

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

No-Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement
8 July 2010

Selection of Regional Implementation Team for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot

Recommended Action Item

The Donor Council is asked to **approve on a no-objection basis** the recommendation by the Working Group to select the Wildlands Conservation Trust (Wildlands) as the Regional Implementation Team for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. The Council is asked to further **instruct** the Secretariat to finalize the grant agreement with Wildlands, with a particular emphasis on the logical framework, performance tracker, scopes of work for individual personnel, and budget.

The deadline for the no-objection approval is **22 July 2010**.

Background

The Regional Implementation Team Terms of Reference and Selection Process approved by the Donor Council in April 2007, as well as the Strategic Framework and Operational Manual, state that the Donor Council will approve the selection of each Regional Implementation Team based on a recommendation of the Working Group.

On 1 March 2010, the CEPF Secretariat widely distributed a request for proposals inviting civil society groups to apply to become the CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. The request for proposals included the full text of the approved Regional Implementation Team Terms of Reference and Selection Process.

The request for proposals asked applicants to submit a letter expressing their interest, after which CEPF would send a full proposal package and instructions for applying. The request for proposals set 5 April 2010 as the deadline for submission. CEPF held a public telephone conference call (bidders' conference) on 15 March 2010 to discuss expectations of the Regional Implementation Team and to answer questions about the request for proposals. CEPF also accepted written questions through 17 March 2010. On 22 March 2010, CEPF posted an audio recording of the conference call and answers to all written questions on its Web site for view by all potential applicants.

CEPF received expressions of interest from two organizations: Wildlands and the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute. Only Wildlands submitted an application by the closing date. At the time of the solicitation and Wildlands' application, the Ecosystem Profile contained a \$5.5 million allocation for the hotspot and a maximum budget allocation of \$550,000 for the Regional Implementation Team. Subsequent to the 5 April 2010 closing date, the Donor Council approved the Ecosystem Profile on 12 April 2010 via no-objection electronic approval, subject to further budget discussion which took place on 23 April 2010 during the 17th Meeting of the

Donor Council. At this meeting, the Donor Council agreed to raise the overall allocation for the hotspot to \$6.65 million and to authorize a maximum budget of \$700,000 for the Regional Implementation Team. As such, CEPF released a new request for proposals to allow potential applicants to reconsider their decision to bid and to alter their approach and budget in relation to the increased budget. The revised solicitation was released on 23 April 2010 with a closing date of 21 May 2010. As of the new closing date, Wildlands submitted a new application. No other applications were received.

As directed by the approved Selection Process, the Secretariat analyzed the Wildlands proposal of 21 May 2010 using the specified criteria and presented this to the Working Group to develop a recommendation for the Donor Council.

The Working Group met on 18 June 2010 to develop this recommendation for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. The Working Group determined that Wildlands had submitted a suitable proposal to serve as the Regional Implementation Team, but asked that the proposal be updated with three additional pieces of information, detailed further below. The Working Group stated that with this additional information, the Secretariat could submit the final proposal and supporting documents directly to the Donor Council.

The following documents were provided to the Working Group on for their consideration on 18 June 2010.

- CEPF Regional Implementation Team Terms of Reference and Selection Process.
- Request for proposals of 23 April 2010, including the scoring process for the assessment of proposals.
- CEPF analysis of the proposal received by 21 May 2010.
- Proposal.
- Supporting documents.

Based on its review, the Working Group instructed the Secretariat to request Wildlands to revise its proposal to address three points:

1. Provide the résumé of the proposed full-time project administrator.
2. Provide further information on Wildlands' experience and ability to manage funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donors.
3. Provide further discussion on Wildlands' technical and managerial plans for operating in Mozambique.

The Secretariat contacted Wildlands on 21 June 2010 with this request, and Wildlands submitted a reply on 2 July 2010 in the form of a résumé for the project administrator and a revised proposal. The Secretariat has reviewed the résumé and revised proposal and determined that these adequately address the Working Group's request.

Attached to this cover note are the following materials:

- Documents shared with the Working Group
 - CEPF Regional Implementation Team Terms of Reference and Selection Process

- Request for proposals
- CEPF analysis and ranking of proposals
- Original proposal and
- Supplemental documents
- Revised documents per the request of the Working Group
 - Wildlands Revised Proposal
 - Résumé of proposed project administrator, David Gilroy, submitted 2 July 2010
 - Secretariat's Assessment of Wildlands response provided to the Working Group

All these documents are available in the CEPF Web Site at:

http://www.cepf.net/resources/publications/donor_council_documents/Pages/MPAH-RIT_Selection.aspx