

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500  
Arlington, USA  
6 February 2018  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Climate Change: A New Niche for CEPF?**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the CEPF-Secretariat submitted a concept note to L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) in its capacity as an Accredited Agency (AA) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) entitled "***Strengthening Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through Civil Society***". The request for funding from GCF is \$80 million over a 10-year period, with the main objective of increasing the climate resilience of 29 countries. Most of the countries are SIDS and some are Least Developed Countries (LDC). They are located in four biodiversity hotspots: **Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; Caribbean Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia; and East Melanesia Islands.**

Ecosystem-based adaptation solutions to climate change are particularly relevant to SIDS, because they integrate the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Ecosystem-based adaptation encourages conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems, to provide essential services that people need to adapt to climate variability. The aim of CEPF's proposal is to maintain and increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people.

The idea is to conserve biodiversity in selected hotspots through the promotion of nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change in SIDS. This adaptation-related work would be integrated in the existing programs (Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands, Caribbean Islands, East Melanesia Islands) or built into new strategies formulated for re-investment (Polynesia-Micronesia). We estimate that 2.5 million people could benefit from this approach applied to the selected hotspots.

Through the submission of this concept note, CEPF has no intention of creating a new niche of competence but, rather, to build on the experience acquired in the past 17 years in the field of biodiversity conservation. This experience is closely associated with capacity building of civil society and the conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems as, among other things, a meaningful and strategic way to address the impacts of climate change.

Conservation of biodiversity-rich ecosystems has a key and sometime irreplaceable role to play in both climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Therefore, conservation of biodiversity-rich ecosystems should benefit significantly more, as part of a win-win scenario, from climate-change-related funding. Funding from GCF to CEPF to such areas would be a highly effective means of supporting ecosystem-based adaptation, by taking advantage of CEPF's tried-and-tested delivery model to engage NGOs, community groups and other local actors in cost-effective actions. By building on CEPF's unique positioning and experience in engaging civil society in the conservation of critical ecosystems, we see many advantages of bringing the GCF to the donor table, via AFD in its AA capacity.

The CEPF-Secretariat would welcome the comments of the Donor Council on:

- The positioning of CEPF in the field of ecosystem-based adaptation to address climate change in SIDS;
- The possibility for the GCF to become a new global donor to CEPF; and
- The technical content of the Concept Note submitted to AFD as an AA of the GCF.