

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement

13 October 2017

**Long-term visions for the Indo-Burma Hotspot
and the Balkans Region of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot**

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to endorse on a no-objection basis** the long-term visions for the Indo-Burma Hotspot and the Balkans Region of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.

The deadline for no-objection endorsement is **27 October 2017**.

Background

At its 24th meeting, on 28 January 2014, the CEPF Donor Council approved the strategic framework for Phase III of CEPF. The new strategy proposed taking CEPF to a scale where it can have a transformational impact on reversing biodiversity loss in the hotspots. To this end, four key outcomes were agreed for the new phase, including:

Long-term strategic visions developed and implemented for at least 12 hotspots, facilitating the development of credible, effective and well-resourced civil societies, and delivering improved biodiversity conservation, enhanced provision from healthy ecosystems of services important to human wellbeing, and greater alignment of conservation goals with public policy and private sector business practices.

Unlike an ecosystem profile, which outlines investment priorities for CEPF grant-making over five years, a long-term vision is meant to be a guide for both CEPF and other actors (e.g., host-country government, private sector, donors and NGOs from the economic development community) on how to positively influence conservation in a region over a longer time period. A long-term vision is built around five conditions for transition away from CEPF support, which address issues of: conservation priorities; civil society; financial resources; the enabling environment; and the ability to respond to new issues.

At its 25th meeting, on 24 June 2014, the Donor Council approved the framework and scope of work for preparation of long-term visions, and recommended that they be piloted in three hotspots, so that lessons could be incorporated into the process for the remaining hotspots. To this end the Secretariat commissioned the preparation of three long-term visions. The first of these to be completed, for the Albertine Rift and the Eastern Arc Mountains Region of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, was endorsed by the Donor Council at its 27th meeting, on 24 June 2015.

The long-term vision for the Indo-Burma Hotspot was prepared by the Southeast Asia Group of the IUCN Asia Regional Office. The geographic scope of the document comprised Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and parts of southern China. The consultation process ran from March to November 2015, and involved consultation workshops in all six hotspot countries. More than 100 stakeholders from government, civil society and international donors participated in the consultation workshops.

The long-term vision for the Balkans Region of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot was prepared by independent consultants Mojmir Mrak and Milan Ružić , with strategic guidance from Janez Potočnik, a former European Commissioner for Environment. The geographic scope of the document comprised Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro. The consultation process was launched with a kick-off meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September 2015, and ended with a final stakeholder workshop in Ljubljana in December 2015.

The draft long-term visions for Indo-Burma and the Balkans were reviewed by the Working Group at its 49th meeting, on 6 January 2016. The Working Group asked the CEPF Secretariat to revise the two documents, to take into account feedback from the Working Group, and then to distribute them for electronic review by the Donor Council. The Working Group also asked the Secretariat to circulate the draft long-term vision for Indo-Burma for independent peer review. The independent peer review was completed during the second half of 2016, and comments were incorporated into the final document. The final documents are attached as Attachments 1 and 2.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Langrand', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Olivier Langrand
Executive Director