CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

An Overview of CEPF's Portfolio in the Western Ghats Region

October 2012

Introduction

The Western Ghats Region of the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot covers an area of 180,000 km^2 along the west coast of India. The region is extraordinarily rich in biodiversity. Although it occupies less than 6 percent of the land area of India, the region contains more than 30 percent of the country's plant and vertebrate species. In common with other biodiversity hotspots, the Western Ghats support a high number of species found nowhere else, including an estimated 1,500 endemic plants. The region also has a spectacular assemblage of large mammals, and contains two of India's most important areas for the conservation of Asian elephant plus one of the most essential landscapes for global tiger conservation.

Because it is a largely montane area with high, concentrated rainfall, the Western Ghats Region provides essential hydrological and other ecosystem services. Approximately 245 million people live in the peninsular Indian states that receive most of their water supply from rivers originating in the Western Ghats. Thus, with the possible exception of the Indo-Burma Hotspot, no other hotspot sustains the livelihoods of so many people.

The biodiversity values of the Western Ghats are, however, threatened by a variety of human pressures. Following a long process of conversion to cultivated land, coffee and tea plantations and hydroelectric reservoirs, only one-third of the region is still under natural vegetation. Moreover, the remaining forests are highly fragmented and face the prospect of increasing degradation. Proximate threats fall into two broad categories: localized threats, such as illegal hunting, extraction of non-timber forest products, livestock grazing and forest fires; and landscape-level threats, such as mining, roads, hydroelectric power projects and large-scale agricultural expansion.

The Western Ghats are home to diverse social, religious and linguistic groups. A key challenge is engaging these heterogeneous social groups in community efforts aimed at biodiversity conservation and consolidation of fragmented habitats in the hotspot. The region is also home to many outstanding civil society organizations, in terms of capacity and motivation. Investments by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) are helping to strengthen civil society's participation in biodiversity conservation and providing resources to a range of civil society actors who seek to catalyze change and pilot innovative and effective approaches to conservation.

Niche for CEPF Investment

Overview

The CEPF ecosystem profile and investment strategy for the Western Ghats Region were developed by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India Program and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. A stakeholder workshop was held in Bangalore, in 2003, to allow broader input from the conservation community and to provide inputs toward the formulation of a niche and investment strategy for CEPF in the region.

The ecosystem profile defined a niche for CEPF investment in the region based on analyses of conservation outcomes, threats to biodiversity, trends in current conservation investments in the region, and political 'space' for civil society to engage in biodiversity conservation. The niche recognizes that, throughout the Western Ghats, unique habitats rich in biodiversity (both protected and unprotected) occur within a highly fragmented, human-dominated landscape. Consequently, conservation will only be successful in the long term if conservation efforts are strengthened within core areas and extended to the wider matrix, with the active involvement of civil society in public as well as private lands.

In particular, the niche takes account of the fact that the Indian government is the largest investor in conservation-related activities in the Western Ghats, although much of this investment is concentrated within protected area. Investments by nongovernmental organizations and research institutes, while relatively small, play an important role in filling investment gaps (both geographic and thematic) in biodiversity research and conservation action. CEPF's niche in the Western Ghats is to provide incremental support to existing protected area efforts and generate momentum for biodiversity conservation around protected areas to enhance habitat connectivity and enable greater civil society participation in conservation efforts. The niche recognizes that, while some civil society organizations are well placed to support government-led conservation efforts within conventional protected areas, the greatest space available to civil society groups is to pilot innovative approaches outside protected areas (especially in critical links between them), through non-conventional conservation areas and by introducing biodiversity conservation into management practices within production landscapes. The niche also addresses the need for a more systematic approach to conservation planning and action for globally threatened species, particularly ones belonging to lesser-known groups, such as amphibians, fish and plants.

Guided by this niche, the ecosystem profile defined three strategic directions for CEPF investment in the Western Ghats:

1. Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors.
2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action.
3. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.

To maximize impact and enable synergies among individual projects, CEPF investment was focused on 80 key biodiversity areas located within five corridors: Anamalai; Malnad-Kodagu; Mysore-Nilgiri; Periyar-Agastyamalai; and Sahyadri-Konkan. In addition, the 332 globally threatened plant and animal species found in the region were also targeted for support.

The ecosystem profile was approved by the CEPF Donor Council in May 2007, with a total spending authority of $4.5 million. Of this amount, $2.3 million was allocated to Strategic Direction 1, $1.8 million to Strategic Direction 2 and $400,000 to Strategic Direction 3. A five-year investment program in the Western Ghats Region was launched in May 2008, under which there have been three funding rounds to date. The program was originally scheduled to end in April 2013 but, based upon strong performance of the grant portfolio, the CEPF Donor Council decided to extend it for a further two years, until April 30, 2015. The spending authority was increased to $6 million, enabling a fourth round of grants to be awarded in 2013.

Portfolio Status

CEPF grant making in the Western Ghats began on May 1, 2008, with the start of the first grant to ATREE to act as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). This grant was for $400,000, representing 100 percent of the funds available under Strategic Direction 3. The first funding round was launched on December 1, 2008, with a simultaneous call for proposals for small grants (up to $20,000) and large grants (over $20,000). Under this round, 18 large and 22 small grants were awarded, with a total value of $2,958,888. All grants made under the first round were contracted and began implementation in either the second half of 2009 or the first half of 2010.

In order to distribute the workload for the RIT and technical reviewers more evenly, the calls under the second funding round were staggered, with the call for large grant proposals being issued on November 17, 2009, followed by the call for small grant proposals on February 1, 2010. Under this round, only two large and nine small grants were awarded, with a total value of $615,773. The response to the second calls for proposals was greater than for the first call, and the lower number of grants awarded reflected an overall lower quality of application. One reason for this may have been that many of the higher capacity civil society organizations active in the Western Ghats, having received grants in the first round, choose not to apply in the second round.

During the third funding round, the calls for large and small grant proposals were issued simultaneously on April 30, 2011. The response was significantly lower than in the previous round but the overall quality of applications was higher. Consequently, under this round, nine large and 11 small grants[1] were awarded, with a total value of $463,917. Across the three funding rounds, 29 large grants were awarded, from 105 applications: a success rate of 27.6 percent. Forty-two small grants were awarded, from 154 applications: a success rate of 27.2 percent.

Therefore, as of October 1, 2012, CEPF investment in the Western Ghats totaled $4,438,577, equivalent to 99 percent of original spending authority for the region. Of this sum, $3,489,355 (79 percent) was committed to local groups and individuals, with the remainder going to international groups. This reflects the strong, dynamic and widespread local civil society presence in the region. Of the funds awarded to date, $3,839,059 has been in the form of large grants (including the RIT grant). These grants range in size from $24,900 to $499,443, with a mean of $127,969. The remaining $599,518 has been awarded in the form of small grants, ranging in size from $616 to $19,992, with a mean of $14,274.

Under SD1 (enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors), a total of $2,371,122 has been committed out of an original allocation of $2,300,000, to 17 large and 20 small grants. Under SD2 (improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action), a total of $1,667,455 has been committed out of an original allocation of $1,800,000, to 12 large and 22 small grants.

[1] This figure includes three small grants to coordinate mini-workshops of grantees awarded outside the call.

Of the original allocation of $4.5 million, therefore, only $61,423 remains uncommitted. The majority of these funds will be used to cover costs associated with the final assessment. The remainder, plus any funds that are returned unspent by closing grants, will be put towards additional grants under the fourth funding round, which are expected to be contracted during the first half of 2012.

After three rounds of grant making, excluding those funds that are not corridor specific (which account for 39 percent of total investment to date), there is a relatively even spread of both large and small grants across the five corridors, albeit with the Mysore-Nilgiri and Periyar-Agastyamalai corridors receiving roughly double the level of investment of the other three corridors (Table 1). This pattern is explained in part by the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor having the greatest concentration of conservation-focused civil society groups, and the Periyar-Agastyamalai corridor being the focus of the single largest grant in the region, with a budget of almost $500,000. In the other three corridors, relatively few civil society groups appear to be active on biodiversity conservation, which made it difficult to solicit high quality applications, even when these corridors were specifically targeted for investment, as they were under the second call. In addition, Naxalite (militant communist) activity in the central part of the Malnad-Kodagu corridor has been a major constraint on conservation groups working there. Moreover, the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor is not explicitly targeted by any CEPF investment priority, because, at the time the ecosystem profile was prepared, it was less well known biologically than the other four corridors and considered to be more of a priority for survey than for conservation action. Subsequent studies have shed more light on the biological values of the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor, thus several grants focusing on it have been supported.

Table 1: Total CEPF Investment by Corridor

CORRIDOR	Large grants	Small grants	All grants
Sahyadri-Konkan	$317,487	$74,573	$392,060
Malnad-Kodagu	$299,973	$108,481	$408,454
Mysore-Nilgiri	$743,871	$98,724	$842,595
Anamalai	$210,607	$106,684	$317,291
Periyar-Agastyamalai	$667,274	$70,555	$737,829
Not corridor specific	$1,599,847	$140,501	$1,740,348
TOTAL	**$3,839,059**	**$599,518**	**$4,438,577**

After the first three rounds of funding, the main thematic gap in the CEPF grant portfolio is Investment Priority 2.3 (evaluate the existing protected areas network for adequate globally threatened species representation, and assess effectiveness of protected area types in biodiversity conservation). This investment priority was specifically targeted by all three calls for proposals, and a number of proposals addressing it were received. However, few were of sufficient quality and scope to justify funding, and it seemed that several civil society groups with the requisite capacity to undertake this work were unwilling to do so, particularly given the great sensitivity of the Forest Department to being 'evaluated' by NGOs. This investment priority was prioritized again under the fourth call for proposals, and it remains to be seen whether suitable proposals will be forthcoming.

Overall, therefore, the CEPF grant portfolio is reasonably well balanced by investment priority, with a relatively even geographic spread of investment. As few gaps remain in relation to the investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile, it was decided that the emphasis of the fourth call for proposals ought to be on depth rather than breadth. In other words, rather than begin

many initiatives in new geographic and thematic areas, the call seeks proposals that consolidate and amplify the results of earlier CEPF grants, including through integrating them into national and local policy, leveraging financial support from public and private sector sources, building civil society networks, and documenting and disseminating results.

Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

The RIT is based at ATREE's office in Bangalore, and is integrated into the operations of the organization. As of October 1, 2012, the RIT has four full-time staff positions, supported by part-time inputs from three ATREE fellows. The four full-time staff members comprise the Project Coordinator (Dr Bhaskar Acharya), two Project Assistants (Ms Chaithanya Prabhu and Ms Renuka Reddy) and the Accountant (Mr Ashoka). The Project Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the RIT, including coordinating review of large and small grant proposals, providing strategic guidance to applicants, and monitoring CEPF implementation at the project and portfolio levels. The two Project Assistants support the Project Coordinator with all aspects of his work, with a particular emphasis on providing administrative guidance to applicants and grantees, and monitoring implementation of individual grants. The Accountant is responsible for book keeping and financial reporting of the RIT grant, as well as for overseeing contracting and disbursement of funds to small grantees. The Project Coordinator and Project Assistants have a dedicated office in the ATREE building, while the Accountant sits in the finance and accounts department, where he reports to Mr T. R. Gopi, ATREE's Financial Manager.

Technical inputs and overall strategic direction are provided an ATREE fellow, Dr Jagdish Krishnaswamy, in the position of Team Leader, supported by two other fellows (Dr Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan and Dr T. Ganesh). The ATREE fellows devote between 15 and 20 percent of their time to the project. The Team Leader is the principal point of contact between the full-time staff and the management team. Together with the other management team members, he provides key technical inputs into the proposal review process and the design of individual grants, and ensures that the CEPF grant portfolio coordinates with and responds to key developments in biodiversity conservation and environmental management in the Western Ghats.

Performance Assessment

The RIT has added significant value to CEPF investment in the Western Ghats, by: reaching out to a wide spectrum of civil society groups and enabling them to access international donor funds, sometimes for the first time; enhancing the technical quality and relevance to CEPF investment priorities of individual projects, through providing feedback based on a firsthand knowledge of the issues addressed and the capacities of the applicant institution; guiding the development of a balanced grant portfolio, including, where relevant, encouraging applicants to work synergistically and eliminate overlaps between projects; and assisting applicants to negotiate the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

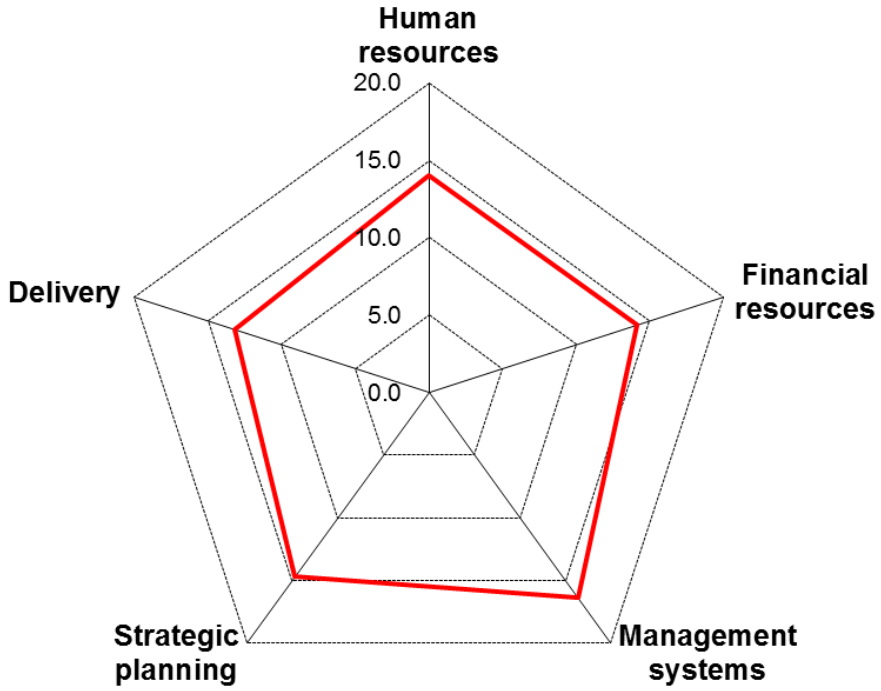
Most importantly and impressively, the RIT has been proactive in facilitating communication, information exchange and collaboration among grantees. Through these efforts, innovative conservation approaches by grantees in one area of the Western Ghats have informed approaches adopted by grantees in other areas. For example, a small grantee, Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD), working on conservation reserves in the Anamalai corridor visited another small grantee, B. L. Hegde, to learn how he successfully facilitated the establishment of four conservation reserves in the Malnad-Kodagu corridor. Also, new partnerships and alliances that leverage the complementary skills of different civil society organizations have been forged. For example, the biodiversity knowledge and information resources of the French Institute of Pondicherry have been matched with the information technology expertise of Strand Life

Sciences Ltd to develop and populate a web-based platform for open-access data sharing on Western Ghats ecology. In addition, results of grants have been taken up by other grantees to implement conservation actions arising from the recommendations of the original grants. For instance, Navadarsan Public Charitable Trust is currently implementing a project to secure two Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Sites for freshwater fishes identified during a Red List assessment of freshwater taxa led by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO).

The RIT has also helped make CEPF resources accessible to a broad range of civil society groups in India, from large national NGOs and academic institutions, to small local NGOs, colleges and, even, individuals. Of the 55 civil society actors to have received CEPF grants to date, only five are international organizations; the others comprise 31 local civil society organizations and 19 individuals (all of whom received small grants under the first round, before it was determined that grant making to individuals posed an unacceptable level of financial risk).

In order to monitor changes in their organizational capacity, all local civil society organizations receiving grants from CEPF are requested to complete a self-assessment tool, termed the Civil Society Organizational Capacity Tracking Tool, at the beginning and end of the period of CEPF support. As of October 1, 2012, 20 local groups had completed baseline self-assessments using this tool. The dimension of capacity along which these groups identified the greatest capacity constraints was delivery, followed by financial resources and human resources (Figure 1), indicating that these are areas where CEPF should focus its capacity building efforts in future. Only two organizations have so far completed end-of-project assessments. These both indicate improvements in capacity but the sample size is currently too small to make any inferences.

Figure 1. Baseline Civil Society Organizational Capacity Tracking Tool Scores for Local Civil Society Groups Receiving CEPF Funding in the Western Ghats Region



The RIT grant has 23 deliverables, spread across nine components. As of October 1, 2012, progress towards 20 of these deliverables was either on target or ahead of target. The three deliverables where the RIT was behind target all relate to dissemination of results. In particular, the RIT is responsible for maintaining regular communications with the Forest Departments in the five Western Ghats states, to inform them about progress with CEPF implementation, and ensure their continued support from projects requiring permissions for field work within protected areas. The RIT has made good progress with engaging Forest Department staff at district level and below, including by inviting them to meetings of CEPF grantees in key districts with concentrations of projects. However, the RIT has held few meetings with Chief Wildlife Wardens or other Forest Department staff at state level. In part, this reflects the challenge of scheduling meetings with senior government staff but it also reflects the fact that the RIT has been overstretched and has not given this function sufficient attention. This lacuna in RIT performance has been repeatedly brought up during supervision missions. Although a significant improvement in performance has yet to be seen, ATREE has committed to recruiting a dedicated Communications Officer to take responsibility for this function.

Another available metric of RIT performance is the amount of time taken to award grants. During the first funding round, the challenges inherent in establishing the RIT and the grant review process, coupled with the fact that this was the first time local coordination for CEPF investment had been delivered via the RIT model, resulted in a slow start to CEPF investment in the Western Ghats Region. These challenges were compounded by turnover in the grants team at the CEPF Secretariat and relocation of the ATREE office. Because of these factors, the grants made during the first funding round were not awarded as rapidly as had been originally projected (within six months). Rather, the grant-making process for the 18 large grants averaged 275 days (nine months) between the deadline for proposals and signing of the grant agreement. For the 22 small grants, the grant-making process averaged 182 days (six months) between the deadline for proposals and signing of the grant agreement. The process was shorter, on average, than that for large grants, because of the fewer steps involved; in particular, small grant applicants were not required to prepare a Letter of Inquiry (LoI).

Learning lessons from the first funding round, several changes were instituted to facilitate the grant-making process in the second round. In particular, the calls for large and small grants were staggered by at least three months, to avoid the need to coordinate two review processes simultaneously, and a rolling review process was instituted, whereby proposals were sent out for comment as soon as they were received. In spite of these modifications to the process, the speed of grant making during the second funding round deteriorated dramatically, compared with the first round. The grant-making process for the two large grants averaged 343 days (11 months), while that for the seven small grants averaged 442 days (15 months). The RIT found it very challenging to obtain technical reviews of grant proposals, whether external reviews by appropriately qualified experts or internal reviews by ATREE fellows. Reviewers cited heavy workloads and extended field work as reasons for not completing reviews in a timely fashion, and many potential reviewers were ruled out due to conflicts of interest. Another factor contributing to the slow progress during the second round was that the RIT had to invest considerable time and effort in working with the applicants to ensure that small grant proposals fit the scope of the call and were submitted by eligible institutions. Criticism of the RIT for being too lenient with applicants in allowing them unlimited time to revise proposals and obtain necessary FCRA clearances and permissions for field work must be tempered by praise for patiently supporting local civil society organizations to overcome barriers to access CEPF resources.

Because of the unsatisfactory performance of grant making during the second funding round, both in terms of speed of the process and volume of quality applications, a number of further

modifications to the process were introduced for the third round. First, strict deadlines were imposed on reviewers and applicants for submission of reviews (in the case of the former) and submission and revision of proposals (in the case of the latter). Second, review panels were instituted whereby applicants were invited to come in person and present their project concepts to a panel of ATREE fellows and invited external experts. This gave an opportunity for immediate clarification of questions about proposed projects, and for suggested changes to project design to be discussed directly with applicants. Third, the scope of the call for proposals was restricted to a series of specific topics that were identified through consultations with grantees and other stakeholders during the mid-term assessment of CEPF investment in the Western Ghats Region, held in April 2011. With these modifications to the process, and closer supervision by the CEPF Secretariat, overall performance improved dramatically for the third round. The grant-making process for the nine large grants averaged 195 days (six months) between the deadline for proposals and signing of the grant agreement, while the process for the eight small grants awarded under the call averaged 166 days (five months). In addition, there was a marked improvement in the quality of applications, with more high-quality applications being received than there were available resources to fund.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Of the 30 large and 42 small grants awarded to date, only seven large and 12 small grants had closed, as of October 1, 2012. Of the 53 active grants, 24 had been active for more than 24 months, nine had been actives for between 12 and 24 months, and 20 had been active for less than 12 months. Hence, while some grants were still at an early stage of implementation, others had already delivered tangible conservation results.

Overall, the CEPF grants portfolio has begun to have an appreciable impact on many fronts, in terms of both delivering measurable results on the ground and demonstrating proof of concept for innovative approaches and partnerships. Several grantees have been successful in leveraging support for pilot approaches from public and private funding sources, and a few have been able to positively influence plans and policies of local government. A mid-term assessment of the impacts of CEPF investment in the hotspot was conducted during April 2011, and the results are published on the CEPF website[2]. This section does not attempt to repeat this analysis but only to provide an update on progress since then.

Strategic Direction 1

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors. To this end, CEPF investments address protected areas, biodiversity-rich lands outside protected areas, and the wider habitat matrix. Within protected areas, CEPF is supporting civil society to establish partnerships with state agencies (mainly the Forest Department) to implement science-based management of priority sites (Investment Priority 1.3). Outside protected areas, CEPF is helping civil society to pilot models of community and private reserves to achieve conservation outcomes at unprotected sites (Investment Priority 1.1). In the wider matrix, CEPF is promoting partnerships to identify, evaluate and advocate for suitable mechanisms that incorporate critical links (biological corridors) into the protected area network (Investment Priority 1.2). The 37 grants awarded under Strategic Direction 1 have a good spread across the three investment priorities, and across the five conservation corridors. Grantees have piloted a range of innovative conservation approaches in the Western Ghats context, including: community forest reserves; conservation reserves; enhanced stewardship of biodiversity by the private sector

[2] http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Midterm_Assessment_Report_Western_Ghats_Final_Draft.pdf

through certification of agricultural commodities; payments for ecosystem services; and ecological monitoring in protected areas as a basis for adaptive management.

Under Investment Priority 1.1, CEPF grantees have had considerable success with piloting alternative models for site conservation that present greater opportunities to engage local communities in management and facilitate their continued access to forest resources than do conventional protected areas. The most popular model has been that of conservation reserves, which are provided for by the Wildlife Protection Act but, with one exception, had hitherto not been adopted in the Western Ghats. In the Malnad-Kodagu corridor, B. L. Hegde made use of a CEPF small grant to prepare proposals for the establishment of four conservation reserves, resulting in the declaration of Aghanashini Lion-tailed Macaque (29,952 hectares), Bedthi (5,731 hectares), Dandeli (5,250 hectares) and Shalmala Riperian Ecosystem (489 hectares) Conservation Reserves by Karnataka Forest Department. Similar proposals are being prepared for the Anamalai corridor by WILD, while Centre for Environment and Development (CED) has identified potential conservation reserves within the Periyar-Agastyamalai corridor.

Another approach currently being piloted by CEPF grantees is that of community forest reserves, which are provided for by the Forest Rights Act. This act recognizes the rights of forest-dwelling communities to secure community rights over forest resources they have traditionally accessed but implementation of this aspect of the act has been slow in the Western Ghats states. WWF India has made substantial progress towards securing rights for nine indigenous communities over 38,100 hectares within Vazhachal Forest Division, which would become only the fifth community forest reserve in Kerala. There are strong indications that the claim will be approved by the end of 2012, and WWF India is already supporting communities in Tamil Nadu to develop similar claims.

A third approach, being piloted by Keystone Foundation under two separate grants, is to support indigenous communities within Nilgiris district to restore forest patches traditionally recognized as ‘sacred groves’. This work involves ecological restoration of these areas, coupled with recognition of their cultural and ecosystem service values by the Forest Department, tea and coffee estates and neighboring non-indigenous communities. To date, four sacred groves, totaling 96 hectares, have been restored and placed under community management: Bhaviyur (42 hectares); Chedikal (22 hectares); Banagudi shola (21 hectares); and Kotada (11 hectares). Work is ongoing to restore four larger forest patches sacred to the Irula and Kurumba communities, and community forest rights claims are being prepared.

An alternative approach is being tested by Applied Ecological Research Foundation (AERF) in the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor: conservation agreements. Under these agreements, local communities are incentivized to take specified conservation actions in return for agreed development benefits. The conservation agreements are being trialed as a mechanism for conservation of forest on private land, and currently cover 40 hectares in the buffer zone of Chandoli National Park, 20 hectares in the buffer zone of Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, 35 hectares adjacent to Amboli Reserve Forest and 25 ha of biodiversity-rich fragments within sacred groves.

Elsewhere, various other alternative approaches to conventional protected areas are being piloted by CEPF grantees. Collectively, these projects are helping to test the suitability of new protected area categories, and generating good practice models that can facilitate wider application in the Western Ghats. To this end, it is encouraging that many of these initiatives have engaged the Forest Department and other government institutions as active partners, to promote wider uptake of new models. One of the most interesting initiatives in this regard has been a project implemented by Arulagam, in partnership with Care Earth Trust, to support local communities

living along the Moyar River in the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor to develop conservation micro-plans. These micro-plans were taken up by the Forest Department, and incorporated into its working plans, and also by three panchayats (local government units), which allocated a portion of their annual budgets to implement them. Further resources for implementation of the plans were provided by private businesses, which allocated a proportion of their corporate social responsibility budgets to the panchayats for implementation of the micro-plans. In a similar way, Keystone Foundation has developed participatory conservation plans for three unprotected wetlands in Nilgiri district and is attempting to integrate them into plans and budgets of the district administration and the Hill Area Development Program.

Under Investment Priority 1.2, CEPF grantees have identified, evaluated and piloted various mechanisms for securing critical links (biological corridors) essential for maintaining ecological connectivity at the landscape scale. On the identification and evaluation side, Wildlife Trust of India helped secure seven critical links for Asian elephant in the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor. This was achieved by assessing land-use and human activities in the corridors, monitoring usage by elephants and other large mammals, mapping and demarcating the corridors, and preparing plans for securing each corridor. Further south, WILD is also leveraging civil society's role as a generator of knowledge to inform conservation planning by the Forest Department. In this case, the grantee is assessing the status and distribution of large mammals in High Wavies KBA and its environs, and applying the results to planning for protected area expansion in Theni Forest Division, which bridges the Anamalai and Periyar-Agastyamalai corridors. Also in the Anamalai corridor, Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) is identifying wildlife crossing points along roads in and around Anamalai Tiger Reserve, and using the results to suggest relevant mitigation measures to minimize road kill. In this case, the main audience is the Highways Department, and several key policy recommendations have already been adopted, such as replacing solid concrete barriers with metal fences, which allow animals to pass underneath, and installation of signage.

Other grantees have actually piloted mechanisms for securing critical links. Although the piloted approaches are diverse, one common feature is that they all recognize that critical links tend to pass through landscapes with resident human populations, and often complex patterns of land tenure. Thus, the approaches attempt to introduce or strengthen biodiversity management within production landscapes. One of the most successful initiatives, in this regard, has been a pair of linked grants to NCF and Rainforest Alliance to foster sustainable, biodiversity-enhancing agriculture practices, through the promotion of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard. To date, over 12,500 hectares of coffee and 6,700 hectares of tea plantations in the Western Ghats have adopted sustainable agriculture practices, in order to achieve Rainforest Alliance certification, and additional estates are expected to adopt the standard and apply for certification in coming years. A key achievement of this project was to solicit commitments from three major tea brands (Unilever, Tetley and Teekanne) to source and sell Rainforest Alliance certified tea from the Western Ghats. This sent a strong market signal to tea producers to move towards certification. Following on from this successful initiative, Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and Rainforest Alliance are now exploring the feasibility of using certification to promote biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices in the rubber sector.

Another mechanism for securing critical links in the wider matrix is being piloted by FERAL in the Periyar-Agastyamalai corridor. The project aims to enhance ecological connectivity across the Shencottah Gap, which separates the northern and southern parts of the corridor, by promoting biodiversity-friendly land-use practices on private estates and smallholdings. The project has so far identified two potential wildlife corridors across the gap, linking Periyar and Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserves, and is testing conservation auctions as a means of compensating land-holders for the opportunity costs of conservation actions, such as removing fences, restoring

natural vegetation and removing crops that encourage human-elephant conflict. The project has also initiated a program of camera trapping to monitor wildlife usage of the corridors, and is piloting community agreements as a way of engaging local tribal communities in this program. Like many other CEPF investments, the project promises to deliver tangible benefits to local communities, at the same time as realizing conservation goals.

Other mechanisms to secure critical links being piloted by CEPF grantees involve responding to key threats to ecological connectivity at the landscape scale, particularly those arising from development activities. For instance, Equitable Tourism Options (EQUATIONS) is facilitating a participatory assessment of the impacts of unregulated tourism development in the Masinagudi-Bokkapuram area of the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor, which threatens ecological connectivity across a critical elephant corridor. More widely, Environics Trust is helping to respond to the negative social and environmental impacts of development projects, particularly in the mining industry, arising from faulty environmental clearances, by providing training for affected communities to help them understand and engage in environmental impact assessment and public hearing processes.

There are considerable barriers to civil society groups in India working with the Forest Department to promote science-based management of protected areas. Consequently, CEPF has made rather few grants under Investment Priority 1.3. One of these has been to WCS, for improving protected area effectiveness through enhanced civil society support and rigorous monitoring of wildlife populations and threats. This project, which focuses on protected areas and neighboring reserve forests in Karnataka, spanning the Sahyadri-Konkan, Malnad-Kodagu and Mysore-Nilgiri corridors, has so far provided training to 59 Forest Department staff and 343 civil society volunteers in monitoring of large mammal populations and threats to biodiversity. At each site, meetings have been held with local Range Forest Officers and Park Wardens to discuss conservation issues, and bring their attention to specific threats observed, and improvements in management have been observed across more than 100,000 hectares of protected areas. Another grant under Investment Priority 1.4 is being implemented in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu state. Here, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust is conducting trials of different techniques for removal of *Lantana camara*, an alien invasive plant species, which is a problem at many protected areas in the Western Ghats. The project aims to develop a simple management protocol that can be implemented by government.

Strategic Direction 2

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action. To this end, CEPF is supporting civil society groups to monitor and assess the conservation status of globally threatened species with an emphasis on lesser-known organisms, in order to establish priorities for action (Investment Priority 2.1). For species already identified as the highest priorities for action, CEPF is investing in the creation and implementation of species recovery and management plans (Investment Priority 2.2). Also, in order to ensure that site conservation efforts address the needs of all species for which they are needed, CEPF aims to support efforts to evaluate the existing protected area network for adequate representation of globally threatened species and assess the effectiveness of different protected area types (Investment Priority 2.3). Finally, in order to provide a basis for systematic conservation planning and integration of biodiversity considerations into development plans and projects, CEPF is supporting interdisciplinary efforts to analyze and disseminate biodiversity data through a publically accessible on-line portal (Investment Priority 2.4).

Under Investment Priority 2.1, the IUCN Species Programme, in partnership with ZOO and other local civil society organizations and experts, has successfully undertaken a comprehensive Red List assessment of four major freshwater taxa. Red List assessments were completed for 1,146 species, comprising 290 fishes, 77 mollusks, 171 odonates and 608 aquatic plants. The results of this assessment are already being applied to conservation planning and action, under a series of follow-on projects, some of which are funded by CEPF. For example, WILD is undertaking a protected area gap analysis with respect to freshwater biodiversity, and promoting the incorporation of the results of the Red List assessment into national policy. Similarly, as mentioned previously, Navadarsan Public Charitable Trust is promoting the conservation of single-site endemic fish species at two AZE sites identified through the Red List assessment: Periyar Lake; and Santhampara Hills.

A similar Red Listing exercise is currently being undertaken for reptiles, under a grant led by WILD. Again, follow-on projects are working to incorporate the results into policy (such as the national list of protected species), develop education and outreach materials, and use the results of the assessments to guide conservation management within and outside protected areas. Reptiles are also the focus of a project led by the Indian Institute of Science, which is attempting to address the information gap with regard to the distribution of reptiles and amphibians across the Western Ghats. Another CEPF grantee working on amphibians is the University of Delhi, which has conducted targeted searches for little-known species, resulting in the rediscovery of species that had not been recorded for decades and, in some cases, were feared extinct.

Other lesser-known taxonomic groups to benefit under Investment Priority 2.1 include: tarantulas, whose status and distribution in Uttara Kannada district have been assessed by Manju Siliwal, informing a protected area gap analysis for the species and resulting in the discovery of new species to science; bats, for which Mahesh Sankaran and colleagues have developed an echo-location call library, as a tool for transforming survey and monitoring efforts; and small carnivores, for which Devcharan Jathanna has investigated the ecology of several elusive and cryptic species and used the results to construct a model to predict current patterns of persistence and identify areas for species-focused conservation.

Quite surprisingly, there have been relatively few proposals to develop and implement species recovery and management plans, perhaps revealing a preference among civil society groups in the Western Ghats for species-focused research over species-focused action. Nevertheless, several highly threatened species have benefited from CEPF investments under Investment Priority 2.2. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in partnership with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Arulagam and other local partners undertook work to avert the extinction of vulture species in the Western Ghats, as part of a nationwide recovery program. Activities included surveys to establish the current status of vulture populations in the wild, support to a captive insurance population of vultures, and the establishment of 'Vulture Safe Zones', where veterinary use of diclofenac (the non-steroidal anti-inflamatory drug implicated in the species' decline) is strictly monitored and controlled. Project achievements included the first successful captive breeding of the Critically Endangered long-billed vulture in the world, while a follow-on grant to Arulagam has made good progress towards establishing the first Vulture Safe Zone in the Western Ghats in the Moyar Valley.

Another highly threatened species to benefit under Investment Priority 2.2 has been the Endangered lion-tailed macaque: one of the flagship species of the hotspot. CEPF small grantee, H. N. Kumara, undertook an ecological study to understand food preferences of the monkey and compare them to patterns of forest product use by local human communities. The results of this project were used to inform the management regime for the newly established Aghanashini Lion-

tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve in the Malnad-Kodagu corridor. Also in this corridor, the Snehakunja Trust is leading a collaborative initiative with Sirsi Forestry College and Karnataka Forest Department to restore *Myristica* swamps: one of the most threatened ecosystem types in India and home to a suite of highly threatened plant species. To date, this project has successfully restored three chains of swamps, and leveraged funding from the state government to expand restoration efforts to all *Myristica* swamps in the state. These efforts are being supported and sustained through the establishment of community-based organizations, through which local people are being given opportunities to become directly involved in and benefit directly from conservation activities, for instance through establishment of decentralized community nurseries.

As discussed previously, very few proposals have been received under Investment Priority 2.3, which is thought to be due to the barriers faced by civil society groups wishing to engage with the Forest Department to evaluate the coverage and effectiveness of protected areas. One project that has been supported is a grant to WILD to apply the results of the aforementioned Red List assessments of reptiles and freshwater taxa to a protected area gap analysis. This project has had some traction with state Forest Departments, especially in Kerala, where the Nelliampathy Hills have been identified as an important gap in protected area coverage and more detailed planning is underway. Nevertheless, Investment Priority 2.3 remains the largest thematic gap in the CEPF grants portfolio, and has been explicitly targeted under the new call for proposals announced in November 2012.

Under Strategic Direction 2.4, CEPF is supporting a major collaborative initiative to develop an open-access, web-based information platform on Western Ghats ecology, through a pair of linked grants to the French Institute of Pondicherry, an academic institution, and Strand Life Sciences Ltd, a private company. Through this initiative, the 'Western Ghats Portal' has been successfully launched, and populated with 96 downloadable map layers, 290 species checklists and 1,129 species pages. The portal allows researchers, managers or members of the public to upload geo-referenced photographs of plants and animals, thereby enabling the 'crowd-sourcing' of data from a broad cross-section of society working in and visiting the Western Ghats. While rapid progress has been made with developing and populating the portal, uptake of the portal by users has not been as rapid as expected. In part, this seems to have been because assumptions about internet access for university students and researchers (two of the main user groups) appear to have been over optimistic. During the remainder of the project, the main focus will be on promoting use of the portal, as well as ensuring institutional and financial sustainability.

Collaboration with CEPF Donor Partners

Three CEPF grants awarded to date have close links to investments by CEPF donors. Under Strategic Direction 1, the grants to FERAL to pilot innovative payment-for-ecosystem-services mechanisms in the Periyar-Agastyamalai corridor and to AERF to build civil society networks for the conservation of forests on private lands in the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor are both piloting versions of the conservation agreements model. The Conservation Stewards Program at CI has been instrumental in the development of this model globally, and is providing support to FERAL and AERF to pilot the approach in the Indian context, including through facilitating exchange of experience with other initiatives in its portfolio of projects in Asia. There have also been discussions to adopt the FERAL project as a pilot under the "Conservation Agreement Private Partnership Platform" proposed by CI under the GEF Earth Fund, with the World Bank as Implementing Agency. The project is a perfect fit with the goal of the platform, which is to forge mutually beneficial links between the private sector and local communities and landowners who commit to achieve biodiversity conservation, reduce land degradation, support climate regulation efforts, and promote sustainable natural resource management.

Under Strategic Direction 2, CEPF is supported an important initiative to undertake Red List assessments for freshwater biodiversity and use the results to inform planning for hydropower, irrigation and other developments threatening freshwater ecosystems and the essential services they provide. This project, led by the IUCN Species Programme, complemented a similar initiative in the Eastern Himalayas supported by the MacArthur Foundation. The two projects were closely coordinated to ensure sharing of data and cost efficiencies.

The semi-annual supervision missions conducted by the CEPF Secretariat have provided an opportunity for headquarters and regional staff from CEPF donors to visit projects in the field, and explore alignment with their own portfolios in India. To date, staff from of l'Agence Française de Développement, the European Commission, the GEF and the World Bank have visited the CEPF program in the Western Ghats, and visits have been made to the GEF Operational Focal Point within the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A five-year participatory assessment, scheduled for June 2013, will provide another opportunity for CEPF donors to gain firsthand experience of the program.

Conclusion

After a relatively slow start (see Chart 4), rapid progress has been made over the last three years towards development of a balanced and effective grant portfolio in the Western Ghats. The grants awarded under the first three funding rounds are notable for the number of innovative conservation approaches being piloted, and the level of collaboration and information sharing taking place within a civil society conservation movement renowned for its fractious nature.

Throughout, the RIT has performed effectively and maintained close coordination with the CEPF Secretariat. This has allowed efficient grant making, ensured compliance with CEPF's financial and social safeguard policies, and provided a good practice model for CEPF implementation in other investment regions.

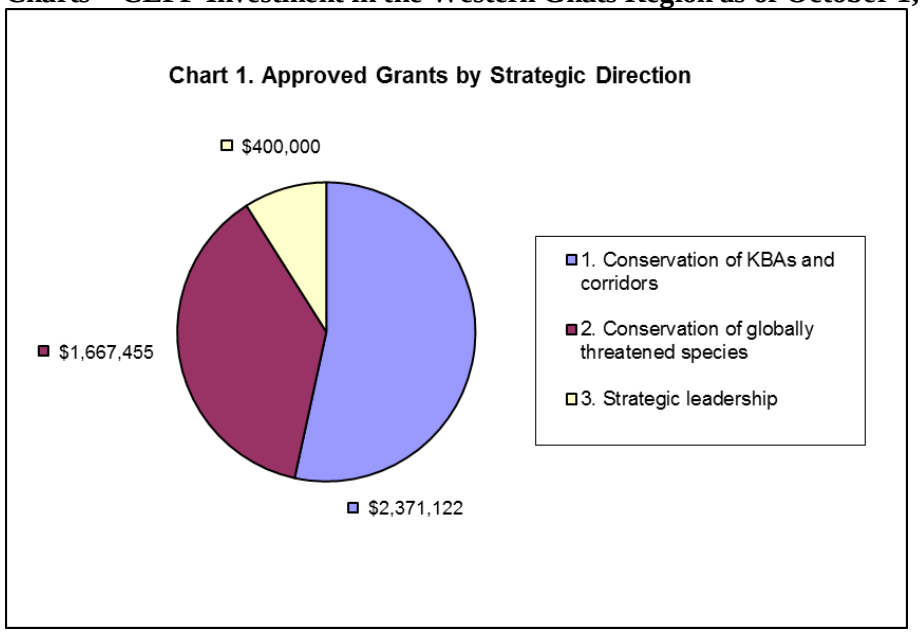
Implementation of the individual grants in the portfolio is at various stages, with around one-quarter of awarded grants having already closed. CEPF grants are beginning to deliver results in relation to almost all parts of the investment strategy, with Investment Priority 2.3 on assessment of protected area effectiveness and network coverage being the most obvious gap. There are encouraging signs that CEPF grants are beginning to influence government policy and planning, particularly at panchayat and district levels, as well as management practices in the private sector, especially in the plantation agriculture sector. However, more work is needed in this area, to ensure the sustainability of CEPF results.

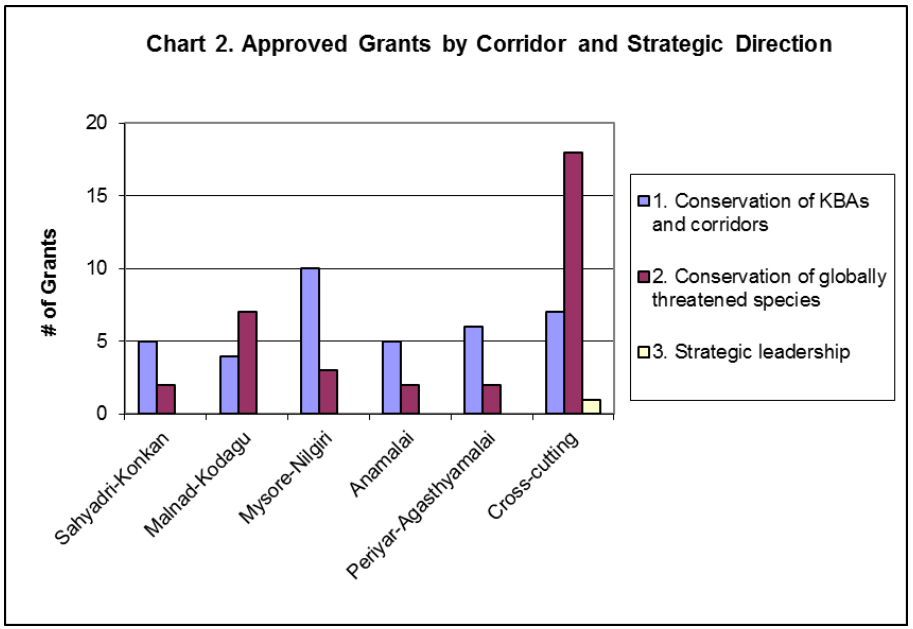
From the mid-term assessment and supervision missions, it is clear that CEPF has great potential to be an agent for positive change among the conservation movement in the Western Ghats. Possible future directions for CEPF include but are not necessarily limited to: catalyzing innovation (by supporting demonstration projects to test new ideas in the field, combined with network building to amplify pilots, through creation of market linkages and incorporation into government policies); responding to climate change (through further development and testing of incentive-based mechanisms for forest protection and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation); conserving biodiversity outside conventional protected areas (by supporting new models for site-based conservation, including conservation reserves, community forest resource use areas, and forest protection on private lands); and building a green economy (by supporting demonstration projects that generate value from the conservation and sustainable management of natural ecosystems, expand certification to new commodities, and test new payment for ecosystem service mechanisms with private companies). It is also clear that CEPF

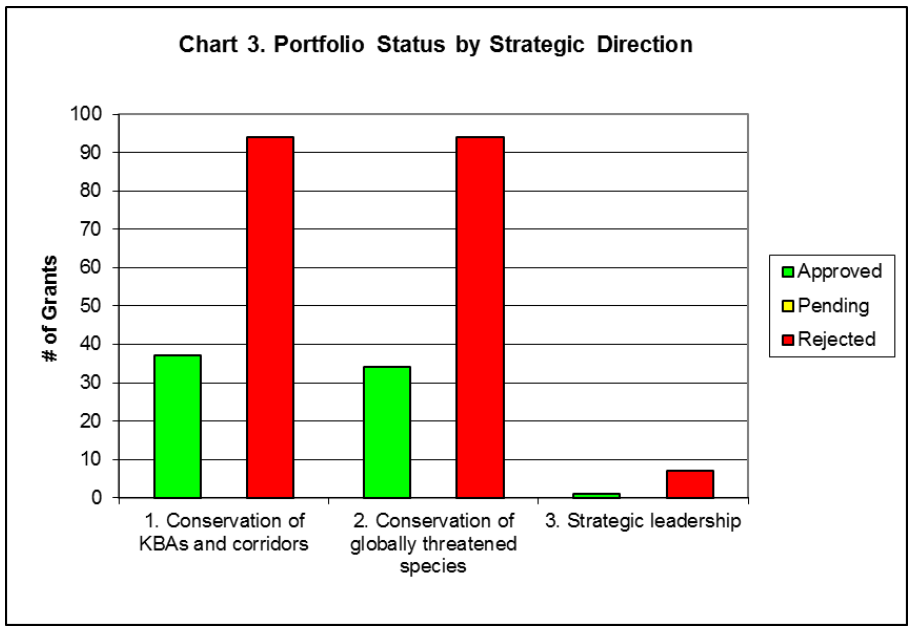
will need to engage with a broader range of civil society groups, including some not traditionally seen as part of the conservation movement, if the requisite capacities are to be brought to bear on this ambitious program of work.

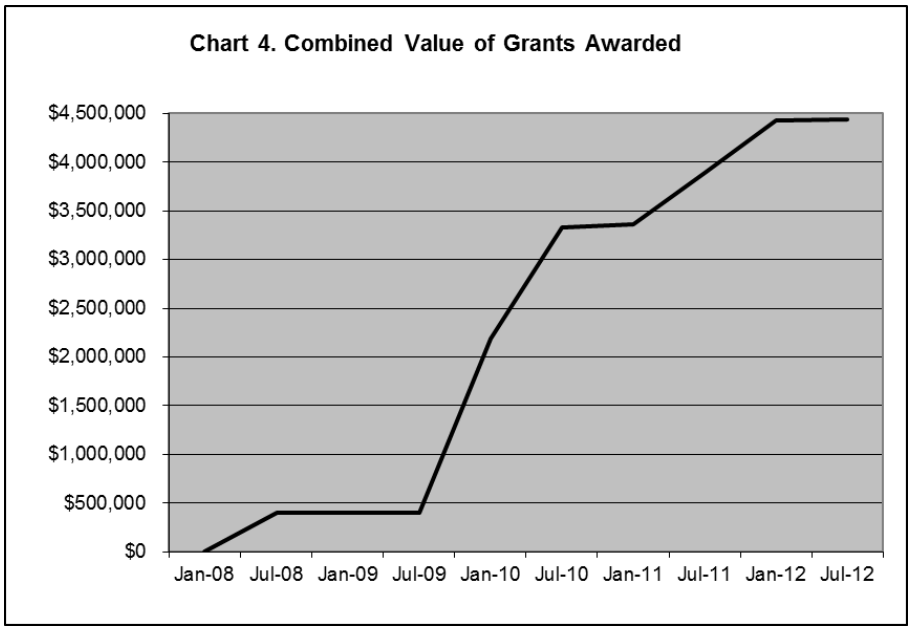
Although CEPF is currently one of the largest sources of international biodiversity funding available to civil society groups working in the Western Ghats, it is very modest relative to the sums being invested in biodiversity by the Government of India. In this context, it is very important that CEPF continues to: catalyze innovative approaches to conservation that leverage the knowledge, networks and perspectives of civil society; support work that complements major investments within conventional protected areas; and documents and disseminates results, to promote replication. These areas are all emphasized in the new call for proposals, issued in November 2012, which aims to program the additional funding allocated to the region. The first four-and-a-half years of CEPF implementation have established a solid foundation of capacity, networks and practical examples of conservation solutions, which will be built upon during the remaining two-and-a-half years, to create lasting conservation results with sustained support from the public and private sectors.

Charts – CEPF Investment in the Western Ghats Region as of October 1, 2012









Annex 1 – Update of the Logical Framework for CEPF Investment in the Western Ghats

Objective	Targets	Progress
Conserve and manage globally important biodiversity by strengthening the involvement and effectiveness of NGOs and other sectors of civil society in biodiversity conservation in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot: Western Ghats Region.	NGOs and civil society actors, including the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the CEPF ecosystem profile for the Western Ghats Region.	55 civil society actors have received CEPF grants, including ATREE as the RIT. Of these, 5 are international organizations, 31 are local organizations and 19 (all small grantees) are individuals.
	Alliances and networks among civil society groups formed to avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact in support of the CEPF ecosystem profile for the Western Ghats Region.	7 alliances and networks have been forged: (i) Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) has formed a network of civil society groups engaged in conservation in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor; (ii) Environics Trust has created a website called Western Ghats EIA Watch to network stakeholders to monitor and engage in the environmental approval process for development projects; (iii) Keystone Foundation has founded the Nilgiri Natural History Society to network and exchange information among organizations and individuals with interests in Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve; (iv) Rainforest Alliance and Nature Conservation Foundation have forged an alliance for setting standards for sustainably produced coffee and tea; (v) IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, through its local partner Zoo Outreach Organization, has created a network of freshwater biodiversity experts to update the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; (vi) The French Institute of Pondicherry, Strand Life Sciences Ltd and several other data-holding institutions have forged an alliance to develop the Western Ghats Portal as an open-access, on-line data repository on Western Ghats ecology; (vii) Biome Conservation Foundation has formed a civil society network for conservation of rocky plateaus in the Sahyadri-Konkan corridor.
	Development plans or policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.	1 policy has been influenced to accommodate biodiversity: (i) Tamil Nadu Highways Department has introduced

		measures to minimize road kill of wildlife in the Anamalai Corridor.
	80 key biodiversity areas have new or strengthened protection and management guided by a sustainable management plan.	Management has been strengthened at 15 KBAs: Amboli Reserve Forest (RF); Chandoli National Park (NP); Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS); Haliyal RF; Indira Gandhi WLS; Kollegal FD; Kotagiri-Longwood Shola; Koyna WLS; Kudremukh NP; Mudumalai WLS; Nilgiris North Forest Division (FD); Parambikulam WLS; Sharavathi WLS; Talaimalai RF; Vazhachal FD.
Intermediate Outcomes	**Intermediate Indicators**	**Progress**
Outcome 1: Action by diverse communities and partnerships enabled to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and to enhance connectivity in the target corridors	Percent of targeted protected areas with strengthened protection and management.	Management has been strengthened at 8 protected areas, equivalent to 57 percent of those targeted to date: Anamalai Tiger Reserve; Chandoli NP; Dandeli WLS; Koyna WLS; Kudremukh NP; Mudumalai WLS; Parambikulam WLS; Sharavathi WLS.
Original allocation: $2,300,000 Revised allocation: $3,300,000	Percent of projects outside protected areas that introduce and/or strengthen biodiversity in management practices	9 projects, equivalent to 30 percent of the 30 projects located outside protected areas, have integrated biodiversity conservation into management practices of production landscapes, including reserve forests, tea and coffee estates, and arable farms.
	Percent of projects that enable stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by Indigenous and local communities in focus areas.	17 grants, equivalent to 24 percent of the 72 grants made to date, have enabled stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by local communities.
	Number of hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.	201,545 hectares of KBAs have strengthened protection and management: (i) training has been provided to Forest Department staff responsible for managing 110,000 hectares within Sharavathi KBA, and 50,000 hectares within Male Mahadeshwara Hills (Kollegal KBA); (ii) 19,100 hectares within Vazhachal KBA and 4,200 hectares within Parambikulam KBA with strengthened protection from fire and poaching; (iii) 16,000 hectares within Mudumalai, Nilgiri North

		Forest Division and Talaimalai KBAs covered by community conservation actions; (iv) 1,500 hectares in Haliyal KBA benefit from improvement management of human-elephant conflict; (v) 450 hectares of forest adjacent to Kotagiri-Longwood Shola and Indira Gandhi KBAs benefit from strengthened conservation management within certified tea and coffee estates; (vi) 95 hectares of forest on private land within Chandoli, Koyna and Amboli RF are covered by conservation agreements with the landholders; (vii) 88 hectares within a vital wildlife corridor connecting Kudremukh KBA with adjoining shola forest have enhanced protection; (viii) 75 hectares of freshwater swamps within Sharavathi KBA are under restoration and long-term management; (xi) 37 hectares of agricultural land in two unprotected enclaves within Dandeli KBA have biodiversity-friendly management practices.
	Number of hectares in newly established or expanded protected areas.	Protected area coverage in the Western Ghats has increased by 151,334 hectares through the creation of new and expansion of existing protected areas: (i) Cauvery WLS has been expanded by 50,059 hectares (from 52,695 to 102,754 hectares); (ii) Aghanashini Lion-tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve has been declared, covering 29,952 hectares (iii) Dandeli WLS has been expanded by 24,806 hectares (from 63,835 to 88,641 hectares); (iv) Someshwara WLS has been expanded by 22,586 hectares (from 8,840 to 31,426 hectares); (v) Mookambika WLS has been expanded by 12,337 hectares (from 24,700 to 37,037 hectares); (vi) Bedthi Conservation Reserve has been declared, covering 5,731 hectares; (vii) Dandeli Conservation Reserve has been declared, covering 5,250 hectares; (viii) Shalmala Riperian Ecosystem Conservation

		Reserve has been declared, covering 489 hectares; (ix) 4 sacred groves totaling 96 hectares have been restored and placed under community management: Bhaviyur (42 hectares); Chedikal (22 hectares); Banagudi shola (21 hectares); and Kotada (11 hectares); (x) 28 hectares of the River Moyar floodplain have been protected through community agreements.
	Partnerships (including with state agencies) established to implement progressive science-based management, conservation and monitoring of priority sites.	7 partnerships have been established to implement progressive science-based management, conservation and monitoring of priority sites: (i) AERF has forged community-civil society partnerships to enhance conservation of forests on private lands in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor. (ii) Amitha Bachan has established a protocol for biodiversity monitoring, engaging Kadar tribal people, sponsored and supported by Kerala Forest Department in Vazhachal Forest Division. (iii) Arulagam has facilitated partnerships among communities, local government and civil society for conservation of biodiversity along the Moyar River. (iv) Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning has forged partnerships with local tribal communities for monitoring wildlife usage of a proposed ecological corridor. (v) Keystone Foundation has forged partnerships among communities, local government and civil society for the conservation of hill wetlands within Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. (vi) Snehakunja Trust has established a protocol for restoration of freshwater swamps, with participation and support from the Forest Department, Sirsi Forestry College and local communities. (vii) Wildlife Conservation Society has established a protocol for systematic monitoring of tiger prey species and threats, engaging volunteers, supported by Karnataka Forest Department at several tiger reserves and adjoining unprotected areas.

Outcome 2: Conserve globally threatened species and habitats through systematic conservation planning and action Original allocation: $1,800,000 Revised allocation: $2,050,000	Percent of targeted areas with strengthened protection and management. Number of hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management. Number of hectares in newly established or expanded protected areas. The status and distribution of globally threatened plant species investigated and results applied to planning, management, awareness raising and/or outreach.	Management has been strengthened at 8 protected areas, equivalent to 57 percent of those targeted to date (see above for details). 201,545 hectares of KBAs have strengthened protection and management (see above for details). Protected area coverage in the Western Ghats has increased by 151,334 hectares through the creation of new and expansion of existing protected areas (see above for details). The status and distribution of 608 species of aquatic plant has been assessed, and the results disseminated via the Red List of Threatened Species, where they can be used to inform conservation action.
Outcome 3: A regional implementation team effectively coordinates the CEPF investment in the Western Ghats Region. Original allocation: $400,000 Revised allocation: $650,000	Number of groups receiving grants that achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard RIT performance in fulfilling the approved terms of reference.	To date, 7 large and 12 small grants have closed. Of these, 6 large and 12 small grants were assessed as having met or exceeded expectations with regard to delivery of expected results in the final performance scorecard. Progress is on or ahead of schedule for 20 of the 23 deliverables in the logical framework for the RIT grant. The three deliverables where progress is behind schedule relate to communication of results to state forest departments and other key stakeholders.
Strategic Funding Summary	**Amount**	**Investment Period**
Original Spending Authority	$4,500,000	May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2013
Revised Spending Authority	$6,000,000	May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2015