

# **Annual Portfolio Overview**

## **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**

July 2021 – June 2022

### **1. Introduction**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to safeguard the world's biologically richest and most threatened regions, known as biodiversity hotspots. It is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International (CI), the European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. A fundamental purpose of CEPF is to engage civil society, such as community groups, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and private enterprises, in biodiversity conservation. This is done through a combination of grant making and capacity development.

Encompassing more than 2 million square kilometers of tropical Asia, Indo-Burma is the largest and one of the most geographically diverse of Earth's 36 biodiversity hotspots. The hotspot encompasses a number of major mountain ranges, including the Annamite Mountains and eastern extensions of the Himalayas, as well as extensive areas of limestone karst and five of Asia's largest rivers: the Ayeyarwady, Salween (Nujiang), Mekong, Red and Pearl (Zhujiang). Its sweeping expanse of level lowlands embraces several fertile floodplains and deltas and includes Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia, Southeast Asia's largest and most productive freshwater lake.

As a result of a high diversity of landforms and climatic zones, Indo-Burma supports a wide variety of habitats and, thus, high overall biodiversity. This diversity has been further increased by the development of endemism due to the hotspot's geological and evolutionary history. Centers of plant and animal endemism include the Annamite Mountains and the highlands of southern China and northern Vietnam. Consequently, the Indo-Burma Hotspot ranks in the top 10 hotspots for irreplaceability. Unfortunately, it is also ranked in the top five for threat, with only 5 percent of its original natural habitat remaining.

Indo-Burma holds more people than any other hotspot, the vast majority of whom depend for their livelihoods on the services provided by the hotspot's natural ecosystems. Of particular importance, in a region where paddy rice and fish protein provide the staple diet of more than 300 million people, are hydrological services and provisioning of fish and other freshwater products. The issues of poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation are inextricably linked.

In common with many of the world's biodiversity hotspots, a combination of economic development and human population growth is placing unprecedented pressures on Indo-Burma's natural capital. These pressures continue to increase, despite intensified efforts by government, civil society and the donor community to respond to them. In particular, there has been an acceleration of deforestation rates, with the rate of tree cover loss during

2010-2019 almost doubling compared with the rate during 2000-2010. Habitat loss and over-exploitation have placed increasing pressures on plant and animal populations, with the number of species recognized as globally threatened on the IUCN Red List increasing by more than 70 percent between 2011 and 2020. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are increasingly being observed in the hotspot: average temperatures have gone up; rainfall patterns have changed; sea levels have begun to rise; and extreme weather events are being recorded more frequently. These three trends (accelerating habitat loss, over-exploitation and climate change) have combined to create an ecological crisis with major implications for biodiversity, human health and economic development.

For the purposes of CEPF investment, the Indo-Burma Hotspot comprises all non-marine parts of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, plus parts of southern China, including Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Boundaries of the Indo-Burma Hotspot Followed by CEPF Investment**



Annual Portfolio Overviews aim at providing an update on progress of CEPF's investment strategy. This particular portfolio overview covers progress in the Indo-Burma Hotspot from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

## 2. Niche for CEPF Investment

### 2.1 Overview

CEPF began making grants to civil society groups in the Indo-Burma Hotspot in July 2008. The first phase of investment ran from 2008 to 2013, during which US\$9.7 million in grants was awarded. The second phase of investment ran from 2013 to 2020, during which a further US\$15.4 million was awarded. Based upon the successful implementation of these investments, the CEPF Donor Council approved the selection of the Indo-Burma Hotspot for reinvestment in October 2019. This third phase will run from 2020 to 2025, with a total investment of US\$10 million.

To guide the third phase of investment, the CEPF Secretariat updated the ecosystem profile between May 2019 and August 2020, through a consultative process that engaged more than 170 people. The ecosystem profile contains a five-year investment strategy, informed by a situational analysis that considers the social, economic, political and climate change context. The updated ecosystem profile was approved by the CEPF Donor Council in November 2020.

The updated investment strategy for the Indo-Burma Hotspot has 11 strategic directions, of which six are the focus of CEPF investment:

1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats.
2. Mitigate zoonotic disease risks by reducing illegal trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife.
4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority sites.
6. Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors.
8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.
11. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team.

The geographic focus for CEPF investment is on five priority corridors (the Chindwin River, the Mekong River and Major Tributaries, the Northern Plains Seasonally Inundated Forests, the Sino-Vietnamese Limestone, and the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone) plus a network of limestone karst sites in Myanmar. Together, these cover 5 percent of the total area of the hotspot. Moreover, CEPF investment focuses on 136 priority species that require species-focused action in addition to site-based and landscape-scale conservation.

In parallel to updating the ecosystem profile, the CEPF Secretariat secured funding from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies for an initial round of grant making, with the purpose of maintaining momentum for conservation built during the second phase into the third phase of investment. This funding was restricted to Cambodia and Lao PDR and to specific thematic priorities. A call for proposals was launched in November 2019, with a closing date of January 2020. Fourteen applications were approved for award, resulting in 13 grants being made before 30 June 2020, and one in October 2020.

## **2.2 Coordinating CEPF Grant Making**

CEPF grant making in the Indo-Burma Hotspot is coordinated by a Regional Implementation Team (RIT). The RIT for the second phase of investment in the hotspot (2013-2020) was the IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO). An independent evaluation of lessons learned by the RIT, undertaken between August 2019 and April 2020, resulted in a recommendation to continue working with the incumbent organization. Consequently, IUCN ARO was invited to apply to act as the RIT for the third phase, and a new RIT grant agreement was entered into in January 2021. IUCN ARO will serve as the RIT until the end of the investment phase, in 2025. The RIT has been trained and is fully staffed, with a core team based in Bangkok and part-time national coordinators in the six hotspot countries. Apart from some staff turnover, which has contributed to delays in grant making, especially with the small grants, the RIT's performance to date is satisfactory.

## **2.3 Portfolio Status to Date**

Following the first call for proposals in November 2019, a second call for proposals was issued in January 2021, covering all six countries in the hotspot. To keep the volume of applications manageable, this call was restricted to Strategic Directions 1 and 2 and Investment Priority 8.3. The call generated a large response, with 210 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) being received by the closing date, comprising 77 for large grants and 133 for small grants. From these applications, 18 large grants (above \$40,000) and 15 small grants (up to \$40,000) were awarded.

In August 2021, two of the large grants awarded under first call were closed, when the grantee (BirdLife International) closed its office in Cambodia as part of a phased transition to local partners. The remaining funds were awarded to Rising Phoenix via the grant-by-invitation modality, resulting in two additional large grants being awarded in September 2021. Similarly, in January 2022, one of the small grants awarded under the second call was terminated, with no money spent, because the grantee could not get permission to work at the project sites, due to its registration as an international NGO. The grant was reissued to a local organization in February 2022, via the grant-by-invitation modality.

CEPF and IUCN issued the third call for proposals on 11 November 2021, with a closing date of 21 December 2021. With a view to filling gaps in the grant portfolio, this call was restricted to Strategic Directions 4 and 8. The call covered all hotspot countries except Myanmar, where grant making had been temporarily suspended (see below). The call generated a healthy response, with 114 LOIs being received by the closing date: 40 for large grants; and 74 for small grants.

LOIs were reviewed by the CEPF Secretariat (for large grants only), the RIT and expert peer reviewers (where required). Based upon these reviews, applications were shortlisted for further review. Shortlisted applicants for large grants were invited to present their project concepts to Technical Review Committees, which were convened in each country during January and February 2022. Shortlisted applications for small grant were presented to the National Advisory Committee in each country. Taking into account the recommendations of the Technical Review Committees and National Advisory Committees, final decisions on which grants to award were made by the RIT (for small grants) or jointly by the CEPF Secretariat and RIT (for large grants).

Following the review process, 11 of the 40 LOIs for large grants were selected for award, comprising three under Strategic Direction 4 on site conservation and eight under Strategic

Direction 8 on capacity building. As of 30 June 2022, one of these grants had been contracted and a further 10 were at various stages of due diligence review and contracting. Regarding the small grants, 11 of the 74 LOIs for small grants were selected for award, comprising three under Strategic Direction 4 on site conservation and eight under Strategic Direction 8 on capacity building. None of these grants had been contracted by 30 June 2022 but all were at various stages of due diligence review.

Following the military coup in February 2021, the grant-making process in Myanmar was suspended temporarily. In December 2021, the CEPF Donor Council approved a resumption of grant making, subject to the following conditions: (i) funding will be channeled directly to CSOs; no funding will go to government, even at a local level; (ii) funding will be restricted to community-level activities that reinforce results from the previous phase; (iii) grant making will be restricted to former grantees that have demonstrated ability to manage funds responsibly; (iv) in-person site visits will be halted until the security and COVID-19 situations allow; and (v) CEPF will comply with US Treasury Department restrictions (OFAC General License No. 3). Consequently, a Technical Review Committee meeting was held in February 2022 to review applications received under the second call. Two large grants and one small grant were selected for award, of which the two large grants had been contracted by 30 June 2022 and the small grant was still undergoing due diligence review.

As of 30 June 2022, the grant portfolio comprises 36 large grants (including the RIT grant) and 16 small grants, with a total value of \$7.8 million, equivalent to 78 percent of the funding allocation for the investment phase (Table 1). Around \$2.2 million remains uncommitted, most of which will be needed to fund the 10 large grants and 11 small grants that have been approved for award and are currently undergoing due diligence and contracting.

**Table 1: Distribution of CEPF Investment by Strategic Direction**

Strategic Direction	Funding Allocation	Awarded Grants			Amount Under/(Over) Budget	% of Funding Allocation Remaining
		Total Amount	# of large grants	# of small grants		
SD1	\$3,200,000	\$2,797,671	13	12	\$402,329	13
SD2	\$1,000,000	\$972,382	4	4	\$27,618	3
SD4	\$2,000,000	\$1,078,582	7	0	\$921,418	46
SD6	\$1,400,000	\$1,078,534	8	0	\$321,466	23
SD8	\$1,000,000	\$454,413	3	0	\$545,587	55
SD11	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	1	0	\$0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,781,581</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$2,218,419</b>	<b>22</b>

Around half of the initial funding allocation remains uncommitted under Strategic Directions 4 and 8, which were the focus of the third call. The pipeline applications (10 large and 11 small grants) are expected to use up the entirety of this allocation (assuming that all are awarded). This means that there will only be significant funding remaining under Strategic Directions 1 and 6. For Strategic Direction 1, the intention is to use some of these funds to support small grants on fish species conservation: to address a gap in the portfolio with regard to taxonomic coverage and engage more civil society actors in conservation of this group. Also under Strategic Direction 1, some funds may be used to address a gap in the

portfolio with regard to Investment Priority 1.4 (research and pilot innovative funding sources for species conservation). For Strategic Direction 6, the intention is to issue a call for proposals in the second half of 2022, targeting this strategic direction.

### **3. Performance of CEPF Investment**

#### **3.1 Assessment**

Large grant making in Indo-Burma continues to be efficient. Under the first two calls, the average time between receipt of the LOI and countersignature of the grant agreement was only four-and-a-half months. Under the third call (assuming that all pipeline grants are contracted on schedule), it will be around six-and-a-half months. While this is less efficient than for the earlier calls, it is still acceptable, considering that a higher proportion of applicants encountered difficulties with obtaining letters of support or other government permissions to receive or implement their grants.

Small grant making continues to be less efficient than large grant making. Under the second call (there were no small grants made under the first), the average time for the review process was seven months. There were some delays caused by prioritizing the review of large grants, and due to the greater level of assistance needed by typical small grant applicants. For the third call, the RIT instituted some changes, in pursuit of greater efficiency, including starting the review of small grant LOIs at the same time of the review of large grant LOIs, and providing clear guidance to applicants to reduce the volume of (time consuming) ineligible applications. These changes worked to a degree. Nevertheless, as of 30 June 2022 (i.e., six-and-a-half months after the submission deadline), no small grants from the third call had been countersigned.

The grant-making process, for both large and small grants, was also fair and transparent. Objective criteria were used to evaluate applications, and each LOI was considered by multiple reviewers. Moreover, shortlisted applicants for large grants were given the opportunity to present their project concepts to a Technical Review Committee, made up of representatives of civil society, donors and (except in Myanmar) government.

Applicants for large grants who were invited to develop full proposals were invited to participate in a Proposal Development Workshop, which was held online in March 2022. Applicants were given the opportunity to share their proposed projects with one another and received hands-on assistance from RIT and CEPF staff with the development of key elements of their proposals, including the budget, logical framework and safeguard instruments. The workshop helped ensure that the quality of large grant proposals was high, thereby keeping to a minimum the number of rounds of revisions needed to get proposals to the point where they could be funded, and making the whole process efficient.

Grants awarded under the first two calls were impacted by restrictions on travel and meetings introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, although these restrictions had been eased significantly by the time the grants under the third call began to be awarded in mid-2022. Overall, the impacts of the pandemic on implementation were not as great as initially feared, as grantees adapted to the changed operating environment, for example by moving meetings online. Grantees typically reported delays of between three and six months.

As of 30 June 2022, the 52 active CEPF grants in the hotspot had been under implementation for between 1 and 26 months. This was long enough for some of the grants to have important impacts in terms of biodiversity conservation, human wellbeing, civil

society capacity and/or the enabling conditions for conservation. However, the impacts of CEPF grants are only reported and validated when they close. Apart from the three grants that were closed/terminated and then reissued to other organizations (see above), and a fourth grant that was terminated but not reissued, after government permission to work at the project site was not forthcoming, only four grants had closed by 30 June 2022, all for projects in Cambodia. Of the four projects, three were evaluated as having Met Expectations with regard to delivery of the expected results set out in the project proposal, while one was evaluated as having Failed to Meet Expectations in Some Regards. In the latter case, the COVID-19 pandemic was a contributory factor to delays with the formal establishment process for community fisheries supported under the project.

Annex 1 presents an update on progress towards the targets in the portfolio logframe, which were adopted when the ecosystem profile was approved by the Donor Council. Validated results from the four closed grants are presented, alongside expected results from the 48 other grants awarded to date. Because only four grants have closed to date, it is unrealistic that many of the targets will have been met. Nevertheless, one target has been met. At the objective level, there is a target for at least 5,000 women and 5,000 men to receive direct socio-economic benefits. The four closed grants have brought direct socio-economic benefits, in particular increased income, food security and natural resource rights, to 12,987 women and 13,077 men, all in Stung Treng province, Cambodia.

For the other targets, the expected results of the awarded grants give an indication of which targets are on track to be met and where gaps in the portfolio can be found. Four out of six objective-level targets and 15 out of 26 intermediate indicators are on track to be met, based on grants awarded to date. As more of the pipeline grants under the third call are contracted and as new grants are selected and awarded under the fourth call (expected to be launched in the second half of 2022), these gaps will gradually be filled.

### **3.2 Portfolio Highlights by Strategic Direction**

Under Strategic Direction 1 (safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has tested a new survey methodology for a CEPF priority species, employing thermal imaging cameras mounted on drones to survey for hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) in dense grassland at Cambodia's Prek Prasab Wildlife Sanctuary, where other survey methods are ineffective. The thermal drones recorded the presence of approximately 70 hog deer in the pilot area, which contains only 1 percent of the total area of grassland habitat, suggesting that the total population may be significantly larger than originally thought. While this finding is promising for the conservation prospects of the population, significant threats remain, especially poaching, conversion of habitat and logging. Thanks to intensified patrolling efforts by community patrol teams supported by Department of Environment rangers, incidence of these key threats during the first half of 2022 decreased by 59% compared to the previous semester.

Under Strategic Direction 2 (mitigate zoonotic disease risks by reducing illegal trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife), Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is working to overcome barriers to combating illegal trade of pangolins and other species along overland routes in Thailand by collating, analyzing and sharing data and intelligence, building the capacity of wildlife detection dogs and handlers, improving co-ordination among law enforcement agencies, and engaging leadership from relevant logistics companies to share intelligence and take action to reduce involvement in illegal wildlife trade. In March 2022, two trainings were given for law enforcement detection dog units, reaching 17 handlers and 20 dogs from the Royal Thai Police K-9 Unit, and the Department of National Parks Wildlife Dog Detection Unit. In the next phase, detection dogs will be deployed proactively and

reactively to increase detection and confiscation of shipments of pangolins and other threatened wildlife being illegally trafficked through Thailand.

Under Strategic Direction 4 (empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority sites), NatureLife Cambodia is working to promote community co-management of natural resources within Stung Sen Ramsar Site, Cambodia, one of three “core areas” for biodiversity within Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, which protects Southeast Asia’s largest and most productive freshwater lake ecosystem. The grantee has strengthened the management of Toul Neang Sav Plov Loung Community Protected Area (CPA), which supports flooded forest and grassland habitats important for waterbirds, mammals and fish species, by providing management committee members with key equipment, helping them to initiate monitoring of wildlife and threats, and facilitating collaboration with the Ramsar Site management authority. A key activity was preparation of a five-year management plan for the CPA, which was endorsed by the Ministry of Environment in June 2022. With support from the ministry and the wider community, the CPA management committee is working to resolve the challenges identified in the management plan, including illegal fishing, cultivation of lotus and the high poverty rate, including by promoting community-based ecotourism and developing value-added products.

Under Strategic Direction 6 (demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors), Rising Phoenix is demonstrating ecological restoration techniques at Cambodia’s Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary. During the first quarter of 2022, a major step was taken with the successful release of 15 Siamese crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis*) into a soft-release enclosure in Bong Nava, a restored wetland within the wildlife sanctuary. There has already been mating behavior observed in the enclosure, in addition to nest building, which suggests that there is a good prospect of the crocodiles breeding when they are released from the enclosure during the rainy season later in the year. Rising Phoenix has also completed a large-scale renovation of Bong Khampa Wetland, in preparation for the second release of Siamese crocodiles in the 2023 dry season. Re-establishing a viable, wild population of Siamese crocodiles will help to restore ecological balance at Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary and reduce the extinction risk of this Critically Endangered reptile.

Under Strategic Direction 8 (strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels), Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) has strengthened youth groups in Cambodia’s Preah Vihear province and empowered them to work in collaboration with older people to actively protect natural resources. The project has engaged with youth groups in two communes and supported them to participate in protecting community forests from being cut. Around 60 young people from each commune joined with village elders to conduct monthly patrols. Thanks to information collected during these patrols, the local authorities intervened to resolve several cases of illegal logging and encroachment by outsiders. These achievements are significant because these forests not only underpin the sustainable livelihoods of local people and protect part of the catchment of Tonle Sap Lake but also are central to preserving the Indigenous culture of the Kui ethnic minority by passing traditional ecological knowledge to the next generation.

#### **4. Collaboration with CEPF’s donors and other funders**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities for interaction and collaboration with CEPF’s donors and other funders were limited during the year. Regional staff of CEPF’s global donors were invited to participate in the Technical Review Committee and National Advisory

Committee meetings held during the first half of 2022, and representatives from both AFD and the EU were able to participate in meetings in Lao PDR.

## **5. Conclusion**

The third phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot is now approaching the mid-way point. Grants awarded under the first two rounds are under implementation, and, despite some pandemic-related delays, are starting to deliver impacts. Expected and actual results are summarized in Annex 1, and illustrated by examples in Section 4. These grants account for 78% of the total funding allocation to the investment phase.

A third round of applications was solicited at the end of 2021 and reviewed during the first half of 2022. Once these pipeline grants have been awarded, over 90% of the funding allocation will have been deployed, and the portfolio will be on track to meet most of the targets and intermediate indicators in the portfolio logframe. A fourth call for proposals is anticipated in the second half of 2022, to address any remaining gaps with respect to these targets and indicators.

Learning from experience from the previous investment phase, building on a strong partnership between CEPF and IUCN, and benefitting from dedicated civil society partners, the third phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot is being implemented effectively, efficiently and transparently. More impacts are anticipated for the coming year.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Results Against Objective and Outcomes in the Portfolio Logframe, as of 30 June 2022

Objective	Targets	Results
<p>Demonstrate effective, scalable approaches to major conservation issues that leverage the skills, experience and energy of civil society actors.</p>	<p>At least 50 CSOs, including at least 40 domestic organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 12 alliances and networks formed among civil society actors to avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact in support of the CEPF ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 25 Key Biodiversity Areas targeted by CEPF grants have new or strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>At least 100,000 hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.</p> <p>At least 3 development plans or policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.</p> <p>At least 5,000 women and 5,000 men receive direct socio-economic benefits through increased income, food security, resource rights or other measures of human wellbeing.</p>	<p>73 civil society organizations, including 44 domestic organizations, are actively participating in the implementation of CEPF grants guided by the ecosystem profile</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to form 8 alliances and networks among civil society actors. 2 have already been formed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous women’s network for fisheries conservation, Stung Treng province, Cambodia;</li> <li>• Indigenous youth network for fisheries conservation, Stung Treng province, Cambodia.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to strengthen the protection and management of 31 KBAs. 5 of these already benefit from strengthened protection and management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 in Cambodia: Mekong River from Kratie to Lao PDR; Sekong River; Sesan River; Srepok River; and Western Siem Pang.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to strengthen the management of biodiversity within 34,563 hectares of production landscape. To date, 25,459 hectares have been strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 broodstock protection zones on the Mekong River totaling 1,081 hectares;</li> <li>• 14 community fisheries on the Sekong, Sesan and Srepok Rivers totaling 24,378 hectares.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to influence 3 plans or policies to accommodate biodiversity.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to deliver direct socio-economic benefits to at least 13,866 women and 13,940 men. To date, these benefits have been received by 12,987 women and 13,077 men.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Priority globally threatened species safeguarded by mitigating major threats.</p>	<p>Long-term conservation programs for core populations of at least 25 priority species sustained until 2025.</p> <p>Viable wild populations of at least 3 priority species reestablished.</p> <p>Knowledge of the status and distribution of at least 3 priority species improved through research.</p> <p>At least \$1 million in funding for species conservation leveraged from innovative sources.</p> <p>At least 10 community-level species champions implement locally identified actions for priority species.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to sustain long-term conservation programs for core populations of 34 priority species: 14 mammals; 8 birds; 11 reptiles; and 1 fish. To date, long-term conservation program have been sustained for 2 of these species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eld’s deer;</li> <li>• Siamese crocodile.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to reestablish viable wild populations of 5 priority species. To date, a wild population of Siamese crocodile has been reestablished, although further reinforcement is needed to enhance its viability.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to improve knowledge of the status and distribution of 5 priority species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kouprey;</li> <li>• Edwards’s pheasant;</li> <li>• East Asian giant softshell turtle;</li> <li>• Somphong’s rasbora;</li> <li>• Vietnamese loach.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to leverage \$277,000 in funding for species conservation from innovative sources.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to support 13 community-level species champions to implement locally identified actions for priority species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 for hog deer;</li> <li>• 2 for grey-shanked douc;</li> <li>• 1 for Delacour’s langur;</li> <li>• 3 for Burmese roofed turtle or Burmese star tortoise.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Zoonotic disease threats mitigated by reducing trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife.</p>	<p>At least 1 high-level wildlife trade network unraveled by enforcement agencies employing global best practice with investigations and informants.</p> <p>At least 2 initiatives to reduce transportation, sale and consumption of wildlife piloted in collaboration with enforcement agencies and/or actors in the public health sector.</p> <p>At least 5 private and/or state-owned companies introduce effective measures to reduce their involvement in the transportation, sale and consumption of wildlife.</p> <p>At least 3 campaigns implemented to reduce consumer demand for wildlife and mobilize public participation in wildlife crime detection and reporting.</p> <p>At least 3 journal papers published on linkages between biodiversity and human health, including the role of biodiversity loss in the emergence of zoonotic diseases.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to help enforcement agencies unravel at least 2 high-level wildlife trade networks.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to pilot 5 initiatives to reduce transportation, sale and consumption of wildlife.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to encourage 26 companies to introduce effective measures to reduce their involvement in the transportation, sale and consumption of wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 company in Cambodia;</li> <li>• 13 companies in China;</li> <li>• 2 companies in Thailand;</li> <li>• 10 companies in Vietnam.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to implement 7 campaigns to reduce consumer demand for wildlife and mobilize public participation in wildlife crime detection and reporting.</p> <p>No progress to date.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Local communities empowered to engage in conservation and management of priority sites.</p>	<p>Awareness of local conservation issues and rights and opportunities related to natural resource management raised among local communities within at least 5 priority sites.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to raise awareness of local conservation issues and rights and opportunities related to natural resource management among local communities at 6 priority sites. This has already been achieved at 4 of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mekong River from Kratie to Lao PDR;</li> <li>• Sekong River;</li> <li>• Sesan River;</li> <li>• Srepok River.</li> </ul>

	<p>Community forests, community fisheries and/or community-managed protected areas piloted, amplified and/or made more sustainable within at least 10 priority sites.</p> <p>Co-management mechanisms that enable community participation in zoning, management and governance of formal protected areas developed for at least 5 priority sites.</p> <p>Lists of KBAs in at least 3 hotspot countries updated in line with the new KBA standard.</p> <p>Third-party evaluation of project impacts on biodiversity and human wellbeing undertaken in at least 10 priority sites.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to amplify community forests, community fisheries and/or community-managed protected areas and/or make them more sustainable at 9 priority sites. This has already been achieved at 4 of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mekong River from Kratie to Lao PDR;</li> <li>• Sekong River;</li> <li>• Sesan River;</li> <li>• Srepok River.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to develop co-management mechanisms for formal protected areas at 7 priority sites. This has already been achieved at 1 of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stung Treng Ramsar Site within Mekong River from Kratie to Lao PDR KBA.</li> </ul> <p>No progress to date.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to undertake third-party evaluation of project impacts in at least 10 priority sites.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Demonstration projects developed for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors.</p>	<p>At least 4 development policies, plans or programs analyzed, with impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services evaluated and alternative development scenarios, nature-based solutions and mitigating measures proposed.</p> <p>Demonstration projects for ecological restoration developed in at least 2 priority corridors.</p> <p>Public debate and awareness of at least 3 key environmental issues increased through coverage in domestic media.</p> <p>Models for biodiversity-friendly production piloted for at least 3 commodities.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to analyze 2 development policies, plans or programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2006 Fisheries Law in Cambodia;</li> <li>• Hydropower development plans on the Mekong mainstream.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to demonstrate approaches to ecological restoration in 3 priority corridors. To date, trapeang (wetland) restoration has been demonstrated in the Mekong River and Major Tributaries corridor.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to increase public debate and awareness of 1 key environmental issue: hydropower dam development in Cambodia.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to pilot biodiversity-friendly production of 4 commodities: cardamom; coffee; rice; and walnut.</p>

<p><b>Outcome 5:</b> Civil society capacity to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods strengthened at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.</p>	<p>At least 15 civil society networks enable collective responses to priority and emerging threats.</p> <p>At least 50 domestic CSOs demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity.</p> <p>At least 20 domestic CSOs demonstrate improved performance with gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>At least 1 mechanism established to match volunteers to CSOs' training needs.</p>	<p>Grants awarded to date aim to strengthen 10 civil society networks to enable collective responses to priority and emerging threats. 3 of these networks have already been strengthened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous youth network for community fisheries in Stung Treng province, Cambodia;</li> <li>• Indigenous women's network for community fisheries in Stung Treng province, Cambodia;</li> <li>• Mekong Women's Network on Fisheries, Cambodia.</li> </ul> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to strengthen the organizational capacity of 23 domestic CSOs. To date, 3 show an increase in their Civil Society Tracking Tool score over the period of CEPF support.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to improve the gender mainstreaming performance of 18 domestic CSOs. To date, 2 show an increase in their Gender Tracking Tool Score over the period of CEPF support.</p> <p>Grants awarded to date aim to establish 1 mechanism to match volunteers to CSOs' with training needs in Cambodia.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 6:</b> A Regional Implementation Team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot.</p>	<p>At least 50 CSOs, including at least 40 domestic organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 75 percent of domestic CSOs receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.</p> <p>At least 2 participatory assessments are undertaken and documented.</p>	<p>39 civil society organizations have been awarded CEPF grants, including 20 domestic organizations.</p> <p>Baseline Civil Society Tracking Tools have been completed by 20 domestic CSOs receiving grants. Final tracking tools have been completed by 3 organizations, all of which showed an increase in their overall score for institutional capacity.</p> <p>No progress to date.</p>

## Annex 2. List of Awarded Grants as of 30 June 2022

No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Countries	Amount	Start Date	End Date
<b>Strategic Direction 1: Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats</b>						
1	Asian Arks	<a href="#">Conservation of Annamite Biodiversity through a Social Business Model</a>	Lao PDR	\$150,000	7/1/2021	12/31/2022
2	Center for Nature Conservation and Development	<a href="#">Community-based Conservation of Northern White-cheeked Gibbon in Xuan Lien Nature Reserve, Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$40,000	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
3	Center for People and Nature Reconciliation	<a href="#">Community-based Actions to Conserve Two Globally Critically Endangered Fish Species in Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$25,000	2/1/2022	1/31/2024
4	Centre for Environment and Community Assets Development	<a href="#">Conservation of Critically Endangered and Endemic Bent-toed Geckos in Vietnam</a>	Vietnam	\$59,900	7/1/2021	12/31/2023
5	Community Wildlife Conservation	<a href="#">Community-based Conservation of Wild Water Buffalo in Ban Tai, Thailand</a>	Thailand	\$33,920	3/1/2022	2/29/2024
6	ComNet Mekong	<a href="#">Community-based Conservation of Jullien's Golden Carp in the Mekong River, Thailand</a>	Thailand	\$39,694	3/1/2022	7/31/2023
7	Fauna & Flora International	<a href="#">Community-based Protected Area Management; Myanmar Primate Conservation, Phase II</a>	Myanmar	\$239,803	7/1/2022	12/31/2024
8	Fauna & Flora International	<a href="#">Securing the Future of Delacour's Langur in Northern Vietnam</a>	Vietnam	\$149,998	7/1/2021	6/30/2023
9	Fauna & Flora International	<a href="#">Re-establishing Wild Populations of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$225,000	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
10	FISHBIO	<a href="#">Conservation Action, Threat Analysis, and Participatory Research for Monkey-eating Fish in Lao PDR</a>	Lao PDR	\$40,000	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
11	Fishing Cat Ecological Enterprise Co., Ltd.	<a href="#">Integrated Conservation of Wetland Ecosystems in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$38,544	8/15/2021	8/15/2023
12	GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Centre	<a href="#">Protecting the Grey-shanked Douc through Supporting Species Champions in Tam My Tay, Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$40,000	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
13	Indo-Myanmar Conservation	<a href="#">Protecting Priority Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Populations in Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$200,060	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
14	Re:wild	<a href="#">Establishing an Evidence-based Approach to Search for the Last Kouprey</a>	Cambodia	\$8,900	8/15/2021	2/15/2023

15	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.	<a href="#">Conserving Vultures and Ibises in their Last Cambodian Stronghold</a>	Cambodia	\$235,000	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
16	Saola Foundation	<a href="#">Rediscovering Saola: State-of-the-art Methods to Detect Endangered Annamite Species in Lao PDR</a>	Lao PDR	\$236,999	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
17	Seub Nakhasatien Foundation	<a href="#">Participatory Surveys to Support Conservation of Somphong's Rasbora in Thailand</a>	Thailand	\$39,856	3/1/2022	8/31/2023
18	Shan Shui Conservation Center	<a href="#">Building Capacity and Networks for Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey in China</a>	China	\$0	4/1/2022	4/1/2022
19	Turtle Survival Alliance	<a href="#">Back from the Brink: Recovering Two Critically Endangered Turtles in Myanmar</a>	Myanmar	\$240,000	7/1/2022	6/30/2024
20	Viet Nature Conservation Centre	<a href="#">In Search of Vietnam Pheasant in Ke Go Nature Reserve, Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$40,000	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
21	Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten	<a href="#">Ex-situ Management of Bengal Florican in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$40,000	8/15/2021	8/15/2023
22	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	<a href="#">Showcasing Best Practice for Restoration of Sarus Crane Feeding Grounds in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$240,000	1/1/2022	12/31/2024
23	Wildlife at Risk	<a href="#">Community-based Actions to Conserve Two Globally Critically Endangered Fish Species in Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$25,000	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
24	World Wide Fund for Nature	<a href="#">AD HOC - ADVancing HOg deer Conservation in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$199,997	7/1/2021	12/31/2023
25	World Wide Fund for Nature	<a href="#">Rewilding the Annamites</a>	Vietnam	\$235,000	7/1/2021	6/30/2023
<b>Strategic Direction 2: Mitigate zoonotic disease risks by reducing illegal trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife</b>						
26	Beijing Normal University	<a href="#">Strengthening Cooperation to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade at the China-Laos Border</a>	China	\$46,167	11/15/2021	11/15/2023
27	China Exploration & Research Society Limited	<a href="#">Changing Attitudes and Behaviors to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade around Namha NPA, Lao PDR</a>	Lao PDR	\$26,240	8/15/2021	2/15/2023
28	Institute of Biology, Chemistry and Environment	<a href="#">Using Crime Script Analysis to Understand Wildlife Crime in Annamite Mountain, Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$39,975	9/1/2021	8/31/2023
29	International Fund for Animal Welfare	<a href="#">Counter Wildlife Crime in Border Regions between China and Southeast Asian Countries</a>	China	\$225,000	7/1/2021	6/30/2023
30	Rural Development Agency	<a href="#">Empowering Youth to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade around Hin Nam No NP, Lao PDR</a>	Lao PDR	\$40,000	8/15/2021	8/15/2023
31	TRAFFIC International	<a href="#">Reducing Wildlife Trafficking across Logistics Supply Chains and Online Platforms</a>	China; Viet Nam	\$225,000	8/1/2021	7/31/2023

32	Wildlife Alliance	<a href="#">Preventing Pandemics: Illegal Trade Reduction, Wildlife Care, and Community Mobilization in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$160,000	8/1/2021	7/31/2023
33	Zoological Society of London	<a href="#">Strengthening Capacity and Collaboration for Combating Illegal Trade of Pangolin and Other Wildlife in Thailand</a>	Cambodia; Lao PDR; Myanmar; Thailand	\$209,827	8/1/2021	7/31/2023
<b>Strategic Direction 4: Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority sites</b>						
34	Conservation International	<a href="#">Community based wild-fire management on Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake</a>	Cambodia	\$180,000	7/1/2020	6/30/2022
35	Culture and Environment Preservation Association	<a href="#">Sustainable Natural Capital Management through Improving Biodiversity Conservation in Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$100,000	7/1/2020	6/30/2022
36	FISHBIO	<a href="#">Evaluating Cambodian Freshwater Conservation Projects in the Lower Mekong</a>	Cambodia	\$200,000	9/1/2020	10/31/2022
37	Fisheries Action Coalition Team	<a href="#">Strengthening Capacity of Community Fisheries to Manage Fisheries Resources around Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$100,000	6/1/2020	5/31/2022
38	My Village	<a href="#">Inclusive Participation of Indigenous Communities and Rural Communities in Fishery Conservation and Governance in Stung Treng Province, Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$150,000	6/1/2020	5/31/2022
39	NatureLife Cambodia	<a href="#">NGO Capacity Building and Community Protected Area Development at Stung Sen Ramsar Site, Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$80,000	5/1/2020	5/31/2022
40	People Resources and Conservation Foundation	<a href="#">Strengthening Co-management in the François's Langur Conservation Landscape, Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	\$249,995	6/1/2022	5/31/2025
<b>Strategic Direction 6: Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors</b>						
41	BirdLife International	<a href="#">Inundated Forest Conservation through Wetland Restoration and Disease Reduction in Northeast Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$180,000	5/1/2020	4/30/2022
42	BirdLife International	<a href="#">Organic Livelihoods Conserving Cambodia's Big Five</a>	Cambodia	\$180,000	5/1/2020	4/30/2022

43	International Rivers Network	<a href="#">Minimizing Ecosystem and Community Vulnerability in Cambodia to Lower Mekong Hydropower</a>	Cambodia	\$149,996	6/1/2020	5/31/2022
44	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.	<a href="#">Inundated Forest Conservation through Wetland Restoration and Disease Reduction in Northeast Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$62,903	9/1/2021	6/30/2022
45	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.	<a href="#">Organic Livelihoods Conserving Cambodia's Big Five</a>	Cambodia	\$90,231	9/1/2021	12/31/2022
46	Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.	<a href="#">Siamese Crocodile: Icon for the Restoration of the Sekong River, Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$180,000	5/1/2020	4/30/2022
47	Sansom Mlup Prey	<a href="#">Wildlife-friendly Community Irrigation Ponds for Climate Resilience, Habitat and Collective Management in Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$208,588	6/1/2020	5/31/2022
48	Wildlife Conservation Society	<a href="#">Pragmatic Protocols for Restoration of Ecosystem Processes in Cambodia's Wild</a>	Cambodia	\$179,950	7/1/2020	6/30/2022
<b>Strategic Direction 8: Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels</b>						
49	Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association	<a href="#">Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in Protection of the Northern Plains Seasonally Inundated Forests of Cambodia</a>	Cambodia	\$60,000	7/1/2020	6/30/2022
50	Fisheries Action Coalition Team	<a href="#">Strengthening Capacity of the NGO Coalition on Fisheries and the Coalition of Cambodia Fishers</a>	Cambodia	\$180,000	6/1/2020	5/31/2022
51	NatureLife Cambodia	<a href="#">Conserve Critically Endangered Species in Cambodia through National Coordination and Research</a>	Cambodia	\$233,000	7/1/2021	6/30/2024
<b>Strategic Direction 11: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team</b>						
52	International Union for Conservation of Nature	<a href="#">Regional Implementation Team: CEPF Indo-Burma Phase III</a>	Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam	\$1,400,000	1/1/2021	9/30/2025

## Annex 3. CEPF Investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot as of 30 June 2022

