

Mid-Term Assessment

July 2016 - April 2019

CEPF Investment in the

Cerrado Biodiversity hotspot

May 2019

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1 Glossary

- 1) **Agrobiodiversity** – part of biodiversity used in agriculture or related activities, be it in nature or under domestication or semi-domestication.
- 2) **Agroextractivism** – family farming that combines production of crops and livestock with use of native biodiversity.
- 3) **Best practice** – technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has been proven to reliably lead to a desired result. In the context of this document, the desired result is a lower environmental and social negative impact.
- 4) **Biome** – large groups of ecosystems that occur in different regions of the world, characterized by dominant forms of life (plants and animals) that have developed in response to relatively uniform climatic conditions (distribution of rainfall and average annual temperature).
- 5) **Civil Society Organization (CSO)** – defined by CEPF as nongovernmental and private sector organizations, community groups, individuals, universities and foundations, including government organizations provided they can establish their legal personality independent of any government agency, their authority to apply for and receive private funds and that they may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.
- 6) **Conservation outcome** – defined by CEPF as the full set of quantitative and justifiable conservation targets in a hotspot that should be achieved to prevent biodiversity loss. These targets are defined at three hierarchical levels: species (extinctions avoided); sites (areas protected); and landscapes (corridors created).
- 7) **Conservation units** – according to Federal Law 9.985/2000, conservation units are defined as "territorial space and its environmental resources, including jurisdictional waters, with relevant natural characteristics, legally instituted by the government, with conservation objectives and defined limits, under a special administrative regime, which is subject to appropriate guarantees of protection." There are 12 categories of conservation units, divided into two groups: Integral Protection and Sustainable Use.
- 8) **Corridor** – defined by CEPF as inter-connected landscape of sites important for the conservation of broad-scale ecological and evolutionary processes and little-changed ('intact') ecological communities.
- 9) **Ecosystem** – interactive system consisting in all living organisms and their abiotic (physical and chemical) environment within a given area, covering various spatial scales.
- 10) **Ecosystem profile** – for CEPF, rapid assessment of a biodiversity hotspot, providing an overview of biodiversity importance, overall conservation outcomes, major threats and the policy, civil society and socioeconomic contexts, as well as funding gaps and opportunities.
- 11) **Ecosystem services** – services provided by ecosystems that result in ecological balance and favorable conditions for human well-being, such as water purification, pollination of crops, watershed protection, erosion control and carbon sequestration.
- 12) **Endemic** – ecological state of a species being unique to a defined geographic location; organisms that are indigenous to a place are not *endemic* to it if they are also found elsewhere.

- 13) **Extractivism** – in Brazil, wild collection or harvesting of native biodiversity products, not including mining and oil.
- 14) **Family farmer** – for official purposes in Brazil, rural producers who: a) use the land as owners, squatters, tenants or land reform settlers; b) reside on or near the property; c) have no more than four fiscal modules (varying in size according to location) for farming or six fiscal modules for livestock; and d) primarily use family labor.
- 15) **Hotspots** – Earth’s most biologically rich—yet threatened—terrestrial regions. High concentrations of endemic species and intensive habitat loss where ecological conservation and restoration efforts are prioritized to protect biodiversity. In Brazil, the Atlantic Forest and Cerrado are considered hotspots. Myers *et al.* (2000) established 25 world hotspots. Subsequently, the list was expanded to 36 hotspots (Mittermeier *et al.* 2004 and Noss *et al.* 2015). A hotspot is home to at least 1,500 endemic plant species and has some degree of degradation in at least 70% of its native vegetation.
- 16) **Important Bird Area (IBA)** – site of international importance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity.
- 17) **Indigenous and Conserved Community Area (ICCA)** – natural and/or modified ecosystem containing significant biodiversity values and ecological services, voluntarily conserved by (sedentary and mobile) indigenous and local communities, through customary laws or other effective means. In Brazil, this is referred to as Territórios e Áreas Conservadas por Comunidades Indígenas e Locais (TICCA).
- 18) **Indigenous land** – part of the national territory, owned by the federal government and inhabited by one or more indigenous peoples, which they use for their productive activities, for their well-being and their physical and cultural reproduction, according to their uses, customs and traditions.
- 19) **Indigenous people** – group of people recognized as having specific rights under national or international law, based upon: residence within or attachment to geographically distinct traditional habitats, ancestral territories, and their natural resources; maintenance of cultural and social identities, and social, economic, cultural and political institutions separate from mainstream or dominant societies and cultures; descent from population groups present in a given area, most frequently before modern states or territories were created and current borders defined; and/or self-identification as being part of a distinct indigenous cultural group, and the desire to preserve that cultural identity.
- 20) **Investment niche** – –the specific geographic and thematic areas in which CEPF’s investments can be most effective, considering conservation needs and the pattern of other investments.
- 21) **Investment Priority** – one of a set of thematic priorities for CEPF investment.
- 22) **Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)** – site of international importance for the conservation of biodiversity defined according to standard criteria based on principles of irreplaceability and vulnerability.
- 23) **Legal Amazon** – the states of Rondônia, Acre, Amazonas, Roraima, Pará, Amapá, Tocantins and Mato Grosso and Maranhão west of 44° W. 37% of the Legal Amazon fall within the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot.

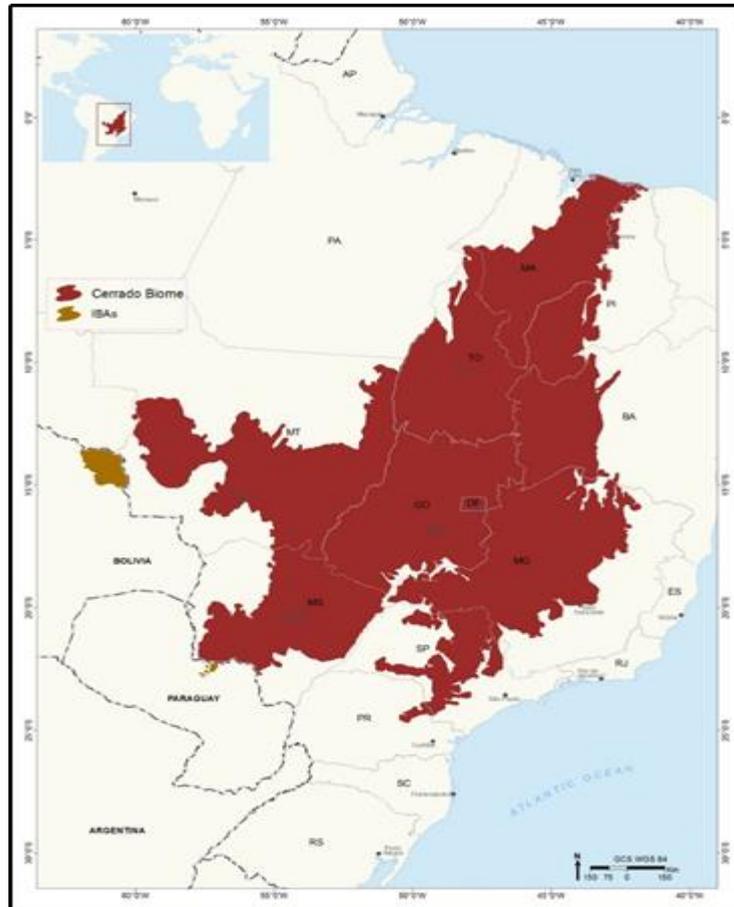
- 24) **Legal Reserves** – according to Federal Law 12.651/2012, areas located within a property or rural possession, with the function of ensuring sustainable economic use of the natural resources of rural property, assist with the conservation and rehabilitation of ecological processes and promote the conservation of biodiversity, as well as sheltering and protecting of native wildlife and flora. All Brazilian rural properties should demarcate their Legal Reserves, which should not be less than 80% of the total area of the property in the Amazon biome, 35% in the Cerrado biome in the Legal Amazon region and 20% in other regions. They must be included in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR).
- 25) **Mainstreaming Biodiversity** – making conservation an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres.
- 26) **MATOIPIBA**: acronym that uses the first two letters of the four states where soybean production is expanding into southern Maranhão (MA), Tocantins (TO), southern Piauí (PI), and western Bahia (BA).
- 27) **Permanent Preservation Areas (APP)** – according to Federal Law 12,651/2012, protected areas covered or not by native vegetation, with the environmental function of preserving water resources, landscapes, geological stability and biodiversity, facilitating gene flows of fauna and flora, protecting the soil and ensuring welfare of human populations, and which should be demarcated within all rural properties in Brazil and included in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR).
- 28) **Private Natural Heritage Reserve (RPPN)** – according to Federal Law 9.985/2000, a category of conservation units defined as a private area, recorded with perpetuity, in order to conserve biological diversity. RPPNs are legally recognized by the government through voluntary application by the owner of the area and may cover all or part of the rural property. RPPNs only allow for indirect use of natural resources through activities such as visitation, tourism, environmental education and research.
- 29) **Protected areas** – in Brazil, the concept of protected areas includes conservation units, defined according to Federal Law 9.985/2000, Indigenous Lands and *Quilombola* Territories, as well as Legal Reserves and Permanent Preservation Areas, as defined by Federal Law 12.651/2012.
- 30) **Quilombola** – traditional community constituted by descendants of enslaved Africans.
- 31) **Regional Implementation Team (RIT)** – organization selected by the CEPF to coordinate the implementation of its investment strategy in a hotspot.
- 32) **Resilience** – ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, including the capacity for self-organization and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.
- 33) **Restoration** –the process and practice of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed, with minimal recuperation of form and function.
- 34) **Rural Environmental Registry** – created by Federal Law 12,651/2012 and known by the acronym 'CAR', it is defined as the public nationwide electronic record which is compulsory for all rural properties, in order to compile environmental information about rural properties and possessions, constituting a database for control, monitoring, environmental and economic planning and avoiding deforestation.

- 35) **Savanna** – tropical grassland scattered with shrubs and isolated trees, due to limited rainfall, which can be found between rainforest and desert biomes.
- 36) **Sociobiodiversity** – goods and services based on use of natural resources by traditional peoples and communities and family farmers.
- 37) **Socioenvironmental** – environmental but also taking into account synergies with traditional social organization and culture.
- 38) **Stakeholder** – person, group or organization that has stake (interest or concern) in an organization or issue.
- 39) **Strategic Direction** – a grouping of several investment priorities within the CEPF investment strategy for a hotspot.
- 40) **Sustainable use** – use of resources in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term degradation of the environment, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.
- 41) **Traditional peoples and communities** – groups that have cultures different from those that prevail in society, with their own identity, distinct social organization, use of territories and natural resources to maintain their culture in terms of social organization, religion, economy and ancestry. In Brazil, they include both indigenous and non-indigenous traditional populations, such as coastal fisherfolk (*caiçaras*), raft fisherfolk (*jangadeiros*), backlanders (*sertanejos*), countrysiders (*caipiras*), descendants of enslaved Africans (*quilombolas*) and riverine communities (*ribeirinhos*). In general, they are people who, through extraction, use various products of native flora and fauna as a source of medicine, fiber, food and energy, as well as having a number of cultural and religious traits associated with biodiversity and local ecosystems. In addition, traditional societies usually obtain a significant part of their livelihood from the cultivation of small clearings and animal breeding in mosaics of natural areas and agricultural fields opened periodically in secondary vegetation.

2 Introduction

Covering over 2 million square kilometers, the Cerrado biodiversity hotspot (Figure 1) is one of the world's largest hotspots and biologically richest savanna regions. The hotspot lies mainly within Brazil and extends marginally (1%) into neighboring parts of Bolivia and Paraguay.

Figure 1: Map of the Cerrado Hotspot, covering 2.064.301 km²



Cerrado consists of vast plateaus between 300 and 1,600 meters in elevation. These structures primarily support savanna formations, separated by a network of lower-lying plains. They, in turn, support 15 different vegetation types, including various kinds of woodland, scrubland and grassland. The diverse ecosystems of the Cerrado are home to a great variety of species, including many found nowhere else in the world. Although more extensive surveys are required to catalog the enormous variety of species in the Cerrado, the hotspot is estimated to contain over 12,000 plant species, with over one-third of these endemic to the area. The region also contains at least 2,373 vertebrate species, approximately one-fifth of which are endemic. The Cerrado is home to a few iconic large mammals, including South America's largest canid and felid: maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*), respectively. The Cerrado is also home to giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*), the most impressive member of the Cerrado armadillo fauna. Among the endemic species in the Cerrado are *Caryocar brasiliense*, a culturally and economically important fruit tree known as *pequi*, and *Syngonanthus nitens*, called "golden grass," which is widespread in the Cerrado and is used to make regional handicrafts.

In addition to its high biodiversity, the Cerrado supports human populations both within and outside of the hotspot's boundaries. Locally, its biodiversity resources underpin the livelihoods of the millions of family farmers, traditional communities and indigenous peoples in the Cerrado. The ecosystem services delivered by the hotspot are even more far reaching. The Cerrado is one of the world's largest producers of livestock and agricultural products, and accounts for 30 percent of Brazil's gross domestic product. From a hydrological perspective, the ecology of the Pantanal, the largest wetland in the world, depends on water flowing from the Cerrado, while most of the Amazon River's southern tributaries originate in the hotspot. The Cerrado also provides much of southern Brazil with water for human and agricultural use through surface flow, groundwater recharge and atmospheric flows of water vapor. The Cerrado also has vast amounts of carbon stored in its forests, including the deep roots that the forests' trees need to survive the long dry season.

The economic development of the Cerrado is putting pressure on both local communities and natural ecosystems through continued conversion of land for crops and ranching. By some accounts, deforestation in the Cerrado is now responsible for greater emissions of greenhouse gases than forest loss in the Amazon.

By 2010, 47 percent of the hotspot's land had already been converted for human land uses. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that the Cerrado has one of the lowest levels of protection of any hotspot, with only 8 percent of the land area protected.

The extreme biological richness of the hotspot combined with the alarming rate of land conversion in the area means urgent action must be taken to ensure environmental sustainability and the well-being of human societies.

This report aims to assess progress towards the goals set out in the ecosystem profile, evaluate gaps in the CEPF portfolio of projects in the Cerrado and set priorities for the remainder of the investment period. It draws on experience and lessons learned from civil society organizations implementing CEPF grants. In addition, it incorporates the findings of the mid-term assessment workshop, held in Brasilia, on April 8-10, 2019. The workshop was attended by 64 representatives of CEPF grantees, local government and CEPF's donor partners.

3 Niche for CEPF Investment

3.1 Overview

In contrast to the size of the Cerrado and the scale of the threats facing the region, funding opportunities for civil society organizations (CSOs) wishing to engage in conservation are limited. The CEPF investment aims at leveraging, enhancing and amplifying opportunities for financial support, as well as technical cooperation.

The highest priority conservation objectives for the Cerrado over the five years of CEPF investment include avoiding or minimizing the amount of new land clearing, restoring degraded lands in order to recreate ecological connectivity, and expanding the network of protected areas. In addition to the civil society groups, CEPF investment targets local communities of family farmers, indigenous and traditional peoples, and civil society networks in great need of capacity building. Private sector and government engagements are also essential for successful conservation of the Cerrado. By investing in one of the most important regions for agricultural commodities in the world, CEPF wishes to increase the effectiveness and scale of sustainable practices by agribusinesses.

CEPF uses conservation outcomes, or biological targets, to determine its geographic and taxonomic focus for investment and to then measure the success of those investments. Conservation outcomes can be defined at three scales—species, site and corridor—that interlock geographically through the presence of species at sites, which then fit into corridors. Based on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and the National Red List for Brazil, which has a more complete and updated catalog of the Cerrado’s flora and fauna, it was estimated that at least 980 species are threatened with extinction within the hotspot. Because only 10 percent of the Cerrado’s plant species have been evaluated, this number is surely an underestimate. In addition, 649 rare species that were identified in two studies looking at plants and fish with a restricted geographical distribution were also considered conservation targets, bringing the total of target species to 1,629. During the ecosystem profiling process, existing lists of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within Brazil and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) within Bolivia and Paraguay were built upon and updated using the newest available data. The final result from this process was a map that included 761 KBAs in Brazil, plus one IBA in Bolivia and three IBAs in Paraguay. These 765 sites account for roughly 60 percent of the Cerrado’s area. The sites in Bolivia and Paraguay each benefit from some form of environmental protection, and therefore, they are considered to face fewer threads than most KBAs in Brazil, 90 percent of which have no protection. Brazil’s 761 KBAs were also evaluated for their contribution to hydrological services, such as water usage for livestock, industry, irrigation, and other urban and rural purposes. Using this evaluation metric, 152 of Brazil’s KBAs were considered to be of very high importance for hydrological services. All of these 152 areas are in or near major agricultural or urban areas, where demand for water is highest. Based on examining clusters of KBAs with high relative biological importance, 13 conservation corridors were identified, covering about one-third of the hotspot’s area.

The identification of conservation outcomes provides a long-term, overarching agenda for protecting the Cerrado’s unique and valuable biodiversity. Realistically, only a fraction of these priorities can be tackled by civil society organizations over the CEPF investment capped at US\$8 million from July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2021.

Therefore, the CEPF investment strategy focuses on 17 investment priorities which have been grouped into seven strategic directions (Table 1). In terms of species conservation outcomes, one strategic direction supports the implementation of species conservation action plans, focusing on habitat management for and protection of seven terrestrial and freshwater priority species, which are all listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List. In terms of corridors, two of the strategic directions focus on four priority corridors, which were selected from among the 13 conservation corridors identified in the hotspot, based on the following criteria: (i) weighted average of relative priority rankings for KBAs in the corridor; (ii) conservation investment gaps; (iii) opportunities to work with civil society; (iv) potential for leverage to sustain or amplify CEPF investments; (v) urgency of conservation actions; and (vi) natural vegetation cover. Those four priority corridors are: Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas; Central de Matopiba; Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu; and Mirador-Mesas. They encompass a total area of 32.2 million hectares, representing approximately 16 percent of the entire hotspot. These four priority corridors have a high proportion of natural vegetation cover but little protected area coverage and low capacity to manage existing protected areas. All four corridors have a high need for additional investment, and present excellent opportunities to catalyze and amplify the results of conservation actions. The projects in these four priority corridors, focusing on best agricultural practices and on protected areas, are being promoted with the idea of subsequent replication throughout the Cerrado by other donors and civil society organizations. The remaining strategic directions are covering the entire hotspot.

Table 1: CEPF Strategic Directions and Respective Investment Priorities for the Cerrado Hotspot

CEPF Strategic Directions	CEPF Investment Priorities
1. Promote the adoption of best practices in agriculture in the priority corridors	1.1 Identify and disseminate sustainable technologies and production practices in the agriculture sector to ensure protection of biodiversity, maintenance of ecosystem services and food security
	1.2 Promote the development and adoption of public policies and economic incentives for improved agricultural and livestock production practices, promoting sustainable agricultural landscapes
2. Support the creation/ expansion and effective management of protected areas in the priority corridors	2.1 Support studies and analyses necessary to justify the creation and expansion of public protected areas, while promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and valuing local and traditional culture
	2.2 Promote the inclusion of existing indigenous, <i>quilombola</i> and traditional populations, respecting and integrating their traditional knowledge, into conservation/restoration planning by government and civil society
	2.3 Encourage the creation and implementation of private protected areas (RPPNs) to extend legal protection in priority KBAs
3. Promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot	3.1 Support the development of markets and supply chains for sustainably harvested non-timber products, in particular for women and youth
	3.2 Promote capacity-building initiatives in particular among seed collectors, seedlings producers and those who carry out restoration activities, to enhance technical and management skills and low-cost, ecologically appropriate technologies in the supply chain of ecological restoration
	3.3 Promote the adoption of public policies and economic incentives to expand the scale and effectiveness of conservation and restoration of Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves (LRs), through improved productive systems that enhance ecosystem services
4. Support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot	4.1 Support the implementation of National Action Plans (PANs) for priority species, with a focus on habitat management and protection
5. Support the implementation of tools to integrate and to share data on monitoring to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot	5.1 Support the dissemination of data on native vegetation cover and dynamics of land uses, seeking reliability and shorter time intervals between analyses and informed evidence-based decision-making
	5.2 Support the collection and dissemination of monitoring data on quantity and quality of water resources, to integrate and to share data on the main river basins in the hotspot
6. Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to promote better management	6.1 Strengthen capacities of civil society organizations to participate in collective bodies and processes related to the management of territories and natural resources

CEPF Strategic Directions	CEPF Investment Priorities
of territories and of natural resources and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot	6.2 Develop and strengthen technical and management skills of civil society organizations, on environment, conservation strategy and planning, policy advocacy, fund raising, compliance with regulations and other topics relevant to investment priorities
	6.3 Facilitate processes of dialogue and cooperation among public, private and civil society actors to identify synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies for the conservation and sustainable development of the Cerrado
	6.4 Disseminate information about the biological, ecological, social and cultural functions of the Cerrado to different stakeholders, including civil society leaders, decision makers, and national and international audiences
7. Coordinate the implementation of the investment strategy of the CEPF in the hotspot through a Regional Implementation Team	7.1 Coordinate and implement the strategy of investments of CEPF in the Cerrado, through procedures to ensure the effective use of resources and achievement of expected results
	7.2 Support and strategically guide the network of institutions responsible for the implementation of actions and projects funded by CEPF, promoting their coordination, integration, cooperation and exchange of experiences and lessons learned

Strategic Direction 1. To promote the adoption of best practices in agriculture in the four priority corridors, CEPF is prioritizing the capacity building of farmer organizations and the disseminations of best practices focused on soil and water conservation and locally adapted solutions (*Investment Priority 1.1*). CEPF is also supporting cooperation, social dialogue and coordination initiatives to influence policies and their implementation, and to propose incentives for best agricultural practices (*Investment Priority 1.2*).

Strategic Direction 2. To support the creation/expansion and effective management of protected areas in the four priority corridors, CEPF is supporting technical and territorial studies, as well as joint policy initiatives and social dialogue, to back up proposals for the creation or expansion of protected areas in the priority corridors and for the preparation and implementation of management plans (*Investment Priority 2.1*). CEPF is also supporting the establishment of community agreements for resource use and help communities to declare their territories as Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (*Investment Priority 2.2*). CEPF is supporting the creation and implementation of Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs) within the 62 priority KBAs to provide increased connectivity as well as increased representativity of priority areas in the protected areas network (*Investment Priority 2.3*).

Strategic Direction 3. To promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot, CEPF is helping local communities to improve sustainable extraction and production practices for non-timber products, through exchange of experiences and practices, transfer of appropriate social technologies, and networking, coordination, knowledge management and capacity building actions to influence public policies removing barriers to sustainable use (*Investment Priority 3.1*). CEPF is also supporting training, compliance, research, and pilot demonstrations to tailor techniques that will enable restoration in the Cerrado, as well as networking to influence the legal framework regarding native seed collection and seedling production for upscaling (*Investment Priority 3.2*). CEPF is also supporting Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves to comply with the Rural Environmental

Registry, via strategic partnerships and promotion of the productive chain of restoration (*Investment Priority 3.3*).

Strategic Direction 4. To support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot, CEPF is supporting the implementation of priority actions, especially those related to management and habitat protection, set out in the National Action Plans (PANs) of seven species that are highly threatened globally and have been prioritized for CEPF investment.

Strategic Direction 5. To support an agile, efficient, reliable and transparent system to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot, CEPF is supporting the creation of an online platform, through partnerships and leveraged resources, to store and disseminate data produced by monitoring programs. Supported projects are also strengthening and expanding civil society skills and encouraging the production of integrated analysis, including on public policies affecting the Cerrado, to generate annual information on deforestation and changes in vegetation cover and to better inform decision-makers (*Investment Priority 5.1*). CEPF is also supporting workshops with members of watershed management committees and stakeholders of the main rivers in the hotspot, to discuss results, exchange experiences on conservation initiatives, plan watershed management actions and increase awareness among the general public as well as the agriculture sector in particular (*Investment Priority 5.2*).

Strategic Direction 6. To strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to promote better management of territories and natural resources and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot, CEPF is helping these organizations become most prominent and influential in several forums, such as management boards of protected areas and mosaics, municipal and state environmental councils, territories boards or watershed management committees, among others (*Investment Priority 6.1*). Inspired by the Atlantic Forest experience, CEPF is supporting the implementation of an institutional strengthening program defined by/with local organizations (*Investment Priority 6.2*). CEPF is helping establish and enhance multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) to leverage institutional, political and financial support to conserve the Cerrado, and also support exchanges and integration among conservation and sustainable use institutions, and best practices of territorial governance among public and private institutions of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia (*Investment Priority 6.3*). CEPF is also supporting the development of promotional publications, broadcasting spots, public campaigns and other communication tools and media and sponsoring the implementation of an integrated database to contribute to the dissemination of information on the Cerrado (*Investment Priority 6.4*).

Strategic Direction 7. To coordinate the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy in the hotspot, CEPF is supporting a Regional Implementation Team (RIT) to convert its strategy into a cohesive portfolio of grants. The RIT has established and is coordinating a process for proposal solicitation and review (*Investment Priority 7.1*), managing a program of small grants (*Investment Priority 7.2*), and reporting on and monitoring investments (*Investment Priority 7.3*).

3.2 Coordinating CEPF Grant-Making

In each hotspot where it operates, CEPF seeks a lead organization (or consortium) to manage its portfolio based on terms of reference approved by its Donor Council. Following a competitive process, the International Education Institute of Brazil (IEB) was awarded a five-year grant of US\$1,000,000.00 in June 2016, under Strategic Direction 7, to act as CEPF's Regional Implementation Team in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot.

IEB is a non-profit Brazilian association, based in Brasilia, founded in November 1998, with the mission of strengthening social actors and their role in building a fair and sustainable society. IEB stands out on the national scene for being dedicated to training

and qualifying people and strengthening organizations in the various aspects and themes related to the environment, development and sustainability.

For 21 years, IEB has established bridges between issues related to the conservation of natural resources and the other dimensions of sustainability, whether economic, social or cultural. With a multidisciplinary and experienced team, IEB develops projects that revolve around four thematic axes: (i) support for research, training and capacity building; (ii) institutional strengthening; (iii) natural resource management and territorial management; and (iv) knowledge production and dissemination. IEB's geographic scope is broad, covering the entire national territory, in its various biomes, with the local communities in their different ways of life standing out as beneficiaries. Headquartered in Brasília (District Federal), IEB also has regional offices located in Belém (Pará) and Humaitá (Amazonas), with permanent operations in the States of Pará, Amazonas and Amapá, and strong focus in the Cerrado biome since 2016, as the RIT of the CEPF.

The overall coordination of the RIT is provided by a RIT Leader responsible for the overall management of the team, and, in close consultation with the CEPF Grant Director, for overseeing the development of the CEPF investment portfolio in the hotspot. He is also responsible for the reporting to CEPF, the monitoring and evaluation strategy, and the interaction with the local advisory committee and other stakeholders. He officially took his position on a full-time basis in September 2016.

The actual full time Grants Manager joined the team in February 2019, replacing the previous manager. She oversees the whole small grants process, accompanies daily small grantees, ensuring compliance with protocols, procurement and reporting, while providing targeted support to grantees.

The third full time employee is the Project Assistant whom joined the team in July 2017. She is leading the communication aspects and supporting all aspects of the grant-making processes for both small and large grants.

The fourth full time employee is the former Geographic Information System (GIS) intern (since July 2017), now GIS and Monitoring Project Assistant. He is in charge of preparing strategic analysis for the RIT.

The core team of the RIT went from two full time staffs in 2016 to four full time staffs now. Other members of IEB whom are supporting the RIT are: IEB's Financial Officer, IEB's Financial Assistant, IEB's office coordinator in charge of the capacity building/public policy aspects for the RIT, and the founder and General Coordinator of IEB who provides coordination with donors and private sector.

The team, all based at the IEB head office in Brasilia, provides local knowledge and insights and represents CEPF in the hotspot. Members of the team are primary responsible for building a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the objectives described in the ecosystem profile and any regionally appropriate long-term conservation and development visions.

The RIT has also created an advisory committee in 2017, with terms of reference compiled and signed in February 2018. The responsibilities of the advisory committee are to follow the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy and to provide high-level guidance from analyzed information on the portfolio of small and large grants. The advisory committee also guides decision-making processes of the RIT in Brazil, and ensures the strategic planning of calls in the Cerrado. The committee, according to its possibilities, can also help to:

- promote technical-scientific knowledge and professional services;

- respond to solicitations from the RIT;
- foster partnerships and opening up new opportunities;
- publicize the work, promote the public image and spread CEPF's work;
- help access new financial resources.

In April 2019, the advisory committee was composed of eleven members from the following institutions: two representatives from The Nature Conservancy -TNC; one from the University of Brasilia; one from the Delegation of the European Union; one from the United Nations Environment Program - UNEP; one from Society, Population and Nature Institute - ISPN; one from the National Institute for Amazonian Research - INPA; one from the Embassy of Japan; one from the World Bank; one from Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply- EMBRAPA one from the International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN. All have a mandate of three years, with the possibility to renew their mandate for one period. The committee meets twice a year.

4 Implementing the Strategy

4.1 Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders

On February 20th 2018, a Cerrado Donor Meeting took place in Washington D.C. among several donors of the region to accelerate a shared understanding of the Cerrado region and its context. The meeting was convened by the RIT and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and counted with the presence of representatives of the Climate Land Use Alliance (CLUA); the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP); the Global Environmental Facility (GEF); the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB); and the Partnerships for Forest (P4F), together with CEPF.

The group identified 13 specific areas where additional coordination could have a positive impact. Out of these, four were considered for further initial coordination: Accelerating implementation of the Forest Code; Decoupling deforestation from agriculture commodity demand and production; Finance and incentives for mainstreaming biodiversity into agricultural commodities; Recognizing community rights for land resources.

This coordination among donors was the first of this kind for the Cerrado. A similar meeting happened at the level of implementing civil society organizations in Brazil in parallel. It was a significant development for the region, where many investments continue to be required, and where the creation of additional value through better coordination among the players is essential to increase the overall positive impact.

In April 2018, a field supervision mission took place with the participation of the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT and the CI-GEF Project Agency. The purpose was to meet grantees of CEPF in the Cerrado and discuss and analyze progress with them. Four grantees were visited, comprising two small grants and two large grants. The visit evidenced different elements of the CEPF strategy in the Cerrado hotspot, such as strengthening land use planning and environmental policies and governance at the municipal level; improving a supply chain (here, meat production); and community/smallholder-level activities such as agroforestry, land restoration and ecotourism. Some other cross-cutting activities included organizational strengthening, capacity building, and monitoring. The mission concluded that all grantees, including the RIT, seem to be appropriate organizations to receive funding. The RIT was felt to be well positioned and with the appropriate capacities to function as the RIT. The different grants evidenced a multiscale strategy, which was

perceived to be a good approach to achieving impacts at the level of municipalities and landscapes through the large grants, and at the level of communities and smallholders mainly through the small grants. It was recommended to CEPF to ensure that a clear metrics system is in place for all grants with quantitative targets that are sufficiently ambitious and that are closely monitored. Compliance with environmental and social safeguards by grantees was highlighted as in need of more attention, with grievance mechanisms needing to be systematically put in place and decision-making processes in the communities better documented. In all projects, women were found to participate actively, and to receive benefits of the implemented activities.

In March 2019, a representative of the Japanese Embassy, invited by the RIT, visited the project of Associação Rede Rio São Bartolomeu de Mútua Cooperação - Rede Bartô - in Planaltina. As per the feedbacks received, the representative of the Japanese Embassy was very impressed and appreciated the opportunity to know how projects are being implemented in the field. The representative was going to report back to the Japanese Environmental Agency and to his government. The RIT is willing to organize similar visits as this is seen as being a very good way to strengthen collaboration and potential additional support in the Cerrado.

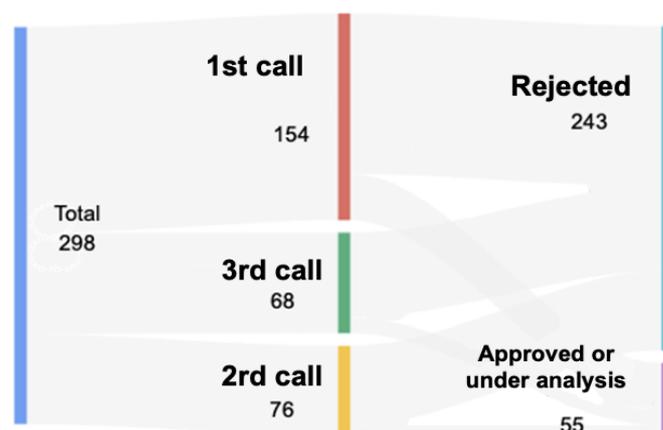
4.2 Portfolio Status

Between July 2016 and April 2019, there were three calls for proposals for the entire Brazilian Cerrado. Because the Cerrado areas in Bolivia and Paraguay already benefit from some form of environmental protection and they represent less than 1% of the total Cerrado hotspot, the three calls excluded these two countries.

The first call for proposals targeted all the strategic directions (SDs) and investment priorities (IPs). The 2nd and 3rd calls targeted specific SDs/IPs but were publicized in several cities of the Cerrado to attract more potential grantees, including CSOs, universities, companies, grassroots associations.

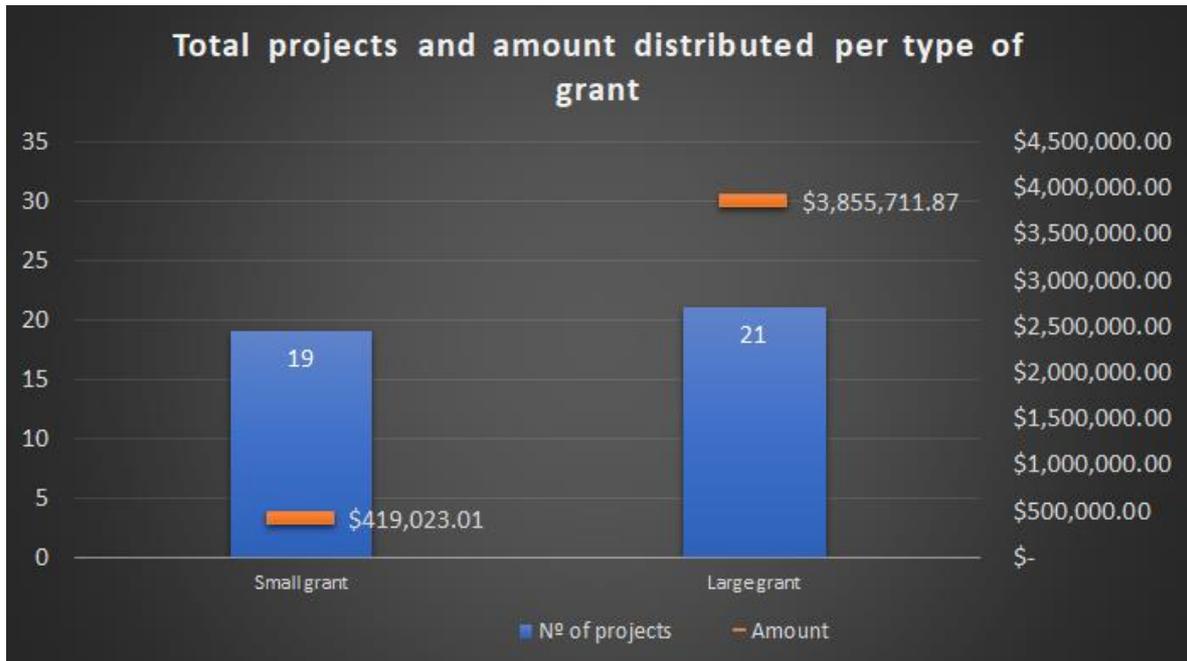
As shown in Figure 2 below, a total of 298 applications were received, out of which 55 were shortlisted, of which 40 are already under project implementation as of April 2019.

Figure 2: Calls for Proposals and Number of Project Applications.



With these 40 grants, a total of US\$4,274,734.88 has been awarded to date, with 19 small projects and 21 large projects (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Total Number of Projects and Amount Distributed per Type of Grant by April 2019.



Only two international organizations accessed the fund's resources, while the other projects were accessed by local organizations so far (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Total Resources Distributed by Type of Organization by April 2019.



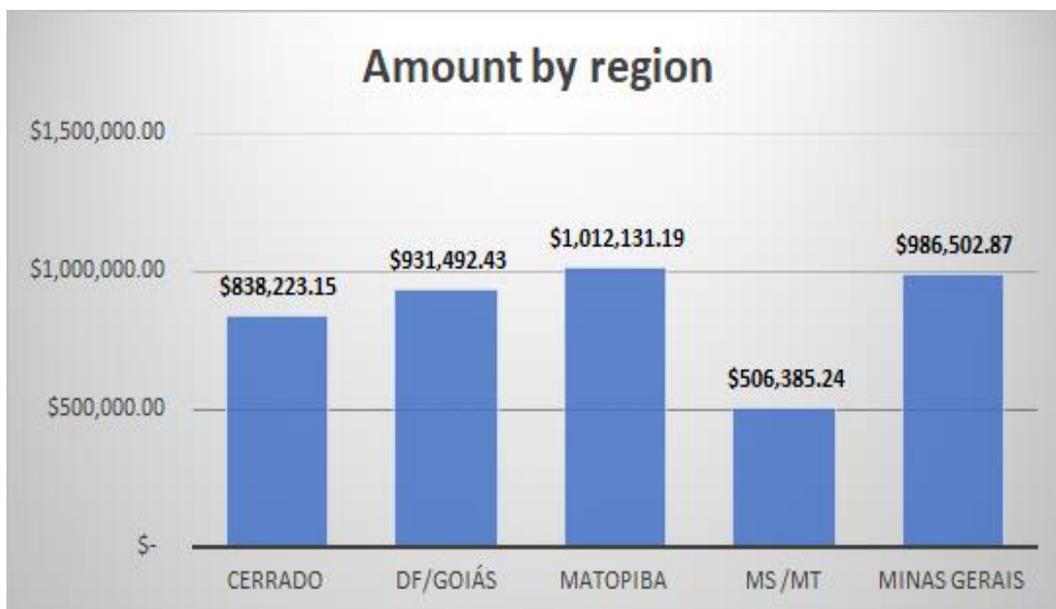
Small grants have a maximum threshold of US\$50,000.00, which was raised from US\$20,000.00 through an amendment to the grant for the Small Grant Mechanism in September 2017. After the first Call for Proposals, 10 small projects already accessed the fund with this previous value. So far, large grants have not been awarded for amounts above US\$300,000.00.

In terms of geographic distribution, the portfolio can be divided into five clusters:

- Cerrado: Projects that somehow encompass the entire Cerrado, implementing activities such as training, events and mapping at the hotspot scale.
- District Federal (DF)/ Goiás (GO): Projects that work in the center of the hotspot, with a focus on issues such as the territorial management of small areas and the management of endangered species.
- Matopiba: Projects that work in the central/northern region of the Cerrado, more precisely in the states of Maranhão, Tocantins, Piauí and Bahia, with a focus on mapping of communities, species and territorial conflicts.
- Mato Grosso do Sul (MS)/ Mato Grosso (MT): Projects that work in the southern region of the Cerrado, working with small rural properties and traditional extractivist communities, as well as on the issue of municipal environmental councils.
- Minas Gerais (MG): Projects concentrated further to the southeast of the hotspot, which involve mosaic management works in protected areas, cooperative with the application of good management practices in the extractivism sector, as well as training for the conservation of the hotspot.

The creation of these clusters was meant to facilitate meetings among grantees within the same region, and allow the RIT to make a more systematic and more synergistic monitoring. Below are the amounts for each region (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Total Amount Distributed in the Main Regions of the Cerrado by April 2019.



The different strategic directions had different levels of investment set aside in the ecosystem profile (Table 2). Projects in protected areas/ mosaics and in restoration and socio-biodiversity products stood out.

Table 2: Grant-Making Status by Strategic Direction by April 2019.

Strategic Directions		Budget allocation	Contracted Grants			% Contracted
			Total Amount	No. of Large Grants	No. of Small Grants	
SD1	Mainstreaming biodiversity	800,000.00	113,708.44	1	2	14%
SD2	Protected areas	1,200,000.00	1,099,532.65	5	5	92%
SD3	Supply chains	1,800,000.00	1,432,136.72	7	6	80%
SD4	Priority species	700,000.00	376,935.25	2	2	54%
SD5	Decision-making data	500,000.00	191,020.42	1	2	38%
SD6	Strengthening CSOs	2,000,000.00	1,070,401.40	5	2	54%
Total		7,000,000.00	4,274,734.88	21	19	61%

Looking at the composition of the portfolio of projects and in order to achieve goals and strategic actions in the hotspot, the RIT identified four projects that, from a technical and integration point of view of the CSOs, could have major conservation impacts. These "special projects" were awarded following the Grant By Invitation modality process. The following is the list of these Grant By Invitation projects, as well as their summarized justification:

- **Instituto Terra em Desenvolvimento - ITD**

Project Title: Strategic Communication for the Seminar "Strategy to Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Cerrado Biome Natural Resources"

Justification: This grant by invitation was a unique chance for CEPF to participate in an initiative of several CSOs – WWF, ISPN, ICV, IEB, ISA, IPAM - to formulate a strategic position paper for the next decade about the Cerrado and the challenges of this hotspot. This grant contributed towards Investment Priority 6.3 and was seen as having the potential for subsequent definition of priority actions for targeted public policies. CEPF's contribution was limited to support the communication effort of the seminar in the special Congressional Working Group on Environment where the position paper was presented and discussed at the beginning of June 2018.

This was a joint effort of the institutions cited above, which helped built partnerships for the protection of the hotspot. All the partners were involved and played at least a consultative role in the elaboration of the position paper.

- **Greentec Consultoria e Planejamento Agroflorestal e do Meio Ambiente - Greentec**

Project Title: Technical Support to Conduct a Participatory Process to Formulate the Proposal to Increase the Limits of the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve.

Justification: This grant by invitation was an opportunity to have a positive impact on the implementation of protected areas and landscape management in the Cerrado. At the time of grant award, the Environmental Ministry was submitting an expanded and revised outline of the Biosphere Reserve of the Cerrado to UNESCO. In this context, work was needed to prepare materials that will be sent to UNESCO. The submission was backed by Nature and Culture International, which had been very supportive of the creation of Protected Areas in the Pantanal. This grant by invitation addressed one of the CEPF investment targets in the Cerrado, to "contribute to raising the status of legal protection in the priority areas".

- **Rede de Sementes do Cerrado - RSC**

Project Title: Capacity Building in Ecological Restoration in the Cerrado: Diagnosis, Methodologies and Monitoring.

Justification: In the past few years, various institutions had made quite a great effort in developing restoration manuals for the Atlantic Forest or the Amazon but little had been produced specifically for the Cerrado. With this grant by invitation, Rede de Sementes do Cerrado and its group of experts not only developed one of the [first manuals for restoration in the Cerrado](#), but also [tested new techniques for restoring](#) some areas of Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park. Rede de Sementes do Cerrado (or Cerrado seed network in English) represents a regional network of seed collectors and restoration collaborators. It worked with a wide network of partners encompassing the ICMBio (Chico Mendes Biodiversity Conservation Institute) and the University of Brasilia and Embrapa (The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation). This network was accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply as a seed producer able to carry out the commercialization of native seeds, promoting the exchange between collectors and buyers of seeds.

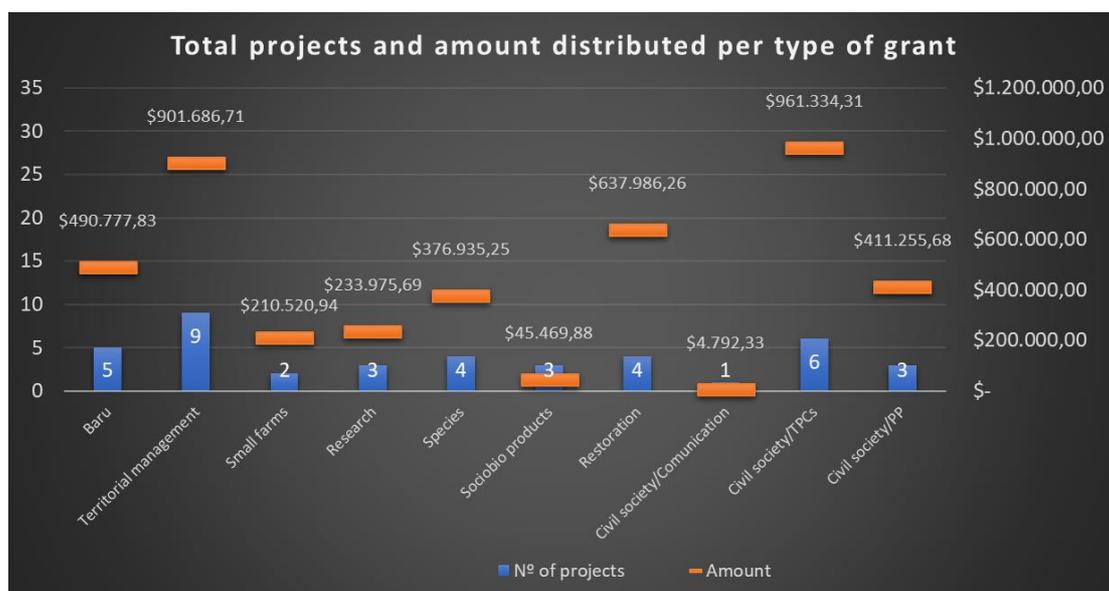
- **Instituto Araguaia - IA**

Project Title: Conservation of Reticulate Leaf Frog, Related Species and Their Ecosystems in Brazil.

Justification: The ecosystem profile identified seven target species for the CEPF investment in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot. Despite the first two calls focusing, among others, on proposals targeting Strategic Direction 4 (Support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot), no proposal was received to work on Reticulate Leaf Frog (*Pithecopus ayeaye*). Considering the expertise of the Instituto Araguaia and of the University of Brasília, this Grant by Invitation is bridging the gap in the Cerrado portfolio. The activities address priorities in the National Action Plan for reptiles and amphibians in the Serra do Espinhaço, which is a key requisite of Investment Priority 4.1. This project is still in the contracting phase and does not compose the total values defined in the figures.

In terms of thematic clusters, projects can be grouped together based on different topics that were identified as common themes (Figure 6):

Figure 6: Total of Projects and Amount Distributed per Main Themes.



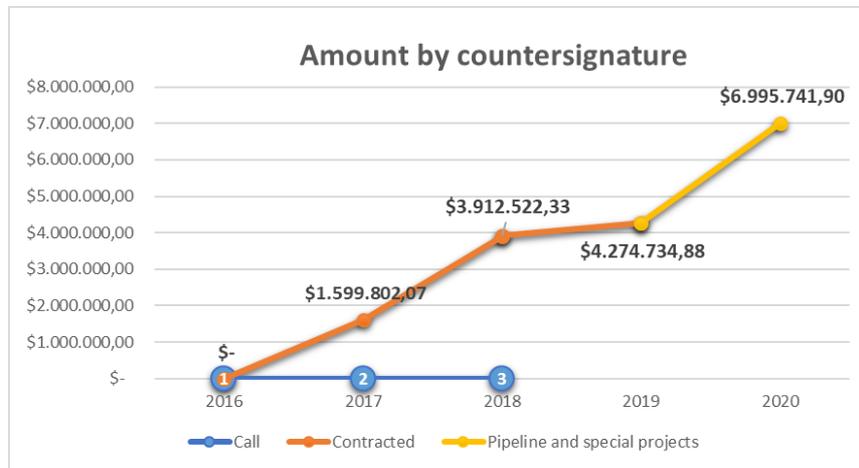
(TPCs: Traditional Peoples and Communities; PP: and Public Policies)

The collectives of grantees, formed based on thematic and geographic clusters, are strengthening their respective actions by working in a more coordinated way whenever this is possible and desirable:

- In Mato Grosso do Sul, there are four grantees in a more intense exchange. It is worth mentioning the mapping that the Neotrópica Foundation promoted in the Brejão indigenous land, in the municipality of Nioaque, regarding the restoration potential and, therefore, the project of Associação Hanaiti Yomomo (AHY), which sought to work on issues of seed collection and planting of seedlings for vegetation restoration in their territory. The organization Ecologia e Ação (ECO) promoted a course for forest fire brigade members and offered vacancies for AHY members to participate, free of charge. Also, Neotrópica collaborated with Fundo Mundial para a Natureza (WWF) to promote socio-environmental rural supply chains and restoration efforts, on the strengthening of municipal environmental councils.
- In the Grande Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu Mosaic, a similar interaction is occurring between two grantees supported by CEPF: WWF and Fundação Pró Natureza (FUNATURA). Both projects have worked to foster the territorial management of the protected areas that make up the mosaic, either in the creation of a management plan or in the strengthening of the council, with communication and action strategies in the hotspot. There is a very close dialogue between the grantees, the members of the council, public and private actors, and the results are quite satisfactory in view of the scope of the strategic direction under which they are supported.
- In the state of Minas Gerais, the Instituto Ariramba de Conservação da Natureza (ARIRAMBA), working on the reintroduction of the Endangered bicudo or great-billed seed-finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*), is receiving logistical and technical support from the Association for Social and Environmental Management of the Triângulo Mineiro (ANGÁ) and the Institute for Social and Ecological Development (IDESE), both about to receive a grant as part of the outcome of the third call. In the region, there are important socio-environmental issues which require environmental projects to be implemented with specific expertise. While ARIRAMBA is specialized in projects aiming at conserving biodiversity, ANGÁ implements environmental protection and restoration projects with studies and research, among others, and IDESE promotes the preservation of nature and the sustainable development of communities, through social and environmental actions.
- In the Chapada dos Veadeiros region, there are two organizations working in partnership. The Amada Terra Institute (IAT) and the Quilombola Kalunga Association (AQK) met to carry out environmental education actions in schools in the municipalities of Cavalcante, Alto Paraíso and in the Kalunga territory on one of the seven priority species for investment by CEPF in the Cerrado, the Critically Endangered Brazilian merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*) There were rounds of presentations in these municipalities, talking about the importance of the species and the status it has as an endangered species today, with the distribution of booklets and ecobags.
- Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM) and Society, Population and Nature Institute (ISPN) have been working together to consolidate a spatial database on traditional communities and map traditional "invisible" communities in priority regions and map critical areas of potential loss of natural habitat (deforestation) that are and will affect traditional communities within Matopiba Central Corridor.

Overall, with the active grants and the propositions currently under review, CEPF's financial goal, excluding the US\$1 million awarded to the RIT, is about to be reached with US\$7 million (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Total Amount Awarded and Under Review after the Three Calls.



5 Performance of CEPF's Investment

5.1 Portfolio-level Performance

The Mid-Term Assessment event took place in April 2019 with 64 participants over three days. It was an opportunity to gather together most of the grantees and discuss synergies, challenges and the need for a investment in the Cerrado past the current CEPF investment phase. This meeting took place in the presence of CEPF's Grant Director, Peggy Poncelet.

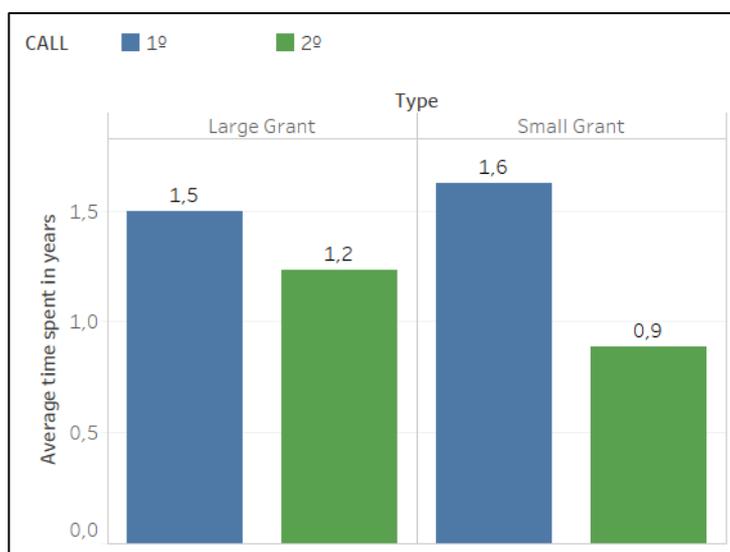
One key take-out message was that, particularly due to the political situation in Brazil, a second CEPF phase of investment was desired by all the participants. This is because CEPF is the only donor in the hotspot that exclusively supports non-governmental organizations, thus working at various scales, and invests in species protection.

5.2 From call for proposals to grant agreement

So far, the grant-making process from call for proposals to signature of the grant agreement has been effective but slow. The low execution capacity in the first two years was attributed to limited staff number, little familiarity with the large number of CEPF processes and documents, new online application system, and the need to develop a grant-making mechanism in line with both CEPF and IEB requirements.

From the first call to the second call for proposals, however, the grant-making process was shortened by 44% and 20% for small and large grants respectively. Figure 8 compares the large versus small grant-making processes, looking at the average time spent from the deadlines of the first (blue) and second (green) calls to the countersignature of the grant agreements.

Figure 8. Time Spent from the Close of each Call to the Countersignature of the Grant Agreement.



This improvement was the result of a detailed examination of the grant-making process during relevant CEPF Supervision Missions and the subsequent implementation of three main recommendations: (i) capacity building for proposal submission, (ii) staff number augmentation within the RIT , and (iii) removal of duplicative efforts among the RIT and the CEPF Secretariat. For the capacity building on proposal submission and general understanding of CEPF requirements (such as safeguards and monitoring tools), the RIT carried out outreach to present the content of subsequent calls (2d and 3d) and to answer questions of potential beneficiaries, as well as to encourage them to write proposals and access the fund, especially in geographic gaps. During the second call, both CEPF and the RIT’s online systems were in place and used since the application stage, for large and small grant applicants respectively. For the staff numbers, while the RIT doubled in size, increasing from two full-time staff in 2016 to four now, decision was made that the CEPF Grant Director would only read applications that had been pre-shortlisted by the external reviewers and the RIT, thus allowing for a greater focus on promising projects.

For the contracting processes, grantees commented that it should be less bureaucratic and more agile. The CEPF Secretariat has limited bandwidth to improve this aspect due to the requirements of its various donors at this time. However, the RIT spent a great effort in translating those documents which were available in Portuguese and in adapting processes/documents to the local reality, creating models that would meet the requirements of CEPF and that would be easily understood by the grantees.

Other comments received during the Mid-Term Assessment event were that:

- calls for proposals could be more specific and flexible, due to the organizations and their difficulties in understanding, proposing and accessing the fund;
- instead of small and large projects, there could be the creation of "umbrella" projects with execution partners, and this would make the resources reach organizations with little expertise;
- the administrative cost of going through the grant-making process is very high and a reduction should be proposed;

- most organizations, especially small ones, do not have much experience in executing international funds, filling out so many documents prior to contracting and complying with so many procurement process rules.

Participating grantees recommended (i) a simplification of the hiring process of project staff and consultants, of the documents to be filled in, of the transfer of resources and of the analysis of documentations. They also requested more training and more attention from the RIT. For an eventual second CEPF investment phase, it would be interesting to sign fewer grants, but to provide a greater amount of resources/attention to each one of them.

5.3 From project implementation to monitoring and reporting

During both the RIT and the CEPF supervision missions, project management and organization of documentation are verified. Most grantees are doing really well, sometimes needing minor adjustments. To date, only 12 grantees needed to sign amendments, mainly to postpone their deliverables. This process is relatively easy, and no issue was raised during the Mid-Term Assessment event on this.

Among the biggest challenges faced for the implementation and monitoring of the CEPF investment in the Cerrado is the large size of the hotspot and the range of KBAs where grantees are working. This scale of action does not allow the RIT to make many field visits and follow-ups, as it should ideally do. The creation of “meeting hubs” is in the scaling-up phase after this approach was successfully tested in Mato Grosso do Sul. These “meeting hubs” allow the RIT to meet with closest grantees in a specific hub and deal with questions related to technical and financial executions, reporting, monitoring and other relevant activities to the projects. Another advantage of these “meeting hubs” is that it allows the RIT to foster collaborations among grantees, as discussed in the previous section.

At the Mid-Term Assessment event, some grantees also reported difficulties with CEPF's reporting and monitoring systems through the ConservationGrants platform and with adoption of specific models of documents to report on. The use of a platform is for some organizations something new and modifies some habits, adopted by other donors, which consist of using spreadsheets and text documents, and of not having to go on anyonline platforms. However grantees strive to learn how to use the platform and have seen this as a good opportunity to learn about project management systems.

5.4 From strategy to targets achievements

As mentioned previously, there is an almost uniform distribution of projects in the hotspot. The strategy of defining regional clusters/hubs has facilitated the monitoring of projects and allowed the RIT to visit several KBAs and priority corridors, despite the size of the hotspot.

With the selection of projects from the third call for proposals, practically all the gaps regarding the strategic directions should be filled (see Section 2 below for details). It is always good to have resources still available, so that if progress towards the targets for a given strategic direction is substantially less than anticipated, new grants can be awarded, either by open calls or (where strict criteria are met) by invitation.

In terms of monitoring and reporting, there are two types of indicators for the Cerrado investment: the portfolio indicators defined in the ecosystem profile; and the 16 CEPF global indicators. Monitoring by the RIT is systematic and periodically reported to CEPF. The expected (at project start) and actual (at project end) contributions of projects to the targets of the portfolio's logical framework are submitted by grantees and aggregated and verified by the RIT. Thanks to the Impact Report template that each grantee has to fill in

at the completion of its grant, the results of individual grants also contribute to the 16 CEPF global indicators.

5.5 From assessment to improved performances

The first call for proposals was published right at the beginning of the first months of the CEPF investment, without a formal launch which would have allowed for a presentation of the fund to the major entities in the Cerrado, potential grantees, and without a communication strategy to accompany the call. The CEPF was known to few organizations in some parts of the hotspot and none was trained in or introduced to the procedures of the fund.

Based on the Mid-Term Assessment event and on the experience gained over the past 2½ years, CEPF should have a better designed entry strategy to be better known and recognized in the Cerrado, and for the RIT to be able to dedicate more time per grantee and train them.

Also, the last day of the Mid-Term Assessment event was the occasion to invite local specialists to work on the Long-Term Vision for the Cerrado. This exercise showed that, for a possible second CEPF investment phase, the strategy would need to: (i) continue focusing not only at the Federal level but also at states and municipalities levels; (ii) consider the selection of specific priorities. For example, all specialists agreed that prospects for the creation of new protected areas were very low. Work with alternative protected areas like landscapes managed by indigenous groups and traditional people - ICCAs (territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities) - might be a new feature that could enable landscape protection without the creation of protected areas according to Brazilian legislation. The full report is expected to be delivered in early 2020.

6 Preliminary Impacts Summary

The CEPF investment in the Cerrado has been under implementation since June 2016. Of the grants awarded at this point, most have been under implementation for about 12 months. Moreover, only two small grants are closed at this stage; both of which were planning grants. Planning grants have been used by the RIT during the beginning of the investment, to promote better cooperation among potential grantees who had submitted project proposals working either on similar topics or on similar geographies.

Consequently, the following impacts summary should be viewed as preliminary and is based on expected impacts from current grants towards the four pillars of CEPF's global monitoring framework.

6.1 Biodiversity Conservation

To date, there is a total of 15 projects awarded under the "biodiversity conservation" pillar.

Out of these, five projects focus on species, with the intention to improve their conservation status, using environmental education actions, DNA testing and behavioral reproduction analysis, and reintroduction of individuals in their previous home range. The results have been positive thus far, with notable results including: successful release of pairs of bicudo in the Veredas in Minas Gerais with the occurrence of mating and reproduction of these birds; and fruitful expeditions to find nests of Brazilian merganser, with sighting of individuals in the Chapada do Veadeiros National Park, as well as evaluation of the National Action Plan of the species.

The remaining 10 projects focus on territorial management and restoration. These projects have worked on: management of mosaics of protected areas and strengthening of municipal environmental councils; creation of protected areas at the municipal level; and dialogue with rural producers for compensation and restoration of degraded ecosystems via payments for environmental services and/or agroecological practices.

6.2 Strengthening Civil Society

There are seven projects awarded under the civil society pillar. Grantees' work ranges from strengthening indigenous associations by stimulating them with technical and legal support in the implementation of territorial policies, to offering restoration courses, with efficient and proven techniques, for actors and organizations working in this sector, to training for leaders and key social actors for them to actively participate in government forums and communication instances in defense of the hotspot. A network of civil society organizations has also received support to strengthen institutions and specific skills, and thus be able to operate in the hotspot in a more impactful and objective manner.

6.3 Human Well-Being

There are 11 projects under the human well-being pillar, which work with traditional peoples and communities in search of socio environmental management, job and income generation through the extractive sector and strengthening of commercial relations between cooperatives and producing communities. Four of these projects were awarded to associations. These projects have sought to strengthen the well-being of communities through incentives to self-management, providing courses on sustainable food production, technical support for zoning production areas and tourist attractions, and support for equipment to improve the commercial product market. In the portfolio, there are also five cooperatives, which work with the adoption of sustainable production and extractive management methodologies and practices by its members, aiming at the conservation of the Cerrado and the valorization of its products, as is the case of Cooperative of Sustainable Family Agriculture Based on the Solidarity Economy (COPABASE) that promoted technical assistance visits to the cooperative members, serving 38 communities, 90 families in 6 municipalities with a total of 124 visits. Another project is working with small rural producers for restoration and sustainable meat and milk production, with access to niche markets and municipal incentive policies in this sector, already having a geospatial database of properties, as well as the monitoring of three dairy and two cattle farm models and two community models to highlight the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable practices. Finally, another project works on the visibility of traditional peoples and communities, identifying and mapping them, so that they can have access to social and environmental policies, in addition to greater security of land tenure. It has already mapped 1,363 such communities and checked the coordinates for visits and consolidation with residents.

6.4 Enabling Conditions

Under the enabling conditions pillar, there are 10 projects, which have been working on research and studies related to territory management, mapping of use and coverage in KBAs, as well as the creation of a Cerrado data repository platform, to ensure that leaders and government take assertive decisions in relation to biodiversity conservation and protection of traditional peoples and communities.

It is worth mentioning that studies are being carried out to give visibility to land conflicts with traditional peoples and, also, to provide information for the local Environment Defense Councils. The results have been interesting and address targets in the portfolio logframe.

7 Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

7.1 SD1. Promote the adoption of best practices in agriculture in the priority corridors

Investments under this strategic direction have served both large and small farmers, and the projects are focused on the search for management of areas at the landscape scale level. The adoption of sustainable practices combining agriculture and conservation has been well received by the farmers, since financial incentives are being offered through a partnership with the federal government with the National Water Agency (ANA) and also technical assistance for the production, management and harvesting of coffee. It has always been a challenge to combine agricultural production with conservation, but there are large cooperatives and associations in the portfolio that have managed to guide these discussions in internal forums and in field visit meetings. It is worth mentioning that the strategic direction has many supported small rural landowners, with production based on family farming and that, in a way, they have contributed to establishing small land mosaics with the adoption of sustainable practices and consistent with the Forest Code. Advances are positive and the strategic direction goals will be met.

7.2 SD2. Support the creation/expansion and effective management of protected areas in the priority corridors

In this strategic direction, grants are advancing towards the expected impacts. The Sertão Veredas Mosaic, composed of Conservation Units and Indigenous Lands, is being strengthened by means of a Conservation-based Territorial Development Plan (DTBC). Its future presentation at the mosaic council, where managers of conservation units, indigenous leaders and traditional extractive communities are concentrated, will inform discussion of the management formats that will be established within the plan. Currently there are 77 protected areas in the Cerrado that are receiving some type of managerial support via CEPF, such as on water resources monitoring, strengthening of territorial management plans, mapping of traditional "invisible" communities, strengthening of Municipal Councils for the Defense of the Environment, and implementation of National Action Plans for target species. The impacts of CEPF investments at these sites are being tracked using the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Although the political context is not very favorable for the creation of protected areas in the public sphere, the alternative of creating private reserves has had a strong adherence within the general public. Discussions are underway to fund a major project supporting the creation and management of private reserves. It is also worth mentioning that a Quilombola (*see glossary*) association has been a protagonist in the management of their territory, with mapping of natural attractions for sustainable management of tourism and threatened species to mitigate impacts within their territory.

7.3 SD3. Promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot

Several cooperatives and associations have been awarded grants under this strategic direction, thus consolidating their work with traditional communities on the supply chains of Cerrado fruits and other sociobiodiversity products. Courses on sustainable management and agroecological production has allowed traditional communities to produce these fruits and sociobiodiversity products in a consistent manner, avoiding deforestation and depletion of natural resources. The issue of ecological restoration has been addressed by these projects as well and has gained momentum among these communities thanks to courses on planting, seeds, seedlings, degraded areas and

socioeconomic benefits resulting from restoration. Obviously, there is a difficulty in accessing these communities due to the lack of contact or acceptance of external activities, and this is where the essential work promoted by the cooperatives and associations comes in. Particularly important are the leaders of these communities, who recognize the benefits of such activities and promote acceptance among other community members. Satisfactory results have been achieved so far.

7.4 SD4. Support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot

At the beginning of the investment program, it was observed that some efforts made by species-focused projects to obtain data in the field were unsuccessful, which in turn was limiting dispersion and area of incidence analyses. Lately, however, efforts have been paying off. Eventually, the breeding season arrived, which allowed more sightings, and subsequently more captures and observations of individuals for the study of behavior, dispersion and DNA sequencing. Soon some birds which lived in captivity will be released in their former home range within environmental reserves and natural habitats. Moreover, action plans are being developed, so that some actions can be implemented in partnership with research institutes, government and universities, as well as partners of the projects that have played an important role in reversing the critical state of threat of these species. At the moment, the projects are complying with the strategy guidelines, but more time is needed to see how the actions are actually being implemented.

7.5 SD5. Support the implementation of tools to integrate and to share data on monitoring to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot

In this strategy, the creation of a centralized platform that seeks to gather data related to the Cerrado is under way. In a shared and collaborative way, it seeks to aggregate data on water resources, pastures, protected areas, agriculture and deforestation. It is worth mentioning that the platform will group all the data that are generated by the CEPF Cerrado portfolio as well. This includes data about "invisible" populations that are being identified and mapped, of course with care not to make them too exposed. This mapping initiative involves close dialogue with the Federal Prosecution Service, to create a platform that will address civil rights and implement territorial policies in these communities. Progress and results to date under this strategic direction are really good.

7.6 SD6. Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to promote better management of territories and natural resources, and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot

The portfolio under this strategic direction is made up of projects that have done a great job at institutional strengthening for organizations. A network with several associated organizations has been supported to move the issues of communication of activities in the hotspot, and encourage political and institutional articulation to promote the rights of traditional peoples and communities. There is also a campaign being developed on water, which is training CSOs to encourage them to play a leading role in public forums, river basin committees, and municipal environment departments. The indigenous associations are also being strengthened in the implementation of tertiary management policies, with technical and legal support. The grantees of this strategic direction have the competence to execute their proposals, presenting low investment risk and the methodologies and results presented so far have been satisfactory and consistent within the scope of the strategic direction.

8 Priorities for CEPF Investment during May 2019 to June 2021

The Mid-Term Assessment event aimed at identifying the expected results of the projects, creating dialogues about the conservation of the Cerrado, in addition to looking for priorities for a possible second phase of financing.

The grantees were encouraged to participate in three rounds of work sessions, where they exchanged ideas and contributed with suggestions for improving the CEPF's portfolio management in the Cerrado. The sessions consisted in:

- 1) Thematic dialogues, with working groups organized to exchange experiences between projects working on common themes, and where possible to establish connections and better articulations between them ;
- 2) Territorial dialogues, with working groups organized by geographies to allow participants to explain the socioeconomic, political and environmental issues that they face in these areas and to discuss the importance of integrated actions and joint actions to generate more impacts in these given areas;
- 3) Assessment of CEPF as a grant-maker and its investment strategy with grantees discussing about the operations of CEPF so far, the conservation needs of the Cerrado and the design of CEPF's remaining phase and potential second phase.

One of the challenges identified during this consultation is a classic dilemma of scale. In the Cerrado, KBAs were defined based on hydrological units. Thus, many of them represent huge areas that often exceed projects' geographical scopes. Therefore, only a few institutions use the concept of KBAs more actively, and its use is still difficult , since the hotspot covers a massive area and the concept of KBAs is poorly known by the institutions. The Portuguese translation of KBAs (Areas Chaves para a Biodiversidade) brings little to no understanding, especially among local communities and grassroots organizations. The introduction of the concept of the KBA in the discussion of the Brazilian conservation planning is a task that goes much beyond the RIT attributions. Also, the RIT did not encounter any other larger environmental CSO defending this concept or particularly working towards aligning KBAs with the concept of priority conservation areas used in systematic conservation planning by WWF-Brasil, for instance. In general terms, grantees perceived that there is no need to use the KBAs as a guide for actions since most of the projects happen at a much smaller scale.

During this consultation, the social network analysis which was done to group projects working on similar themes or geographies, served as an incentive to increase the levels of collaboration between grantees. The common themes which were identified were: women's empowerment; income generation; adding value to the conservation of the Cerrado; sustainable product development (food and non-food); work with non-timber forest products; training of communities/organizations leaders; articulation of politics; creating public spaces of governance; unfavorable current political scenario and increasing threats to environmentalists. Among the possibilities for joint actions are:

- the development of mobile applications for data collection (including to support restoration and land mapping);
- the creation of collective and collaborative markets for non-timber forest products;
- the need to share good practices in project implementation;

- an interest in organizing a seminar on baru, one of the native nuts from the Cerrado;
- the development of policies for the dissemination of information on threatened species;
- the urgency to think about strategies to ensure the safety of socio-environmental leaders;
- the organization of the IX Cerrado Meeting (around Cerrado Day in September).

Other analyzes which were also carried out, looked at the number of resources within each significant theme and geographies, and the profile of participating CSOs.

Lastly, the communication issue has also been evaluated in this process. In this regard, CEPF's regional team has sought to encourage the exchange of information between different organizations. The synergies identified at the workshop, led to the conclusion that one of the investment priorities of the CEPF should include the creation of partner networks. And finally, after a brief introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), grantees briefly analyzed their projects contributions towards these international goals and concluded that with further training to further their understanding of the SDGs, they would be able to better demonstrate their essential roles in reaching these goals.

9 Conclusion / Perspectives

The highest priority conservation objectives for the Cerrado over the five years of CEPF investment included:

- avoiding or minimizing the amount of new land clearing,
- restoring degraded lands in order to recreate ecological connectivity,
- and expanding the network of protected areas.

Minimizing the amount of new land clearing and expanding the network of protected areas in the four priority corridors of the CEPF are strategies linked to avoiding deforestation in the most pristine regions of the hotspot, yet also the new agricultural frontier: the Matopiba region.

So far, to try to reduce the practice of deforestation in the Cerrado, CEPF has collaborated in the sustainable management of areas covering 1,799,143 hectares and the strengthening of the system of protected areas covering 9,038,402 hectares. In terms of restoration, CEPF funds are being used to structure the seed collection and supply chain which has already led to 47 hectares being restored. The restoration challenge in the Cerrado is less restricted to the Matopiba region. This activity is needed and can be implemented in various areas of the hotspot and with different private sector entities or supply chains. In the case of the Cerrado, the restoration effort is linked to the maintenance of ecosystem services, particularly the provision of water.

In addition to the civil society groups, CEPF investment targeted local communities of indigenous and traditional peoples, family farmers, and civil society networks in great need of capacity building. To narrow the gap between the internal capacities of the civil society organizations in the Cerrado and the CEPF requirements for project submission, execution, and monitoring, the conclusions of the Mid-Term Assessment event were to have fewer grantees with a more significant investment for each. This would require a longer

investment period but also a stronger involvement of the RIT to enhance the connections among grantees and thus increase the impact of each grant.

Private sector and government engagements are also essential for the successful conservation of the Cerrado. By investing in one of the most important regions for agricultural commodities in the world, CEPF hopes to help increase the effectiveness and scale of sustainable practices by agribusinesses. The projects in these four priority corridors are promoted with the idea of subsequent replication throughout the Cerrado by CSOs and with other donors. Sustainability of conservation outcomes in the Cerrado hotspot requires a complex understanding of the country's specificities, along with the profound changes now under way in the national and international contexts related to policy and socio-environmental issues. In Brazil, environmental policy is suffering a major setback with the dismantling of the Ministry of the Environment and associated agencies, such as Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (IBAMA) and Instituto Chico Mendes de Biodiversidade (ICMBio), and with the implementation of actions and measures that make it difficult for CSOs to capture financial resources and develop projects.

In addition to site-specific investments, it is important for CEPF to promote systemic change. Although building awareness is challenging, there is growing recognition of the importance of the Cerrado, including for biodiversity, water and climate. As long as the appropriate approaches are used, adequate dialogue are stressed and multi-faceted mutual benefits of various kinds are promoted, the sustainability of conservation gains can be achieved at specific sites in the future.

Figure 9: Grantees, Regional Implementation Team Members and CEPF Grant Director at the Mid-Term Assessment Event, Brasília, April 2019.



10 Annexes

10.1 Progress towards Targets in the Portfolio Logical Framework

Target	Expected Result Based on Awarded Grants	Achieved Result by April 2019
1.1 At least 500 000 hectares (5,000 km ²) of production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use within four corridors targeted by CEPF grants.	897,093	27,926
1.2 At least six sustainable technologies and production best practices in the agriculture sector identified and disseminated to ensure protection of biodiversity, maintenance of ecosystem services and food security.	8	4
1.3 At least four financial incentives for sustainable land-sparing agricultural and livestock practices promoted among commodity chains in priority corridors.	1	0
1.4 At least two consistent public policies (legislation, policies, programs, public-private partnerships, etc.) created or adjusted to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	6	0
1.5 At least two multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) that involve the private sector (global commodity chains), small farmers, traditional communities, governments and donors promoted to identify synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies f	2	2
2.1 At least 500,000 hectares of protected areas targeted by CEPF grants with new or strengthened protection and management.	9,364,095	205,478
2.2 At least five land-use planning or public policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.	18	1
2.3 At least ten studies and analyses carried out to justify the creation or expansion of public protected areas in priority corridors and/or to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while valuing local and traditional culture within management plans of protected areas.	17	3
2.4 Five protected areas located in the CEPF Priority KBAs with an integrated management plan designed and implemented.	7	1
2.5 At least 50 new Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPN) established in priority KBAs.	1	0
3.1 At least 60 local and indigenous communities are empowered and directly benefit from sustainable use of resources and/or restoration of ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.	122	20
3.2 At least 10% of indigenous, quilombola and traditional community lands, located in the priority corridors, integrated in the planning and strategies for conservation and sustainable development at macro scale, respecting traditional knowledge and culture, as an alternative form of protection and management of lands outside of the official national system (SNUC).	1,264,790	130,000
3.3 At least ten markets and supply chains for sustainably harvested non-timber forest products developed or enabled with direct benefit for	27	2

Target	Expected Result Based on Awarded Grants	Achieved Result by April 2019
networks or groups of women and youth in particular.		
3.4 Innovations regarding seeds, seedlings and planting that result in greater efficiency and lower cost in ecological restoration activities demonstrated in at least ten sites, especially in Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves (LRs).	10	3
3.5 Production capacity and management skills of 20 community-based businesses working with ecological restoration productive chain enhanced.	7	1
3.6 One pilot network made of civil society organizations, academic institutions, businesses and governments supported to create synergies and provide socio-environmental benefits as incentives for ecosystem restoration and compliance with the Forest Law.	3	1
3.7 At least two public policies (legislation, regional strategic plans, etc.) created or adjusted to promote ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.	3	0
4.1 At least five globally threatened species targeted by CEPF grants have stable or improved conservation status.	4	4
4.2 Priority actions identified in National Action Plans, especially on habitat management and protection, implemented for at least five priority threatened species.	4	4
5.1 At least one partnership successfully leverages resources for the implementation of a joint long-term dissemination program on native vegetation cover and dynamics of land uses in the hotspot in order to support different stakeholders for planning and decision making.	2	1
5.2 At least four action plans based on shared data and experiences for better water quantity and quality developed and made available to relevant stakeholders to improve watershed management.	1	1
6.1 At least 40 local civil society organizations with increased capacities actively participate in conservation actions and management of territories guided by the ecosystem profile.	152	11
6.2 At least eight partnerships and networks formed among public, private and civil society actors to facilitate synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies for the conservation and sustainable development of the Cerrado in support of the ecosystem profile.	13	3
6.3 At least five networks and/or alliances of civil society organizations strengthened, with enhanced skills to participate in relevant forums.	5	1
6.4 At least 100 members of governance bodies and councils (national councils, watershed committees, protected areas management boards, Citizenship Territories, state/municipal councils, etc.) with strengthened capacity to participate in and influence forums related to the conservation and sustainable use of the Cerrado.	242	50
6.5 At least 40 civil society organizations with developed and strengthened institutional and technical skills (environment, conservation strategy and planning, management, policy advocacy, fundraising and	164	13

Target	Expected Result Based on Awarded Grants	Achieved Result by April 2019
reporting, regulatory frameworks, etc.) to function effectively and participate in relevant conservation and management actions guided by the ecosystem profile.		
6.6 At least 20 publications (books, manuals, technical reports, websites, etc.) or awareness raising actions (broadcasting spots, public campaigns and media outreach) on the Cerrado biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas, restoration, sustainable practices and climate resilience and civil society participation published.	65	11
6.8 At least 60 civil society organizations, including at least 40 local and indigenous organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.	108	40

10.2 Awarded Grants to date

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
CEPF-104238	ActionAid	2/1/19	12/31/20	2	Strengthen the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado network by improving the institutional and technical competencies of at least 20 participating civil society organizations and 100 community leaders to participate in relevant forums and boards of governance, and act in the defense of the biome.	CER-SD6
CEPF-109177	Ambiental 44 Informação e Projetos em Biodiversidade Ltda	8/13/18	12/20/19	1	Evaluate the current situation of municipal Conservation Units in the Cerrado Hotspot and support policies aimed at local protection of biodiversity in the priority corridors.	CER-SD2
CEPF-109844	Associação dos Pequenos Produtores Rurais Quilombolas de Onça e Adjacências	3/26/19	5/28/19	1	Strengthen the extractive chain of fruits of the Cerrado and the dissemination of good agricultural practices in the Peruaçu basin, through joint actions developed by local communities.	CER-SD1
CEPF-108605	Associação Hanaiti Yomomo - AHY	12/12/17	10/12/19	1	Include indigenous people in the community development process implementing a sustainable alternative production system that can ensure food security for the community through the use of traditional social technologies to aggregate value and	CER-SD3

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
					generate income from agriculture and extractive activities and promote restoration of degraded landscape.	
CEPF-100476	Associação para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil	10/1/17	3/31/20	1	Ensure the long-term conservation of the blue-eyed ground-dove and its unique Cerrado habitat. Carry out research on the species and its habitat use. Raise awareness to gain local community engagement. Promote ecological tourism. Support the creation of protected areas for the species.	CER-SD4
CEPF-100459	Associação Quilombo Kalunga	6/1/18	6/30/20	1	Implement the improvement and consolidation of the environmental and territorial management of the Kalunga Historical and Cultural Heritage Site, with Geographical Information System (GIS) as a tool for permanent territorial management, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources, aiming to guarantee the quality of life for all residents and future generations.	CER-SD2
CEPF-100409	Associação Rede Rio São Bartolomeu de Mútua Cooperação	11/1/17	12/31/20	1	Benefit communities of family farmers that are located in Jardim Botânico Ecological Station, a Key Biodiversity Area of great importance mainly for its hydrological services by conserving and restoring Areas of Permanent Preservation (APPs) and Legal Reserves (LRs). The project will also seek to reduce deforestation by improving soil quality and increasing agriculture and agroforestry productivity.	CER-SD3
CEPF-100437	CENTRO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO AGROECOLÓGICO DO CERRADO	7/1/18	12/31/20	1	Strengthen the process of sustainable self-management of the Cerrado's natural resources, through the promotion of the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of the Cerrado, the strengthening of local skills and knowledge via agroextractivist monitors, the implementation of a participatory system for organic certification, and the	CER-SD3

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
					strengthening of socio-productive organization strategies into a network of agroextractivists in the Cerrado.	
CEPF-104262	Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	1/1/19	6/30/20	2	Foster the implementation of the National Policy on Environmental and Territorial Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI), through the consolidation of a network of indigenous Timbira, in order to strengthen the role of these peoples and their territories as important areas of conservation of natural resources and associated socio-biodiversity, respecting gender and generational issues.	CER-SD6
CEPF-100447	Conservação Estratégica	8/1/17	9/30/18	1	Investigate the market feasibility for Environmental Reserve Quotas (CRA) in Mato Grosso state, and provide recommendations to increase the cost savings and environmental impact of this instrument to create an economic incentive for rural landowners to more effectively comply with legal reserve requirements.	CER-SD3
CEPF-100464	Cooperativa Agropecuária dos Produtores Familiares de Niquelândia	2/1/18	6/30/20	1	Recognize the role of women in the rural dynamics as actors in the construction of the agroecological approach through the dissemination of an agroforestry production system (MAES). Involve the farming families through the revaluation of the productive attributions of men and women, and thus, the strengthening of local social capital while triggering sustainable rural development.	CER-SD1
CEPF-100461	Cooperativa de Agricultura Familiar Sustentável com Base na Economia Solidária	4/1/18	12/31/20	1	Promote the diversification of agroextractivist production with sustainable management through the collective structuring of families within the Cooperative of Sustainable Family Agriculture Based on the Solidary Economy - COPABASE covering the region of the Urucuia River basin.	CER-SD3

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
CEPF-109074	Cooperativa de Trabalho e Serviços Técnicos - COOSERT	3/8/18	1/31/20	1	Reorganize productive activities according to agroecological principles in order to restore the soil, preserve water resources, and restore degraded legal reserve and permanent protection areas in two land reform settlements located in the municipality of Caxias, state of Maranhão.	CER-SD3
CEPF-109073	Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão Ltda. - CGS	2/28/18	9/30/18	1	Support the conservation of natural resources associated with income generation among traditional populations and communities in the north of Minas Gerais state, especially among youth and women who usually conduct activities involving agroecological extraction and benefiting of Cerrado products.	CER-SD3
CEPF-108581	ECOIA - Ecologia e Ação	11/7/17	2/28/20	1	Support the Cerrado restoration and conservation by strengthening non-timber products extraction in communities and settlements located in the Miranda-Bodoquena Corridor, state of Mato Grosso do Sul.	CER-SD3
CEPF-109588	Fundação Arthur Bernardes - FUNARBE	10/5/18	4/15/20	2	Identify and spatialize the potential of natural regeneration and isolated trees in cultivated pastures of the Cerrado. The results obtained will influence public policies aimed at prioritizing areas for restoration, at the payment for environmental services or environmental certification of pastures that conserve Cerrado trees.	CER-SD3
CEPF-103768	Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa da Universidade Federal de Goiás	6/1/18	5/31/20	1	Support the implementation of a joint long-term open source platform on the Cerrado to promote data, information and knowledge sharing among the various stakeholders in the hotspot. To engage and empower civil society through reliable information and tools for monitoring ecosystems in the Cerrado.	CER-SD5
CEPF-109589	Fundação de Apoio e Desenvolvimento da Universidade	11/26/18	10/20/20	2	To map, identify, differentiate and diagnose water resources and humid areas (paths, humid fields, swamps and riparian forests) located in 3 Key	CER-SD5

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
	de Mato Grosso - Fundação Uniselva				Biodiversity Areas of the Chapada dos Guimarães Corridor, which will support protected area management and decision making from ICMBio and other environmental organizations.	
CEPF-109587	Fundação de Empreendimentos Científicos e Tecnológicos - FINATEC	9/20/18	1/13/20	1	Understand the changes happening in the Nascentes do Rio Parnaíba National Park and the socioenvironmental conflicts that rise from the advance of the agricultural frontier, reinforced by governmental actions and by the Matopiba Agricultural Development Plan.	CER-SD2
CEPF-109176	Fundação Escola Politécnica da Bahia - FEP	8/16/18	6/10/20	1	Introduce and disseminate social technologies and sustainable practices aimed at agroecological production as a way to restore and preserve soil and to treat organic waste in traditional Geraizeiras communities located in the municipality of São Desidério, along the Guara river, in the west area of state of Bahia.	CER-SD1
CEPF-100493	Fundação Neotrópica Do Brasil	1/1/18	12/31/20	1	Strengthen the Municipal Councils of the Environment (COMDEMAS) in Miranda-Bodoquena corridor (Brazil) to contribute to achieving global biodiversity conservation goals. Mobilize the councils to promote debates about conservation and management issues of the Cerrado.	CER-SD6
CEPF-100465	Fundação Pró Natureza - Funatura	7/1/17	9/30/19	1	Strengthen the management of the Mosaic Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu through an update and revision of the Conservation-Based Territorial Development Plan (DTBC), the elaboration of socio-environmental zoning and the implementation of the Mosaic Fund.	CER-SD2
CEPF-100440	Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	7/1/17	6/30/20	1	Integrate and strengthen the management of protected areas of the Mosaic Sertão Veredas Peruaçu in Brazil, through integrated monitoring of the Mosaic, participative socio-environmental planning and management, and communication and awareness of the civil society.	CER-SD2

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
CEPF-100417	Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	7/1/17	3/31/20	1	Promote environmentally and socially responsible rural supply chains that strengthen conservation and restoration efforts by improving economic returns and environmental benefits from dairy farming and beef-cattle rearing traditional rural activities, by strengthening municipal environmental policy, and by creating novel economic opportunities for rural communities participating in ecological restoration activities.	CER-SD3
CEPF-109318	Greentec Consultoria e Planejamento Agroflorestal e do Meio Ambiente S/S	8/1/18	10/15/18	Invitation	Discuss with the main social stakeholders the redefinition of limits to the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve by defining criteria and concepts focused on geospatial issues as well as elaborating a technical document to be submitted to UNESCO aimed at recognizing the effort.	CER-SD2
CEPF-100418	IMAFLORA - Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola	7/1/17	12/31/19	1	Create the relevant environment to implement a pilot PES scheme in the Corrego Feio watershed in the municipality of Patrocínio, Brazil, with the coffee sector as a business case to be replicated to other municipalities in the Cerrado Mineiro region and to other agricultural value chains.	CER-SD3
CEPF-100436	Instituto Amada Terra de Inclusão Social - IAT	1/1/18	4/30/20	1	Implement actions of research and monitoring, public awareness, dissemination and training, per the National Action Plan (NAP) for the conservation of the Brazilian Merganser in the Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas Corridor, Brazil.	CER-SD4
CEPF-108604	Instituto Ariramba de Conservação da Natureza - ARIRAMBA	12/12/17	4/30/20	1	Re-establish populations of the Bicudo (<i>Sporophila maximiliani</i>) in areas where the bird species has already been considered extinct, producing relevant knowledge about the species.	CER-SD4
CEPF-103859	Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia - IPAM	7/1/18	6/30/20	1	Identify and map areas of "invisible" traditional communities of relevance for conservation in the four CEPF priority corridors in the Cerrado. Quantify their vulnerability to agricultural expansion and resulting	CER-SD2

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
					pressures on natural habitat. Identify and discuss suitable areas for the creation of new recognized tenure rights to guarantee the rights of traditional communities and the conservation of the Cerrado.	
CEPF-108580	Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia - IPAM	7/3/17	2/23/18	Planing	This grant was awarded to promote the elaboration of a joint working plan between IPAM, ISPN, IMAFLORA, CI and FUNAPE for the submission of their large grant proposals aimed at integrating spatial information and monitoring tools for the Cerrado sociobiodiversity.	CER-SD5
CEPF-104053	Instituto Oca Brasil	9/1/18	8/31/20	1	Support the creation of new Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs) in Chapada dos Veadeiros and the management of existing ones through georeferencing of the property; preparation of management plans; property signalization; fire management training; Business Opportunity training and a Results Dissemination Seminar.	CER-SD2
CEPF-108547	Instituto Oca Brasil	6/27/17	7/31/17	Planing	Support Instituto Oca Brasil and Conservation International (CI-Brazil) in the elaboration of a joint working plan for their large grant proposals presented for the CEPF Cerrado first call, both within Strategic Direction 2 and Investment Priority 2.1, intended to create protected areas in the Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas priority corridor.	CER-SD2
CEPF-103955	INSTITUTO SOCIEDADE POPULAÇÃO E NATUREZA ISPN	9/1/18	2/28/21	1	Strengthen civil society's actions in defense of the Cerrado in West of Bahia, Brazil: by broadening the articulation between 10 organizations; by generating a network to catalyze integrated actions and policies for Cerrado; by providing a Participatory Organizational Development training; and by expanding the capacity of 15 community leaders in spaces of governance.	CER-SD6

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
CEPF-109167	Instituto Terra em Desenvolvimento - ITD	5/1/18	10/16/18	Invitation	Provide integrated strategic communication to the Seminar entitled "Strategy to Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Cerrado Biome Natural Resources" by planning and implementing spontaneous media and dissemination in social networks aiming at wide dissemination and covering the seminar as well as its results. No final report available for this project but please refer to the recommendations to policy-makers in defense of the Cerrado in the Policy Strategies Cerrado document below.	CER-SD6
CEPF-108582	Pesquisa e Conservação do Cerrado - PEQUI	11/14/17	11/10/19	1	Contribute to improved management of two protected areas in Jalapão, state of Tocantins, through collaborative research, experiments and communication actions that promote knowledge sharing about fire management between environmental managers and quilombola communities.	CER-SD2
CEPF-100475	Rede Cerrado	7/1/17	1/31/20	1	Increase the capacities of the Cerrado Network and its members in terms of mobilization, communication and monitoring to impact public policies to give greater transparency and visibility to its Cerrado conservation strategy.	CER-SD6
CEPF-100450	Rede de Sementes do Cerrado - RSC	1/1/18	12/31/20	1	Strengthen and expand a network of existing seed collectors in the Chapada dos Veadeiros and promote the creation of networks in the Environmental Protection Area (APA) of the Rio Descoberto Basin, in the APA of Nascentes do Rio Vermelho region and the Wildlife Refuge of Veredas do Oeste Baiano, northeast of Goiás and southwest of Bahia. Strengthen local and regional trade in seeds of native species of the Cerrado, improving the commercial interface between collectors and consumers of native seeds. Disseminate techniques with the best	CER-SD3

Opportunity Name	Account Name	Start Date	End Date	Call	Web Description	Strategic Direction
					possible cost-benefit for the restoration and planting of native species of the Cerrado.	
CEPF-108677	Rede de Sementes do Cerrado - RSC	12/12/17	10/30/19	Invitation	Train managers of CEPF beneficiary organizations running projects under Strategic Direction 3 or other strategic directions that include restoration activities. The project will also train other people involved in the restoration process in the Cerrado. Training will focus on themes such as the diagnosis of degraded areas, restoration planning and techniques and monitoring of restoration results.	CER-SD3
CEPF-109140	Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres - RENCTAS	7/26/18	1/16/19	2	Build capacity to strengthen the participation of civil society organizations from the West-Central region of Brazil in public decision-making councils, especially in the CONAMA—Brazilian National Environmental Council—by holding a regional meeting and collectively elaborating the West-Central Environmental Organizations Manifest, along with other 18 technical and political documents to be presented to the CONAMA.	CER-SD6
CEPF-108601	Sociedade de Amigos da Fundação Zoo-Botânica de Belo Horizonte - SAFZB-BH	11/22/17	12/11/20	1	Develop practical actions aimed at public awareness, protection and reintroduction of the faveiro-de-Wilson tree (<i>Dimorphandra wilsonii</i>) in the central region of the state of Minas Gerais.	CER-SD4