

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
38th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Virtual Meeting
26 May 2021
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

Partnership Highlights

Global Donors:

The World Bank

CEPF continues to work with the World Bank on finalizing the contract (**US\$15 million** from the Government of Japan) for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. The World Bank and the CEPF Secretariat worked effectively together, and the next step is the negotiation meeting that will hopefully lead to the signing of a contract.

L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

The **US\$38 million** grant financing agreement for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has been signed between Conservation International (GCF Implementing Entity on behalf of CEPF) and AFD (GCF Accredited Entity). CEPF is beginning the internal preparations for this new investment, which will begin on 1 July 2021. This 10-year project has a co-financing obligation of **US\$11 million**.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF)

CEPF submitted to the GEF Secretariat a concept presenting CEPF as a possible delivery mechanism under GEF-8 for the Small Grants Programme, which has historically been implemented by the UNDP. It is hoped that donors of the GEF will request the opening of the management of the SGP to more than one organization.

Regional Donors:

KfW

The teaming agreements for the KfW investment in Ecuador of **7 million euros** have been approved. The next step is for Conservation International's legal department to review both agreements (grant agreement and separate agreement) once they receive them from KfW.

IKI (International Climate Initiative in Germany)

CEPF submitted a concept note in partnership with NABU (BirdLife International partner in Germany, a powerful and influential NGO) for a total of **13 million euros** (partners will bring an additional **2.6 million euros**) over a period of seven years. The project proposes to amplify multiple innovative models for climate-conscious and biodiversity-friendly production involving local partners in four countries in the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Packard Foundation

At their request, CEPF submitted a proposal for **US\$400,000** for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot.

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP)

CEPF submitted an **US\$800,000** proposal for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot.

MACP, the Walton Family Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies

CEPF catalyzed an additional **US\$2.5 million** over four years from MACP, the Walton Family Foundation and the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Vibrant Oceans Initiative for the conservation of Wallacea's coastal and marine biodiversity.

MAVA Foundation

The MAVA Foundation is funding **US\$2.3 million** for CEPF projects related to specific strategic directions in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot.

Prospects for Additional Funding:

Canada

CEPF Grant Director Michele Zador has been in touch with Canada Aid for possible funding for Bolivia and, eventually, Peru.

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. A meeting will hopefully happen during the summer of 2021.

Switzerland

CEPF will continue exploring the possibility of funding from the Swiss Development Cooperation for the Mountains of Central Asia.

USA

CEPF is working with the division of public funding from Conservation International to engage with the U.S. State Department.

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

CEPF has formulated, in partnership with IUCN Indo-Burma, a concept to be submitted to the GCF. AFD is likely to play the role of accredited entity. The project will provide funding via three coordinated mechanisms to mobilize local actors in implementing nature-based solutions to climate change in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, drawing on tried-and-tested tools and methodologies.

The first mechanism is a competitive grants mechanism to engage civil society organizations, and it is based on the mechanism implemented by CEPF in the Indo-Burma Hotspot since 2008. The second is a grants mechanism to engage community groups and local administrative authorities and is based on an IUCN model used from 2006 to 2018. The third mechanism is an investment facility to provide debt and equity financing to small- and medium-sized enterprises to catalyze private investment in nature-based solutions, drawing on experience from Conservation Ventures (a sister fund to CEPF hosted at Conservation International) and Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation, a GEF-project implemented by IUCN. We anticipate requesting **60 million euros** over 10 years.

CEPF is also developing two GCF concepts with BirdLife International, one for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot (**40-60 million euros** over 10 years) and another for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot (**20-40 million euros** over 10 years). Discussions with AFD regarding the possibility of their playing the role of GCF Accredited Entity have started.

Private Foundations

In addition to the five private European and American foundations already supporting CEPF, other foundations will be approached, including the Arcadia Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust and Bezos Family Foundation.

Other Partnerships Highlights:

AFD

CEPF Grant Director Pierre Carret wrote an article titled "[Partnerships between civil society and the private sector to protect sensitive regions](#)" (page 36) for Proparco's "Private Sector & Development" magazine.

European Union (EU)

The EU's Capacity4Dev platform posted an [article](#) and [video](#) about CEPF based on interviews conducted with Olivier Langrand and several CEPF grantees.

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 September 2021. This will be a virtual event as it is unlikely the Hotspot Heroes will be able to travel to Marseille due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CEPF will participate in several panels and events at the Congress, including a planned event with IUCN that will also involve DEVCO, the European Commission and the GEF Small Grants Programme. The schedule will be shared with the Donor Council once it has been finalized.

Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

Olivier Langrand, together with the other members of the Advisory Board of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, co-authored a paper titled "[Conservation Resource Allocation, Small Population Resiliency, and the Fallacy of Conservation Triage](#)," which was published in "Conservation Biology."