

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

Eighth Meeting of the Donor Council  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
26 March 2005

**Update on efforts to integrate poverty reduction measures into CEPF business****For Information Only:**

This information is presented as an update on CEPF's efforts to integrate poverty reduction into CEPF business. A full report, with supporting documentation, will be provided in the summer working group meeting and 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Donor Council.

**Background:**

During the Sixth CEPF Donor Council Meeting on March 31, 2004, the Council members requested that the CEPF management team, together with the CEPF Working Group, develop a standardized way to report on various components of the grant portfolio, including the link to poverty reduction. It was also requested that the team develop a common statement about CEPF and poverty reduction.

In response, the management team produced a statement on the link between CEPF and poverty reduction for discussion and refinement at the October 14 meeting of the CEPF Working Group and for discussion and endorsement during the 1 November 2004 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council. The council members provided unanimous endorsement of the statement and supporting documents on the link between CEPF and poverty reduction.

Since then, CEPF has partnered with the Human Dimensions program at CI's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science to design and pilot a methodology for evaluating CEPF's association with poverty reduction. To date, formal terms of reference (summary attached below) have been agreed and a questionnaire has been designed to capture the relationship between CEPF projects and poverty reduction, specifically with reference to rural poverty as explained in "CEPF and Poverty Reduction: An Overview" presented in the seventh Donor Council binder. The questionnaire has been developed in consultation with a global sample of CEPF grantees and partners.

Currently, CEPF is piloting the questionnaire in the southern region of the Mesoamerica Hotspot. In conjunction with this initiative, the Human Dimensions program is in the process of collecting and analyzing socio-economic data to inform the poverty reduction analysis. Results from the initial pilot are expected in mid-April. Once preliminary results are available CEPF, with the support of the Human Dimensions program, will quickly work to apply the pilot methodology in three additional CEPF regions in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. CEPF plans to report initial findings in the fourth quarterly report of fiscal year 2005.

Once the preliminary results are collected and analyzed, the CEPF management team will roll out further evaluations in all CEPF regions.

**INTEGRATED HUMAN DIMENSIONS PROGRAM SUPPORT TO THE CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND ON SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE MESOAMERICA HOTSPOT AND THREE ADDITIONAL HOTSPOTS**

The Human Dimensions Program is undertaking the following efforts and providing technical assistance to respond to CEPF's need to track and monitor our contribution to poverty reduction:

1. Collecting data from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grantees in the southern part of the Mesoamerica Hotspot;
2. Compiling data from in-country statistical agencies in the same region, integrated analysis of these data to evaluate the impacts on human welfare of CEPF-funded projects in the southern part of the Mesoamerica Hotspot;
3. Developing written guidelines for using this method of data assembly and analysis in other CEPF regions, and providing technical support in *rolling out* this approach to evaluate CEPF impacts on human welfare in three additional hotspots (Atlantic Forest, Succulent Karoo, and Sundaland).
4. A literature review will identify relationships between conservation and human welfare, both guiding the Southern Mesoamerica analysis and placing the results in context.

Data collection from CEPF grantees will employ a questionnaire developed specifically for obtaining information on perceived effects on human welfare. Data compilation, in turn, will involve assembling data from in-country agencies that collect such information, such as the statistical agencies that conduct censuses of population and housing. Proposed research will involve staff from the Human Dimensions Program at Conservation International, who will support CEPF in developing and applying methods to evaluate the association between human welfare and CEPF projects. To direct adequate attention on *developing and refining* the analytical tools necessary to integrate data from two different sources, the project will constrain its initial geographic focus to the southern part of the Mesoamerica Hotspot (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama) to provide an example application of these tools for an area where CEPF is active.

To demonstrate the utility of this dual approach to data assembly, followed by their integrated analysis, for other CEPF regions, the project will apply this method to three additional hotspots: the Atlantic Forest, Succulent Karoo, and Sundaland subsequently.

**Preliminary Timeline and Deliverables**

March:	Final questionnaire for use in Southern Mesoamerica ready to be implemented.
April:	Results from questionnaire integrated with socioeconomic data and plotted in a geo-spatial format for Southern Mesoamerica.
Late April:	Final integration of questionnaire results with Southern Mesoamerica socioeconomic data in map form.
May:	Summary on the association between CEPF-funded projects and human welfare for Southern Mesoamerica
June:	Develop and describe a method for applying collection of CEPF grantee data, compiling associated socioeconomic data, conducting integrated analyses of these data for all CEPF regions, and placing these analyses in the context of current research on the interface between conservation and human welfare, through a thorough literature review.
Late July:	Implement questionnaire and collect socioeconomic data, in collaboration with regional CEPF partners for three additional CEPF regions: Atlantic Forest, Succulent Karoo, and Sundaland.
Late August:	Analysis on the association between CEPF-funded projects and human welfare, based on integration of questionnaire results with socioeconomic data in map form, for the three additional CEPF hotspots.