

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

**No Objection Approval Request  
10 December 2018**

**Long-term vision for the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains Region of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot**

**Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked **to endorse on a no-objection basis** the long-term vision for the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains Region of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot.

The deadline for no-objection endorsement is **24 December 2018**.

**Background**

At its 24<sup>th</sup> 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 graduation 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 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 24 June 2014, the Donor Council approved the framework and scope of work for preparation of long-term visions. In line with this scope of work, the CEPF Secretariat awarded a contract to BirdLife International to prepare the Long-term Vision for the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains Region of the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. This contract was awarded following a competitive procurement process using the Selection Based on Consultants' Qualification (CQS) method.

In order to allow the development of a coherent strategy, covering countries with comparable social, political and economic conditions, the geographic scope of the long-term vision was restricted to the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains: the most biologically important region within the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. Within this region, the scope was further restricted to Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The portions of the Albertine Rift within Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo were omitted due to security issues.

The process to prepare the long-term vision involved four national workshops in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, held in June and July 2017, complemented by review of recent literature and interviews with key actors in the region. More than 200 stakeholders from government, civil society and international donors participated in the consultation workshops.

The draft long-term vision was reviewed by the CEPF Working Group at its 58<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 25 September 2018. Following the meeting, the document was revised to address comments from the Working Group. The final long-term vision and a matrix summarizing the responses to the Working Group's comments are enclosed as Attachments 1 and 2.