

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
Conservation International  
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600  
Arlington VA 22202 – USA  
19 March 2020  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

**Partnership Highlights**

**Global Donors:**

**The World Bank**

A new World Bank task team has been assigned to the CEPF Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot project and is currently working with the CEPF Secretariat to finalize the project concept note with the intention of submitting it for appraisal in March 2020. The next step will be the preparation of a project document, which is anticipated to take six months. If things progress according to plan, it should be possible to sign the grant agreement toward the end of 2020 or early 2021, which would allow for the Government of Japan funding (**\$15M**) to be invested in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot.

**L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**

In March 2019, AFD provided a **€200,000** grant (CZZ2236) to the CEPF Secretariat for the preparation of the proposal to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on "Strengthening Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Small Island Developing States through Civil Society." The original requested amount was for **\$60M over 10 years** for seven countries of two distinct hotspots.

Consultant James MacKinnon—joined by Olivier Langrand and Michele Zador in the respective hotspots Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands and the Eastern Melanesian Islands—met with government representatives and stakeholders of the seven countries included in the proposal to present the concept and seek approval for the submission of the concept to the GCF Secretariat. A revised version of the concept was submitted by AFD, as the accredited agency, to the Secretariat of the GCF in October 2019. A full proposal titled "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Pacific and Indian Ocean" was then submitted to the GCF Secretariat in January 2020.

Important points raised during the reviews of stakeholders from the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) included the overlap with a SREP/IUCN project of a similar nature that had also been submitted to the GCF. Following a discussion with the GCF Secretariat, AFD and CEPF agreed that the best approach was to proceed only with the Indian Ocean portion of the proposal.

In February 2020, AFD submitted to the GCF Secretariat a revised proposal focusing only on the four countries of the Indian Ocean (Comoro, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles), which was renamed "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean EBA – IO."

Reducing the geographical scope of the proposal offered the possibility to increase the budget solicited from the GCF. The total amount requested from the GCF for this project is now US\$38 million. The amount attributed to each of the four countries included in the new proposal follows the same proportion applied in the initial proposal. The **US\$38 million, over a period of 10 years**, is now split as follows: Comoros – US\$6.33 million; Madagascar – \$19 million; Mauritius – \$6.33 million; and Seychelles – US\$6.33 million. We are now expecting questions from the GCF Secretariat before the project is presented to the GCF Board in June 2020.

AFD and Conservation International signed a convention (CZZ2600) for **€14M** in December 2019. The funds have been transferred and are available for CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.

### **The European Union (EU)**

The EU and AFD signed a convention for **€13M** that was pledged to CEPF in October 2018. AFD, who is acting as fiduciary agent, and Conservation International signed the subsequent convention (CZZ2598). The funds have been transferred and the investment in the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot has started with the training of the regional implementation team.

### **Regional Donors:**

#### **Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)**

The Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies' (MACP) contract for **US\$2.5M** for a regranting program in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot—specifically in Cambodia and Laos to support sustaining healthy fresh water in the Mekong region's ecosystem—was signed, and funds have been disbursed. There is a reasonable prospect of the MACP grant being renewed in 2022 and, possibly, in 2025.

### **Prospects for Additional Funding:**

#### **KfW**

The discussions with KfW on the **€7M** contribution to be invested in Ecuador, part of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, are progressing. KfW Consultant Olivier Arnold will complete an appraisal mission between May and July 2020. A two-week visit is also planned to the CEPF Secretariat in Arlington as well as to Ecuador. A contract is expected in December 2020, with funding available for grantmaking in early 2021.

#### **MAVA**

The MAVA Foundation may provide additional funding (between **US\$1M and US\$1.5M**) to CEPF for projects related to specific strategic directions in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. The discussions are progressing, and a decision is to be made in April 2020.

## **Norway**

CEPF is working with Conservation International Europe for an opportunity to present CEPF to NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) and to the Minister of Environment of the Norwegian Government during the spring or summer of 2020.

## **UAE**

CEPF submitted a concept to the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for possible support to CEPF, beginning with a regional investment of US\$5M over five years for four selected hotspots: The Mountains of Central Asia, the Eastern Afromontane, the Horn of Africa and Wallacea.

## **Apple**

CEPF was invited by the CI-Center for Environmental Leadership in Business to submit a proposal for a possible investment by Apple in the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot. A concept for the support of CEPF in this hotspot was submitted.

## **Other Partnerships Highlights:**

### **EU DEVCO Focal Points Forum**

Jack Tordoff represented CEPF at the EU DEVCO Focal Points Forum in February 2020. His presentation to a group of civil society focal points from EU delegations around the world focused on the roles that civil society can play in biodiversity conservation.

### **Featuring CEPF and Grantees at the IUCN World Conservation Congress**

CEPF will honor a new group of Hotspot Heroes while celebrating its 20th anniversary at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in June 2020.

Ten high-achieving grantees, one from each hotspot where CEPF is currently active, will attend the WCC through CEPF's facilitation. They will be recognized at a reception planned for the evening of Sunday, 14 June, and will serve as representatives of CEPF and their own organizations during the Congress. It is an opportunity to put faces to CEPF's global results while also providing valuable networking and learning opportunities for these grassroots conservation leaders.

We hope CEPF's donors will join us for the reception to celebrate these exceptional people, and we are exploring additional opportunities to connect them with donors and potential donors.

CEPF will participate in multiple panels and events at the Congress, including a planned event with IUCN that will also involve the GEF Small Grants Programme. Once the schedule has been finalized, we will share it with the Donor Council.

### **EU Development Days**

CEPF is submitting a proposal for an event focused on civil society capacity building for the EU's 2020 Development Days, which take place 9–10 June 2020, immediately preceding the IUCN World Conservation Congress. If the proposal is accepted, the session will feature three of CEPF's Hotspot Heroes, with Nina Marshall facilitating the discussion. The Hotspot Heroes will share their experiences in building up their organizations and helping other groups; conservation results they have been able to achieve; and how this ties to the EU's Green Deal.

## **KBA Partnership**

CEPF, together with the other 12 members of the Partnership, submitted comments on the CBD ZeroDraft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as it relates to “reducing threats to biodiversity and to tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming.”