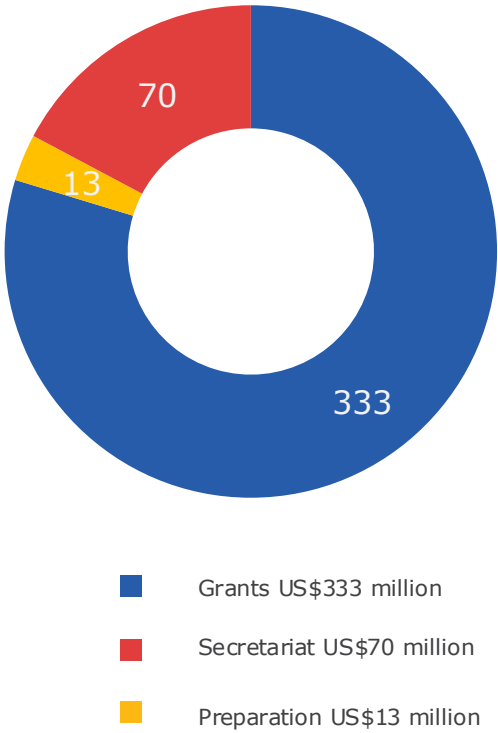
ENABLING CONDITIONS

Financial Report

Inception to Date

30 September 2025

\$K	PHASE I (2000–2007)	PHASE II + III (2008–to date)	TOTAL (2000–to date)
Revenue	126,621	375,991	502,611
Expenses	123,695	296,626	420,321
Balance	2,926	79,365	82,290
Pledged & Prospect Funds	0	0	0



Current Year FY26

30 September 2025
USD \$K

EXPENSE CATEGORY	FY26 BUDGET	FY26 ACTUAL	FY26 BURN RATE	FY25 ACTUAL
Grant Awards	22,194	4,311	19%	21,212
Secretariat Costs	5,061	1,123	22%	4,461
Profiling	600	182	30%	611
Special Projects	0	0	0%	0
Total	27,855	5,616	20%	26,284
Grant Disbursements	19,565	6,129	31%	19,970

Discussion



Social Sustainability Policy



S Y S
P O N S

DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FOR CEPF

|

Donor Council Meeting

November 25th 2025

Today's objective



Provide comments on CEPF's new Social Sustainability policy

AGENDA

01

Why a Social
Sustainability
policy?

02

The
development
process

03

The policy

04

Donor
feedback

05

Next steps

1 |

WHY A SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY?

Objectives of our assignment

WHY ARE WE HERE?

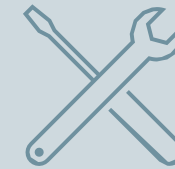
We are developing...



...a **Social Sustainability Policy**
for entire CEPF
globally



... **concrete guidelines** that
operationalize the policy along
the funding cycle for
meaningful and sustainable
implementation



... **Monitoring tools** that
assess the impact of the
policy

Meanwhile, we ensure that the policy **fits CEPF's objectives** and work while **aligning with donors** and ensure **adaptability to regional contexts and institutional environments**.

Why social sustainability matters for CEPF

- Biodiversity conservation and social equity are deeply **interconnected**.
- Achieving lasting conservation outcomes depends **on fair, inclusive, and equitable engagement** with people and communities.

Purpose and added value of the policy

- Strengthens **equity and inclusion** across CEPF's global portfolio.
- Ensures conservation efforts contribute to both **ecological** and **social** sustainability.
- **Aligns with donor priorities** while fitting CEPF's mission and grant-making model.
- **Addresses multidimensional inequalities** – economic, social, environmental, and territorial – through an **intersectional** and **context-sensitive lens**.
- **Builds on existing CEPF instruments**, such as the Gender Policy
- Ensures **adaptability** to regional and institutional contexts through tools that reflect **local socio-cultural dynamics**.
- Follows a **participatory, needs-based, and action-oriented** approach, promoting inclusive engagement, ownership, and uptake.

2 |

THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Our procedure

WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

Inception & Scoping	Consultation Phase	Drafting Phase	Finalization & Roll-Out
- Kick-off and scoping - Review of donor and CEPF policies - Initial mapping of opportunities and priorities - Establishment of the Steering Committee - Inception meetings with Steering Committee & Working Group 	- Workshops with Secretariat & RITs, Grantees - Stakeholder interviews and focus groups - Collecting input on ambition levels, priorities, risks, and enabling conditions - Synthesizing results to inform draft policy structure 	- Develop first draft of the Social Sustainability Policy - Internal review and feedback from Secretariat, Working Group, and Steering Committee - Refine draft text based on feedback 	- Final policy approval and adoption - Development of guidelines, tools, and monitoring framework - Trainings, translations, dissemination - Final report and close-out 
Q2 2025  Q1 2026			

We are here

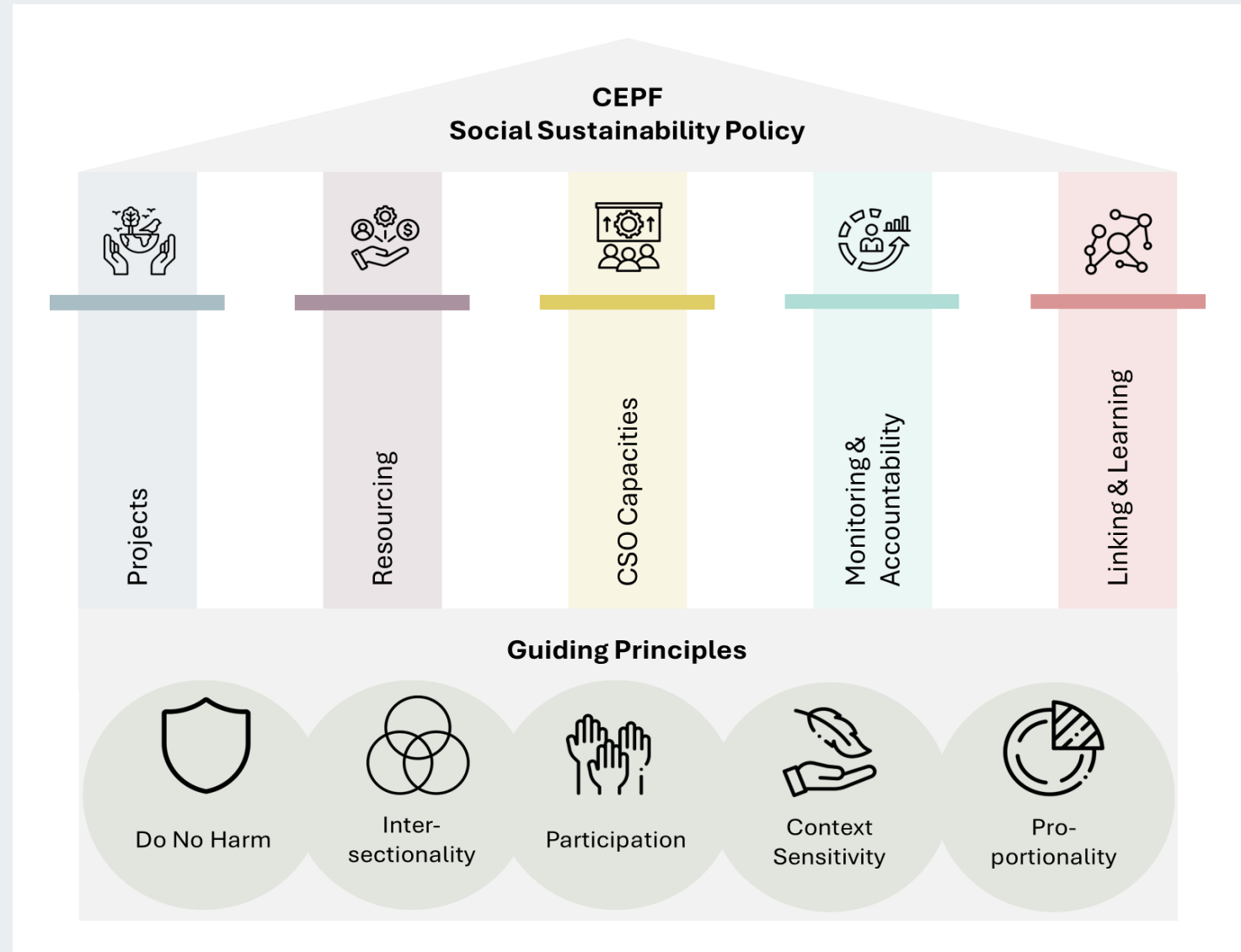
3 |

THE POLICY

The policy

OVERALL GOAL

Embed **equity and inclusion** across CEPF's work - ensuring conservation outcomes that are both **environmentally sustainable** and **socially just**.



4
|

DONOR FEEDBACK

5
|

NEXT STEPS

Next steps: guidelines & trainings

Drafting Phase	Finalization & Roll-Out
- Develop first draft of the Social Sustainability Policy - Internal review and feedback from Secretariat, Working Group, and Steering Committee - Refine draft text based on feedback	- Final policy approval and adoption - Development of guidelines, tools, and monitoring framework - Trainings, translations, dissemination - Final report and close-out

Q4 | 2025

Q1 | 2026

Purpose of the Guidelines

- Translate the Policy principles into practical guidance for implementation.
- Provide examples and tools for project design, monitoring, and reporting.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat, RITs, and grantees across the project cycle.
- Ensure that approaches are feasible, proportionate, and adapted to regional contexts.

THANK YOU

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Consultant

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Strategic Communications



CEPF Communications

Secretariat staff (2 full-time) + contractors as needed

- Implement CEPF brand/strategy.
- Develop content (stories, video).
- Manage website and social media.
- Produce publications (Impact Report, E-news, brochures).
- Support donor engagement (reports, presentations, events).
- Guide/coordinate with RITs/grantees.
- Manage media relations.
- Maintain photo/video library.



RIT Communications

Limited staffing; varies per hotspot.

- Establish a regional communications strategy.
- Develop and maintain regional civil society outreach.
- Develop hotspot-specific publications/content.
- Support donor engagement (field visits, presentations, events).
- Conduct regional media outreach.
- Build grantee communications capacity.





Donors and Grantees

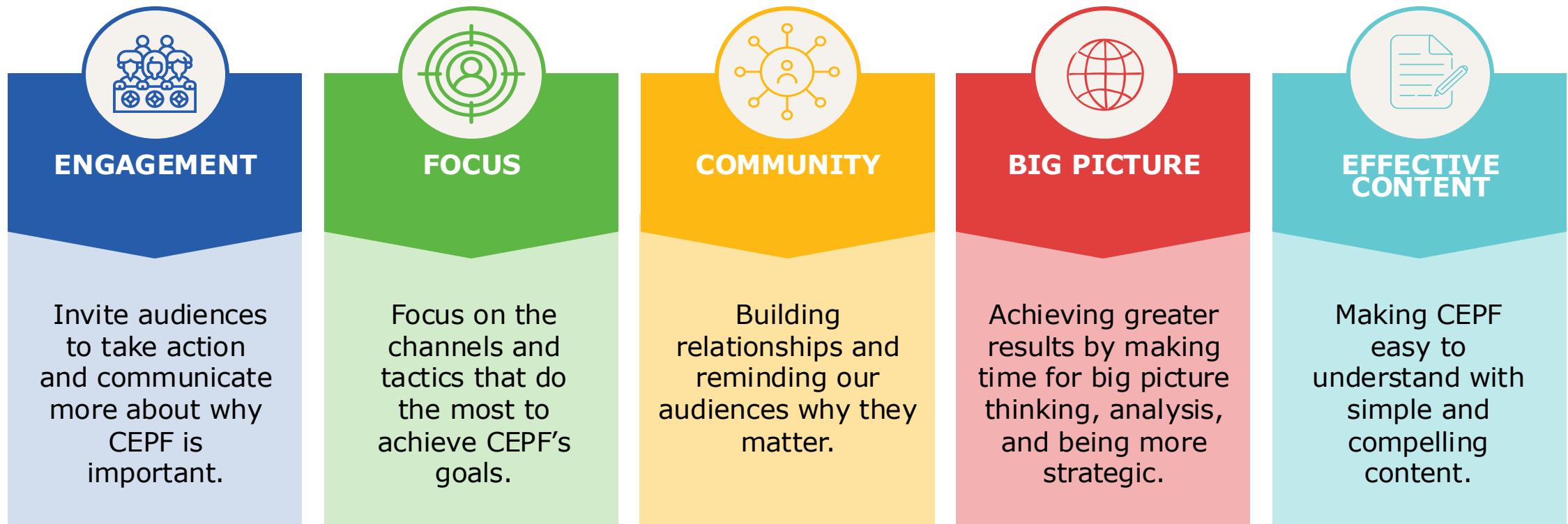
Donors and grantees are our allies in getting the word out about the results of our partnership.

- We encourage and support grantee communications about their projects.
 - Communications capacity building
 - Sharing content
- We collaborate with donors to share results and raise awareness.

Donor Council Approved Strategy in 2016

Developed with Big Duck communications firm.

Goal: Use strategic communications to increase CEPF's reach and better address the biodiversity crisis.

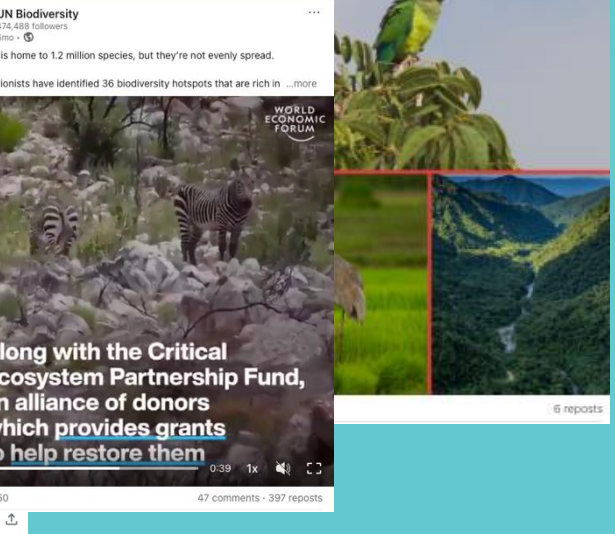
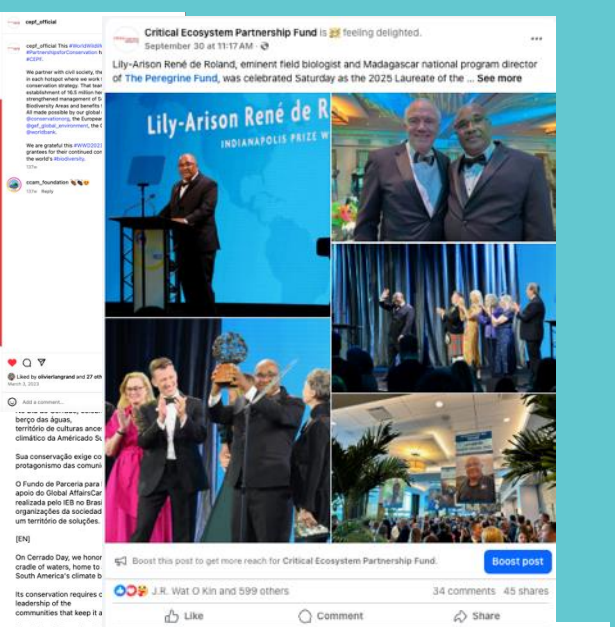
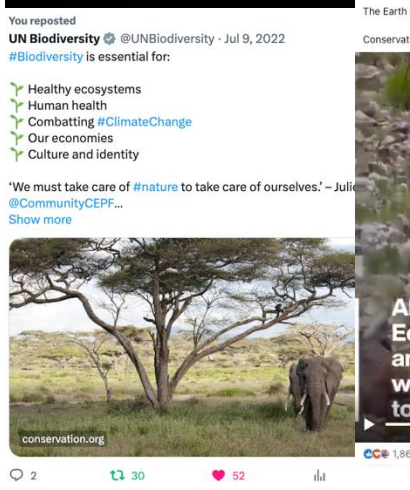
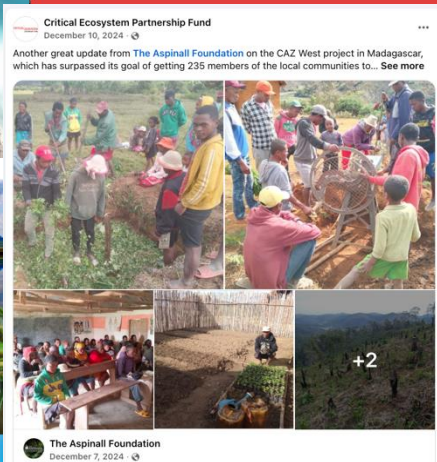
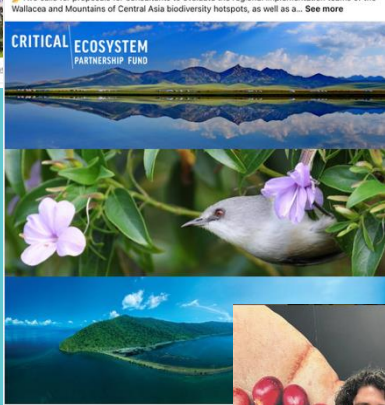
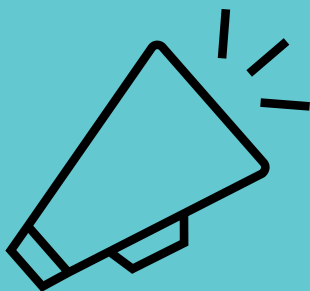


Resulting Changes

- Visual brand and messaging updated and implemented in communications products, channels and events.
- Website redesigned.
- Grantee and RIT communications toolkits and trainings updated.
- Increased use of metrics to measure engagement.







In the News



Earth Today | Caribbean biodiversity gets investment boost

Share this Story: [Like 1](#) [Post](#) [WhatsApp](#) [Share](#)

Published: Sunday | March 23, 2025 | 9:56 PM

18

Stanford Social Innovation Review / Summer 2021

CASE STUDY

AN INSIDE LOOK AT ONE ORGANIZATION

Partnering to Save a Biodiversity Hotspot

An American funding collaborative is on a mission to help environmental advocates in Southeast Asia protect the Mekong River. Can it do so while navigating the tide of regional politics?

Biodiversity hotspots

Russell A. Mittermeier^a, Anthony B. Rylands^a, and Olivier Langrand^{a, b} Re:wild, Austin, TX, United States; and ^bCritical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Secretariat, Conservation International, Arlington, VA, United States

© 2025 Elsevier Inc. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies. This is an update of R.A. Mittermeier, A.B. Rylands, Biodiversity Hotspots, Editor(s): Dominick A. Dellasala, Michael I. Goldstein, Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene, Elsevier, 2018, Pages 67–75, ISBN 9780128135761, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-809665-9.00962-6>.

ENVIRONMENT

Hen Mpoano launches reforestation exercise in Cape Three Points Forest Reserve

June 6, 2025/GNA

Illegal Fishing in Tonle Sap Lake Drops in First Half of 2025



Giant freshwater stingray considered for endangered species listing



Features Videos Podcasts Specials Articles Shorts [Donate](#)

The unknown Cerrado and its colossal biological relevance (commentary)

Archipels

FORUM 17 ODD PEOPLE FUN TECH PORTFOLIO



SITUÉ À CHAMAREL, EBONY FOREST EST UN PARC PRIVÉ QUI ATTIRE DES MILLIERS DE VISITEURS CHAQUE ANNÉE. CE RARE ET PRÉCIEUX SANCTUAIRE DE 50 HECTARES EST AVANT TOUT UNE RÉSERVE NATURELLE NÉE DE L'INITIATIVE DE PASSIONNÉS DE LA NATURE QUI SE SONT DONNÉ POUR MISSION DE PRÉSERVER, RESTAURER ET VALORISER LA BIODIVERSITÉ MENACÉE DE MAURICE.

Chatham Bay Selected as Pilot Site for Groundbreaking CSA

Press Release | 1 May 2025 | 8:13 PM | AST



National August 13, 2025

NatureLife and Rangers crack down on 158 fishing violations in over six months

DARYO [Uzbekistan](#) [Central Asia](#) [World](#) [Money](#) [Culture](#) [Sport](#) [Lifestyle](#)

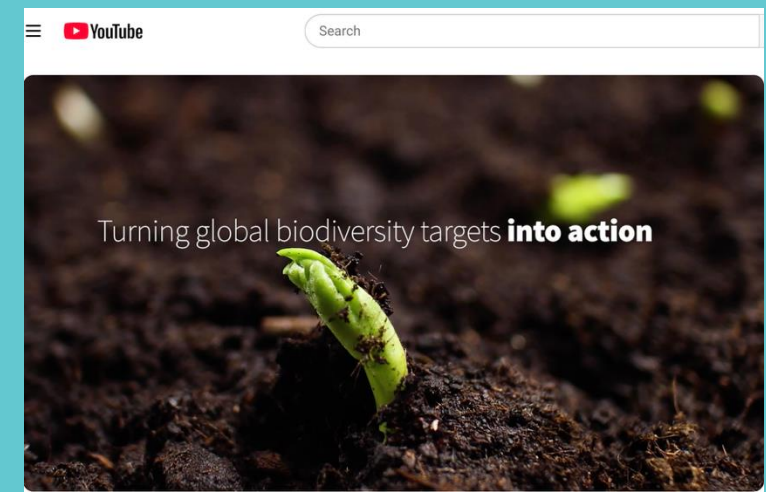
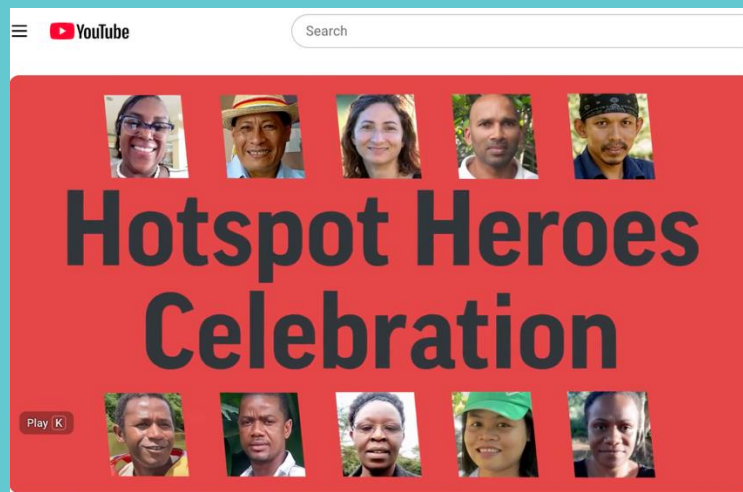
Turkmenistan's Koytendag Reserve eyes UNESCO World Heritage status

• Turkmenistan 06:00 / 20.07.2024

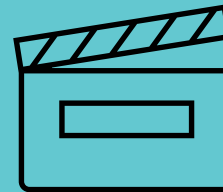


Naturadex Islands: A first platform on biodiversity in Tunisia

23/06/2025 18:10, TUNIS/Tunisia



Video/Multimedia Projects



Carlos Manuel Rodriguez · 1st
CEO and Chairperson at Global Environment Facility
9mo · Edited · 6

Protecting **#biodiversity** is a key priority for the Dominican Republic.

One way the Global Environment Facility contributes to the Caribbean nation's conservation efforts is as a donor to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. CEPF supports civil society to conserve the world's biodiversity hotspots. The GEF has been a member of this partnership from CEPF's inception 25 years ago.

Now the GEF, Conservation International and CEPF are building on this long-standing collaboration through the recent expansion of GEF SGP. With Conservation International becoming during GEF-8 an SGP implementing entity (along with FAO and UNDP), CEPF is providing a delivery mechanism in five countries under GEF-8 and hopefully many more under **#GEF9** to get SGP funds into the hands of civil society organizations for community-driven conservation and sustainable development.



and CEPF works on protecting biodiversity in the

296 14 comments · 13 reposts



Monthly Newsletter
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
Issue #73

CEPF 2024 Impact and Annual Reports

Biodiversity in the Indian Ocean: Solutions to Climate Change

Climate change: Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and...

Olivier LANGRAND
Directeur Général du CEPF

MORE VIDEOS 1:28 / 3:15

WORLD BANK GROUP Our Priorities Who We Are What We Do Where We Work Work With Us

Who We Are / News

FEATURE STORY | MARCH 4, 2024

Preserving Paradise - Local Solutions for Caribbean Biodiversity



Shanna Challenger introduces a student from Sunnyside Tutorial School to the Antigua Racer during a Floating Classroom field trip to Great Bird Island.

Donor Communications

EU International Partnerships · @EUPartnerships · Jul 13, 2021 · ...

What's one of the best ways to protect **#OurPlanet's #biodiversity**? To empower people 🧑🏽🧑🏻🧑🏼🧑🏾🧑🏿

We are proud to be a global donor to **@CommunityCEPF**, whose work is driving positive change **#ForPeopleForPlanet** alike.

Find more in the latest report: bit.ly/3hBUjre



You and 9 others

2 16 26

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
8,447 followers
3mo · 9

We're excited to welcome the **Hempel Foundation** on board alongside **Burung Indonesia** to work towards securing a sustainable future for Wallacea's wildlife and people!

Hempel Foundation
17,375 followers
3mo · 9

This new chapter in conservation puts local leadership at the center of protecting Wallacea 🌿🐦🌳...more

A New Chapter for Conservation
A new partnership will support local leadership in protecting Wallacea's irreplaceable biodiversity.

Here's how →



Government of Canada **Gouvernement du Canada**

Search Canada.ca

MENU

[Canada.ca](https://www.conservation.org/critical-ecosystem-partnership-fund) > [Global Affairs Canada](#)

During COP16, Canada announces new partnerships to support global biodiversity and Indigenous-led action

From: [Global Affairs Canada](#)

<https://www.conservation.org/critical-ecosystem-partnership-fund>

Stay up to date on key developments, statements and milestones from Conservation International at COP30

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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PRIORITIES
Climate
Oceans



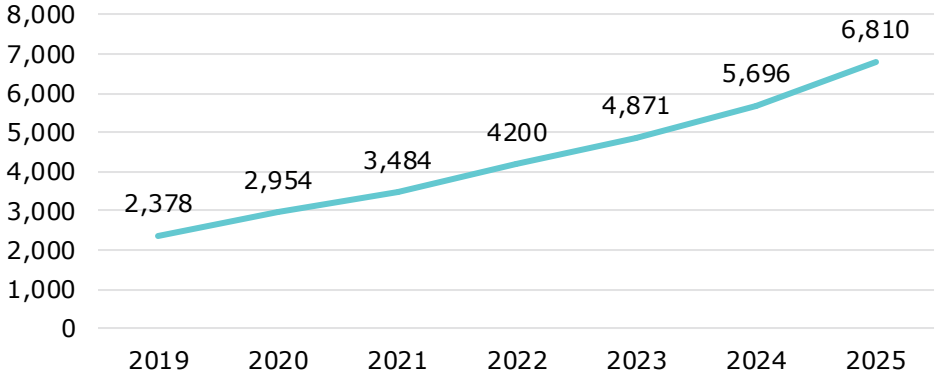
CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Biodiversity is fundamental to a healthy planet and thriving communities, but the world's species are under extreme threat. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) fills a unique, strategic role in addressing the extinction and climate crises by supporting civil society — nongovernmental organizations, communities, Indigenous peoples, and academic and private sector entities — to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots.

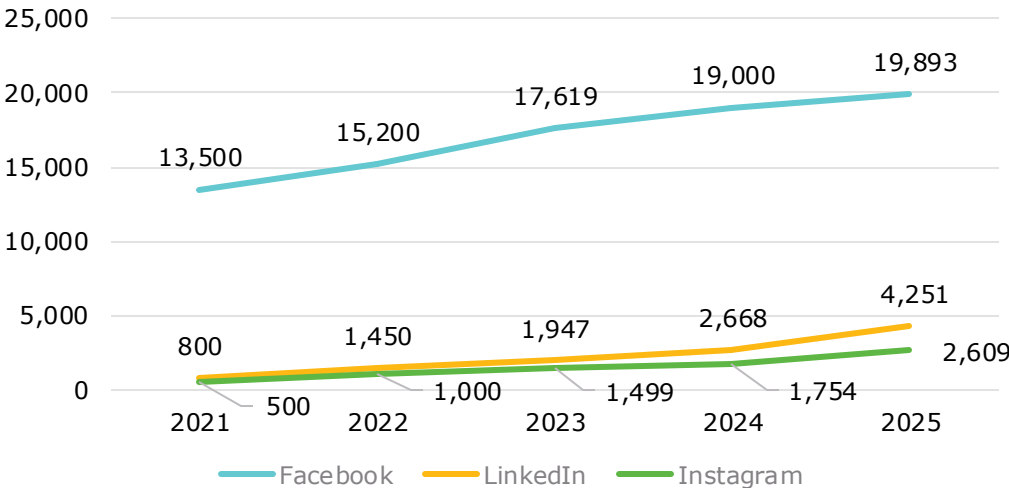
Some Numbers



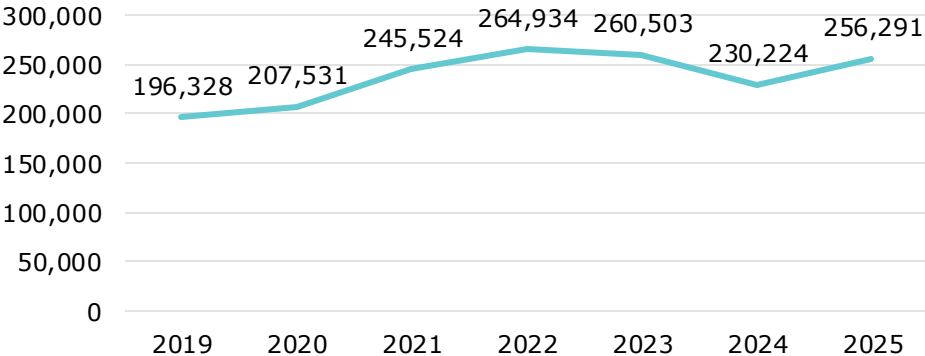
E-News Subscribers



Social Media Followers



Website Visitation



Opportunities

- New initiative to update the biodiversity hotspots data.
- Increased emphasis on communications in RIT agreements.
- Increasing support for grantee communications capacity.
- Communications-directed support in donor agreements, such as in the EU agreement.
- Efficiencies provided by artificial intelligence.





© Vlad Ushakov

Challenges

- Communications budget rarely included in grant agreements.
- More donors, more expectations.
- Contractual obligations.
- Media fragmentation.
- Artificial intelligence impact on Internet searching.
- The manual processes required to maintain and update the documentation on the website.

Looking Further Ahead

Key questions:

- What are the top priorities for CEPF communications from the donor perspective?
- How do we ensure we have the resources to achieve those priorities?
- How can we enhance synergies between CEPF and donor communications?



© Jaime Rojo

Discussion



CRITICAL | ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



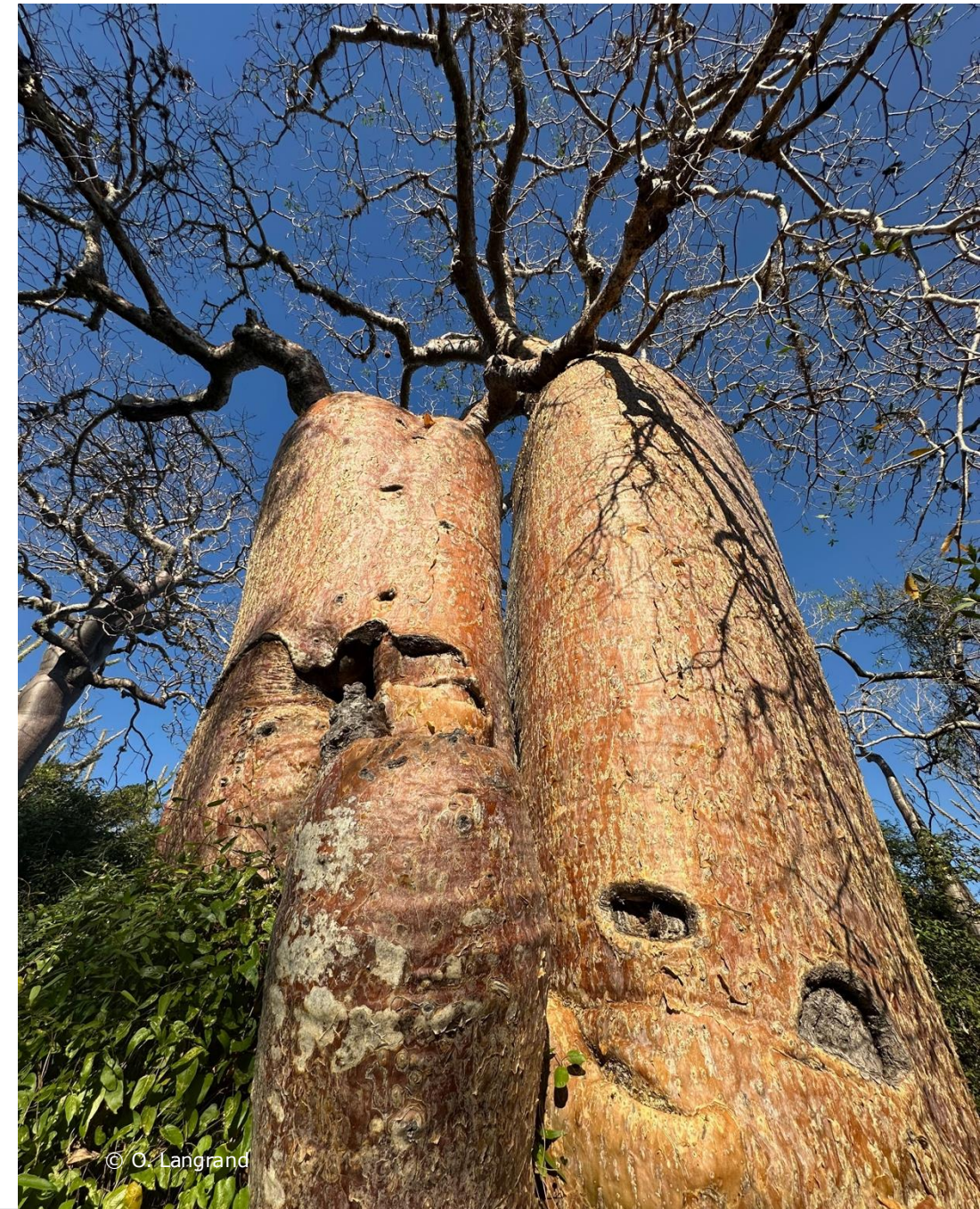
2001-2024 2024
IMPACT & ANNUAL
reports

CEPF 2024 Impact and Annual Report

24 Years of Impact

Results of CEPF grantee projects from 2001 through 30 June 2024

- 25 biodiversity hotspots
- 34 investment phases
- 112 countries and territories
- US\$307 million awarded in grants
- 2,770 civil society organizations
- 3,024 grants awarded



© O. Langrand

CEPF's Monitoring Framework

- 4 Pillars – Biodiversity, Civil Society, Human Well-being, Enabling Conditions
- 17 Indicators
- Grant classification
- Contributions to U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and Global Biodiversity Framework targets



© José Soriano, Associação Lantuna-BLI



© Moutaouakil Soumia

CEPF's Monitoring and Evaluation Tools

- Customized tracking tools
 - Civil Society Tracking Tool
 - Gender Tracking Tool
 - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection
- Online/offline systems for data capture and storage
- Ability to aggregate and report on results accurately and efficiently
- Continual evolution to meet new needs

Challenges Encountered

- Interpretation and overreporting.
- Maintaining a focus on reporting during implementation.
- Continual need for training of RITs.
- Timely validation of grantee results.
- Additional indicators (and tracking tools) for specific investments.
- Integration of hotspot specific indicators into ConservationGrants.
- Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting.



© Nina Marshall

Biodiversity

- 17.2 million hectares of new protected areas
- 55.9 million hectares of KBAs with improved management
- 12.3 million hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity
- 21% average increase in METT score
- 1,335 species benefiting



© QuocHuy/GreenViet



© Juan Llacsá/Amazónicos por la Amazonía – AMPA

Strengthened Civil Society

- 2,770 civil society organizations receiving support from CEPF
- 535 local grantees reporting an increase in their organizational capacity
- 332 local grantees reporting an increased understanding of and commitment to gender issues
- 1,104 networks/partnerships supported, 786 of which CEPF helped to create

Human Well-Being

- 5,974 communities benefiting.
- More than 241,240 people receiving structured training, including 64,817 women
- More than 114,664 people receiving cash benefits, including 37,363 women
- At least 1,860 projects promoting nature-based solutions to climate change



© Nina Marshall

Enabling Conditions

- 76 sustainable financing mechanisms created and/or supported
- 550 laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions enacted or amended
- 258 companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices



© Associação Projeto Biodiversidade



© Gerson Ferrer

Looking Ahead

- Organizational Development indicators
- Social sustainability indicators
- Standardizing portfolio indicators

Discussion





Progress Report: R2C2 Initiative

Background

- In November 2024, AFD entered into a contribution agreement with the European Commission to secure financing under EU Action ACT-61938, which provides for the establishment of a rapid response mechanism for wildlife conservation.
- In November 2025, AFD signed a financing agreement with CI, to make available this financing for a “Rapid Rescue for Conservation Crises” (R2C2) facility, to be executed by CEPF.
- The CEPF Secretariat has developed, tested and refined mechanisms to operationalize the R2C2 facility, including by awarding pilot grants.



Scope

The aim of the R2C2 facility is to address immediate conservation crises requiring an urgent response:

- Natural crises (wildfires, droughts, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, cyclones, mass strandings, etc.).
- Human-induced crises (security threats to environmental activists, sudden spikes in poaching, pollution events, etc.).

To be eligible for support, a conservation crisis must:

- Be immediate (i.e., presently occurring, not merely anticipated).
- Require an urgent response (within three months)
- Be in a country eligible to receive EU development aid.

Implementation

A dedicated operational manual for the R2C2 facility was prepared in mid-2024, in close consultation with AFD and the EU.

The R2C2 facility will make use of Fixed Amount Awards (FAAs), under which grantees are reimbursed on the basis of satisfactory completion of milestones.

FAAs are intended to enable faster grant award times and reduce the reporting burden on grantees.

Four small grants (up to US\$50,000) were awarded during 2025, to test the policies and procedures set out in the operational manual: 2 in Indo-Burma; 2 in MADIO.



© Rising Phoenix

R2C2 Grant 1

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust *Emergency Dam Construction to Restore Lake Sofia, Madagascar*
US\$50,000

LOI received on 6 January; grant agreement signed 4 weeks later.

Supported emergency repairs to an earth embankment breached by floodwaters.

Prevented the permanent loss of Lake Sofia: a Ramsar site that supports the largest population of Madagascar pochard (CR).

Ensured the livelihoods of c.10,000 people who depend on the lake for flood control, irrigation, drinking water, fish and other natural resources.



© Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

R2C2 Grant 2

Turtle Survival Alliance *Flood Relief, Facility Restoration and Emergency Care for Tortoises, Madagascar* US\$50,000

LOI received on 24 January; grant agreement signed 2 weeks later.

Responded to the impacts of flooding on Lavavolo Tortoise Center in southern Madagascar, following three cyclones.

Rebuilt infrastructure damaged by the flood and provided veterinary care to c.12,000 turtles from two CR species: radiated tortoise and spider tortoise.



© Turtle Survival Alliance

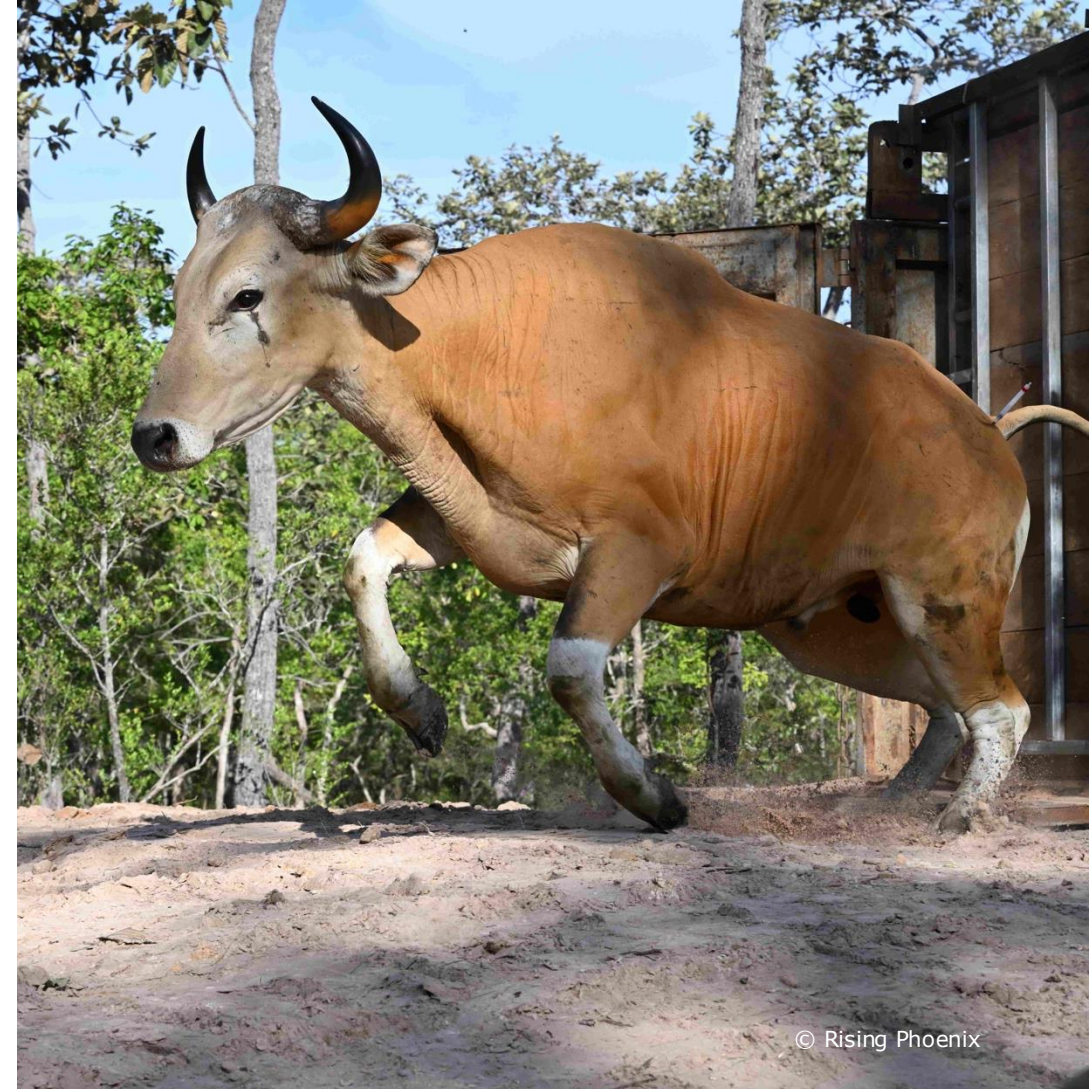
R2C2 Grant 3

Rising Phoenix *Translocation of a Threatened Banteng Herd to a Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambodia* US\$50,000.

LOI received on 31 January; grant agreement signed 6 weeks later.

Responded to discovery of a herd of banteng (CR) in an isolated forest fragment under immediate threat of poaching and forest clearance.

Safely translocated 16 banteng to Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, where they form the nucleus of a breeding population for future reintroduction efforts.



© Rising Phoenix

R2C2 Grant 4

Center for Nature Conservation and Development *Conservation of Delacour's Langur at Huong Son Forest, Vietnam* US\$20,000

LOI received on 17 March; grant agreement signed 4 weeks later. Responded to a hunting crisis facing Delacour's langur (CR) at Huong Son forest, after support was withdrawn by a funder.

Initiated forest patrols by community members to remove snares, establish signage and provide intelligence to law enforcement agencies.

No recorded cases of poaching since the start of the project but evidence of breeding.



© Phạm Văn Sơn

Discussion





Findings of the Stakeholder Consultations for the GEF Small Grants Program

Background

- In December 2022, the GEF Council approved an increase in the number of Core SGP Implementing Agencies (IAs).
- In December 2023, CI was selected as one of two new GEF SGP IAs.
- In February 2024, the Donor Council approved the CEPF Secretariat to act as a delivery mechanism for the SGP in countries where CI is selected as the IA.
- Five countries chose to work with CI as the SGP IA during GEF-8.



Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
© Jacob Bock-FFI

CEPF to Collaborate with Conservation International for GEF Small Grants Program

With Conservation International as a New Implementing Agency, CEPF Will Serve as Delivery Mechanism

07 JANUARY 2025

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is proud to support [Conservation International](#) in its new role as an implementing agency for [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\) Small Grants Program](#).

Since its inception in 2000, CEPF has been fortunate to list the GEF and Conservation International among its global donor partners—an assemblage of leaders in conservation funding that also includes l'Agence Française de Développement, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Their support and guidance have enabled CEPF to provide more than US\$300 million grants for biodiversity conservation and organizational capacity building to more than 2,700 civil-society grantees in 112 countries. ([Learn more about CEPF's Impact.](#))

The new SGP reinforces already strong bonds among Conservation International, CEPF and the GEF in our shared mission to bring together diverse civil society stakeholders—including Indigenous peoples and local communities—to address pressing environmental challenges.

Stakeholder Consultations

The CEPF Secretariat visited the five countries, as follows:

- Equatorial Guinea, 3-7 February 2025
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 24-28 March 2025
- Sri Lanka, 1-4 April 2025
- Turkmenistan, 6-11 April 2025
- Libya, 20-23 April 2025

During each visit, the Secretariat staff:

- Met with GEF Operational Focal Point.
- Organized one or more national stakeholder consultation meetings.
- Met with selected government and civil society stakeholders.



Barriers Faced by CSOs

1. There is limited alignment between local civil society actions and national environmental policies and action plans.
2. Smaller CSOs have limited access to funding.
3. Local CSOs have limited organizational capacity, in particular in administrative, technical and financial management.
4. Local CSOs in rural areas and underdeveloped urban areas have limited technical skills.
5. Women, youth, Indigenous people and other marginalized groups face intersecting challenges and their needs are often poorly understood.
6. CSOs have a limited capacity to demonstrate impacts and, thereby, leverage either political influence or additional funding.
7. Many smaller CSOs operate in a highly localized context, and both knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning are limited.

Opportunities

- There are opportunities in each country for SGP implementation to contribute to improve alignment and policy coherence.
- It is realistic to expect CSOs and CBOs to raise awareness of existing environmental legislation and policies at the community level, while also emphasizing the inherent interlinkages between different environmental problems in their countries.
- If properly documented and disseminated, the impacts of SGP grants can inform development of environmental legislation and policies.
- The National Steering Committees will be an important mechanism in this regard.



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Discussion



A photograph of a brown monkey hanging upside down from a mossy tree branch in a lush forest. The monkey has a white patch on its chest and a black face. The background is filled with green foliage and moss.

THANK YOU

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