



Indo-Burma Hotspot

Indochina Region

CEPF INVESTMENT PLANNED

\$9.5 million

QUICK FACTS

Indochina has a human population of around 200 million people, most living in rural areas.

Lowland evergreen forests have been so severely affected that few intact areas remain—all remaining blocks of lowland evergreen forest are of critical conservation importance.

37 percent of key biodiversity areas are not included within formal protected areas, and this proportion is as high as 65 percent in Vietnam.

Unregulated, unsustainable, and generally illegal overexploitation has driven many animal species in the region to the verge of extinction in the wild, and severely suppressed populations of others.

Encompassing more than 2 million square kilometers of tropical Asia, Indo-Burma is one of the most threatened of Earth's 34 biodiversity hotspots. Only about 5 percent of its natural habitats remain in relatively pristine condition.

These habitats represent forest, coastal and freshwater ecosystems that support a large number of globally threatened species and provide for the livelihoods of a substantial proportion of the region's human population.

THREATS

The combination of economic development and an increasing human population is creating unprecedented pressures on the region's natural resources. Overexploitation has reached critical levels in many areas, compounded by a lack of effective planning and management to control these pressures.

Habitat loss is also pervasive. Commercial logging and conversion of forest to cash crops such as sugar, tea, coffee, palm oil and rubber are significant causes of forest loss. Intensification and expansion of agriculture in many lowland areas has resulted in extensive drainage and conversion of wetlands.

CEPF INVESTMENT STRATEGY

CEPF provides grants enabling nongovernmental organizations and other private sector entities to protect vital ecosystems.

The CEPF five-year investment strategy for this hotspot focuses on Indochina, which includes Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as parts of southern China. CEPF formally launched its investment in this

CEPF investments in the Indo-Burma Hotspot (right) focus on the conservation of two landscapes in the Indochina region and 28 key biodiversity areas within them.



region in August 2008 following selection of BirdLife International in Indochina as the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.

The premise underlying the CEPF niche developed with stakeholders in this region is that conservation investment should be targeted where it can have maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities, while supporting the livelihoods of some of the poorest sections of society.

Supported activities include efforts to safeguard globally threatened species, which is a huge funding gap in this region. Funding is also provided for development of innovative, locally led approaches to site-based conservation, and for engaging key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives.

Conservation of two large landscapes—the Northern Highlands Limestone, and Mekong River and Major Tributaries biodiversity conservation corridors—and 28 key biodiversity areas within them is emphasized. Sixty-seven animal species and the 248 globally threatened plant species are also priorities for investment.

The Northern Highlands Limestone Corridor bordering China and Vietnam is particularly important for the conservation of primates. It is also of global importance for plant conservation, supporting many unique species and the region's richest assemblages of conifer species.

The Mekong River and Major Tributaries Corridor stretches across Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Thailand and represents the best examples of Indochina's remaining riverine ecosystems.

Strategic Funding Directions

CEPF investments in this region are guided by three strategic directions and related investment priorities, a full description of which can be found on www.cepf.net. Each project must be linked to a strategic direction to be approved for funding:

1. Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors
2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action
3. Engage key actors in reconciling biodiversity conservation and development objectives, with a particular emphasis on the Northern Limestone Highlands and Mekong River and its major tributaries

A fourth strategic direction is designed for the Regional Implementation Team to provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment.



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Among the investment priorities for CEPF is to assess the global threat status of selected freshwater taxa and integrate the results into planning processes for the conservation of wetland biodiversity and development plans in the Mekong River and its major tributaries.

ABOUT US

CEPF is a joint program 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. As one of the founding partners, CI administers the program.

CEPF provides grants to nongovernmental organizations and other private sector partners to help safeguard biodiversity hotspots—the biologically richest and most threatened regions on Earth. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in conserving the hotspots.

BirdLife International in Indochina acts as the CEPF Regional Implementation Team for Indochina.

LEARN MORE

For more information about CEPF, the strategy for this region and how to apply for grants, visit www.cepf.net or www.birdlifeindochina.org or e-mail cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn.