

## **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

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

### **The Northern Mesoamerica Ecosystem Profile**

#### Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked to **endorse** that the approval process for the ecosystem profile covering ecosystems in Northern Mesoamerica be conducted on a no-objection basis between the fifth and sixth meetings of the Donor Council.

#### Background:

The Mexico and Central America Program of Conservation International developed the ecosystem profile for Northern Mesoamerica in collaboration with a number of local stakeholders and an outcome definition process supported by the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science of CI. Northern Mesoamerica includes the five southern states of Mexico and the countries of Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The final articulation of the CEPF funding niche and the investment strategy was the result of an analysis of anticipated conservation outcomes, threats, socioeconomic impacts and current investments. Carlos Rodriguez, Ignacio March, and Alejandro Robles from the CI-Mexico and Central America Program, attended the April meeting of the CEPF Working Group to present the methodology and results of the ecosystem profile. Input from this discussion was incorporated into the Profile and a revised version was submitted for additional comment on June 23, 2003. However, based on comments received since then, it has become clear that consensus in support of the profile cannot be reached before the fifth meeting of the Donor Council, and a decision to withdraw the profile from the agenda was reached on July 24, 2003. However, the Working Group has acknowledged the momentum that has been built in Northern Mesoamerica for CEPF involvement and agree that any impact of postponing the approval of the profile should be limited as much as possible. Therefore, the Working Group is recommending that revisions to the profile be done as quickly as possible so that consensus can be sought in the Working Group at the earliest opportunity. The Working Group is also recommending that approval of the profile not wait until the sixth meeting of the Donor Council but be done on a no-objection basis once the Working Group is in agreement to recommend approval.