

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**  
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 1.1 of the Operational Manual

December 8, 2020

**Revised Spending Authority for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot**

**Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** an increase in the spending authority for the Mediterranean Basin hotspot of \$1,985,000 to include the additional funding made available by Fondation MAVA. The total spending authority for the Mediterranean Basin hotspot will become \$12,563,000.

The deadline for no-objection approval is December 22, 2020.

**Background:**

On May 7, 2017, the Donor Council approved on a no-objection basis (CEPF/DC/electronic/45) the ecosystem profile for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, with a spending authority of \$10 million.

On July 24, 2019, Fondation MAVA provided a grant to CEPF in support of the small grant mechanism in the Balkans sub-region, within the framework of the CEPF investment strategy for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. An increase to the spending authority for the hotspot of \$578,000 was subsequently approved by the Donor Council on October 31, 2019, by no-objection. Consequently, the spending authority is currently \$10,578,000.

On October 29, 2020, Fondation MAVA provided a second grant to CEPF in support of the program in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. This is wider in scope than the first grant: it covers all sub-regions of the hotspot and provides matching contributions to four strategic directions (SD1 on coastal, SD2 on freshwater, SD3 on cultural landscapes, SD5 on networking, and SD6 on the Regional Implementation Team). The total value of the grant award to CEPF is \$2,378,951, of which \$1,625,000 will be used to support sub-grants to civil society organizations, \$360,000 to expand the capabilities of the Regional Implementation Team, and \$393,951 to support CEPF Secretariat operations. The spending authority for the hotspot excludes CEPF Secretariat operations, hence the requested increase is by \$1,985,000.