

# Advancing the Targets

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the Convention on Biological Diversity's Biodiversity Targets





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# About CEPF

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) empowers people to be good stewards of the planet, so that they and future generations continue to benefit from its life-sustaining resources, such as biodiversity, clean air, fresh water, a stable climate and healthy soils.

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, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

The partners believe that civil society is uniquely positioned to protect some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened ecosystems—biodiversity hotspots. CEPF provides grants to nongovernmental and private sector organizations so they can conserve these critical ecosystems. Our grantee partners range from small farming cooperatives and community associations to private sector partners, and national and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

The investments are even more meaningful because these regions are home to millions of people who are impoverished and highly dependent on natural resources.

## Our grants:

- Target biodiversity hotspots in developing and transitional countries, and address many of the 2020 biodiversity targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity—also known as the Aichi Targets.
- Are guided by regional investment strategies—ecosystem profiles—developed with local stakeholders.
- Go directly to civil society groups to build this vital constituency for conservation alongside governmental partners. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to implement the conservation strategy developed in each ecosystem profile.
- Create working alliances among diverse groups, combining unique capacities and eliminating duplication of efforts.
- Achieve results through an ever-expanding network of partners working together toward shared goals.

For more information, please visit [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).

# At A Glance

**Hotspot  
strategies  
implemented**

**22**

**Grantees  
supported**

**1,913**

**Committed  
grants**

**\$175 M**

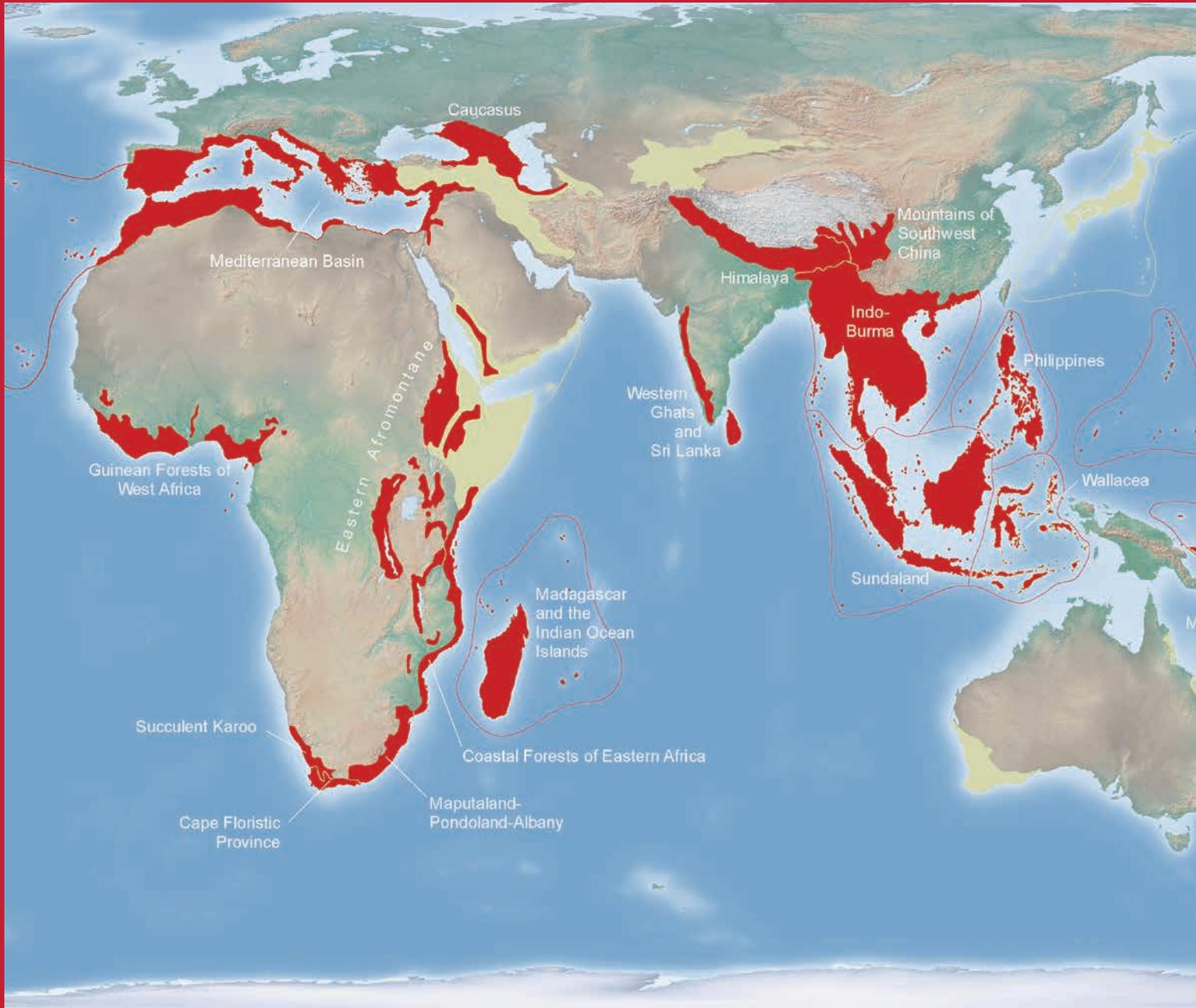
**Amount  
leveraged by  
those grants**

**\$346M**

**Protected  
areas created  
[hectares]**

**13M**

# Where CEPF Works





- |                                      |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. ATLANTIC FOREST                   | 9. HIMALAYA                             | 17. POLYNESIA-MICRONESIA        |
| 2. CAPE FLORISTIC REGION             | 10. INDO-BURMA                          | 18. SUCCULENT KAROO             |
| 3. CARIBBEAN ISLANDS                 | 11. MADAGASCAR AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS | 19. SUNDALAND                   |
| 4. CAUCASUS                          | 12. MAPUTALAND-PONDOLAND-ALBANY         | 20. TROPICAL ANDES              |
| 5. COASTAL FORESTS OF EASTERN AFRICA | 13. MEDITERRANEAN BASIN                 | 21. TUMBES-CHOCÓ-MAGDALENA      |
| 6. EAST MELANESIAN ISLANDS           | 14. MESOAMERICA                         | 22. WESTERN GHATS AND SRI LANKA |
| 7. EASTERN AFROMONTANE               | 15. MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA        | 23. WALLACEA                    |
| 8. GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA    | 16. PHILIPPINES                         |                                 |



Photo © Conservation International/photo by Bailey Evans

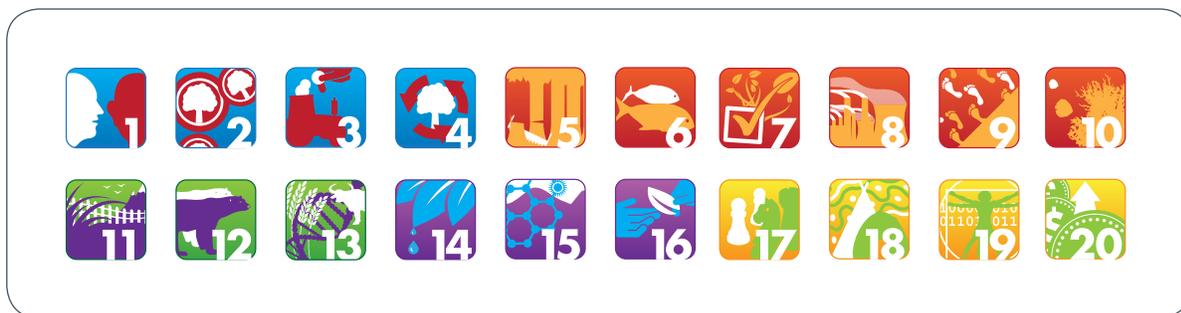
# The Aichi Targets and CEPF'S Contribution

In 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, 193 countries meeting for the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to promote effective implementation of the convention.

The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets, known as the Aichi Targets, which aim to reduce global pressures on our natural world, and cover a range of topics from avoiding extinctions of threatened species, to reducing subsidies that are harmful to the environment, to protecting 17 percent of Earth's land and 10 percent of its seas by 2020.

The Strategic Plan stipulates that partnerships at all levels are required for its effective implementation to leverage actions at the necessary scale; to garner the ownership needed to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy; and to find synergies with national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Potential implementation partners include governments, nongovernmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, civil society and the private sector.

The parties to the convention have an enormous challenge ahead of them to achieve the Aichi targets, and every step taken towards these targets is important. To date, CEPF has supported more than 1,900 civil society grantee partners in more than 80 countries for projects that not only implement CEPF's conservation strategies, but also make significant contributions to the Aichi targets. This report highlights CEPF grantee contributions to the Aichi targets and illustrates how civil society can be a productive partner in our global efforts to conserve biodiversity.





## 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.**

### **Headline indicator:**

- **Trends in awareness, attitudes and public engagement in support of biological diversity and ecosystem services**

CEPF has undertaken extensive efforts to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation across the globe, reaching millions of people through news articles, scientific publications, radio and television programs, social media, websites, videos, documentary films, information/education centers and training programs. CEPF's audiences are diverse and include indigenous and local communities, children and youth, governments, landowners, private sector representatives and urban residents. Some highlights include:

- Communication efforts about a wide range of conservation issues in more than 80 countries.
- Two documentary films about the Mekong River broadcast on Vietnamese television to an estimated 45,000 people.
- A website about conservation of the Atlantic Forest biodiversity hotspot (located in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), which receives about 107,000 visits per year.
- Local language guidebooks and awareness materials disseminated to thousands of people in multiple countries, ranging from (but not limited to) India to Azerbaijan, Cambodia to Fiji to Tanzania.
- Creation of four awareness/information centers, in Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Namibia and Kenya.
- First International Symposium on Marine Turtles in French Polynesia, with more than 100 participants.
- More than 5,000 school children participating in environmental education activities at the Aboretum d'Antsokay in Southwest Madagascar.



## 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.**

### **Headline indicator:**

- **Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives**

CEPF has prioritized integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies in numerous biodiversity hotspots, and has devoted significant effort to documenting biodiversity values, disseminating the information to a range of audiences, and promoting their integration into development planning processes. Selected results include:

- More than 30 development and resource management policies in more than 15 countries influenced in favor of conservation.
- Integration of biodiversity values into Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Seven local and regional policies and development projects influenced in the Tropical Andes; for example, the development of new legislation to reduce illegal gold mining in Peru.
- Biodiversity values of the Mekong River and its major tributaries documented and widely disseminated to promote their integration into development planning processes, especially around hydropower development.
- Biodiversity values mainstreamed into local development planning policy in Itombwe region of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Lake Tana and Sheka regions of Ethiopia; Misuku Hills regions of Malawi; Chimanimani region of Zimbabwe and Mozambique; and the Greater Mahale and Mbeya regions of Tanzania.
- Biodiversity values and cost benefit analyses conducted in the context of a proposed highway through the Maya Biosphere Reserve in the Petén in Guatemala that was subsequently cancelled.



## Target 3

**By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity, are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.**

### **Headline indicator:**

- **Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives**

CEPF grants have supported the creation of incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including conservation agreements, eco-compensation, certification, access to credit, access to markets, and direct payments for conservation action. Selected results include:

- A resolution passed in the Dominican Republic that provides a policy framework for private protected areas, resulting in the creation of the country's first private reserve measuring 404 hectares.
- Development of the Caribbean's first forest carbon offset credit scheme, generating \$14,000 in one year, expected to yield at least \$250,000 within 10 years.
- South African tax legislation reviewed to develop guidance on using tax incentives to pay for purchase and/or management of conservation land; tax legislation subsequently amended.



## Communities earn tangible benefits for conservation

In Ecuador, CEPF has been a strong supporter of the Socio Bosque program, which sets up 20-year conservation agreements with individual property owners and communities in exchange for direct economic incentives that support community development projects. CEPF first supported the concept in the region in 2004, when a pilot project was established through an innovative partnership between Conservation International (CI) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (the German Agency for International Cooperation). It targeted three Chachi indigenous communities. With few options for income, the Chachi people had been selling their forests to logging companies and palm oil producers. Their experience reflected broader trends within Esmeraldas Province. From 1960 to 2010, the province lost 82 percent of its forest cover, making it the top area in South America in deforestation threat.

Through the deal, the Chachi communities received financial and technical support in exchange for their commitment to conserve 7,200 hectares of rain forest known as the Gran Chachi Reserve. They agreed on compensation of \$5 per hectare per year, paid into a fund that communities allocated for their development priorities. Meanwhile, their establishment of the reserve created a protective buffer for the neighboring 243,638-hectare Reserva Ecológica Cotacachi-Cayapas (RECC), one of the hotspot's most biologically rich protected areas. Ecuador's program has become a national force for conservation, with government investment totaling more than \$22 million. By 2012, four years after its creation, more than 1,116,000 hectares had been set aside for conservation, and more than 125,000 individuals had directly benefited.

Following its support for Socio Bosque's pilot phase, CEPF continued supporting the initiative by helping communities access the program's funds. CEPF grantee Fundación para el Desarrollo de Alternativas Comunitarias de Conservación del Trópico (Altropico), an Ecuadorian NGO, has worked closely with six Chachi communities to qualify their forests for Socio Bosque, and then to maintain their eligibility. With Altropico's assistance, Socio Bosque incorporated 13,539 hectares of forest that belong to the Chachi, generating \$175,841 in 2012 for the participating communities. The 20-year agreement period will yield more than \$3.5 million for these communities. It has proven to be one of Latin America's most promising models for linking conservation with economic, health and education benefits for poor rural indigenous, mestizo and Afrodescendent people.



## Target 4

**By 2020, at the latest, governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture
- Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers
- Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives

CEPF grants have worked against unsustainable production, consumption and resource use through the development of guidelines and promotion of improved management practices, as well as provision of training, legal support and advice to local stakeholders to address the negative impacts of development and infrastructure projects.

Selected results include:

- Engagement with at least 18 industries including agriculture, wine, tourism, meat, citrus, mohair, barley, wool, protea, rooibos, honey, medicinal herbs, cocoa, coffee, tea, Brazil nut, rubber and sugar, to halt unsustainable resource use.
- In South Africa, creation of the Biodiversity and Red Meat Association, which aims to improve production and management of grazing lands, and has involved 36 communal and five private farmers who are implementing biodiversity and conservation actions on approximately 25,000 hectares.



## The Green Choice Alliance: Changing the way food is produced

Unregulated agricultural expansion is recognized as a key threat to the biodiversity of the Cape Floristic Region in South Africa. In response, CEPF grantees have worked for nearly a decade to engage with a range of agricultural industries to develop and implement best practice guidelines that allow producers to expand their bottom line without further threatening the biodiversity found on their land. Efforts entailed support for business and biodiversity partnerships in the citrus, wine, potato, rooibos tea and flower industries, leading to improved resource management and conservation of significant biodiversity on productive lands.

While results have been encouraging in some sectors, the need to replicate, scale up and expand these efforts is paramount. Industries piloting sustainable resource use face challenges such as gaining market access, creating consumer awareness about products, and addressing the complexity of certification schemes. Consequently, in 2007, CEPF grantees Conservation International and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) created the Green Choice Alliance, a conservation initiative with the mandate to reach out to both established and emerging business and biodiversity enterprises to facilitate assistance on technical issues related to biodiversity best practice, promote a suite of sustainable products, and ensure preferential market access. It seeks to raise awareness of the environmental impacts associated with the production of food, flowers and fibers, and to provide the platform for a concerted and creative effort from government, farmers, scientists, retailers and consumers to pursue broader product stewardship policies in order to ensure sustainable agriculture and fisheries.

Demonstrable progress has been made: biodiversity conservation has been mainstreamed into the wine and red meat industries, where guidelines have been fully integrated into industry portfolios and auditing. In the case of flowers, the Flower Valley Conservation Trust has addressed biodiversity conservation with the development of flower harvesting guides, vulnerability indices for species of plants, and an online auditing system.

Do these interventions have an on-the-ground conservation impact? Absolutely. The wine sector, led by the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative, is an encouraging example. To date, in addition to adopting biodiversity-friendly production guidelines, wine producers have set aside 140,000 hectares for conservation since the initiative began in 2004. This means that the South African wine industry's conservation footprint is well in excess of its current vineyard footprint of 101,568 hectares. For every hectare of vineyard, an additional hectare of natural vegetation is committed to conservation, and this figure continues to rise as consumer interest in responsible products grows.



## Target 5

**By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in extent, condition and vulnerability of ecosystems, biomes and habitats
- Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture
- Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers

CEPF grantees have made significant contributions by working to create and expand protected areas, to improve management of areas harboring significant biodiversity, and to improve management of biodiversity in production landscapes. CEPF grantees have sought to reduce fragmentation and degradation by addressing multiple threats such as illegal charcoal production, agricultural encroachment, unsustainable development and invasive species, and by mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture and other production sectors. Selected results include:

- In the Western Ghats Region of India, critical habitat linkages protected between the Sahyadri-Konkan and Malnad-Kodagu corridors and within Mysore-Nilgiri, Anamalai and Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridors, significantly reducing ecological fragmentation at the landscape scale.
- In the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot, 16 protected areas covering 268,182 hectares remain intact through the efforts of CEPF grantees, withstanding threats from agricultural encroachment, logging, illegal charcoal production, unsustainable development and invasive species.
- In the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspot, which includes portions of South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland, strengthened protection and management of 1.2 million hectares of natural habitats within key biodiversity areas, significantly reducing habitat degradation and fragmentation.
- In the Taita Hills of Kenya, 74,109 seedlings planted both in the forest patches and on farms, resulting in rehabilitation of 115 hectares and connecting forest fragments critical for the survival of several threatened bird species found nowhere else, including the Taita thrush.



Photo © Robin Moore



## Target 6

**By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture
- Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives

CEPF's contribution has been diverse, ranging from piloting co-management models to conducting research on fish stocks. Selected results include:

- Increased awareness and protection by local communities for five coastal key biodiversity areas in Tunisia.
- Forty-four ecoguards in place to implement regulations on water use and fishing practices in Ifrane National Park, Morocco.
- Improved management and local community engagement for eight North African wetlands.
- Efforts underway to create Lebanon's first micro-reserve for plant conservation.
- Piloting of community fisheries co-management in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, demonstrating effective models for sustainably harvesting fish and aquatic invertebrates, involving the establishment of 58 fish conservation zones, and delivering tangible socioeconomic benefits to 53 local communities.



## Fisheries co-management in Indo-Burma: benefiting people and nature

For the communities of the Sekong Basin in Lao PDR, life is built on fish. Here 61 percent of the protein intake for communities comes from fish, and 19 percent of the fish caught are sold for income. A loss of fisheries productivity and diversity would lead to economic and health problems for the people of the basin. But this could be the fate of the region, as increased demand, destructive fishing methods, dams, extraction of forest products, and poor management threaten fish populations. Implementing its conservation strategy for the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, CEPF supported a WWF project aimed at demonstrating to policymakers the importance of healthy freshwater ecosystems for poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation in the Sekong Basin. Over a two-year period, from 2010 to 2012, the project fostered the development of community groups to protect critical freshwater habitats through fisheries co-management.

Based on the Integrated River Basin Management approach, co-management was arranged between local communities and the government. This gave communities that use fisheries the authority to demarcate protected areas, called “fish conservation zones” in the river to reduce or prohibit fishing in critical habitat and enforce village regulations within these areas. Every fish conservation zone has an associated management committee, entirely made up of local villagers, that is responsible for maintaining freshwater protected areas. “The watershed management and monitoring plans have to be owned and adopted by the communities to be effective,” said Somphanh Chanphengxay, head of the Livestock and Fisheries Department Planning and Cooperation Division at the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. “In the long run, that will be the only way to manage the biological diversity of our rivers and secure their watershed functions. You have to listen carefully to them [the villagers]. Co-management plans rely on their knowledge and solutions to biodiversity conservation.”

The project established communal fishing conservation areas for 24 villages along 500 kilometers of riparian habitat in the Sekong Basin. WWF worked with these communities to draft fish conservation zone management plans that gained endorsement from the Lao Department of Livestock and Fisheries within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Additionally, the biodiversity and ecosystem services values of the Sekong Basin were integrated into development planning, both at the local level in the fisheries and agriculture sectors, and at the national level in terms of hydropower planning. The positive impact on the local communities and fisheries has been tremendous: 75 percent of the communities reported that fish had increased in the conservation zones. “Communities consistently report increased availability of wild fish within one or two years of conservation zones being established,” said Victor Cowling, landscape manager with WWF-Laos. “This aquatic resource conservation benefits peoples’ livelihoods and nutrition, with fishing becoming more rewarding for food and for sale.”



## Target 7

**By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture
- Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives

Hundreds of CEPF projects take place in production landscapes—areas used for the production of agriculture or other goods—where grantees seek to improve the management of the land or fresh water to support biodiversity and production. CEPF-funded projects have targeted more than 18 industries, improving management and production practices, and looking for long-term sustainable solutions that will allow biodiversity to thrive. Efforts include development of guidelines for improved management practices, promotion of sustainable harvesting practices, and in some cases certification of sustainably produced products. Some highlights include:

- Strengthened biodiversity management on 4.4 million hectares of production landscape.
- Sustainable harvesting practices for nontimber forest products introduced to 1,500 hectares of forestry land in Vietnam, with the adoption of the FairWild standard.
- In India, sustainable agricultural practices adopted by 34 tea and coffee estates, covering more than 19,000 hectares, and similar measures being explored by rubber estates.
- 134,000 hectares undergoing management improvements including reforestation, sustainable tourism, livelihood development and sustainable agriculture in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Sustainable harvesting practices per Forest Stewardship Council standard being introduced to 400 hectares of KwaZulu-Natal Sandstone Sourveld, an endangered ecosystem in South Africa.
- 18,000 hectares of multi-use forest land under improved management in Greater Mahale region of Tanzania.
- Improved management of 45,000 hectares in the Indio Maíz Reserve buffer zone in Nicaragua through the organic certification of cacao plantations.



Photo © Conservation International/photo by Haroldo Castro



## 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.**

### **Headline indicators:**

- **Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers**
- **Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefits sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives**

Invasive species pose a significant threat to native species, and can have an enormous negative social and economic impact. CEPF has invested in initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland), and Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspots with actions ranging from training and education, to research, preparation/implementation of species recovery plans, invasive species management plans, and biosecurity plans and eradication efforts. Selected results include:

- More than 70 distinct efforts to control or eradicate invasive alien species in 20 countries.
- At least 20 measures such as biosecurity plans put in place to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive species.
- At least 75 species with improved populations as a result of invasive alien species control and eradication.
- More than 70 trainings conducted on biosecurity and invasive species management.
- More than 20 efforts such as surveys and feasibility plans undertaken to identify and prioritize invasive alien species and pathways.
- Establishment of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network, which shares information on invasive species control with 260 network members in the Pacific.



## From 6,000 to 300 invasive birds in the Cook Islands

The common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) is adaptable, aggressive and omnivorous, qualities that make it an unwelcome and widespread import in many parts of the world, including the Cook Islands, a nation of 15 small islands in the Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspot. The Cook Islands faces multiple invasive species threats, but the myna—which has been named one of the world’s top 100 worst invasives by the Global Invasive Species Database—has been a particular challenge.

This bird was brought to the island of Atiu in 1916 to control the coconut stick insect, another invasive species and agricultural pest. While its impact on the stick insect remains unclear, the mynas harass nesting native birds, damage fruit on trees and are a nuisance around homes. As part of an effort to secure local biodiversity and establish ecotourism, CEPF grantee Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust started working in May 2009 with the island’s leadership and residents to reduce the myna population, estimated to be at least 6,000 at that time.

A CEPF-supported eradication program entailed provision of safety equipment and training in the careful use of a poison targeted at the birds. After several years of implementation, a survey during the 2013 breeding season revealed that fewer than 300 mynas remained. Although the eradication is not yet complete, the decline in mynas resulted in native birds becoming more prominent, an increase in fruit ripening on trees, and more peaceful communities.





## 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.**

### Headline indicator:

- Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and other area-based approaches

CEPF has made significant progress towards this target with achievements in more than 20 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF's efforts have focused on creation of protected areas not only via formal protection measures, but also through legally binding conservation and stewardship agreements with local communities and landowners. Efforts have also entailed improving management of priority sites, through, for example, preparation and implementation of a management plan. Connectivity between priority sites has been emphasized as well through work to improve management practices in production landscapes. Selected results include:

- Creation of 13 million hectares of new protected areas, covering more than 100 sites whose protection status ranges from that of national park to legally binding stewardship agreement or community agreement.
- Strengthened protection and management of more than 35 million hectares of KBAs through measures such as increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.
- Improved biodiversity management for more than 4.5 million hectares of productive landscapes via measures such as implementation of best practices and guidelines, introduction of incentive schemes, certification of sites or products, and introduction of sustainable harvesting regulations.



## Establishing and improving management of huge Namibian park

In Namibia, CEPF supported the Namibian Nature Foundation (NNF) to establish the second largest protected area on the African continent, the 2.6 million hectare Sperrgebiet National Park, second only to the famous Selous National Park in Tanzania. The park protects a large swath of Succulent Karoo ecosystem, and completes a 10.5 million hectare coastal conservation area in Namibia, from the Orange River in the south to the Kunene River in the north, some 1,600 kilometers of protected coastline. Further, this coastal protected area is contiguous with a newly proclaimed coastal and marine protected area in Namibian waters of about 1 million hectares, and links to the Iona National Park in Angola, the Richtersveld in South Africa and private, communal and state protected areas that are contiguous—another 15 million hectares bringing together a total of over 25 million hectares of contiguous land under conservation. This now opens up huge potential for initiating landscape-level co-management approaches across boundaries and engaging multiple partners.

Since official creation of the park on December 1, 2008, CEPF grantees have worked hand in hand with the Parks and Wildlife Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as well as other stakeholders such as local communities and mining companies, to improve the management of this vast area. Work has entailed raising awareness about the Succulent Karoo landscape and its biodiversity values, and implementing local projects to better manage the landscape while deriving sustainable benefits for communities. Significant efforts have been devoted to preparing a series of plans including a biodiversity overview and plan, a park management and development plan (which subsequently became the model approach for all the coastal parks), a tourism development plan and a business plan. Grantees also produced focused research and monitoring of key plant communities (endemic and range-restricted) and flagship mammals; a park monitoring system and guide; a best practice restoration guide with special focus on rehabilitation of old mining areas; an approach for the development of an information center for the Sperrgebiet National Park and surrounding areas; and a strong support base and network for ongoing support to conservation and people's livelihoods in the Succulent Karoo ecosystem and the Karas region of Namibia.

These plans, and accompanying training and implementation, have helped to ensure that the Sperrgebiet National Park is not just a paper park, but rather a park that is guided by pro-active and adaptive management, both within and immediately surrounding the park, in partnership with the key stakeholders.



## 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.**

### **Headline indicator:**

- **Trends in abundance, distribution and extinction risk of species**

CEPF grantees are safeguarding species through the preparation and implementation of species recovery and management plans, efforts to address unsustainable and/or illegal trade, and research on population status, ecology, conservation strategies, propagation and captive breeding, as well as monitoring. Results include:

- In Madagascar, interventions aimed at improving the status of more than 1,500 species.
- At least 75 species in the Caribbean Islands and the Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspots with improved populations as a result of invasive alien species control and eradication.
- Forty-nine core populations of 33 globally threatened species in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot (which includes portions of Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar and China) secured from overexploitation and illegal trade, with 17 populations stabilized or increased.
- Species recovery plans for 13 globally threatened species in the Western Ghats Region of India.



## Habitat protection for the Critically Endangered saola

For the first time in the 21st century, the Critically Endangered saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*)—an enigmatic bovid first discovered in 1992—was photographed in Vietnam in September 2013. The saola was caught on film in the Central Annamite Mountains by a camera trap set by WWF and the Vietnamese government’s Forest Protection Department. The remarkable saola is one of the rarest and most threatened mammals on the planet. As such, it is a priority species for CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. During its initial investment in the hotspot, CEPF provided more than \$600,000 in funding to 10 grantees with the goal of controlling overexploitation of the species.

CEPF support to WWF from May 2010 to August 2012 aimed to secure core populations of saola by addressing immediate threats and developing economic alternatives to hunting, which poses the greatest threat to the species. CEPF also provided funding for forest guard patrols to remove snares in protected areas, including the site where the saola was recently photographed by WWF. “Since 2011, forest guard patrols in the CarBi (Carbon Sinks and Biodiversity Conservation) area have removed more than 30,000 snares from this critical saola habitat and destroyed more than 600 illegal hunters’ camps,” said Van Ngoc Thinh, WWF-Vietnam’s country director. “Confirmation of the presence of the saola in this area is a testament to the dedicated and tireless efforts of these forest guards.”

The recent sighting of a saola confirms the species still exists in the wild, but scientists don’t know enough yet to estimate the total population. According to the IUCN Red List, the number of saola in the wild is likely less than 750, and likely much less. “This is a historic moment in Vietnam’s efforts to protect our extraordinary biodiversity, and provides powerful evidence of the effectiveness of conservation efforts in critical saola habitat,” said Dang Dinh Nguyen, deputy head of Quang Nam Forest Protection Department and director of Quang Nam’s Saola Nature Reserve.

Protecting the habitat that is home as well as to the survival of the Indo-Burma biodiversity conservation and can depend on these forests and more.



to the saola is essential to its survival, other rare species that are found in hotspot. It will also ensure forest empower the communities who for livelihoods, food, water



## Target 14

**By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in distribution, condition and sustainability of ecosystem services for equitable human well-being
- Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness of protected areas and other area-based approaches

CEPF has contributed to the improved management of biodiversity on more than 4.4 million hectares of production landscape, with investments spanning 15 biodiversity hotspots. The approaches used to safeguard and restore ecosystems with essential services range from introduction of community fisheries co-management to habitat restoration to development of payment for ecosystem service models for water and other services. The most recent development in CEPF's approach to securing ecosystem services relates to our ecosystem profiles—the stakeholder-driven conservation strategies CEPF develops for each region where it invests. One of CEPF's newest ecosystem profiles, covering Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, includes an assessment of the ecosystem services provided by key biodiversity areas. With this development, CEPF will be able to focus not only on the important biodiversity in each hotspot, but also on the services like provision of water, food and crop pollination that people rely on, emphasizing the critical connection between nature and people. Selected results include:

- In Colombia and Ecuador, improved management of six protected areas covering 319,437 hectares that are contributing to human well-being through water provision, health, and livelihoods. Beneficiaries include indigenous and campesino farming communities.
- In the Western Ghats, restoration of ecological connectivity in *Myristica* swamps has led to improved status of the most threatened ecosystem type in the hotspot and one that delivers ecosystem services essential to human well-being such as fresh water supply and flood control.
- In the Mediterranean Basin, 10 projects with a specific focus on watershed management are underway, seeking to improve water management and availability in Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.
- In the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, 53 local and indigenous communities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam have secured access to essential services provided by freshwater ecosystems.
- Creation of the first ever payment for ecosystem services scheme in the Dominican Republic.



## Securing the future of a key South African river

South Africa's Mzimvubu River flows east out of the Drakensburg Mountains near the border of Lesotho for 250 kilometers, through the Eastern Cape Province and into the Indian Ocean at the town of Port St. Johns. The river basin covers more than 19,000 square kilometers and bisects two conservation corridors—the Highlands Grasslands and Pondoland corridors—while supporting key biodiversity areas that are flyways and nesting grounds for migratory birds and home to indigenous forest landscapes.

The Mzimvubu is also one of South Africa's few major rivers that remains free of dams. Overlaying this, 1 million people living in one of the poorest provinces in the country rely on the river for drinking water, irrigation, and other services. In this context, CEPF has awarded complementary grants to several grantees to create a catchment partnership program among government, nongovernment and private sector stakeholders; develop a simple and transparent indicator system to monitor river and river basin health; and develop the basis of an institutional system that will eventually lead to upstream-downstream linkages that form the basis of a payment for ecosystem services scheme.





## Target 15

**By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 percent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.**

### Headline indicators:

- Trends in distribution, condition and sustainability of ecosystem services for equitable human well-being
- Trends in coverage, condition, representativeness and effectiveness

CEPF has secured 1,217,856,039 tonnes of carbon (120.5 tonnes of carbon per hectare) across the globe. Selected results include:

- In the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic's first forest carbon project has been established, resulting in the first Caribbean sale of forest carbon offsets. Additionally in this hotspot, the first protected area management plans in the Caribbean to incorporate climate change adaptation were approved for Jamaica's Portland Ridge and Hellshire Hills and for La Humeadora National Park in the Dominican Republic.
- In Madre de Dios, Peru, in the Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot, enabling conditions required for the adoption of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation standards plus conservation, the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) have been promoted via a roundtable on environmental services and REDD+. This roundtable successfully fosters collaboration between regional government and local stakeholders. The effort has been complemented by development of three educational modules on REDD+, plus delivery of training on REDD+ to 10 local organizations (including farmers associations, indigenous communities and local government).
- Grantees in the Guinean Forests worked with the government of Liberia and Harvard Business School to develop a low-carbon economy cost-benefit analysis for the country. The evaluation looked at 14 different policy options and made recommendations to the Liberian government for implementation. This strategy was accepted at the highest level and endorsed by the president of Liberia who launched the national Climate Change Steering Committee to oversee its adoption and implementation.



## Target 18

**By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.**

### Headline indicators:

- **Trends in integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and benefit sharing into planning, policy formulation and implementation and incentives**
- **Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application**

CEPF provides grants to civil society, with an emphasis on reaching and strengthening local and indigenous partners. The Fund has awarded 339 grants to 236 community associations allowing local communities to participate in a broad array of activities related to conservation, such as surveys, alternative livelihoods and environmental education. Selected results include:

- Community-managed sanctuary established in Armenia as the first model of a community-based protected area in the country.
- In China, six community conservation areas established and strengthened, thereby empowering indigenous communities to engage in sustainable management and use of biodiversity, and providing models for wider replication.
- In Southern Mesoamerica, CEPF grantees have empowered 78 communities of Rama, Kriol, Ngöbe-Bugle and mestizo ethnicity to promote sustainable development of their territories through training and technical assistance.
- Indigenous communities in India supported to take advantage of provisions under the Forest Rights Act to secure stronger legal recognition of their traditional rights to land and forest resources. Efforts have included development of sustainable harvesting of nontimber forest products within community forest resource use areas and restoration of sacred groves, and recognition and promotion of indigenous communities' rights of access management.
- Four indigenous communities along the Mekong River in Cambodia assisted to secure formal recognition of their indigenous land title and/or community forests, thereby establishing a basis for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Seven indigenous communities in the Northern Highlands Limestone corridor in Vietnam engaged in development of sustainable harvesting of nontimber forest products, with enhanced recognition of their rights of access and management.



## Target 19

**By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.**

### Headline indicator:

- Trends in accessibility of scientific/technical/traditional knowledge and its application

CEPF believes that civil society must be able to respond to emerging issues, and in order to do this, civil society have access to the information necessary to make decisions about the conservation of biodiversity. CEPF therefore has supported a multitude of efforts to support this imperative. Grantees have taken a wide range of actions including species assessments, species action plans, management plans, recovery plans, trade surveys, environmental impact assessments, socioeconomic surveys and market research have not only been undertaken, and have disseminated and shared widely the resulting information. Selected results include:

- Website on the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania, offering news articles, reports on status and trends and more than 30 technical publications that promote scientific and technical information about the hotspot.
- Development of a web-based portal on the biodiversity and ecosystem service values of India's Western Ghats Region, used by a growing community of data-holders.
- Economic valuation study on promoting payments for environmental services for water resources in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo scientific reserves in the Dominican Republic.
- In the Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot, social and environmental monitoring on the direct and indirect impacts of road construction in the Vilcabamba-Amoró corridor of Peru and Bolivia have enabled local communities to share their concerns about health and environmental impacts of the road.
- In the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, completion of global threat assessments for almost 3,000 species, filling major gaps in knowledge, particularly with regard to freshwater taxa and vascular plants.
- In the Mediterranean, assessments of freshwater biodiversity in 12 countries.
- In the Caucasus, assessment of nearly 1,400 endemic plants using IUCN Red List categories and criteria. "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" published, disseminated, and results incorporated into the Caucasus Plant Initiative: a regional Plant Conservation Strategy.

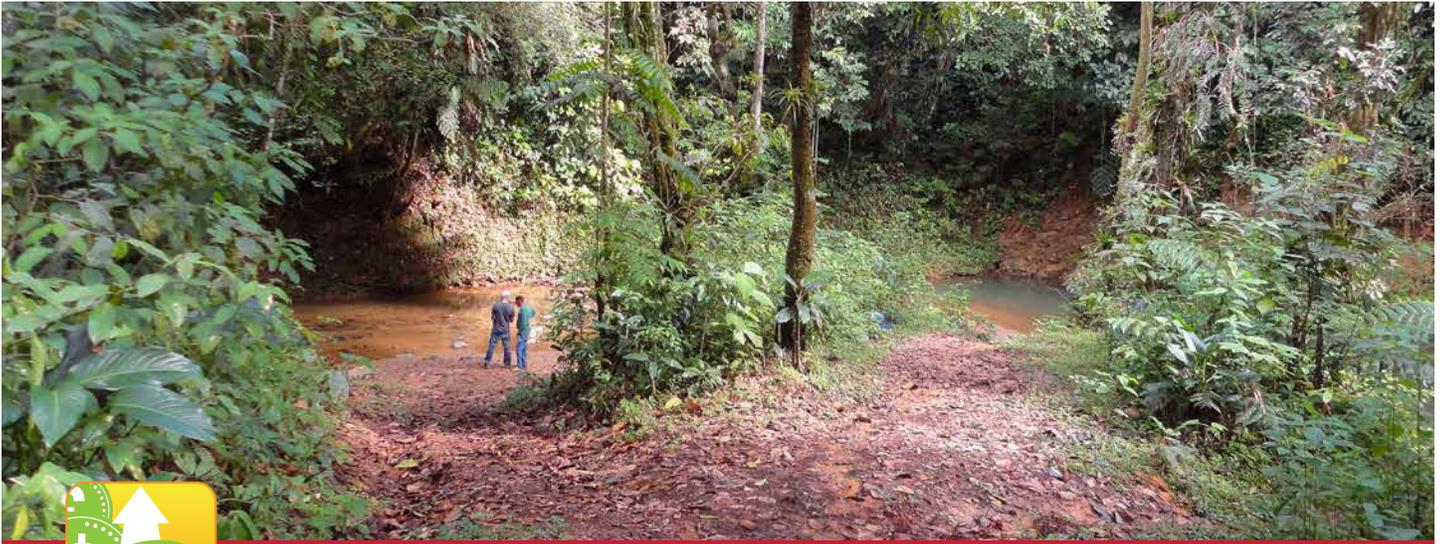


## IUCN and ZOO document freshwater biodiversity

In 2011 and again in 2014, CEPF supported IUCN and its project partner Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status and distribution of freshwater biodiversity in the Western Ghats Region of India. In 2011 this work covered all known freshwater fishes, molluscs, dragonflies and damselflies, and selected families of aquatic plants. The effort demonstrated that the Western Ghats is a globally significant center of diversity and endemism for freshwater biodiversity, but almost 16 percent of species are assessed as threatened with extinction. The major threats identified for these species are water pollution, over-harvesting and commercial and residential development, reflecting India's economic and population growth and the increasing demand for its freshwater resources.

Results revealed that some protected areas were not providing adequate protection for freshwater species, both in terms of their coverage and their management, and that existing key biodiversity areas (KBAs) primarily focus on terrestrial rather than freshwater species. Therefore, in 2014, the partners conducted further work to identify globally significant sites that contain freshwater species requiring conservation action, specifically in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, as these states contain the highest richness of threatened and endemic freshwater species, and the greatest number of sub-catchments that contain potential freshwater KBAs across peninsular India. The project worked to refine and validate the potential KBAs and update them with new species assessments. This effort also entailed promoting conservation action for the most critical sites by generating local and district level buy-in, identifying site champions, and building regional conservation networks for protection of freshwater biodiversity.

This important effort resulted in the delineation and validation of 34 freshwater KBAs across Kerala and Tamil Nadu, identifying the most critical areas for the conservation of threatened (and restricted-range) freshwater biodiversity in the region. Working with stakeholders during a series of workshops, recommendations were developed for the conservation actions needed for all KBAs (and Alliance for Zero Extinction, or AZE, sites), and a number of commitments were made by participants to take forward/adopt the freshwater KBAs into their current and future work. This included working at KBA sites, in particular those that also qualify as AZE sites, to undertake monitoring and surveys of freshwater biodiversity, especially fish.



## 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.**

### Headline indicator:

- Trends in mobilization of financial resources

CEPF has awarded \$175 million in grants since inception in 2000. Since 2008, more than 50 percent of these funds went to local or national organizations in the biodiversity hotspots. While CEPF does not require co-financing for its projects, the Fund nevertheless leveraged \$346 million from inception through mid-2014. For example, in the Caribbean, CEPF grantees worked with private investors from the United States and the Dominican Republic to raise \$565,000 to create the first private reserve on the island of Hispaniola, dedicated to protecting the Bicknell's thrush, a bird that spends winters in the Dominican Republic and summers in northeastern United States.

CEPF has also supported the mobilization of financial resources by helping to establish sustainable financing mechanisms, or by providing support for their management. Over CEPF's lifetime, a total of 24 sustainable financing mechanisms (or 30 percent of all the funds created) have received support from CEPF.

Number of Existing or Planned CTFs Supported by CEPF by Continent





## The Caucasus Nature Fund partners with governments to fund national parks

In the Caucasus biodiversity hotspot, lack of financial support for existing parklands has hampered conservation. As part of its initial five-year investment in this region, CEPF provided \$500,000 in 2008-2009 to support the institutional development and cover start-up costs for the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF), a fund that provides grants to support up to half of the costs of managing or developing protected areas, with the other half furnished by the relevant national government. Additional CEPF funding in 2011-2012 paid program-related expenses for a 15-month period, allowing all returns on the endowment to be allocated for grants. The CEPF funding also supported the development and implementation of fundraising strategies to build the fund's endowment, as well as an expanded grants and technical assistance program.

CNF scored two big successes in 2012, securing a grant of €7 million from the German government through its Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and its development bank, KfW, bringing the total size of the fund to \$50 million. Over the coming years, this major new grant will fund supplementary pay for park rangers, equipment like binoculars and camera traps, and transport for park staff, including horses and motor vehicles suitable for the terrain of the protected areas. All of this support is designed to reduce the impact of poaching, illegal logging, overgrazing and human settlement around the protected areas.

CNF is now active in three nations and provides support to nine protected areas. Like other CEPF grantees, CNF factors human communities into the conservation equation. "Tourism is beginning to take off in the protected areas," said executive director David Morrison, who has seen an initial trickle of visitors to the region swell to double or triple the volume seen five years ago. Along with their unrivaled wildlife, the Caucasus Mountains offer opportunities for hiking and skiing, which in turn create economic potential for ecotourism in the form of hotels, lodges and more.

CNF's presence in Azerbaijan offers hope in particular for one threatened species at Shirvan National Park: the goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), a native of steppe and semidesert habitats that was nearly hunted to extinction over the past century. Shirvan hosts the region's largest population of the gazelle. Some 60,000 gazelles grazed in the shadow of the Caucasus Mountains century ago, yet by 1961 only 130 remained. Conservation measures helped stem the attrition of these graceful animals. As a result, their numbers in Shirvan National Park and other nearby protected areas have surged to more than 5,000.

CNF is now active in three of the nations that make up the Caucasus hotspot—Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan—and provides support to nine protected areas. Looking ahead, the fund aims to expand its work to 17 more protected areas over the next five years.

# Conclusion

**This effort to quantify the contribution of CEPF's grantees to the Aichi Targets demonstrates the key role that civil society plays in supporting national governments to achieve the Aichi Targets.** CEPF allows donors to reach out to a wide variety of organizations who have unique and vital contributions to make in conserving and improving the management of biodiversity. The importance of CEPF's role in enabling civil society to be a key player in the fight against the loss of biodiversity is clear. The visionary donors of CEPF identified this opportunity in 2000, and the results achieved with a relatively small amount of funding in the years since demonstrate the efficacy of this mechanism and indicate the impact a scaled-up CEPF could have in the fight to halt the biodiversity crisis.



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