



Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Mesoamerica Biodiversity Hotspot

Northern Mesoamerica

A Special Report
January 2010

CONTENTS

Overview 3

CEPF Five-Year Logical Framework Reporting 31

Appendices..... 37

OVERVIEW

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) investment in the northern region of the Mesoamerica biodiversity hotspot commenced in January 2004 with the approval of an ecosystem profile¹ and an allocation of \$7.3 million to be awarded in grants over five years.

This assessment report presents the results achieved by civil society organizations and their partners through CEPF grants from 2004 to 2009, examining major accomplishments in site and species-based conservation, the benefits derived by local communities, and improvements in the enabling conditions that contribute to conservation over the long term. The report also highlights the major lessons learned during implementation. It draws from project monitoring reports and visits, including grant final reports that are available on the CEPF Web site, www.cepf.net. The report also is based on findings obtained from a questionnaire sent to CEPF grantees and on input received during an assessment workshop held in October 2009 in Antigua, Guatemala. The workshop was attended by more than 60 participants from seven countries, including 10 government representatives from major park management agencies. The meeting was organized by Rainforest Alliance and CEPF's coordination unit for this region, Conservation International's Center for Biodiversity Conservation in Mexico and Central America.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CEPF provides strategic assistance to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups and other civil society partners to help safeguard Earth's biodiversity hotspots: the biologically richest yet most threatened ecosystems. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

CEPF Niche

Spanning most of Central America, the Mesoamerica Hotspot encompasses all subtropical and tropical ecosystems from central Mexico to the Panama Canal. It consistently ranks among the top hotspots for animal diversity and endemism, and three of the hemisphere's four migratory bird routes converge in the region. Several factors underlie this exceptional diversity. Forming a land bridge between continents, the hotspot features species representative of both North and South America. Extensive mountain chains reach up to 4,211 meters and annual average rainfall varies widely from 500 to 7,000 mm. Throughout the northern region of the hotspot, a series of geologically isolated highlands are evolutionary islands. Mesoamerica's biological diversity is paralleled by great cultural diversity. The region is home to 32 distinct ethnic and indigenous groups that represent about 45 percent of the total population.

Entrenched poverty, decades of civil strife, corruption and natural disasters are some of the many factors contributing to the region's high deforestation rates, which are ranked among the top in the world. Other direct threats include illegal logging, land invasions, forest fires, oil exploitation, drug trafficking, road construction, hydroelectric dams and unsustainable agriculture. These threats together create a very complex operating environment under which conservation and sustainable development must advance.

The Mesoamerica Hotspot consists of two regions: Southern Mesoamerica and Northern Mesoamerica. This report focuses on the northern region of the hotspot, which covers Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and six states in southern Mexico.

¹ The Ecosystem Profile for the Northern Region of the Mesoamerica Biodiversity Hotspot is available on the CEPF Web site. English, www.cepf.net/Documents/final.mesoamerica.northernmesoamerica.ep.pdf / Español, www.cepf.net/Documents/final.spanish.mesoamerica.northernmesoamerica.ep.pdf (PDF - 1MB)

The CEPF strategy for Northern Mesoamerica was created based on the results of a comprehensive ecosystem profiling process. CI led the preparation of the profile through a process of stakeholder consultations, field visits, data analysis and review of background reports. Seventy-four experts representing 42 scientific, governmental and nongovernmental organizations from Belize, Guatemala and Mexico participated directly in the preparation process. Data on biodiversity, socioeconomic factors, institutions in the region and conservation efforts were compiled and synthesized from more than 330 organizations. A three-week tour of the region in January 2003 permitted field observation and discussion with local communities and park staff, followed in February 2003 with a stakeholder workshop in Guatemala that enabled broad input from the conservation community to formulate the niche and investment strategies proposed for CEPF. Experts in the region then validated the niche and investment strategy in August 2003.

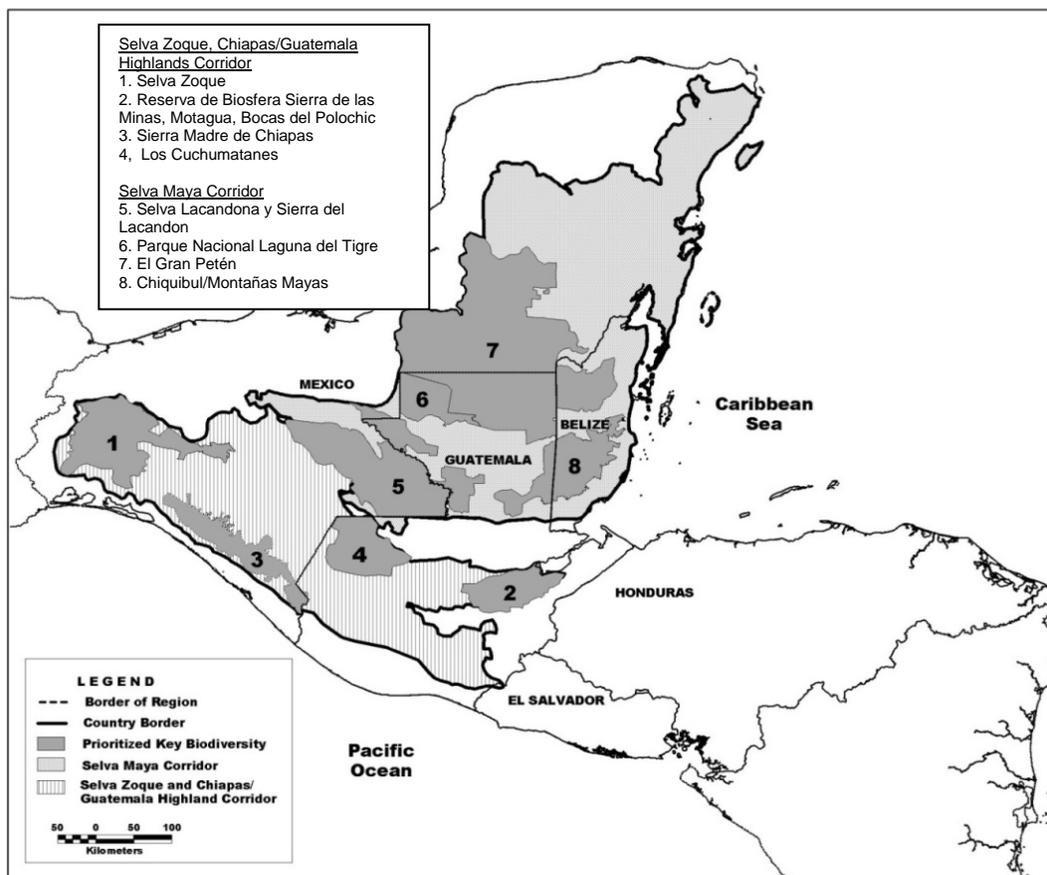
The specific niche identified for CEPF was to influence select development policies and investments to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes in the Selva Maya and Chiapas-Guatemala Highlands corridors through increased knowledge, capacity and coordination of civil society and local government. CEPF's five-year investment strategy was described in the ecosystem profile and included the following four strategic directions:

1. Foster civil society participation in regional decisionmaking on select policies and investments to promote the conservation and sustainable development of the Selva Maya and the Selva Zoque and Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands corridors.
2. Collaborate with other donor-funded projects to facilitate and operationalize successful conservation activities in Northern Mesoamerica's eight most important key biodiversity areas.
3. Support priority conservation actions in four priority key biodiversity areas.
4. Support efforts to prevent the extinction of Northern Mesoamerica's 106 Critically Endangered species.

Investment in these strategic directions was further refined by guidance provided through 14 investment priorities. While CEPF allocated funds along the thematic lines described above, investments were also determined on the basis of geographic priorities. Two very large conservation corridors encompassing the eight highest priority key biodiversity areas were selected as the focus for CEPF funding:

- **Selva Zoque, Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands Corridor**, which consists of a chain of mountains and isolated highlands considered to be evolutionary islands. The corridor's mountains are best known for their ecosystem diversity and high endemism. Within the corridor, CEPF selected four key biodiversity areas for engagement: Selva Zoque (Mexico), Sierra de las Minas (Guatemala), Sierra Madre de Chiapas (Mexico) and Los Cuchumatanes (Guatemala).
- **Selva Maya Corridor** contains the second most extensive tract of continuous tropical rainforest in the Americas after the Amazon Forest. Within the corridor, CEPF selected four key biodiversity areas for investment: Selva Lacandona and Sierra del Lacandon (Mexico/Guatemala), Laguna del Tigre National Park (Guatemala), El Gran Petén (Guatemala/Mexico) and Chiquibul/Montañas Mayas (Guatemala/Belize).

Map 1. CEPF Priority Corridors and Key Biodiversity Areas



Coordinating CEPF on the Ground

CEPF's investment in Northern Mesoamerica was coordinated by CI's Center for Biodiversity Conservation in Mexico and Central America. A long-term presence in the region, CI had worked in many CEPF priority areas for more than a decade. The team had strong links to the local conservation community and governments, and therefore was well positioned to facilitate the achievement of CEPF objectives. It was committed to realizing CEPF's strategy as presented in the ecosystem profile through support to a variety of partner organizations. The coordination unit helped to manage the development of the grants portfolio in close cooperation with CEPF staff. The unit assisted grant applicants and recipients in all facets of grantmaking, including the following key tasks:

- Arrange calls for letters of inquiry (LOIs).
- Assist applicants with project design and application procedures.
- Solicit reviews of external experts and stakeholders.
- Facilitate program and financial monitoring of the grant portfolio and individual projects.
- Build and facilitate partnerships and alliances among relevant stakeholders. .
- Ensure collaboration and exchange of information among CEPF grantees, relevant government agencies, local communities and other key stakeholders.
- Seek and secure funding to leverage and sustain CEPF investments.

IMPACT SUMMARY

The overall impact of CEPF's five years of investment can be summarized as follows:

1. CEPF played an instrumental role in improving the management of 963,505 hectares located in eight protected areas across six key biodiversity areas. In the core areas of these protected areas, CEPF contributed to dramatic reduction of forest fires, a decline in agricultural encroachment and poor land use, as well as the recovery of degraded lands and wildlife populations. Laguna del Tigre National Park, once considered a lost cause because of heavy encroachment, experienced a major reversal with significant management improvements and renewed political commitment.
2. Eleven policies were adopted in support of mainstreaming conservation into development policy at the local, state and national levels in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico. Through policy analysis, stakeholder consultations, media and community outreach, training and technical assistance, local civil society groups gained important new capacities that allowed them to work collaboratively with local and federal agencies to strengthen public policies. Grant partners achieved important policy results in forest fire management, nature tourism, road development and protected areas management. In Guatemala, CEPF funding provided the basis for the National Council of Protected Areas to issue a decree prohibiting the construction of new roads in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a wilderness area of more than 2.1 million hectares.
3. Field assessments for 53 Critically Endangered species and 26 Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites were conducted. Amphibian conservation action plans were advanced for seven AZE sites, the state of Chiapas in Mexico, and the countries of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. A network of more than 50 experts and conservationists was established and new capacity for species conservation was built. During the period of CEPF investment, no known species were lost. These efforts have significantly expanded understanding of the state of Northern Mesoamerica's Critically Endangered species, especially for amphibians, which were poorly studied before CEPF.
4. A total of \$37.6 million was leveraged to support CEPF outcomes. Several important sustainable financing schemes emerged, including a \$24 million debt swap in Guatemala, a pilot project linking carbon credits with conservation coffee, and a water fund bringing together conservation financing with the provision of water.
5. A total of 143 communities benefited directly from CEPF projects across a broad array of activities, including forest fire control, park management implementation, carbon credits from conservation coffee, sustainable agriculture, watershed management and ecotourism.
6. Nine multi-stakeholder collaborative networks were established and/or strengthened at various levels of decisionmaking and on numerous topics, signaling a new approach to conservation in a region that historically has been characterized by isolated and fragmented approaches to conservation. Through CEPF, local civil society groups worked collaboratively with their government counterparts to proactively seek solutions to pressing conservation and development problems. In Mexico, local NGOs worked with the states of Veracruz, Chiapas and Oaxaca to reach agreement on a regional vision and coordination mechanisms to conserve the Selva Zoque, the region's most biologically diverse key biodiversity area. The Mirador Rio Azul Multi-Sectoral Roundtable grew from a small grassroots group into a high-profile network of 35 stakeholders dedicated to improved coordination to protect the Selva Maya.

7. A total of 11,446 hectares have been brought under new protection through one municipal reserve and five communal land certifications. CEPF funded 27 technical studies to support the designation of new private and public protected areas. A solid foundation has been set to expand protected areas coverage by 482,337 hectares in 2010. CEPF expects Northern Mesoamerica's protected areas coverage will increase by 5 percent from its baseline in 2003, from 4.9 million hectares to 5.4 million hectares.

Participants attending the October 2009 assessment workshop agreed that CEPF grants were transformational in several respects. CEPF empowered local civil society organizations to enter into new arenas of environmental governance and decisionmaking on critical policy issues. Participants cited numerous examples of how CEPF grants were instrumental in resolving longstanding conflicts. Government representatives credited CEPF with catalyzing local conservation priorities that had languished due to the lack of funding and capacity. Furthermore, the partnerships that CEPF facilitated have heralded a more collaborative and constructive approach to environmental problems in Mesoamerica. These alliances span multiple levels of governance, from local communities and municipalities, across states lines, to national governments and across international boundaries. Regional cooperation was particularly noteworthy since the environmental community had little experience working across international boundaries before CEPF.

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

Resource Allocation

CEPF awarded 72 grants valued at \$7.22 million during the investment period from January 2004 through December 2008 (see Annex A for a full list of approved grants). These grants ranged in size from \$10,000 to \$1 million, with the median equaling \$65,785 and the average totaling \$100,000. All projects were approved based on their ability to contribute in a direct and strategic way to the achievement of specific investment priorities as presented in the ecosystem profile.

The CEPF strategy was implemented in accordance with the ecosystem profile investment strategy and its four strategic directions. Each strategic direction was assigned a budget during profile development to guide overall grant allocations. Budgetary emphasis was placed on Strategic Directions 1 and 2 for policy strengthening and improved coordination.

Table 1. Resource Allocation by Strategic Direction

Resource Allocation	Strategic Direction 1. Policy Strengthening /Sustainable Financing	Strategic Direction 2. Improved Coordination and Training	Strategic Direction 3. Key Biodiversity Area Site Improvement	Strategic Direction 4. Critically Endangered Species	Total
Number of grants	24	23	10	15	72
Percent distribution of grants	33%	32%	13%	21%	100%
Amount awarded	\$3,031,508	\$1,755,984	\$1,612,857	\$823,550	\$ 7,223,899
Percent distribution of award	42%	24%	22%	11%	99%

Table 2 shows that CEPF awarded 15 grants to international NGOs active in the region, with a total value of \$3.9 million. Thirty-three local organizations received \$3.2 million. In reviewing these figures, it is important to note that local organizations represented many highly respected national and local NGOs, universities and research institutes. Within these numbers, several grants to international and national NGOs contained sizable sub-grants to local NGOs. By funding these alliances, CEPF reached dozens of additional civil society groups.

Table 2. Resource Allocation by Type of Organization

Resource Allocation	International Organization	Local Organization	Total
Number of grants	15	33	48
Percent of grants	31%	69%	100%
Amount awarded	\$3,947,922	\$3,275,977	\$7,223,899
Percent distribution of award	55%	45%	100%

Once the profile was approved in January 2004 and CEPF launched the portfolio, it became apparent that the operating environment for grantmaking was very complex. The region's conservation infrastructure and biodiversity was in decline. Several major donors, most notably the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), previously considered major patrons of conservation funding in Mesoamerica, had downsized their conservation programs significantly or completely eliminated them in the region. While the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility had channeled funding for conservation in Mexico through the Mesoamerica Biological Corridor project, that project did not coincide in location with CEPF priority areas and, at the time, it encountered several implementation difficulties. The stock market decline of late 2002 was still impacting the region significantly in early 2004, as international NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund were experiencing financial declines and reducing their support to local sites and partner NGOs.

Weak management presence in several protected areas coupled with the significant funding declines created a situation where several protected areas were highly vulnerable to colonization and forest fires. Land invasions for agriculture, cattle ranching and hunting led to loss of habitat and wildlife in some of the most important protected areas. Threats were acute in Laguna del Tigre, followed by Lacondona, the Petén, and Chiquibul/Montañas Maya. Three key biodiversity areas — the Selva Zoque, the Cuchumatanes, and Chiquibul/Montañas Mayas — lacked basic management presence.

Juxtaposed to weak capacity in many key biodiversity areas, several infrastructure projects presented new challenges, most notably a network of roads planned through the Selva Maya. The Mesoamerica conservation community was very concerned about the construction of several large infrastructure schemes that fell under an umbrella regional development initiative known as Plan Puebla — Panama, today known as the Mesoamerican Initiative.

Although the conservation challenges were mounting at the time of the CEPF launch, the political environment for the kind of multilateral approaches envisioned by CEPF also was advancing. The governments of Belize, Guatemala and Mexico had recently signed a tri-national agreement to cooperate across the national boundaries on many of the topics of interest to CEPF, including forest fire prevention and control, best practices for infrastructure construction, protected areas management and joint tourism

development. Thus, CEPF's regional objectives came at an opportune time as Northern Mesoamerica's political environment was more supportive of transboundary approaches to environmental protection.

Given this backdrop, CEPF started making grants to civil society groups in Northern Mesoamerica at a critical time. An immediate focus was on those sites with urgent needs. The highest priority was given to Laguna del Tigre, where colonization, drug trafficking, and forest fires were overrunning the park. Over the medium term, the challenge was to fund projects that installed long-term management presence, strengthened policy, and encouraged local communities to manage their local resources sustainably. Past conservation initiatives had a history of taking a piecemeal, fractionalized approach. In response, CEPF placed a high premium on fostering partnerships and alliances across a cast of multiple stakeholders. CEPF strongly encouraged partners to seek leveraging opportunities as a way of promoting sustainability. The overall goal was to address high-priority needs and to build a foundation to enhance the sustainability of results, as discussed below for each strategic direction.

Strategic Direction 1. Foster civil society participation in regional decision making on select policies and investments

Under this strategic direction, CEPF aimed to build the capacity of civil society organizations to engage in decisionmaking processes to promote policies favorable to conservation and sustainable development. To complement CEPF's policies goals, this strategic direction also supported mechanisms that fostered sustainable financing and biodiversity monitoring at a hotspot-wide scale. Within CEPF, the Northern Mesoamerica strategy was considered unique because it combined site and species-based conservation with an emphasis on policy dialogue, analysis and reform. A total of 24 grants amounting to \$3,031,508 were supported under this strategic direction.

Because the early submission of letters of inquiry for this component was slow relative to other strategic directions, CEPF's initial efforts were dedicated to identifying local and international partners with sufficient capacity and interest to support policy strengthening objectives. Fortunately, these efforts paid off as grants were made to some of Northern Mesoamerica's leading policy organizations. Initially, grantees conducted policy analysis, needs assessments, and stakeholder consultations in order to identify priorities and actions that CEPF could fund. CEPF was then able to award follow-up funding to implement those recommendations and priorities. In the smaller and more centralized countries of Belize and Guatemala, grantees concentrated on national-level policies. In Mexico, where decision making is more decentralized, grantees directed their efforts to individual states and municipalities. Grantees working under this strategic direction achieved 11 policy successes.

Strategic Direction 2. Collaborate with donor-funded projects to facilitate successful conservation activities in Northern Mesoamerica's eight most important key biodiversity areas

To complement the policy strengthening objectives presented in Strategic Direction 1, CEPF sought to promote conservation improvements in the field under this strategic direction. The objective was to establish networks of stakeholders to promote strong coordination and communications that would allow policy decisions to be informed by dialogue and perspectives from the field, and vice versa. At the field level, policy strengthening was to be complemented by increasing the capacity of local governments and NGOs in forest fire management and ecotourism promotion. Furthermore, CEPF sought to ensure that the design of individual infrastructure projects incorporated biodiversity and social considerations. It was recognized that CEPF could play an important role in laying the groundwork for the declaration of new protected areas in those key biodiversity areas considered to be under-protected. In support of this strategic direction, CEPF awarded 23 grants totaling \$1,755,984.

Strategic Direction 3. Support priority conservation actions in priority key biodiversity areas

During the ecosystem profiling process, CEPF recognized that the state of conservation was highly variable. On the positive side, the eight priority key biodiversity areas identified for CEPF investment

covered more than 9.6 million hectares of largely intact forest. The Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve alone contained more than 2.1 million hectares of mostly uninterrupted primary tropical forests and internationally recognized wetlands. Dotted throughout the territory were well-preserved archeological sites, including Tikal, internationally renowned for its Mayan temples. The positive state of the region could be attributed to pioneering environmentalists and enlightened policy makers of the 1980s who laid down far-reaching policies to protect large tracts of land. However, many priority key biodiversity areas were woefully in need of urgent management strengthening.

CEPF's site-based management activities targeted four key biodiversity areas: Chiquibul/Montañas Maya, Laguna del Tigre, Selva Zoque, and Sierra de las Minas. These areas were selected based on their biological importance, degree of threat, and need for funding to meet minimal management needs.. In the course of CEPF grantmaking, this strategic direction attracted the greatest interest from local NGOs as measured by the number of letters of inquiry submitted. While many proposals fell outside CEPF's funding priorities, the high demand reflected the critical need for funding in individual sites throughout the region.

Under Strategic Direction 3, CEPF funded 10 grants totaling \$1,612,857. CEPF awarded one grant as a lead in each key biodiversity area, to be complemented by smaller grants or sub-grants to other organizations. These anchor projects served an important facilitative role to coordinate actions within each site and build synergies between different conservation activities. Grants supported a wide range of activities based on the particular needs of the protected area, including management planning and implementation, provision of equipment and infrastructure, hiring and training park staff, biological inventories and monitoring, field assessments, forest fire prevention, and community outreach. These investments relied on close collaboration with local communities and park management agencies to ensure CEPF activities were closely aligned with local priorities.

Strategic Direction 4. Prevent the extinction of Northern Mesoamerica's 106 Critically Endangered species

The ecosystem profile identified 470 globally threatened species in Northern Mesoamerica, of which 106 were classified as Critically Endangered due to their high risk of extinction in the wild. Many of these were plants and amphibians. As such, CEPF's objective under this strategic direction was to fund applied research, population and threats assessments, strategy development, habitat conservation and related activities to bolster the hotspot's Critically Endangered species.

Despite the large number of Critically Endangered species, the response within the environmental community had been very limited prior to CEPF. Conservationists and scientists largely worked in isolation of each other. Basic information on these Critically Endangered species was outdated or nonexistent. Critically Endangered species were largely absent from conservation agendas. To address these shortcomings, CEPF supported 15 grants valued at \$823,520.

During the early stage of grantmaking under this strategic direction, many letters of inquiry were not strategically aligned with the goals of the investment profile. CEPF observed that capacity in the region was uneven depending on the taxonomic group under consideration. Interest in bird conservation was highest relative to the other taxonomic groups. Conversely, CEPF received few letters of inquiry for plants and amphibians. In response, CEPF held a workshop, "Preparation of a Strategy for the Conservation of Globally Critically Endangered Species in Northern Mesoamerica" in Zamorano Agriculture School in Honduras. Fifty-one taxonomic experts representing the region's 25 leading scientific organizations met to agree on priorities for CEPF investment. After the workshop, a new call for proposals based on the recommendations attracted strategically aligned proposals, which CEPF did finance. By the close of CEPF investment, progress had been made on several fronts.

Leveraging Additional Resources

CEPF’s investment of \$7.2 million leveraged at least another \$37.6 million to date for CEPF priorities (see Annex B). This amount is expected to increase further as the last final project completion reports are received from grantees. The large amount of funds leveraged reflects several factors. The Guatemala debt swap, which resulted in \$24 million for conservation, contributes significantly to the leveraging figures. Other very important leveraging opportunities also emerged. In Cuchumatanes, a \$3.1 million project financed by the Embassy of The Netherlands built on a CEPF grant. In Belize, CEPF entered into an agreement to co-finance a joint conservation project in the Chiquibul National Park and Forest Reserve, which resulted in an additional \$424,000 for the key biodiversity area. The Mesa Multisectorial played an instrumental role in securing \$3 million from the government of Guatemala to develop environmentally sustainable tourist facilities in the Mirador archeological complex, a recently discovered Mayan city regarded as among the most impressive sites in Central America. In addition to these larger projects, many grantees sought matching contributions from other funding sources and from in-kind services. As a result, the majority of grants in Northern Mesoamerica contained counterpart funding or in-kind contributions.

The following sections highlight the key accomplishments that CEPF partners achieved to improve the state of biodiversity and human welfare, and strengthen the basic enabling conditions for conservation and sustainable development.

BIODIVERSITY RESULTS

Key Biodiversity Area Management Improvements

CEPF played an instrumental role in improving management on 963,505 hectares located in eight protected areas situated in six key biodiversity areas, as illustrated in Table 3. In addition, CEPF has contributed to site-based conservation in 17 protected areas covering 2,168,937 hectares, as listed in Table 4. Outside these protected areas, CEPF grantees worked with local communities to improve the management of 758,491 hectares located in production landscapes under various management regimes, such as conservation coffee and fire management. Furthermore, CEPF made notable contributions to enhance site-based conservation on 1,123,738 hectares, in those areas that are particularly important for biodiversity conservation but lack formal protection. In total, CEPF funding benefitted 25 protected areas that cover 3,131,442 hectares in all eight targeted key biodiversity areas.

Table 3. Area Under Improved Management (hectares)

Name of Site	Improved Management			CEPF Management Tool
	Protected Area	Production Landscape	Unprotected Area	
Selva Zoque Key Biodiversity Area (1,096,278 hectares)				
Selva El Ocote Biosphere Reserve and Buffer Zone *	101,288	13	6	Fire management plan approved and implemented. Community fire brigades established, trained and equipped. Inter-Institutional coordination, advisory and operational committee established. Tourism components of reserve management plan implemented. Ecotourism development plan designed and approved and local community capacity strengthened.
Laguna del Tigre Key Biodiversity Area (328,664 hectares)				
Laguna del Tigre National Park and Biological Corridor *	239,000	89,664	21,643	Management plan approved. Community fire brigades established, trained and equipped. Park monitoring system implemented. Control and vigilance plan implemented.

Sierra de las Minas Key Biodiversity Area (474,348 hectares)				
Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve *	242,642			Reforestation activities initiated in core zone of the area. Water Fund and stakeholder coordination mechanism established. Forest fire management plan implemented. Community resource management projects implemented.
Sierra de los Cuchumatanes Key Biodiversity Area (568,314 hectares)				
Todos Santos Cuchumatan Municipal Reserve *	7,168			Municipal park declared. Sustainable agriculture projects implemented. Potato and sheep production improved. Forest management plan implemented.
El Gran Petén Key Biodiversity Area Mexico/Guatemala (3,946,182 hectares)				
Mirador Rio Azul National Park and Dos Lagunas National Biotope *	166,411			Multi-Sectoral Roundtable established and functional to coordinate stakeholders on policy documents, including master plan for the Mirador-Rio Azul National Park and Two Lakes Biotope approved, environmental security strategy developed for east zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve. governance strategy created for the Petén.
Chiquibul – Maya Mountains Key Biodiversity Area (785,379 hectares)				
Chiquibul National Park *	106,838			Management plan approved. Control and vigilance plan implemented. Binational work plan between Belize and Guatemala approved and implemented. Stakeholder coordination mechanisms operational. Environmental education and sustainable livelihood program implemented. Bat and amphibian assessments completed.
Chiquibul Forest Reserve *	59,822			Control and vigilance plan implemented. Binational work plan between Belize and Guatemala approved and implemented. Stakeholder coordination mechanisms made operational. Environmental education and sustainable livelihood program implemented. Bat and amphibian assessments completed.
Bladen Nature Reserve *	40,336			Control and vigilance plan implemented. Bats and amphibians assessment completed.
Total	963,505	89,677	21,642	

Table 4. Other CEPF Contributions to Site-Based Conservation

Name of Site	Improved Management			CEPF Management Tool
	Protected Area	Production Landscape	Unprotected Area	
Selva Zoque Key Biodiversity Area (1,096,278 hectares)				
El Pozo AZE site	100	500	500	Site and CR species assessment completed. Conservation action plan developed.
Cerro Baul AZE site		13,608		Site and CR species assessment completed.
Uxpanapa Biosphere Reserve	3,010		330,021	Technical study for protected area declaration completed. Community fire brigade established, trained and equipped. Certification of communal land.
Municipality of Chimalapas			600,000	Fire management plan completed. Coordination body established. Environmental agenda approved.
El Reten AZE site		15,000		Management plan approved.
Municipality of Cintalapa		11,393	50,000	Municipal fire management completed and implemented. Agro-ecological committees reactivated for sustainable agriculture. Fire management plan completed and approved.
Municipality of Jiquipilas			119,700	Municipal and fire management plan completed, approved and implemented
Sierra Madre de Chiapas Key Biodiversity Area (608,183 hectares)				
El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve and Buffer Zone	119,177	43	119	Tourism components of reserve management plan implemented. Payment for environmental services established and functional. Sustainable agriculture best practices adopted. Biosecurity measures implemented to prevent transmission of infectious diseases, such as chytrid fungus.

Sepultura Biosphere Reserve and Buffer Zone	167,310	117	80	Payment for environmental services established and functional. Sustainable agriculture best practices adopted. Tourism components of reserve management plan implemented. Community fire brigades established, trained and equipped.
Fraillescana Biosphere Reserve	120,000	32		Payment for environmental services established and functional. Sustainable agriculture best practices adopted. Technical study to expand protected areas completed and approved.
Tacaná Biosphere Reserve	6,378			Technical study to expand protected areas completed and approved.
Sierra Madre				Model developed and established for carbon offset payments for conservation coffee growers.
Lacandona Key Biodiversity Area (1,756,183 hectares)				
Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve	331,200		1,854	Community fire brigades established, trained, and equipped. Technical study for new communal reserves completed.
Lacan-tun Biosphere Reserve	61,874			Best practices adopted for ecotourism and enterprise development in the protected area and buffer zone.
Yaxchilán National Monument	2,261			Best practices adopted for ecotourism and enterprise development in the protected area and buffer zone.
Bonampak National Monument	4,357			Best practices adopted for ecotourism and enterprise development in the protected area and buffer zone.
Nahá Flora and Fauna Protection Area	3,847			Best practices adopted for ecotourism and enterprise development in the protected area and buffer zone.
Metzabok Flora and Fauna Protection Area	3,368			Best practices adopted for ecotourism and enterprise development in the protected area and buffer zone.
Selva Lacandona Natural Protected Areas		14		Community ecotourism enterprises trained and best practices adopted.
Lacandon National Park	202,865			Community fire brigades established, trained and equipped.
El Gran Petén Key Biodiversity Area Mexico/Guatemala (3,946,182 hectares)				
Calakmul Biosphere Reserve	723,185	15,583	2	Forest fires local brigade equipped and fire management plan developed. Mechanisms of coordination established and best practices developed to mitigate the impacts of road development and maintain connectivity.
Balam-Kú Conservation Area	409,200	2,944		Mechanisms of coordination established and best practices developed to mitigate the impacts of road development and maintain connectivity.
Chiquibul – Maya Mountains Key Biodiversity Area (785,379 hectares)				
Caracol Archaeological Reserve	10,339			Control and vigilance plan implemented. Binational work plan between Belize and Guatemala approved and implemented. Bats and amphibians assessment implemented.
BFREE Private Protected Area	466			Environmental education and protection plan implemented.
Total	2,168,937	668,814	1,102,096	

Chiquibul/Maya Mountains Key Biodiversity Area

CEPF provided grants to the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education and Friends for Conservation and Development (FCD), which included a sub-grant to the Ya'axché Conservation Trust, for site-based management improvements, focusing on Bladen Nature Reserve and Chiquibul Forest Reserve and National Park in the Chiquibul/Maya Mountains Key Biodiversity Area. CEPF funding was matched by the Belize Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund (PACT). These combined funds represented the first major source of conservation investment for these protected areas, despite their ranking as among Belize's most biologically important protected areas. At the inception of CEPF's investment, the binational key biodiversity area confronted several threats. While most forests on the Belizean side were in good condition, forests on the Guatemalan side were highly fragmented. Guatemalans collecting xate, an ornamental palm exported to the United States and Europe for floral

arrangements, had depleted their own stocks and had illegally entered Belize to gather its healthy stocks. Their encroachment into pristine core areas of the key biodiversity area led to new hunting pressure, deforestation and xate depletion. Management capacity to deal with the encroachment was very limited. Contact between the Belizean and Guatemalan parks agencies was highly sporadic. To complicate matters, diplomatic ties between the two countries had been strained for decades due to disputes over territorial boundaries. Collaboration among the Belizean organizations involved with managing the key biodiversity area's various protected areas was weak.

With CEPF and PACT funding, grantees achieved several important milestones. Management capacity in the three protected areas significantly improved with the provision of new equipment, infrastructure and staffing. A management plan was prepared and approved for Chiquibul. Other protection and management activities included patrolling, environmental education and an effectiveness monitoring program. CEPF's funding helped to generate more than \$577,000 in financial support from PACT, The Nature Conservancy and other donors. FCD instituted an extensive environmental awareness campaign in 22 communities. A survey to measure the impacts found strong results: In the 22 target communities, the survey revealed a 30 percent increase in local knowledge related to the key biodiversity area. Furthermore, FCD facilitated the development of a binational work plan between four Belizean and Guatemalan institutions on key thematic areas for collaboration, which resulted in a successful working relationship between technical staff on both sides of the border.

The corridor approach that CEPF promoted for key biodiversity area management, which relied on building mechanisms for coordination among organizations responsible for managing the key biodiversity area's various protected areas, is widely viewed as a blueprint for landscape conservation in Belize. FCD was formally recognized by the government of Belize in 2007 for its outstanding management of the Chiquibul National Park.

Sierra de las Minas Key Biodiversity Area

In Guatemala's *Sierra de las Minas Key Biodiversity Area*, a grant to Defensores de la Naturaleza linked the benefits derived from the management of the key biodiversity area to the ecosystem services provided to downstream water users. The approach relied on building support for conservation by linking the protection of water resources with conservation of the upper watershed, which is situated in 242,642 hectares of protected cloud forest. The protected area is responsible for water supply to more than 400,000 people, several hydroelectric plants, irrigation systems, and agricultural and other industries. However, threats to the core area included forest fires and agricultural encroachment. Through the project, several important results emerged. Northern Mesoamerica's first water fund was established to support water management projects, including conservation of their upper watershed. Several industries, including Coca-Cola and the Central American Beer Brewery, contributed to the fund. The project helped to establish a water council where stakeholders representing the interests of irrigation, industry, hydroelectricity, municipalities, academia, and the environment meet to coordinate and agree on water management actions. A public education campaign reached more than 100,000 people to build understanding about the linkage between the protection of water and Sierra de las Minas. More than 900 teachers received educational materials and training and 7,500 children attended various associated events. Furthermore, five municipal watershed committees were formed and their capacity for watershed management was built. Three agreements with water users generated \$75,000 annually for the management of the core zone. In terms of threats, Defensores reports notable impacts. The core area experienced a 44 percent reduction in forest fires from 2005 to 2008. A total of 7,300 hectares of degraded land were reforested with community and private owner assistance, which contributed nearly 6 percent of additional forest coverage in the key biodiversity area nucleus, and brought forest coverage to 93 percent of the protected area.

Box 1. A Critical Ecosystem in Recovery: Laguna del Tigre National Park

In 2004 when CEPF commenced investment in Guatemala, Laguna del Tigre epitomized a critical ecosystem in peril. Oil drilling in the western sector of the park starting in the 1980s introduced new access roads for cattle ranchers and subsistence farmers. The agricultural frontier advanced progressively eastward each year. In the El Niño year of 1998 and subsequent dry years, uncontrolled fires burned large tracts of land. The Guatemalan park service had a skeletal crew that lacked basic equipment, and drug traffickers used the park as a stopover to the United States.

Early grants to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) were dedicated to two key objectives: first, to stem encroachment into the biologically valuable eastern sector of the park, which was strategically located along the transition zone between the colonists and the core of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, and second, to put in place a foundation for the longer-term management of the protected area. To achieve these objectives, CEPF supported key management activities, including the preparation of a management plan, fire management, infrastructure improvements, community outreach, monitoring and patrolling. At the same time, the government began its own efforts to bring order to the park. CONAP worked in close coordination with WCS to provide critical leadership for the park's management.

The impact of these early efforts has been dramatic: Illegal settlement and farming were reversed on 24,652 hectares. About 35,000 hectares of the park's eastern sector remained free of invasion and fire. The agricultural frontier was halted and key species were protected. In addition, a variety of multi-stakeholder alliances were established. Indigenous groups such as the Kekchí became involved in forest fire prevention and control. This alliance created new opportunities for the community to receive support for education, tourism, health services and environmental education. Four park guards once financed by CEPF were hired by CONAP.

CEPF played an important role in garnering support to address threats in the park. As a result of these efforts, the park is now out of crisis and has a stronger chance for successful long-term management.

Selva Zoque Key Biodiversity Area

Through an alliance between the Chiapas and Veracruz chapters of Pronatura, the World Wildlife Fund, CI and the Mexican National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), CEPF financed the implementation of a multi-pronged regional strategy developed by local stakeholders to strengthen conservation in Selva Zoque. The area ranks as the most biologically diverse area in the region. It is a wilderness area of more than 1 million hectares with rugged, inaccessible mountains where numerous species survived climate change extinctions in the past. Prior to CEPF, forest fires were a perennial threat in several core sites. Cooperation on environmental issues among the three Mexican states of Veracruz, Chiapas and Oaxaca that have jurisdiction over the large area was very limited. Grants to Pronatura-Chiapas and the Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (FMCN) have helped to improve the conservation status significantly.

As part of the anchor project, Pronatura-Chiapas played a key role in forming an inter-institutional group comprised of government, communities and NGOs to foster collaboration between the states of Oaxaca, Veracruz, and Chiapas. This group's agreement to a tri-state agenda of joint conservation objectives and efforts to improve coordination among the state governments was regarded as a major milestone given limited communication and collaboration in the past. The project also undertook an assessment of its amphibian populations (see section on species conservation for more details). Grantees agreed that housing the species assessments within a broader conservation project helped to ensure that the findings were incorporated into on-the-ground management actions. In addition, CEPF funding of baseline technical studies has played a critical role in advancing the formal protection of the Uxpanapa Valley Biosphere Reserve, which covers 330,021 hectares. (See next section for more details). A grant to FMCN was implemented in collaboration with a network of local NGO partners to support community training, provision of equipment, and fire management planning within an umbrella tri-state forest fire

management strategy. As a result of these efforts, three large regions — Chimalapas, Oaxaca; Uxpanapa, Veracruz and Ocote, Chiapas — now have fire management plans and two of these plans have been implemented.

Creation/Expansion of Protected Areas

CEPF support has directly contributed to the protection of 11,446 hectares, and by 2010, this figure is expected to increase to 482,337 hectares (see Table 5). Many of the new and potential areas are located in the Selva Zoque and Cuchumatanes key biodiversity areas, which CEPF targeted for improved protection due to the low percentage of area under formal protection when CEPF entered the region. In total, CEPF funded 27 technical studies to lay the groundwork for future protection. Workshop participants underscored the importance of CEPF support to catalyze the implementation of several priorities that had been identified by local conservation groups, but that had languished for years due to a lack of resources.

In Mexico, Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica, and Pronatura have worked closely with indigenous and *mestizo* communities to certify natural areas as communal lands for conservation and private management. CEPF aimed to expand the adoption of this important yet under-utilized tool in Oaxaca and to introduce this designation for the first time in Chiapas and Lacadona. The 15- to 99-year certificates provide an opportunity for communities to gain management rights over land. To date, CEPF has helped five communities receive certificates for 4,278 hectares, while another 18,285 hectares are scheduled to be certified in 2010 for six more communities. Several certified lands form a contiguous conservation corridor with Monte Azules Biosphere Reserve, and help these communities to attract new funding and assistance from the government for conservation and development projects, particularly for ecotourism.

In the Selva Zoque, grantees have played an instrumental role in expanding existing national parks and getting new ones declared. Through a sub-grant to Pronatura-Veracruz, CEPF has helped to lay the groundwork for the declaration of a new biosphere reserve covering 330,021 hectares in the Uxpanapa Valley by funding technical studies and the delineation of the proposed area. All key stakeholder groups have strongly endorsed the new park. CONANP reports that this site was on its priority list for protection for many years, but that it had lacked sufficient funding to advance its formal protection. CEPF's support was therefore catalytic in allowing the national government to make site a top national priority for formal protection, and thus contribute to its international commitments to offset carbon emissions.

To complement these efforts in Selva Zoque, Ecobiosfera El Triunfo worked closely with CONANP to conduct technical studies required to expand la Volcán Tacaná Biosphere Reserve from 6,523 hectares to more than 46,000 hectares. The expansion of Tacaná will permit connectivity between three protected areas: La Sepultura, El Triunfo and Tacaná Volcano. A biological study discovered significantly more species of plants, fungi, and invertebrates in the reserve than had been registered previously. For example, 22 species classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List were observed in the reserve, up from 17 Endangered species observed earlier. Furthermore, entomologists discovered 22 species of spiders new to science. Progress in the reserve's expansion has been instrumental in attracting a conservation and ecotourism project for \$460,000 from the Spanish Cooperation Agency. In La Frailescana Reserve, located in Chiapas within the Sierra de Madre Key Biodiversity Area, Ecobiosfera has conducted technical studies to expand the reserve another 27,448 hectares. The grantee reports that La Frailescana will soon be declared a biosphere reserve with a total size of 147,488 hectares. Management and conservation plan for La Frailescana have been developed.

CEPF grants in Guatemala have also sought traditional and nontraditional tools to expand legal protection of lands with high biological value. In the Cuchumatanes, three grantees worked closely with

Table 5. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Under Official Protection: Baseline, Actual and Planned Targets (hectares)

Key Biodiversity Area	Total Area	Baseline Year 2003		CEPF Achievement 2009	CEPF Planned 2010				
		Area under official protection	Percent of KBA under protection	New area under protection	New area under protection in 2010	Total area under new protection (includes 2009 and 2010)	Total area in KBA under protection (2003,2009, 2010)	Percent of KBA under protection	Percent increase in protection from baseline
Selva Zoque	1,096,288	145,595	13%	2,425	346,606	349,031	494,626	45%	32%
- Uxpanapa Biosphere Reserve					330,021				
- Comunal Reserves - Mono Araña, La Selva del Jabali and del Faisán				2,425					
- El Retén					15,320				
- La Esmeralda					1,265				
Sierra de las Minas	474,348	242,642	51%				242,642	51%	0%
Sierra Madre de Chiapas	608,183	346,948	57%		67,488	67,488	414,436	68%	11%
- La Frailescana		120,000			27,488				
- Volcán Tacaná Biosphere Reserve		6,378			40,000				
Sierra de los Cuchumatanes	568,314	0	0%	7,168	52,581	59,749	59,749	11%	11%
- Todos Santos Cuchumatán Reserve				7,168					
- Cerro Cruz Maltin Protected Area					6,334				
- Private reserves					1,247				
- Visis-Caba					45,000				
Selva Lacandona	1,756,183	817,064	46%	1,853	4,216	6,069	823,133	47%	1%
- Comunal Reserves - La Caverna, Nuevo Huixtán				1,853					
- Comunal Reserve - Nuevo Rodolfo, Salto de Agua, Reforma Agraria, Guadalupe Miramar					4,216				
Laguna del Tigre	365,648	239,000	65%				239,000	65%	0%
El Gran Petén	3,946,182	2,422,269	61%				2,422,269	61%	0%

Chiquibul/Montañas Mayas	785,379	721,553	92%				721,553	92%	0%
TOTAL	9,600,525	4,935,071	51%	11,446	470,891	482,337	5,417,408	56%	5%

indigenous communities to increase protection over their lands. A grant to FUNDAECO to carry out technical studies, management plan preparation, and public outreach resulted in the establishment of Todos Santos Cuchumatán Municipal Reserve (7,168 hectares) which is managed by the local government. The creation of the reserve relied heavily on integrating indigenous knowledge and community values. More than 500 campesinos attended an assembly to express their strong support for the reserve. Small-scale sustainable agriculture projects reduced foraging pressure inside the reserve and were later adopted by neighboring farmers. CEPF's support in Cuchumatanes proved to be an important base upon which FUNDAECO prepared a proposal to the government of Netherlands for \$3.1 million. Similar efforts are underway to create two more municipal reserves totaling 6,334 hectares in Cruz Maltín and Pepajau-Magdalena.

Also in Cuchumatanes, the Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas worked with landowners to declare 11 private reserves and add 1,247 hectares to the protected areas system. A grant to Asociación Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala promoted the declaration of Visis-Cabá (45,000 hectares) as a new category of protection as an indigenous/communal protected area. The CEPF grantee Asociación SOTZ'IL has been facilitating the creation of this new category.

In total, CEPF has helped to bring 11,446 hectares under protection. A solid foundation has been set to bring an additional 470,891 hectares under formal protection. Should all these efforts move forward as planned, Selva Zoque's protected areas coverage would increase from 145,595 hectares to 494,626 hectares, bringing the percent of the territory under formal protection from 13 percent to 32 percent. In total, protected areas coverage for the region would increase by 5 percent, from 4.9 million hectares to 5.4 million hectares.

Conservation of Critically Endangered Species

A total of 53 Critically Endangered species and 26 AZE sites were assessed through CEPF grants. AZE sites are considered to be the most urgent site-level conservation priorities on a global scale due to the presence of the last remaining population of a Critically Endangered species. In Northern Mesoamerica, very little information existed regarding these sites, their Critically Endangered species and their conservation status.

While CEPF grants were distributed across most of the taxonomic groups, the portfolio was dominated by projects for amphibian conservation. Grants to Arizona State University, Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación, Fundación Ecológica de El Salvador, John Lamoreux, Pronatura-Chiapas, the University of Florida and Wildtracks supported field research and dissemination of the findings in order to develop the baseline assessments, conservation strategies and partnerships for amphibian conservation. A major goal was to determine the presence of the chytrid fungus, which is linked to the precipitous decline of amphibians in the Americas. Field studies yielded valuable information related to the presence of the fungus and to high levels of water pollution in remote and unexpected sites. While much of the work showed that the chytrid fungus is present throughout the region, several more positive results also emerged. In Guatemala and Honduras, three new species of amphibian and fish were discovered, while species that had not been seen in 32 years were observed. A biological survey of Volcán Tacaná Reserve discovered 22 species of spiders new to science. As a result, most AZE sites triggered by amphibians in Northern Mesoamerica have been surveyed and have baseline data on amphibian conservation.

The findings from this field work have led to several important follow-up efforts. Amphibian conservation strategies have been developed or are currently in development for Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and the state of Chiapas in Mexico. The Chiapas strategy has been led by the Instituto de Historia Natural, which has brought together herpetologists from throughout Mexico to develop a

framework for conserving the state's amphibians. When finalized, the strategy will be the first state-level amphibian conservation plan in Mexico. Findings from the field work in Honduras, conducted by the University of Florida, have guided the selection of sites for another CEPF grant implemented by SalvaNatura to support community-based conservation in five AZE sites. In Belize, the strategy is already being implemented by protected areas staff. In Guatemala, efforts are underway to raise funds to buy land in the Sierra de Caral, a site of high importance for amphibians. In Mexico, site managers in El Triunfo Reserve have adopted disinfectant protocols to avoid introducing chytrid fungus to uninfected areas. Furthermore, 40 new AZE sites are being proposed as a result of CEPF-funded research.

A major objective of CEPF was to facilitate the exchange of information and build networks among taxonomic experts, NGOs and government institutions for species conservation. Grants to the Zamorano Panamerican Agriculture School, SalvaNatura, and the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation played an important role in the establishment of network of experts devoted to species conservation. These grants brought together the region's leading experts for several years to develop joint agendas to address priorities and to share findings and lessons learned from field research. As a result, CEPF grantees co-authored several articles that were published in scientific journals. The experts agreed on common protocols for field work to ensure standardization and on future priorities for collaboration that were transboundary in scope. Local capacity for species conservation was further strengthened as field work financed by CEPF has been incorporated into 10 doctoral, master's and bachelor's theses. Furthermore, researchers made a special effort to train local people and park guards in species monitoring. Taxonomic experts continue to work together closely even after their grants to CEPF have closed.

CEPF also supported research and conservation efforts for other taxonomic groups that have traditionally been underfunded. Through a grant to the University of Southern Mississippi, freshwater fish of Honduras were assessed. The data resulted in the updating of the species list for freshwater fish in Honduras, recommendations for IUCN Red Listing, and the first scientific article on Honduran fish in 50 years. Furthermore, government officials are using the results to assess appropriate ecological flows for a river where a dam is to be constructed.

The Zamorano Agriculture School has led a regional process across five countries to develop national and regional strategies for conserving endangered trees and epiphytes. This grant responds to observations that collaboration among the region's botanists was very limited, that information about endangered plants was especially scarce, and that joint strategies were needed if the hotspot's endangered trees and epiphytes are to be saved. The grant facilitated expert cooperation by bringing botanists and government officials together through a series of national and regional workshops. The group identified 220 plants as endangered in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They produced distribution maps of these species and issued national and regional-level recommendations for their conservation. The grant calls for distributing the information and strategy widely in the region, obtaining official endorsement from appropriate regional authorities and implementing the strategy. National environmental agencies are using the information and analysis to fulfill their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Other grants focused on mammals and birds. A grant to Zamorano permitted a systematic assessment of rodents, bats, marsupials and shrews as part of the 2007 launch of the IUCN Red List. Another grant to the University of Virginia supported field research in the Chiquibul/Montañas Maya Key Biodiversity Area in Belize to identify threats to bats and their habitats and to identify those species that are the most endangered. The project raised awareness of the critical roles bats play in neotropical ecosystems, and supported efforts for Red Listing bats of Mesoamerica. A grant to Birdlife International supported the identification of Important Bird Areas for Guatemala and Belize.

The five projects implemented in Honduras by Zamorano and the universities of Florida and Southern Mississippi have had a particularly important impact in the country, where the government previously had no species focus, information was particularly limited, and biologists worked in isolation of each other. Due to the research and outreach conducted by CEPF grantees, the government of Honduras has integrated species conservation into its conservation agenda and biologists work much more collaboratively in the country and with colleagues in the region. These grants also significantly bolstered the Central American Regional Institute for Biodiversity (IRBIO), which is housed in Zamorano and serves as the official node of Central American governments for regional cooperation for biodiversity conservation. CEPF provided IRBIO's first grants through Zamorano and closely coordinated with the institute on many regional conservation projects. IRBIO staff credit CEPF with helping to launch the institute and build its credibility as a regional conservation leader.

SOCIOECONOMIC RESULTS

Integrating socioeconomic benefits into conservation is of vital importance in Northern Mesoamerica, where rural poverty drives many threats to biodiversity. CEPF's priority key biodiversity areas are particularly vulnerable to threats rooted in poverty because they are located in remote areas where indigenous and mestizo communities are among the most underserved. Given these circumstances, coupling conservation with poverty alleviation and human welfare was a major CEPF objective in the region.

With this recognition, 20 projects contained at least one major activity designed to provide community benefits from the sustainable use of natural resources. In total, 143 communities benefited directly from CEPF projects, as presented in Table 6. Many communities had never participated in conservation or development programs before CEPF, although they were located inside or near protected areas. CEPF grants provided important opportunities for them to gain new skills and knowledge in order to increase their income, manage their resources more effectively, and protect the environment for future generations.

Income Generation

Several grants demonstrated tangible benefits to communities through income-generating activities. One of CEPF's sustainable financing grants was awarded to the Cooperativa AMBIO Sociedad Cooperativa de Responsabilidad Limitada to establish carbon offset payments for coffee farmers in eight communities in Sierra de Madre in Mexico. Along with reforestation of coffee farms, the project linked the cultivation of shade coffee with the conservation of three reserves (El Triunfo, La Sepultura and La Frailesca) through improvements in connectivity. The first payments were issued in April 2009 to 58 producers in eight communities. Also in 2009, 300 producers located in 10 additional villages joined the program, thanks to new funding from the Mexican National Commission of Natural Protected Areas. As one of Northern Mesoamerica's first projects to link conservation coffee and carbon offsets, this grant is viewed as a model for replication. It is helping the state of Chiapas to gain a reputation as a leader in Mexico for carbon offsets and reduced deforestation.

Promoting community-based nature tourism in and around the key biodiversity areas was CEPF's other main approach to link conservation with income generation. A grant to Rainforest Alliance has aimed to increase the number and competitiveness of tourism enterprises in Lacandonia in Mexico and Cuchumatanes in Guatemala by promoting best management practices for nature tourism. To date, 16 community-based enterprises representing 215 people have benefited from this project by receiving training in best management practices. Pilot operations are now underway to support the adoption of these practices. In Mexico, the Fondo de Conservación el Triunfo has been working closely with CONANP to strengthen the capacity of eight community tourism enterprises with 105 members located in the Selva Ocote and La Sepultura biosphere reserves, which are within a few hours of several cities and towns.

Through training and technical assistance, new tourism designations have been designed and made operational and the

Table 6. CEPF Socioeconomic Benefits for Communities

Key Biodiversity Area	No. of beneficiary communities	Sector	Description of benefits
Selva Zoque	16	Fire management	Community forest fire brigades established, trained and equipped.
	11	Ecotourism	Training provided for community ecotourism enterprises. Infrastructure upgraded. New tourism packages introduced. Best practices adopted.
	1	Land use planning	Land use and development plan prepared and approved.
Sierra de las Minas	2	Fire management	Community capacity and participation increased in implementing fire management plans.
	5	Water resources management	Municipal level capacity improved for water resources management.
	18	Reforestation of degraded lands	Reforestation implemented on 7,600 hectares for watershed management restoration and ecosystem connectivity.
	4	Solid waste management	Solid waste collection improved.
	1	Wood stoves	Efficient wood-burning stoves adopted in 35 households.
	1	Conservation coffee	Best practices for coffee production adopted.
Sierra Madre de Chiapas	2	Ecotourism	Training provided for community ecotourism enterprises. Infrastructure upgraded. New tourism packages introduced. Best practices adopted.
	18	Conservation coffee, payments for environmental services	Fifty-eight conservation coffee producers paid for carbon offsets, and more than 250 new producers received technical assistance to make them eligible for future payments.
	8	Conservation coffee	One hundred and forty-three conservation coffee producers adopted best practices and receive certification.
Cuchumatanes	6	Sustainable agriculture, forest management	Best practices for sheep and potato production adopted. Forestry training provided for 50 volunteer park guards.
	3	Tourism	Tourism best management practices adopted. Marketing of tourism products launched. Recreational trails for hiking developed.
Selva Lacandona and Sierra del	1	Fires management	Community forest fire brigades established, trained and equipped.

Lacandon	6	Ecotourism	Training provided for community ecotourism enterprises. Best practices adopted.
	8	Fire management	Community forest fire brigades established, trained and equipped.
Laguna del Tigre	1	Park management	Community members hired and trained as park guards.
	4	Fire management	Community forest fire brigades established, trained and equipped.
El Gran Petén	2	Fire management	Community forest fire brigades established, trained and equipped. (Calakmul Biosphere Reserve)
	2	Tourism	Tourism best management practices adopted. (Mirador-Rio Azul)
Chiquibul/ Montañas Mayas	12	Park management	Community members hired and trained as park guards.
	11	Sustainable livelihoods	Training and support provided for sustainable livelihoods pilot projects.
Total	143		

quality of tourism services has increased. New tourist packages designed to increase the recreational value of these reserves for residents of nearby cities have been developed for sites considered to have high tourism value, including a subterranean river, waterfalls, and tropical forests. These new venues were scheduled to open in December 2009.

While some grants had as their primary objective direct support to build conservation-based enterprises, other grants incorporated sustainable livelihood programs as a means toward achieving broader conservation goals in a key biodiversity area. For example, the Friends of Conservation and Development in Chiquibul/Montañas Maya worked with six communities on training community leaders in conservation enterprises. In Cuchumatanes, FUNDAECO provided extension services to improve agricultural productivity in indigenous communities living around three existing and proposed municipal reserves. Grantees often made a point of hiring personnel from local communities when possible to build local employment opportunities and create community leadership for conservation. In Chiquibul Montañas Maya, CEPF and PACT paid for a staff of 18 local people. In Laguna del Tigre, four locally hired park rangers originally contracted with CEPF funds later were hired by CONAP to work in the park. In Cuchumatanes, CEPF set the foundation to open up a local chapter for FUNDAECO, which now employs 29 local staff paid for by other environment projects.

Increased Capacity for Natural Resources Management

Virtually all of CEPF's projects dedicated to site-level conservation housed activities to improve community resource management. Defensores para la Naturaleza's approach to working in Sierra de las Minas is indicative of the kinds of activities that CEPF funded. Defensores linked improved watershed management in the nucleus of the key biodiversity area to benefits derived for downstream communities. In total, five municipalities received technical assistance to improve management of their water resources. The establishment of a water council strengthened governance over the resource by fostering collaboration between stakeholder groups. The project also supported grassroots water and conservation projects in 11 mestizo and indigenous communities.

Projects implemented by the Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Pronatura-Chiapas, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Defensores para la Naturaleza built significant new capacity within local communities and park managers to combat forest fires in and around six protected areas: Selva El Ocote, La Sepultura, Montes Azules and Calakmul in Mexico, and Laguna del Tigre and Lacadona in Guatemala. Together, these projects trained more than 200 people on fire and emergency management in those communities where fires are among the most problematic. They developed community fire management plans, and created and equipped 12 community fire brigades. The brigades provided an opportunity for local community members to work closely with the government and local environmentalists to improve the management of fire to clear agricultural land and to prevent catastrophic fires.

ENABLING CONDITIONS RESULTS

Policy Strengthening for Conservation and Sustainable Development

Among CEPF's most significant accomplishments are the 11 policies adopted and/or strengthened in support of conservation in the areas of infrastructure, fire management, protected areas policy, tourism and sustainable agriculture. The paragraphs below describe results relating to each of these areas.

Impact Mitigation from Road Development

The development of roads throughout Northern Mesoamerica's key biodiversity areas has been a major concern to environmentalists for decades. Before CEPF, local NGOs were poorly organized around the issue. They lacked a methodology to analyze the potential impacts and to develop recommendations for mitigation. CEPF's contributions, therefore, represent a major turning point in how local civil society groups engage in road development.

Paramount among CEPF's achievements is a declaration issued by the Guatemalan Council of Protected Areas, the ultimate authority on the Maya Biosphere Reserve, prohibiting the construction of a road network through the large protected area. This major conservation victory was particularly noteworthy because strong pressure existed to build the roads to develop the tourism sector. The declaration represented the culmination of months of collaboration between five CEPF grantees, facilitated by CI. An economic and environmental study published by Conservation Strategy Fund and Wildlife Conservation Society found that if built, the roads would lead to the loss of 90,000 hectares of primary forest and result in a net loss of more than \$75 million over a 30-year time horizon. This information provided the basis for a substantial public outreach campaign. Furthermore, the Mirador-Rio Azul Multisectorial Roundtable, an influential group of local stakeholder supported by CEPF, sent a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs asking for its support to prevent the construction of the proposed roads. Fundacion Kulkulkán conducted media outreach and held numerous meetings with government officials. The issue drew high-level attention, as the president of Guatemala attended a briefing hosted by CEPF partners. The combination of compelling economic and environmental analysis, with broad agreement from local stakeholders and environmental officials not to support the road, led to the government's decision to abandon plans for the road network.

In the Gran Petén Key Biodiversity Area of southeast Mexico, Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatán (PPY) and its partners Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental and Jaguar Conservancy have taken a different approach by developing best practices to mitigate the environmental and social impacts arising from the expansion of an existing road in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. The region, which covers 1.2 million hectares of forest, started to undergo fragmentation in the 1970s when a road was constructed through it. Concerns of severe degradation emerged when the government of Mexico announced plans to expand the road into a four-lane highway by 2012. With CEPF support, partners have made important inroads to mitigate these concerns. PPY entered into an agreement with the Government of Campeche to work with

road engineers to integrate measures that mitigate the environmental and social impacts. This partnership has developed environmental guidelines for best practices in road construction through ecologically sensitive areas. More than 20 government agencies, universities and NGOs have coordinated closely on the effort to produce the best practices.

Funding to disseminate this experience has shown important progress. The Mexican National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, PPY, and other NGOs are establishing a formal agreement to promote so-called “green infrastructure,” to ensure that mitigation measures are incorporated into infrastructure projects sited in high biodiversity areas. More recently, a workshop in Chiapas resulted in an agreement between PPY, other environmental groups and the state government to develop a common methodology and vision for southern Mexico for environmental mitigation of road projects in high biodiversity areas. PPY and Fundacion Kukulkán have maintained continuous communications in an effort to ensure synergy between their projects across the Mexican-Guatemalan border.

Forest Fire Control and Prevention

Given the high degree of threat that large forest fires present in the Key Biodiversity Areas, CEPF awarded two grants dedicated to developing analytical tools, assessing current policy frameworks and issuing recommendations and strategies to reduce fire risk. In Guatemala and Belize, The Nature Conservancy, Fundación Propetén, Friends for Conservation and Development, and the System for the Prevention and Control of Forest Fires (which is a government agency) worked together to strengthen policies for fire management. As a first step, the partners prepared a fire management assessment for each country. Fire committees were created in order to obtain information and guidance from those organizations with frontline responsibility for fire management at the local and federal levels. To ensure that the assessment incorporated local perspectives, the project held stakeholder workshops attended by 250 people in six Key Biodiversity Areas. In Belize the fire management assessment is complete and approved, and the draft fire policy has been endorsed by the Forest Department. In Guatemala, the assessment has been completed and approval is expected in the near future. As the next step, grantees have prepared drafts of the strategic policy frameworks and proposals for their implementation, and are presenting them for validation and dissemination.

In Mexico, CEPF grants promoted an integrated approach to combat forest fires that relied on strengthening local and state capacity and policies. A grant to the Mexican Fund for Nature Conservation (FMCN) worked in five municipalities in the states of Chiapas, Campeche, and Oaxaca to identify opportunities for strengthening policies to improve fire management. A fire management expert assessed more than 40 federal and state-level laws and policies that impact fire management. Afterward, four stakeholder workshops gathered more than 200 people from 50 organizations to validate the assessments and to gain consensus on recommendations for strengthening fire management policies. Based on this process, FMCN produced four strategies to improve municipal-level fire management and two proposals to improve the state-level frameworks. The grant developed model protocols for communication and coordination to facilitate combating forest fire emergencies, which have been adapted to local communities. These protocols were published and distributed as manuals for participating communities, and have been viewed favorably as models for other communities.

FMCN’s efforts, as well as seven other CEPF-funded projects dedicated to forest fire management, were instrumental in creating new awareness within local communities and government agencies of the importance of supporting community approaches to fire management. In Mexico, these efforts led the National Commission on Natural Areas, the federal agency responsible for of protected areas management, to develop a program and allocate federal funding to support the recommendations issued by the project. The FMCN has been invited by the federal government to represent civil society on a technical working group dedicated to national forest fire management. In addition, the Sustainable

Forestry Commission of Chiapas and municipal governments have budgeted funding in support of project recommendations.

Strengthening Protected Areas Policy

In Belize, CEPF support to the Programme for Belize and Belize Association of Private Protected Areas has laid the groundwork to increase the legal stability and improve civil society capacity for co-management agreements and private protected areas arrangements. The need for passage of stronger protected areas legislation was underscored by the fact that 38 of Belize's 94 protected areas are under some form of co-management by local conservation NGOs or community-based organizations. However, fundamental gaps in the country's protected areas legislation put into question the legality of such arrangements. In response, CEPF grantees developed draft legislative frameworks to address the legal gaps. Grantees held stakeholder consultations and sponsored training sessions to promote effective protected areas management. The draft legislation is currently under consideration by the government. The project's outreach efforts have created awareness about the importance of strengthening the legal basis for co-management and private protected area management.

In Guatemala, the Asociación Sotz'il, in collaboration with the Communal and Indigenous Lands Promoter Group, has produced a framework to designate indigenous and communal lands as a new category in the country's protected areas system. Representatives of the two groups met with the president of Guatemala to discuss the legislation. The Guatemalan Congress and president have expressed support for this new designation. CEPF's early support to the Asociación Sotz'il for this project was instrumental in its winning a \$200,000 award from The World Bank's Development Marketplace in November 2009. This new project will support the work that CEPF funding helped to initiate as it allows Guatemalan indigenous groups to advance the establishment of indigenous and communal protected areas.

Strengthening Policies for Nature Tourism

To address tourism development in Guatemala and Belize, Counterpart International (CPI) has collaborated closely with governmental tourism agencies and civil society groups to promote policies favorable for biodiversity conservation. In both countries, CPI completed assessments of current tourism policies and held workshops to solicit input on the challenges, opportunities, and priorities for strengthening tourism policy. In Guatemala, for example, the country had 23 policies for nature tourism, but none were implemented. Based on the assessment finding, CPI and CONAP identified the need to develop guidelines for tourism concession services in Guatemala's protected areas as a high priority. Once these guidelines were complete, CONAP requested assistance from CPI to update its guidelines for ecotourism developing in Guatemala's protected areas. As a next step, CPI and its partners intend to apply these new policies to develop sustainable tourism in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, which has been at the center of great controversy in Guatemala for many years. In Belize, CPI partners identified a major bottleneck being the large number of conflicting policies related to sustainable tourism development. In response, CPI worked with local NGOs to develop a new national policy for responsible tourism. In both countries, tourism and protected areas agencies assumed a strong sense of ownership of the project.

In Mexico, Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA) has worked in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Campeche to promote nature tourism in the Key Biodiversity Areas in these states. CEMDA has assessed current policies and practices, applicable regulations, and successful initiatives and experiences in order to identify the challenges and opportunities for establishing a nature-based tourism strategy for southeast Mexico. It also conducted stakeholder consultations in the three states. Based on these activities, CEMDA issued specific recommendations for promoting financing and sustainable conservation policies and projects in the southeastern states. In some cases, the reception to these recommendations was positive. For example, the state of Chiapas has developed two nature-based projects as a result. The state of Campeche has also viewed the recommendations favorably.

Sustainable Agriculture and Policy Harmonization

To promote sustainable agriculture and conservation in Guatemala, the Fundación Kukulkan worked with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Guatemala vice president to examine harmonization of public policies related to the environment and natural resources. As a first step, Kukulkan identified policies that impede harmonization of agricultural and environmental policy. The analysis was validated and recommendations solicited through nine workshops held throughout the country. Based on the analysis and consultations, Kukulkan put forth a series of recommendations on promoting policy harmonization. A workshop in the Maya Biosphere Reserve that examined cattle ranching, agriculture, tourism and the environment provided useful information to prepare a joint work plan between the ministries of agriculture and environment. In Guatemala City, four government ministries are in the process of signing an institutional agreement to collaborate on environmental issues nationally. Furthermore, Kukulkan has found an important opportunity to promote policy harmonization through recent efforts in Guatemala to develop a policy for global climate change. In this case, Kukulkan has sought to ensure that biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture figure prominently in policy discussion and decisions.

Fostering Collaboration Through Alliances

Central to CEPF's approach was support to nine conservation alliances that consisted of a broad cross-section of stakeholders: local and national environmental and development NGOs, municipal and national governments, other donors, and universities. For national and regional policy and planning, CEPF supported the Selva Maya Ecoregional Planning exercise, hotspot-level biological monitoring involving a network of environmental NGOs and universities. CEPF also supported the Mirador Rio Azul Multisectorial Roundtable; Mexican Alliance to Improve Management of Protected Areas; Guatemala for the National Gap Analysis; and a network of taxonomic experts dedicated to saving Critically Endangered species. Within priority key biodiversity areas, CEPF provided support for the development and implementation of multi-stakeholder collaborative agendas in Laguna del Tigre, the Selva Zoque and Chiquibul/Montañas Maya. Many grants also resulted in less-formal alliances that show good promise of continuing into the future.

In addition, CEPF helped to reinforce collaboration between conservation and indigenous rights leaders, which in several instances was nascent. For example, a grant to Asociación Sot'zil has advanced the declaration of indigenous lands as a formal category in Guatemala's protected areas system.

Two small grants to the Asociación Balam totaling \$40,000 played a central role in launching the Mirador-Rio Azul Multisectorial Roundtable, which has become the premier venue for promoting the conservation of the Maya Biosphere Reserve through strategic alliances. The roundtable is made up of the 34 organizations that work in the region, from central and local governments, communities, nongovernmental organizations, academia and the private sector. It is the mechanism by which the government and donors seek stakeholder consultation on such issues as infrastructure development, environmental security, strengthening local management capacity, and development planning. It is considered a model for replication in other areas of the Guatemalan protected area system. The roundtable has been the planning platform to gain consensus and approval on key planning documents for more than \$5 million in new funding for the region.

Strengthened Capacity of Local Civil Society Organizations

Although CEPF did not provide grants dedicated specifically to building capacity of local civil society organizations, many projects resulted in important contributions to building capacity in new areas of conservation. CEPF grants also provided local NGOs with the opportunity to grow. CEPF support was critical for NGOs such as the Asociación Balam and Friends for Conservation and Development to build their capacity and visibility so that they could become national leaders for the environment. Pronatura – Yucatan developed new capacity in environmental mitigation for road development. Grantees attending

the assessment workshop remarked that local NGOs have more capacity and are significantly more organized and collaborative due to CEPF support.

In addition, the Coordination Unit worked closely with several grantees to build project management and administrative capacity and to help them leverage new funds. The impressive success of the Asociación Sotz'il in The World Bank's Development Marketplace Competition serves as a high-profile example of CEPF's support to small NGOs to help them access new funding. The proposal was one of 26 to win the competition, out of more than 1,700 applications. In this case, the CEPF Coordination Unit worked closely with the NGO to develop a proposal in climate change adaptation, which was a topic new to the group.

Improved Conservation Understanding, Analysis and Dissemination.

Given the dearth of basic information regarding biodiversity, CEPF made significant contributions to data compilation and analysis on several major topics of interest for conservation. This information served to influence the decisionmaking in several respects.

Economic and Environmental Analysis

With CEPF support, the Conservation Strategy Fund worked with local NGOs to fund information gathering, regional training and policy analysis of infrastructure projects that pose the greatest threat to biodiversity. An inventory of more than 100 planned infrastructure projects in the Mesoamerica Hotspot helped to raise awareness in the civil society community about new projects that were being planned in areas of high biodiversity value. In addition, CEPF supported an intensive two-week training course for 30 conservation professionals in the understanding, analysis and use of economic principles for assessing infrastructure projects. Through sub-grants to Wildlife Conservation Society and Pronatura – Chiapas, analysis of the environmental and economic impacts of two large projects was conducted and published: a proposed road network in the Selva Maya and the construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the Usumacinta River. The findings were disseminated to, among others, the president of Guatemala, the Federal Electricity Commission in Mexico, The World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. The reports would later be used by local NGOs to build their cases against these initiatives.

Monitoring

CI and seven NGOs and research institutions completed the refinement and monitoring of conservation outcomes in the entire Mesoamerica Hotspot and Mexico. CEPF funding was complemented by other donor funding to cover the entire region. This exhaustive effort required the compilation of data on hundreds of endangered species and protected areas, as well as remote sensing imagery to detect deforestation. The effort resulted in the identification of 442 key biodiversity areas and 98 AZE sties, with an extensive database housing information on the hotspot's endangered species. Key biodiversity area and deforestation maps were produced for Central America and Mexico. The project built local capacity within 12 local institutions for conservation outcomes monitoring. Outreach meetings held in every country in the hotspot to disseminate the results attracted governmental and environmental organizations and generated significant local media coverage. The data have been used for several purposes, including for the Guatemala Gap Analysis and for prioritization of sites under the Guatemala debt for nature swap.

Communications for CEPF Grantees and Synergies

The Rainforest Alliance's Eco-Index has become the portfolios' principle vehicle for disseminating information on projects in English and Spanish. The Eco-Index provides in-depth profiles of virtually all CEPF grants, as well as articles and interviews on a wide variety of topics of interest to conservationists. The site has profiled more than 4,200 projects throughout Latin America, including many that CEPF funded in the region. The average number of monthly visits to the Eco-Index grew from 2,600 visits per month in 2001, before CEPF began funding the project, to between 60,000 to 78,935 monthly visits in

2009. The Eco-Index also helped several grantees develop their own Web sites. The Rainforest Alliance also helped to organize a “Conservation Dialogues” series in the region.

In addition, the CEPF Coordination Unit has been instrumental in facilitating collaboration and dissemination of information to CEPF grantees, partner government agencies and donors, local stakeholder groups, and the public. They have helped to organize grantee exchange and meetings that have been important contributions to ensuring synergy and partnership within the CEPF portfolio of grants.

LESSONS LEARNED

Because CEPF’s portfolio in Northern Mesoamerica linked policy strengthening with more traditional on-site conservation activities, its experience offers relevant and unique lessons and insights into how to achieve conservation goals more effectively in the future.

1. CEPF’s experience demonstrates that civil society organizations have a very important role to play in influencing public policies to promote conservation and sustainable development. They bring to bear unique technical expertise, facilitate coordinated multi-sectoral approaches, promote stakeholder engagement and consensus, and provide continuity and long-term engagement as government administrations change. Through CEPF, civil society engagement has brought more accountability, transparency and consultation in the way decisions are made on major policies.
2. Efforts to strengthen public policies need to be based on solid analysis, collaboration with government organizations, and consultation with stakeholders in order to build a local constituency for reform. Through CEPF, civil society groups developed their positions based on thorough research and analysis of the economic, environmental and social criteria, in close consultation with local communities. These positions were presented effectively and disseminated broadly to key stakeholder groups to build a strong constituency. Efforts were led by highly respected leaders from the country’s environmental community who were viewed as credible local representatives.
3. CEPF efforts highlighted the potential difficulties in policy strengthening. It is important to recognize that ultimate decisionmaking authority for policy reform rests with governmental agencies that often have their own constraints to contend with, including a lack of personnel and budget. Some agencies confronted significant internal instability and personnel changes that were not expected at the time that projects were designed. These factors created a situation where the authority responsible for achieving the policy reform proved to be an unreliable partner.
4. To date, local civil society organizations have not had much experience in policy reform and the preparation of well-developed strategies for policy strengthening. Furthermore, a common observation of CEPF grantees is that strengthening local policies requires long-term commitment. Ensuring that NGOs can maintain their engagement throughout the process of policy reform will allow them to adapt to the longer timetables of governments.
5. CEPF’s strong emphasis on working through collaborative alliances proved to be highly effective for delivering conservation results across multiple strategic directions. The numerous alliances that CEPF supported achieved consensus and collaboration among a great diversity of different groups to achieve objectives of mutual interest to alliance members.

6. Working across five countries brings unique challenges and opportunities that need to be recognized and managed accordingly. The logistics of crossing international borders frequently, of working with multiple sets of partners, and of fostering cooperation across binational corridors created additional layers of complexity not typically encountered when working on issues in one country. In looking at approaches to continue to foster regional collaboration, it is critical that these additional layers of complexity are managed and budgeted accordingly.

CONCLUSION

During its five years of implementation in Northern Mesoamerica, CEPF was highly successful at supporting civil society to engage constructively in results-oriented conservation and sustainable development at local, national and regional levels. With its flexible and accessible funds and network of partnerships, CEPF reached the grassroots to meet the realities of working in remote areas and address daunting challenges. Equally important, CEPF's partners engaged at higher political levels to ensure important conservation objectives and policies were achieved. Due to significant international funding reductions in the region at the beginning of grantmaking, CEPF filled key conservation needs that otherwise would have remained unfunded.

While CEPF accomplishments are plentiful and impressive, much work still remains. CEPF catalyzed many actions and successes, and these gains need to be sustained. The task ahead for the conservation community is to build upon these gains to ensure that the foundation for a robust conservation sector is in place. This will include cultivation and growth of successful sustainable development models started by CEPF, advancing public policies and plans to promote a development path that builds on the region's rich environmental resources, fostering alliances within and between countries to address regional conservation needs, and strengthening local civil society capacity. The challenge ahead is large, but it is imperative to ensure the sustainability of the important results achieved to date.

CEPF FIVE-YEAR LOGICAL FRAMEWORK REPORTING FOR NORTHERN MESOAMERICA

LONG-TERM GOAL STATEMENT	TARGETED CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	RESULTS
<p>The conservation status of species is improved or stabilized and extinctions are avoided.</p>	<p>Protected Areas Management Improvement: 5,204,220 hectares</p>	<p>Key biodiversity areas covering 23,077,536 hectares are better identified, mapped, documented and communicated to government agencies and civil society groups whose work is relevant to conservation.</p> <p>Twenty-five protected areas totaling 3,131,442 hectares received CEPF support to improve their management. Results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management of tourism, infrastructure and forest fires. • Engaged communities for protected areas. • Established payment for environmental services. • Improved stakeholder coordination. • Developed and implemented management plans. • Implemented patrolling and monitoring. • Maintained connectivity and ecological integrity. <p>Eight protected areas covering 963,505 hectares demonstrated improved management, including reduction of forest fires and land invasions and increases in populations of target species and forested land. The areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laguna del Tigre National Park and Biological Corridor (239,000 hectares) • Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve (242,642 hectares) • Todos Santos Cuchumatán Municipal Reserve (7,168 hectares) • Mirador Río Azul National Park and Dos Lagunas National Biotope (166,411 hectares) • Chiquibul National Park (106,838 hectares) • Chuquib Forest Reserve (59,822 hectares) • Bladen Nature Reserve (40,336 hectares) • Selva El Ocote Biosphere Reserve and Buffer

		<p>Zone (101,288 hectares)</p> <p>New protected areas with a total area of 11,446 hectares were established, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todos Santos Cuchumatán Municipal Reserve (7,168 hectares) • Selva Zoque certification of communal lands (2,425 hectares) • Selva Lacandona certification of communal lands (1,853 hectares). <p>An additional 470,891 hectares located in 14 sites achieved important milestones toward their future declaration as new protected areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 330,021 hectares Uxpanapa, Mexico proposed as a biosphere reserve • 27,488 hectares expanded La Frailesca, Mexico • 40,000 hectares expanded Volcán Tacaná, Mexico • 6,069 hectares to be declared in Selva Lacandona, Mexico • 45,000 hectares to be declared in Visis Caba, Guatemala • 6,334 hectares to be declared in Cruz Maltin, Guatemala • 18,285 hectares to be certified as communal lands for conservation, Mexico
	<p>Connectivity establishment: 4,396,305 hectares</p>	<p>A total of 4,002,351 hectares were maintained and/or established to promote connectivity within conservation corridors and between protected areas.</p> <p>In 1,882,229 hectares located in 18 sites, results included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved forest fire management • Improved water resource management • Adoption of sustainable agriculture • Strengthening of nature-based tourism • Forest management. <p>In 3,250,912 hectares, connectivity was maintained due to the prohibition of new roads and the incorporation of environmental best practices in road design. The areas affected are:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maya Biosphere Reserve (2,100,000 hectares) • Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (738,768 hectares) • Balam-Kú Conservation Area (412,144 hectares)
	<p>Extinctions avoided: 106 Critically Endangered, IUCN Red List species targeted for protection</p>	<p>There were no extinctions documented in the hotspot during the investment period.</p> <p>15 CEPF projects conducted field assessments of 53 of the 106 Critically Endangered species identified in the region. In addition, another 10 Endangered and Vulnerable species received support to aid in their survival.</p> <p>Site assessments and/or conservation actions commenced at 26 AZE sites, which house the only known populations of one or more Critically Endangered species.</p> <p>Action benefiting species conservation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site assessments • Improved coordination of actions across five countries • Conservation strategies development • Improved management of habitat • Species monitoring • Community-based conservation
CEPF PURPOSE	IMPACT INDICATORS	RESULTS
<p>Influence select development policies and investments to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes in the Selva Maya and Chiapas-Guatemala Highlands corridors through increased knowledge, capacity and coordination of civil society and local government.</p>	<p>a. Number of collaborative agendas among civil society key stakeholders</p>	<p>Nine collaborative agendas involving civil society, government and communities were established and supported to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes.</p> <p>For national and regional policy and planning, CEPF supported the Selva Maya Ecoregional Planning exercise; Mirador Rio Azul Multisectorial Roundtable; Mexican Alliance to Improve Management of Protected Areas; Guatemala for the National Gap Analysis; and a network of taxonomic experts dedicated to saving Critically Endangered species.</p>

	<p>b. Number of policies in agriculture, infrastructure, tourism reformed and implemented to benefit biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Within priority key biodiversity areas, CEPF supported the development and implementation of multi-stakeholder collaborative agendas in Laguna del Tigre, the Selva Zoque and Chiquibul/Montañas Maya.</p> <p>Eleven policies were drafted and eight were adopted in support of mainstreaming conservation into development policy.</p> <p>In Guatemala, results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition by the Guatemala Park Service CONAP of construction of new roads in the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve. • Assessment of forest fire policy completed and in the process of approval. • Draft law completed and in the process of approval for the recognition of communal and indigenous lands as a protected area category. • New policies for eco-tourism development in Guatemalan protected areas system completed and in the process of approval. <p>In Mexico, results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agreement reached to work with local civil society to mitigate the environmental impacts arising from road improvements in the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. • In three states in southeast Mexico, assessment of fire management policy completed, recommendations for four municipal and two state-level fire management strategies completed, and state and federal funding allocated to implement strategies. • Assessment of nature-based tourism policies and strategies for three states completed, and several recommendations for promoting nature tourism in implementation. • The states of Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas agreed on common objectives and mechanisms to coordinate conservation efforts in the Selva Zoque. <p>In Belize, results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of forest fire policy completed and approved.
--	--	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft policies for protected areas co-management and private protected areas completed and in the process of approval. • New policy for sustainable tourism completed and in the process of approval.
	c. Number of regional investments designed and implemented to mitigate their impacts on biodiversity	Four investments were designed and implemented to mitigate their impacts on biodiversity. In Guatemala, the Council of Protected Areas issued a declaration prohibiting new roads in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Also, the Mirador Rio Azul Multisectorial Roundtable has influenced decisions impacting Mexico and Guatemala to ensure future development of tourism in the Selva Maya is compatible with conservation and sustainable development. In Mexico, NGOs are working closely with policymakers and road developers to mitigate the impacts of a road being constructed near Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. In Belize and Guatemala, a binational work plan was developed and implemented to improve management of the Chiquibul/Montañas Maya Key Biodiversity Area. Also, species efforts for amphibians and plants have had regional impact.
	d. Number of priority key biodiversity areas under improved management and protection	<p>Five priority key biodiversity areas that cover 6,667,835 hectares received CEPF investments that resulted in significant management improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiquibul/Montañas Maya (785,379 hectares) • Laguna del Tigre (365,648 hectares) • Selva Zoque (1,096,278 hectares) • Sierra de las Minas (474,348 hectares) • The Gran Petén - Calakmul (3,946,182 hectares) <p>Within these five key biodiversity areas, management was significantly improved in eight protected areas that cover 963,505 hectares through a wide range of activities: management planning and implementation, providing equipment and infrastructure, hiring and training park staff, conducting biological inventories and monitoring, preventing and controlling forest fires, and supporting community outreach and engagement. These investments relied on close collaboration with local communities and park management agencies to ensure funding closely aligned with local priorities. As a result,</p>

		the incidence of forest fires declined significantly, wildlife populations recuperated, and encroachment into core areas of key protected areas slowed.
	e. Number of Critically Endangered species for which knowledge has improved and management actions initiated to improve their conservation status	At least 53 Critically Endangered species were assessed in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras, most of them amphibians. Conservation action plans for amphibians were prepared for Belize, Honduras, and the Mexican state of Chiapas. Site-level conservation activities were implemented in more than seven sites in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico. Freshwater fish were assessed in Honduras and bats were assessed in Belize. Recommendations for IUCN Red Listing were made for these taxonomic groups. CEPF supported the Red Listing process for mammals in Mesoamerica.
	f. Amount leveraged to achieve CEPF outcomes	At least \$37.6 million has been leveraged to date for CEPF priorities. The Guatemala debt swap resulted in \$24 million in new funds for conservation in the country. In Belize, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund (PACT) provided a one-for-one match for CEPF's contribution in the Chiquibul/ Montañas Maya Key Biodiversity Area. The Embassy of the Netherlands provided more than \$3 million in funding to support the follow up to a CEPF project in Cuchumatanes. In addition, CEPF strongly encouraged grantees to pursue new funding opportunities from the start of each project. As a result, the majority of grants in Northern Mesoamerica contain counterpart funding or in-kind contributions.

APPENDICES

A. List of CEPF Approved Grants

B: Leveraging Data for Northern Mesoamerica

C: Reporting Against Standard World Bank Biodiversity Indicators

Appendix A. List of CEPF Approved Grants

Strategic Direction 1. Foster civil society participation in regional decisionmaking on select policies and investments to promote the conservation and sustainable development of the Selva Maya and the Selva Zoque and Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands corridors

A National Co-Management Policy for Protected Areas in Belize

Support the development of a co-management policy and model co-management agreements for adoption by the government of Belize. Activities include increasing capacity of nongovernmental organizations with co-management responsibility for protected areas and developing a communications and fundraising strategy to promote sustainability of the policy.

Funding: \$126,588

Grant Term: 12/1/07 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Programme for Belize

Baseline Forest Change Detection and Key Biodiversity Areas in Northern Mesoamerica

Identify globally significant sites for biodiversity in southern Mexico by collecting data on various aspects of species conservation and obtaining forest loss data from 1990 to 2000, in partnership with the grant, "Refining and Monitoring Conservation Outcomes in Northern and Southern Mesoamerica." This information will support the development of site-based conservation strategies for southern Mexico and the Mesoamerica Hotspot.

Funding: \$47,966

Grant Term: 1/1/07 to 6/30/08

Grantee: El Colegio de La Frontera Sur

Building a Model for Carbon-Coffee for the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico

Develop a conceptual model and good practices for promoting conservation and shade coffee that maximizes the carbon benefits. This grant calls for bringing experts and practitioners together to examine their experiences, document the lessons learned and propose a model for future replication that can support connectivity throughout Mesoamerica's highlands through the promotion of coffee-carbon projects.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 1/1/09 to 8/31/09

Grantee: El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Building a Model of Conservation Coffee and Carbon Credit in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas

Establish a payment for environmental service scheme in which eight strategically located communities will adopt best practices in conservation coffee and receive compensation through their carbon savings. In addition, the grant is viewed as a model for the state of Chiapas, which is drafting a new policy for payment for environmental services.

Funding: \$142,983

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Cooperativa AMBIO Sociedad Cooperativa de Responsabilidad Limitada

Building Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Enterprises in Northern Mesoamerica

Strengthen local capacity and collaboration among community-based ecotourism enterprises to promote nature tourism in Cuchumatanes, Guatemala and Selva Lacandona, México. Activities include training in good management practices for sustainable tourism and marketing, support for pilot operations, ecotourism certification, participation at international trade fairs, and the exchange of lessons learned among participating partners.

Funding: \$70,870

Grant Term: 11/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Rainforest Alliance, Inc.

Creating the Category of Indigenous and Communal Natural Areas in the Guatemala Protected Areas Law

Support the design, validation and promotion of community and indigenous reserves as a new category of protection in the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas. Activities will include meetings to design the law, workshops to validate it with local actors and meetings with the Guatemala Protected Areas Agency and congressional representatives to discuss its approval.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 10/31/09

Grantee: Asociación SOTZ'IL ONG

Defining and Monitoring Conservation Outcomes in Northern and Southern Mesoamerica

Establish a network of partners throughout Mesoamerica in order to define and monitor conservation outcomes and indicators for species conservation, protected areas and corridors throughout the Mesoamerica Hotspot. Build regional capacity for conservation monitoring, disseminate conservation information and findings, and establish a fundraising strategy for sustainability.

Funding: \$222,232

Grant Term: 9/1/05 to 8/31/09

Grantee: Conservation International

This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is \$384,555.

Design of Conservation Incentives Mechanisms for Guatemala

Support the design of conservation incentive mechanisms in select sites in the Petén and Cuchumatanes as pilot projects that offer local communities financial incentives to adopt sustainable land management practices in support of conservation. The grant funds feasibility studies, community consultations, fundraising and information dissemination for broader adoption.

Funding: \$32,633

Grant Term: 9/1/05 to 9/30/06

Grantee: Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala

Developing a Strategy for Sustainable Tourism for Biodiversity Conservation in the States of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico

Bring together civil society, government and private sector stakeholders to develop a strategy for sustainable tourism in Chiapas and Oaxaca. The project supports the development of an assessment of the challenges and opportunities, strategy development, recommendations for policy improvement and establishment of a nature tourism alliance.

Funding: \$125,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Asociación Civil

Developing Recommendations and an Action Plan to Integrate Biodiversity Conservation into Tourism Policy in Belize and Guatemala

Strengthen tourism policy in Belize and Guatemala in order to foster biodiversity conservation. Conduct a review and analysis of current tourism policy, hold stakeholder workshops in key sites and capital cities, and develop an action plan aimed at strengthening tourism policy in the two countries and regionally.

Funding: \$136,212

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Counterpart International

Equator Ventures

Support the pilot phase of Equator Ventures, a partnership initiative with UNDP's Equator Initiative. Implement loan and technical assistance packages to small- to medium-sized enterprises benefiting biodiversity and local communities, and monitor biodiversity results.

Funding: \$10,581

Grant Term: 6/1/05 to 3/31/09

Grantee: Conservation International

This is a multiregional project covering nine hotspots; the total grant amount is \$95,230.

Establishing a Baseline for Monitoring Species and Key Biodiversity Areas in Guatemala

Contribute to the identification of globally significant sites for biodiversity by collecting data on various aspects of species conservation in partnership with the grant "Refining and Monitoring Conservation Outcomes in Northern and Southern Mesoamerica." This information will support the development of site-based conservation strategies for Guatemala and the wider Mesoamerica Hotspot.

Funding: \$13,729

Grant Term: 11/1/06 to 9/30/07

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Establishing a Baseline to Monitor Species and Key Biodiversity Areas in Belize

Contribute to the identification of globally significant sites for biodiversity in Belize by collecting data on various aspects of species conservation, in partnership with the grant, "Refining and Monitoring Conservation Outcomes in Northern and Southern Mesoamerica." This information will support the development of site-based conservation strategies for Belize and the wider Mesoamerica Hotspot.

Funding: \$13,000

Grant Term: 11/1/06 to 6/30/08

Grantee: Belize Tropical Forest Studies

Identification and Prioritization of National Policies on Agriculture and Land Use that Affect Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala

Develop and validate an agenda to integrate biodiversity conservation considerations into agricultural policy in Guatemala through policy analysis, stakeholder consultation, outreach to decisionmakers, and adoption of an action plan for policy strengthening.

Funding: \$93,000

Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 9/30/09

Grantee: Fundación Kukulcan

Mitigating the Impacts on Biodiversity of Road Construction in the Calakmul Key Biodiversity Area and the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve

Develop and institutionalize a series of best practices aimed at mitigating the negative impacts on biodiversity arising from new road construction in the Calakmul key biodiversity area, and establish a binational alliance of Guatemalan and Mexican nongovernmental organizations and government officials to collaborate on mitigating the impacts of road construction in the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve.

Funding: \$171,064

Grant Term: 1/1/09 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Pronatura Península de Yucatán Asociación Civil

Policy Development and Outreach to Support Private Protected Areas in Belize

Establish a policy for private protected areas in Belize through stakeholder consultations, preparation of draft legislation, and outreach and technical assistance to governmental partners.

Funding: \$17,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 1/31/09

Grantee: Belize Association of Private Protected Areas

Promoting Public Policy Reform in Strategic Areas for Conservation in Northern Mesoamerica

Provide technical leadership to identify priorities and develop an action plan for policy reform in agriculture, forest fires, tourism and infrastructure in Northern Mesoamerica.

Funding: \$71,874

Grant Term: 11/1/06 to 12/31/08

Grantee: Conservation International

Strategic Leadership for Outcomes Achievement in Northern Mesoamerica

Provide strategic and administrative support to CEPF, partners and grantees to achieve the fund's conservation outcomes in Northern Mesoamerica. Activities include supporting all aspects of CEPF grantmaking, helping establish an advisory council, fostering collaboration with donors and other partners, leveraging funds and supporting progress in policy reform.

Funding: \$1,023,631

Grant Term: 11/1/05 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Conservation International

Strengthening Municipal and State-Level Public Policy and Institutional Frameworks to Improve Fire Management in Southeast Mexico

Support a participatory process to strengthen municipal and state-level fire management policy and institutional frameworks in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Campeche. The project supports a needs assessment and review of current fire management policy and the development of detailed proposals and strategies for strengthening these policies and frameworks.

Funding: \$60,700

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.

Strengthening Public Policy Related to Forest Fire Management in Belize and Guatemala

Support the establishment of forest fire prevention and control policies in Belize and Guatemala. This grant will result in a needs assessment of management requirements in both countries, stakeholder consultations, draft policy legislation, a fire prevention and control strategy for Belize, and outreach to government authorities and other stakeholders to promote policy and strategy adaptation.

Funding: \$141,355

Grant Term: 10/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Strengthening Public Policy to Mitigate the Impacts of Road Development in the Maya Biosphere Reserve through Public Outreach

Prevent the construction of new roads through the Mayan Biosphere Reserve that would introduce new threats, especially the Uaxactún-Arroyo Negro Road. Key activities and results will include approval of a resolution by the CONAP restricting new roads, public outreach, stakeholder awareness building and collaboration, and cooperation between Mexican and Guatemalan authorities and nongovernmental organizations.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Fundación Kukulcan

Support for the Guatemala Debt-for-Nature Swap

As a pass through, direct the entire amount of this grant to support the largest debt swap of its kind. The swap will generate \$24 million for conservation over the next 15 years in Guatemala, and contribute to the sustainability of five key biodiversity areas. It will also strengthen projects funded by CEPF in Sierra de las Minas, Laguna del Tigre and Sierra de los Cuchumatanes.

Funding: \$300,000

Grant Term: 9/1/06 to 12/31/08

Grantee: Conservation International

Sustainable Nature Tourism in the Sierra Madre and Selva el Ocote, Chiapas, Mexico

Promote ecotourism in the Highlands Corridor of Southern Mexico by supporting five community groups located in areas with high value for connectivity to three protected areas. The grant supports local capacity building, exchange of lessons learned, establishment of an alliance, planning and implementation of tourism activities, and marketing.

Funding: \$58,251

Grant Term: 1/1/09 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo, Asociación Civil

Third International Meeting on Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development in the Petén

Support a major meeting of leading scholars, decisionmakers, nongovernmental organizations and communities from Guatemala, Belize and Mexico to examine topics related to environmental governance in the Petén.

Funding: \$12,840

Grant Term: 8/1/05 to 12/31/05

Grantee: Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales

Strategic Direction 2. Collaborate with other donor-funded projects to facilitate and operationalize successful conservation activities in Northern Mesoamerica's eight most important key biodiversity areas

Analysis and Recommendations for Improving Land Tenure Policy for Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala

Conduct policy analysis and hold local and national workshops to prepare a situation analysis of land tenure laws and to develop recommendations to strengthen land tenure policy at the national and municipal levels. The products will be printed and distributed to media and other key stakeholder groups.

Funding: \$55,806

Grant Term: 6/1/08 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Fundación Para El Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y Su Entorno

Baird's Tapir Conservation Workshop

Support the development of Mesoamerica's first conservation strategy for the Endangered Baird's tapir by funding a workshop of experts and the printing and dissemination of the strategy.

Funding: \$5,000

Grant Term: 7/1/05 to 12/31/05

Grantee: The Houston Zoo, Inc.

This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is \$10,000.

Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Laguna del Tigre National Park

Increase the capacity of four strategically located communities in Laguna del Tigre National Park to prevent and control forest fires through assistance to strengthen their collaboration, training, equipment and bilateral cooperation with Mexican counterparts.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 12/31/08

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in the Sierra Lacandon National Park

Increase the capacity of four strategically located communities in the Sierra del Lacandon National Park to prevent and control forest fires, through assistance to strengthen their collaboration, training, equipment and bilateral cooperation with Mexican counterparts.

Funding: \$18,525

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 9/30/08

Grantee: Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

CEPF Coordination to Promote Development Policies, Investments and Institutional Collaboration for Biodiversity Conservation in Northern Mesoamerica

Strengthen the capability of civil society to engage in all levels of decisionmaking regarding the future use and conservation of Northern Mesoamerica's biodiversity. Specifically, the grant funds assistance to manage the CEPF program in the region; development and implementation of strategies to reform key policies; technical assistance to strengthen key protected areas; and development of mechanisms to prevent the extinction of the region's 106 Critically Endangered species.

Funding: \$476,841

Grant Term: 7/1/04 to 7/31/08

Grantee: Conservation International

Consolidation of CEPF's Protected Areas and Conservation Corridor Portfolio in Mesoamerica

Provide technical assistance to partners to help achieve CEPF's protected areas objectives in Mesoamerica. Assist partners in the declaration of new protected areas in Northern Mesoamerica, development of improved capacity for fire management and control of illegal timber and wildlife harvesting, and strengthening of existing protected areas.

Funding: \$162,360

Grant Term: 12/1/05 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Conservation International

This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is \$237,360.

Establishing Private Protected Areas in Huehuetenango, Guatemala

Facilitate the establishment of eight new private protected areas to achieve connectivity in the Cuchumatanes key biodiversity area, through outreach and training workshops to private landowners and through preparation and delivery of application materials.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 6/1/08 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala

Establishment and Initial Management Support for Three New Protected Areas in Cuchumatanes Key Biodiversity Area in Guatemala

Build a foundation for declaring three new protected areas by preparing technical and management studies, drafting legal language for protection designation, and initiating management activities in close collaboration with community groups.

Funding: \$90,493

Grant Term: 11/1/05 to 6/30/08

Grantee: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación

Exchanging CEPF Grantee Experience and Lessons Learned in Protected Areas Management in Northern Mesoamerica at the Mesoamerican Protected Areas Congress II

Support CEPF grantee participation in Mesoamerica's premier protected areas conference. Grantees will exchange lessons learned from implementing conservation projects and improve their coordination, as well as disseminate information about CEPF and its conservation priorities to key conservation actors in the region.

Funding: \$19,544

Grant Term: 2/1/06 to 6/30/06

Grantee: Conservation International

Fostering Stakeholder Coordination in the Selva Maya through Ecoregional Planning and Alliance Building

Support the ecoregional planning process for the Selva Maya Corridor by engaging leading environmental groups and government agencies throughout the region in joint planning and coordination of conservation objectives and actions. The grant supports technical studies, publication of the plan and findings, information dissemination, and government adoption of key recommendations.

Funding: \$106,600

Grant Term: 6/1/05 to 10/31/06

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Identifying Important Bird Areas in Belize and Guatemala

Support local nongovernmental organizations to identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Belize and Guatemala for threatened, endemic and congregatory birds. The information will be incorporated into the refinement of boundaries and prioritization for key biodiversity areas in Northern Mesoamerica.

Funding: \$19,900

Grant Term: 11/1/05 to 9/30/06

Grantee: BirdLife International

Infrastructure Integration and Biodiversity Conservation in Mesoamerica

Integrate conservation concerns into the planning of major infrastructure projects throughout Mesoamerica by bringing together NGOs and government agencies for capacity building and analysis of proposed projects. This grant supports an inventory of proposed major energy and transportation projects, their ranking according to economic and environmental criteria, a conservation economics and policy course, and three to five policy analyses of priority projects.

Funding: \$235,286

Grant Term: 10/1/04 to 3/31/07

Grantee: Conservation Strategy Fund

This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is \$310,286.

Preparing a Binational Guatemalan-Mexican Action Plan to Conserve the Biological Corridor between Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and Mirador-Rio Azul National Park

Promote dialogue and achieve consensus within Guatemala and between Mexican stakeholders on priorities for managing a binational biological corridor in a core region of the Selva Maya.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 9/1/06 to 6/30/07

Grantee: Asociación Balam para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Culturales Integrados

Securing Official Certification for the Voluntary Conservation of Critical Ecosystems in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico

Conduct baseline technical studies and community outreach in eight sites in Chiapas and Oaxaca to obtain official certification of more than 15,000 hectares for inclusion in Mexico's voluntary land conservation program.

Funding: \$50,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica, Asociación Civil

Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned in Mesoamerica via the Eco-Index

Provide detailed information in English and Spanish on conservation projects and issues throughout Mesoamerica as the second phase of support to this online database. Activities include the entry and annual updating on the site of all CEPF-supported projects in Mesoamerica, creation of Web sites for partner organizations without existing sites, and organizing a stakeholder workshop in Southern Mesoamerica.

Funding: \$49,769

Grant Term: 5/1/05 to 5/31/07

Grantee: Rainforest Alliance

This is a multiregional project covering two hotspots; the total grant amount is \$130,221.

Sharing Successes and Lessons Learned in Northern Mesoamerica via the Eco-Index

Support the promotion of alliances and information exchange between CEPF partners through the inclusion of CEPF-supported projects in the Eco-Index and through the organization of partner exchanges, including a workshop as part of the final five-year assessment for the CEPF portfolio in this region.

Funding: \$126,763

Grant Term: 5/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Rainforest Alliance

Strengthening Local Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Four Key Biodiversity Areas of Mexico and Guatemala

Build local capacity in strategic areas of Mexican and Guatemalan key biodiversity areas to prevent and control forest fires through training and equipping fire brigades and development of community fire management plans.

Funding: \$112,525

Grant Term: 11/1/07 to 6/30/09

Grantee: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.

Strengthening Protection of La Frailescana Forest and Corridor in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas Key Biodiversity Area

Assist in upgrading the protection status of La Frailescana into a biosphere reserve and expanding its borders to cover about 150,000 hectares through technical studies and local outreach.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 6/1/08 to 3/31/09

Grantee: Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil

Strengthening the Multisectoral Round Table of the Natural and Cultural Zone of Mirador/Río Azul: A Tool for the Protection and Conservation of the Selva Maya

Continue support to the highly successful multi-stakeholder dialogue on the future direction of development in the Selva Maya of Guatemala through monthly meetings, development of a five-year strategy, and fundraising efforts.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 8/31/08

Grantee: Asociación Balam para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Culturales Integrados

Support for the Declaration of the Visis Caba Protected Area as a Community Reserve

Support the approval of a new category of protection — the community reserve — in the parks system of Guatemala and achieve such legal designation for Visis Caba, a forest in the Cuchumatanes key biodiversity area. Activities will include community and media outreach, and preparation of legal documents required for the new designation.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 6/1/08 to 5/31/09

Grantee: Asociación Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala

Support to the Guatemala Gap Analysis Process Under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Support the development and dissemination of a financial sustainability plan for the protected areas system as part of a broader effort to fulfill the government of Guatemala's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Funding: \$39,098

Grant Term: 10/1/06 to 12/31/08

Grantee: Conservation International

Technical and Community Support to Expand Volcán Tacaña Biosphere Reserve in Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico

Expand coverage of the Volcán Tacaña Biosphere Reserve to include the 40,000-hectares Boquerón Biological Corridor in Chiapas. Activities include baseline technical studies, community outreach, mapping and data systematization, and policy support for the enlargement processing.

Funding: \$49,976

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil

XXVIII International Course for Protected Areas: Buffer Zones and Biological Corridors for Ecosystem Management of Landscapes

Support training of five participants from organizations working to conserve key biodiversity areas in Northern Mesoamerica. Training involves intensive coursework and practical field work in various planning and implementation topics related to protected areas management.

Funding: \$17,500

Grant Term: 7/1/06 to 5/31/07

Grantee: Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza

Strategic Direction 3. Support priority conservation actions in three priority key biodiversity areas

Bladen Nature Reserve Protection Program

Fund park guards to patrol Bladen Nature Reserve on behalf of four local groups that manage the protected area to reduce pressures from illegal hunting and logging as a result of new road clearings and colonization near the area.

Funding: \$19,932

Grant Term: 8/1/05 to 9/30/06

Grantee: Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education

Developing an Integrated Strategy and Project Plan to Conserve the Chiquibul/ Maya Mountain Key Biodiversity Area in Belize

Support a consultative planning process to develop a joint proposal for CEPF and PACT funding. Key activities include a needs assessment forum with key stakeholders, initiation of exchange visits between Belizean and Guatemalan environmentalists, and development of a communication system for creating an alliance of protected area managers in the region.

Funding: \$10,321

Grant Term: 10/1/05 to 4/30/06

Grantee: Friends for Conservation and Development

Implementation of a Special Protection System Based on Strategic Alliances with Civil Society and Organizations in the Eastern Sector of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Its Surrounding Biological Corridor

Protect core areas of Laguna del Tigre from forest fires and new colonization during the upcoming dry season. This grant complements efforts by the government of Guatemala through support to local civil society for forest fire prevention and control, park patrolling and biological monitoring.

Funding: \$275,636

Grant Term: 3/1/05 to 4/30/08

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society International

Implementing Strategies for Inter-Institutional Coordination and Local Participation to Conserve the Selva Zoque Key Biodiversity Area

Strengthen basic management capacity and create new protected areas in one of Northern Mesoamerica's highest-ranked key biodiversity areas. This grant funds improved stakeholder cooperation across state levels, declaration of new protected areas, management of forest fires, conservation of six globally threatened species, and financial sustainability of project results.

Funding: \$400,000

Grant Term: 1/1/07 to 3/31/09

Grantee: Pronatura Chiapas, A.C.

Improving Management in the Core Areas of the Chiquibul/Maya Mountains

Create and maintain basic management capacity in one of Northern Mesoamerica's most intact yet increasingly threatened key biodiversity areas (KBAs). Strengthen management of Chiquibul National Park and Bladen Nature Reserve, and develop a KBA-wide conservation strategy in environmental education and improved binational cooperation.

Funding: \$439,376

Grant Term: 9/1/06 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Friends for Conservation and Development

Needs Assessment for Conserving the Key Biodiversity Areas of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Chiquibul-Montañas Mayas

Conduct conservation assessments of Laguna del Tigre and Chiquibul-Montañas Mayas using Parkswatch's standard evaluation methodology. Provide detailed information on threats, stakeholders, management capacity, data gaps and conservation status of biodiversity in these areas for the purposes of planning and monitoring CEPF's portfolio and other donor investments in these rapidly changing regions.

Funding: \$37,524

Grant Term: 9/1/04 to 6/30/05

Grantee: Asociación Trópico Verde / ParksWatch Guatemala

Protecting Biodiversity in the Selva Maya Corridor Through the Aerial Perspective

Fund the operational costs of providing CEPF partners in Northern Mesoamerica with access to flights in key biodiversity areas for threat assessments and fire prevention and detection, as well as for opportunities for community and civil society education.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 6/30/08

Grantee: LightHawk

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in the Governance of Laguna del Tigre National Park

Support local civil society participation in the Management Council of Laguna del Tigre National Park and assure appropriate financial allocations from the government for park management. This grant will fund local participation of key management meetings, outreach to media and park monitoring.

Funding: \$18,000

Grant Term: 8/1/08 to 7/31/09

Grantee: Asociación Centro de Acción Legal-Ambiental y Social de Guatemala

Sustainable Financing of Biodiversity Conservation in Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve through the Establishment of Motagua/Polochic Water Fund

Establish a fund to enable downstream water users in the Motagua-Polochic watershed to support conservation activities in the upper watershed where the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve is located. Key outputs include strengthening capacity of local conservation committees.

Funding: \$352,068

Grant Term: 9/1/05 to 6/30/08

Grantee: Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

Updating the Master Plan for Laguna del Tigre National Park: Definition of a New Model for Internal Zoning

Update the management plan for Laguna Del Tigre National Park in Guatemala to put the park on a stronger path toward conservation. Building on renewed government commitment to the park and working through an alliance of local groups and the Guatemalan park service, update the park's zoning plan, develop an administrative structure built on co-management with Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas and local groups, and prepare an investment plan.

Funding: \$40,000

Grant Term: 9/1/04 to 3/31/06

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Strategic Direction 4. Support efforts to prevent the extinction of Northern Mesoamerica's 106 Critically Endangered species

A Risk Assessment of the Bats of the Greater Maya Mountains of Belize

Assess the state of bats in the Greater Maya Mountain Massif and develop management recommendations for safeguarding those species facing imminent extinction. In addition, raise awareness among various stakeholders of the importance of conserving bats for ecosystem health.

Funding: \$33,900

Grant Term: 2/1/08 to 7/31/09

Grantee: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Biogeographical Patterns of Freshwater Fishes in Honduras

Survey key areas for freshwater fish endemism and threat, and issue recommendations for their conservation. Activities will include disseminating results among key stakeholders and publishing findings, training local students to conserve freshwater fishes, and developing awareness about fish conservation.

Funding: \$38,533

Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 10/1/08

Grantee: The University of Southern Mississippi

Community Capacity-Building Program for Conservation Leadership at Five AZE Sites in Honduras and El Salvador

Increase community conservation capacity in five Alliance for Zero Extinction sites to protect Critically Endangered amphibians. The expected results include 40 community leaders trained in species conservation, baseline conservation information gathered, community conservation projects launched, and educational material produced and distributed.

Funding: \$100,000

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: SalvaNATURA Fundación Ecológica de El Salvador

Consolidation of a Strategy to Protect Globally Critically Endangered Species in Northern Mesoamerica

Provide strategic and scientific leadership to achieve CEPF's species conservation strategic direction. Activities include working with partners to develop an action plan to conserve the region's globally Critically Endangered species; facilitating development of partner proposals to implement the action plan; promoting the establishment of an alliance for species conservation; and co-designing a small grants fund.
Funding: \$207,664
Grant Term: 11/1/05 to 12/31/09
Grantee: Conservation International

Country-wide Conservation and Management Assessment of Critically Endangered Amphibians in Honduras

Survey 12 sites important for the conservation of Critically Endangered amphibians to assess their populations and threats. Make conservation recommendations for amphibian conservation, and build awareness and capacity among relevant stakeholders (including government, nongovernmental organizations, and students) based on the results.
Funding: \$44,544
Grant Term: 1/1/08 to 1/31/09
Grantee: University of Florida

Development of a Regional Conservation Strategy for Critically Endangered Trees and Epiphytes of Northern Mesoamerica

Create a regional strategy to conserve threatened trees and epiphytes in northern Mesoamerica through gathering and disseminating distribution and abundance data for focal species, defining national and regional conservation strategies for them, and building a network of regional botanical institutions to foster better coordination of research and conservation activities.
Funding: \$92,600
Grant Term: 11/1/07 to 3/31/09
Grantee: Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano

Enhancing the Site Specific and National Population Viability of Threatened Upper Elevation Amphibian Species of the Maya Mountain Massif in Belize

Conduct field surveys to assess amphibian populations in Belize and examine threats to their survival, including climate change, the chytrid fungus and pesticides. Results of the surveys will help to develop a national conservation action plan, improve awareness of amphibian conservation in the country, and strengthen technical capacity of key stakeholders.
Funding: \$51,524
Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 8/31/09
Grantee: Wildtracks

Evaluating the Conservation Status of Critically Endangered Amphibians in Eight Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites in Guatemala

Survey priority Alliance for Zero Extinction sites where Critically Endangered amphibians are located to ascertain these species' conservation status and the degree of infestation of the chytrid fungus. Results will include a needs assessment describing the status of the target amphibians in these sites and proposing conservation actions as needed.
Funding: \$84,635
Grant Term: 5/1/08 to 12/31/09
Grantee: Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación

Exchange and Consolidation of Information on Regional Research on Critically Endangered Species in Northern Mesoamerica AZE Sites

Create synergies and exchange information among eight CEPF grantees who are addressing the needs of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites and Critically Endangered species in northern Mesoamerica.

Funding: \$16,972

Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 3/31/08

Grantee: Sociedad Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación y su Capítulo México, A. C.

Exchanging Information on the Importance of the AZE Sites for Conservation in Mesoamerica

Support CEPF partner participation in the meeting of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation in November 2008. Partners will exchange experiences in carrying out studies to conserve globally threatened species and develop an action plan.

Funding: \$19,580

Grant Term: 9/1/08 to 3/31/09

Grantee: SalvaNATURA Fundación Ecológica de El Salvador

Global Mammal Assessment: Mesoamerica Assessment

Conduct a systematic assessment of all rodents, bats, marsupials and shrews in Northern Mesoamerica using expert opinion and established criteria for evaluating threat and conservation for each species. Data will be combined with other species assessments to evaluate all mammalian species in the region for the 2007 IUCN Red List.

Funding: \$19,449

Grant Term: 12/1/06 to 8/31/08

Grantee: Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano

Preparation of a Strategy to Conserve Critically Endangered Species in Northern Mesoamerica

Support a meeting of experts to lay the groundwork for developing a strategy to conserve the region's globally Critically Endangered species. The meeting's objectives are to gather information on these species, identify key aspects of a species conservation action plan, and establish an alliance of conservationists and scientists committed to their conservation.

Funding: \$38,162

Grant Term: 5/1/06 to 7/31/06

Grantee: Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano

Small Grants for Global Conservation of Amphibian Diversity Within Hotspots

Develop and implement the Amphibian Action Fund aimed at the long-term conservation of amphibian species, and their habitats, within biodiversity hotspots around the globe. This fund will make available small grants of up to \$10,000 to be awarded to individuals and groups working within the hotspots on targeted amphibian conservation activities.

Funding: \$36,000

Grant Term: 7/1/05 to 9/30/09

Grantee: Arizona State University

This is a multiregional project covering seven hotspots; the total grant amount is \$200,000.

Strategy Development to Conserve Critically Endangered Amphibians in Chiapas, Mexico

Support the development of a strategy to address the decline of amphibians in the Mexican state of Chiapas. The grant funds the strengthening of the network of experts and institutions working on amphibian conservation, work with various partners to develop a needs assessment, and development of a species conservation strategy.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 12/1/08 to 12/31/09

Grantee: Instituto de Historia Natural

Surveying Sites Containing Highly Threatened and Data Deficient Species in Southern Mexico

Assess five Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites in southern Mexico by gathering environmental and habitat data and by confirming the presence of six trigger species and nine other globally threatened vertebrate species.

Funding: \$19,989

Grant Term: 10/1/07 to 8/31/09

Grantee: John Lamoreux

Appendix B. Leveraging Data for Northern Mesoamerica

Project Title	Grantee	CEPF Funds Agreed	Leveraged & Co-Financing Funds
XXVIII International Course for Protected Areas: Buffer Zones and Biological Corridors for Ecosystem Management of Landscapes	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza	\$17,500	\$30,000
A National Co-Management Policy for Protected Areas in Belize	Programme for Belize	\$126,588	\$200,201
A Risk Assessment of the Bats of the Greater Maya Mountains of Belize	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$33,900	\$36,345
Analysis and Recommendations for Improving Land Tenure Policy for Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala	Fundación Para El Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y Su Entorno	\$55,806	\$23,800
Biogeographical Patterns of Freshwater Fishes in Honduras	The University of Southern Mississippi	\$38,533	\$30,735
Bladen Nature Reserve Protection Program	Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education	\$19,932	\$40,125
Building a Model for Carbon Coffee for the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico	El Colegio de la Frontera Sur	\$20,000	\$13,923
Building a Model of Conservation Coffee and Carbon Credit in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas	Cooperativa AMBIO Sociedad Cooperativa de Responsabilidad Limitada	\$142,983	\$136,100
Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Laguna del Tigre National Park	Wildlife Conservation Society	\$20,000	\$6,000
Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in the Sierra Lacandon National Park	Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza	\$18,525	\$9,500
Building Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Enterprises in Northern Mesoamerica	Rainforest Alliance, Inc.	\$70,870	\$288,000
Community Capacity Building Program for Conservation Leadership at Five AZE Sites in Honduras and El Salvador	SalvaNATURA Fundación Ecológica de El Salvador	\$100,000	\$22,800
Creating the Category of Indigenous and Communal Natural Areas in the Guatemala Protected Areas Law	Asociación SOTZ'IL ONG	\$20,000	\$6,300
Design of Conservation Incentives Mechanisms for Guatemala	Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala	\$32,633	\$7,700
Developing a Strategy for Sustainable Tourism for Biodiversity Conservation in the States of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico	Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Asociación Civil	\$125,000	\$41,761

Developing an Integrated Strategy and Project Plan to Conserve the Chiquibul/ Maya Mountain Key Biodiversity Area in Belize	Friends for Conservation and Development	\$10,321	\$12,465
Developing Recommendations and an Action Plan to Integrate Biodiversity Conservation into Tourism Policy in Belize and Guatemala	Counterpart International	\$136,212	\$20,000
Development of a Regional Conservation Strategy for Critically Endangered Trees and Epiphytes of Northern Mesoamerica	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano	\$92,600	\$88,176
Enhancing the Site Specific and National Population Viability of Threatened Upper-Elevation Amphibian Species of the Maya Mountain Massif in Belize	Wildtracks	\$51,524	\$131,209
Establishing a Baseline to Monitor Species and Key Biodiversity Areas in Belize	Belize Tropical Forest Studies	\$13,000	\$4,000
Establishment and Initial Management Support for Three New Protected Areas in Cuchumatanes Key Biodiversity Area in Guatemala	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación	\$90,493	\$3,150,346
Evaluating the Conservation Status of Critically Endangered Amphibians in Eight Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites in Guatemala	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación	\$84,635	\$280,450
Exchanging CEPF Grantee Experience and Lessons Learned in Protected Areas Management in Northern Mesoamerica at the Mesoamerican Protected Areas Congress II	Conservation International	\$19,544	\$900
Fostering Stakeholder Coordination in the Selva Maya through Ecoregional Planning and Alliance Building	The Nature Conservancy	\$106,600	\$1,049,500
Global Mammal Assessment: Mesoamerica Assessment	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano	\$19,449	\$42,000
Identification and Prioritization of National Policies on Agriculture and Land Use that Affect Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala	Fundación Kukulcan	\$93,000	\$12,000
Identifying Important Bird Areas in Belize and Guatemala	BirdLife International	\$19,900	\$220,119
Implementation of a Special Protection System Based on Strategic Alliances with Civil Society and Organizations in the Eastern Sector of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Its Surrounding Biological Corridor	Wildlife Conservation Society International	\$275,636	\$655,000

Implementing Strategies for Inter-Institutional Coordination and Local Participation to Conserve the Selva Zoque Key Biodiversity Area	Pronatura Chiapas, A.C.	\$400,000	\$121,000
Improving Management in the Core Areas of the Chiquibul/Maya Mountains	Friends for Conservation and Development	\$439,376	\$648,828
Mitigating the Impacts on Biodiversity of Road Construction in the Calakmul Key Biodiversity Area and the Selva Maya Biosphere Reserve	Pronatura Península de Yucatán Asociación Civil	\$171,064	\$30,696
Needs Assessment for Conserving the Key Biodiversity Areas of Laguna del Tigre National Park and Chiquibul-Montañas Mayas	Asociación Trópico Verde / ParksWatch Guatemala	\$37,524	\$18,000
Policy Development and Outreach to Support Private Protected Areas in Belize	Belize Association of Private Protected Areas	\$17,000	\$17,175
Preparation of a Strategy to Conserve Critically Endangered Species in Northern Mesoamerica	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano	\$38,162	\$6,968
Preparing a Binational Guatemalan – Mexican Action Plan to Conserve the Biological Corridor between Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and Mirador - Rio Azul National Park	Asociación Balam para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Culturales Integrados	\$20,000	\$148,000
Protecting Biodiversity in the Selva Maya Corridor Through the Aerial Perspective	LightHawk	\$20,000	\$70,000
Securing Official Certification for the Voluntary Conservation of Critical Ecosystems in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico	Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica, Asociación Civil	\$50,000	\$63,000
Sharing Successes and Lessons Learned in Northern Mesoamerica via the Eco-Index	Rainforest Alliance	\$126,763	\$120,000
Strategic Leadership for Outcomes Achievement in Northern Mesoamerica	Conservation International	\$1,023,631	\$552,530
Strengthening Local Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Four Key Biodiversity Areas of Mexico and Guatemala	Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.	\$112,525	\$73,000
Strengthening Municipal and State-Level Public Policy and Institutional Frameworks to Improve Fire Management in Southeast Mexico	Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.	\$60,700	\$45,000
Strengthening Protection of La Fraileskana Forest and Corridor in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas Key Biodiversity Area	Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil	\$20,000	\$14,200
Strengthening Public Policy Related to Forest Fire Management in Belize and Guatemala	The Nature Conservancy	\$141,355	\$35,281

Strengthening Public Policy to Mitigate the Impacts of Road Development in the Maya Biosphere Reserve through Public Outreach	Fundación Kukulcan	\$100,000	\$30,000
Strengthening the Multisectoral Round Table of the Natural and Cultural Zone of Mirador/Río Azul: A Tool for the Protection and Conservation of the Selva Maya	Asociación Balam para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Culturales Integrados	\$20,000	\$4,858,000
Support for the Guatemala Debt-for-Nature Swap	Conservation International	\$300,000	\$23,700,000
Support to the Guatemala Gap Analysis Process Under the Convention on Biological Diversity	Conservation International	\$39,098	\$250,000
Sustainable Financing of Biodiversity Conservation in Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve through the Establishment of Motagua/Polochic Water Fund	Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza	\$352,068	\$53,000
Sustainable Nature Tourism in the Sierra Madre and Selva el Ocote, Chiapas, Mexico	Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo, Asociación Civil	\$58,251	\$56,900
Technical and Community Support to Expand Volcán Tacaña Biosphere Reserve in Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico	Ecobiosfera El Triunfo, Sociedad Civil	\$49,976	\$123,200
Third International Meeting on Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development in the Petén	Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales	\$12,840	\$36,070
Additional CEPF Grants in Region (Total grants without known leverage funding)		\$1,758,382	
Total Funding (total grant \$ + total leverage \$)		\$7,223,899	\$37,630,303

Appendix C. Reporting Against Standard World Bank Biodiversity Indicators

Impacts on:	Has the project produced impacts?	Quantitative information on changes	Comments on changes, including qualitative information
Expanding protected areas	Yes	Official certification of communal lands for voluntary conservation in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico. (4,278 hectares) Todos Santos Cuchumatanes Municipal Reserve, Guatemala (7,168 hectares)	Voluntary certification of community lands improves connectivity between protected areas.
	Planned	Uxpanapa Valley Biosphere Reserve, Mexico (330,021 hectares) La Frailescana Natural Reserve, Mexico expanded (27,448 hectares) Volcán Tacaná Biosphere Reserve, Mexico expanded (40,000 hectares) Official certification of five communal lands for voluntary conservation in Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico (18,285 hectares) Cerro Cruz Maltin Municipal Reserve, Guatemala (6,334 hectares) Sierra de los Cuchumatanes private protected areas, Guatemala (1,247 hectares) Visis Caba Indigenous Reserve, Guatemala (45,000 hectares)	The expansion of La Frailescana Natural Reserve will improve the connectivity between two neighboring reserves: La Sepultura and el Triunfo Biosphere Reserves. The expansion of the Tacaná Biosphere Reserve will permit connectivity between three protected areas: La Sepultura, El Triunfo and Tacaná Volcano. Voluntary certification of community lands improves connectivity between protected areas.
Improving management effectiveness of protected areas	Yes	Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala (242,642 hectares). Laguna del Tigre National Park, Guatemala (239,000 hectares) Todos Santos Cuchumatanes Municipal Reserve, Guatemala (7,069 hectares) Bladen Nature Reserve, Belize (40,336 hectares) Chiquibul National Park (106,839 hectares) Chiquibul Forest Reserve, Belize (59,822 hectares) Mirador Rio Azul National Park and Dos Lagunas National Biotope (166,411 hectares) Selva El Ocote Biosphere Reserve (101,288 hectares)	For the listed protected areas: - management plans were developed and implemented; - capacity building was provided; - mechanisms for sustainable financing established; - critical threats mitigated.
Area of production	Yes	Carbon offsets sold to voluntary markets in	"Scolel – te" program that

<p>systems that involve improving sustainable use of biodiversity resources</p>		<p>addition to conservation coffee, Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico. (57 hectares)</p> <p>Todos Santos Cuchumatanes Municipal Reserve under improved resource management. (772 hectares)</p> <p>Improved fire management in six protected areas: Selva El Ocote, La Sepultura, Montes Azules and Calakmul in Mexico, and Laguna del Tigre and Lacadona in Guatemala.</p> <p>Ecotourism projects improved in the buffer zones of three key biodiversity areas: Lacandonia, Cuchumatanes and Selva Zoque.</p> <p>In Sierra de las Minas, improved water resources management involving five municipalities, and more than 30 communities.</p>	<p>implements Plan Vivo® tools is now being implemented at Sierra Madre de Chiapas, Mexico; close to 700 tons of carbon were sold during 2008, at \$10/ ton. There is a commitment of 1,677.96 tons of CO2 during the next five years.</p> <p>Six cooperatives participated in improved potato and sheep production and forestry which have led to increased income and improved soil and forest quality.</p> <p>More than 200 community members and park management staff trained in fire management. Grantees report a reduction of uncontrolled forest fires.</p> <p>Community ecotourism enterprises strengthened for local and international tourism.</p>
<p>Percentage of beneficiaries engaged in improved livelihoods based on sustainable NR management (or sustainable harvesting)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>In the Sierra Madre de Chiapas, 58 producers established agroforestry systems and sold carbon credits in the voluntary market. Another 250 new producers have joined the program for future payments. (100 percent - 143 producers)</p> <p>Todos Santos Cuchumatanes Municipal Reserve under improved resource management (100 percent of target)</p> <p>Areas in Todos Santos Cuchumatanes under improved management through soil regeneration and protection, natural regeneration, forest management and reforestation activities.</p>	<p>Several projects generated income for local communities, but this data has not been tracked systematically.</p>

<p>Changes in sectoral policies, laws and regulations and their application, changes in institutional arrangements, responsibilities and effectiveness, to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Mexico</u> The states of Veracruz, Chiapas and Oaxaca reach agreement on a regional vision and coordination mechanisms to conserve the Selva Zoque, Northern Mesoamerica's most biologically diverse key biodiversity area.</p> <p>The government of Campeche agreed to design a major highway that impacts the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve in order to mitigate impacts on the environment.</p> <p>Fire control policies in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Campeche in Mexico were developed and adopted.</p> <p>Legal frameworks and strategies have been developed and adopted to promote nature tourism in Chiapas and Campeche. Four Mexican municipalities have adopted fire prevention and control strategies.</p> <p>The state of Chiapas developed an amphibian conservation plan.</p> <p><u>Guatemala</u> The Guatemalan National Park Service (CONAP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local communities, and environmentalists agreed not to permit new roads in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. The official government policy now supports that agreement.</p> <p>A national forest fire policy was developed in Guatemala.</p> <p>A memorandum of understanding was signed between the between the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, the National Council of Protect Areas and the National Forestry Institute to begin harmonizing their programs and conducting joint planning each year for environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The Guatemala Park Service CONAP adopted an improved framework to promote tourism in protected areas.</p> <p>New legislation was prepared for approval to create a new category of protected areas in Guatemala for indigenous/communal lands.</p> <p><u>Belize</u> Belize's protected areas policies are in the process of being strengthened with the preparation of a new co-management policy and strengthening of policy on private protected areas.</p>	
--	------------	--	--

		<p>Amphibian conservation action plan was developed.</p> <p>National forest fires and tourism policies and strategies were developed.</p> <p><u>Regional</u> Joint conservation actions between four institutions were designed and implemented along the Belize-Guatemala border.</p> <p>Regional assessments and strategies developed to avoid the extinction of the most critically endangered amphibians, trees, and epiphytes in the region.</p>	
Sharing of benefits between and/or in countries, arising from the use of genetic resources	Not applicable		
Other impacts (e.g. increase in scientific understanding and knowledge base for biodiversity conservation)	Yes	<p>A debt swap in Guatemala yielded a total of \$24 million of new funding for conservation for 15 years. Five priority key biodiversity areas are eligible for funding. To date, \$1.6 million has been awarded.</p> <p>At least 53 Critically Endangered species were assessed in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and Honduras, most of them amphibians. These assessments covered 26 AZE sites in Northern Mesoamerica. Follow up conservation activities have occurred in seven sites.</p> <p>Conservation outcomes were refined for Northern Mesoamerica to update species and sites of high conservation value. In addition, a forest cover analysis was developed for Southern Mexico and parts of Guatemala, which shows areas deforested from 1990 to 2005.</p> <p>A hotspot-wide inventory of infrastructure was prepared for Mesoamerica.</p> <p>Economic and environmental analyses were conducted for proposed infrastructure projects: Roads in the greater Selva Maya forest and the Maya Biosphere Reserve, and dam construction on the Usumacinta River.</p>	

		<p>Assessment on freshwater fishes in Honduras developed showed the great diversity, found new species for the country, identified species status and management needs.</p> <p>A mammal assessment for IUCN Red Listing was completed.</p> <p>An assessment of bats in Belize showed threats and conservation needs for bats. Conservation guidelines were developed and disseminated.</p>	
--	--	--	--

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202, USA
cepf@conservation.org

www.cepf.net