



**Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment:  
Guinean Forests of West Africa  
Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem**

A Special Report  
October 2006

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## OVERVIEW

In 2001, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) selected the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot as one of the first three regions to receive investment because of its exceptional biodiversity and the many considerable threats facing it at the time.

This special report of five years of CEPF investment in the hotspot draws from CEPF experience, lessons learned, and project monitoring, including final project reports compiled by civil society groups supported during the period. All available final project reports can be accessed in the Publications section of the CEPF Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).

The report also draw from the results of a 2006 questionnaire to CEPF grant recipients in the region and an April 2006 assessment workshop attended by more than 70 participants from throughout the region and beyond. A summary of the workshop, organized by the Environmental Foundation for Africa and the Environmental Forum for Action, is included in this report.

CEPF is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to engage nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and other sectors of civil society in biodiversity conservation.

### CEPF Niche

The Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot represents the Guinean portion of the Guinea-Congolian forests and contains two main blocks: the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem and the Lower Guinean Forest. The focal area for CEPF investment – the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem – extends from Guinea into eastern Sierra Leone, and eastward through Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, and Ghana into western Togo.

The hotspot contains impressive levels of biodiversity and unique species or endemism. Approximately 9,000 species of vascular plants occur in the hotspot, including significant assemblages of endemic plant species. There are 785 species of birds, more than 200 reptiles, and nearly 225 amphibians, although knowledge of the herpetological fauna is inadequate. Mammal diversity is exceptional, with nearly a quarter of the mammals that are native to continental Africa represented. More than 60 are endemic to the hotspot. The hotspot is one of the top priorities for primate conservation – five species are Critically Endangered and another 21 are Endangered; 92 percent of the hotspot’s primates are endemic.

During the investment period, the region’s biodiversity faced many formidable threats, with the most severe and pervasive being civil conflict. Ranging from tension to warfare to post-conflict recovery, conflict posed an ever-present factor and challenge to conservation efforts. Conflicts in Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo have resulted in differing levels of encroachment and unrest. Sierra Leone is still recovering from the civil strife that plagued the country for years. The flow of refugees from one country to the next is a constant problem, as people arrive without resources and require at the very least food, shelter, and fuel. Large refugee camps often deforest neighboring forests for firewood and consume all wildlife. Returning refugees present a similar challenge. Civil unrest has been, and continues to be, one of the most important factors affecting the ability of stakeholders to achieve success in the conservation arena.

Following closely behind conflict is poverty, with many of the region's people being closely dependent on the natural resource base. Unemployment can exacerbate social unrest and stimulate human migration, ethnic tension, and conflicts regarding land tenure. All of these factors were present during the CEPF investment period and many remain today.

Deforestation due to commercial logging, and the slash-and-burn agriculture that often follows timber extraction, threaten populations of wildlife across the hotspot. Small-scale and industrial mining also pose considerable threats to the region's remaining tropical forests, as most of these are located on substrates rich in iron ore, diamonds, gold, rutile, and bauxite. The effects of mining vary, with large-scale mining a major concern in mountainous areas such as Mt. Nimba where mining can affect the health of freshwater systems and regional watersheds, and small-scale mining leading to forest clearance and increased levels of hunting for bushmeat. The harvest in bushmeat has increased dramatically in recent years, largely due to new roads that open up access to formerly remote areas, the increasingly commercial nature of the bushmeat trade, as well as the depletion of marine fish resources.

As investments began, the region's ability to respond to and counteract these threats was inadequate. Despite the presence of a number of committed donors and the regional IUCN network, environmental NGOs were few in number, and most had limited capacity. These organizations had few professionals, insufficient academic support for training, research, and implementation, and inadequate biodiversity data to inform their objectives. Civil society groups often operated in isolation, without connections and, most significantly, without a regional vision or awareness. This lack of capacity and institutional maturity had hindered progress in all areas of conservation, ranging from direct project implementation to policy and decision-making at the national and regional levels.

Data to make appropriate decisions and influence governmental actions was poor or altogether absent. In some countries, the idea of civil society involvement in conservation was in its infancy. Few NGOs had the capacity or clout to have a positive impact on the region's biodiversity or decisions that impact lives and livelihoods. Consequently, local civil society had a minimal and ineffectual role in addressing conservation and the threats that impede it.

It was amid these seemingly insurmountable threats and challenges that CEPF identified its niche: to support connectivity, seeking to address not only ecological but also political, social, and administrative fragmentation. In recognizing that sustainable biodiversity conservation will only be achieved if civil society groups drive the process and have the skills to do so, the CEPF five-year investment strategy focused on providing NGOs and other private organizations with the capacity to manage biodiversity conservation more effectively. Five strategic directions guided the award of grants:

1. Strengthening institutional capacities for conservation.
2. Establishing a hotspot biodiversity monitoring system.
3. Developing conservation corridors.
4. Public awareness.
5. Biodiversity action fund.

The strategy, detailed in the CEPF ecosystem profile for this region<sup>1</sup> drew significantly from the West Africa Conservation Priority Setting Workshop (CPW) held in Elmina, Ghana, in 1999. With funding from GEF through the United Nations Development Program, Conservation International organized this workshop to assess the status of biological resources and to determine

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<sup>1</sup> The ecosystem profile is available online: [English](#) (PDF, 586KB) / [Français](#) (PDF, 618KB)

the areas most in need of urgent conservation intervention. All participants, who included 146 scientists, regional experts, and other governmental and nongovernmental representatives from more than 90 institutions, adopted the results of the workshop.

## **Impact**

CEPF investment in the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem resulted in significant but uneven outcomes, with the most exceptional being that CEPF has created the building blocks for a West African conservation movement. At the April 2006 workshop held in Sierra Leone, participants concluded that CEPF has had significant impact in improving capacity in the region, improving biological knowledge, promoting a better conservation vision, and improving community participation in conservation.

CEPF's focus on strengthening institutional capacities and public awareness has built a stronger civil society that is starting to work together and seeing the benefits of its efforts. Today, the many civil society groups that received support or benefited from CEPF investments can demonstrate improved capacity in organizational administration, project management, and biodiversity conservation skills; a more far-reaching conservation vision; improved biological data to inform decision-making; and better involvement in conservation efforts throughout the region (see Logical Framework reporting, page 13). These organizations are present in each of the countries in the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem. In total, 18 national NGOs and private sector partners significantly expanded their staff, diversity of abilities and total coverage with the help of CEPF support. At least seven international NGOs also expanded their in-country national staff, abilities, and activities.

Networks, such as the Environmental Forum for Action in Sierra Leone and partnerships, such as that of Birdlife's West African partners, have been established and/or strengthened, and now form the basis for cooperation and coordination on many different critical levels. The networks serve as avenues for communication, collaboration, and learning, and are generating the desire for a regional conservation vision. A central conclusion of stakeholders participating in the workshop earlier this year was that the region needs a regional coordination body, with a regional conservation vision and communications strategy. Stakeholders have seen the value and strength of partnerships within and across the region, and they are eager to build upon these tools to further the conservation agenda.

CEPF investments generated improved biological data, which are now being used by local and international NGOs in their conservation actions and to inform governmental decisions. For example, rapid biological assessments conducted in Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana with CEPF support, generated valuable species information to use for prioritizing conservation funds and action. Data on new species has brought attention to biodiversity, and stimulated interest from civil society as well as government.

Stakeholders identified increased community participation in conservation as a major achievement of CEPF, yet at the same time acknowledged that much more work needs to be done in this area. CEPF projects involved local communities in all countries in the region. At least 140 communities were directly involved in CEPF-supported projects on a variety of levels, from design to implementation and monitoring results. Yet these efforts were challenging and often revealed difficult issues involving decisionmaking, benefit sharing, and community reasoning about their participation. This is a theme that all CEPF grantees want to continue to work on and learn from.

CEPF's biodiversity impact has been significant given the obstacles, with more than 186,268 hectares of biologically rich land newly protected or given increased protection. This includes the creation of the Nimba Nature Reserve (estimated at about 13,568 hectares) in Liberia, out of the former Nimba East National Forest. The reserve is contiguous with the Nimba Nature reserves of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, which together were declared a World Heritage Site in 1981. Creation of the the Nimba Nature Reserve occurred in 2003, alongside other legal developments in Liberia including the expansion of Sapo National Park (by 72,700 hectares, from 107,300 hectares to approximately 180,000 hectares), and establishment of Liberia's first coherent legal framework for conservation of forest resources. In Ghana, the government upgraded 100,000 hectares of forest reserves to Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs); the Ghanaian Forestry Division will manage these areas for strict protection.

Numerous protected areas have benefited from improved management due to CEPF funding and the improved capability of CEPF grantees. These areas include Marahoué, Mont Peko and Tai national parks in Côte d'Ivoire, Sapo National Park in Liberia, and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. These and other areas, such as classified forests and forest reserves in Guinea and Togo, have benefited from increased and improved biodiversity monitoring, better management, and increased educational outreach to local communities.

As testament to the improved image that CEPF's grantees have developed, more than \$11.9 million in project co-financing, and additional leveraged funds has been generated for conserving the rich natural wealth of the hotspot. This is more than double the \$4.3 million funding originally approved for CEPF investment that was subsequently increased to the \$6.2 million invested.

In hindsight, CEPF's analysis of the threats in the region was accurate. Logging, mining, poverty, and conflict did indeed characterize the region throughout the investment period. The niche, which was to support connectivity on a variety of levels, was an overwhelmingly appropriate one for CEPF. The fragmentation that is evident, particularly on political and social levels, proved to be a key issue that has needed attention during the period of CEPF investment, and even more so since it was present despite the valuable support provided to region from committed donors/institutions, such as IUCN NL, BirdLife International, and others. CEPF investments in institutional strengthening, partnerships, public awareness, and capacity building addressed this deficiency, and as a result, for the first time in the region, scientists, and conservation practitioners are connecting with each other, to develop and implement a broad conservation vision for West Africa. At the same time, all grantees recognize that this is just the beginning, and that there is a continuing need for coordination and collaboration. This was the key decision emanating from the April 2006 workshop.

## **Implementing the Strategy**

In total, CEPF awarded 72 grants valued at \$6.2 million during the investment period from January 2001 through December 2005. These grants ranged in size from \$1,000 to \$655,312. The final grant was awarded to the Environmental Foundation for Africa to host the workshop. A full list of grants is provided beginning on page 17. Each strategic direction is discussed briefly below:

### ***Strategic Direction 1: Strengthening institutional capacities for conservation***

Throughout West Africa, the need is enormous for training in management, administration, financial accounting, and project implementation, as well as for specialist skills such as conducting biological surveys and working with communities. CEPF investment has therefore aimed to build capacity of local organizations and individuals throughout the region. This

emphasis is based on the belief that conservation must have local roots, and local people must have the skills to put their ambitions into action with long-term impact.

Development of the CEPF grant portfolio to achieve this objective has been multi-faceted, and has evolved over the investment period. Initial grants focused on support for institutions, including core costs, and training in essential skills, such as administration, financial management, strategic thinking, communications, and fundraising. This approach has been successful and those institutions that received such support are now active and well known in the conservation sector. Among the lessons learned are that investment cannot be piecemeal, and a serious and substantial contribution to the operational budgets of these institutions is essential.

Subsequent grants have focused on increasing the number of capable NGOs active in the region. Some of these newly established groups require significant oversight, which if not available in the recipient institution, or provided by other organizations (in a guiding role), then there is a danger that the investment will be frittered away. In regard to a number of the emerging NGOs, CEPF has learned that such institutional support needs to be combined with on-the-ground training by locally based partners who can provide assistance and oversight on a regular basis. This approach is well underway in Liberia in particular, and is gaining steam in Sierra Leone. Local NGOs are increasingly able to provide the guidance and oversight for their compatriots.

In total, \$2,612,237 was granted under this strategic direction, the largest allocation of the five strategic directions. While these projects focused on capacity building and institutional development, at the same time they wove these elements into components that had a direct conservation emphasis.

The overriding achievement of this investment has been the evidence of collaboration and coordination among NGOs in the region. Although this was highlighted during the workshop as the most imperative need in the coming years, much has been achieved with CEPF funding. For example, the BirdLife partnership now has a strong presence in West Africa, with regular coordination meetings and collaborative actions on regional conservation initiatives. These NGOs are actively involved with numerous other partners, and have extended their ideals of collaboration beyond the BirdLife partnership. In Sierra Leone, support to the Environmental Foundation for Africa has spawned the Environmental Forum for Action born out of the first symposium of green NGOs in Sierra Leone, which was conceived by EFA. Sierra Leone is now a new center of enthusiasm and action on the conservation front within the region. This enthusiasm is growing throughout the region, and was recently manifested with the establishment of a new consortium: the Green Actors of West Africa. This network of environmental NGOs offers great promise for mobilizing civil society to address conservation issues throughout West Africa.

It should also be noted that strengthening these institutions does not in and of itself simply lead to conservation. This aspect of the CEPF investment has been coupled with intensive efforts to ensure that dedicated and committed conservationists are identified and given the chance to learn and practice conservation. CEPF staff has also made extra efforts to assist with project design so that each institutional or training grant had a conservation objective. Training for the sake of training, or training without an opportunity to use the new skills, is something to be avoided.

***Strategic Direction 2: Establishing a hotspot biodiversity monitoring system***

Paucity of biodiversity data and lack of any formal monitoring mechanism prompted CEPF to select this strategic direction. Results of the workshop demonstrated that, although CEPF funds have been instrumental in generating much needed biodiversity data, the investment fell short of reaching its goal of creating a region-wide monitoring system. The need to monitor not only biodiversity, but also progress toward achieving conservation, came out at the workshop as being

of paramount importance. It was also noted that a central biodiversity database, better methods of data dissemination and, most importantly, better means of getting biodiversity data to decisionmakers should be priority goals for the future.

CEPF approached this strategic direction through a series of projects that focused on monitoring, yet only one, the IUCN Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (actually recorded under Strategic Direction 3) had a truly regional scope that touched all countries.

In short, the region was not ready to take on this challenge. A number of international NGOs expressed interest in addressing the need, however, this was not the ideal path for CEPF – the preference was that a local NGO be capacitated to undertake the task, and have the necessary commitment and vision to make it work. At the start of CEPF investment no local candidates seemed to be up to the task. Five years later, there are a number of NGOs that could take the lead on this. Thus, the foundation has been set for the new generation to establish such a system for West Africa, and CEPF has learned that a series of monitoring projects cannot suffice to meet regional monitoring needs. An additional important lesson for the future is that if no one local group is up to the task, it would be sensible to design a partnership of local groups with an international organization, so that capacity could be built during the process of monitoring.

### ***Strategic Direction 3: Developing conservation corridors***

Creation of biodiversity conservation corridors is one of CEPF's top priorities because corridors offer the range and quality of habitat required for the survival of key species as well as safeguard essential natural services provided by ecosystems. Therefore, this strategic direction received the second largest allocation, with \$2,112,835 awarded. Grants have varied from overarching corridor coordination grants to specific initiatives focusing on a single corridor.

Efforts have also focused on the building blocks to corridor establishment, such as generating the necessary data to identify where protected areas should be located, and ensuring that local stakeholders understand and benefit from corridor establishment. Given the fragmented nature of the forests of the Upper Guinean Forest, much work needs to be done to strengthen conservation efforts within corridors, as well as to disseminate innovative methods for working within them.

At the start of investment, the region was characterized as fragmented, with no one local organization recognized as a regional leader in the field of conservation. Given that many of the corridors identified at the CPW crossed national boundaries, this pointed to an international organization taking the lead on some of the corridor creation and coordination of such initiatives. Additionally, few local NGOs were thinking on a large enough scale to undertake corridor creation, nor did any of them have the necessary financial or administrative skills to manage large grants.

Upon reflection, insufficient progress has been made on corridor creation. There have been some notable achievements though, such as the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CI and the Government of Liberia to establish a network of protected areas. Although this MOU was signed by the previous Liberian administration, the new government has agreed to uphold the MOU and thus progress toward this important objective continues. Several grants have been useful in helping partners to uphold their responsibilities under the MOU, including grants to CI and Fauna and Flora International to create a GIS database for Liberia's forests and to train Liberian staff to interpret data and images, and to develop management plans for priority areas. The result is that a set of priority areas has been identified, and staff and institutions now exist that are moving forward to establish these areas within a nationally recognized framework.

Another example of progress is an IUCN/SCC African Elephant Specialist Group project on transboundary collaboration for the conservation of elephant migration corridors in West Africa. This project was successfully conducted, and action plans produced to stimulate follow-up. Twelve countries signed an accord in November 2005 under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. Contracts have already been signed between several West African countries and IUCN, which will coordinate the roll out of this accord. This an extremely appropriate role for IUCN, as it is the most far-reaching and well established network in the region

At the same time, CEPF has learned that corridor creation in West Africa is complex and challenging, and requires substantial incorporation of livelihood components. Poverty is a constant obstacle to conservation success, and CEPF's projects that have included alternative income generation components such as soap making, livestock rearing, or tourism have often yielded significant rewards. At the 2006 workshop, stakeholders emphasized the need to include livelihood issues in the conservation agenda because the needs of people must also be addressed as conservation objectives are pursued.

Work in the corridors in most parts of the region is in its infancy. Therefore, while CEPF's strategy of supporting several important and successful projects has yielded results, it fell short of addressing corridor conservation on a more regional and holistic basis. With capacitated and ambitious local NGOs now in place, addressing this need is more within reach and should be a priority for future conservation efforts.

#### ***Strategic Direction 4: Public awareness***

The CEPF ecosystem profile recognized that one of the major factors contributing to natural resource destruction was lack of public awareness. CEPF invested in numerous awareness projects, and many have been innovative. One of the challenges under this strategic direction was to work with partners to develop awareness projects and activities that are creative and stimulating, rather than traditional actions that result in products but little change in behavior.

This search for creative actions was the motivating factor in how CEPF addressed this issue. In many cases, the groups supported used adaptive management to address new factors or used what they have learned to improve delivery. These approaches have involved theatre, music, dance, radio shows, and a range of other means to get messages across.

An interesting example is the Ghanaian group, AGORO Centre for Intercultural Learning and Talent Development. AGORO, which uses music and drama performed by young, local artists to spread environmental messages among local communities and school groups, learned while filming the drama, that local people are far more interested in seeing themselves and their friends in a film, than in seeing a drama performance. While these performances were immensely popular, and always attracted large crowds, AGORO learned valuable information that it can now use when selecting future methods to raise awareness.

Also innovative was CI-Ghana's national campaign aimed at reducing the trade and consumption of bushmeat. During this project, CI-Ghana sought to revive Ghana's traditional conservation practices such as the totem concept, and had major success in changing public perception of wildlife as a free good and in curbing the devastating effects of this trade. Baseline and post-campaign surveys indicate a marked reduction in willingness by Ghanaians to consume bushmeat.

While CEPF investments have been successful on the local and sometimes on the national level, there remains much work to be done, as the overall awareness level is still extremely low.

Stakeholders helping to assess CEPF's investments pointed to the need for regional awareness materials, and a regional communications strategy. This is, however, also evidence that CEPF grant recipients and other partners see the value in a unified approach, and that they understand that localized efforts must fit into a wider awareness strategy.

#### ***Strategic Direction 5: Biodiversity action fund***

Designed to respond to unforeseen circumstances that affect biodiversity conservation and support small-scale capacity building, this strategic direction was created with a limit of \$10,000 for small grants, which was subsequently raised to \$20,000. As the portfolio developed, it became evident that the need for small grants is very large. The main reason is that many of the civil society organizations in the region lack the capacity to handle larger quantities of funds. Therefore, although some applicants for CEPF funds requested large quantities, after review and recommendation, it was determined that they would be more appropriate to receive a small grant under this strategic direction, and if all went well, then additional requests for funds would be considered.

Small grants often require significant oversight on the part of the donor, to assist with fulfilling contractual requirements, such as reporting, and to provide technical assistance on occasion. Given that the need for small grants in the region was so evident, and the ability of CEPF to provide adequate supervision and guidance to all who it needed it was limited, CEPF supported the establishment of a number of small grants facilities, including 1) the Liberia Conservation Action Fund to deliver small grants funding to local Liberian NGOs for well-defined conservation targets; and 2) the Great Ape Emergency Conservation Fund to provide funding in support of the IUCN/SSC Action Plan for the Conservation of West African Chimpanzees.

CEPF's small grants have addressed urgent needs such as biological surveys and capacity building. Most importantly, though, these grants have been useful for two reasons. First, they have built the confidence of local NGOs and have given them the experience (and project results) necessary to raise additional funds from CEPF and other donors to meet their conservation objectives. Second, they have tested the grantee within a context of support provided by CEPF, and this has allowed them to grow, develop, and gain skills and experience without feeling like one wrong step will be their last. This spirit of partnership is truly rare in a relationship between donor and grantee, but CEPF has learned that it can reap substantial rewards.

## **Conclusions**

CEPF's overall niche was to address the lack of connectivity and civil society capacity within the Upper Guinean Forest. The five strategic directions provided the guidance for CEPF to mend the fragmentation and build a stronger foundation to achieve biodiversity conservation. CEPF's strategy entailed supporting local institutions as well as individuals, and ensuring that any grants to international NGOs included capacity building components and elements of sustainability. CEPF never sought to go the speedy route of supporting well-established international groups for rapid species and hectare rewards – rather the program based its grant-making on the premise that it must support local actors, and diversify and expand the number of local actors in the arena.

The results of CEPF's five years of investment can be summarized as follows:

(1) Talented local NGOs with experience and ambition are now present in every country, and they are eager to work together to take on conservation challenges, as well as livelihood issues that are closely linked to biodiversity targets. Getting to this stage was not always easy. CEPF learned a number of important lessons, in particular that emerging NGOs need to start small and

that they need oversight. They need to share experiences and lessons with others, and they need to gain confidence in their own ideas, rather than falling back on what they think the donor wants to hear.

(2) Today, the many civil society groups that received support or benefited from CEPF investments can demonstrate improved capacity in organizational administration, project management, financial management, strategic thinking, communications, and fundraising—all essential elements for conservation success and sustainability. Many NGOs and their governmental partners now have staff trained in scientific method because of participation in various CEPF-supported training programs.

(3) Local groups are now taking initiative to form partnerships and networks, for example the Environmental Forum for Action in Sierra Leone, and the Green Actors of West Africa. This collaboration is integral to help avoid duplication of effort and maximize outcomes.

(4) Efforts to increase awareness about biodiversity have been successful on the local and sometimes on the national level, yet there remains much work to be done. The overall awareness level is still extremely low. Many people live in remote areas and are rarely exposed to conservation messages. CEPF investments have been innovative and unusual, in an effort to get beyond traditional environmental education efforts that have not proven successful (but continue to be used). Strategies that include film, drama, music and hands on experience with nature have been the norm with CEPF grantees, and these efforts appear to be generating enthusiasm and awareness in the areas where they have been used. Stakeholders helping assess CEPF impact pointed to the need for regional awareness materials, and a regional communications strategy.

(5) CEPF has supported increased community involvement (at least 140 community groups) in conservation planning, yet coverage has not been uniform or extensive, given the size of the investment area. In the future, community participation should be encouraged at all stages of CEPF investment (for example, via stakeholder workshops during preparation of the ecosystem profile). CEPF's work has raised many questions that grantees want to explore further, such as a) how to encourage involvement when communities want immediate cash rewards; b) how far should community decision-making go, especially when decisions are not in favor of biodiversity conservation; c) how should project staff deal with diminishing interest in a project, which often coincides with fewer visits to a project site, and so on. Local NGOs are wrestling with these and other questions, and are eager to continue to learn from each other's experiences on this topic.

(6) Regarding the objective of setting up a region-wide biodiversity monitoring system, CEPF investments fell short of reaching this goal. While CEPF funds have been instrumental in generating biodiversity data, especially in areas where no surveys had ever been undertaken, no local NGO had the capacity or equipment to take on this task. At present, however, after five years of investment, it is more likely that a consortium of local NGOs could work together to establish such a system.

(7) A total of 186,268 hectares of biologically rich land has been newly protected or given increased protection. This land is located in Ghana and Liberia.

(8) Numerous protected areas have benefited from improved management, including Marahoué, Mont Peko and Tai National Parks in Côte d'Ivoire, Sapo National Park in Liberia, and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. Additional smaller areas, including many classified forests and forest reserves in Guinea and Togo, have also received support for improved

biodiversity monitoring, better management, and increased educational outreach to local communities.

(9) CEPF has learned that corridor creation in West Africa is complex and challenging, and requires substantial incorporation of livelihood components. Poverty is a constant obstacle to conservation success, and CEPF's projects that have included alternative income generation components have often yielded significant rewards. At the 2006 workshop, stakeholders emphasized the need to include livelihood issues in the conservation agenda, because the needs of the people must also be addressed as conservation objectives are pursued. Work in the corridors in most parts of the region is in its infancy. Therefore, while CEPF's strategy of supporting several important and successful projects yielded results, it fell short of addressing corridor conservation on a more regional and holistic basis.

(10) Regarding the size of grants, CEPF learned that there is a great need for small grants of \$20,000 or less. The main reason for this is that many of the civil society organizations in the region lack the capacity to handle larger quantities of funds. Given that the need for small grants in West Africa was so evident, and the ability of CEPF to provide adequate supervision and guidance was limited, a number of small grants facilities have been established, including 1) the Liberia Conservation Action Fund, established to deliver small grants funding to local Liberian NGOs to focus on well-defined conservation targets; and 2) the Great Ape Emergency Conservation Fund, established to provide small grants to support implementation of the IUCN/SSC Action Plan for the Conservation of West African Chimpanzees. It should be noted that many of CEPF grantees started out with small grants, and have gone on to receive larger awards from a variety of donors. Apart from providing a means for grantees to achieve conservation targets with direct CEPF oversight, CEPF's small grants have also addressed immediate conservation needs, and have complemented ongoing conservation initiatives. The small grants strategic direction has allowed a large number of grantees to make a difference on the ground on a variety of issues in numerous geographic areas.

(11) More than \$11.9 million in project co-financing and leveraged funds has been generated.

Most importantly, CEPF has given confidence and hope to its many West African partners, and the opportunity to show what they can do. Many countries and donors appear to think that West Africa is a lost cause, and indeed many donors exited the region as recent conflicts emerged (i.e. in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire). CEPF did not withdraw from the region, and only suspended grants in Liberia when fighting prohibited any project work. The lesson is, given the chance, West African civil society groups and their governmental partners have come a very long way. They are looking toward the future, and now they have the network and skills to influence it.

## CEPF 5-Year Logical Framework Reporting

LONG-TERM GOAL STATEMENT	TARGETED CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	RESULTS
<p><b>Corridor concept and management frameworks incorporated into multi-national policy creation and decisionmaking</b></p>	<p><b>Areas Protected:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greater Nimba Highlands</li> <li>- Sapo-Tai Complex</li> <li>- Southwest Ghana/Southeast Côte d'Ivoire Forests</li> <li>- Hornbill Corridor (including Marahoue National Park)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Greater Nimba Highlands:</b> Nimba Nature Reserve (estimated at about 13,568 ha) created in Liberia out of the former Nimba East National Forest. The reserve is contiguous with the Nimba Nature reserves of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, which together were declared a World Heritage Site in 1981. Community site support groups established and now involved in monitoring. The declaration was part of three laws signed in 2003 to protect Liberia's forests from deforestation, fragmentation, and degradation. The first law amended the New National Forestry Act of 2000 by defining a series of 8 protected area types and the uses permitted and prohibitions for each, establishing for the first time a coherent legal framework for conservation of forest resources. The others created the Nimba Nature Reserve and expanded Sapo National Park (see below).</p> <p><b>Sapo-Tai Complex:</b> In Liberia, Sapo National Park—Liberia's first and only fully protected area—expanded by approximately 72,700 ha (from 107,300 ha to approximately 180,000 ha in 2003. Biological surveys coupled with GIS and remote sensing analysis since investment began demonstrate that the park is among West Africa's least disturbed lowland rainforest areas, with important populations of globally threatened species. Tai National Park further protected due to multimedia environmental education campaigns. Sociological impact studies indicate a decrease of destructive behaviors toward chimpanzees and a higher readiness to contribute to their conservation and the protection of the forest following the campaigns.</p> <p><b>Southwest Ghana/Southeast Côte d'Ivoire Forests:</b> National Biodiversity Strategy for Ghana revised, incorporating West African priority-setting results and CEPF priorities, and adopted by government. Action plan for implementation developed and adopted by government,</p>

		<p>with District Assemblies and other sectors also incorporating major sections into their approaches. The Ghanaian government also upgraded 100,000 ha of forest reserves to Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) and communities have been engaged to support management through organization of Community Biodiversity Advocacy Groups. The Forestry Division will manage these areas for strict protection. The legislation for official designation in the country's protected area classifications has been drafted and is awaiting Parliament approval.</p> <p><b>Hornbill Corridor (including Marahoue National Park):</b> Management of Mont Peko and Marahoue national parks in Côte d'Ivoire improved through support to park management and administration. Mont Peko national park completed transition from expatriate management to management entirely by nationals following extensive staff training. Park management is now implemented by and responsibility of the park directorate. This includes general management, infrastructure development, patrolling, biomonitoring and relations with adjacent communities. First collaboration established between the National Agency for Support to Rural Development (ANADER) and a national park – now a model planned for the country's other parks guided by lessons learned at Mont Peko.</p>
<b>CEPF PURPOSE</b>	<b>IMPACT INDICATORS</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
<b>NGOs, community groups, scientists and other private sector groups (civil society) collaboratively and effectively participate in the protection of biodiversity conservation of the Upper Guinea Ecosystem.</b>	1.1 Increased number of conservation professionals at work in support of the region's national protected area systems	Projects supported by CEPF resulted in at least 55 new individuals working in the field of conservation, and many others also newly equipped through training courses and workshops to support the region's national protected area systems. These include, for example, 25 graduate trainees recruited and trained by NGOs and 15 people instated in targeted NGOs following training courses and workshops that benefited 70 people from government, NGOs and other relevant stakeholder groups in five of the six countries.
	1.2 Existing national NGOs	18 national NGOs and private sector partners significantly expanded their

	<p>and other private sector participants working in biodiversity conservation expand their staff, diversity of abilities, and total coverage.</p>	<p>staff, diversity of abilities and total coverage with the help of CEPF support. Additionally at least 7 international NGOs expanded their in-country national staff, abilities and activities. Several NGOs transformed to professional conservation organizations through restructuring, review and amendment of Articles of Association, employment of permanent and paid staff for the first time, development of operational procedures, and acquisition of basic equipment. Civil society groups also expanded their public awareness approaches and reach, and biodiversity surveying and monitoring skills. Other highlights include private sector partners, such as Newmont Mining Company, Alcoa Inc., and Rio Tinto Iron Ore, increasing the number of biodiversity experts on their staff and engaging additional staff in biodiversity conservation planning. Also Environmental Forum for Action in Sierra Leone (ENFORAC) established and is now a nationally recognized coordinating body of all environmental/biodiversity conservation actors in the country.</p>
	<p>1.3 Increase in the overall funding of conservation activities within the hotspot to reach a minimum level of 2 times the initial CEPF funding by the end of the CEPF funding period</p>	<p>At least \$11,976,910 in project co-financing and additional funds leveraged through CEPF-supported civil society groups, increasing the overall funding for conservation activities within the hotspot to more than double the \$4.3 million initial CEPF funding approved by the CEPF Donor Council in December 2000. As the last activities conclude in this hotspot and the groups report on leverage, this amount is also likely to increase and may reach at least twice the revised CEPF investment total, which was increased to \$6.2 million by the Donor Council in 2001.</p>
	<p>1.4 Evidence of increased transboundary collaboration</p>	<p>Increased transboundary collaboration through support to create and/or scale up information and data sharing, coordination, and cooperation across all elephant migration corridors in the region. The results will ultimately benefit a host of other species that rely on the same habitat for survival. Action plan produced to stimulate follow-up, which together with other efforts, resulted in 12 West African countries signing an accord on West Africa elephant conservation in November 2005 under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. The IUCN-SSC African Elephant Specialist Group will coordinate the roll out of this accord.</p>

	1.5 Evidence of increased local community involvement in conservation planning	At least 140 local communities were directly involved in CEPF-supported projects on a variety of levels, from design to implementation to monitoring results. Highlights include support for biodiversity conservation corridor development in Southwest Ghana assisting the Ghana Forest Division in establishment of Community Biodiversity Groups around 17 protected areas to help maintain boundaries, conduct patrols, and develop sustainable management plans.
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## List of CEPF Approved Grants

### Strategic Direction 1: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Conservation

#### **Biological Inventory and Ecological Study of the Southern Dassioko and Monogaga Forests (Southwest Coast of Côte d'Ivoire)**

Conduct biological surveys together with local communities and raise environmental awareness in two classified forests - Monogaga and Dassioko Sud - in the littoral forest zone of Côte d'Ivoire.

Funding: \$27,125  
Grant Term: 10/04-9/05  
Grantee: SOS-FORETS

#### **Status of White-Necked Picathartes (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*) in Ghana**

Study and investigate data to update existing information on the distribution and population status of the white-necked picathartes in Ghana.

Funding: \$19,320  
Grant Term: 10/04-9/05  
Grantee: Ghana Wildlife Society

#### **Building Capacity for Conservation in Liberia**

Build the technical and logistical capacity of Liberian organizations to collaborate and coordinate in achieving conservation and in implementing conservation projects in Liberia.

Funding: \$346,025  
Grant Term: 9/04-12/06  
Grantee: Conservation International

#### **Stimulating a Coordinated and Informed Approach to Biodiversity Conservation in Sierra Leone through Capacity Building of EFA and the Forum for Environmental Action**

Provide substantive forums and telecommunication devices as appropriate tools for engaging thoughtful discussion and action in both the private and public sector areas of environmental management. This project aims to redress the specific challenge of environmental reform in governmental policy in post-civil war Sierra Leone.

Funding: \$96,700  
Grant Term: 7/04-6/05  
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa - Sierra Leone

#### **Bushmeat Hunting and Trade in the Nimba Mountains**

Establish a collaborative management program for wild fauna, involving local communities and Mt. Nimba Biosphere Reserve authorities as the first phase of a long-term initiative for the management of Mt. Nimba Biosphere Reserve.

Funding: \$49,946  
Grant Term: 7/04-9/05  
Grantee: Fauna & Flora International

### **Improving Implementation of Environmental Legislation in Liberia**

Improve institutional capacity of this association, also known as Green Advocates, through review of existing biodiversity legislation, raising awareness about environmental laws and enforcement, training a number of lawyers in environmental law and motivating local communities to conserve biodiversity.

Funding: \$40,000  
Grant Term: 1/04-12/04  
Grantee: Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia

### **Support for the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group**

Support the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group in its review of the effectiveness of select forms of networking and communication of conservation concepts, tools and lessons to conservation decisionmakers and practitioners in all regions of Africa.

Funding: \$26,156  
Grant Term: 11/03-10/04  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Improving the Capacity of GECOMSA in NGO Management**

Attendance of the Executive Director of GECOMSA at a course in nongovernmental organization (NGO) management to be held Nov. 3 to Dec. 12, 2003, at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

Funding: \$3,666  
Grant Term: 10/03-12/03  
Grantee: Grand Gedeh Community Servant Association

### **Building a Global Constituency for Biodiversity Conservation**

Implement a series of targeted public awareness and education campaigns in nine hotspots in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Campaign leaders participate in an intensive training course at the UK's Kent University or Mexico's Guadalajara University, prepare detailed plans to implement campaigns, link with a local organization in their region and commit to a minimum two years with that organization.

Funding: \$153,373  
Grant Term: 12/02-6/06  
Grantee: Rare (\$104,925.38) and Conservation International (\$48,448.08)  
This is a multiregional project covering nine hotspots; the total grant amount is \$1,993,854.98 (Rare \$1,364,030 and Conservation International \$629,825).

### **Ankasa Exploration Base**

Build an experiential learning center, the Ankasa Exploration Base, near the Ankasa Resource Reserve in southwestern Ghana to encourage school children and out-of-school youth to use their senses to explore the environment. Lessons are connected to the children's lives back home with clear possibilities for action in relation to building a more sustainable lifestyle.

Funding: \$250,600  
Grant Term: 11/02-4/06  
Grantee: Living Earth Foundation

### **Interim Support to the Management of Sapo National Park, Liberia**

Based upon experience gained and momentum begun under the Darwin- and WWF-funded program to restart management of Sapo National Park, continue supporting basic management of the park. This includes, for example, provision of basic training in protected area management skills to park staff and local volunteers; providing rudimentary motivational allowances and field rations; and installing basic park infrastructure.

Funding: \$136,193  
Grant Term: 10/02-12/05  
Grantee: Fauna & Flora International

### **Phytomedica Network: Enhancing Exchange of Information through Phytomedica Network**

Share information on sustainable use and conservation and management activities in ecosystems with high medicinal plant species diversity in Africa through Phytomedica, an information service to improve the exchange of ideas and information on medicinal plants conservation and natural products.

Funding: \$16,074  
Grant Term: 7/02-6/03  
Grantee: Conserve Africa Foundation

### **Implementation of Activities for Creating a Protected Area Network and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors in Liberia**

Support creation of a protected area system to include 1.5 million hectares of Liberia's remaining rain forest. Specific activities include providing management and expertise to plan and develop the network, recruiting and training appropriate staff, constructing and maintaining infrastructures at Sapo National Park and ensuring boundaries are demarcated, maintained and patrolled.

Funding: \$155,000  
Grant Term: 7/02-6/03  
Grantee: Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia

### **Habitat Assessment, Ichthyological Inventory and Management Recommendations for High Priority Coastal Mangrove Zone and Fouta Djallon of Guinea**

Conduct inventory of fishes in the Fouta Djallon and coastal mangrove zone, including creating georeference and analysis through maps, databases and tissue samples. Provide technical assistance and equipment to local institutions to ensure sustainability of the project.

Funding: \$132,818  
Grant Term: 1/02-6/05  
Grantee: University of Louisiana at Monroe, Museum of Natural History

### **Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa**

Conduct capacity building with partner organizations in Ghana and Sierra Leone to improve capacity for biodiversity conservation and the development of conservation programs with national organizations in Côte D'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia.

Funding: \$655,312  
Grant Term: 1/02-3/05  
Grantee: BirdLife International

### **Developing a National Biodiversity Strategy for Ghana**

Update the 1997 national biodiversity strategy to incorporate all the major initiatives that affect biodiversity conservation in the country. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in the Ghana Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology is also providing funding.

Funding: \$11,865  
Grant Term: 11/01-8/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Strengthening Legal Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation and Management in Liberia through Training, Local Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening**

Co-finance a Liberian environmental lawyer to pursue a graduate program in environmental law at Tulane University.

Funding: \$11,215  
Grant Term: 8/01-8/02  
Grantee: Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia

### **Forest Conservation at Mont Péko, Côte d'Ivoire**

Conserve forests in the Peko-Nimba Highlands by building capacity in Mount Péko, training individuals and promoting interests with managers of other protected areas.

Funding: \$98,454  
Grant Term: 6/01-5/02  
Grantee: BirdLife International

### **Conservation of Biodiversity in Marahoué National Park, Côte d'Ivoire**

Establish park management systems to conserve biological diversity, ecological processes and productivity of the park.

Funding: \$359,314  
Grant Term: 3/01-5/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Strengthening the Role of Universities in Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa**

Conduct assessment of barriers that limit the involvement of academic institutions in conservation in Ghana and then develop and implement projects to strengthen the role of these institutions and build widespread support.

Funding: \$18,081  
Grant Term: 1/01-6/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

This grant was terminated. The original funding amount was \$65,000.

## **Strategic Direction 2: Establishing a Hotspot Biodiversity Monitoring System**

### **West African Vulture Survey**

Conduct a survey of vultures in northern Guinea, Ghana, and Togo that complements a 2003-2004 census undertaken in neighboring countries to ascertain status and range of West African vulture species and determine the main factors responsible for the declines in these species. The project will also survey diurnal raptors, and is one of the priority actions of the new West African

Vulture Conservation Program.

Funding: \$14,876  
Grant Term: 3/05-6/05  
Grantee: Afrique Nature International

### **Monrovia, Liberia as a Transport Hub for the Bushmeat Trade**

Conduct surveys of bushmeat trade in Monrovia, Liberia, particularly to collect data on volumes and species traded and factors that affect supply of bushmeat to the market (such as the price of gasoline and ammunition). Investigate the potential outlets for bushmeat to enter international markets. The research will be conducted in collaboration with the Philadelphia Zoo, which will provide assistance and oversight of survey methods and data analysis.

Funding: \$9,838  
Grant Term: 4/03-7/04  
Grantee: Concerned Environmentalists for the Enhancement of Biodiversity

### **Acoustic Monitoring of Forest Elephants**

Develop and refine acoustic systems for assessing and monitoring local populations of forest elephants in Ghana's Kakum National Park. Detect and analyze elephant sounds, including infrasonic calls that are inaudible to human ears, to help researchers and conservationists generate abundance estimates and deduce population structure from acoustic information. This information will contribute to management strategies that will ensure the long-term survival of elephant populations.

Funding: \$75,000  
Grant Term: 10/02-10/03  
Grantee: Cornell University

### **Liberia Sea Turtle Project**

Building on baseline data collected in 2000, conduct a survey in all the coastal communities from Sinoe to Maryland County and a series of communal meetings to gather basic data about sea turtles in this sector, including species identification, threats and potential for conservation of sea turtles and other endangered marine species.

Funding: \$6,500  
Grant Term: 9/02-3/03  
Grantee: Save My Future Foundation

### **Increasing Our Knowledge of Biodiversity in Priority Areas of the Upper Guinean Forest through Biological Assessments**

Identify and train Rapid Assessment Program biologists, conduct two expeditions in the Haute Dodo region of southern Côte d'Ivoire and in a site in Liberia and publish the results of both assessments in French and English.

Funding: \$155,991  
Grant Term: 12/01-6/04  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Strategic Direction 3: Developing Conservation Corridors**

#### **Building the Capacity of Farmers in the SW Ghana Conservation Corridor to Practice Cocoa Agroforestry**

Field test and learn about effective agroforestry techniques that can be disseminated to approximately 30,000 union members in Ghana to improve farming practices, maintain livelihoods through cocoa farming and conserve the natural environment. Techniques include shade management, use of biological pest and disease controls, crop diversification and soil and watershed management.

Funding: \$74,992  
Grant Term: 4/03-3/05  
Grantee: Kuapa Kokoo Farmers Union

#### **Corridor Conservation – West Africa**

Maintain Conservation International's coordinating office in Abidjan, with the objective of establishing five biodiversity conservation corridors, thus expanding the range of conservation practices applied in a variety of land use contexts.

Funding: \$353,198  
Grant Term: 10/02-6/05  
Grantee: Conservation International

#### **Development of a Strategic Plan for the Establishment of International Corridors for Elephant Migration in West Africa**

Develop a plan for the management and protection of African elephant migration corridors across the countries of Western Africa, via a sub-regional workshop. The workshop will also determine next steps for implementation of the strategic plan.

Funding: \$46,432  
Grant Term: 6/02-8/03  
Grantee: IUCN-The World Conservation Union

#### **Intensification of the Liberia Forest Re-assessment Project to Create New Conservation Areas in Liberia**

Complement and intensify the existing Liberia Forest Reassessment Project through additional surveys and new protected area proposals.

Funding: \$106,067  
Grant Term: 5/02-3/03  
Grantee: Fauna & Flora International

#### **Liberia: Laying the Foundation for the Creation of a Network of New Protected Areas**

Form an alliance for conservation in Liberia, develop a strategy and implementation plan for the Conservation International-Government of Liberia agreement on protected areas and establish a protected area coordinating office in Monrovia.

Funding: \$100,274  
Grant Term: 2/02-11/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Conservation Priority-Setting Products and Dissemination**

In follow-up to the West Africa Conservation Priority Setting Workshop held in 1999, publish and widely distribute a French translation of the workshop report and a CD-ROM database, and create an interactive Web site.

Funding: \$78,145  
Grant Term: 10/01-9/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Long-Term System for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)**

Coordinate and interpret data on the levels and trends in illegal killing of elephants to assist decision-makers. The European Union and the governments of Belgium, Japan and the United States are also supporting this project.

Funding: \$343,520  
Grant Term: 2/01-1/05  
Grantee: IUCN-The World Conservation Union

### **Liberia Forest Reassessment**

Create a geographic information system database for Liberia's forests, train Liberian and international staff to interpret satellite images and create management plans for priority areas.

Funding: \$200,852  
Grant Term: 1/01-12/03  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Conservation Connections: Developing a Conservation Corridor for the Nimba Highlands and the Sapo-Tai**

Create two biodiversity conservation corridors by establishing an office in Abidjan, developing and implementing a fundraising strategy and forming a committee to guide project development.

Funding: \$317,670  
Grant Term: 1/01-12/02  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Hunting to Extinction: Addressing the Threat of the Bushmeat Trade to Wildlife in the Upper Guinea Forest**

Develop a comprehensive strategy to curb the bushmeat trade in Ghana and a handbook on endangered species and bushmeat trade issues. Review legal and traditional wildlife regulations.

Funding: \$491,685  
Grant Term: 1/01-4/04  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Strategic Direction 4: Public Awareness**

#### **Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa**

Organize a workshop with CEPF grantees and other partners in the region to assess the results of CEPF investments and identify collective lessons learned. Results will include documented proceedings and lessons learned to help inform future investment decisions.

Funding: \$129,353  
Grant Term: 1/06-4/06  
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa

### **Echoes of the Rain Forest Project – Second Phase**

Develop and support eco-cultural groups in three communities near the eastern and western boundaries of Kakum National Park in Ghana to disseminate conservation messages to local communities, school groups and wildlife clubs through music, dance and drama.

Funding: \$44,958

Grant Term: 11/04-12/05

Grantee: AGORO Centre for Intercultural Learning and Talent Development

### **Support for African Ornithologists from the Upper Guinea Forest to Attend the Eleventh Pan-African Ornithological Congress - PAOC XI**

Support attendance of five African biologists from the Upper Guinean Forest of West Africa to attend the eleventh Pan-African Ornithological Congress – PAOC XI, to be held in Tunisia, 21-26 November 2004.

Funding: \$15,500

Grant Term: 7/04-9/05

Grantee: BirdLife International

### **Support for the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group**

Support the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group in its review of the effectiveness of select forms of networking and communication of conservation concepts, tools and lessons to conservation decisionmakers and practitioners in all regions of Africa.

Funding: \$12,807

Grant Term: 7/04-10/04

Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

### **Education and Awareness to Improve the Protection of Wild Chimpanzees in West Africa**

Contribute to the lasting protection of viable chimpanzee populations in their original forested habitat by conducting environmental education (drama, newsletters) and capacity building to generate support from local populations for the protection of the chimpanzees and their habitat in various regions in West Africa: the Tai region, the Marahoué and the Banco national parks (Côte d'Ivoire), Sapo National Park (Liberia) and the Fouta Djallon region (Guinea).

Funding: \$184,276

Grant Term: 12/03-12/06

Grantee: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

### **Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa**

Produce and publish a document in both French and English that contains the most up to date information on the status and threats to the survival of the endangered chimpanzee. The publication will be produced in French and English.

Funding: \$33,617

Grant Term: 6/03-6/04

Grantee: Conservation International

**Reconstruction for Biodiversity Conservation, Research, and Ecotourism in the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone**

In collaboration with local communities, construct facilities for scientific research and a visitor center at the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. The project will be a model for protected area management and community development in the country.

Funding: \$195,487  
Grant Term: 3/03-12/05  
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa - Sierra Leone

**National Public Awareness Campaign for Liberia**

Create a national public awareness campaign about the trade in bushmeat. Involve local companies in a series of radio programs and live theater productions in rural communities.

Funding: \$34,733  
Grant Term: 10/02-9/05  
Grantee: Zoological Society of Philadelphia

**Development of Summer Camp**

Develop a summer camp that promotes conservation efforts and exposes both visitors and the local community to nature and environmental education.

Funding: \$19,900  
Grant Term: 9/02-12/03  
Grantee: Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust  
This grant was terminated. The original funding amount was \$25,970.

**Rural Bushmeat and Public Opinion Survey**

Conduct a survey to evaluate biological, social and economic impacts of the bushmeat trade in select rural communities identified as sources for the urban bushmeat trade.

Funding: \$11,574  
Grant Term: 6/02-5/03  
Grantee: Zoological Society of Philadelphia  
This grant was terminated. The original funding amount was \$38,852.

**Reconstruction for Biodiversity Conservation, Research, and Ecotourism in the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone**

In collaboration with local communities, construct facilities for scientific research and a visitor center at the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Sierra Leone. The project will be a model for protected area management and community development in the country.

Funding: \$100,000  
Grant Term: 5/02-5/05  
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa

### **Awareness Campaign on the Bushmeat Crisis**

Develop and implement a public awareness campaign in Ghana. Generate public debate on the bushmeat crisis and encourage journalists to write about the issue. This project includes development of a monitoring system.

Funding: \$126,934  
Grant Term: 10/01-9/03  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Strategic Direction 5: Biodiversity Action Fund**

#### **Taking Biodiversity Conservation to the Proposed Lake Piso Nature Reserve**

Focus on the proposed 76,000-acre Lake Piso Nature Reserve, one of the areas selected in an MOU between the Government of Liberia and Conservation International for setting up a protected area network in Liberia. Conduct inventories of biodiversity and socioeconomic factors to generate information for the establishment of a computerized database for planning purposes, and build the capacity of local communities to effectively manage and conserve their biodiversity resources without extensive external assistance.

Funding: \$19,992  
Grant Term: 11/05-10/06  
Grantee: Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment

#### **Building Sustainable Livelihoods Around the Wologizi-Wonegizi Proposed Protected Areas**

Improve community livelihoods in the area between the Wologizi and Wonegizi proposed protected areas (Baziwhen, Zigida, Luyema, and Konia) in Zorzor District. Provide practical skills training in animal rearing and soap making, and conduct conservation awareness activities.

Funding: \$19,632  
Grant Term: 11/05-7/06  
Grantee: Skills and Agriculture Development Services, Inc.

#### **Reconstruction of Gbaboni Research Station at Sapo National Park**

Collaborate with local communities and the Forest Development Authority to reconstruct the Gbaboni Research Station and ensure access by clearing the access road and hiking trail.

Funding: \$19,971  
Grant Term: 10/05-9/06  
Grantee: Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia

#### **Involving Local Populations in the Protection and Safeguarding of All Tropical Zone Species of Fauna and Flora in the Dabola and Dinguiraye Prefectures of Guinea**

Involve local communities in conserving six forest sites in Dabola and Dinguiraye prefectures, Guinea, covering approximately 5,400 hectares. Provide training, technical assistance, and guidance to local communities for monitoring and protection of biodiversity in these forests.

Funding: \$18,450  
Grant Term: 8/05-9/06  
Grantee: COLUFIFA-GUINEE

**Small Grants for Global Conservation of Amphibian Diversity Within Hotspots**

Develop and implement the Amphibian Action Fund aimed at the long-term conservation of amphibian species, and their habitats, within biodiversity hotspots around the globe. This fund will make available small grants of up to \$10,000 to be awarded to individuals and groups working within the hotspots on targeted amphibian conservation activities.

Funding: \$34,000

Grant Term: 7/05-6/08

Grantee: Arizona State University

This is a multiregional project covering six hotspots; the total grant amount is \$200,000.

**The 2005 Smithsonian Environmental Leadership Course: Participation by Samba T. Diallo**

Fund participation of Samba T. Diallo, chief of the Industrial Fisheries Department, Republic of Guinea, at the Smithsonian Environmental Leadership Course in September 2005.

Funding: \$4,645

Grant Term: 7/05-9/05

Grantee: Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura

**The Great Ape Emergency Conservation Fund**

Establish a small grants fund to address priority actions identified in the IUCN-SSC Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan: West African Chimpanzees. The fund will also support actions to address emergency situations pertaining to great apes in the Upper Guinean Forest.

Funding: \$62,150

Grant Term: 7/05-6/07

Grantee: Conservation International

**Primate and Birds Diversity in the Fazao-Malfacassa National Park, Togo**

Undertake primate and bird surveys in the Fazao-Malfacassa National Park. Particular emphasis will be placed on surveying the area for the western chimpanzee and the Roloway guenon. Surveys will be undertaken in collaboration with staff from the Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse based in the park, and the Zoology Department of the Université de Lomé.

Funding: \$6,110

Grant Term: 2/05-5/06

Grantee: University of Calgary

**Capacity Building of Local Riverine Communities for Biodiversity Conservation of Two Important Bird Areas: the Grande Chutes Forest at Kindia and the Kounoukan Forest at Forécariah (Guinea)**

Build capacity for natural resource management among local riverine communities associated with the two forests. Develop and prepare management plans for the two forests, and put the plans into action.

Funding: \$19,605

Grant Term: 8/04-9/05

Grantee: Guinee-Ecologie

**Ensuring Effective and Sustainable Management of the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone, Through the Establishment of the Tiwai Island Administrative Committee Secretariat**

Facilitate the establishment of a full time Secretariat to serve as the implementing agency of the Tiwai Island Administrative Committee, the entity that will be responsible for managing the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Sierra Leone. Prepare a business plan for the sanctuary.

Funding: \$9,000  
Grant Term: 2/04-7/04  
Grantee: Environmental Foundation for Africa - Sierra Leone

**Inventory of Butterflies in the Missahoe Classified Forest in Togo, Upper Guinea Forest**

In the Foret Classee of Missahoe, Togo, conduct an inventory of butterflies, prepare an ecotourism management plan for the area and sensitize 11 adjacent villages on revenue-generating activities that do not degrade the environment.

Funding: \$9,800  
Grant Term: 10/03-12/04  
Grantee: Association pour la Gestion Intégrée et Durable de l'Environnement

**Market Research Support to the Africa Environmental News Service**

Support the Africa Environmental News Service by advising on planning of market research and development of marketing research tools, conducting the market research exercise and assisting with the development of a business plan.

Funding: \$3,334  
Grant Term: 5/03-10/04  
Grantee: Equals Three Communications  
This is a multiregional project covering three hotspots; the total grant amount is \$10,000.

**Engaging the Private Sector in Conservation in Côte d'Ivoire**

Involve the private sector in conservation activities through public awareness tools such as a brochure and flyer for decisionmakers in the private sector and through meetings with private sector players.

Funding: \$9,100  
Grant Term: 3/03-5/05  
Grantee: Afrique Nature International

**Africa Environmental News Service: Phase Two – E-commerce Development and Market Research**

Develop a business plan for a new environmental news service designed to serve African and global audiences. The project will take place during the second phase of an AENS project to develop the news service.

Funding: \$10,000  
Grant Term: 1/03-3/04  
Grantee: Africa Environmental News Service

### **Bushmeat Awareness & Sustainable Development in Southeast Liberia Project**

Steer communities in three counties of Liberia away from slash and burn agriculture and hunting of wild animals toward the economic alternative of raising livestock. Activities include raising awareness about the unsustainable bushmeat hunting; surveying local communities to determine acceptable alternatives to bushmeat that could be promoted in a future initiative and ultimately becoming involved in the management of buffer areas near protected areas.

Funding: \$7,500  
Grant Term: 11/02-6/03  
Grantee: Grand Gedeh Community Servant Association

### **First African Botanic Gardens Congress**

Support participation of African delegates from the Cape Floristic Region, Guinean Forests of West Africa and Madagascar hotspots at the first African Botanic Gardens Conference in November 2002 in Durban, South Africa.

Funding: \$6,000  
Grant Term: 11/02-3/03  
Grantee: Durban Botanic Gardens  
This is a multiregional project covering three hotspots; the total grant amount is \$11,250.

### **Preliminary Meeting to Establish Elephant Corridors between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire**

Participate in a meeting at the Conservation International-Ghana office on the establishment of corridors for elephants between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and on a strategy to raise funds to conserve key areas.

Funding: \$1,000  
Grant Term: 10/02-12/02  
Grantee: Marcus Parren

### **Protected Area Gap Analysis the Upper Guinea Ecosystem Contribution to Regional Workshop on Protected Areas in Western and Central Africa**

Prepare background documents on the state of protected areas, gaps, opportunities and challenges for a regional workshop that will bring together protected area managers from West and Central Africa in preparation for the World Parks Congress in 2003.

Funding: \$5,650  
Grant Term: 10/02-5/03  
Grantee: Conservation International

### **Regional Workshop on Protected Areas in West and Central Africa**

Bring together protected area managers from West and Central Africa in preparation for the World Parks Congress in 2003. This project includes support for 10 people from five West African countries to attend the workshop.

Funding: \$10,000  
Grant Term: 10/02-3/03  
Grantee: IUCN-The World Conservation Union

**Echoes of the Rain Forest**

Recruit talented local performance artists in eight communities surrounding National Kakum Park to be part of community performance groups who will inform target communities on issues related to biodiversity conservation through the use of music, dance and drama.

Funding: \$9,900

Grant Term: 10/02-9/03

Grantee: AGORO Centre for Intercultural Learning and Talent Development

**Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People: Linkages Between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Human Health**

Cover travel and full participation costs for individuals from the Atlantic Forest, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar, Philippines and Tropical Andes hotspots to attend the Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People conference.

Funding: \$3,885

Grant Term: 5/02-7/02

Grantee: University of Western Ontario

This is a multiregional project covering six hotspots; the total grant amount is \$27,200.

**Support to Coordination of Biological Monitoring Program at Sapo National Park, South-east Liberia**

Upgrade field and data analysis skills of Liberian staff implementing the biomonitoring program; ensure proper data analysis; expand, where possible, the program to new areas and provide training in these areas; and ensure monitoring results are incorporated in the five-year management plan for the park.

Funding: \$7,910

Grant Term: 1/02-4/02

Grantee: Fauna & Flora International

**Herpetological Survey in the Ghana-Togo Highlands**

Undertake a vertebrate field survey in the Ghana-Togo Highlands of the Upper Guinean Forests.

Funding: \$3,535

Grant Term: 7/01-9/01

Grantee: University of Vermont, Department of Biology

**Photographic and Technical Field Support for Survey of the Ghana-Togo Highlands, Volta Region (Ghana)**

Produce high-quality photographic images of a vertebrate field survey in the Ghana-Togo Highlands for use in illustrated report about the survey, other publications and the project's Web site.

Funding: \$7,413

Grant Term: 7/01-9/01

Grantee: University of Vermont, Department of Biology

**CEPF/IUCN Conference Report**

**Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa**  
5-6 April, 2006, Lakka Cotton Club Resort, Freetown, Sierra Leone

and

**Nature and Poverty in West Africa, Panel Discussion and Lessons Learned Exhibit**  
With support from IUCN - The World Conservation Union  
7 April 2006, Bintumani Hotel, Freetown, Sierra Leone



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**Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment  
in the Guinean Forests of West Africa  
Workshop Agenda**  
Lakka Cotton Club Resort  
5 – 6 April, 2006

5 April 2006

Official Opening, 9.00 – 10.30 am

Chairperson – Dr. Sama Banya, Special Advisor to the President on Environment

- 9:00 Opening prayers (Christian and Muslim)
- 9:05 Welcome by Mustafa Benu, Chief of Lakka
- 9:10 Welcome note (to His Excellency President Kabba and all participants) and introduction of Chairperson for Ceremony – Tommy Garnett, Chair of ENFORAC
- 9:20 Opening remarks by Chairperson
- 9:30 CEPF: Supporting Civil Society for Biodiversity Conservation – Dan Martin, Senior Managing Director – CEPF
- 9:40 Statement by Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Dr. Sama Mondeh (read by Dr. Eluem Blydin, Njala University College)
- 9:50 Keynote speech by His Excellency President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejen Kabba and official opening of workshop
- 10:15 Chairperson’s closing remarks
- 10:25 Closing prayer
- 10:30 Vote of Thanks – Dr. Talabi A. Lucan, Member of ENFORAC

Refreshments and Departure of Presidential Entourage

- 11:00 Background to workshop and overview of objectives – Nina Marshall, CEPF Africa Grant Director
- 11:15 Summary of CEPF’s portfolio – Nina Marshall

- 11:30 Introduction and statement of expectations by participants – Owen Henderson, Facilitator, South African National Biodiversity Institute
- 12:00 Summary of feedback received on the Logical Framework (working group sessions)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Review of CEPF's investment niche and ecosystem profile (working group sessions)
- 16:00 Assessment of impact of CEPF investment on biodiversity and livelihood challenges (working group sessions)
- 19:00 Welcome party, cultural event and dinner

6 April 2006

- 9:00 Welcome and overview of the conclusions from Day 1
- 10:00 Examination of CEPF's long-term impact (working group sessions)
- 11:30 Review of CEPF's focus on civil society (working group sessions)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Gaps in the portfolio and areas that remain unresolved
- 15:30 Examining the sustainability of CEPF's investment
- 16:30 Identification of priorities for the future
- 17:30 Conclusions and wrap up
- 19:00 Cultural event and dinner

## *Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa*

### **Report of Workshop**

5-6 April, 2006

Lakka Cotton Club Resort, Freetown, Sierra Leone

#### **INTRODUCTION**

On 5-6 April 2006, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) held a workshop in Freetown, Sierra Leone as part of assessing the results of its five-year investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot. CEPF—a joint program of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank—began supporting civil society groups in this hotspot in January 2001.

CEPF has awarded the full allocation for this hotspot, a total of \$6.2 million for 74 grants (Annex A). These grants have enabled nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and other sectors of civil society to help conserve the rich and unique natural resources of the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem, the focal area for CEPF investment within the hotspot.

The goal of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for grant recipients and other stakeholders to collectively assess the gains they have made with CEPF support and how this investment has contributed to integration within the broader conservation and development landscape. This workshop provided an opportunity to reflect upon CEPF's impact, its effectiveness in supporting civil society, and remaining gaps, as well as CEPF's legacy in the region and how stakeholders can build upon the gains made.

In addition, the workshop benefited from the participation of the West African Regional Office of IUCN-The World Conservation Union (IUCN-BRAO), the Small Grants Programme of IUCN's National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL), and eight IUCN NL grant recipients from West Africa. IUCN BRAO and NL sponsored a panel discussion on 7 April 2006, *Nature and Poverty*, at the Bintumani Hotel in Freetown, attended by all workshop participants. IUCN NL is piloting a regional approach to grantmaking in West Africa. The Regional Focal Point Initiative seeks to improve synergy among IUCN NL's grantees and to boost the "green voice" in West Africa, thereby raising the profile of nature conservation at the regional level.

The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA), a regional NGO based in Sierra Leone, and the Environmental Forum for Action (ENFORAC), a consortium of environmental organizations in Sierra Leone, organized the workshop and coordinated logistics for the meeting. All CEPF grant recipients were invited to this workshop.

Seventy-eight people from 17 countries attended the three-day event, including representatives from 26 civil society groups that received CEPF grants and the eight IUCN grantees. Other participants represented a range of stakeholders, including NGOs, government officials, and donors.

#### **DAY 1 – April 5**

His Excellency President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabba opened the workshop, marking the government of Sierra Leone's increasing commitment to environmental conservation. The session

included statements by CEPF Senior Managing Director Dan Martin; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security Sama Mondeh (read by Eluem Blydin); and Tommy Garnett, chair of ENFORAC, among others. His Excellency President Kabba expressed pleasure at bringing together environmental stakeholders from 17 countries, and stated that Sierra Leone was honored to be the site of the workshop.

He noted with appreciation the financial and technical assistance by CEPF, as well as by the Netherlands Committee of IUCN, and mentioned two nationally important areas as prime examples: the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary and the Western Area Peninsula Forest. The President underscored the importance of the environment within the government's list of priorities, emphasized the role that civil society has and should continue to play as a key partner to achieve conservation objectives, and thanked CEPF for its strategic investment in conservation in West Africa.

### **BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP**

The CEPF Donor Council approved ecosystem profiles for the first three CEPF investment regions in December 2000: the Vilcabamba-Amboró biodiversity conservation corridor in the Tropical Andes Hotspot; the island nation of Madagascar in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot (Madagascar); and the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot.

Each ecosystem profile includes an investment strategy and specific strategic directions to guide applicants in applying for CEPF grants and to guide CEPF decisionmaking about which proposals to fund. Each of these regions was originally approved for a three-year investment period, which was later increased to five years with additional funds for investment. December 2005 marked the completion of the five-year funding cycle for all three regions.

During the course of the five-year investment period, reporting on CEPF's grant-making program has occurred on several different levels. For example, financial and programmatic reports are supplied to the CEPF Donor Council on a quarterly basis and draw from regular reports received from grantees. Each year an annual report is prepared. CEPF has conducted several midterm evaluations that have taken place midway through the five-year cycle; mid-term evaluations were undertaken for the Madagascar and Tropical Andes hotspots, while the Upper Guinean Forest was not subjected to such a review. The donor partners undertake periodic supervisory missions. Most recently, a global evaluation of the entire CEPF program was conducted.

As agreed with the CEPF donor partners, CEPF will also assess its aggregated impact at the end of the investment period for each region. As part of the assessments, workshops to enable a participatory process have now taken place in all three of these first regions approved for investment. The Guinean Forest workshop held at Lakka in April 2006 was the first of the workshops, and thus was somewhat of a test case. In keeping with CEPF's aim to involve civil society in conservation, this workshop sought broad participation from grantees and stakeholders.

### **Objectives of the Workshop**

This workshop had six objectives:

1. Assess CEPF's impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods
2. Assess CEPF's effectiveness in supporting civil society
3. Determine what legacy CEPF has established in the region
4. Assess how grantees can build on the CEPF legacy for future conservation endeavors
5. Identify the gaps/areas unresolved

## 6. Identify new/future funding needs

### **Workshop Facilitation**

Owen Henderson of the South African National Biodiversity Institute facilitated the workshop. Henderson was selected to be the facilitator for two reasons. Firstly, he has a background in facilitation and uses *Participlan*, a method that encourages all participants to contribute fully to discussions and debates. The method allows anonymous contributions (via note cards) to the discussion, thereby bringing out controversial and innovative issues within a group whose members might otherwise be reluctant to speak out with donors present. Secondly, Henderson is the coordinator of CEPF investment in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot, and therefore understands CEPF's overarching objectives and operations.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS**

Participants were asked to introduce themselves, and state their expectations of the workshop. Expectations were numerous and varied, and can be grouped into the following broad categories:

*Priorities and vision:* To gain a better understanding of local civil society priorities for conservation, how to expand environmental management in West Africa, to agree on future priorities. To explore how to develop a regional vision for environment and culture, to develop a strategy on partnership and actions for the future. To discuss poverty and livelihood issues, and to develop viable livelihood alternatives for biodiversity.

*Funding:* To improve knowledge of the funding situation – how to access funding, to find out about future realities and opportunities, how to access funds for specific activities such as capacity building and biodiversity assessments; additionally, how to focus funding on programs rather than short-term individual projects.

*Networking:* To use the workshop as a means to improve networking, collaboration, and cooperation, to meet other actors with similar goals.

*CEPF:* To better understand CEPF, to better understand whether CEPF objectives in the region have been met, to learn about CEPF activities in order to provide input into the planning activities of other donors. To understand the CEPF niche and prospects for expansion.

*Grantee viewpoint:* To have an opportunity to better understand the grantee's perspective of the grantee-donor relationship, to provide honest feedback to enable CEPF to improve its grant-making process and future operations.

### **SETTING THE CONTEXT**

Participants were asked "Based on what CEPF committed to do in this region, what has been the effect and impact on the biodiversity and livelihood challenges in the region?" Participants were asked to consider the question, write down answers, and then the facilitator grouped the responses. Participants then voted on their top four priorities.

Overall, participants found that CEPF investment has led to improved capacity of civil society, improved information, more collaborative actions, enhanced biodiversity awareness and better methods to increase awareness, an improved profile of conservation work, better focus, and better linkages.

Results of the voting exercise revealed the following top four themes where CEPF has had the most impact:

1. Improved capacity in the region (30 votes)
2. Improved biological knowledge (12 votes)
3. Better vision about conservation (9 votes)
4. Improved community participation in conservation (8 votes)

This exercise also resulted in other topics where it was noted that CEPF had an impact. These included increased civil society participation, reduction of poverty in rural areas, improved cooperation and collaboration on national and regional levels, more funds leveraged, new methods of biodiversity protection, good governance, and improved awareness of links between livelihoods and biodiversity.

The exercise also yielded topics about how CEPF could have had a greater impact. These topics included more monitoring tools, and an expanded investment strategy to encompass more people, more protected areas, more alternatives and more effective policies. Additionally, it was stated that CEPF could increase its effectiveness if more support were given to long-term, rather than short-term, projects.

### **REVIEW OF THE CEPF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

As part of creating the ecosystem profile for this region, CEPF developed a logical framework to help measure cumulative impact toward specific goals at the end of the five-year investment period. In preparation for the workshop, the grant recipients were sent a questionnaire and were asked to answer questions relating to the goals and indicators identified in the logical framework (Annex B).

In a working group session, the logical framework completed with detailed information from grantees was distributed for discussion. However, the discussion during this session focused on the logframe template itself, rather than the opportunity to jointly participate in evaluating the content and hence cumulative impact. For example, participants felt that the logical framework did not allow capture of any unplanned achievements, needed to differentiate between long-term and short-term indicators, and did not include important issues mentioned in the ecosystem profile, such as poverty and livelihood issues. The complete CEPF logframe reporting, aggregated and finalized after the workshop based on further analysis of cumulative impact, is available in a separate section of this overall report.

### **REVIEW OF CEPF'S INVESTMENT NICHE AND ECOSYSTEM PROFILE**

This session focused on the CEPF strategy, or ecosystem profile. Participants were asked: "How did you use the ecosystem profile? How useful was it?"

Working group sessions regarding use of the strategy revealed that the ecosystem profile was used for a variety of purposes. It was regarded as being useful for establishing links with other actors as well as donors, and it has been used as a guideline for stakeholders throughout the region. Grantees used it to understand CEPF's objectives and to formulate project proposals for funding, and it helped them to focus ideas and link with a regional strategy.

At the same time, participants noted that the ecosystem profile has not been used to the extent that it could have been. While all approved CEPF grants must link to a specific strategic direction in the profile, numerous participants in the workshop said they had never read the strategy. The strategy is available on the CEPF Web site in French and English, however Internet realities in West Africa make accessing this document time-consuming and expensive.

Participants were also asked: "How do you think that we could have made it more useful?"

The participants said that the language in the ecosystem profile is very conservation-oriented, and not geared for other sectors such as development. Terminology used in the document needs to be consistent. It would be appropriate to consider the various sectors that would benefit from the ecosystem profile when writing the strategy so that development actors, social scientists, government agencies, and other practitioners can equally use the document. As the profile stands now, it uses a lot of scientific terminology that could deter other important stakeholders from buying into the strategy. Furthermore, the strategy would be more useful if it took into consideration cultural issues, factors relating to conflict, poverty, and livelihood issues. They also said that the process of strategy development needs to be more participatory than it had been for this first profile, and this participation should also include community input. Annual meetings of all grantees would be extremely useful.

Participants noted that the strategy should coincide with the logical framework that is developed to measure its progress and/or impact. In this case, for example, threats were identified such as poverty and livelihood issues and the need for regional collaboration, but they felt that the strategic directions and logical framework did not represent these prioritized issues.

Finally, participants noted that the strategy has the potential to become outdated, and therefore it should be updated on a regular basis, perhaps even annually. The usefulness of the strategy is dependent upon quality, and therefore it should be a “living document.”

## **DAY 2 – April 6**

### **Re-cap of Day 1**

#### **EXAMINATION OF CEPF’S LONG-TERM IMPACT**

Participants were asked to consider the four themes where CEPF has had the most impact that were identified on day 1 (capacity building, improved data, better vision, and community participation), and were asked “What do we mean by these themes, how is it sustainable, what things do we need to do to put it in place to ensure sustainability, and if we do this who needs to participate as partners to make it successful?” The group broke out into four working groups to examine the four themes.

*Capacity building results:* The group agreed that this topic encompasses training of professionals, improving institutional structures, improving equipment, and training of other stakeholders such as community members (in various skills such as crafts, alternative livelihoods). The group concluded that sustainability in the absence of continued funding is very difficult. In order to make it sustainable the group suggested the following:

- Sharing visions between organizations
- Ensuring leadership and responsibility is shared within an organization
- A business approach in some projects would yield income for basic resources
- Local fundraising should be pursued
- The environment must be prioritized in national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
- Engage with development partners
- Include government as a viable and long-term partner
- Include government in capacity-building initiatives

Who needs to participate? Donors, conservation and development actors, government, communities, and civil society.

Comments from the plenary: The emphasis on government is very important – it is not just a viable partner but an essential partner. In the end, conservation action in most cases must involve government to sustain itself and achieve effective conservation goals. There should also be further efforts made to engage the private sector. Two challenges were noted: firstly, that the time lapse between projects causes inactivity, and secondly regarding training, that donors often provide tools for training, but this must be followed by the grantees actually applying and using the skills that they have learned, in order to ensure sustainability and to continue their conservation efforts.

*Improved biological data results:* With regards to the improved availability of biological data, the group raised the following points:

- A network of data collectors is important
- Data quality should be strengthened
- Care should be taken in developing partnerships for data collection
- Data dissemination should be a focus
- Rather than just collect data, it needs to be used effectively
- The data should be used for management decisions.

*Better vision results:* The group agreed that what was meant by better vision was that in general, awareness about biodiversity issues in West Africa has been raised. People know about the hotspot and where it is. They know where the priorities areas are, and these have been adopted by key conservation actors in the region. There are definitely a larger number of conservation professionals now, and more people are interested in the issues. The media increasingly reports on environmental issues, and overall, there is a better appreciation of the value of biodiversity throughout the region. In order to sustain this, the group agreed that the following actions should be undertaken:

- Mainstream environmental education in schools
- Involve churches, media, and the private sector
- Development and aid organizations, and donors, should include environment in planning
- Government needs to adopt and promote the ideas
- Awareness needs to be translated into action
- Tools and techniques need to be adapted to local context and languages
- Women and minorities should be targeted
- A long-term financial commitment needs to be identified

Who needs to participate? All levels of society.

Comments from the plenary: Awareness should not be solely dependent on the continuation of funds. Current funding (i.e. CEPF) will come to an end soon, and therefore efforts need to be made now to prepare for this phase out of funds. Efforts should be made to measure impact, link this to implementation, and monitor progress.

*Improved community participation results:* The group determined that this phrase refers to communities having ownership of a project or activity, and that they have integrated biodiversity conservation into daily life. They are recognized as producers and consumers. They play a leadership role in enforcement efforts, and participate in advocacy activities. Additionally, they participate in the development of projects. To make this sustainable, the following was suggested:

- Communities must be a part of the entire process
- Donors must have exit strategies
- Options must exist for communities to generate income
- Incentives should be identified/provided

- Educational opportunities need to be present
- Community rights need to be enforced
- Needed technical support should be identified and provided.

Who needs to participate? Development partners, communities, local and traditional authorities, educational institutions, and government.

Comments from the plenary: Care should be taken to be clear about the responsibilities when working with a community, and these should be defined. Additionally, consideration should be given to what is meant by “participation” – who decides who within the community should participate? Villagers have stated that conservationists are deciding their fate, and thus this needs to be addressed. One way to do this is to use the traditional authority and structure that already exists within the community. At the same time, there are cases where specialized skills are needed, and therefore strategies need to be developed (probably on a case-by-case basis) on how to deal with the participation issue.

### **REVIEW OF CEPF’S FOCUS ON CIVIL SOCIETY**

During this session participants were asked to consider CEPF’s civil society focus and specifically answer these questions: “In what way has CEPF’s civil society focus been effective in mobilizing civil society action in this region? In what way has it hindered you achieving your goals? In what way has it supported you in achieving your goals?” Working groups were formed to examine these questions.

*Answers in support of CEPF’s civil society approach:* CEPF’s approach allowed easy access to funds, and allowed flexibility to work with government and other agencies. In some countries, civil society has limited access to funds and/or ability to influence, and the approach has helped to build civil society so that it can make a more significant contribution. Furthermore, the approach allows civil society to reinforce government actions, and also encourages government to work with communities. Funding to civil society has allowed NGOs to develop constructive relationships with communities. It has encouraged the establishment of networks, and has allowed NGOs to develop credibility, skills, strategic plans, innovative approaches, and to leverage additional funds.

*Answers pointing to the hindrances in this approach:* A key negative point in the civil society focus is that government can feel threatened, and as a result this limits ownership of the results and successes. Tension and blockages can result due to jealousy about funding. Government is a key actor in conservation, so friction can result during project implementation, and the government can also neglect their responsibilities. Also, lack of support to government can result in government having to limit their activities, especially in areas where civil society cannot step in because the areas are government controlled.

Response from CEPF: CEPF acknowledged the positive and negative points raised by the participants, but reminded the group that while CEPF cannot fund government directly, that government does benefit from CEPF funding. For example, government is often included in the capacity-building programs that are implemented in certain projects (such as training of park guards). Additionally, CEPF-supported activities are designed to complement government initiatives for which government often has separate funds.

### **GAPS IN THE PORTFOLIO AND AREAS THAT REMAIN UNRESOLVED**

Participants were asked to consider “From a regional perspective, what issues/areas still remain unresolved, and have not been addressed through the CEPF investment?” Five key points were mentioned as unresolved areas:

1. Partnerships (these need to be emphasized more)
2. Conservation corridors (insufficient progress in conserving these areas)
3. Regional monitoring tools (none exist at present)
4. Database for biological information (this does not exist at present)
5. Capacity building not translated into conservation action (opportunities are few)

Additionally, the following points were discussed in detail:

*Mechanisms for sharing/learning:* Lessons learned and good practices need to be shared in the region, and successes need to be scaled up. At present there are few effective mechanisms for doing this – there is no regional system for sharing information, lessons, and experiences.

*Private sector:* There is a gap in understanding how to effectively engage the private sector. Tools need to be developed so that this sector can be involved as an effective local partner.

*Livelihoods:* The transition, or link, between conservation and development has not taken place. More efforts need to go into providing alternative livelihoods so that communities can live sustainably. Local communities are very dependent on local biodiversity, and this dependency needs to be reduced. Essentially, the poverty issue needs to be addressed.

*Data:* There is a lack of available information in the region. There is no central database for biodiversity information, and this would be very useful. Furthermore, there is no system for synthesizing the information that exists. There is no mechanism for monitoring the biodiversity in the hotspot. Additionally, there is no information bulletin for the region (noting that CEPF’s e-news is electronic and therefore inaccessible or not easily accessible to most people in West Africa). Much of the material that is available is only in English, which is problematic for reaching francophone audiences.

*Networking:* There has been insufficient consultation and networking between CEPF and other donors in this region. Lack of a network amongst partners is also a gap. This lack of a network has led to a weak regional approach, and isolated projects.

*Policy:* The region has not addressed policy issues on a local, national or regional level, and this is a serious gap.

*Opportunities:* Capacity-building efforts can be rewarding, but often there is a lack of opportunity to use the new skills.

### **EXAMINING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CEPF’S INVESTMENT/ IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

During this session participants were asked “Imagine yourself as the sole decisionmaker of this region – what actions/decisions will you now take to build the momentum created by CEPF in this region?” Participants were asked to identify actions, post them on the board, and then the group voted on them. Actions are listed in the order of priority they received from the voting exercise.

*Coordination (20 votes):* Establish a means to ensure coordination on a regional basis. Coordination could ensure the following:

- work to prevent overlap with existing regional initiatives
- operationalize a network of partners
- develop a regional program on biodiversity conservation

- conduct assessments of existing regional mechanisms and other available resources
- promote collaboration with the regional body Economic Community of West African States on environment
- support networking and partnership to increase ownership in region
- exchange lessons
- support transboundary collaboration
- expand grant-making mechanism to NGOs

*Funding criteria (18 votes):* Refine funding criteria so that future financial support will go toward priority projects with strong links to poverty alleviation, integrated biodiversity/livelihood initiatives, training of women, and transboundary biodiversity collaboration. Increase grant allocation to well-functioning projects, and put in place mechanism for further funding. Support successful projects and recommend that unsuccessful projects return their funds.

*Communications (18 votes):* Develop a communication strategy, support the creation of regional awareness materials, document and disseminate results, boost existing public awareness programs. Develop a central resource center for biodiversity information and project information/regional awareness materials.

*Community involvement (17 votes):* Hold a priority-setting conference for local people in the region, to ensure participation in and ownership of any strategy that is developed.

*Advocacy (14 votes):* Support regional advocacy/regional activism. Use courts and non-violent protests. Create a sub-regional tribunal to denounce attacks on/against the environment. Reinforce the capacity of NGOs in the matter of denunciation – whistle-blowing.

*Alternative livelihoods (12 votes):* Use micro-finance to develop alternative livelihood business plans. Develop marketing chains for non-timber forest products from hotspots as means for income generation for livelihoods. Encourage programs that integrate livelihoods and conservation in communities. Group agencies for education bio-monitoring and livelihoods into a single project(s).

*Funding (11 votes):* Increase grant allocation to well-functioning projects. Put in place mechanism for follow-up funding. Allocate significant funds to securing one or more sites per country with the necessary capacity building – it is about site actions, using the training received, filling in gaps.

*Training (8 votes):* Establish regional environmental management training centers.

*CEPF grantee network (7 votes):* Support in-country CEPF grantee network – annual meetings

*Monitoring (7 votes):* Establish an internal monitoring tool; put in place a sub-regional program to expose people who are not doing the right thing – whistle-blowing.

*Key Biodiversity Areas (5 votes):* Continue to work on the hotspot but include support for key biodiversity areas.

*Bi-annual meetings (4 votes):* Host bi-annual meetings to discuss issues with partners.

*Research (3 votes):* Undertake research to establish nature and extent of work to be done.

*Promote site custodians (2 votes):* Support groups that can serve as custodians for a particular site, for example an NGO working on site.

*Support traditional authorities (2 votes):* Support an increased role of traditional authorities for conservation.

*Local capacity (2 votes):* Encourage use of local capacity in local networks.

### **Identification of priorities for the future**

Of all of the topics raised in the previous session, the following four were identified as the top priorities for the future, and are those that the group recommended be discussed with prospective donors. These are:

1. Establish a regional coordinating mechanism
2. Address the issue of funding criteria (i.e. projects should include a link to poverty/livelihood issues)
3. Develop a communications strategy and appropriate regional materials
4. Ensure local community participation in future priority-setting exercises

### **CONCLUSIONS AND WRAP UP**

The workshop concluded with a recap of the workshop deliberations, and a review of the list of expectations to determine whether any remained unaddressed. It was agreed that for the most part the expectations of the participants had been met, with two exceptions. These were first that participants wanted an opportunity to evaluate the assessment meeting. It was explained that an evaluation form would be handed out after the meeting. Secondly, participants noted that they really had not had enough opportunity to explore the issue of future funding for the region.

This workshop served to involve grantees and other stakeholders in the evaluation of CEPF's impact after five years of CEPF investment. The workshop also served to set the stage for future collaboration and cooperation. For example, during the meeting the existence of the newly established Green Actors of West Africa (GAWA) network was highlighted as an excellent vehicle to ensure continued discussion and collaboration. CEPF thanked all participants for their valuable and honest contributions, and thanked EFA and ENFORAC for their exceptional effort in hosting the meeting in Freetown. Finally, it was announced that workshop proceedings would be distributed in French and English after synthesis of the discussions.

**Nature and Poverty in West Africa**  
Panel Discussion and Lessons Learned Exhibit  
*With support from The World Conservation Union (IUCN)*  
Bintumani Hotel, Freetown Sierra Leone  
7 April 2006

Agenda for Panel Discussion

**Panel Discussion**

Objectives: Participants advance their understanding of the link between ecosystem management and human wellbeing, identify activities that support functioning ecosystems and human societies, and realize opportunities for partnerships between the development sector and “green actors”. Members of the environment and development sectors recognize IUCN as an important source of information and knowledge about the link between ecosystem management and human wellbeing.

**Facilitator / Moderator:** Mr Ibrahim Thiaw: Regional Director, IUCN BRAO

9:00	Opening Prayer and Opening Remarks Introduction of Facilitator / Moderator for the Panel Discussion	Eugene Cole – West Africa Desk Officer – EFA
9:10	Thematic presentation: Ecosystem management and human wellbeing	Ibrahim Thiaw, IUCN BRAO
9:30	Thematic presentation: Ecosystem management and human wellbeing in West Africa: Perspectives from Tropical Forest and Wetlands Areas	Tommy Garnett, EFA
9:50	Tea / Coffee break	
10:15	<b>Panelists</b>	
	Mandy Barnett, CAPE Action for People and Environment	
	Rietje Grit, IUCN NL	
	Eluem Blydin, Njala University	
	Mamadou Saliou Diallo, Guinee Ecologie	
	Nnimo Bassey, Environmental Rights Action	
13:30	Lunch	

**Drama performance, 14:30 – 15:00**

**Lessons Learned Exhibit: Lessons Learned and Visions for the Future**  
**15:00 – 17:00**

Objective: “Green actors” (both CEPF and IUCN NL grantees) share examples of successes through photos, posters and other visual material to distribute knowledge about meeting challenges and realizing progress towards sustainable environmental management in West Africa. Posters / displays should put an emphasis on explaining how to replicate the lessons learned for future success.

**Press Conference, 16:15 – 16:45**

**Cocktail Hour, 17:00 – 19:00**

**Nature and Poverty Panel Discussion**  
**Sponsored by The World Conservation Union - IUCN**  
Freetown, Sierra Leone 7 April 2006  
Report and Analysis

Report and Analysis

**BACKGROUND**

To support increased collaboration and harmonization of approaches to nature conservation and environmental interventions in West Africa, The World Conservation Union – IUCN sponsored a panel discussion on nature and poverty, which followed a two-day regional assessment workshop called by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

CEPF brought together its grantees from across the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem to assess the impact its five-years of investment in biodiversity conservation in the region.

IUCN – specifically through the National Committee for the Netherlands (IUCN NL) and the Bureau Regional de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (IUCN BRAO) – brought some of their grantees together with the CEPF partners to examine the link between nature and poverty in West Africa. Government and other nongovernmental organization (NGO) representatives from the environment, development and humanitarian sectors in Sierra Leone also attended.

Poverty is widely accepted as one of the most pressing underlying threats to nature conservation in the region. Both IUCN and CEPF recognize the impact poverty has on conservation and responsible use of natural resources as well as the negative impact poor natural resource management has on people and their livelihoods.

Development in Africa is a major priority for aid agencies and multilateral institutions globally. Yet, despite evidence which explains how human wellbeing and the quality of the environment are interrelated, the development agendas do not adequately integrate nature conservation, environmental management and sustainable natural resource use into prioritized action plans.

The panel discussion was prefaced by two presentations by leaders in conservation and humanitarian issues in West Africa:

- Ibrahim Thiaw, Regional Director of IUCN BRAO, presented the role of ecosystem services in supporting human wellbeing and progress made towards understanding the true economic and social value of nature. Thiaw dwelled on the economic impact of environmental damage and providing an established means for understanding how environmental damage contributes to poverty.
- Tommy Garnett, Regional Director of Programmes, Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) provided a comprehensive review of the context in which conservation takes place in West Africa. As measured by the Human Development Index, West Africa is the poorest region on Earth. Conflict and the effects of conflict impact most countries within the region. Yet, West Africa is immensely rich in biodiversity, culture and mineral resources. This disparity must be reconciled for conservation to succeed in safeguarding nature for sustainable use by prosperous societies.

The panel consisted of: Mandy Barnett, CAPE Action for People and Environment; Rietje Grit, IUCN NL; Eluem Blyden, Njala University; Mamadou Saliou Diallo, Guinee Ecologie; and Nnimmo Bassey, Environmental Rights Action (FoE/Nigeria). Ibrahim Thiaw

moderated the discussion. The panel interacted with CEPF and IUCN grantees, Government of Sierra Leone representatives and humanitarian and development actors. A list of attendees, the agenda and a transcript of the proceedings are attached.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE PANEL DISCUSSION**

By facilitating discussion among relevant stakeholders, articulate why and how nature and poverty are intrinsically linked to each other. This collaborative understanding will support the conservation and environment sector to convince the development agenda to incorporate nature conservation and environmental management into its priorities through partnerships with green actors. The following section summarizes the key conclusions and ideas from the panel discussion.

### **WHY AND HOW NATURE AND POVERTY ARE LINKED**

Conventionally, poverty was defined by income per household and macroeconomic indicators. Within this narrow definition of poverty, the value of nature and the role natural resources and ecosystem services play is difficult to deduce. Today, poverty is better understood broadly in terms of access to and quality of infrastructure (roads, housing), water and sanitation, health, social support structures (including gender equality, children's rights), knowledge and skills, and rights (land tenure, laws and policies – specifically those which govern community rights and access to natural and other resources).

Nature and natural resources form the foundation of economies especially in West Africa which profits from the harvesting and mining of raw materials such as minerals, ores and timber. Additionally, natural resources and natural systems provide significant services which make life easier, safer and healthier. For example in Freetown, Sierra Leone, water regulation by surrounding forests reduces the occurrence of floods and provides regular water supply for the city's two million inhabitants. Without the forest, water is not absorbed and the water catchments are reduced to the point that Freetown will not have enough water to support its population. Already deforestation has reduced the amount of available water and contributed to mudslides in residential areas. This example clearly illustrates how nature and poverty, as defined above, are interrelated at a fundamental level. Any changes to the health of nature will impact one or more of the dimensions of poverty.

At the crux of the development and environment challenges in West Africa is the inconsistency between the wealth of natural resources (diamonds, timber, biodiversity, valuable mineral ores) throughout the region and the intense, widespread poverty that plagues these nations. Africa is the development priority for the international community. Without improving the living conditions and physical and social infrastructure in Africa, international peace and security remain uncertain. In West Africa, the state of the environment and use of natural resources have been impacted by war and instability especially where economies are driven by extraction of resources. Conflict in Liberia and Sierra Leone and now in Cote d'Ivoire has been fueled by profits from illegal sales of timber and diamonds. In the process of extracting these resources, which is done without adequate regulation, the environment is typically neglected leaving large tracts of forest completely destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people displaced. When the displaced settle in temporary homes, they in turn put enormous pressure on their neighboring resources and deplete raw materials such as arable land, forests (used for building homes, cooking) and water. The resulting unproductive landscapes, stripped of their vital ecosystems, no longer provide basic services such as water regulation, fuel, building materials and food to an already marginalized population. However, the relationship between a healthy environment and a healthy population is not adequately addressed outside the environmental sector. West Africa, with its wealth of natural capital, must integrate its currently conflicting development, humanitarian and environmental

agendas to ensure that stable societies are put in place that can exist without significant, long-term financial assistance from the international community.

Integrating (mainstreaming) nature conservation and environmental management into development planning is a viable solution to repair the disparity between the wealth of resources available to West Africans and the abject poverty plaguing the region. Creating enabling policy environments which requires advocacy at the government and international levels and translating the policies into action on the ground through interventions which provide tools, information and expertise to private sector and government in formats which are accessible and useable to them.

Two examples were cited during the discussion:

- IUCN's work valuating the economic benefits of restoring the functions of the floodplain in Diawling National Park in Mauritania. The World Bank was able to use these figures to justify restoration work.
- Integrated land use planning in South Africa. CAPE Action for the People and the Environment shared that by creating and explaining alternatives to current unsustainable practices, environmental interests were able to influence how development took place in the Cape Floristic Region.

We need one agenda that is embraced by environment, development and private sector parties. The environment and conservation community must be bold and see its role at the highest levels and influence the people and institutions who govern financial spending and planning.

West Africa has rich and varied cultures which have survived and thrived in the environment from as early as 12,000 BCE. Colonialism significantly impacted the region and brought new ideas and problems to the region. In a post colonial phase, the international community through the multinational companies and aid programs are again bringing foreign influences into West African cultures. While recognizing that globalization allows for exchange of ideas and lessons, when solving the problems facing West Africa, including the development of its people and society, the strategy must be rooted in an understanding of how West Africans themselves relate to their surroundings. An understanding of the established social systems and beliefs as recorded in music, literary pieces, religions, languages and other components of culture provide keys to solving the "wealthy but poor" paradox. After colonialism, a sense of pride must emanate from within West Africa. At the same time, the notion of "living in harmony with nature" needs to be addressed. While it was stated that 40 years ago in the Sahel, people lived in balance with the environment, it should be acknowledged that times have changed. Increased population pressure and a lack of environmental management policies in newly created states, have contributed to poor environmental management. Traditional governance practices related to environmental management may not be appropriate for the immense challenges that we face today. Respecting the link between nature and poverty, solutions must come from a sense of pride in the richness that belongs to West Africans and democratic control by West African societies over their own resources. People need to take ownership of their destiny and become responsible for their natural resources. Modifying policies is a step in the right direction to adapt to emerging situations.

Gender dynamics plays a role in how resources are used and the quality of life experienced by a society. There is widespread agreement that women play a valuable role in natural resource management. Women must be inspired to become more involved in the environment sector and share their knowledge about how resources are used and how they contribute to stable societies.

A regional approach is now seen as the best way to safeguard the environment in West Africa and put in place enabling conditions for development. Shared resources such as water basins and contiguous forests are a logical starting point from a scientific perspective. They require

management based on geographic boundaries not political boundaries. The environment sector needs a way of organizing and coordinating efforts at a regional level, as well. A consolidated approach will also make it easier to work with the development and private sectors to incorporate environmental management and nature conservation principles into policies and actions. In the CEPF model for coordination used in other parts of the world, for example in the Cape Floristic Region and Succulent Karoo Hotspots of Southern Africa, grant-making and implementation are coordinated through local coordination mechanisms which not only ensure that individual grants complement one another and contribute to a larger portfolio effect, but also bring together all stakeholders involved to regularly share ideas, lessons learned and coordinate large scale policy activities. IUCN NL is implementing its first phase of the Regional Focal Point (RFP) initiative which aims to improve overall coordination of its investment by operating through a focal point organization (in West Africa this role is played by the Environmental Foundation for Africa). The RFP initiative aims to improve synergy among grantee partners, raise the capacity of these partners and coordinate regional level activities such as advocacy and communications (sharing lessons learned, raising the profile of environment in West Africa, etc.).

The Green Actors of West Africa (GAWA) network, created by organizations involved in the environmental and conservation movements, many of whom are supported by IUCN NL and CEPF, is a new model for regional collaboration and communication ([www.gawa.nu](http://www.gawa.nu)) in West Africa. With support from their GAWA network, green actors will work together to integrate nature conservation priorities in the development agenda across West Africa. A pilot project will be undertaken in 2006 to improve the capacity of members of the GAWA network to better conduct powerful advocacy campaigns.

## SUMMARY

How are poverty and nature linked?

- There are many dimensions of poverty including access to and quality of infrastructure, water, health and sanitation, social support structures, knowledge and skills, and human rights.
- Ecosystem services (food, fodder, timber, regulation of climate and clean air, water flow, coastal protection, etc.) support these dimensions.
- When the ecological systems fail and natural resources are depleted quality of life decreases and poverty (as defined above) is exacerbated.

Can environmental conservation take place without considering the poverty context?

- Nature conservation and environmental interventions are unsustainable if poverty is not addressed because the environment is the foundation for life.
- Natural resources and ecological systems are a direct source of raw materials for sustaining livelihoods and economies.

What are some of the ways that we can ensure poverty and nature are linked?

- Integrate the known science about ecosystem management into development and other planning processes so that environment is an integral part of all planning.
- Environment and development actors work in partnership to harmonize our agendas.
- Experts in nature conservation and environment provide tools which help development actors incorporate environmental principles in large-scale planning.
- Improve tenure and access rights of local populations.
- Create enabling policies, especially at the regional level.
- Work in a really participatory manner with the local communities.
- Remember this is a long term process!

Who are the actors that need to be involved in making the link?

- Environmentalists, conservationists, development agencies, governments, nongovernmental organizations with expertise in a broad range of areas including health, gender, social issues, communities. The answer is in partnership.

How does culture fit into this discussion?

- Solutions to environmental and development challenges must be inspired and owned by West Africans.
- Draw upon the thousands of years of history as an immense source of knowledge to inform decisionmaking about incorporating environment and poverty actions.
- Indeed this knowledge represents part of the wealth in West Africa which can be used to overcome the paradox of a wealthy but poor region.

**Nature and Poverty Panel Discussion**  
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Freetown, Sierra Leone 7 April 2006  
*Transcript of Proceedings*

Presenters

IUCN – Ibrahim Thiaw

Introduction to IUCN

Integrated approach to sustainable development

Attain human wellbeing, not a narrow view of development as poverty alleviation. The link between human wellbeing and nature can be explained by examining how ecosystem services influence components of wellbeing.

Ecosystem services support constituents of wellbeing:

Services can be grouped three ways:

- Regulating: Degradation of environment affecting human health (i.e. malaria case)
  - o Climate, flood and disease regulation
  - o Water purification
- Provisioning: Base line resources from nature
  - o Food, fresh water, wood and fiber, fuel
- Cultural
  - o Aesthetic, spiritual, educational, recreational values of nature

These services influence the following elements of wellbeing:

- Security
- Basic material for wellbeing
- Health
- Good social relations

The components of wellbeing are underpinned by the freedom of choice and action which is the opportunity to be able to achieve what an individual values doing and being.

IUCN valuation of ecosystem products

- Tana floodplain (marine and freshwater fisheries, forest products, pasture, flood-recession, agriculture, transport) valued at \$3 million / year (25 – 350 / household)
- Economic studies contribute to getting institutions such as World Bank on board for nature conservation. The valuation provides a context for them to understand the value alongside other priorities – see how conservation fits within poverty alleviation

EFA – Tommy Garnett

Development has limited resources to draw on given the remaining resources

Economic factor – West African economies driven by resource extraction

Conflict factor

- often tied together with environment (illegal mining in Liberia)
- migration (i.e. Nimba – 30,000 refugees) typically clear cut to make room for increased population
- investor aversion to WA
- refugees destroyed palm direct impact on local economy – immediately visible impact
- direct impacts are displacement, human rights violations, resource exploitation and lack of law and order
- indirect impacts are smuggling, drugs, child soldiers and regional instability

Environment actors must:

- look within own nations for financial support
- mainstreaming environment – making government incorporate environmental management principles into existing priorities (the obvious – mining, transport, etc and the indirectly related).

#### Panel

Facilitator – Ibrahim Thiaw, Regional Director, IUCN BRAO

Eluem Blydin, Department Head, Biological Sciences, Njala University (Freetown)

Nnimo Basse, Director Environmental Rights Action (FoE/Nigeria)

Mandy Barnett, South African National Biodiversity Institute

Rietje Grit, Head of Small Grants Fund, IUCN NL

Mamadou Saliou Diallo, President and Program Director, Guinée Ecologie

#### Questions from the Facilitator to the Panelists

*What do we mean by poverty, what do you understand about poverty?* (Rietje Grit)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Development cooperation) is the major donor to the small grants programmes of IUCN NL

- Original objective was to conserve forests and biodiversity. Asked to demonstrate results in hectares of forests conserved
- Now Ministry asking for contributions to poverty (donor priorities have changed)
- As a primarily conservation initiative, IUCN NL looked to research for a way to draw the link.
- Used DFID's livelihoods approach
- Income, while important, is not the only indicator for poverty
- Other dimensions include: infrastructure (roads, housing, water, sanitation and health, social (support structures, includes gender issues – women get voice), knowledge and skills (comes with trainings, capacity building efforts), rights (land tenure, laws and policies – anything to protect communities from over exploitation),
- Poverty must not be reduced to one dollar a day mentality
- NGOs active in many types of activities
- Must demonstrate the integrated approach

*How can poverty issues mainstream environmental and development planning. What types of methodologies do you use to ensure the environment is incorporated into planning?* (Mandy Barnett)

Development agenda has the possibility of negatively impacting biodiversity

So we tried to mainstream biodiversity to ensure these issues are included

Examples:

Land use planning in South Africa. Local authorities produce plans for where development will take place. So the environmental and conservation actors produced information which is accessible to local authorities to make sure the plans allow for maintenance of ecosystem functions

Agriculture in South Africa. Agriculture is the main employer in the Cape Floristic area and transforming land for agriculture is a major threat to the area. We work with farmers who lead the planning process to identify important areas for biodiversity on their land and provide

information which helped the farmers to choose areas less important for biodiversity and be more likely to get a farming permit. Farmers become custodians of the land.

*If you had the ability to include environment in PRSP, what specifically would you include?*  
(Eluem Blydin)

Culture is the way we do things around here – poverty is about the power to change one's situation. It is important to regain ground in the cultural dimension. We need to change the situation, but we need to hold onto our culture while we do it. We are being compared to a scale that we didn't have anything to do with creating, such as the G8, and this is not realistic.

PRSP theory has implicit that we are comparing to some abstract model. We should invest in our own know how of how things work around here, encourage people to hold to their values, their values are what we have to contribute to the world, on the global scale.

### **Questions opened to the floor**

John DeMarco, Gola Forest Program – I often hear a debate about conservation and development, some say it is good for development other say it makes people poorer. Neither side is right or wrong. It is about how you DO conservation. Show that we are able to do conservation in a way that makes people better off (in their opinion) in a broad sense – not income only – do they have smiles on their faces?

Jules Adjima, Les Compagnons Ruraux – In Benin, there are some swamp forests, where the people in small villages have various activities in the forest, such as snail harvesting to trade for salt. But when the conservationists came and stated that the snails were over-harvested, snail collection was banned and fish farming was taken up. Then it became evident that fish farming was not going to make enough money for the people. Conservation could not do it. We promote the link between people and their environment. We skipped some steps that led us to conservation – ecosystem conservation maintain links, even though there are local strategies, the link must be perceived in a way that does not do harm to the people who must benefit.

Ralph Woods, CEEB – How can we reduce poverty in our own cultural setting? Conservationists are also concerned about conserving cultural values. We use our cultural values. What can we do? How can we do it?

Richard Sambolah, FFI – We need to consider the influences that have diluted our culture here [in West Africa]. We must acknowledge this.

Paulinus Ngeh, Birdlife International – Women play a big role and we recognize this. Tried to get a women panelist and she said that she wants to be a women, not a man in a woman's dress. What does she really mean? Are we getting women out of their culture to do what we want them to do?

### **Responses from the Panel**

Nnimo Basse – responding to the floor:  
Women have always been in the forefront of conservation – they harvest and put back. We must start with gender in a positive light.

Saliou Diallo – responding to the floor:

Regional and global are at the level which we often meet. I think we should go back to the local level and integrate. John DeMarco said everything depends on how we deal with conservation. Jules Adjima says that the activities did not lead to positive change. So should we keep doing things that don't work? Everything depends on how you do it. Marketing strategy? If I go at the local level, poverty is defined in the most basic way – naked children with big stomachs, they do not go to school, they don't have enough food, not safe, women smile but they can't hide the hardship and men are sitting around drinking tea. What does the future hold? If I had to define it, I would say give good food, clothing and put up a good table where they can eat. How can all the actors (from policy makers, intermediate actors, nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and civil society (CS)) put hands together to make things move to have real and observable change in the field? In the field we have the feeling that nothing is moving. A 25 Million USD programme failed. Why? What can we do?

Eluem Blydin – You have to let go of cultural values to alleviate poverty, to some extent, but no, but there is no contradiction to holding on to cultural values and conservation as long as you take note of where we are today.

Western culture did not dilute, but enriched just as African tradition enriched western tradition. If we don't hang on to our traditions (which may be western), we will just change to Chinese influence. It is about foundation – externalize on the outside of your buildings, airplanes, to maintain your identity.

Life styles affect environment as much as livelihoods.

Tommy [in his presentation] refuted that West Africa is poor – he showed all the stats, but then says that West Africa is not poor. It has youth and diversity. Africa is seen as the poorest continent and West Africa is seen as the poorest in Africa. Thus it is the poorest in the World. Yet, West Africa has its own wealth. This is a paradox. We are rich and poor at the same time. What has not been done? What should change to address this issue?

Nnimo Bassey – Someone once said that we are so poor because we are so rich! We are poor in one sense – poor governance. There was a gap in governance and all sorts of people stepped in. Environmentalists are not taking interest in politics. If communities have a say in how the resources are used, get communities to have a stronger voice in how decisions are made. Need laws that people buy into at the lowest and highest level. Imperial interests now represented in transnational initiatives. We must regain our sovereignty. Votes must count. Votes have not counted in Nigeria for several decades. We can't hold politicians to account, if our votes don't matter.

Ibrahim Thiaw – Question to the Panel and Floor: *Can you present solutions to change the paradox of wealth and poverty in West Africa?*

Saliou Diallo – Can conservation be successful in improving the living conditions of people? Marketing of trees – a method we are trying – people won't plant trees for forest. We asked if they were interested but the community will not plant trees because nature provides the forest. So we explained that the trees are declining drastically.

Mandy Barnett – The dilemma is about access to and use of the resources. What is important is to work at the strategic enabling level and on the ground to give them [local people] a mechanism to use resources in a sustainable way. Example from Cape – Baviaanskloof Megareserve – community in the middle of the reserve was illegally using resources and farming failed in the

region. Partners legalized use of resources for the communities and created employment through the reserve and tourism which is expected in the area. You need both levels – on the ground action and enabling policies.

Eluem Blydin – See what happens when we put price tag on specific resources and not others. The case of diamonds.

Global – diamonds valued

Community – diamonds not important

Sierra Leone is in the middle now using two different rulers

Gain serenity – gain control – sovereignty.

There was a suggestion yesterday that site scale efforts are the way to do conservation. No one agreed yesterday, but now I do. We must drive biodiversity with greed. Business model. Explain the numbers. We must join the game to beat the game. Conservation must use more than altruism to save the world.

Rietje Grit – In the western part of Mali every family has at least one son in France. France is seen as the land of opportunity. In Mali they have so many cows, what do they do with the cow dung? Why not dry it and sell it as a fertilizer? Why not collect and process the fruits of the Baobab tree, abundant in that area? Why do the people not make more use of their resources? Now people from Senegal came to use it. We should try to revive a sense of pride and action in the people. In the Netherlands we once had very large problems (too much water) but long ago the people chose to work together and do something.

Saoudata – Forty years ago the people of the Sahel were living in perfect harmony with the environment. Biodiversity rich, cattle, people came for colonization, new states took over, and the new states took the same path as the colonists and built a legacy that was not agreed to by the people. Environmental management was not included. Go back to traditional values. Ask ourselves one question – how the people were able to manage the environment sustainably for thousands of years.

Silas Siakor – we have acknowledged the link between poverty and conservation but we still see that there is a problem and it is not happening. We are reluctant to do the right thing. We are setting up a protected area network in Liberia – do we ask the communities and understand how they use the resources – do we engage with the communities? Everyone says yes, but then 5 months later someone says there is no time and so they don't do it and just do a desk study. We know what is right but we now must do what is right.

Gordon Adjonina– Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society – Rich yet poor. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. We build on these tools and culture is link to natural resources. We need a yard stick to measure. We are dealing with fragile systems that are resilient.

Bryna Griffin – GCF – Women should not be expected to work in the same way that men do, instead the workplace (the conservation field in particular) must accommodate the way women work. This is what I think the woman Paulinus quoted meant.

Dr. Kamera – Dept of Forestry, SL - very little is provided for conservation. A lot of talk in COPs, NYC etc. Conservation has a lot do with our values and lifestyles. Government said forest is important. 95% of the SL population depends on wood for fuel. What have we done to change this? In Brazil, they use ethanol. What are the alternatives? Without them we will continue to see

a loss of biodiversity. NGOs must work in consultation with government to ensure that things happen on the ground.

Sylvain Dufour – FFI – Surprised to hear talk of conservation and livelihoods but not sustainable use of natural resources. We should orient our work in the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. Changing behavior takes a long time. Instead of conserving for the sake of conservation put in place systems that allow for conservation based on sustainable natural resource use.

Don Kris – Friends of the Nation – While efforts have been directed at alternative livelihoods, we are too much focused on the people. Are we the right people to go tell these people that they are poor? These questions must be answered. At a policy level, we are unsustainable. Who are our targets? Need regional engagement so that we consolidate.

Juliet Ceesay -- It is about the people, making them see what they have. Can't say don't do that and not provide livelihoods. Once they understand, then you can conserve. It is not just for tourists, researchers, it is yours, not ours now tell us how we can help you to take care of it. We received funds for strict conservation related activities. The agency that funded did not give us funds for wells, schools, etc. but this is what the people need.

Letla Mosenene – FFI – I hear about culture but have a dilemma with government. What are conservationists doing about good governance and democracy? This is where ownership will emanate from.

Daniela Lerda – CEPF – Question to the panel: what do you think of incentives to local communities?

John Oates – humans are but one species on the planet. Do these other species not have a right to take up space – national parks?

Wadja Egnankou – the talk is good but we should leave with concrete ideas.

Linus – UNHCR Focal Point for Environment. Find balance. Provide alternatives. We need to find alternatives so that people can reduce their impact.

Saliou Diallo – In 1960 Malaysia and Ghana had the same status. By 1996 Malaysia had doubled its figures for development. How did they do that? The only difference is that they took advantage of opportunities, while we didn't have the internal momentum for development. We accuse the World Bank of putting us in difficult situations, because the World Bank changes its criteria. We need local solutions and we need to devise local level plans.

Rietje Grit– The reason for the workshop is to get more reasons to explain how the two link. Billions of dollars are available for development in Africa. What we must do is convince the donors that environment is a part of the plan.

Mandy Barnett– the purpose of the day is to figure out what we want to achieve. We have heard that the problem is difficult and wrapped up in other problems. Mainstream agenda planning, capacity, humanitarian, only through partnership with civil society, donors, and government to come up with one agenda that can deliver benefits to people and the environment in a way that is sustainable. We need one agenda, not competing agendas.

Nnimo Bassey – We should demand a moratorium on mining in West Africa for the next five years, in order to assess what has happened – undertake an audit on the impact – and also plan for what might be feasible in the future. Government has so much, while the people have nothing.

Eluem Blydin – We are still dealing with the colonial legacy. Our laws protect what the colonials would have wanted protected. We need education and to engage our government. We need to look at our laws, even some indigenous laws that may be archaic. Regional coordination needs to be developed and we need to move away from dependency on donors. Be bolder and develop for-profit mechanisms to contribute to conservation / environment. Use muscle. Conceptualize environmental management so that everyone has a role to play. Technology – can impact efficiency of nature. Information age. We need to encourage more participation.

## **Wrap up**

Ibrahim Thiaw --

- Started with defining poverty – don't measure it only in monetary value
- Compare forest and dry lands tribes. Dry land must spend 1/3 time gathering wood. In many ways they are in the same statistical place, but they are in fact quite different realities.
- We must ensure that poverty alleviation projects don't have a negative impact on environment as this will likely cause negative repercussions
- Demonstrate more that environment contributes to the economy
- Need alternatives. Some CEPF projects quite good at developing alternatives
- Policy – we may not be enough involved in poverty. We must work in partnership to take our local level initiatives to the policy level
- Regional integration – many shared resources (2, 3, 4 or more countries). Water – widely shared in West Africa. There is not one country that isn't sharing one basin. Guinée shares 14 basins at an international level. There are possibilities to exchange between the coastal land and the interior - two types of ecosystems (forest and dry) – the complementarity has not been explored. Exchange is very important between the two.
- Mining industries are a huge part of the landscape in West Africa. We need to come up with standards so that impact is reduced. Also we note that many mines in West Africa are exploited by foreign companies. Our laws pertaining to mining are very weak.
- West Africa is considered poor in many ways but there are lots of possibilities. Peace and security in the world cannot be secured, development globally cannot happen without Africa on board. More and more positive change is happening in Africa. Things are discussed openly which wasn't the case 10 years ago.
- We don't have regional coordination mechanisms – but we do need to develop these so that we can become strong enough to organize at the regional level.
- A coalition is being organized for the West Africa Forest Initiative, in which actors are invited to work together to influence policies and heads of states. All the players are invited to work together, and a meeting will be scheduled for this coming June or July. (Now planned for 3-4 July in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)

**ANNEX I. CEPF Project Questionnaire**

**CEPF PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE**

*CEPF had the pleasure of supporting your organization in the following project(s):*

**Your name:**

**Organization name:**

**Project Title (s):**

**This questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes or less to complete.**

**If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please send a message to Evy Wilkins at [evy\\_wilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:evy_wilkins@yahoo.com).**

**Thank you**

**I. Ecosystem Profile Strategic Directions:**

**1. Please indicate, by adding a brief explanation below, how your project(s) contributed to the following Strategic Directions as outlined in CEPF’s Ecosystem Profile:**

SD1: Strengthening institutional capacities for conservation.	
SD2: Establishing a hotspot biodiversity monitoring system.	
SD3: Developing conservation corridors.	
SD4: Public awareness.	
SD5: Biodiversity Action Fund	

**II. Impact Indicators:**

**2. Below is a list of CEPF’s objectives for the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem. Please indicate, by writing a brief explanation in the right hand column, whether and how your project has contributed towards these objectives. If your project was not involved in supporting a particular objective, please leave the space blank.**

A. Increased number of conservation professionals at work in support of the	
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<p>region's national protected area systems.</p>	
<p>B. Existing national NGOs and other private sector participants working in biodiversity conservation expand their staff, diversity of abilities, and total coverage.</p>	
<p>C. Increase in the overall funding of conservation activities within the Hotspot to reach a minimum level of twice the initial CEPF funding by the end of the CEPF funding period.</p>	
<p>D. Evidence of increased transboundary collaboration.</p>	
<p>E. Evidence of increased local community involvement in conservation planning.</p>	
<p>F. Evidence of areas protected in the Greater Nimba Highlands.</p>	
<p>G. Evidence of areas protected in the Sapo-Tai Complex.</p>	

H. Evidence of areas protected in the Southwest Ghana/Southeast Cote d'Ivoire Forests.	
I. Evidence of areas protected in the Gola/Lofa/Mano Complex of Liberia and Sierra Leone	
J. Evidence of areas protected in the Hornbill Corridor (including Marahoué National Park)	

**3. Did your project have another impact besides the ones listed above?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**If so, please specify:**

**4. Did your project contribute to safeguarding threatened species, and if so, which species?**

**5. In your opinion has civil society gained strength around conservation and development issues as a result of CEPF's investments?**

**6. In your assessment, what types of activities should donors support in the future to help increase the ability of local groups to help conserve biodiversity?**

**7. If another organization were going to conduct your project all over again, what is the most important piece of advice that you could give them, or in other words, what is the most important lesson that you learned?**

**8. What should CEPF continue to do or change in its future behavior?**

**Thank you for your feedback. We really appreciate it.**

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