

### Caribbean Islands

With the conclusion of national workshops in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, and the completion of virtual discussions with stakeholders in the Bahamas and eastern Caribbean this past summer, the ecosystem profiling team focused on drafting the profile and gathering data to update the list of Key Biodiversity Areas using the new standard. On January 10, 2018, leading conservationists met in Kingston, Jamaica, to review and validate the CEPF investment strategy.



The ecosystem profiling team is led by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) with the assistance of BirdLife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG).

The biodiversity hotspot's strategic directions will be:

1. Improve the protection and management of [a yet-to-be-determined number of] priority KBAs for long-term sustainability.
2. Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in [a yet-to-be-determined number of] priority corridors.
3. Safeguard [a yet-to-be-determined number of] priority globally threatened species.
4. Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation.
5. Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration.
6. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (RIT).

The preliminary number of priority KBAs is 36.

### Mountains of Central Asia

The Secretariat requested “no objection” endorsement from the GEF Operational Focal Points for the seven countries in the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot. To date, CEPF has received endorsements from Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

## Updates from the Hotspots

---

### Indo-Burma

During October and November, CEPF Executive Director Olivier Langrand and Managing Director Jack Tordoff visited Lao PDR and Myanmar. For the Myanmar portion, they were joined by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies' Director of the Environment Program Alan Holt and Program Officer Shelley Shreffler along with the Helmsley Charitable Trust's Program Officer



Lillian Cheng and Grants Manager Adam Sanders. The trip provided an opportunity to learn about the CEPF portfolio in the country, which the two foundations are supporting as regional donors. The trip included a roundtable meeting of local and international groups involved in freshwater biodiversity conservation in the basin of the Ayeyarwady, the major river in Myanmar. Participants shared insights into environmental problems and the effectiveness of different responses to them.

The visit also featured site visits to two grantees working in Kachin State in the far north of the country. One of these, Fauna & Flora International, is an international NGO, piloting fish conservation zones as a model for co-management of fisheries resources by local communities. The other, The Northern Green Lights, is an indigenous peoples organization, working to integrate gibbon conservation into the management of community forests. The trip allowed CEPF and its regional donors to reflect on progress to date and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

### Cerrado

Thanks to the initiative of the Cerrado Regional Implementation Team Leader Michael Becker, the Meridian Institute is convening a small group of donors supporting conservation-focused work in the Cerrado on 21 February 2018 in Washington, D.C. The meeting is being supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information and explore opportunities for greater synergy in donor interest in supporting conservation activities in the biodiversity hotspot. Participants invited to date include: CEPF, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Global Environment Facility, Climate and Land Use Alliance, Partnership For Forests, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Ford Foundation and Good Energies.



So far this fiscal year, five large grants totaling US\$814,481 have been awarded in the hotspot.

## Updates from the Hotspots

---

### Tropical Andes

Andean grants made strong progress on achieving their targets in the last quarter, particularly with respect to several ecotourism projects. For example, the Calidris Association completed designs and local consultations for the Paraguas–Munchique Western Colombia Birding Trail in Colombia, which has leveraged funding from local municipalities and the tourism ministry for implementation. A new call for proposals opened in mid-January.

So far this fiscal year, one large grant for US\$94,449 has been awarded in the hotspot.

### Guinean Forests of West Africa

The recent supervision mission to the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot took place in Accra, Ghana, with Grant Director Peggy Poncelet and the entire RIT at BirdLife International. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss upcoming staffing arrangements with the approaching end to the contract of the current team leader in March 2018.



For the replacement of the team leader, there are three criteria for selecting the candidate:

- To be based in the hotspot with good access to the locations of the other RIT members.
- To be fully dedicated to this program and position.
- To have strong knowledge of the West African context.

Subsequently, BirdLife International decided to externalize the recruitment. Interviews are expected in late January for a preferred starting date in March 2018 to allow for a one month overlap with Tommy Garnett, the current team leader. Right from the start of the CEPF GFWA investment, the Mr. Garnett had expressed his desire to occupy this position for a limited period (18 months) so as to set the team on a solid path before heading back to much-needed support in his own country (Sierra Leone). With this recruitment, we are looking forward to a smooth transition.

So far this fiscal year, four large grants totaling US\$1,157,457 have been awarded in the hotspot.

## Updates from the Hotspots

---

### Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

The regional implementation team has welcomed a new team leader, Tolotra Ramanarivosoa, who joined Fondation Tany Meva in January. Three additional team members also recently began positions within the RIT: a new program officer, Mahandry Rakotovao, and two part-time focal points, Olivier Tyack for Mauritius and the Seychelles and Sohibou Mhoumadi for the Comoros.

So far this fiscal year, seven large grants and one small grant have been awarded in the hotspot, totaling US\$738,820.

### Mediterranean Basin

CEPF's second investment in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot began in October 2017, with the hiring of BirdLife International as the regional implementation team (RIT) with a grant of US\$1,649,786. After a training and strategic meeting held in Rochefort, France, with the RIT, the first call for proposals under CEPF's second investment was launched in early December. The call focuses on Strategic Direction 1 (coastal zone management) and Strategic Direction 4 (plant conservation). Proposals are expected from Albania, Cabo Verde, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Tunisia and Morocco. The GEF focal point endorsements have so far been received for all countries except Algeria, Egypt, Turkey, and Bosnia and Hercegovina.



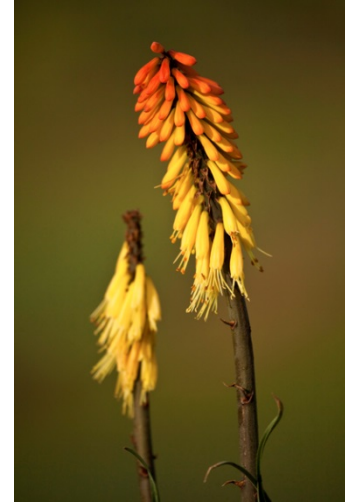
### Eastern Afrotropics

One investment priority in the Eastern Afrotropics ecosystem profile is to achieve sustainable financing for Key Biodiversity Area management through the promotion of payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes. In 2016, CEPF made four awards to explore this concept, and the results of these grants are now helping us better understand this niche for CEPF. Apart from wanting to have four successful projects, we were eager to know whether the typical CEPF grant was a suitable vehicle for promoting PES. Approaching the end of each of these grants, we have the beginnings of an answer.

## Updates from the Hotspots

---

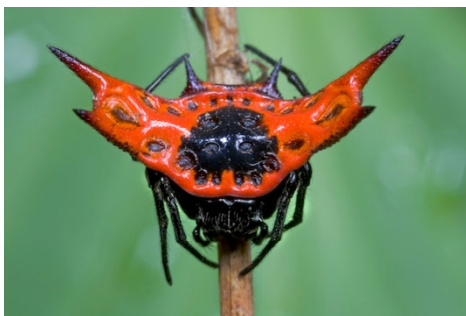
One of the grants, to the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT), working in the Chyulu Hills of Kenya, stands separate from the others because it deals with forest carbon and because CEPF joined at the end of a longer story. MWCT and its partners had been working for more than seven years, and with funding from international donors, had spent more than US\$1.5 million to develop Chyulu Hills REDD +, a project that would sell forest-based carbon credits on the voluntary market, with revenues for use by local communities. CEPF came in at the crucial, final minute to support emissions reduction quantification, verification, and social and biological monitoring, which enabled the project's first-ever sale, raising US\$237,600 for community-based natural resource management. Perhaps grant-making opportunities like this, queued up for success, are relatively few, but when they do arise, CEPF is nimble enough to fill the gap.



The other three grants are based on water flows, and with these, CEPF joined toward the beginning of the story. CEPF made awards to the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT), Nature Kenya and Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO). Each of the organizations has engaged upstream “sellers” of water services; tried to identify, and cultivate, downstream “buyers” of water services; and, worked to broker deals between the two. Each of these grantees has taken important steps: CSWCT in establishing the “willingness to accept” price that small farmers demand per hectare to better manage riparian forest corridors; Nature Kenya is convincing local industry to make “corporate social responsibility” contributions prior to the development of a formal market mechanism; and KENVO in promoting county-level policy changes that allow buyers and sellers to enter into more secure deals.

So far this fiscal year, two large grants and eight small grants have been awarded in the hotspot, totaling US\$413,055.

### East Melanesian Islands



In December, Grant Director Michele Zador conducted a supervision mission to Suva, Fiji, to visit several grantees and the regional implementation team (RIT) at IUCN Oceania. Supervision of the RIT included a financial review of the small grant portfolio, review of large grant letters of inquiry recently submitted from a call for proposals, an assessment of performance of the portfolio and the RIT, and planning for the remainder of fiscal year 2018. They also devoted time to planning for the mid-

## Updates from the Hotspots

---

term assessment and long-term visioning exercise to take place in July 2018 in the Solomon Islands.

So far this fiscal year, five large grants and four small grants have been awarded in the hotspot, totaling US\$268,232.

### Wallacea

In January, Grant Director Dan Rothberg and Grants Manager Florencia Renedo traveled to Indonesia for a supervision mission. Conservation International's Director of Software Product Management Julie Feldman accompanied them to provide ConservationGrants training to the regional implementation team based in West Java.

Photos (top to bottom): Endangered Jamaican blackbird (*Nesopsar nigerrimus*). © O. Langrand; CEPF Managing Director Jack Tordoff in the Ayeyarwady Delta. © O. Langrand; Endangered pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*). © Alexander Kondakov/Alamy Stock Photo; Mediterranean Basin Regional Implementation Team in France. © Conservation International; Red hot poker (*Kniphofia* sp.) in Ethiopia. © Robin Moore/ iLCP; Spiked spider (*Gasteracantha* sp.) in Solomon Islands. © Piotr Naskrecki