

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Operational Manual

April 26, 2021

Ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** the ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, and an increase in CEPF's spending authority by \$14 million for the implementation of this profile.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **June 10, 2021**.

Background

The ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot was updated between July 2020 and March 2021, following the Donor Council's selection of the hotspot for reinvestment at its Thirty-fifth meeting on 23 October 2019.

This is intended to be a full reinvestment, following the successful completion of the previous investment phase between 2015 and 2021. During the previous phase, CEPF provided a total of US\$9.5 million in funding for 100 conservation projects in the hotspot, which were implemented by 65 civil society organizations, including 55 local organizations. The investment strategy set out in the updated ecosystem profile builds on the results achieved and lessons learned from this previous phase.

The ecosystem profile was updated through a remote consultative process coordinated by a consortium led by Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (PRONATURALEZA), with inputs from Panthera Colombia, Practical Action, Fundación Ecológica Arcoiris, and BirdLife International. This consortium was selected through a competitive process in 2020. The ecosystem profile captures the results of three complementary processes: (i) a strategic planning process with a focus on Ecuador undertaken in collaboration with KfW; (ii) an online consultation process involving 268 stakeholders from 103 civil society, public sector, and donor organizations; and (iii) the long-term vision for the hotspot, which involved more than 100 people in its preparation.

At its Thirty-fifth Meeting, when the Donor Council approved a full reinvestment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot, it was anticipated that an initial contribution of US\$3 million would come from CEPF's global donors, with the balance of the spending authority being leveraged from regional donors. To date, EUR 7 million of this balance has been secured, from KfW, under a project in Ecuador, which is

anticipated to start in 2021. The CEPF Secretariat is actively fundraising for the remaining balance. The Secretariat is confident that the funds already secured will allow implementation to begin, thereby consolidating the results of the previous phase and maintaining support to local civil society in the four countries.

The draft ecosystem profile was shared with the Working Group on April 15, 2021, for its review and recommendation to the Donor Council. A small number of revisions were then made to the profile, to address comments from the Working Group. A matrix showing how comments from the Working Group meetings have been addressed is attached, together with the final ecosystem profile and an extended technical summary.