

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Sixth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
31 March 2004

Follow-up to Decisions Taken at the Fifth Meeting of the Donor Council

List of Follow up Actions:

1. When the timing is appropriate, the Working Group will discuss the topic of replenishment for Madagascar and a decision will be circulated to the Donor Council for consideration. This discussion will be based on the results of the Madagascar mid-term review and the results of the appraisal being undertaken as part of the EP #3

Status: Since the initial visit to Madagascar, there have been significant changes that have affected the context within which CEPF is operating and thus the content of the review. President Marc Ravalomanana's pronouncements at the World Parks Congress demonstrating a resurgent commitment to conservation and the solidification of CI's Center for Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar are the two most significant changes that required re-assessment and evaluation. As a result, the CEPF Monitoring and Evaluation team, accompanied by an external consultant, revisited the review for Madagascar. The Working Group will receive a revised review, including thoughts on CEPF replenishment, and this will be one of the primary subjects for discussion during the May/June Working Group meeting.

The World Bank undertook an appraisal to evaluate the results of the National Environmental Plan for Madagascar #2, commonly known as EP #2 and to make recommendations for how to structure EP #3. The appraisal has been finalized, and in November 2003, the GEF Council approved disbursement of \$9 million to the World Bank, as the executing agency of the project. The project is now being discussed internally within the World Bank, specifically on whether to go forward with an endowment for Madagascar. Once this issue has been resolved, EP #3 will be submitted to the World Bank Board for consideration. UNDP has also committed \$4.5 million, bringing the total commitment for EP #3 to \$13.5 million.

2. A Donor Council meeting will be convened to discuss the potential modalities and opportunities for the future of CEPF. The Working Group will develop and set the agenda for this meeting.

Status: The idea of having a Donor Council meeting to discuss the potential modalities and opportunities for the future of the CEPF was discussed during the 2 December Working Group meeting. The Working Group felt that it was premature to host a special meeting to discuss the future of the partnership and recommended that CEPF first hold bilateral discussions with the first three partners: Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank.

3. The Northern Mesoamerica ecosystem profile will be evaluated by the Working Group and then submitted for approval on a no-objection basis.

Status: Pursuant to decision by the CEPF Donor Council at its meeting on July 31, 2003, the Working Group was asked to review the Ecosystem Profile for Northern Mesoamerica and provide for its approval on a no-objection basis. Similarly, the Working Group was asked to provide for the no-objection approval of a five-year spending increase of \$7.3 million. There were no objections provided on the revised ecosystem profile by the deadline, thus it was approved for \$7.3 million, increasing the overall CEPF spending authority from \$88.1 to \$95.4 million on 15 January 2004.

4. CEPF will continue to seek GEF Focal Point endorsement for the Caucasus and Eastern Arc ecosystem profiles.

Status: GEF Focal Point Endorsement has been received for five of the six countries in the Caucasus Hotspot (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia) and the Eastern Arc Hotspot (Kenya, Tanzania). CEPF, with the support of its regional partners, will continue to seek GEF Focal Point Endorsement for Turkey.

5. CEPF will prepare management fee and spending plan comparisons between spending plans.

Status: This will be prepared upon closing of CEPF's fiscal year around the time of CI's next annual audit, anticipated for November 2004. The results from this will be presented to the CEPF Donor Council in December 2004.

6. There will be a series of efforts to further CEPF's fundraising agenda. CEPF Donor Partners will be involved in this outreach, as part of strategic, targeted activities.

Status: In part, influenced by CEPF's successful partnership, the Government of Australia launched a regional program to support biodiversity conservation in hotspots of strategic interest to Australia, such as the Polynesia/Micronesia hotspot, Indo-China, Philippines and Indonesia. CEPF submitted a proposal for \$AU 1 million in support of CEPF's \$10 million investment in Sumatra. In addition, CEPF hopes to influence the next tranche of their investment (anticipated to be \$AU 8 million) towards the pipeline CEPF profiles for Indo-China and Polynesia/Micronesia. Mr. Wolfensohn submitted a letter of introduction about CEPF to Asian Development Bank president, Mr. Chino, encouraging them to consider a regional partnership with CEPF. In addition, CEPF prepared a briefing note on the partnership that Mr. Wolfensohn discussed in a meeting with the heads of the three regional development banks (Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and African Development Bank). Since then, Mr. Thomsen met with the Executive Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank on March 2 to discuss possible collaboration between IDB and CEPF. Subsequently, Mr. Iglesias, the President of the IDB, requested a formal invitation for exploring possible collaboration from the Chair of the CEPF Donor Council. Finally, exploratory meetings were held by Mr. Thomsen with representatives from Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad, and Ministry of Environment. Similar meetings were held with representatives from Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.