

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Operational Manual

30 September 2025

Ecosystem profile for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** the ecosystem profile for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot, and an increase in CEPF's spending authority by US\$8 million for the implementation of this profile.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **14 October 2025**.

Background

The ecosystem profile for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot was updated between June and August 2025, by Burung Indonesia and the CEPF Secretariat. The process incorporated the results of stakeholder consultations held in July and August 2020 (in relation to the marine realm) and June and July 2021 (in relation to the terrestrial and freshwater realms).

Commitments of funding from Fondation Hans Wilsdorf and the Hempel Foundation have made possible a third phase of CEPF investment in Wallacea, from 2026 to 2031. This is intended to be a full reinvestment, following prior investments during 2014-2020 (Phase I, US\$6.7 million) and 2020-2024 (Phase II, US\$2.7 million). During these two phases, CEPF and the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at Burung Indonesia awarded 172 grants to civil society organizations. The investment strategy set out in the updated ecosystem profile builds on the results achieved and lessons learned from these earlier investments.

Since the original ecosystem was prepared in 2013-2014, there have been significant changes to the political and donor landscape in Wallacea, as well as to the availability of data on conservation priorities, and to threats to biodiversity and their drivers. Collectively, these changes have affected the operating environment for civil society in the hotspot. The updated ecosystem profile reflects these changes and incorporates new information on the context for biodiversity conservation by civil society organizations in the Wallacea Hotspot.

The draft ecosystem profile was presented to the CEPF Working Group at its 81st meeting, on 24 September 2025. The ecosystem profile was subsequently revised, to address comments from the Working Group. A matrix showing how comments from the Working Group have been addressed is attached, together with the final ecosystem profile.