

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

16 October 2017

**Revised RIT Selection Process for Reinvestment Hotspots and
Scope of Work for Independent Evaluation of Lessons Learned to Inform Reinvestments**

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** the revised selection process for Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) for reinvestment hotspots. Similarly, the Donor Council is asked to approve the scope of work for independent evaluation of lessons learned to inform reinvestments.

The deadline for no-objection endorsement is **30 October 2017**.

Background

During FY17, the CEPF Secretariat coordinated a process to select an RIT for the second phase of investment in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, following the established Terms of Reference and Selection Process for RITs set out in the Operational Manual (OM 4.3 (Rev)). At its 55th meeting, on 4 May 2017, the Working Group discussed the selection of the RIT for the second phase of investment in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot.

During the meeting, and via written comments, the Working Group raised a number of questions about the selection process, to which the Secretariat responded. In particular, the Working Group noted that selecting an RIT in hotspots where the incumbent is willing to continue in the role raises additional concerns about competitiveness. In addition, the Working Group recommended preparation of a report about the first investment phase, comprising a review of the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned associated with the role of the RIT. The purpose of this lessons learned report would be to better inform applicants about the RIT role, and create a more competitive environment for all applicants.

In its response to the Working Group's comments, the Secretariat developed an options paper for revising the RIT selection process, and prepared a draft scope of work and process for the evaluation of lessons learned in relation to the incumbent RIT. These documents were reviewed by the Working Group at its 56th meeting on 18 September 2017. The Secretariat then revised the two documents, to take into account feedback from the Working Group, and present them as sections for inclusion in the CEPF Operational Manual.

The revised RIT selection process (OM 4.3 (Rev)) is presented as Attachment 1. This section of the Operational Manual also includes the RIT terms of reference, which have not been revised.

The scope of work and selection process for independent evaluation of lessons learned to inform reinvestment in hotspots (OM 4.3.1) are presented as Attachment 2.

Best regards,

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

Olivier Langand