

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.1 of the CEPF Operational Manual

14 May 2025

CEPF Financial Summary, Twenty-sixth Spending Plan

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked to **review and approve** the Twenty-sixth Spending Plan on a **no-objection basis**. The plan sets out the budget for grants and operations totaling \$27,855,332 for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. The deadline for no-objection approval is **28 May 2025**.

Background:

In accordance with the CEPF Operational Manual (Section OM 2.1 Rev), CEPF shall prepare an annual spending plan no later than 30 April of each year for review and approval by the Donor Council. A two-week extension was requested to submit the Twenty-sixth Spending Plan, due to organizational transformation at Conservation International. The plan describes the proposed funding levels of the spending categories for CEPF during the next fiscal year.

The Twenty-sixth Spending Plan provides for CEPF's operational budget for the fiscal year 2026. The Plan will increase the authority to grant and commit funding to \$344,152,808.

CEPF is about to sign a grant agreement with AFD for €15,094,340 from the European Union. This is to support investment in the Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Indo-Burma and the Mountains of Central Asia hotspots.

CEPF is about to sign a grant agreement with AFD for €5,188,679 from the European Union. CEPF will collaborate with the EU to establish an urgent response facility, to be named Rapid Rescue for Conservation Crises (R2C2). The R2C2 facility will address immediate conservation crises requiring an urgent response.

The Secretariat has included in the Ecosystem Grants spending category (page 1) the projected disbursement and new grant award amounts for 12 active hotspots, including new reinvestment in the East Melanesian Islands, Indo-Burma, Mountains of Central Asia, Wallacea and ⁱWestern Ghats & Sri Lanka. The grant commitment budget will decrease from \$27,150,000 in FY25 to \$22,194,000 in FY26. This decrease reflects a large, one-off volume of new grant awards during FY25, to deploy funding from the Government of Canada in the Cerrado, Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes Hotspots. Expected grant disbursements increase slightly from \$19,260,079 in FY25 to \$19,565,000 in FY26 due to continuing growth in several grant portfolios, including Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, as well as the expected start of grant making under the GEF Small Grants Program.

The Secretariat Operations budget (page 2) reflects an increase of 8% from \$3,940,750 in FY25 to \$4,257,962 in FY26. The increase is due primarily to an increase in personnel costs and in professional services for knowledge products.

The Ecosystem Profile Preparation work planned in FY26 is to update the ecosystem profiles for the Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Indo-Burma and Mountains of Central Asia Hotspots.

ⁱ The investment in Western Ghats and Sri Lanka II is restricted to Sri Lanka.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-six CEPF Spending Plan for the Period July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026

Spending Category: Ecosystem Grants

	FY26 Expected Disbursement	FY26 New Grant Awards	FY25 Expected Disbursement	FY25 New Grant Awards
Active Regions				
Caribbean II	2,161,000	3,464,000	2,200,000	2,000,000
Cerrado II	2,650,000	2,200,000	2,400,000	4,000,000
Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa	400,000	14,000	200,000	850,000
East Melanesian Islands II	200,000	1,000,000	-	-
Guinean Forests of West Africa II	100,000			
Guinean Forests of West Africa III	341,000	1,464,000	800,000	1,500,000
Indo-Burma III	1,500,000	-	3,360,079	2,000,000
Indo-Burma IV	400,000	1,600,000		
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Reinvestment II	5,150,000	5,020,000	3,040,000	5,200,000
Mediterranean II		-	190,000	-
Mediterranean III	781,000	2,464,000	800,000	3,600,000
Mountains of Central Asia	-	-	1,050,000	-
Mountains of Central Asia II	341,000	1,464,000	-	-
R2C2	1,000,000	1,000,000		
Tropical Andes III	4,150,000	565,000	5,000,000	8,000,000
Wallacea II	-	-	220,000	-
Wallacea III	350,000	1,775,000		
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka II	41,000	164,000	-	-
Total Active Regions	19,565,000	22,194,000	19,260,079	27,150,000
Total All Regions	\$ 19,565,000	\$ 22,194,000	\$ 19,260,079	\$ 27,150,000

Note on Disbursements vs Awards: Disbursements represents actual payments disbursed to grantees. Awards is the target for new agreements signed with grantees.

Note on Western Ghats and Sri Lanka II - The investment is restricted to Sri Lanka.

Authority to Grant & Commit Funding	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Total Authority
Atlantic Forest	8,000,000	2,395,259	-	10,395,259
Cape Floristic Region	6,000,000	1,584,910	-	7,584,910
Caribbean Islands	-	6,900,000	-	6,900,000
Caribbean Islands II		11,800,000		11,800,000
Caucasus	8,500,000	997,502	-	9,497,502
Cerrado	-	8,000,000	-	8,000,000
Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa	-	-	850,000	850,000
East Melanesia Islands	-	9,000,000	-	9,000,000
Eastern Afromontane	-	12,000,000	-	12,000,000
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	7,000,000	1,749,473	-	8,749,473
Eastern Himalayas	5,000,000	-	-	5,000,000
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,200,000	1,907,209	-	8,107,209
Guinean Forests of West Africa II	-	12,000,000	800,000	12,800,000
Guinean Forests of West Africa III				
Indo-Burma	-	9,656,797	-	9,656,797
Indo-Burma II	-	15,966,203	-	15,966,203
Indo-Burma III	-	-	13,958,581	13,958,581
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands	4,250,000	1,385,800	-	5,635,800
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands II	-	12,540,000	22,570,000	35,110,000
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	-	6,650,000	-	6,650,000
Mediterranean	-	11,016,744	-	11,016,744
Mediterranean II	-	-	14,520,000	14,520,000
Mediterranean III				
Mountains of Central Asia	-	-	8,000,000	8,000,000
Mountains of Southwest China	6,500,000	1,350,738	-	7,850,738
Multiple	-	600,000	-	600,000
Northern Mesoamerica	7,300,000	-	-	7,300,000
The Philippines	7,000,000	-	-	7,000,000
Polynesia-Micronesia	-	6,828,576	-	6,828,576
Southern Mesoamerica	5,500,000	1,636,402	-	7,136,402
Succulent Karoo	8,000,000	1,387,405	-	9,387,405
Sundaland	10,000,000	-	-	10,000,000
Tropical Andes	6,150,000	2,157,414	-	8,307,414
Tropical Andes II	-	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Tropical Andes III	-	-	16,645,000	16,645,000
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	5,000,000	1,846,270	-	6,846,270
Wallacea	-	6,850,000	-	6,850,000
Wallacea II	-	-	2,100,000	2,100,000
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	-	6,077,000	-	6,077,000
Consolidation (balance of \$20M authority)	-	25,525	-	25,525
Total Authority	100,400,000	164,309,227	79,443,581	344,152,808

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-fifth CEPF Spending Plan for the Period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Spending Category: Ecosystem Grants

	FY25 Spend Plan Disbursement	FY25 Actual Disbursement thru 03/31/25	FY25 Spend Plan New Grant Awards	FY24 Actual Grant Awards thru 03/31/25
Active Regions				
Caribbean II	2,200,000	2,586,723	2,000,000	1,972,898
Cerrado II	2,400,000	1,602,310	4,000,000	3,709,924
Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa	200,000	256,092	850,000	710,871
East Melanesian Islands II				
Guinean Forests of West Africa II				
Guinean Forests of West Africa III	800,000	378,625	1,500,000	250,000
Indo-Burma III	3,360,079	2,380,563	2,000,000	1,698,402
Indo-Burma IV				
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Reinvestment II	3,040,000	2,462,643	5,200,000	1,835,017
Mediterranean II	190,000	657,629	-	1,000
Mediterranean III	800,000	-	3,600,000	2,121,844
Mountains of Central Asia	1,050,000	550,823	-	(791)
Mountains of Central Asia II				-
R2C2				20,000
Tropical Andes III	5,000,000	3,757,518	8,000,000	5,904,830
Wallacea II	220,000	127,869	-	(4,297)
Wallacea III				
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka II	-	-	-	-
Total Active Regions	19,260,079	14,760,797	27,150,000	18,219,699
Total All Regions	\$ 19,260,079	\$ 14,760,797	\$ 27,150,000	\$ 18,219,699

Note on Disbursements vs Awards: Disbursements represents actual payments disbursed to grantees. Awards is the target for new agreements signed with grantees.

Note on Western Ghats and Sri Lanka II - The investment is restricted to Sri Lanka.

% Spent, Ecosystem Grants	Disbursements:	77%	Grant Awards:	67%
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Spending Category: Operations (Secretariat)

	FY25 Budget	FY25 Actual to 3/31	% Spent
Executive Management			
Personnel	416,114	327,965	
Travel, Meetings & Events	40,506	11,661	
Professional Services	-	5,401	
Other Direct Costs	35,939	19,039	
Subtotal	492,559	364,066	74%
Program Management			
Personnel	1,001,263	697,501	
Travel, Meetings & Events	135,222	52,417	
Professional Services	-	5,282	
Other Direct Costs	106,904	49,293	
Subtotal	1,243,390	804,493	65%
Grant Management			
Personnel	664,061	551,716	
Travel, Meetings & Events	96,865	31,498	
Professional Services	2,500	473	
Other Direct Costs	38,575	28,202	
Subtotal	802,001	611,890	76%
Monitoring, Evaluation, & Outreach			
Personnel	449,390	262,551	
Travel, Meetings & Events	15,780	9,142	
Professional Services	70,000	62,031	
Other Direct Costs	32,157	12,387	
Subtotal	567,326	346,111	61%
Communications			
Personnel	231,827	181,114	
Travel, Meetings & Events	5,854	2,824	
Professional Services	281,370	32,529	
Other Direct Costs	28,779	17,082	
Subtotal	547,830	233,549	43%
Finance & Operations Management			
Personnel	232,518	153,169	
Travel, Meetings & Events	6,068	3,733	
Professional Services	38,500	50,000	
Other Direct Costs	10,560	6,063	
Subtotal	287,645	212,965	74%
Operations Total	3,940,750	2,573,073	65%
Spending Category: Management Fee (CI's audited indirect cost rate or donor restriction)	654,832	490,542	75%
Total Operations & Management Fee	4,595,582	3,063,615	67%
Spending Category: Preparation	800,000	158,317	20%
Total FY25 Spending Plan	\$ 32,545,582	\$ 21,441,631	66%

Spending Category: Operations (Secretariat)

	FY26 Budget	FY25 Budget
Executive Management		
Personnel	399,745	
Travel, Meetings & Events	36,450	
Professional Services	-	
Other Direct Costs	33,347	
Subtotal	469,542	492,559
Program Management		
Personnel	1,176,001	
Travel, Meetings & Events	133,811	
Professional Services	-	
Other Direct Costs	104,228	
Subtotal	1,414,040	1,243,390
Grant Management		
Personnel	771,593	
Travel, Meetings & Events	106,762	
Professional Services	23,044	
Other Direct Costs	44,619	
Subtotal	946,018	802,001
Monitoring, Evaluation, & Outreach		
Personnel	363,315	
Travel, Meetings & Events	22,768	
Professional Services	272,914	
Other Direct Costs	23,459	
Subtotal	682,456	567,326
Communications		
Personnel	240,857	
Travel, Meetings & Events	6,149	
Professional Services	149,740	
Other Direct Costs	37,801	
Subtotal	434,547	547,830
Finance & Operations Management		
Personnel	230,436	
Travel, Meetings & Events	10,501	
Professional Services	60,000	
Other Direct Costs	10,422	
Subtotal	311,360	287,645
Operations Total	4,257,962	3,940,750
Spending Category: Management Fee (CI's audited indirect cost rate or donor restriction)	803,370	654,832
Total Operations & Management Fee	5,061,332	4,595,582
Spending Category: Preparation	600,000	800,000
Total FY26 Spending Plan	\$ 27,855,332	\$ 32,545,582