

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**No-Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement
February 15, 2017**

Increase the Spending Authority for Indo-Burma Hotspot

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** an increase in Spending Authority to the following hotspot:

1. Indo-Burma: An increase of \$765,000 in the Spending Authority to include the additional funding made available by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. The total Spending Authority for the Indo-Burma hotspot will total \$25,623,000 comprising the approved \$9,878,000 for Phase 1, the approved \$14,980,000 for Phase 2, and this request of \$765,000.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **March 01, 2017**.

Background:

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has provided a grant to CEPF in support of work in Indo-Burma, specifically Myanmar. The agreement in support of the work of CEPF in Indo-Burma is entitled *Protecting the Natural Ecosystems and Threatened Species of Myanmar through Engaging and Strengthening Civil Society*, and will be implemented between January 2017 through December 2019. The project is intended to empower and engage a community of conservation actors at local, national, and regional levels. This will be achieved by providing technical and financial support to civil society organizations working in Myanmar to implement locally relevant conservation projects in priority sites. The desired outcome is for civil society organizations to benefit from regional cooperation and capacity building, and to strengthen and protect natural ecosystems and threatened species in Myanmar. Of the \$900,000 award, \$765,000 will be invested in the region as sub-grants, with the balance helping to support CEPF Secretariat operations.