

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Fifth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
31 July 2003

The Caucasus Ecosystem Profile

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is requested to **review** and **approve** an [ecosystem profile](#) covering ecosystems within the Caucasus hotspot. The Caucasus hotspot includes the nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the North Caucasus portion of the Russian Federation, northeastern Turkey and part of northwestern Iran. Grant disbursement in all six countries is contingent on securing GEF Focal Point endorsement. This document was discussed with the Working Group during the April meeting. Input from this discussion was incorporated into the Profile and a revised version was submitted for additional comment on June 23, 2003. The enclosed version now incorporates any final input received since then, including comments from external reviewers.

Background:

The ecosystem profile for the Caucasus hotspot was developed by WWF-Caucasus in collaboration with a number of local stakeholders including NACRES, Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Union-Armenia, Ecological Union of Azerbaijan, Center for Sustainable Development-Iran and AHT International GmbH among others. The outcome definition process was supported by the Center for Applied Biodiversity Sciences of CI. The profile is based on the results of an outcome definition process, data compilation and two stakeholder workshops. Representatives from all six countries and a cross section of scientific, governmental and nongovernmental organizations attended the workshops held in November 2002 and January 2003.

The final articulation of the CEPF funding niche and the investment strategy is the result of a detailed analysis of biological outcomes, threats, socioeconomic impacts and current investments. Dr. Giorgi Sanadiradze from WWF-Caucasus attended the April Working Group meeting to present the methodology and results of the ecosystem profile. The CEPF strategic niche was subsequently re-conceptualized based on input received from the CEPF Working Group members.

GEF Focal Point Endorsement is being sought for this ecosystem profile from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Turkey and the Russian Federation.