CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

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

December 2014

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 Indo-Burma, no other hotspot sustains the livelihoods of so many people.

The biodiversity values of the Western Ghats are, however, threatened by a variety of anthropogenic 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 defines 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 areas. 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 for piloting 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 defines 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 is 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 are 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 were three funding rounds initially. 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 $6.1 million, enabling a fourth round of grants to be awarded in 2013. Subsequently, a decision was made to extend the timeframe of the program until December 31, 2015, to allow more time for projects to meet their objectives and transition to other sources of funding.

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 almost $3 million. All grants made under the first round 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, totaling more than $600,000. 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 applications. 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 almost $500,000. The fourth funding round also featured simultaneous calls for large and small grant proposals, which were issued on November 15, 2012. As there were relatively few gaps in the investment portfolio at that point, the fourth call emphasized consolidating and amplifying the results of earlier CEPF projects. In particular, it encouraged applications that leveraged financial support from government programs or integrated results into district, state and national policy. Under the fourth call, 14 large and 16 small grants were awarded, with a total value of more than $1.4 million, while the RIT grant was increased by $250,000 to cover the extension period.

Across the four funding rounds, 43 large grants were awarded from 150 applications, while 59 small grants were awarded from 201 applications. For large and small grants alike, the success rate was 29 percent, approximating to one application in three.

As of October 1, 2014, CEPF investment in the Western Ghats totaled $6,106,463, meaning that the entire spending authority for the region has been committed. Of this sum, $5,003,320 (81 percent) was awarded 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

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

region. Of the funds awarded, $5,219,047 was in the form of large grants (including the RIT grant). Excluding the RIT grant, these grants range in size from $24,900 to $499,443 with a mean of $106,257. The remaining $887,417 was awarded in the form of small grants, ranging in size from $602 to $20,000, with a mean of $15,041.

In terms of the thematic distribution of CEPF investment within the portfolio, Strategic Direction 1 (enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors) has received the largest share of funds, with a total $3,242,898 awarded to 24 large and 31 small grants. Under Strategic Direction 2 (improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action), a total of $2,213,565 has been committed, to 19 large and 28 small grants. Finally, $650,000 has been committed under Strategic Direction 3 (provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team) for the RIT grant. This distribution of funds among strategic directions is in line with the revised allocations following the extension of the program.

Considering next the geographic distribution of CEPF grant making, excluding those grants that are not specific to one or more corridors (which account for 38 percent of total investment), 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 more investment than the other three (Table 1). This pattern is partly explained 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 largest grant in the portfolio (excluding the RIT grant). In the other three corridors, relatively few civil society groups appear to be active on biodiversity conservation, which has made it difficult to solicit high quality applications, even when these corridors were specifically targeted for investment. 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 was 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	$459,811	$120,270	$580,081
Malnad-Kodagu	$358,511	$162,672	$521,183
Mysore-Nilgiri	$1,133,731	$204,380	$1,338,111
Anamalai	$275,606	$148,825	$424,431
Periyar-Agastyamalai	$822,838	$89,751	$912,589
Not corridor specific	$1,518,549	$811,519	$2,330,068
TOTAL	**$4,569,046**	**$1,537,417**	**$6,106,463**

Overall, therefore, the CEPF grant portfolio is well balanced by investment priority, with a relatively even geographic spread of investment. Because few investment gaps remained after the first three funding rounds, grant making under the fourth round emphasized consolidation of existing initiatives and promoting the take-up of successful models into government policies and programs, rather than launching fresh initiatives in new geographic and thematic areas.

Coordinating CEPF Grant Making
ATREE has served as the RIT for the Western Ghats for more than six years, working closely with the CEPF Secretariat to coordinate and manage CEPF grant making. ATREE has assembled a dedicated team, with four full-time staff, supported by part-time inputs from three ATREE fellows, and has established peer-review systems that ensure transparency and quality control of the grant-making process. ATREE has also introduced the necessary processes to ensure effective management of a small granting mechanism, financial and programmatic risk assessment of individual grants, and compliance with World Bank social and environmental safeguard policies.

The RIT is the steward of the CEPF grant portfolio for the Western Ghats, in close cooperation with the CEPF Secretariat. The RIT maintains close contact with CEPF grantees at each stage of project identification, design and implementation, providing guidance and assistance, where needed. The RIT performs the following key functions:

- Act as an extension service to assist civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities.
- Review all grant applications and manage external reviews with technical experts and advisory committees.
- Award grants up to $20,000 and decide jointly with the CEPF Secretariat on all other applications.
- Lead the monitoring and evaluation of individual projects using standard tools, site visits, and meetings with grantees, and assist the CEPF Secretariat in portfolio-level monitoring and evaluation.
- Widely communicate CEPF objectives, opportunities to apply for grants, lessons learned, and results.
- Involve the existing regional program of the RIT, CEPF donor and implementing agency representatives, government officials, and other sectors within the hotspot in implementation.
- Ensure effective coordination with the CEPF Secretariat on all aspects of implementation.

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

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

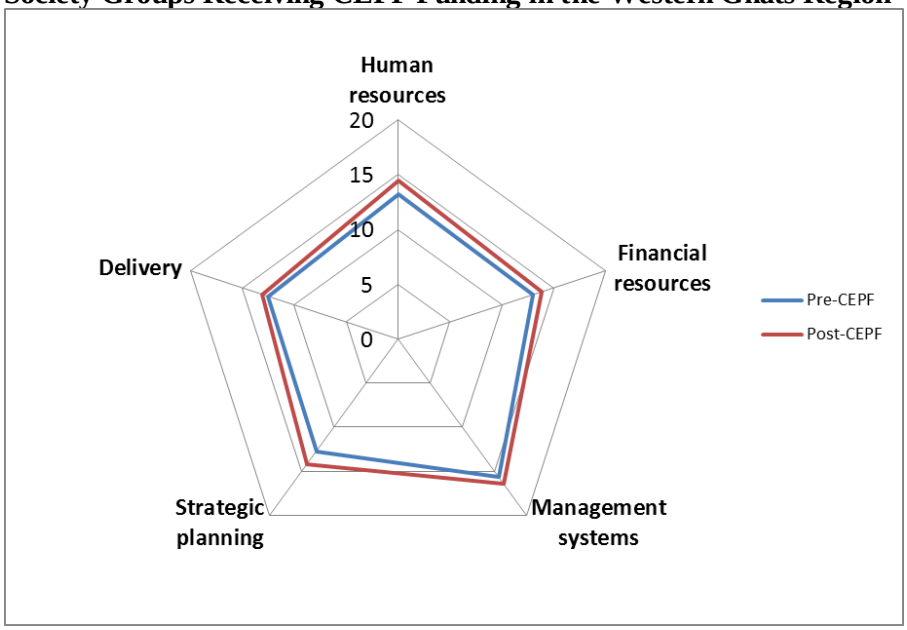
Pondicherry were matched with the information technology expertise of Strand Life Sciences Ltd to develop and populate a web-based platform for open-access data sharing on Western Ghats ecology. In addition, results of grants have been taken up by other grantees to implement conservation actions arising from the recommendations of the original grants. For instance, Navadarsan Public Charitable Trust implemented a project to secure Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Sites for freshwater fishes that were 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 62 civil society actors that have received CEPF grants to date, only five are international organizations; the others comprise 38 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, 2014, 32 local groups had completed baseline self-assessments using this tool. The dimension of capacity along which these groups identified the greatest capacity constraints was human resources, followed by financial resources and delivery, indicating that these are areas where CEPF should focus its capacity building efforts.

Twelve of these organizations have so far completed final self-assessments, at the end of the period of CEPF support. Collectively, these grantees showed modest increases in capacity scores against all five dimensions, with the greatest increases with respect to Strategic Planning and Human Capacity (Figure 1). Individually, there was significant variation among grantees, with eight reporting increases of between 2 and 22.5 points, three reporting no overall change, and one reporting a decrease of 1.5 points.

Figure 1. Civil Society Organizational Capacity Tracking Tool Scores for 12 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, 2014, 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 key government stakeholders, to inform them about progress with CEPF implementation, and ensure good coordination with government initiatives. Although the RIT has been reasonably successful at engaging with Forest Department staff at the district level and below, engaging senior officials at the state and national level has been hampered by frequent turnover of senior officials. ATREE has not been able to fully respond to this identified shortcoming in RIT performance, in part due to difficulties with recruiting and retaining suitably qualified communications staff.

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 grant making. 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 originally been 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, and had to invest considerable time and effort in working with the applicants to ensure that small grant proposals fit the scope of the call.

Because of the unsatisfactory performance of grant making during the second funding round, 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.

The innovations introduced during the third funding round were retained for the fourth round. The grant-making process was correspondingly swift, averaging 177 days (6 months) for large grants, and 220 days (7 months) for small grants. There were delays encountered in contracting some small grants due to the need to verify that first-time grantees had the necessary permissions to receive foreign funds under the FCRA. The quality of applications submitted in the fourth round was high, and several that were of sufficient technical quality were rejected due to lack of funding. This was the first funding round in which demand for CEPF grants in the Western Ghats (in terms of quality applications) outstripped supply.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

The CEPF grant portfolio in the Western Ghats is at a mature stage. Of the 103 grants awarded, 64 have closed, as of October 1, 2014, and all of the grants that remained active have been under implementation for at least 12 months. Consequently, many grants have had observable impacts, and the outlines of the overall legacy are already discernible. In mid-2013, an evaluation of the first five years of CEPF investment was carried out, which summarized the main achievements of the program as follows:

- Coherent and balanced grants portfolio developed, comprising 101 grants with a total value of $6.1 million.
- Global threat assessments undertaken for 1,394 species, as a basis for more effective and better targeted conservation planning and action.
- Species recovery and management plans implemented for 13 priority species, comprising two mammals, four birds and seven plants, including the first successful breeding of the Critically Endangered Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*) in captivity.
- Web-based portal on the biodiversity and ecosystem service values of the Western Ghats launched and populated by a growing community of data-holders, featuring a citizen-science observation interface that accumulates over 1,000 records a month.
- Five new conservation and community reserves notified, covering more than 80,000 hectares and piloting models for conservation of sites where human wellbeing and natural ecosystems are inextricably linked.
- Conservation agreements piloted as a conservation tool at three priority sites in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor and a critical link in the Periyar-Agasthyamalai Corridor.
- Sustainable agricultural practices adopted by 34 tea and coffee estates, covering more than 19,000 hectares, and commitments obtained from major international brands to source supplies from Rainforest Alliance Certified™ farms in the Western Ghats.
- Biodiversity conservation strengthened in over 170,000 hectares within protected areas and over 60,000 hectares in production landscapes outside of protected areas.
- Critical habitat linkages protected between the Sahyadri-Konkan and Malnad-Kodagu Corridors and within the Mysore-Nilgiri, Anamalai and Periyar-Agasthyamalai Corridors, reinforcing ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.
- Nilgiri Natural History Society launched, as a vehicle to promote interest and involvement in the conservation of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- Forty-two civil society organizations directly engaged as CEPF grantees, in addition to 19 individual grantees.

- Traditionally polarized groups working on conservation from wildlife conservation and tribal rights perspectives brought together for the first time around a common agenda.
- Socially just conservation promoted as a vehicle for long-term sustainable use and conservation in protection as well as production landscapes.
- Innovative approaches and partnerships catalyzed involving NGOs, corporate sector, academia and government.

This section does not set out to repeat the findings of the five-year assessment but only to provide an update on results since then. Overall, CEPF grantees are continuing to make good progress with demonstrating innovative solutions to conservation challenges that have potential for wider application, whether by civil society groups or through integration into government policies and programs. More work is still required to document the results of these pilot projects and disseminate them, in order to promote uptake by other actors, although there has been some progress in this area over the last 12 months, including the commissioning of a series of films by the RIT, to document CEPF-supported work under seven thematic areas.

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 have addressed protected areas, biodiversity-rich lands outside protected areas, and the wider habitat matrix.

Relatively few CEPF grants have attempted to strengthen biodiversity conservation within formal protected areas. One example of this type of project was a small grant to Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, which implemented a series of field trials within Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to determine the most effective way of removing *Lantana camara*, an invasive plant, from deciduous forest. The project set out to demonstrate good practice restoration techniques that benefit native plants and improve habitat for ungulates and their predators. This was successfully achieved through close cooperation between researchers and the field staff and managers of the tiger reserve. The field trials demonstrated that, where *Lantana* occurs at a moderate or low density, the Cut Root Stock (CRS) technique can be applied but, where *Lantana* occurs at a high density, the CRS technique is not practical, and simple uprooting is the best technique for killing adult individuals, followed by weeding of seedlings until the native understorey can re-establish and suppress further *Lantana* germination. The project also showed that cutting (a control technique currently practiced in Mudumalai) was ineffective in eradicating *Lantana*, because plants simply re-sprouted from the root stock.

In meeting its objectives, the project provided the information required to develop and implement a long-term, landscape-scale project for controlling invasive plant species, mitigating their impacts, and restoring invaded habitats to native species-dominated forest in the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor. The removal of invasive plants and the restoration of native communities is a salient objective of state agencies and features prominently in their official management plans. By working in close consultation and co-operation with Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the local state agency, the grantee successfully initiated a long-term habitat improvement study focused on improving habitat condition within one of the most important landscapes for the conservation of Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and other threatened species globally.

A number of CEPF grantees have been working outside of protected areas, with the aim of enhancing ecological connectivity at the landscape scale, including by facilitating movement of wildlife through the habitat matrix in which protected areas are situated, and thereby mitigating the impacts of fragmentation. One such example is Foundation for Ecological Research,

Advocacy and Learning (FERAL), which has been working to enhance ecological connectivity across the Shencottah Gap: a mosaic of production landscapes and natural forest patches that divides a complex of protected areas centered on Periyar Tiger Reserve to the north from one centered on Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve to the south. FERAL has experimented with a number of approaches to establish land-use practices consistent with wildlife usage of this critical wildlife corridor, including engagement with plantation companies to explore certification of their rubber estates.

Due to an ongoing legal case regarding the extent of the leases granted for cultivation, the plantation owners declined to apply for rubber certification. They did, however, establish a forest corridor across the estate, 10 m in width, which serves as a wind-break as well as facilitating wildlife passage. Usage of the wider landscape by wildlife is being monitored by camera trapping, carried out by members of a local Malapandaram tribal settlement, with technical support from FERAL. Elsewhere in the Shencottah Gap, where land-use is dominated by small holdings, FERAL has signed conservation agreements with farmers to maintain existing secondary native vegetation and restore sites with native vegetation, thereby restoring a second wildlife corridor.

A different set of financial incentives are being piloted in the northern Western Ghats, where Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) has successfully completed a large grant focused on conservation solutions for forest on private lands, in a landscape with a very low coverage of protected areas and accelerating habitat fragmentation and loss. The project established a network of civil society organizations active in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor, thereby filling an important gap in organized conservation efforts in southern Maharashtra, which had hitherto received limited attention relative to areas further south. The project also had important impacts on the ground, most notably the successful piloting of 'conservation agreements' as a model for incentivizing small landowners to conserve forest on private land, and provide an economic alternative to allowing logging or conversion of their forests.

Under the project, AERF successfully negotiated conservation agreements with small landowners in 13 villages. All participating community members received direct cash incentives, while some also received legal support to challenge mining projects impinging on their land and resources. The agreements covered 400 hectares of forest, including in the buffer zones of three CEPF priority sites. As well as being biodiversity-rich in their own right, these demonstration sites established proof of concept for the conservation agreement approach, which has considerable potential for replication, especially in southern Maharashtra, where large areas of forest are present on private land. The approach is currently being consolidated under a follow-on grant, which is exploring various options for transitioning the conservation agreements from a dependence on short-term grant funding to a more sustainable financial footing, including corporate sponsorship, certification of non-timber forest products, and development of deforestation-free biomass fuels.

Elsewhere in the Western Ghats, CEPF grantees have been exploring alternatives to conventional protected areas, including conservation reserves under the Wildlife Protection Act and community forest resource use areas under the Forest Rights Act. One example of the latter model was successfully established in Kerala in March 2014, when the state government granted title to community forest resources covering 40,000 hectares of Vazhachal Forest Division. The titles were distributed at a function in the state capital, Trivandrum, by the Tribal Minister. The recipients were nine communities of scheduled tribes (i.e., Indigenous People) who have traditionally harvested honey, fruits and other non-timber forest products from the area for generations. The communities were assisted to document and submit claims under the Forest

Rights Act by WWF India and Centre for Environment and Development, Trivandrum. The process took almost four years of patient negotiation, because this was the first time that community forest resource claims had been granted in Kerala. However, by making the process clearer to all parties, this test case has opened the way to further claims in forest areas across the state, which will establish a more secure basis for promoting sustainable management of forest resources by forest-dwelling people. CEPF is continuing to fund civil society organizations to assist tribal communities to prepare and submit claims in strategic locations elsewhere in the state.

In neighboring Tamil Nadu, large grantee Action for Community Organization, Rehabilitation and Development (ACCORD) is piloting a similar approach, by empowering tribal communities in Gudalur taluk of Nilgiris district to secure communal rights over forest resources under the Forest Rights Act. Securing recognition of traditional rights over forest resources is a fundamental first step towards developing management plans to prevent unsustainable harvesting by the communities themselves, as well as a safeguard against encroachment by outsiders. ACCORD has recruited and trained tribal people as facilitators, who are, in turn, assisting their communities to submit forest rights claims to the local authorities, and develop forest management plans. In parallel, ACCORD has assisted tribal communities to map and register sacred groves in the landscape, to promote their recognition by tea estates, the Forest Department and other forest owners, and the renewal of traditional cultural practices. Over the last year, the project has gain significant momentum, and the team hopes that the first claims will be granted during 2015.

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 has supported civil society groups to monitor and assess the conservation status of globally threatened species, implement species recovery and management plans, evaluate the existing protected area network for adequate representation of globally threatened species, and disseminate biodiversity data through an on-line portal.

One of the most significant achievements over the last 12 months was made by large grantee Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society (WILD), which coordinated a conservation status assessment of all non-marine reptile species in the Western Ghats Region, in collaboration with many data-holding institutions and individuals, and following the global Red List criteria maintained by IUCN. Prior to this initiative, reptiles were a major information gap, with only four globally threatened reptile species being listed in the ecosystem profile for the Western Ghats. By the end of 2013, all 148 reptile species known to occur in the five Western Ghats states had been evaluated, with 23 being assessed as globally threatened (comprising eight Endangered and 15 Vulnerable). Some of these species, such as Satara gecko (*Hemidactylus sataraensis*), are known only from a single locality. Others, such as Leith's softshell turtle (*Nilssonia leithii*), have wider distributions but are declining due to habitat degradation and loss. Yet others, such as king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), are under pressure from illegal hunting and trade. In all cases, the assessments will help to inform and better target conservation action. The results have been posted on the IUCN Red List website and the online Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal, where they are freely available as a tool for conservationists and managers.

Also during the last 12 months, the results of a comprehensive global threat assessment of four freshwater taxa conducted under an earlier CEPF grant were used to generate a data set of spatially explicit priorities for freshwater conservation, in a format accessible to conservationists, managers and planners. Specifically, in June 2014, an inventory of freshwater Key Biodiversity

Areas (KBAs), containing maps, profiles and species lists for each of 34 globally important areas for the conservation of freshwater biodiversity, was made publicly available via the Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal. The inventory was prepared by experts from government and civil society, brought together by CEPF grantee IUCN and its local partner ZOO.

The aim of the inventory is to make available reliable scientific data on the location and values of the most important sites for threatened and endemic freshwater biodiversity in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, so that it can inform development decision making regarding wetlands, at the same time as stimulating conservation action on the ground. With respect to the first goal, the project formulated a number of policy recommendations, including modifying the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification process to require EIAs to refer to data on freshwater KBAs, and formulating guidelines for collection and export of threatened native freshwater fishes from within freshwater KBAs. These policy recommendations are currently being taken forwards under separate grants. With respect to the second goal, the project identified the key conservation actions needed for each KBA and the stakeholders best placed to lead on them, and secured commitments from a number of these stakeholders to integrate these actions into their current and future work. Overall, the project represented an important step towards resolving the paradox of freshwater ecosystems, albeit the most critical to human wellbeing in southern India, having the fewest safeguards from incompatible development.

With regard to implementing species recovery and management plans for globally threatened species, large grantee Arulagam continued its efforts to establish a 'vulture safe zone' in the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor. In October 2014, the 35 gram sabhas (local level governments) in Nilgiris district passed resolutions to protect vultures. The resolutions banned the sale of diclofenac (an anti-inflammatory drug implicated in the catastrophic decline of vultures in the Indian sub-continent) for veterinary purposes, and warned villagers that poisoning of animal carcasses (in retaliation against predation by large carnivores) is an offense under Indian law. Similar resolutions had earlier been passed unanimously by the gram sabhas in neighboring Erode and Coimbatore districts, helping to bring into being a diclofenac-free "Vulture Safe Zone" with a 100 kilometer radius in northwestern Tamil Nadu. The area covered by the Vulture Safe Zone is home to four globally threatened vulture species, including the largest remaining population of the Critically Endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) in southern India.

This achievement was made possible by Arulagam's persistent and carefully targeted awareness-raising and community-engagement activities. Arulagam has involved a large number of partners in vulture conservation, including school pupils, religious leaders and a champion volleyball team, and raised the profile of the species in a region where conservation efforts hitherto focused mainly on tiger and elephant. The credibility and respect that Arulagam earned through the project led to them being invited by Tamil Nadu Forest Department to develop a vulture conservation action plan for Nilgiris North Forest Division. By integrating conservation goals into gram sabha and Forest Department plans and budgets, Arulagam has successfully mainstreamed conservation into the activities of local government, and thereby built financial and institutional sustainability.

Another grantee working to implement species recovery plans is Snehakunja Trust, which has been facilitating the recovery of threatened plant species by restoring their threatened freshwater swamp habitats. These *Myristica* swamps, which take their name from two tree species of this genus, are the most threatened ecosystem type in India, due to their highly restricted distribution and high rates of conversion to commercial spice gardens. Working in collaboration with LIFE Trust and Sirsi Forestry College, Snehakunja Trust has involved local villagers and Forest Department field staff in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district in mapping remaining swamp

fragments and the micro-corridors linking them, establishing community-managed nurseries for swamp tree species, and replanting the most degraded swamp fragments with carefully chosen tree saplings. On a practical level, the project has also provided participating communities with fuel-efficient ovens and driers, and cultivated useful trees, such as mango, garcinias and cinnamon, to minimize harvesting of swamp species.

With the involvement of nearly 15 villages, six swamps have been restored with support from the CEPF project. About 15,000 seedlings of swamp species, including several globally threatened species, have been raised so far, and are being used for active planting. Based on encouraging results from the demonstration sites, the state government has extended the restoration efforts to a further 20 swamps, using its own funds. This is another successful example of pilot activities being taken up and amplified by government.

CEPF's main investments in documenting and disseminating biodiversity data generated through its investments and by other means have focused on the Western Ghats Biodiversity Portal, an integrated component of the India Biodiversity Portal. Development of this on-line, freely accessible portal has been spearheaded by a series of grants to the French Institute of Pondicherry and Strand Life Sciences Ltd, supported by a growing consortium of data-holding institutions.

The platform includes a facility where researchers, citizen scientists and wildlife photographers can contribute their wildlife sightings via an observation module. Over the year, the number of observations increased from more than 7,000 to more than 35,000, and now appears to be on an exponential growth path. The portal also has a species module, which aims to include a dedicated page for every species in India. Over the last year, the number of species pages doubled from around 9,000 to almost 19,000, thanks to voluntary contributions as well as targeted fellowships funded by CEPF. These increases in content have been mirrored by an increase in usership, with the number of registered users increasing from around 2,000 to more than 5,000 over the course of the year. This increase was abetted by targeted campaigns, such as the Neighbourhood Trees Campaign, the Moth Week Campaign and the Dragonfly Bucket Challenge, which inspired involvement of the general public in generating biodiversity data.

The portal has also begun to emerge as a forum for new constituencies to emerge around particular taxa. TreesIndia, FrogWatch, SnakesofIndia, IndianMoths, DragonflyIndia and SpiderIndia are some of the groups that have taken advantage of the capability of the portal to support independently administered groups for aggregating and managing biodiversity information. In parallel, the architecture of the portal has been adopted by other initiatives, including the Bhutan Biodiversity Portal, launched in December 2013, and the Weed Identification and Knowledge in the Western Indian Ocean (WIKWIO) Portal launched in January 2014.

Collaboration with CEPF Donor Partners

The WIKWIO and Bhutan Biodiversity Portals are both being developed with support from European Union-funded projects, among other sources. In this way, a platform developed with CEPF support has been adopted by initiatives of one of its donor partners. It is notable, however, that neither initiative is within India, were CEPF's donors have relatively few projects in the biodiversity sector.

Nevertheless, over the past year, the CEPF Secretariat and the RIT have made efforts to forge linkages between CEPF projects and initiatives of its donors. For instance, discussions have been held with the World Bank to explore the possibility of integrating landscape conservation models,

such as the aforementioned conservation incentives being demonstrated by FERAL, into the Biodiversity Conservation & Rural Livelihood Improvement Project (BCRLIP), for which the Periyar-Agastyamalai corridor has recently been added as a new pilot site. Further down the line, there is potential to use experience from the CEPF portfolio in the Western Ghats to inform the full-sized Global Environment Facility (GEF) *Ecosystem Services Improvement Project*, which will be submitted to the World Bank board in May 2015. The project will support technical assistance and demonstration projects to improve the quality of reforestation taking place under the National Greening India Mission in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, with a view to informing the implementation of the mission nationwide.

Another area of engagement has been with the Conservation Stewards Program at Conservation International (CI), which promotes the conservation agreements model via demonstration projects and knowledge exchange. Two CEPF grantees, AERF and FERAL, are members of the program, and have participated in its global partnership meetings. There is potential to adopt FERAL's work as a pilot under the *Conservation Agreement Private Partnership Platform*, which is being developed by CI under the GEF Earth Fund. The idea would be to leverage support from private companies to support conservation incentives that engaged small landholders in conserving biodiversity, reducing land degradation and mitigating climate change.

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 (AFD), the European Union, 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 (now Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change).

Conclusion

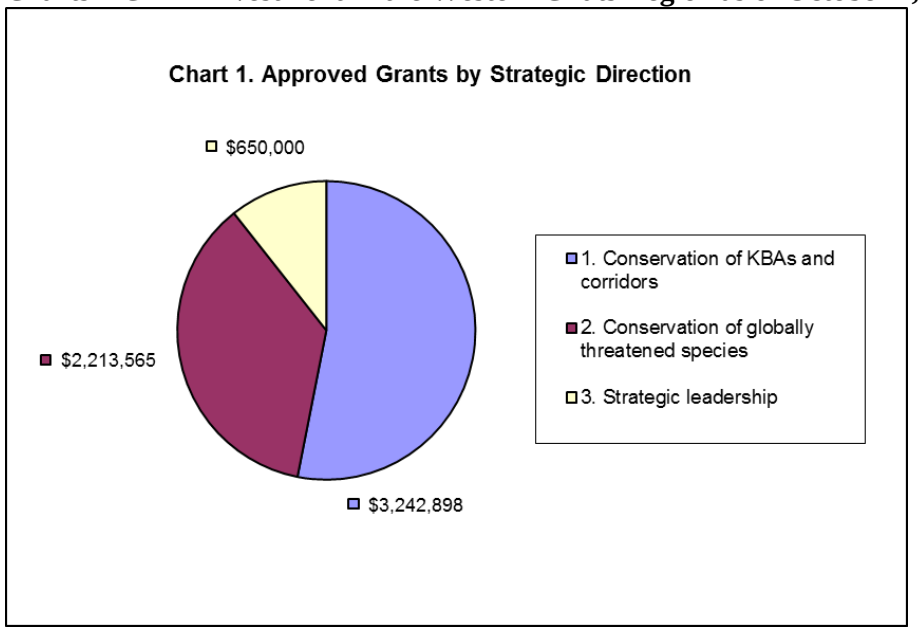
The CEPF investment portfolio in the Western Ghats is now mature. More than half of the awarded grants have already closed, and implementation of all the remaining grants is well underway. Three-quarters of the grants that have been evaluated to date have met or exceeded expectations with regard to delivery of expected results, while even those grants that have failed to meet expectations in some regards have delivered valuable outcomes. Collectively, CEPF-supported projects have had important results with regard to conservation of biodiversity, preservation and restoration of natural capital, and improvement of income, food security, rights and other dimensions of human wellbeing.

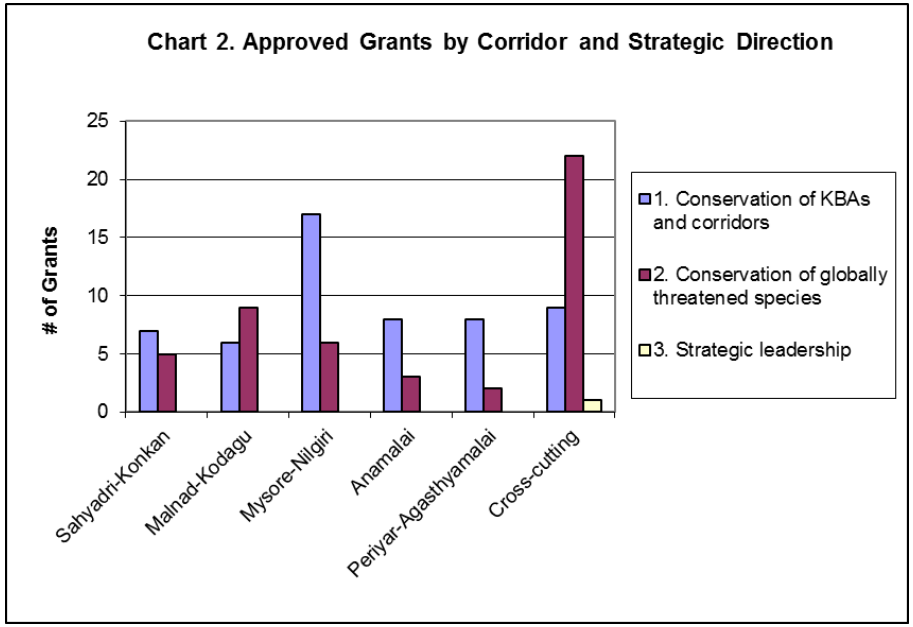
The aggregate results of the portfolio so far include: strengthened protection and management of 383,543 hectares of KBAs; expansion of protected area coverage by 191,306 hectares, including through community-based models; establishment of eight alliances and networks among civil society groups to avoid duplication of effort and maximize impact; and development of an online portal to facilitate generation, dissemination and application of biodiversity information, and build broader civil society constituencies for conservation. While significant at the local level, these aggregate impacts are still modest in context of the size of the Western Ghats as a whole and the scale of the pressures affecting natural ecosystems. The full potential of the CEPF investment program will only be realized if the results of individual grants, in terms of proof-of-concept demonstration models and knowledge generation, are captured and integrated into government policy and private sector business practices in key sectors.

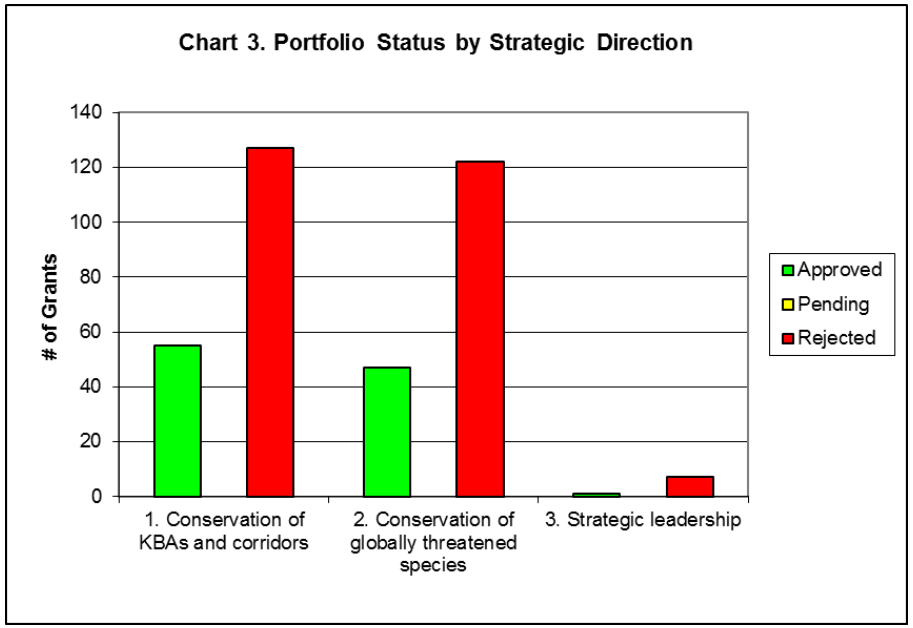
Some of the steps necessary to ensure wider uptake of the results of the CEPF portfolio have been taken, including targeted grant making under the fourth round with an emphasis on consolidation of results, and a shift in focus of the RIT's work from grant making to documentation and dissemination of results. However, further efforts will be necessary, at both the portfolio scale and the scale of individual grants, over the final year of the program. A key activity in this regard will be the final assessment workshop, scheduled for June 2015. This will be the first time that CEPF grantees from across the Western Ghats will be brought together at a single venue to exchange experience and lessons learned. CEPF and the RIT will endeavor to involve stakeholders from government, private sector and the donor community, and connect them with CEPF grantees.

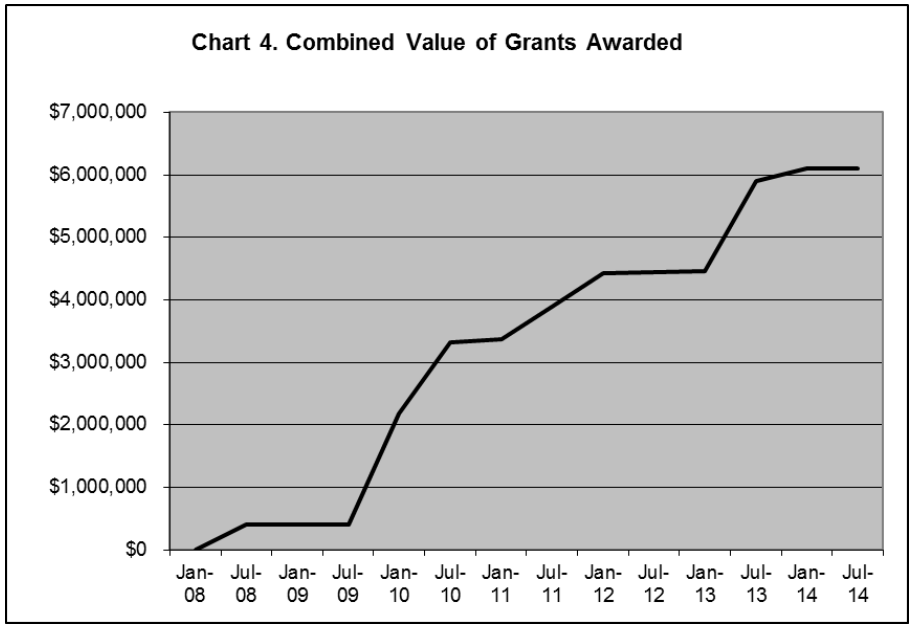
Beyond the final assessment workshop, the onus will be on civil society groups themselves to reach out to new partners, sometimes non-traditional ones, to ensure their work has impacts beyond its immediate context. At this stage, there are no plans for a further phase of CEPF investment in the Western Ghats but, even if there were, international donor support for biodiversity conservation would still remain very limited relative to the much larger sums potentially available from domestic sources, including state and central government, the private sector and innovative sources, such as crowd-sourcing. Under any likely future scenario, international donor funding will only be able to innovate and demonstrate but not effect change at scale. This will inevitably be the work of the conservation community. It is to be hoped, however, that the CEPF investment program, by its close, will have left a more credible, connected and motivated civil society, better able to take on this challenge.

Charts – CEPF Investment in the Western Ghats Region as of October 1, 2014









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.	62 civil society actors have received CEPF grants, including ATREE as the RIT. Of these, 5 are international organizations, 38 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.	8 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 northern Western Ghats; (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; (viii) Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society has established a network of educators and journalists who can raise awareness of threatened freshwater biodiversity and reptiles.
	Development plans or policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.	2 policies have been influenced to accommodate biodiversity: (i) Tamil Nadu Highways Department has introduced measures to minimize road kill of wildlife in the Anamalai Corridor;

		(ii) the Ministry of Environment and Forests, in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, has introduced guidelines on laying electricity transmission lines through forest areas.
	80 key biodiversity areas have new or strengthened protection and management guided by a sustainable management plan.	Management has been strengthened at 24 KBAs: Agumbe Reserve Forest (RF); Amboli RF; Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS); Cauvery WLS; Chandoli National Park (NP); Dandeli WLS; Haliyal RF; Indira Gandhi WLS; Kollegal Forest Division (FD); Kotagiri-Longwood Shola; Koyna WLS; Kudremukh NP; Malayatthur FD; Mookambika WLS; Mudumalai WLS; Nemara FD; Nilgiri North FD; Palni Hills; Parambikulam WLS; Periyar Tiger Reserve (TR); Sharavathi WLS; Someshwara 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 13 protected areas, equivalent to 65 percent of those targeted: Aghanashini Lion-tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve (CR); Anamalai TR; Bedthi CR; Bhadra TR; Dandeli Hornbill CR; Mookambika WLS; Mudumalai WLS; Parambikulam WLS; Periyar TR; Shalmala Riperian Ecosystem CR; Sathyamangalam WLS; Sharavathi WLS; Someshwara 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	11 projects, equivalent to 31 percent of the 36 grants awarded under Strategic Direction 1 that are located outside protected areas, have integrated biodiversity conservation into management practices of production landscapes, including reserve forests, private forests, and tea and coffee estates.
	Percent of projects that enable stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by Indigenous and local communities in focus areas.	30 projects, equivalent to 55 percent of the 55 grants awarded under Strategic Direction 1, have enabled stewardship of biodiversity and ecosystem services by local communities.
	Number of hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.	383,543 hectares of KBAs have strengthened protection and management: (i) training provided to Forest Department staff responsible for managing 50,000 hectares within Kollegal KBA, 49,500 hectares within Bhadra KBA, 43,900 hectares within Sharavathi KBA, 25,000 hectares within Agumbe KBA, 24,700 hectares within

		Mookambika KBA and 8,840 hectares within Someshwara KBA; (ii) 50,059 hectares within Cauvery KBA, 24,806 hectares within Dandeli KBA and 22,586 hectares within Someshwara KBA covered by extensions to existing protected areas; (iii) 40,000 hectares within Vazhachal KBA designated as a community forest resource use area; (iv) 16,000 hectares within Mudumalai, Nilgiri North Forest Division and Talaimalai KBAs covered by community conservation actions; (v) 12,337 hectares within Mookambika KBA benefit from extension of the WLS; (vi) 6,000 hectares within Parambikulam KBA and 4,400 hectares within Nenmara, Vazhachal and Malayatthur KBAs benefit from community-based natural resource management; (vii) 2,300 hectares within Periyar KBA benefit from manual removal of an alien invasive species (African catfish); (viii) 1,500 hectares in Haliyal KBA benefit from improvement management of human-elephant conflict; (ix) 790 hectares of Palni Hills KBA benefit from strengthened conservation of grizzled giant squirrel and other threatened species; (x) 250 hectares of forest adjacent to Kotagiri-Longwood Shola KBA and 200 hectares adjacent to Indira Gandhi KBA benefit from strengthened conservation management within certified tea and coffee estates; (xi) 90 hectares of forest on private land within Chandoli KBA, 40 hectares within Amboli KBA and 20 hectares within Koyna KBA covered by conservation agreements with private landowners; (xii) 88 hectares within a vital wildlife corridor connecting Kudremukh KBA with adjoining shola forest have enhanced protection; (xiii) 75 hectares of freshwater swamps within Sharavathi KBA are under restoration and long-term management; (xiv) 37 hectares of agricultural land in two unprotected enclaves within Dandeli KBA have biodiversity-friendly management practices; (xv) 25 hectares of natural habitat restored within Theni FD, through reforestation and rehabilitation of native grassland.

	Number of hectares in newly established or expanded protected areas.	Protected area coverage in the Western Ghats has increased by 191,306 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) Vazhachal Community Forest Resource Use Area has been declared, covering 40,000 hectares; (iii) Aghanashini Lion-tailed Macaque CR has been declared, covering 29,952 hectares (iv) Dandeli WLS has been expanded by 24,806 hectares (from 63,835 to 88,641 hectares); (v) Someshwara WLS has been expanded by 22,586 hectares (from 8,840 to 31,426 hectares); (vi) Mookambika WLS has been expanded by 12,337 hectares (from 24,700 to 37,037 hectares); (vii) Bedthi CR has been declared, covering 5,731 hectares; (viii) Dandeli Hornbill CR has been declared, covering 5,250 hectares; (ix) Shalmala Riperian Ecosystem CR has been declared, covering 489 hectares; (x) 8 sacred groves totaling 106 hectares have been restored and placed under community management: Bhaviyur (42 hectares); Chedikal (22 hectares); Banagudi shola (21 hectares); Kotada (11 hectares); Kavalcombai (4 hectares); Sengalcombai (4 hectares); Dodatti (1 hectare); and Johicombai (1 hectare).
	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 13 protected areas, equivalent to 65 percent of those targeted (see above for details). 383,543 hectares of KBAs have strengthened protection and management (see above for details). Protected area coverage in the Western Ghats has increased by 191,306 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, 64 grants have closed, of which 31 have been evaluated. Of these, 23 grants (74 percent) 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	$6,077,000	May 1, 2008 to December 31, 2015