CEPF | 2019

IMPACT REPORT

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Cover image: Seychelles blue pigeon (Alectroenas pulcherrimus). © O. Langrand
Elephant photo: African elephant (Loxodonta africana), Uganda. © O. Langrand

CEPF empowers nongovernmental organizations, indigenous groups, universities and private enterprises to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots and help communities thrive. We do this through grants for conservation, organizational strengthening and sustainable development.

CEPF'S APPROACH

- **Donor partnership:** CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.
- **Focused investment:** On the basis of an assessment of opportunities and threats, CEPF donor partners choose which biodiversity hotspots to invest in as funding becomes available.
- **Participatory priority-setting:** Grant making is guided by ecosystem profiles—analyses of the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions in each hotspot that are produced by, and in consultation with, local stakeholders. The result is a regional conservation strategy tailored to the most urgent needs, using practical solutions.
- **Local management:** CEPF partners with a regional implementation team in each biodiversity hotspot to help shepherd the investment and build local conservation leadership.
- **Grants to civil society:** Civil society entities—including nongovernmental organizations, communities, indigenous peoples groups, universities and small businesses—apply for grants that are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that contribute to CEPF's conservation strategy.
- **Enduring conservation:** Projects funded by CEPF add up to a portfolio of complementary conservation actions addressing critical priorities while also building local conservation communities that will continue to lead protection of the hotspots after CEPF funding is completed.
- **Achieving global goals:** The results achieved by CEPF grantees complement governments' efforts to meet targets related to the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity (the Aichi Biodiversity Targets), Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Goals.

2000 to 30 June 2019

24
hotspot strategies implemented

2,408
grantees supported

US$242
million in grants committed

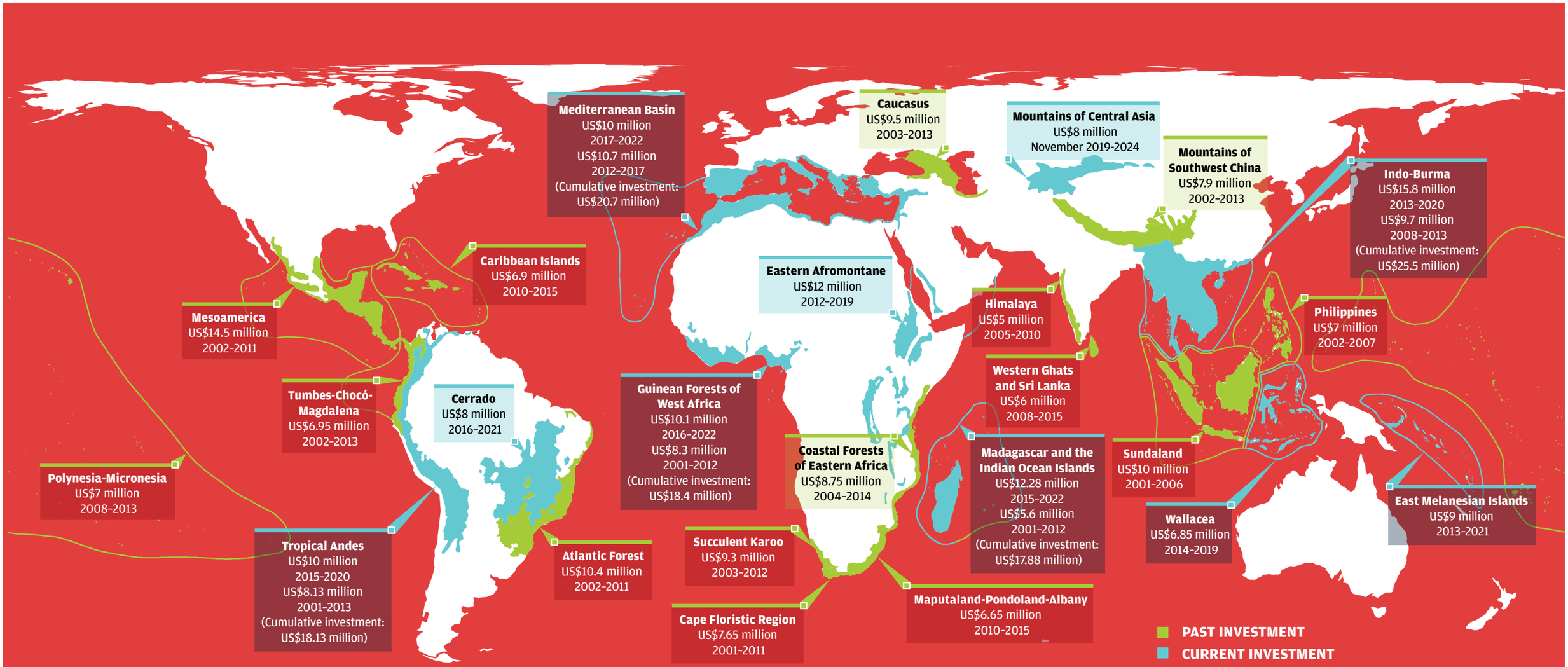
US$376
million leveraged by those grants

98
countries and territories benefited

15.3
million hectares of protected areas created

8.2
million hectares of production landscapes with improved management

Please visit **www.cepf.net** for more information.



CEPF and the Biodiversity Hotspots

Biodiversity Hotspots = Earth's most biologically rich–yet threatened–terrestrial regions.

To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, an area must meet two strict criteria:

- Contain at least 1,500 species of vascular plants found nowhere else on Earth (known as "endemic" species).
- Have lost at least 70 percent of its primary area of native vegetation.

There are 36 hotspots around the globe. CEPF awards grants to civil society working on conservation in developing countries within the biodiversity hotspots.

As of 30 June 2019, CEPF had invested in 24 biodiversity hotspots, and grants have benefited 98 countries and territories.

New protected area Ulcinj Salina in Montenegro, part of the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. © CZIP

I. INTRODUCTION

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was established in 2000 to empower civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems. Since its inception in 2000, CEPF has awarded US$242 million in grants to 2,408 civil society organizations. These grants have been implemented in 24 biodiversity hotspots, covering 98 countries and territories. The fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Additional donors support regional components of the partnership.

CEPF's aim, and its grantees' achievements, have never been so important. With the biodiversity crisis becoming more urgent every day, and climate change exhibiting its devastating effects with increasing frequency, CEPF's grantees are making solid progress in protecting critical ecosystems, the species and ecological processes that they support, and in improving the lives of the people that depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods and indeed, their very survival.

Since its creation, CEPF has strived to articulate the achievements of its grantees and has employed several frameworks to measure its impact. These reporting practices have evolved over the years in an effort to be more accurate, precise, relevant and useful.

The CEPF program contributes to four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being, and enabling conditions. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. An empowered, knowledgeable and skilled civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies are critical for successful conservation. CEPF measures progress in all four of these interlinked pillars to gain a holistic understanding of the impact of the fund.

Each CEPF grant is assigned to one of the four pillars, determined by identifying the major focus of the grant. This allows CEPF to determine, broadly, the number of grants and amount allocated for each of the pillars for the program as a whole.

To date, CEPF has awarded 50 percent of its grants, just over US$117 million, under the biodiversity pillar, demonstrating the priority CEPF gives to this theme. Enabling conditions receives the second largest allocation, noting that this amount includes funds to support the regional implementation teams (RITs), the on-the-ground institutions dedicated to rolling out CEPF's strategy and grant-making in the hotspots. RITs receive the first grant in each hotspot, and perform a strategic and technical role in CEPF's grant-making throughout the investment period, in particular for the award of "small" grants (those under US$50,000), for which the RIT is fully responsible. Civil society and human well-being receive 10% and 8% of the remaining funds, respectively.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of funds for each pillar.

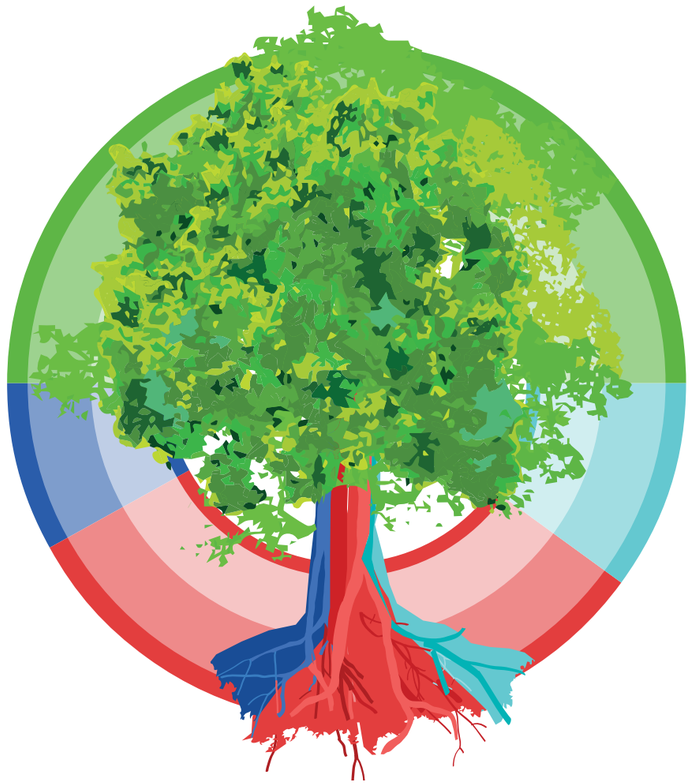
What follows is a description of CEPF's monitoring framework and the report of global impact from first grant-making in January 2001 through 30 June 2019.

CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators, adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. Each indicator corresponds to one of CEPF's four pillars, described above. CEPF has linked all 16 indicators to relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Table 1). Definitions for each indicator are included in the results section of this report.

Figure 1

Distribution of Funds by Pillar



Total: **US$242 million**

- **50%** Biodiversity
- **10%** Civil Society
- **32%** Enabling Conditions (17% – Regional Implementation Teams)
- **8%** Human Well-Being

Table 1

Pillar and Indicators	Target/ Goal
Biodiversity	
• Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.	
• Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management.	
• Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.	
• Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).	
• Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.	
Civil Society	
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).	
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).	
• Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.	
Human Well-Being	
• Number of people receiving structured training.	
• Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.	
• Number of people receiving cash benefits.	
• Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.	
• Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.	
Enabling Conditions	
• Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.	
• Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.	
• Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.	

Achievement towards these global indicators is measured only once for each grant, at the end of each project. CEPF's results are compiled annually for the program. For some indicators, where relevant, CEPF has reported on results by region. Several hotspots span regions; each region and what it includes, is listed below.

- Africa: Cape Floristic Region; Eastern Afromontane (excluding Yemen); Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa; Guinean Forests of West Africa; Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany; Mediterranean Basin (North Africa only); Succulent Karoo.
- Asia: Caucasus; Himalaya; Indo-Burma; Philippines; Mountains of Southwest China; Sundaland; Wallacea; Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. In FY20, this region will also include the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot, where a new investment is starting.
- Caribbean: Caribbean Islands.
- Central America: Mesoamerica.
- Europe: Mediterranean Basin (excluding North Africa, Lebanon and Jordan).
- Middle East: Eastern Afromontane (Yemen only); Mediterranean Basin (Lebanon and Jordan only).
- Pacific Islands: East Melanesian Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia.
- South America: Atlantic Forest; Cerrado; Tropical Andes; Tumbes-Chocó-Manabí.

CEPF grantees report on three levels. The first level is project level, for which grantees report on project-specific targets and deliverables. Grantees provide periodic updates via progress reports during their project, followed by reporting on overall project accomplishments at the end of the project. At this time, grantees also report on their contribution to portfolio indicators, as well as global indicators. All grantee reports are reviewed thoroughly by CEPF and/or regional implementation team staff, to ensure accurate and valid reporting of achievements.

The second level is the hotspot level, for which each portfolio has a logframe and targets associated with its specific investment strategy, made achievable because of funding provided for the hotspot. Grantees, at the end of their projects, are requested to record their contributions to portfolio targets. Each hotspot has a different set of portfolio indicators due to the unique characteristics, challenges and opportunities present in the region. Since adoption of CEPF's new monitoring framework in 2017, portfolio indicators are well correlated with CEPF's global indicators. Progress towards achievement of hotspot targets is assessed annually and reported in an annual portfolio overview. Assessment workshops are held at the mid-term and final stages of each portfolio investment.

The third level is the global level. In 2017 CEPF's donors approved a new monitoring framework with 16 global indicators designed to yield clear and valuable data that articulates CEPF's impact and will provide them with relevant results. Contributions to the global indicators are recorded by grantees in their final reports, as well as by regional implementation teams who are able to report on collective portfolio achievements that go beyond individual project accomplishments.

Data collection and reporting processes

Each of CEPF's grantees makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. CEPF's monitoring system has evolved from a simplistic effort focused on rudimentary data collection and an emphasis on stories, to a complex framework applicable to grants of all sizes and scope, capable of articulating global impact and contributions to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets in quantitative and qualitative ways.

CEPF's monitoring framework allows for reporting on the program's operational contribution as well as on impact. During the application process, prior to project approval, each grant is assigned a pillar, a project category (a subset of the pillar), a habitat, one or more taxa if relevant, and applicable key words. These assignments allow the fund to ascertain amount of funds spent in certain categories and for various themes, and facilitate analysis of data by hotspot and region. The ability to quantity how much money has been spent on selected themes helps to frame results in terms of what CEPF grantees have been able to do with what they have been allocated.

Impact reporting is undertaken via comprehensive reporting tools and templates available in multiple languages. Each grantee is responsible for completing selected monitoring tools, including regular programmatic progress reports, a final report, a final impact report, a gender tracking tool to measure change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues, and when applicable, a civil society tracking tool to measure change in institutional capacity. Grantees that work on management of protected areas are also be asked to complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, which measures change in various aspects of protected area management. Upon submission of monitoring reports and tracking tools, data are reviewed and validated by the respective regional implementation team and/or CEPF grant director responsible for that grant.

While CEPF has established procedures for data collection and compilation, it is not without its challenges. Below are some of the main challenges encountered in preparing CEPF's impact numbers.

Interpretation

- Misunderstanding about what an indicator means: Despite translation of CEPF's reporting formats into multiple languages, cultural differences can lead to varying interpretations of the indictors.
- Different interpretations of what an indicator means, irrespective of language: Each indicator has a definition, but even so, people's understanding and experiences can lead to different interpretations.

Overreporting

- This can occur when a grantee may have only achieved a partial result but reports it as achieved. For example, a new protected area must be officially declared to be counted. A grantee may report that an area has been declared, because official declaration is imminent. However, such an accomplishment should not be counted until it actually occurs.

Creative reporting

- Grantees are proud of their accomplishments, as is CEPF. However, sometimes a grantee will alter or expand the results reported for a specific indicator, such that it is not possible to aggregate the results with those from other projects.

Maintaining a focus on reporting during implementation

- Although grantees receive training at the start of their project about reporting requirements and expectations, this focus can be lost in the enthusiasm to implement the project. This means that grantees may forget about portfolio and global indicators, and may arrive at the end of their project without collecting the necessary data. For example, CEPF requires sex-disaggregated data for some indicators. If grantees do not record such data, they may not be able to supply the required information.

Validation of grantee results

- All grantee reports are thoroughly reviewed by a CEPF grant director or the regional implementation team, or both when relevant. These efforts are supplemented by reviews of supporting documentation, correspondence with grantees, or site visits when possible. It is not possible to visit every grantee at the end their project, because some are located in remote areas and funds are limited. Thus, while every effort is made to understand what grantees are reporting, it is not always feasible to physically see the results at the project site. This means that the grant director and regional implementation team must strive to maintain contact during the project.

CEPF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach Unit (MEOU) also reviews grantee reports when compiling overall program results, thereby providing an additional avenue of communication with the grantee to verify and clarify results, as well as to gather additional qualitative information to better present grantee results in CEPF's various communications products.

Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting

- CEPF's grants are often awarded for initiatives that may require a significant amount of time to see a result, such as creation of a protected area. A grant may come to an end before a result is achieved. In such instances, CEPF strives to maintain contact with grantees post-project so that when the result is achieved it can be recorded as part of CEPF's impact. Grantees are usually so enthusiastic about a result eventually being achieved that they communicate with CEPF. However, they are under no obligation to do so, and it may be that CEPF is under-reporting for some indicators as a consequence.

These challenges are a constant focus for CEPF MEOU, and its staff are dedicated to addressing these so that reporting procedures are better understood and implemented, with the overall aim of ensuring that CEPF's results are as accurate and relevant as possible.


Shoebill (Balaeniceps rex), Uganda. © O. Langrand

CEPF Pillar 1: Biodiversity

Indicator: Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

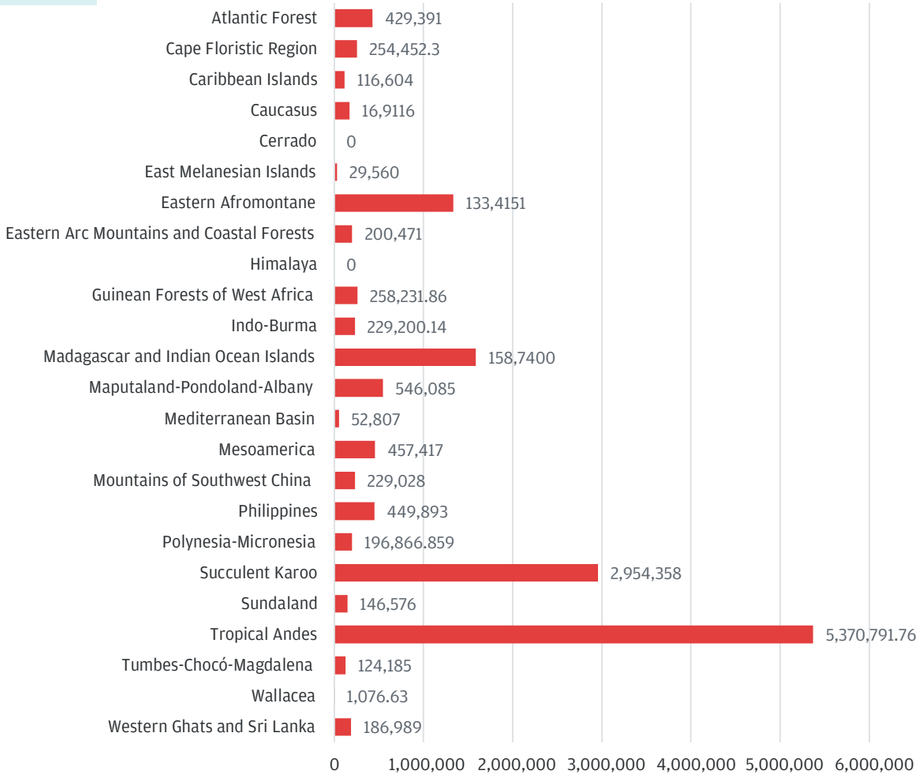
Definition: To be counted, a new protected area must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. If a protected area is expanded due to CEPF efforts, the area of expansion may be counted, but must also demonstrate formal legal declaration. New protected areas include national or local parks and reserves, private protected areas, marine parks and reserves, community protected areas such as fish conservation zones and lands protected under stewardship and community agreements. Areas that do not have an official formal declaration may be included insofar as they are legally binding.

In FY19, CEPF saw the creation of numerous protected areas, both large and small. To date, CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 15,324,650 hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots. The figure of 15.3 million is a substantial increase from the total at the end of fiscal year 2018, growing by 480,000 hectares due to new achievements in several hotspots where efforts came to fruition this year, as is the case in the Tropical Andes. Additionally, some efforts undertaken by grantees in years past are only now receiving formal legal recognition, following continual focus after their CEPF grant ended, as is the case with the Ulcinj Salina protected area in Montenegro. The charts below show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot, and by region, since inception of the fund.

Figure 2

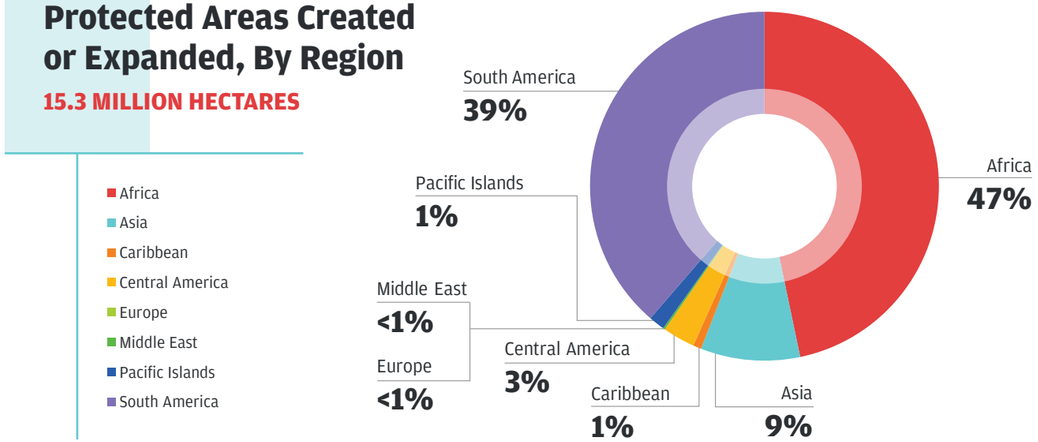
Protected Areas Created or Expanded, By Biodiversity Hotspot

15.3 MILLION HECTARES



Protected Areas Created or Expanded, By Region

15.3 MILLION HECTARES



The Intag Toisán Municipal Conservation and Sustainable Use Area, located in northwest Ecuador. © Luis Calapi, Aves y Conservación

Intag Toisán: A new protected area in Ecuador

The Intag Toisán Municipal Conservation and Sustainable Use Area (ACUS-MIT) lies in Cotacachi County in northwest Ecuador, an area of expansive cloud forest also renowned for its mineral wealth. Rich in endemic species, rivers, watersheds and forests, this area has for many years experienced persistent threats from agricultural expansion, encroachment, illegal logging and large-scale mining. Rampant deforestation and a large gold mine have caused severe damage to watersheds, which, when coupled with the consequences of climate change, have jeopardized the water supply for surrounding communities.

CEPF grantee Fundación Prodeci a Favor de los Derechos Ciudadanos engaged with diverse stakeholders including local communities and social and government entities to participate actively in the creation of a new protected area, the ACUS-MIT. This protected area of 108,959 hectares was created in 2019, when the existing Toisán Municipal Protection Area (18,000 hectares) was recategorized and expanded with a new status that includes sustainable use as well as protection.

Fundación Prodeci worked to address the complex challenges in the region by promoting sustainable development of the territory, involving communities, NGOs and local governments. Prodeci garnered strong support from local communities and municipal governments by emphasizing the area's critical importance for maintaining high quality and quantity of water for downstream communities. The project included training activities, in particular for stakeholders to gain the necessary skills and tools for public-community management of the area, such as governance, leadership, management and monitoring. It also set up water-user associations to engage in community-driven management decision-making. This new public-community management system will benefit the area's abundant and diverse wildlife, forests and water reserves, and offers an exciting opportunity to bring community-led ecotourism to the region.

Ulcinj Salina, Montenegro, site of international importance for migratory birds. © Jovana Janjusevic

New protection for Ulcinj Salina, Montenegro

For the past century, Ulcinj Salina in Montenegro has been one of Europe's most important migratory bird resting and breeding sites. Situated next to the small coastal town of Ulcinj, the site was developed into a salt production complex in the 1920s, creating wealth for the town and a unique and bountiful ecosystem arising from the man-made salt pans. Over 250 species of birds visit it each year, including the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*).

In 2003, the salt pans were privatized, and with lack of maintenance and investments, salt production slowed down, leading to bankruptcy a few years later. Plans were then prepared to transform the site into a luxury tourist resort. Meanwhile, salt production ceased and the site's water pumps were turned off, causing the water levels essential for nesting and foraging to fall, and leaving the fragile ecosystems in danger. The Center for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP) has been working with partners and stakeholders to maintain and protect this site for more than 15 years (with CEPF support from 2013-2017), even launching a petition to save the site that was signed by more than 100,000 people and presented to the Montenegrin government. Finally, in June 2019, the local parliament of the Ulcinj municipality voted to declare the salt pans a national protected area in recognition of their distinct ecological and cultural value.

Although small, the 1,500-hectare new protected area is of critical importance for migratory birds, providing a site for hundreds of species to safely nest and rest during their migration through Europe.

Children launching coral reef rehabilitation "building blocks" in the marine protected area near the village of Lamawolo on the western side of Hadakewa Bay, Lembata Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur Province, Indonesia. © Barakat

Establishing marine sanctuaries in Lembata, Indonesia

Lembata is one of several small islands lying between Flores and Timor in the Indonesian province of Nusa Tenggara Timur. The shallow seas surrounding Lembata form a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) that is home to dugongs, turtles, whales, manta rays, dolphins and numerous corals. The area suffers from destructive fishing practices, like bombing, and from overfishing by trawlers. Its mangroves are being deforested and its coral reefs and seagrass are disappearing. Since June 2017, *Lembaga Pengembangan Masyarakat Lembata* (the Lembata Community Development Association), known locally as Barakat, has strived to address these threats and conserve the KBA by working with communities surrounding Hadakewa Bay on the north side of the island.

The key to Barakat's work is to build upon the traditional custom of *muro*, which means the temporary closure of an area, or a temporary ban on collection of resources from an area, to allow it to recover. Local people have long understood the concept of letting farmland lie fallow or letting a fishery recover, jointly agreeing on a period of *muro*. Barakat has been working with five communities surrounding

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Hadakewa Bay—Lamatokan, Lamawolo, Dikesare, Tapobaran and Kolontobo—where *muro* is the basis for creation of a marine protected area (MPA). Each of the communities nominates people to an MPA management committee, called the *Kapitan Sari Lewa*. The committee has both customary standing (where traditional oaths performed by elders bind a community to protection of the bay) and modern administrative legal standing that allows the committee to make rules about use and access and to prosecute offenses.

Due to Barakat's work, the five communities have established six different nearshore sanctuaries that collectively form a protected area totaling 358.3 hectares. The boundaries of each sanctuary were demarcated in traditional ceremonies such that the *muro* concept is locally "owned."

Barakat is measuring "before" and "after" conditions. For example, in 2016, it was common for people to net two to three sea turtles, on purpose or by accident, every month. Since the delineation of the MPA and the related awareness activities, only two turtles have been caught in 24 months. Fishing communities are noting the rebound of the fishery and enjoying the ability to protect Hadakewa Bay from external people using destructive fishing practices.

Indicator: Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

Definition: To be counted, an area must be a Key Biodiversity Area, must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/ protection of the Key Biodiversity Area. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the Key Biodiversity Area. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples include: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.

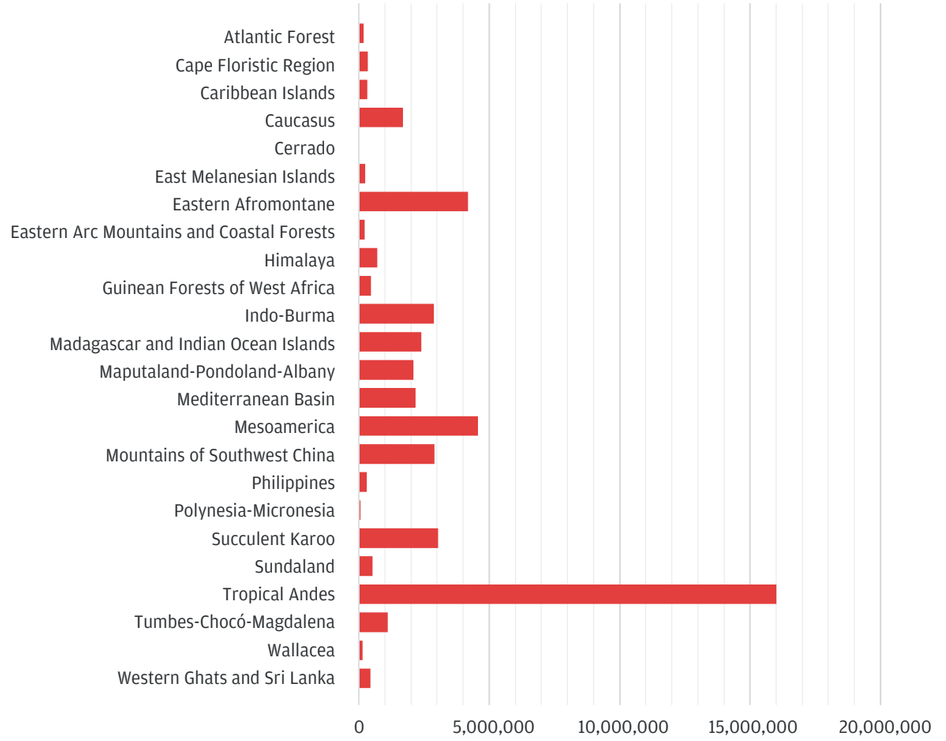
Key Biodiversity Areas are of paramount importance to CEPF, and improving their management and protection is a fundamental objective of CEPF. Key Biodiversity Areas are sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Sites qualify as global Key Biodiversity Areas if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity, geographically restricted biodiversity, ecological integrity, biological processes, and irreplaceability.

At the close of fiscal year 2019, CEPF had strengthened the management and protection of 47,303,198 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 24 hotspots.

Figure 3

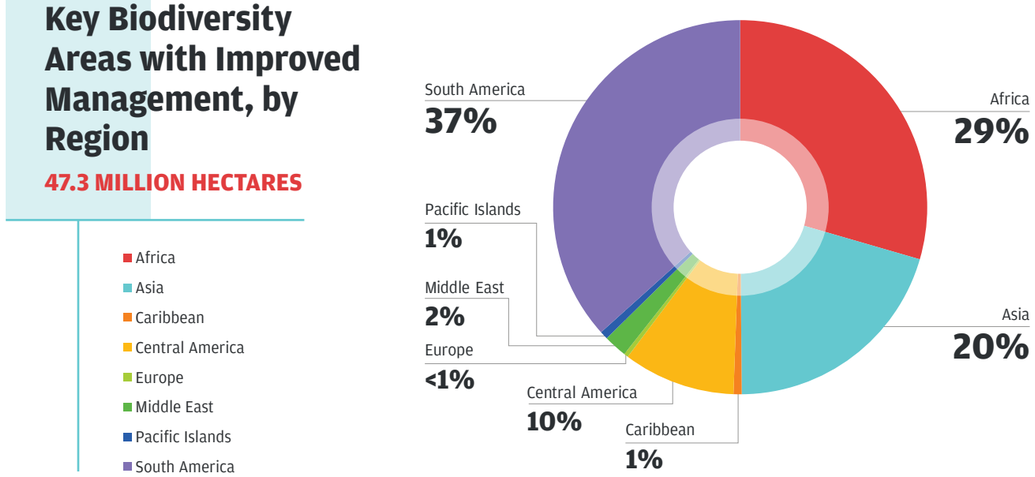
Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management, by Biodiversity Hotspot

47.3 MILLION HECTARES



Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management, by Region

47.3 MILLION HECTARES

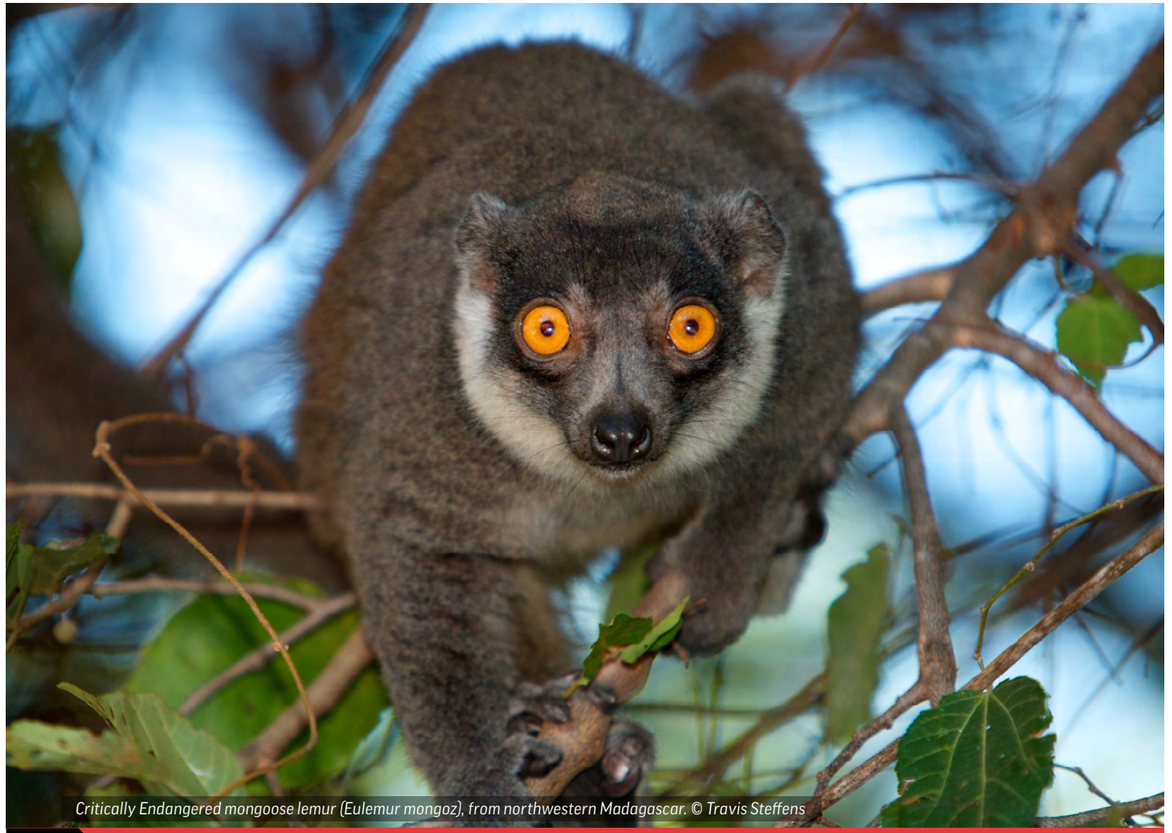


Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park, famous for its abundant wildlife and water resources. © O. Langrand

Adding a buffer zone for Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda

Murchison Falls National Park is a Key Biodiversity Area and one of Uganda's largest parks, covering approximately 400,000 hectares and surrounding the confluence of the Victoria Nile and White Nile rivers. Like many East African grassland parks, it is unfenced. Historically, elephants and other herbivores would have followed seasonal migration routes north toward present-day South Sudan. Today, farming communities surround the northern border of the park along the two-lane blacktop Gulu-Arua Road. Without fences, the park suffers from poachers who can easily enter to place snares—primarily for bushmeat—while the communities suffer from animals that wander outside the park, particularly elephants, which can destroy farms, and buffaloes, which are aggressive toward people.

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has worked to create a conservancy on the northern border of Murchison Falls National Park, known as the Murchison Aswa Falls Conservancy (MAFC). This conservancy serves as a buffer zone for the park, and ensuring that it is well-managed is imperative for the wildlife in the park. The conservancy has 128 members and covers 40,000 hectares, all of which has been voluntarily placed under protected status. Since creation of the conservancy in early 2019, AWF's focus has been on improving the management of the area. Actions undertaken to improve its management include recruitment and training of 15 community members as MAFC community scouts, in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority. These individuals have been trained in basic tactics, wildlife and related legislation, anti-poaching and patrolling techniques, prevention of illegal activities, and community relations. The scouts advise farmers on animal-friendly agriculture methods and how to ward off animals with nonlethal means. They have also been provided with appropriate gear such as field boots and back packs. Since receiving their training, the scouts have been conducting patrols as part of efforts to stem illegal activities (including wildlife poaching). The scouts also participate in ecological monitoring to protect wildlife, ensure that zoning schemes and by-laws under the conservancy's management plan are adhered to, and educate and engage with the local population.



Critically Endangered mongoose lemur (Eulemur mongoz), from northwestern Madagascar. © Travis Steffens

Community conservation in Ankarafantsika National Park, Madagascar

Ankarafantsika National Park contains one of the five largest blocks of western primary forest in Madagascar. The park is home to eight different species of lemur—five of which are Endangered or Critically Endangered—and many other endemic and threatened species. The park is under pressure from fire caused by people to provoke regrowth of grass for cattle grazing and charcoal production. To conserve the park and its biodiversity, Planet Madagascar Association has taken a community-based conservation approach, working hand in hand with the local communities living in and around the park. They have implemented practical fire management solutions and promoted conservation education, working in an 8,000-hectare management zone, representing approximately 6% of Ankarafantsika National Park.

The project has confronted the fire threat head on by creating firebreaks, patrolling, creating and distributing an educational film, holding stakeholder meetings and responsible fire days, conducting household surveys and building capacity. At project close, local communities had cut and maintained 15 kilometers of firebreaks, with the aim of stopping large, intense fires from entering the management zone. The firebreaks were marked with educational signs and periodically patrolled to prevent illegal activity and fires within the management zone, and to monitor for the presence of lemurs. Over the course of the project, 632 patrols were conducted. Efforts also entailed preparation and screening of an educational film about the importance of lemurs to forests and people (lemurs are important seed dispersers), and the im-

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Firebreak at Ankarafantsika National Park. © Mamy Razafitsalama

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pact of fire on lemurs, forests and people. Household surveys were also conducted to assist with making decisions about how to best serve the communities and address the main conservation and community development threats facing lemurs and people.

Although the project was challenged by the drought that was affecting Madagascar and southern Africa from 2015 to 2018, which resulted in fires within the park's management zone, Planet Madagascar Association was still successful in protecting all 4,357 hectares of forest in the 8,000-hectare management zone via firebreaks and fighting fire. This success, coupled with conservation education and community engagement, has been good news for the lemurs living in Ankarafantsika National Park.

Indicator: Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity

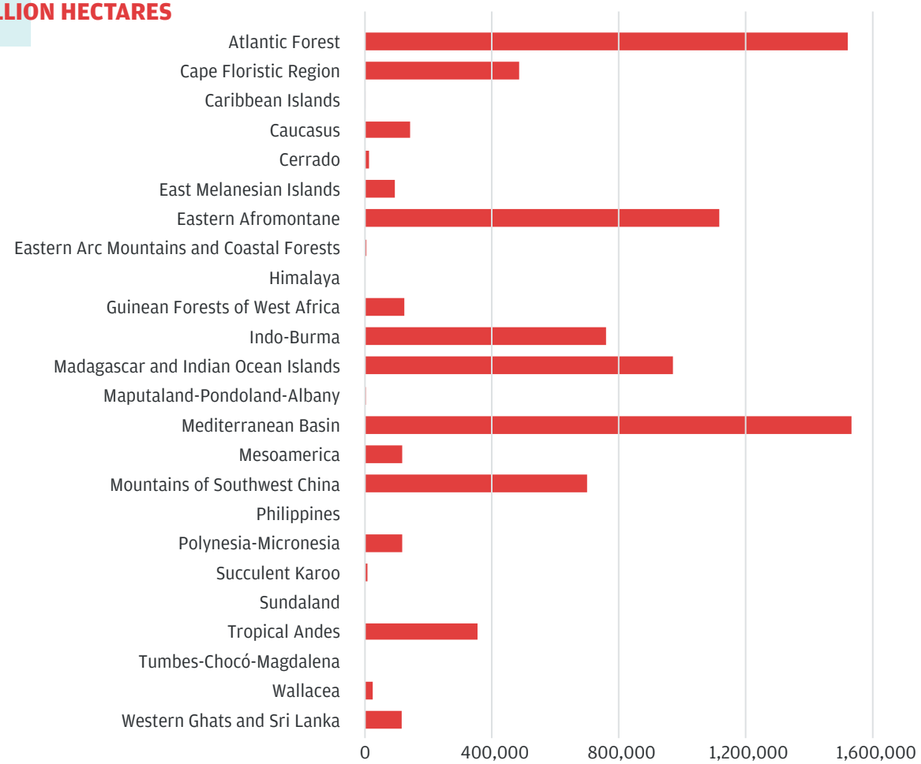
Definition: A production landscape is an area where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Production landscapes, areas where people conduct agriculture, forestry, or extraction of natural products, can be very important for biodiversity. CEPF supports grantees to integrate management of biodiversity into these landscapes, and since 2001 has contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 8,207,848 hectares. CEPF began to systematically record achievements in production landscapes in 2008, and therefore hotspots receiving investment prior to this date are underrepresented in global figures.

Figure 4

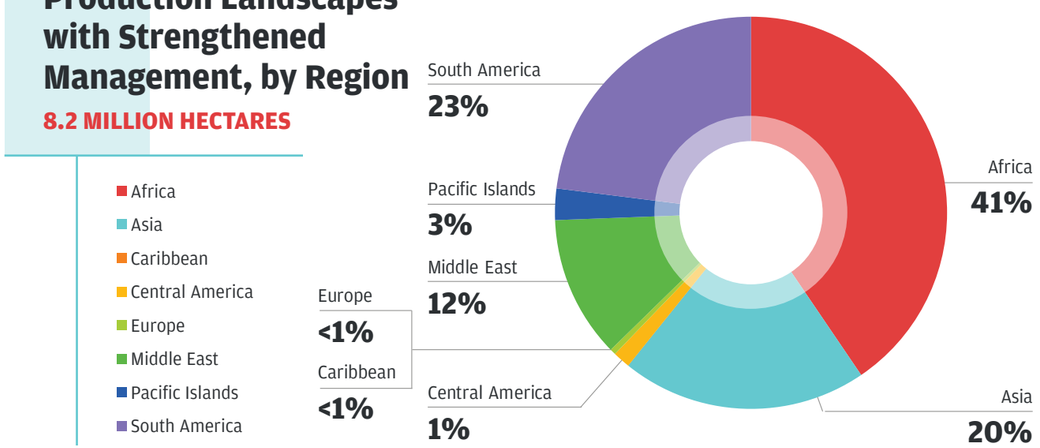
Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management, by Biodiversity Hotspot

8.2 MILLION HECTARES



Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management, by Region

8.2 MILLION HECTARES



Staff of CEPF grantees Wildlife Conservation Society and Sansom Mlup Prey inspecting wildlife-friendly cover crops in Cambodia.
© CI/photo by A.W. Tordoff

Wildlife-friendly rice in Cambodia

Indo-Burma's Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone is an area of remarkable hydrology. Heavy rain in the headwaters of the Mekong causes an annual reversal in the flow of the Tonle Sap, which increases the size of the lake from 250,000 hectares to 1.5 million hectares. This annual flood pulse delivers water, fish and sediment to areas that are underwater for only a part of the year. The area has exceptional biodiversity value, with its flagship species being the Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*), a Critically Endangered bird that is a CEPF priority species. Bengal floricans breed in the floodplain between February/March and July, spending the flood season outside of the floodplain. Rapid expansion of irrigated dry-season rice is causing a loss of grassland and the increasing conversion of scrubland to more intensive agriculture. This is likely to have caused a decline in fish populations, and loss of grassland is thought to be the cause of the decline in the Bengal florican population, now numbering less than 600.

For nearly 20 years, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has collaborated with government and non-governmental partners to conserve the floodplain and its rich biodiversity. This effort has been challenging and complex, as the lives of local people, habitats and species are delicately interwoven in this area. The work has entailed setting up grassland reserves mandated to preserve traditional grassland usage by local communities, on which the poorest members of society still rely and without which grassland would revert to scrub. The work undertaken by WCS and partners has focused on identifying biodiversity-friendly sustainable rice production practices that allow Bengal florican to persist and breed successfully in a farming environment.

CEPF's current support to WCS entails catalyzing the uptake of biodiversity-friendly management practices in large-scale rice production landscapes in Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province, and ensuring that biodiversity values are an integral part of the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), an emerging global standard for environmentally and socially sustainable rice cultivation. In terms of cultivated area and number of farmers, the project became the largest SRP pilot in Cambodia, which enabled WCS to have traction with both national policy and the global SRP standards and indicators, which are being revised to incorporate new criteria on land conversion and biodiversity. During the project, more than 400 farmers were trained in sustainable rice production practices and 2,000 hectares of production landscape benefited from the adoption of management practices that are friendly to wildlife species. Such practices include field leveling to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides and use of legumes as cover crops, improving soil nutrition and providing cover for Bengal floricans.

On the strength of the project, WCS was invited to host the SRP plenary, which was held in Cambodia in January 2019. This places WCS in a good position to influence the future development of this initiative, which has attracted major purchasers of rice.

Indicator: Number of protected areas with improved management

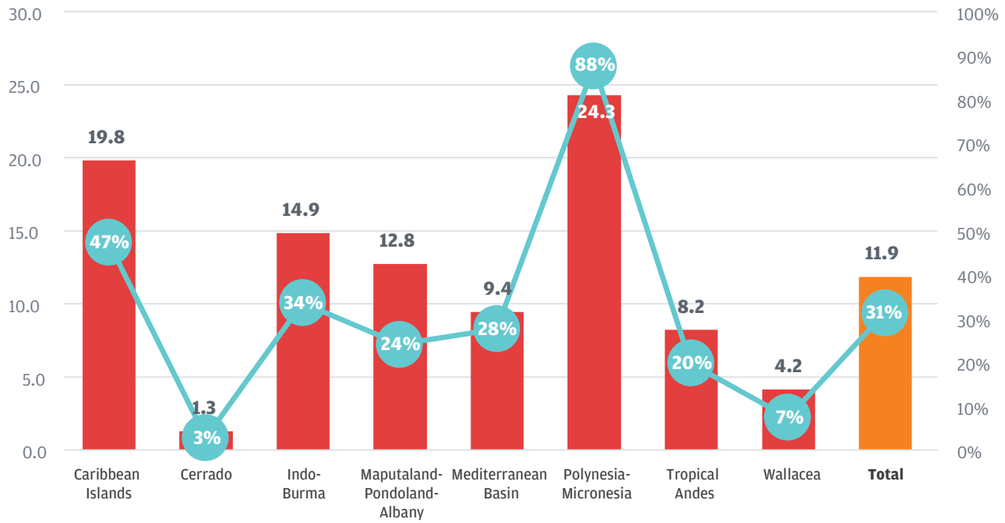
Definition: The purpose of this indicator is to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that receive CEPF investment.

CEPF strives to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Changes in score are determined by comparing a baseline scorecard to a final scorecard completed at the end of investment in a targeted protected area.

To date, CEPF has received 363 METT scorecards from 215 protected areas in 17 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Cerrado, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and Wallacea). As of June 2019, 111 of the 215 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 111 protected areas, 89 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness. For eight hotspots with a significant number of completed METT scorecards in fiscal year 2019, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 12 points on average (+31 percent) (Figure 5). As such, CEPF has been contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in helping countries increase the percent of coverage of protected area that has been assessed, as well as increasing their management effectiveness over time.

Figure 5

Protected Areas Management
Average and Percentage Change in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool



Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu mosaic, Brazil

The Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu mosaic, located in Brazil in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot, is a collection of 25 protected areas (10 of which were created in 2018 with support from CEPF), private lands and indigenous territories. The mosaic contains several endemic and threatened species and significant water resources. This area of 3 million hectares is being managed as a whole, guided by a Conservation-Based Territorial Development Plan (DTBC). Given the different categories of use, including fully protected areas and sustainable-use units, varying conservation objectives must be taken into consideration.

For the past two years, Fundação Pró Natureza–Funatura worked to strengthen the management of the mosaic through revision of the DTBC, elaboration of socio-environmental zoning and the implementation of a mosaic fund. The team worked with the management authorities of each of the 15 protected areas existing at project start within the mosaic to obtain baseline Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessments. The work done on the DTBC in part benefited from the results of the METT assessments. “One cannot fail to mention the opportunity that this project provided to the managers of the Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu Mosaic Conservation Units, to deepen and broaden the debate on the importance of integrated management as a fundamental instrument to guarantee the integrity of the protected areas of the mosaic,” said Fernando Lima, project coordinator from Fundação Pró Natureza–Funatura. “The METT was the tool used to update information from protected areas. Due to its practicality and the directing of the questions to the topics of interest of the project, it facilitated the participation of protected area managers in the Integrated Management Working Group and qualified the information that later became actions and proposals within the DTBC plan.”

At the end of the project, METT assessments were conducted again to obtain final scores. Five protected areas (33%) showed an increase in their score while all the others remained stable. Most importantly, the project was successful in receiving approval for the updated DTBC for the entire mosaic, in identifying 30 priority areas and six priority corridors important for zoning, and in identifying 19 agro-extractive products that can be sustainably produced and promoted as a source of income in the region.

In the Cerrado’s Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu mosaic, protected area managers participate in the Integrated Management Working Group to prepare a collaborative map and conduct a METT assessment. © Paulo Henrique Gonçalves de Souza

Indicator: Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action

Definition: To be counted, a species must benefit from an intervention that has direct conservation action. Examples include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan, captive breeding programs, habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, and removal of invasive species.

In 2017, CEPF revised its species indicator to determine the number of globally threatened species that have benefited from conservation action, dating from the start of grant-making in 2001. At that time an initial number was calculated by counting the number of globally threatened species occurring in Key Biodiversity Areas where CEPF investments have strengthened biodiversity conservation and determined that 1,250 had benefited. In 2019, instead of this overarching method, CEPF reviewed all project documentation to identify the species benefiting, and the action taken in the project, and calculated that since inception of the fund, CEPF grants have benefited 882 species. Although a lower number, it is more precise and CEPF has documented the action taken by the grantee to benefit each species.

Figure 6

Number of Threatened Species Benefiting from Conservation Action, 2001-2019
TOTAL: 882

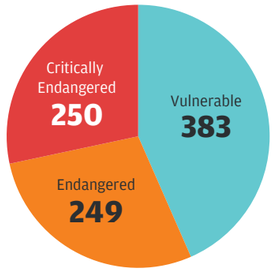
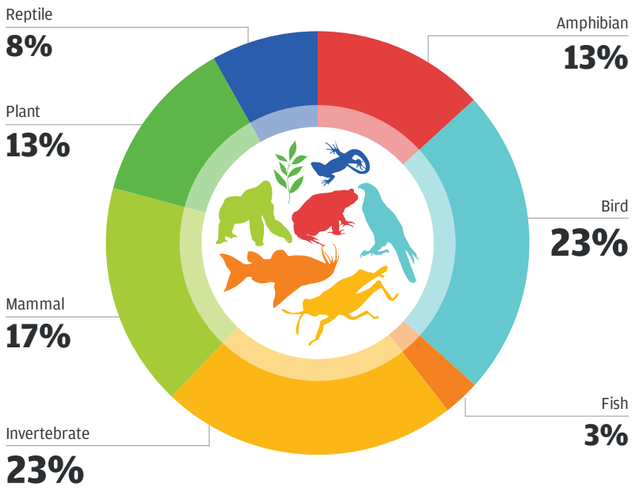


Figure 7

Taxa Benefiting from CEPF Conservation Action 2001-2019



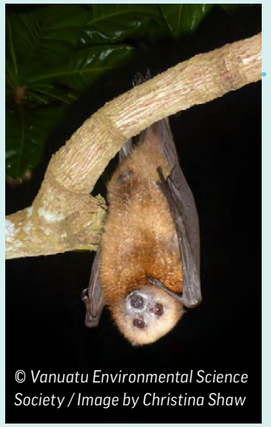
A species survey underway. © L. Njoroge

Conservation of the Kenya jewel

The Kenya jewel (*Platycypha amboniensis*) is a Critically Endangered dragonfly found only in the Aberdare Mountains and Mt. Kenya in central Kenya. Dragonflies may only be small creatures, but they contribute immensely to our well-being. They are experienced hunters feeding on disease-causing mosquitoes, thereby reducing the disease burden and the nuisance, and they are also extremely sensitive to pollution. Since 2018, the National Museums of Kenya has received CEPF support to work with local communities to conduct surveys, produce distribution maps and checklists, and develop species action plans for red-listed dragonfly species occurring in this area. They are also using a tool, the Dragonflies Biotic Index (DBI), to assess the general health of a habitat using dragonflies. This has increasingly become important in identifying priority habitats for conservation.

The Kenya jewel dragonfly. © L. Njoroge

HIGHLIGHTS: SPECIES THAT HAVE BENEFITED FROM CEPF-FUNDED PROJECTS



© Vanuatu Environmental Science Society / Image by Christina Shaw

Conserving the Banks flying fox by delivering knowledge to communities

East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

The Banks flying fox (*Pteropus fundatus*), listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is endemic to a group of six small islands in the remote north of Vanuatu. The scientific record of this small reddy-brown flying fox is scant, with only a handful of reported occurrences and a few specimens in museums. The team from the Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) is addressing this knowledge gap by conducting surveys to gather local knowledge as well as ecological and distribution data to identify important habitat for these bats. VESS is working with the local communities living in and close to Banks flying fox habitat to ensure the survival of this species. Increasing awareness of the ecosystem services bats deliver to people has changed peoples' minds about animals that they used to see as pests that raid the fruit in their gardens. In these cyclone-prone islands, the people now understand the vital role that bats play in dispersing seeds needed for regeneration of habitat after storms, not just for the bats but for the people too. This has resulted in bats being protected from hunting in traditional "Tabu" areas and bans on hunting in roosting trees.

Echo parakeets. © O. Langrand

Mauritius birds make a comeback

Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

Pink pigeon. © O. Langrand

Thanks to decades of dedicated effort by numerous conservation organizations, including the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, two endemic birds, the echo parakeet (*Psittacula eques*) and the pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) were downlisted by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2019 from Endangered to Vulnerable. Both species have suffered declines due to significant loss of forests on Mauritius; predation by introduced cats, rats and monkeys; and competition with introduced invasive birds. A combination of captive breeding, releases into the wild, nest improvement, artificial nest provision, supplementary feeding, eggs and chick rescue and manipulations, predator and competitor control, as well as introduction of birds onto private estates, has helped to secure the future for these two species.

© IDEP Foundation/ Image by Gede Sugiarta

Conservation through pride: the sampiri

Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot

The endangered red-and-blue lory (*Eos histria*), known in Bahasa Indonesia as a sampiri bird or as a Nuri Talaud, is one of at least 11 globally threatened bird species on the small island groups of Sangihe and Talaud, mid-way between Sulawesi (Indonesia) and Mindanao (the Philippines). The sampiri, with its bright colors, is a magnet for the traders of illegally captured birds. At the same time, it is a local icon–a species around which people can rally in the name of protecting an entire set of Key Biodiversity Areas. CEPF made a series of grants to Perkumpulan Sampiri working on Sangihe Island and to Yayasan IDEP Selaras Alam and local partners on Talaud to conserve sampiri habitat and intervene in illegal trade. The grantees raised local awareness of the value of the bird species and the entire habitat that it occupies, worked with local authorities to monitor trade and stop hunting, and promoted the adoption of environmentally friendly agricultural practices. Ultimately, the grants improved the management of 2,157 hectares of protected forest on Sangihe and 6,720 hectares of agricultural buffer zone surrounding a protected area on Talaud.

Hatchlings. © Bou Vorsak

Nest protection and hatchling release of the Endangered Asian giant softshell turtle

Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

Conservation International and Wildlife Conservation Society have been working to conserve the Asian giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) in Cambodia in two consecutive projects focusing on nest protection, hatchling release, awareness and community patrolling. Since the initiative began in 2007, a total 9,047 hatchlings from 402 protected nests have been released. Combined with outreach, education and communication activities, aimed at building support for turtle conservation among local communities and the wider public, the project made a significant contribution to efforts to restore the Asian giant softshell turtle population in the Mekong River and avert its extinction.

© Ciro Albano

Working toward a resurgence of the blue-eyed ground dove

Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot

The blue-eyed ground dove (*Columbina cyanopis*) is found only in the Cerrado region of Brazil. Listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and with no recorded sightings in the past 75 years, the bird was thought to be extinct in the wild. Remarkably, in 2016, 12 individuals of the species were seen in a small area. Since this exciting discovery, SAVE Brasil has been working to understand the natural history and limiting factors for the conservation of the blue-eyed ground dove, implement a conservation action plan, search for new areas of occurrence, engage with local communities, promote bird watching tourism and disseminate information about the species to the general public.

© Endri Haxhiraj

Biodiversity survey yields new data on Albanian endemic *Tulipa albanica*

Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

The Critically Endangered Albanian tulip (*Tulipa albanica*) was first discovered in 2013 with a population of only 250 individuals. Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP) is working to ensure the survival of this species by conserving its habitat and creating a generation of skilled botanists and professionals to continue working on the protection of endemic species in northeast Albania. IEP is increasing knowledge and skills through surveys and studies, using the information for conservation planning, and strengthening the engagement of stakeholders in to support species conservation. Recent survey work has already led to the discovery of a new population of this species, raising the known number of individuals to over 750.

© Asociación Armonía - Márton Hardy

Reforestation of mountain habitats to conserve *Polylepis pepei*

Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

Asociación Armonía is working to conserve highly threatened forests of *Polylepis* trees and other globally threatened species that live in the Madidi and Cotapata national parks in Bolivia. In these high Andean Mountain habitats, Asociación Armonía has implemented an integrated program to support reforestation with *Polylepis* and other native trees. Provision of efficient cook stoves has reduced demand for fuelwood, and threatened species are benefiting from implementation of conservation action plans.

© Vasco Pissarra

Captive breeding of the Obô snail

Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

The giant land snail, also known as the Obô snail (*Archachatina bicarinata*), listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is found only in the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe. It has suffered a rapid decline in the last several decades due to habitat loss and indirect competition with the introduced invasive West African giant snail. Grantee Alisei ONG is creating an Obô snail conservation breeding center and raising awareness about conservation of Obô National Park, home to this threatened species.

CEPF Pillar 2: Civil Society

Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity

Definition: CEPF measures change in organizational capacity with a self-assessment tool that aims to monitor a civil society organization's capacity to effectively plan, implement and evaluate actions for biodiversity conservation. This is determined by five major factors: (i) its available human resources; (ii) its financial resources; (iii) its management systems, which ensure that available resources are translated into effective actions; (iv) its strategic planning, which ensures that these actions target conservation priorities; and (v) its delivery, which ensures that these actions effect change. The tool should be completed twice, at the start of a project and at the end of the project. Local and national grantees are required to complete the Civil Society Tracking Tool.

CEPF measures change in civil society capacity using the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), which was introduced as a pilot in 2009–2010 in two hotspots, and rolled out to all active hotspots at the start of fiscal year 2013.

At the close of fiscal year 2019, CEPF had received 368 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants. The 368 organizations that submitted a complete assessment come from 16 hotspots:

- Completed investments: Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mountains of Southwest China, Mesoamerica, Polynesia-Micronesia, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena.
- More recently started investments for which most final assessments are still pending: Cerrado, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, East Melanesian Islands.
- Ongoing investments: Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes and Wallacea.

Out of the 368 organizations that completed their reporting cycles, 248 recorded an increase in organizational capacity (67%). Figure 8 presents the results per investment status with the ongoing investments presented by hotspot.

As per Figure 9, which presents the average baseline and final scores for each hotspot, there is an overall weighted average increase of 5.9 points (+9%) in the capacities of civil society organizations. This weighted average is obtained by multiplying the average of each hotspot by the number of civil society organizations with a complete cycle for this hotspot.

Civil society organizations from Wallacea display the lowest baseline average capacities, shortly followed by the Mediterranean Basin (score close to 60 points which is 5 points lower than the global average baseline score). However, these organizations have seen an increase in their capacities with

Figure 8

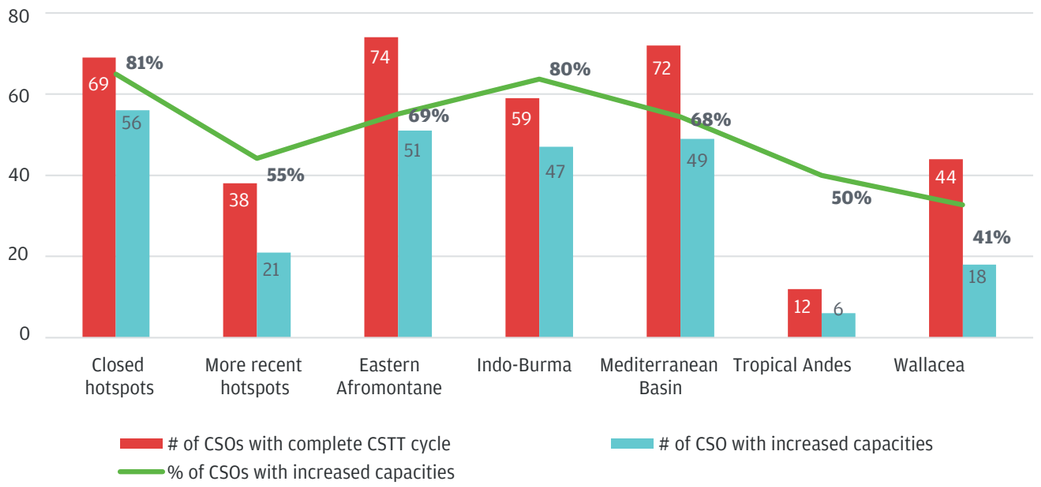
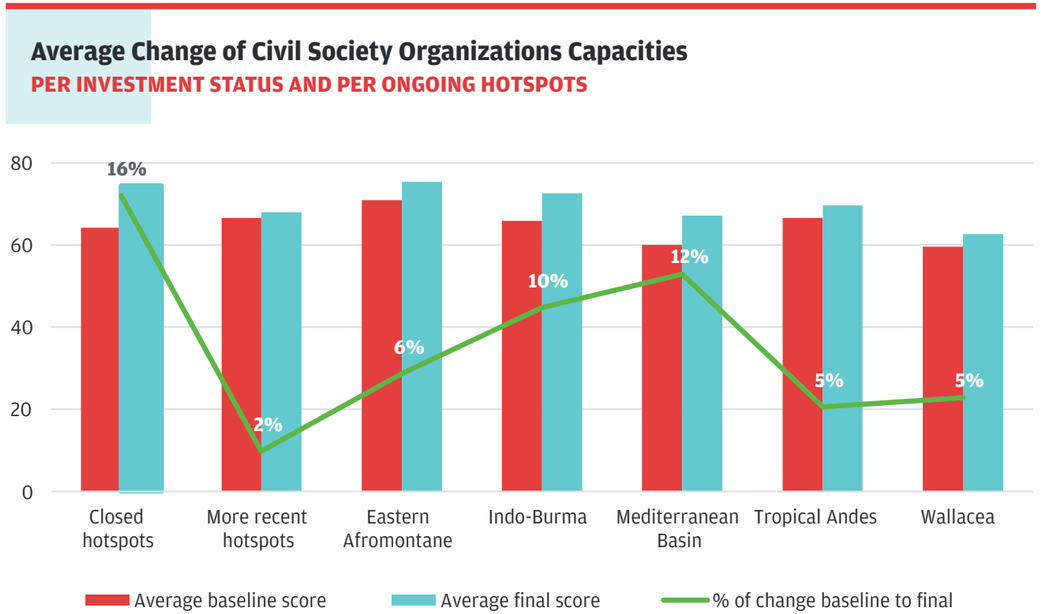


Figure 9

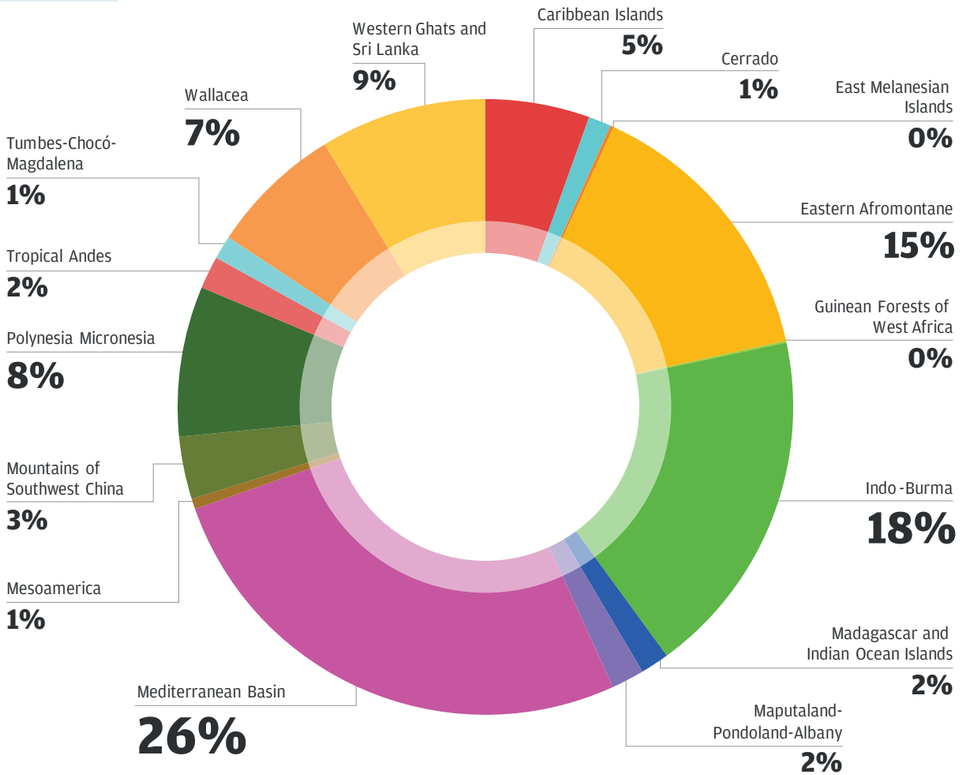


an average final score above 60 points (63 and 67 points respectively). Yet hotspots still remain below the global average final score of 71 points.

Figure 10 shows the contribution that each hotspot makes to CEPF's impact pertaining to change in civil society capacity. To date, the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot still contributes the most to CEPF's impact on capacity building of civil society organizations globally. These figures are derived by considering the number of civil society organizations with complete cycles in each hotspot, the percent changes in their CSTT scores, and by relating this to the total number of completed CSTT cycles to understand the percentage of the hotspot's contribution to change. For example, while 91 percent of Polynesia-Micronesia's participating grantees showed an increase in capacity, because the number of participating grantees was only 11, this represents a smaller contribution than a hotspot such as Indo-Burma, where 59 grantees participated and 80 percent of them increased their capacities to date.

Figure 10

Contribution of Each Hotspot to CEPF Global Impact on Civil Society Organizations' Capacities



Grantees in Wallacea receive training in conservation and natural resource management.
© CI/photo by Aulia Erlangga

Regional capacity building in Wallacea

The story of civil society capacity building in Wallacea parallels the story of conservation action in the region, which parallels the story of economic development in the region. Wallacea, encompassing the central portion of Indonesia, and the whole of Timor-Leste, was historically lower on the list of Indonesian national development priorities. Without the huge population and economic might of Java and Bali, and without the natural resources of Sumatra, Kalimantan and West Papua, there was not the same level of activity, education or civic engagement in Sulawesi, Maluku and the Lesser Sundas. Similarly, without the large forests, tigers or orangutans found on the more well-known islands, the region did not garner the same attention from major conservation NGOs. The result was that Wallacea had relatively weak civil society organizations, particularly those working in the environmental sector.

One CEPF goal was to remedy this situation, not only strengthening individual organizations, but bringing them into the larger national fold. CEPF engaged Yayasan Penabulu, a specialist in capacity building from the country's democratization movement of the early 2000s, to work with the Wallacea regional implementation team, Burung Indonesia, to run trainings on organizational management. Also, as many of the Wallacea civil society organizations had experience in livelihoods or political action, but not conservation, trainings focused on methods for im-

Continued on page 36.

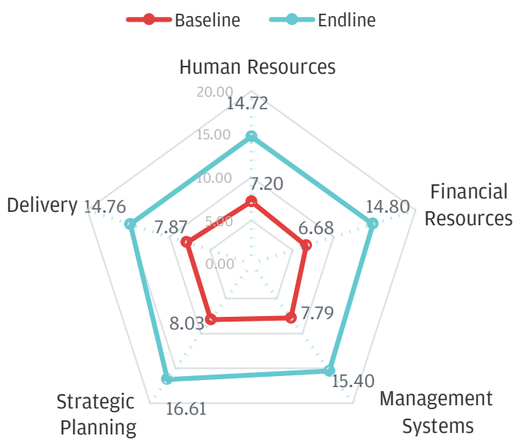
Continued from page 35.

proving the management of Key Biodiversity Areas. Ultimately, Penabulu strengthened the capacity of 75 grantees and other partners, as measured by the Civil Society Tracking Tool at the beginning of Penabulu training and at the end of a CEPF-funded activity. Further, with their increased capacity, civil society organizations from Wallacea were able to take part in the Jakarta-based Forum on Community Forestry, the collection of NGOs formally invited by the government to help revise the national biodiversity and forestry law.

Figure 11 shows the increase in capacity for those CEPF grantees and other, non-grantee partners that that worked with Burung Indonesia and Yayasan Penabulu.

Figure 11

Change in Average CSTT Scores in Wallacea



Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues

Definition: CEPF measures change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues with a tracking tool. It is a self-assessment tool that can be used by an organization to understand if and to what extent gender considerations have been integrated into its program and operations. It consists of eight questions for a total possible score of 20, with the last question being a yes-no-maybe choice on whether the grantee would like to receive more information about gender. The tool should be completed twice, at the start of a project and at the end of the project. All grantees are required to complete the Gender Tracking Tool.

Since 2016, CEPF has worked to integrate gender concerns into its program at all levels. CEPF has developed a gender policy and a Gender Tracking Tool, both of which were launched in 2017.

As of June 2019, CEPF approved 407 assessments from recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants across nine hotspots: Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. At present, 89 civil society organizations have submitted a baseline and a final assessment. For these organizations, the overall average baseline score was 7.8 points (39%) and the average final score is 9.6 (48%). This represents an increase of 24% over a period of about two years (2017–2019).

Figure 12

Gender Integration

AVERAGE SCORES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN GENDER TRACKING TOOL

***"II" after Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes indicates that these scores have been gathered from grantees participating in CEPF's second investment in these two hotspots; the first investments in these hotspots predated the Gender Tracking Tool.*

Of the organizations with a baseline and a final assessment, 84% are nongovernmental organizations, 7% are academic/research institutions, 6% are private sector/cooperative and 2% are community groups. With still too few completed assessments for some types of organization, no trend can be highlighted at this stage in terms of variance in gender integration among different types of organizations.

Analysis of the specific questions in the Gender Tracking Tool reveals where grantees are making gains. The tracking tool contains eight questions:

1. Does your organization have a written policy that affirms a commitment to gender equality?
2. Are there people in your organization responsible for gender issues?
3. Have any staff in your organization ever

received training on gender issues?

4. Is gender analysis built into your program planning procedures?
5. Do you collect sex-disaggregated data about the people impacted by your projects?
6. Does your organization monitor and evaluate how your projects and programs impact men and women differently?
7. Does your organization allocate financial resources to incorporate gender into its work?
8. Would your organization be interested in being contacted by the RIT to learn more or receive training about gender issues?

The highest increase of score is on whether organizations are collecting sex-disaggregated data about the people impacted by their projects. A contributing factor explaining this increase may be that CEPF grantees are requested to report back on the number of men and the number of women directly benefiting from their project as part of their standard end-of-project reporting requirements. Where gender integration remains low is on the issue of designated staff responsible for gender issues. However, most respondents said that their staff had received more training on gender integration over the past two years. A contributing factor could be that grantees are using CEPF's Gender Toolkit, one of the most downloaded documents on the CEPF website.

Figure 13

Evolution of Gender Integration Among Civil Society Organizations from Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2019

Women on Touguissoury, Guinée, being trained in solar salt production. © Guinée Écologie

Addressing gender issues in Guinea

While CEPF uses the Gender Tracking Tool to measure change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues, the tool can be used for so much more.

Guinée Écologie received a CEPF small grant to work on the island of Touguissoury in southern Guinea to mobilize local communities to conserve their mangrove resources. Efforts focused on preparing a participatory management plan and development of biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities.

Upon completing the baseline Gender Tracking Tool and reaching a score of only 2, the group realized that they had much to learn.

"The CEPF Gender Tracking Tool allowed us to understand our weaknesses and our needs in terms of taking gender into account," said Executive Director Mamadou Diawara. "Admittedly, it was the first time that our organization had assessed itself on the issue of gender. This evaluation aroused the interest of our organization to integrate the gender issue within the organization's bodies and beyond its planning."

At project completion, a final GTT yielded a score of 12 (out of a maximum of 20). Guinée Écologie now has a gender policy, one staff person leading on gender issues, other staff familiarized with gender issues and integration needs, and a commitment to collect sex-disaggregated data to help monitor how the organization's projects impact men and women differently.

Participants in the "Women of the Cerrado" meeting held in Brasilia. © Luana Campos ECOA

Mainstreaming gender in the Cerrado

In the Cerrado, grantees Action Aid and Ecologia e Ação (ECOA) have been working to address gender issues in the region. Both organizations are focused on empowering local communities, indigenous and traditional people in the Cerrado, with Action Aid working in the north and ECOA working in the southern part of the hotspot. They have organized groups of women in associations, cooperatives and networks to value their knowledge, share conservation practices, and strengthen recognition of women as primary agents for a sustainable environment.

Over the past year, with CEPF support, Action Aid and ECOA have orchestrated three critical meetings in the Cerrado to discuss environmental conservation, climate change, gender, and the social relations and action strategies of women:

- The Meeting of the Women of the Cerrado, in Luziânia, Goias, held as part of the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado.
- The Meeting of the Cerrado and Pantanal Women Network - CerraPan, in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul.
- "Women from the Cerrado: Strengthening resilience, weaving knowledge and sharing experiences of resistance," a meeting held during the IX Meeting and Fair of the People of the Cerrado, in Brasília.

These meetings brought together more than 230 women from different regions of Brazil and resulted in the preparation of two national documents: the letter of the first women's meeting of the Cerrado and the manifesto for resistance of women in the Cerrado and the Pantanal. In both documents women articulate the need to preserve their territory and their way of life. They condemn the destruction of the water of the Cerrado, the indiscriminate advances of agribusiness, and the social impact of these developments. The documents identify some of the factors that disrupt their communities, including sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy and violence.

While this discussion is just the beginning, CEPF's grantees hope to bring it to the national assembly to be considered in the Feminist and Antiracist Parliamentary Group. The efforts of these grantees and their partners are key in recognizing the contribution that women are making to conservation in the Cerrado.

Indicator: Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened

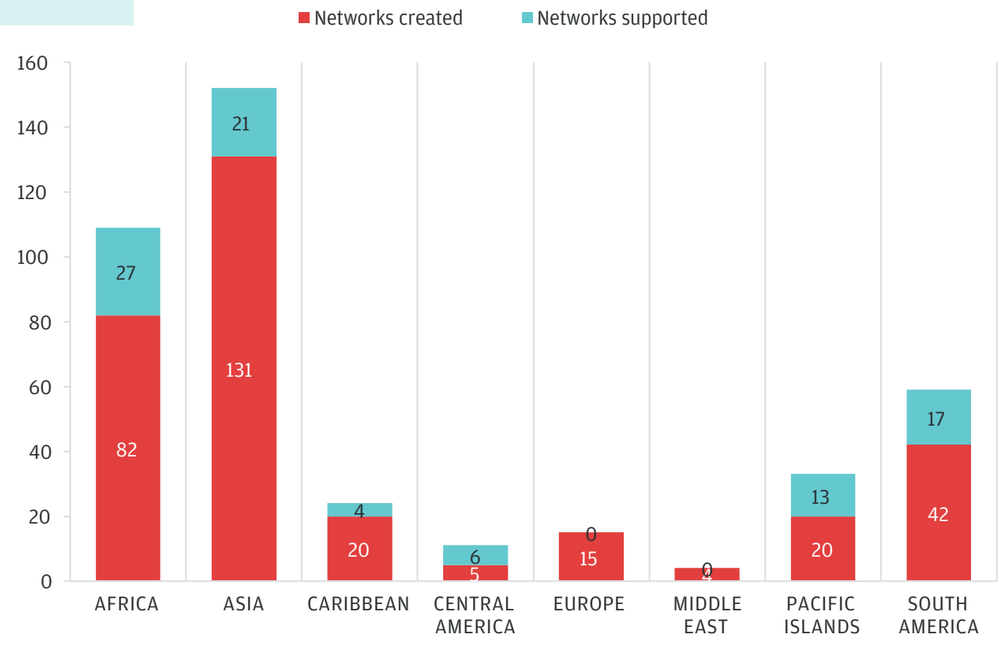
Definition: Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a memorandum of understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more nongovernmental organizations with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, a working group focusing on reptile conservation, etc.

CEPF was founded as a partnership, and partnerships remain fundamental at all levels, including donor partners, the CEPF Secretariat, regional implementation teams and grantees. Partnerships/networks created or supported by grantees are especially important, as these can make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. They can secure broad support for conservation actions, promote inclusion among diverse stakeholders, and increase the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be sustainable. In fiscal year 2019, CEPF recorded a significant increase in the number of partnerships and networks supported, up from 249 in fiscal year 2018 to 407 partnerships in fiscal year 2019. Of these, CEPF has been involved in creating 319 of them.

Figure 14

Networks and Partnerships Created and/or Supported

TOTAL: 407 (319 CREATED)



The Santo Sunset Environment Network, convening at a capacity building workshop in Vanuatu's Santo Mountain Chain. © Edenhope Foundation/Image by Billy Tavue

Santo Sunset Environment Network, Vanuatu

In Vanuatu in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, the Edenhope Foundation has been working in the Santo Mountain Chain, an area rich in natural and cultural diversity, to encourage the emergence of local networks to address conservation threats. With support from CEPF, Edenhope has convened workshops and events to build capacity, raise awareness and encourage conservation actions and best practices. A key achievement is the creation of the Santo Sunset Environment Network, launched in 2017 as part of the first capacity-building event held during the project. The network has 44 members representing 22 indigenous communities across the Santo Mountain Chain. Approximately 20% of the network members are female and at least 33% are youths aged 17 to 25.

Representatives in the network collaborate to promote protection of terrestrial biodiversity sites across the Santo Mountain Chain, on their customary lands. They also are working to formulate conservation management plans relevant to the needs of each community.

This effort has resulted in lasting cooperative partnerships among local communities, civil society groups, nongovernmental organizations and the government that will add momentum to future development in the region. It has also been recognized as a "matter of national interest" to the government of Vanuatu, meaning that protection of biodiversity sites in the Santo Mountain Chain has its support. Perhaps most relevant is that this network of local conservation champions is seeking ways to ensure sustainable livelihoods that support conservation measures into the future.

Table 2: A selection of CEPF's most recently supported partnerships

Bolivia **Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Inter-institutional Working Group on Responsible Gold Mining** In Bolivia, Wildlife Conservation Society has worked with partners to build a space for reflection, coordination, research and action on responsible gold mining. This working group seeks to promote responsible mining in government circles as well as within the mining industry, including artisanal and small-scale mining. The goal is to incorporate good technical, social and environmental practices in mining operations and thus reduce the negative impacts of the activity and optimize yields.
Brazil **Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Alliance for the Cerrado** Established in 2018 by the Instituto Terra em Desenvolvimento, the Alliance for the Cerrado comprises six organizations and seeks to promote conservation throughout the Cerrado, especially within government entities and circles, via communication strategies, social networks and collaboration with the press. The alliance seeks to promote socio-economically responsible development, sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity, reduction of deforestation and restoration of native vegetation.
Vanuatu **East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Partnership Agreement Between Wrecks to Rainforest and the Mt. Tabwemasana Local Management Committee** The Nakau Programme, Ltd. facilitated a business partnership between a tour booking agent and a tour provider to establish a conservation levy to be used to support conservation of the Mt. Tabwemasana Key Biodiversity Area.
China **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**	**China Nature Watch Association** In 2018, the Shan Shui Conservation Center established this partnership to address some of the gaps in biodiversity information in China and engage the public to contribute data and participate in helping to address conservation concerns.
Ghana **Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Ghana Wildlife Society-Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL)** This partnership was formed in 2019 to facilitate the assistance of the Ghana Wildlife Society to mainstream biodiversity into GREL's business operations, for the purpose of biodiversity conservation at Cape Three Points Forest Reserve, where GREL has production units.
Colombia **Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Conservation Alliance for the Bosque de San Antonio Key Biodiversity Area** Created in 2018 by Corporación para la Gestión Ambiental Biodiversa, this alliance of 27 stakeholders participates in a range of actions that will contribute to the conservation of the Bosque de San Antonio Key Biodiversity Area.

CEPF Pillar 3: Human Well-Being

Indicator: Number of people receiving structured training

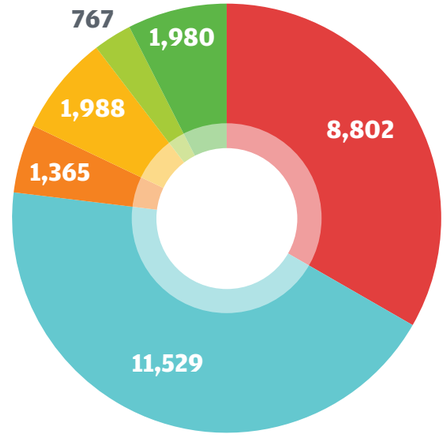
Definition: Structured training is defined as any organized or formal training opportunity such as a workshop, classroom activity, university program, formal site visit or exchange program. Note that data provided by the grantee will be sex-disaggregated. This number is not to be combined with the indicator recording beneficiaries receiving non-cash benefits—this indicator is specific to training, a key element of CEPF's work.

This indicator captures the number of men and women who have participated in a structured training opportunity. As with other indicators, sex-disaggregated data is only available since collection started in 2017. To date, 137,325 people have received structured training, including 26,431 women. Training topics are quite diverse and include species monitoring, coastal zone management, ecology, botany, ranger training, biosafety, coconut oil production, organic farming, efficient post-harvest processing, community leadership, mapping and a wide range of other topics and skillsets.

Figure 15

Number of Women Trainees

TOTAL: 26,431*

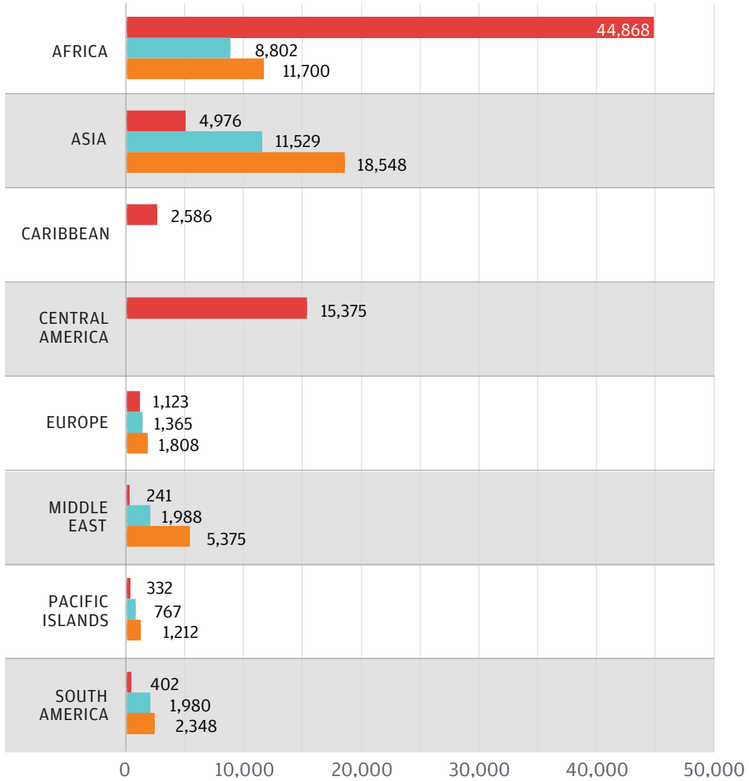


*Collection of sex-disaggregated data started in 2017.

Figure 16

Number of Trainees by Region

TOTAL: 137,325*

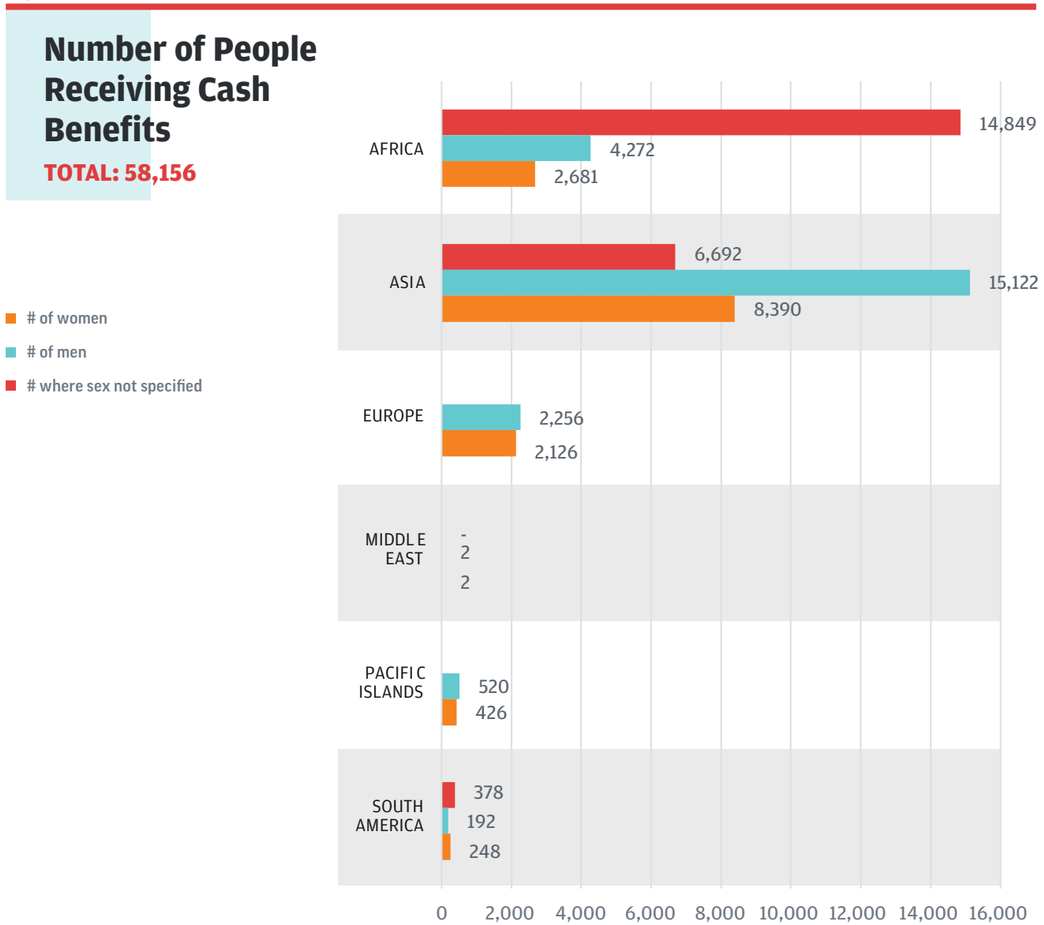


Indicator: Number of people receiving cash benefits

Definition: Cash benefits include those derived from employment, and increased income due to livelihood programs. Grantees are requested to provide sex-disaggregated data.

CEPF strives to ensure that people benefit from their natural resources in a sustainable manner. Since 2017, CEPF has systematically collected data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits. These benefits are derived from employment opportunities, for example in projects where grantees hire people to work in plant nurseries or work as eco-guides, or from alternative livelihood projects where beneficiaries develop products that generate income. To date, CEPF has recorded that 58,156 people have received cash benefits, of whom 13,873 are women.

Figure 17



Buriti tree, Brazil. © Michael Becker

Cerrado farmers reap benefits from buriti palm

In Brazil, the buriti palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*) is known as the "tree of life." Its heart and fruit are edible, its wood is used in construction and its leaves are made into various handicrafts. More recently, the buriti fruit's oil has caught the attention of international skincare companies for its anti-aging qualities. Traditionally harvested by local people, this species, found in palm swamps known as Veredas, is vulnerable to overexploitation and unsustainable harvesting practices, yet its multiple uses and growing popularity present an opportunity to bring revenue to local communities.

In the northern part of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot, CEPF has supported efforts by the Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão (CGS) to train farmers in sustainable harvesting practices of the buriti palm as well as more efficient processing techniques. The cooperative has targeted women and young people in particular, as they are often the community members involved in these activities.

Since CEPF funding began in 2016, more than 400 people have received training, including 189 women and 87 youths. The number of families delivering buriti shavings for oil production increased from 100 to 378 among 17 communities (up from 10).

Most important, however, is the increased income paid to farmers and extractivists for the delivery of buriti shavings to CGS, which is estimated to be just over R$200,000 (approximately US$51,000), considering the buriti harvests from 2017 to 2018.

Also notable is that with better planning and monitoring, the cooperative was able to achieve increased and higher quality production, and consequently developed fruitful partnerships with at least six private sector companies, all of which have linked with the cooperative to support the responsible management of natural resources. They are not only trading partners, but also financial supporters of a sustainable socio-productive chain.

Indicator: Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training

Definition: Non-cash benefits are stated as: increased access to clean water; increased food security; increased access to energy; increased access to public services; increased resilience to climate change; improved land tenure; improved recognition of traditional knowledge; improved decision-making and governance; and improved access to ecosystem services.

CEPF has, since 2001, compiled data on the number of communities benefiting from CEPF projects. In 2017 this effort expanded to include collection of information about community characteristics, types of benefits received, and number of males and females in each community. Since 2001, a total of 3,526 communities have benefited, and a total of 302,943 people (154,599 males and 148,344 females) have been recorded as benefiting from the 1,279 communities counted since 2017. The charts below illustrate the characteristics of the communities CEPF has supported, as well as the types of benefits received.

Figure 18

Communities Benefiting from CEPF Projects, by Region
TOTAL: 3,526

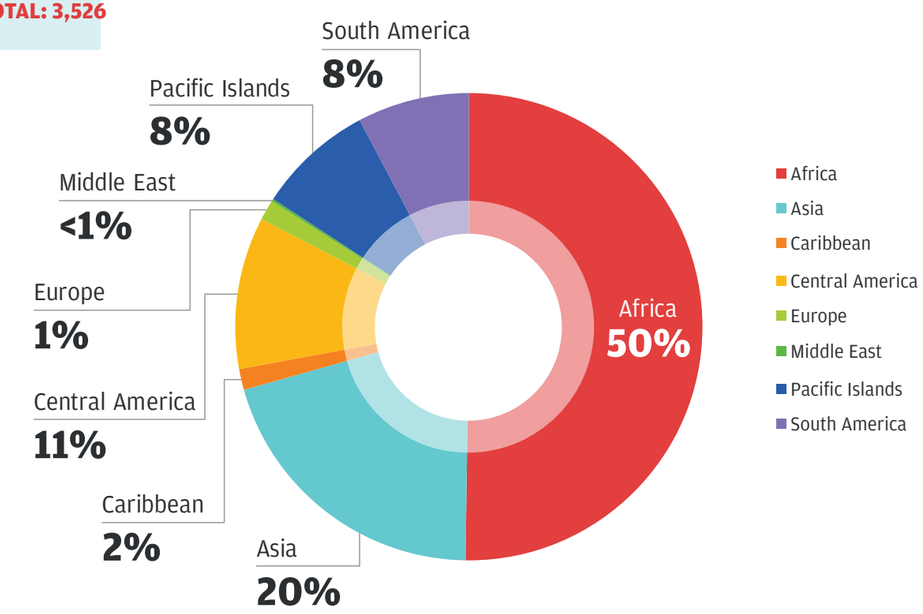
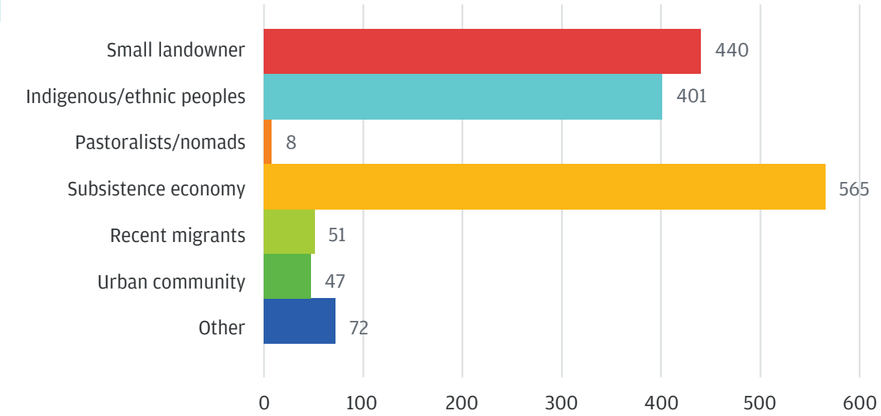


Figure 19

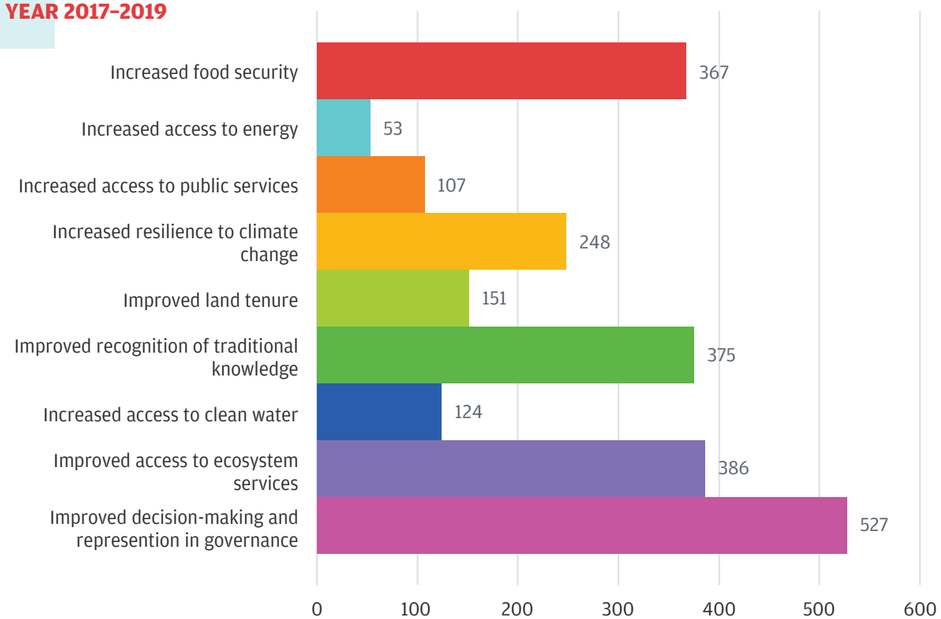
Characteristics of Communities Benefiting*
TOTAL # OF COMMUNITIES: 1,279
FISCAL YEARS 2017–2019



*Communities can have more than one characteristic.

Figure 20

Types of Benefits Received by 1,279 Communities in 9 Hotspots
FISCAL YEAR 2017–2019



Food Security on Mussau Island, Papua New Guinea

On the remote Island of Mussau in Papua New Guinea, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-PNG) has been working to increase protection for threatened species, and to improve food security for the Lolieng community. The island is situated in the Bismarck Sea, and its waters have an abundance of Endangered green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), which are thought by some people to be competitors for an edible seaweed favored by the local community. The island is also home to feral pigs. These pests are a constant threat to gardens and local community food supply. The local communities proposed a turtle cull in the belief that they would increase seaweed productivity, and also requested assistance to control the feral pigs.

Women discuss an environmental trend analysis during a training held in Lolieng Village, Mussau Island, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea. © John Par Kagl/WCSPNG

During the project, WCS-PNG took a participatory approach to prevent the turtle cull, improve gardening and food security, and to build community capacity to manage these and other natural resource management issues. Food security in particular is an urgent, immediate concern on the small island and is threatened by increasingly severe weather events as a consequence of climate change.

The project yielded significant results for marine life as well as local communities. Through capacity building and awareness activities, the community's commitment to and understanding of the need for turtle and marine conservation was substantially improved, and the turtle cull averted through a project study that found that the turtles did not impact seaweed productivity. Food security of the Lolieng community was improved through a 50% increase in crops grown in the community. This was achieved via the introduction of new plant-derived pesticide techniques to lessen pest damage to crops, improved mulching and the use of nitrogen fixing legumes to improve soil nutrients. Efforts were also undertaken to reduce pig incursion into gardens by building fences.

The local government of Mussau and provincial government of New Ireland were informed of the project's developments throughout the course of the grant and a project close-out workshop was held to distribute reports on the activities and successes of the project to civil society and government representatives. This allowed the provincial and local governments to draw on the successes of this project. Indeed, the provincial government expressed interest in supporting other Mussau communities to enact pig control methods demonstrated in this project. Furthermore, the Lolieng Sustainable Program has been registered as a community-based organization and has submitted their first small grant application to CEPF, which will allow them to continue monitoring and protecting turtles on Mussau and to continue building their capacity.

Signboard for gibbon protection at a community forest, Indawgyi, Myanmar. © O. Langrand

Community benefits and gibbon conservation, Myanmar

In Myanmar, Northern Green Lights tested a community-based conservation approach for forests adjoining Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary. The site is important for the conservation of eastern hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*), which is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The project assisted local communities in four villages to designate gibbon conservation areas, initiate patrolling and monitoring, and conduct awareness-raising activities in surrounding villages. As a result, 1,332 hectares of gibbon habitat was placed under community management, and incidence of hunting and forest fire declined significantly. Although two years is not long enough to observe an increase in the gibbon population size, anecdotal evidence suggests that gibbons have changed their behavior in response to the community-based conservation measures, with gibbons being heard close to the villages for the first time in years. In two villages, the community forest had been designated prior to the project; in the other two, the Northern Green Lights assisted the community to get the forest rights certificate from the Forest Department for a period of 30 years. In this way, the dynamic between local communities and the Forest Department is changing: The communities are starting to be seen as stewards of the environment rather than threats to biodiversity.

Looking ahead, the prospects for continuation of the initiative look promising. Revolving funds were established in the project villages to finance the community patrolling and outreach activities beyond the end of the CEPF grant, while the grantee is committed to remaining engaged in the landscape and building on the success of the pilot project. It appears that other villages are interested in replicating the successful model, and, resources permitting, the opportunities for replication are good.

Tree nursery in Anjouan, Comoros. © Dahari

Indicator: Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change

Definition: Projects that have been tagged with one or more of the following key words: buffer zones, carbon offsets, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, community-based conservation, conservation planning, ecosystem resilience, habitat conservation and management, land use planning, payment for ecosystem services, private reserves, protected areas, reforestation, restoration, soil conservation and water management.

With increasing frequency, the biodiversity hotspots are experiencing changes in climate, and species, ecosystems and the people that depend on them are feeling the impacts. CEPF's grantees are addressing the threat by promoting nature-based solutions such as ecosystem resilience, protected areas creation, reforestation and restoration, soil conservation and watershed management, to name just a few of the possible actions. From inception through fiscal year 2019, CEPF has supported a total of 1,295 projects, valued at US$127,460,097, that have contributed to reducing the impacts of climate change.

1,295

PROJECTS PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Degraded mangrove habitat in Dubreka, Guinée. © Ibrahima Doumbouya/ Développement Pour Tous

Solar salt production, Guinea

In Guinea in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, the Konkouré River estuary is an important site for biodiversity. It is rich in wildlife resources and flora, and provides local communities with their means of subsistence. An increase in people living in the area has come with a corresponding increase in human-wildlife conflict, overharvest of wood, overgrazing and development of agro-pastoral activities. Of particular concern is the increase in traditional salt production, which relies on unsustainable mangrove harvest that reduces the ability of this coastal community to be resilient in the face of climate change.

With a small grant from CEPF, Développement pour Tous has been working with local communities to reduce environmental degradation and improve traditional production systems, including that of salt. Traditional salt production has been practiced for several generations in this region, and is an important income-generating activity, mainly for women. Développement pour Tous has introduced new technology to enable salt production using sunlight and tarpaulins instead of fuelwood. The project has had significant impacts including reducing the unsustainable mangrove harvest by 75%, improving the livelihoods of local communities and women by training 47 women in solar salt production, providing equipment, and enhancing health and well-being through reduced workload.

Forest restoration in Mauritius

Forest wardens battle invasive alien species in the Ebony Forest Reserve, Chamarel, Mauritius © N. Chunwan

Mauritius has one of the most threatened island floras in the world, with 89% of its endemic plant species considered at risk of extinction, and only about 2,600 hectares of reasonable-quality native forest remaining, representing less than 2% of the total area of the island. Much of Mauritius' fauna, unique to the island, has disappeared along with the forest; 24 of the 52 native species of forest vertebrate that were known to have occurred are now extinct. Remaining fauna species are under pressure as the forest becomes more and more degraded.

Ebony Forest Ltd. has been working in the Ebony Forest Reserve since 2006 to address the many threats to the fauna and flora, which include invasive alien plants, habitat fragmentation, loss of genetic diversity, lack of awareness of the importance of protecting natural ecosystems, and the effects of climate change. Their mission is to protect and restore the native forest, to develop low-impact tourism, and to educate the public about the importance of conserving biodiversity.

With funding from CEPF, Ebony Forest has undertaken intensive habitat restoration of the 50-hectare Ebony Forest Reserve with the aim of sustaining ecosystem functions and services, restoring plant diversity, and ensuring resilience to small- or large-scale alterations such as those arising from climate change. They have also, in partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, reintroduced indigenous birds to restore missing plant-animal interactions making the ecosystem more resilient to disturbances. Achievements include weeding of 16 hectares of forest, of which 1.4 hectares were high-quality native forest weeded for the first time. Maintenance weeding of all 16 hectares was done regularly to prevent fast-growing, light-loving exotic vegetation from suppressing the native vegetation. In the areas where there were few native trees remaining following the first weeding, 22,982 native plants grown in the on-site plant nursery were planted to accelerate the native forest canopy recovery process. Planting was done by the conservation team, school children and staff from corporations. The involvement of the public was instrumental in raising awareness and also increasing public engagement in nature conservation. Thirty staff received training during this project (including 17 women), in weeding, planting and nursery activities, conservation, tourism, communicating with the public and eco-guiding. Last but not least, in 2018, 50 pink pigeons and 50 echo parakeets were reintroduced to Ebony Forest, in partnership with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, an incredible development for two endemic species formerly on the brink of extinction.

Ebony Forest Ltd. is definitely leading the way with its comprehensive approach to conservation and active engagement of the general public. Its project serves as an excellent example for other organizations wishing to restore forests and ecosystems at scale in Mauritius and elsewhere in the hotspot.

Indicator: Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.

Definition: This indicator will measure carbon stored at sites benefiting from restoration or maintenance of natural habitat.

Although adopted in 2017, CEPF continues to consider the methodology to measure this indicator, and as such, impact data is not yet available.

Espeletia, commonly known as "frailejones," Colombia. © O. Langrand

CEPF Pillar 4: Enabling Conditions for Conservation

Indicator: Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended

Definition: "Laws" and "regulations" pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. "Policies" that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

An effective policy environment underpins conservation achievements and contributes to their sustainability. For this reason, CEPF has prioritized the mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy, and since inception has supported the enactment or amendment of 306 laws, policies or regulations, categorized into 15 themes: agriculture, climate, ecosystem management, education, energy, fisheries, forestry, mining/quarrying, planning/zoning, pollution, protected areas, species protection, tourism, transportation and wildlife trade. Protected areas is the most prevalent theme with 90 policies addressing this issue, followed closely by ecosystem management with 89, species protection with 71, and planning/zoning with 70. Some policies address more than one theme.

Figure 21

Percent of Policies Addressing Specific Themes

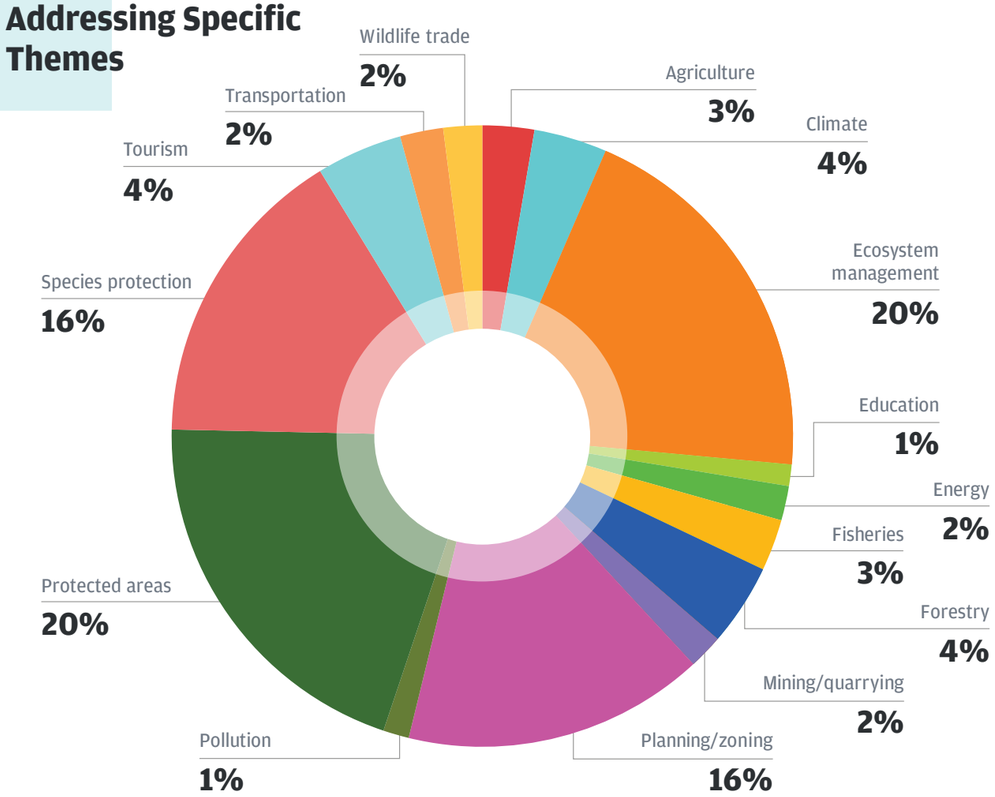
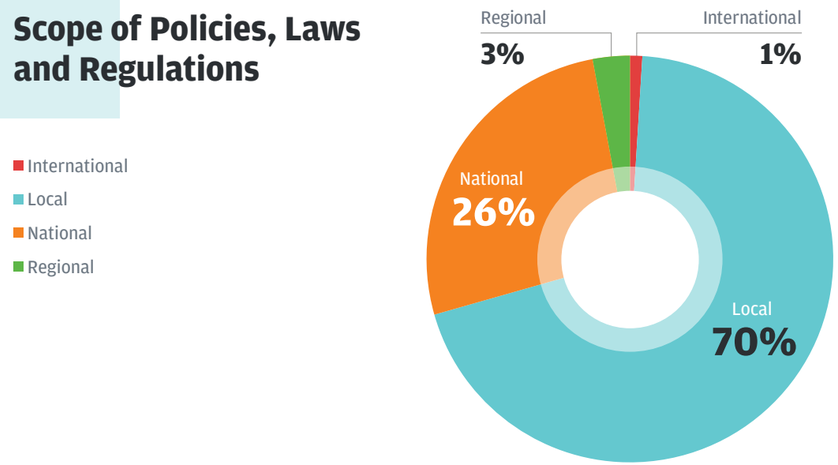


Figure 22

Scope of Policies, Laws and Regulations



Lake Ol' Bolossat, teaming with fauna and flora, is the highest altitude lake in central Kenya. © Fabian Haas

Policy support for Lake Ol' Bolossat, Kenya

Lake Ol' Bolossat is an important wetland with both salty and fresh water occurring in Nyandarua County in central Kenya. The lake lies at average altitude of 2,330 meters above sea level, making it the highest-altitude lake in East Africa. It forms the headwaters for the Ewaso Nyiro River, which supports the livelihoods of communities, livestock and wildlife in the dry Laikipia and Samburu counties. Despite its small size (4,330 hectares), the lake is known for its rich biodiversity that includes 370 plant species, 296 species of bird (both residential and migrants), 134 mammals and 96 invertebrates, as well as reptiles, amphibians, fish and 42 species of macrofungi.
The lake supplies Nyahururu town with water and supports the thriving wildlife tourism further north at Thomson's Falls and the Buffalo Springs and Shaba national reserves. As an unprotected wetland, Lake Ol' Bolossat has faced myriad challenges and threats, including deforestation of catchment areas, the diversion of water from feeder streams and springs, overgrazing, pollution, land-use changes, soil erosion and siltation.

In 2016, the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS), with support from CEPF and working with Crane Conservation Volunteers and the National Museums of Kenya, engaged with stakeholders to raise awareness, gain protective status for the lake and promote sound management of the site. This engagement involved government agencies, conservation organizations and representatives from the local communities—a challenge given competing objectives, a rising human population and the effects of climate change, all of which have exacerbated the degradation of Lake Ol' Bolossat.

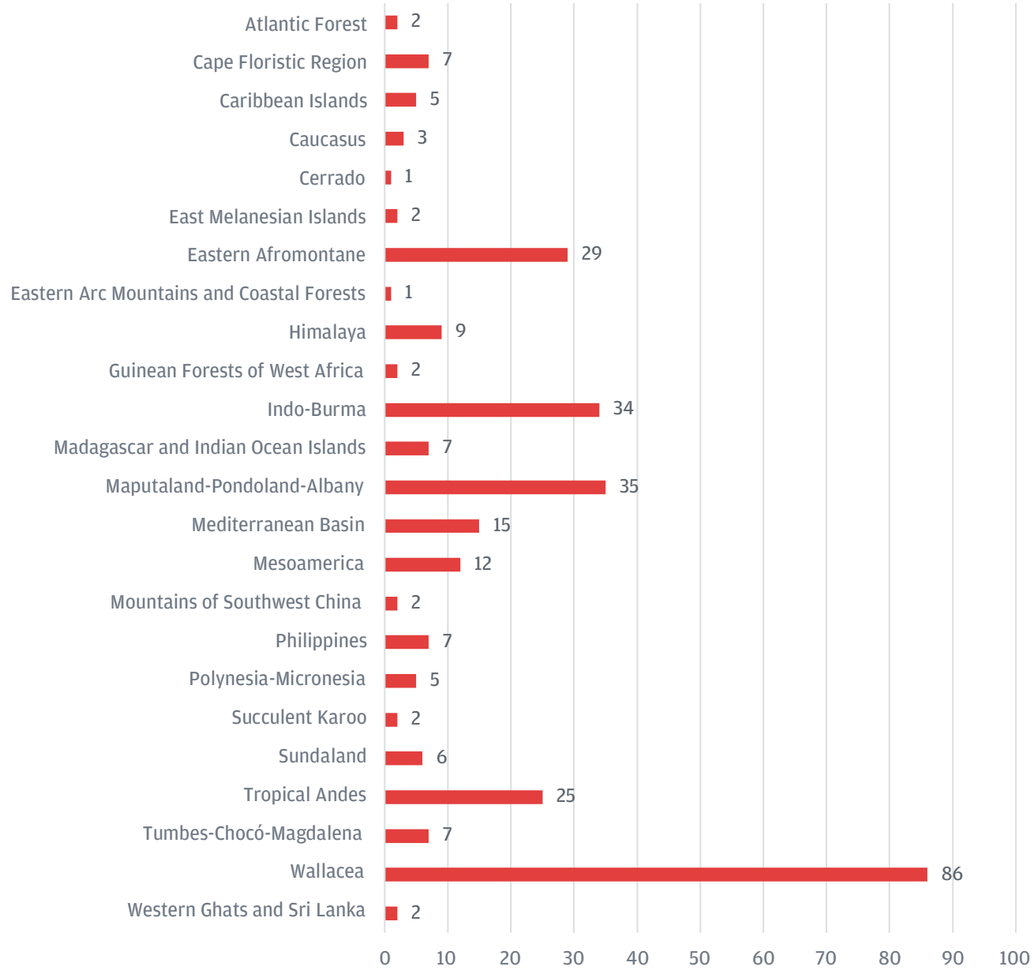
The EAWLS project has led to numerous policy achievements. First and foremost is the gazettement of 4,304 hectares of Lake Ol' Bolossat as a protected wetland under Kenya's Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) effective 4 July 2018. Under the legal notice, the county government of Nyandarua has the lead role in the conservation and management of the lake, as well as the mandate to collaborate with local communities and other stakeholders in the joint management of the lake. This enabled EAWLS to embark on an effort to promote collaborative management of Lake Ol' Bolossat.

In support of this effort, EAWLS played an instrumental role in developing a policy brief on co-management and protection of wetlands in Kenya. It provides recommendations to address the existing policy gaps in the management and protection of Kenya's wetlands, an integrated management plan, and a draft co-management agreement for Lake Ol' Bolossat. The new conservation model for Lake Ol' Bolossat puts the local community at the forefront. EAWLS brought together local community groups and resource users around the lake to deliberate on how best to collaborate in their conservation efforts, and helped to set the stage for sustainable management of this remarkable lake.

Figure 23

Laws, Policies and Regulations

TOTAL: 306



Footprints and discarded shells: Evidence of illegal poaching in an Albanian wetland. © Xhemal Xherri

Extension of Albania's hunting ban

Following concerted efforts by conservation organizations—including CEPF grantees Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania and the Association for Protection of Birds and Mammals—the government of Albania declared a two-year hunting ban in 2014. Populations of many terrestrial species in the country were in rapid decline—including the Critically Endangered Balkan lynx (*Lynx lynx ssp. balcanicus*) and resident and migratory birds. The ban would give their populations an opportunity to recover.

In the first year, the ban proved effective, but then reported incidents of poaching increased. CEPF dedicated a special grant for monitoring, and teams of CEPF grantees patrolled selected protected areas day and night.

Conservationists urged the government to extend the law, arguing that the ban had not been properly enforced, species hadn't been given enough time to recover and improved legislation for hunting hadn't been implemented. The government agreed; the ban was extended for five more years.

While the hunting ban has significantly reduced the intensity of poaching in Albania, it has not stopped it. In many remote areas of the country, where no patrolling occurs, hunting is often reported, and traps kill species indiscriminately.

In the past year, the hunting community has lobbied the government to withdraw the ban but without success. In the meantime, a new, improved hunting law is being prepared by the Ministry of Environment for implementation following the ban's end in 2021. Encouragingly, civil society organizations have been invited to take part in several consulations about the new law.

Indicator: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation

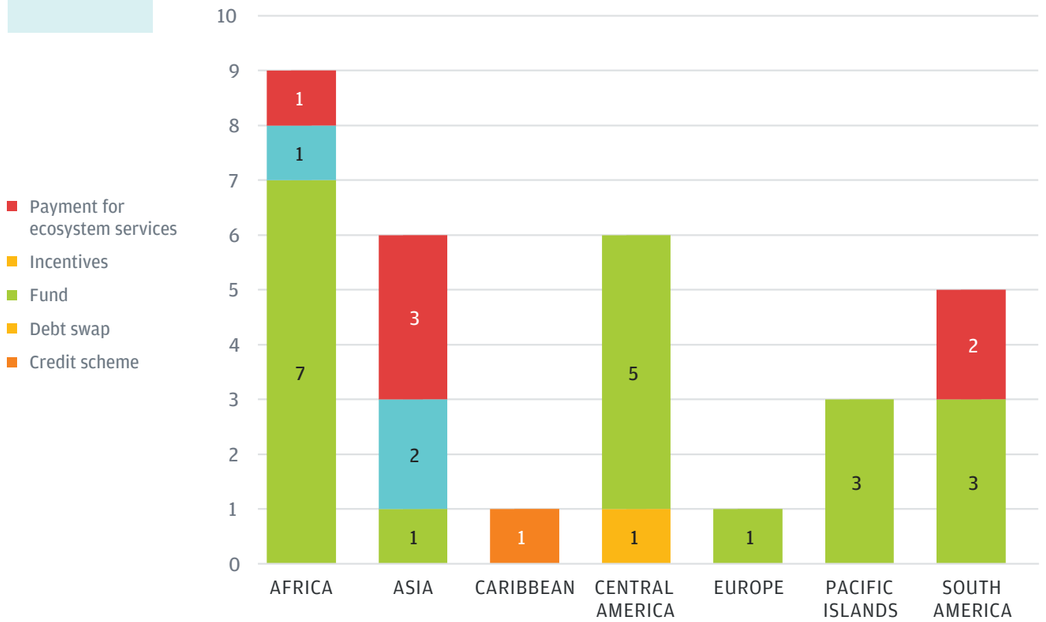
Definition: The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of functioning financing mechanisms created by or receiving support from CEPF. Sustainable financing mechanisms are secured to help ensure long-term sustainable financing for project or program conservation objectives beyond the project's or program's lifespan. Sustainable financing aims to generate sustaining financial resources over the longer term (five or more years). Sustainable finance goes beyond traditional government or donor funding by introducing innovative market-based approaches such as debt-for-nature swaps, environmental funds and payment for ecosystem services (PES).

Since 2001, CEPF has created and/or supported 31 sustainable financing mechanisms that vary in size, scope and type, and include conservation trust funds, debt swaps, and credit or payment for ecosystem service schemes. A key factor in counting these mechanisms is that they must be functional; it is not sufficient to simply set up a mechanism without assuring its ability to operate. For some mechanisms, this entails working with potential donors to secure capital, as well as determining the administrative and governance arrangements.

Figure 24

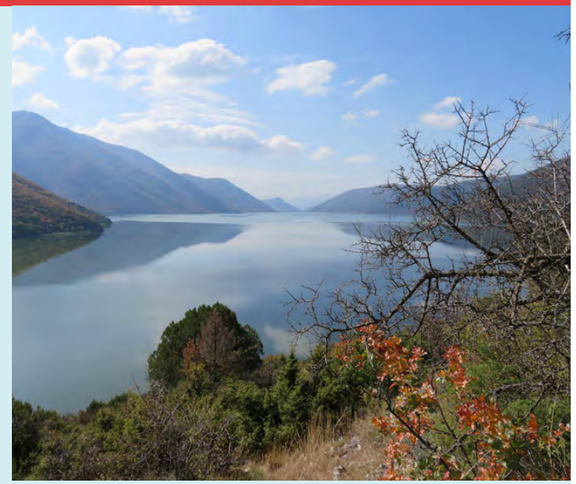
Sustainable Financing Mechanisms Supported

TOTAL: 31



Financing success: The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust

In 2016, CEPF supported WWF Greece to establish a transboundary conservation trust fund in the Prespa water catchment basin and surrounding environment located in Albania, Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia, an area of exceptional ecological, cultural and historical value. While many projects had been conducted over many years to address the conservation needs of the region, much work remained to be done to ensure a sustainable and resilient supply of basic ecosystem services, and it was widely recognized that without a source of sustainable financing, conservation goals would be beyond reach.



Nestled between Albania, Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia, Prespa Lake is a site of exceptional biodiversity and beauty. © Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust

In collaboration with key partners MAVA Foundation and KfW, WWF Greece set out to implement three important work streams that built upon the preparatory activities already supported by MAVA Foundation. The main components of the project were:

- The establishment and operationalization of the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT).
- Awareness raising among stakeholders, governments and the public in the targeted areas.
- Development of a comprehensive study to guide PONT's future operation and funding decisions.

By project close, PONT had been legally established, its statutes had been approved, and its essential operational policies were in place and implemented under the coordination of a set board of directors. WWF Greece also worked to set up a shared services mechanism with the Caucasus Nature Trust to supply necessary internal procedures and functions. Additionally, essential communication and branding tools were produced, a conservation strategy was prepared, and the governments of all three countries provided letters endorsing the trust.

In order to bring the trust to life, it was essential to secure funding to capitalize the trust. WWF Greece was successful in raising 20 million euros in collaboration with MAVA Foundation and KfW. With funds secured, PONT was assured of delivering their conservation program.

In 2019, PONT continues to operate and is delivering much-needed long-term funding for conservation in the region. The trust has active grant-making programs in the thematic areas of protected areas and environmental actors, and most recently commenced grant-making for non-timber forest products and sustainable tourism. They have achieved much already for the region through projects implemented by local organizations. In 2020, PONT is partnering with CEPF to hold a joint call for proposals for small grants to bring in new actors on critical conservation issues, with the required co-financing being secured through CEPF.

Indicator: Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

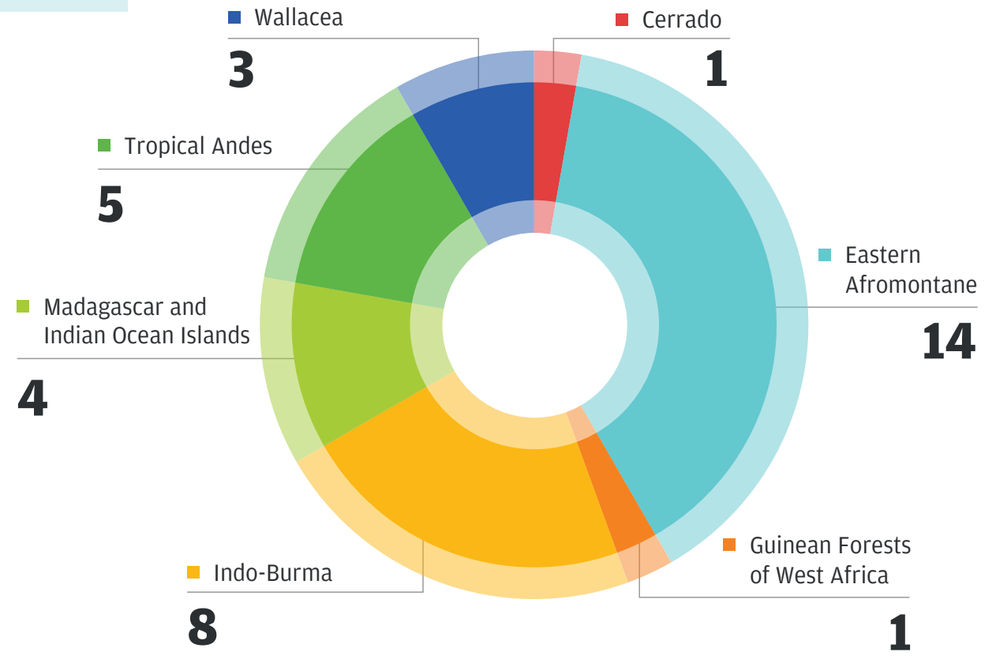
Definition: A company is a legal entity made up of an association of people, be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both, for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. Company members share a common purpose and unite in order to focus their various talents and organize their collectively available skills or resources to achieve specific, declared goals. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity.

This indicator seeks to measure efforts to change behavior within the private sector, with a specific focus on recording progress in getting companies to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices. While CEPF has worked with the private sector throughout its existence, only since 2017 has CEPF attempted to quantify the results. To date, CEPF has documented 36 companies that have adopted practices favorable to biodiversity.

Figure 25

Number of Companies Adopting Biodiversity-Friendly Practices, by Biodiversity Hotspot

TOTAL = 36



Working with the private sector on eco-friendly products, China

Tropical China is one of the areas with the highest biodiversity in China, but also one of the most threatened areas in the world. Various types of protected areas have been established to protect and manage natural resources and secure essential ecosystem services, but the overall management of these areas is poor, and illegal and unsustainable activities are common. While this is partly due to the absence of adequate supervision, it is also because community development has not been well coordinated with conservation.

The Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has worked to address this situation by developing "protected-area friendly" agricultural products at three sites, branding them and working with the private sector to sell them to more than 6,000 customers. At Nangunhe Nature Reserve in Yunnan Province, elephant-friendly tea and rice were produced, on 30 and 15 hectares of land, respectively. Also in Yunnan, ecologically friendly *Dendrobium* orchid production was adopted by 20 local people at Malipo-Laoshan Provincial Nature Reserve. Finally, at Wuzhishan Nature Reserve on Hainan Island, frog tea and Sanlan rice were produced on 10 and 7 hectares, respectively. At least five companies collaborated with the Institute of Zoology to help promote and sell these products.

This grantee also made the link between protected-area-friendly production and community engagement in protected area management. Landscape ecological planning and implementation was conducted for Nanlang village at Nangunhe Nature Reserve and Maona village at Wuzhishan Nature Reserve, and these were designated as "protected-area-friendly villages." In Nanlang village, at least 30% of households began to transition from sugar cane cultivation to cultivation of traditional crops, while people from both villages assisted nature reserve staff with monitoring and anti-poaching patrols. Elements of the plans, such as ecotourism activities, were incorporated into the development plans of local government. Establishment of community patrol teams, support with biodiversity monitoring and other forms of assistance provided by the project contributed to an improvement in the management of the three protected areas, as evidenced by increases in their management effectiveness tracking tool (METT) scores.

Logo identifying Nanlang Protected Area-friendly products. © Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

The project also made an important contribution to development of the Protected Area Friendly System, and promoted it among different audiences, including other conservation practitioners and the general public. Over the course of the project, the number of protected-area-friendly products increased from less than 10 to more than 20, and products worth more than CNY 17 million (US$2.5 million) were sold, mainly by the producers themselves.

Brown sugar, or panela, from Peru's private conservation areas and marketed by Shiwi, a company committed to sourcing locally produced products. @ Shiwi

Partnership markets products from private protected areas, Peru

The district of Amazonas in northeastern Peru is renowned for its incredible biodiversity and high levels of endemism. The region has a protected-area system, but it is not sufficiently large or connected to adequately protect the region's biodiversity. Fortunately, the region has a significant amount of land protected via private and community-based conservation initiatives—there are currently 14 officially recognized private conservation areas, led by local individuals, families or communities that together protect 107,173 hectares. An urgent problem faced by private protected areas is that they have few sources of income, thereby limiting their ability to implement conservation strategies. The lack of financial incentives for conservation also acts as a barrier to entry for potential new conservation stakeholders, such as campesino communities interested in creating conservation areas on their lands.

To address the situation, the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental-SPDA) supported a network of private protected areas to use the legal framework for private conservation to achieve financial sustainability and biodiversity conservation and to effectively manage private lands. The financial sustainability part of the puzzle entailed a partnership with the Shiwi social enterprise, which led a successful strategy for marketing honey and brown sugar from the network of private protected areas. This relationship resulted in development of a business plan for honey and brown sugar and a plan for product marketing, leading to greater income to communities that practice private conservation. Sales increased steadily throughout the project period, despite setbacks such as the flooding in early 2017 that halted the supply chain and changes in rainy seasons that affected honey production in some private protected areas. In early 2018, a wildfire devastated the Milpuj-La Heredad private protected area, which has led to the loss of most of their beehives. Nevertheless, on average, there was a 99% increase in sales, and a 46% increase in income to producers, based on the average sales per semester after the project started in July 2016. The involvement of the private enterprise Shiwi to purchase and market products from sustainably managed private protected areas is helping support both conservation and local livelihoods.

Contributions to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

Aichi Biodiversity Target		Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
1	Target 1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	At least 137,325 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.	CEPF has supported a total of 473 projects with a primary emphasis on education, awareness and capacity building, valued at US$31,865,253.
2	Target 2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has influenced 306 policies, laws or regulations in 24 biodiversity hotspots.	CEPF has supported a total of 149 projects in 24 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at US$14,102,336.
7	Target 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,207,848 hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 265 projects with a primary emphasis on strengthening management outside protected areas, totaling US$24,787,270.
9	Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	CEPF-funded projects have resulted in: • Biosecurity plans prepared. • Eradications undertaken. • Invasive alien species training delivered. • Captive-bred and reintroduced native species. • Critical habitat restored.	CEPF has supported 95 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive alien species, totaling US$7,223,077, in 13 biodiversity hotspots.
11	Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 15,324,650 hectares of new protected areas in 22 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 47,303,198 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 23 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,207,848 hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 610 projects with primary emphases on protected areas creation and improved management, totaling US$67,948,146.
12	Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	At least 882 species have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 466 projects with a focus on species conservation, totaling US$39,675,752.
20	Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 31 sustainable finance mechanisms that remain active, including five functioning payment for ecosystem services schemes.	CEPF has supported 84 projects with a component focusing on conservation finance, totaling US$13,737,949.

Contributions to U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

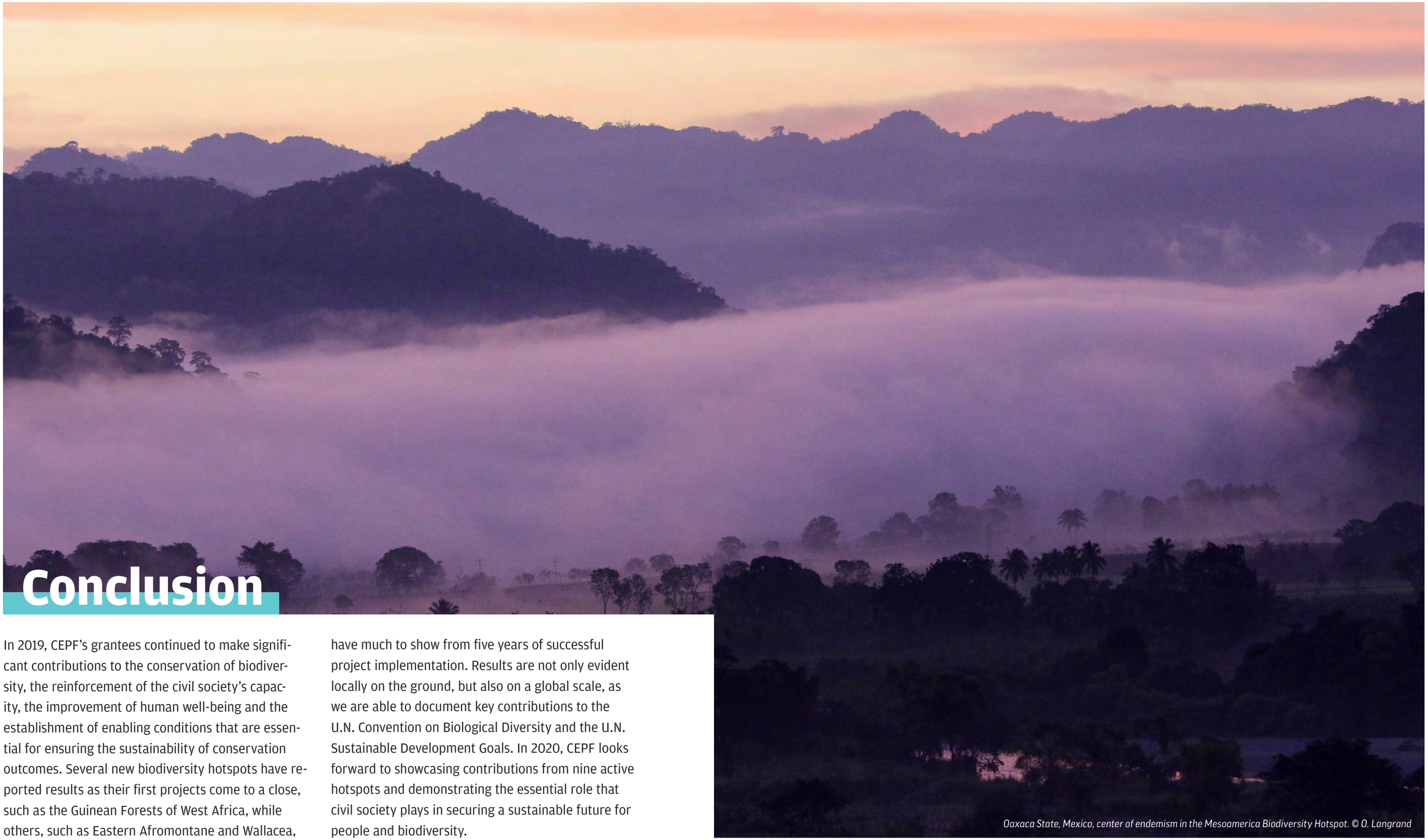
Sustainable Development Goal		Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
	Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	CEPF grantee projects resulted in 3,526 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved access to water, improved land tenure and increased representation in decision-making and governance. Since collection of data about types of benefits communities receive started in 2017, 367 communities have reported increased food security. 137,325 people have benefited from structured training, including topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. Topics include coconut oil production, beekeeping, bookkeeping, gardening, horticulture, organic practices, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable harvest of medicinal plants. 8.2 million hectares of production landscape have strengthened biodiversity management through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest and improved land use practices.	CEPF has supported 228 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US$19,565,875. 149 projects totaling US$14,837,561 with specific components on agroforestry and agriculture.
	Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	137,325 people received structured training through CEPF-funded projects. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, grantees reported that 26,431 women have received training. Training topics were diverse, such as beekeeping, sustainable tourism, medicinal plant production, environmental education, leadership, financial management and field survey techniques.	CEPF has supported 725 projects with a component/emphasis on capacity building, valued at US$90,278,469. CEPF has supported 637 projects with a component/ emphasis on education and awareness, valued at US$55,332,640.
	Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Since CEPF started collecting sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 148,344 women and girls were recorded as receiving non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.	Introduction in 2017 of collection of sex-disaggregated data from grantees. Introduction in 2017 of new monitoring tool to measure change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues. Preparation and launch of a gender toolkit.
	Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Since 2017, 124 communities receiving non-cash benefits report increased access to clean water as a benefit.	CEPF has supported 252 projects associated with inland wetland habitats, valued at US$17,591,431. 137 projects valued at US$11,998,734 with a focus on freshvwater, covering a range of topics such as research and assessment, biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management. 74 projects with an emphasis on water management, located in various habitats, valued at US$7,115,691.
	Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Since start of collection of the number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, CEPF grantees report that 58,156 people have received cash benefits.	Human well-being projects have taken place in 58 countries and territories.
	Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	8.2 million hectares of production landscape have had biodiversity management strengthened through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest and improved land use practices. CEPF-funded projects have contributed to enactment or amendment of 306 laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions.	39 projects totaling US$3,012,050 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production and improved agricultural practices.

	Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Grantees have taken multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving: • Restoration • Tree planting • Training in forest carbon technical work • Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments • Watershed management and restoration • Mangrove/coastal zone management • Sustainable coastal tourism • Climate change modeling • Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	CEPF has supported 468 projects aimed at strengthening protection and management of areas within and outside of protected areas, thereby promoting nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects are valued at US$49,525,232. Since 2017, 248 communities have been reported as receiving the non-cash benefit of resilience to climate change.
	Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	More than 60 coastal protected areas have benefited from increased protection and management.	CEPF has supported 166 projects associated with marine and coastal habitat, valued at US$12,507,188. 32 Small Island Developing States have benefited from CEPF funds.

	Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 15.3 million hectares of new protected areas in 22 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 47.3 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 23 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8.2 million hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots. At least 882 IUCN Red List species listed as CR, EN, and VU have benefited from CEPF support. 61 projects totaling US$6,348,339 focused on reducing wildlife trafficking, with targeted efforts to reduce demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolins, turtles, tortoises and a range of other species.	CEPF has supported 610 projects with primary emphases on protected area creation and improved management, totaling US$67,948,146. 94 projects with a component dedicated to addressing Invasive Alien Species, totaling US$7,223,077, in 13 biodiversity hotspots. 468 projects totaling US$49,525,232 aimed at strengthening protection and management of areas within and outside of protected areas. CEPF has supported 466 projects with a focus on species conservation, totaling US$39,675,752.
	Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	407 networks/partnerships supported, 319 of which CEPF helped to create. Of the 368 CEPF grantees for which two Civil Society Organizational Capacity Assessments have been completed, 248 civil society organizations (67%) report an increase in their organizational capacity.	CEPF has supported 312 projects with an explicit focus on civil society capacity building and networking, valued at US$24,678,582. All local CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity.

Conclusion

In 2019, CEPF's grantees continued to make significant contributions to the conservation of biodiversity, the reinforcement of the civil society's capacity, the improvement of human well-being and the establishment of enabling conditions that are essential for ensuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. Several new biodiversity hotspots have reported results as their first projects come to a close, such as the Guinean Forests of West Africa, while others, such as Eastern Afromontane and Wallacea, have much to show from five years of successful project implementation. Results are not only evident locally on the ground, but also on a global scale, as we are able to document key contributions to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, CEPF looks forward to showcasing contributions from nine active hotspots and demonstrating the essential role that civil society plays in securing a sustainable future for people and biodiversity.



Oaxaca State, Mexico, center of endemism in the Mesoamerica Biodiversity Hotspot. © O. Langrand

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

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