

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

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

Increase the Spending Authority for Madagascar and Indian Oceans Biodiversity Hotspot

Recommended Action Item:

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

1. Madagascar and Indian Oceans: An increase of \$1,275,000 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 Madagascar and Indian Oceans Biodiversity Hotspot will total \$9,540,000 comprising the approved \$8,265,000 for Phase 2, and this request of \$1,275,000.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **May 30, 2017**.

Background:

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has provided an at-cost amendment to an existing, active grant to CEPF in support of work in the Madagascar and Indian Oceans Biodiversity Hotspot. The agreement in support of the work of CEPF is entitled *Supporting Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund for a Stronger Conservation Community in Madagascar*, and will be implemented between March 2015 through March 2019. The project is intended to strengthen civil society organizations in Madagascar to enhance their role in preserving biodiversity, working with local communities, and engaging government and private sector. This will be achieved by providing technical and financial support to civil society organizations working in Madagascar to implement locally relevant conservation projects in priority sites. The desired outcome is to civil society organizations to protect/manage biodiversity; mainstream biodiversity into policies/practices; ensure Malagasy civil society organizations benefit from regional cooperation; and build a portfolio of mutually supportive actions. Of the \$1,500,000 at-cost amendment, \$1,275,000 will be invested in the region as sub-grants, with the balance helping to support CEPF Secretariat operations.