

## **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

Sixteenth Meeting of the Donor Council  
Conservation International  
2011 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA  
15 January 2010  
8 a.m. - 11 a.m. EST

### **Approved Minutes**

1. **Welcome and introductions** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/1)  
The Chairman welcomed the participants.
2. **Adoption of agenda** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/2)  
The agenda was adopted.
3. **Adoption of minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/3)  
The Donor Council adopted the minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council, which took place on 9 September 2009.
4. **Follow up to decisions taken at the Fifteenth Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council\***  
(Doc. CEPF/DC16/4)  
The Acting Executive Director introduced a written update on actions taken in follow up to decisions from the Fifteenth Meeting of the Donor Council. Highlights of the follow-up actions and discussion include:
  - The Secretariat established a task force of partner representatives to help coordinate the partners' communications efforts related to the tenth anniversary and particularly activities that may take place in Japan tied to the CBD meeting in October. The task force is chaired by the Senior Director for External Affairs. Members include: Yasushi Hibi, Vice President for Asia Policy / Managing Director for Japan Program, Conservation International; Daiji Kawaguchi, Assistant Director, Global Biodiversity Strategy Office, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan; Gilles Kleitz, Project Manager, Environment – Biodiversity, L'Agence Française de Développement; and Yoko Watanabe, Program Manager/Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility. Patricia Yakabe Malentaqui, International Media Manager, Conservation International, also joined the task force.
  - A comprehensive financial report was included in the materials for this meeting as part of the report from the Executive Director (Doc. CEPF/DC/16/5), and will be provided for future meetings. Council members briefly discussed the \$43 million fundraising gap toward CEPF's goal of raising \$150 million for implementation of the CEPF Strategic Framework. It was noted that the Council has made a commitment to fund investment in at least nine new hotspots. The Acting Executive Director noted a later agenda item on the subject of fundraising.
  - The Secretariat began extending invitations to Donor Council members, in addition to the regularly invited Working Group members, to attend CEPF meetings with stakeholders on developing new investment strategies and assessing gains made possible to date. For example, the Secretariat invited Donor Council members to attend meetings with stakeholders in both the Caucasus and Mesoamerica biodiversity hotspots in September

and October 2009, respectively, as part of assessing five years of CEPF investment in these regions. Council members were also invited to attend stakeholder meetings in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean hotspots in October and December 2009, respectively, as part of developing ecosystem profiles for these hotspots. Related documents were also provided to the Council. The representative from l'Agence Française de Développement attended the stakeholder meeting on the Mediterranean Hotspot held in Morocco in December. He informed the Council that the workshop brought together people from across the northern coast of Africa, and attending gave him a sense of the team-building quality of the workshops. He also noted that he felt the meeting afforded an important opportunity to see new projects and collaborations emerge at a regional level. The World Bank task team leader who attended the Caucasus assessment meeting in September also urged donors to send representatives to such events, and pointed out that other donors are using the Caucasus ecosystem profile to inform their investments. The Acting Executive Director noted that the profiles have been used by other donors in several hotspots. Council members encouraged the Secretariat to track and disseminate information about how the profiles are used by other donors.

- The Secretariat developed the terms of reference and methodology for a rapid evaluation of CEPF to report on the fund's impact. The terms of reference and methodology were submitted to the Donor Council for no-objection approval in December 2009, and were approved by the Council on 15 December 2009. In keeping with the methodology and timeline agreed, the Acting Executive Director appointed an independent consultant, David M. Olson, in consultation with the Working Group, to undertake the evaluation, which began on 4 January 2010 and will conclude in April 2010 with a presentation of the findings to the Donor Council. The Acting Executive Director said the consultant's first task is to develop a detailed work plan. The consultant will likely travel to up to three hotspots where CEPF has worked to gather information for the evaluation. Meeting participants stressed the importance of sharing the resulting data on CEPF's impact at upcoming events such as the GEF Assembly and the CBD meeting in Japan in October, and more generally in Japan, to raise awareness about CEPF, and it was suggested that the results also be shared at the UN General Assembly meeting in September. The Acting Executive Director referred the Council to Agenda Item #8, Summary of CEPF Tenth Anniversary Plans. The Secretariat has also been in contact with the MacArthur Foundation to coordinate in regard to its ongoing assessment of its programs. The Acting Executive Director also noted that CI's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS) is conducting a review of how CEPF has contributed to the CBD goals. The preliminary results are hoped to be available to the CEPF evaluator in March, and CABS expects to finalize its report in July.

**5. Report from the Executive Director\*** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/5)

The Acting Executive Director highlighted recent activities from her written report on activities since the last meeting of the Donor Council. This included an overview of preliminary results from participatory assessments of five years of investment in the Caucasus Hotspot and northern Mesoamerica, such as strengthened management of more than 17 protected areas in the Caucasus and adoption of 11 policies in support of mainstreaming conservation into development policy in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico. Her report also included an overview of financial activities illustrating:

- \$116 million to date in grants awarded.
- On-target progress toward fulfillment of the current \$14 million annual spending plan.

In response to questions from Council members, the Acting Executive Director noted that the financial summary presents both Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding. The end of grantmaking in the Eastern Himalayas, set for February 2010, and the completion of its five-year assessment scheduled for December 2010 will bring Phase 1 funding to a close.

**6. Review and approval of Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot (Doc. CEPF/DC16/6)**

CEPF Grant Director Michele Zador presented highlights from the draft ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot submitted to the Donor Council for review and approval. The profile sets out an investment strategy of \$6.5 million over five years. Activities supported will focus on 45 key biodiversity areas, many of which fall within six biodiversity conservation corridors. These corridors encompass areas of high priority due to their importance for maintaining ecosystem resilience, ecosystem services values, and health and richness of the hotspot's biological diversity. Information on all countries in the hotspot is included in the profile. The investment strategy focuses on areas where CEPF can add the greatest value in countries currently eligible for CEPF funds: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Following the presentation, Donor Council members discussed whether the requested \$6.5 million was the right amount for the investment and whether it is sufficient to meet the outcomes set forth in the profile, and make a significant difference in the region. The Acting Executive Director noted that the question of the amount of funding had been discussed extensively in Working Group meetings on the profile, and compared against GEF and other donor investment in the region. It was noted that because several countries and territories do not qualify for CEPF funding, it is important to share the profile and its information on priorities in those areas with potential donors for those areas. A representative from the World Bank also noted that investing in developing regional networks among civil society groups to build capacity is a key part of the strategy.

Council members noted that given the devastation the recent earthquake in Haiti brought to the island and its inhabitants, CEPF should look at how it could best provide particular help to Haitians and their environment at this time of crisis. The World Bank representative suggested putting together a proposal for quick assistance to Haiti, and said the World Bank would be open to some additional allocation as well.

He also suggested that there might be an opportunity for CEPF to collaborate with the Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on climate change adaptation programs in the Caribbean. The representative from Conservation International noted that it would be useful to look at increasing the capacity of local jurisdictions in the management and protection of natural areas as part of CEPF's investment. It was suggested that it be among the responsibilities of CEPF's regional implementation team to track what other donors are doing in the region, as well as major development projects. Council members noted that the profile will be very useful to other entities that are active in the region to plan future activities and facilitate regional cooperation. The representative from the l'Agence Française de Développement added that the handling of the issue of climate change in the profile seemed to have struck the right balance.

The Council approved the profile as submitted, and asked the Secretariat to explore the options for providing some form of immediate assistance to Haiti and report back to the Council members as soon as possible with a proposal.

7. **Update on CEPF Fund-Raising Strategy** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/7)

The Secretariat asked the Donor Council to review the written Update on the CEPF Fund-raising Strategy and identify additional fundraising prospects or approaches for the program as appropriate. The strategy was approved by the Council for fiscal years 2008-2012 at its Twelfth Meeting in November 2007. The strategy sets out the overarching approach for the partnership to secure \$150 million for implementation of the CEPF Strategic Framework (FY 2008-2012) approved by the Donor Council in July 2007. It set an initial goal of \$100 million in new funds for implementation of the global program, \$82 million of which had been secured based on new commitments from l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The fundraising goal identified in the Strategy was therefore agreed as twofold, with \$18 million as a first target and an additional \$50 million as a second target.

As of December 2009, CEPF had secured \$88 million toward the \$150-million goal for implementation of the current Strategic Framework. Additional funds expected from the World Bank but not yet secured through a formal agreement total \$19 million, which would bring the total secured to date to \$107 million and thereby meet the first fundraising target of \$18 million, leaving \$43 million in new funds that must still be raised for full and effective implementation of the Strategic Framework.

This \$107 million would comprise:

- \$25 million from Conservation International (bringing its total CEPF commitment to \$50 million)
- €19.5 million (approx. \$25 million) from l'Agence Française de Développement
- \$25 million from the World Bank (bringing its total CEPF commitment to \$50 million)
- \$20 million from the Global Environment Facility (bringing its total CEPF commitment to \$45 million)
- \$12 million from the MacArthur Foundation (bringing its total CEPF commitment to \$37 million)

The World Bank representative told fellow Council members that the Bank's total commitment of \$25 million stands firm, although the amount of each annual disbursement is approved through a bank approval process and it is not certain how much will be approved each year. The Government of Japan representative said the Japanese government is seriously considering how it can contribute to the second phase funding, and three actions could affect its decision:

- Demonstrate the impact of CEPF activities in a convincing way – the newly commissioned evaluation report could be important here;
- Make efforts to disseminate information on CEPF's activities in Japan; and
- Plan more activities in Asia; for instance, Japan would prefer that the Wallacea Hotspot be chosen as a future investment area.

The Donor Council Chairman noted that he would be in Tokyo in March and is willing to meet with key representatives about funding while there. The Acting Executive Director also suggested that Conservation International's newly opened Singapore office might be able to help.

The chairman also offered to discuss potential funding with the Saudi Arabia finance minister during an upcoming visit with the minister, and would need to follow up any discussion with

him with a detailed proposal. Council members suggested CEPF present itself as a good investment opportunity particularly in this International Year of Biodiversity. It was also proposed that CEPF target potential new donors with interests in specific hotspots, and consider going to governments such as the United States, Britain, Australia and the Netherlands. Suggestions were also made for approaching foundations and regional development banks. Council members inquired about the rules for joining the Donor Council, and the Acting Executive Director explained that the Council approves new members, who by definition adopted by the Council must donate at least \$25 million. The Council has said it could also consider regional-level donors who contribute at least the cost of an ecosystem profile, but they would be observers on the council, not full members. A representative from Conservation International asked that the language regarding the addition of new members be distributed to all Council members following the meeting. The chairman asked the Secretariat to draw up a proposal that could be used with prospective donors and distribute this to Council members so that fundraising efforts can get under way.

8. **Summary of CEPF Tenth Anniversary Plans** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/8)

The Acting Executive Director introduced the summary of tenth anniversary plans, providing an update on activities endorsed by the Donor Council to date. She noted that as part of the plan, major publications related to the anniversary are being translated to Japanese and French; a media strategy is being developed that includes outreach at the CBD meeting and the GEF Assembly; and issue papers and a Web series on “Voices of CEPF” are planned. As part of earlier discussions during the Council meeting, the partners stressed the importance of coordinating outreach efforts. The Council representative for Japan suggested the use of handouts, Web materials and providing examples of CEPF’s work to the Japanese media, as well as reaching out to the Japanese development community and government, as steps that would help raise awareness. It was also noted that hotspot-level outreach material could be useful. The Donor Council chair requested a report on outreach coordination efforts at the next Council meeting.

9. **Time and place for the next meetings of the Donor Council** (Doc. CEPF/DC16/9)

The Donor Council agreed April and September 2010 as the months for the next two meetings, with the former specifically timed for a presentation of the CEPF impact assessment results. The Government of Japan representative suggested that the September meeting could be held in Japan. The chairman asked the Secretariat to consult with Donor Council members about appropriate dates and locations and inform the Council of the selected dates and venue.

10. **Other business**

No other business was discussed.

*\* For information only*

**List of Follow-up Actions:**

1. Explore the options for providing some form of immediate assistance to Haiti and report back to the Council members with a proposal as soon as possible.
2. Distribute approved language regarding the addition of new members to the Donor Council.
3. Draw up a proposal that could be used with prospective donors and distribute this to Council members so that fundraising efforts can get under way.

4. Provide a report on 2010 outreach coordination efforts at the next meeting of the Donor Council.
5. Consult with Donor Council members about appropriate dates and locations for the April and September 2010 meetings of the Donor Council and inform the Council of the selected dates and venue.

## List of Attendees

### Donor Council Members

James Wolfensohn, Donor Council Chairman	The World Bank
Gustavo Fonseca, Team Leader, Natural Resources on behalf of Monique Barbut, CEO	Global Environment Facility
Gilles Kleitz, Project Manager, Environment – Biodiversity on behalf of Pierre Jacquet, Executive Director for Strategy	Agence Française de Développement
Peter Seligmann, CEO and Chairman	Conservation International
Warren Evans, Sector Director, Environment on behalf of Katherine Sierra, Vice President, Sustainable Development	The World Bank
Yasuo Takamura, Alternate Executive Director, Office of the Executive Director, Japan, The World Bank on behalf of Toshinori Doi Director General, Development Policy Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance	Government of Japan

### Staff

#### **CEPF**

Bobbie Jo Kelso, Acting Executive Director & Senior Director for External Affairs  
Julie Shaw, Writer/Editor, External Affairs  
Michele Zador, Grant Director

#### **Conservation International**

Jennifer Morris, Senior Vice President, Ecosystem Finance

#### **Global Environment Facility**

Yoko Watanabe, Program Manager, Biodiversity

#### **Government of Japan**

Yasuaki Yoneyama, Director, Co-ordination Office, Development Policy Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance  
Keiichi Nakazawa, Deputy Director, Global Biodiversity Strategy Office, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment  
Daiji Kawaguchi, Assistant Director, Global Biodiversity Strategy Office, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment  
Masaru Abe, Section Chief, Development Policy Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance  
Motoo Kakihara, Advisor, Office of the Executive Director, Japan, The World Bank

#### **World Bank**

Kathy MacKinnon, Lead Biodiversity Specialist and CEPF Task Team Leader