

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement 30 April 2010

CEPF Financial Summary and Thirteenth Spending Plan

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked to **review** and **approve** the Thirteenth Spending Plan on a no-objection basis. The Plan sets out the budget for grants and operations totaling \$17.7 million for the period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013.

The deadline for no-objection approval is 15 May 2012.

A summary of expenditures through 31 March 2012 against the Twelfth Spending Plan is attached for information.

Background:

In accordance with the CEPF's Operational Manual (Section OM 2.1 Rev), CEPF shall prepare an annual spending plan no later than 30 April of each year for review and approval by the Donor Council. The plan describes the proposed funding levels of the spending categories for CEPF during the next fiscal year (1 July 2012-30 June 2013).

The Thirteenth Spending Plan provides for CEPF's operational budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. The Plan does not increase the authority to grant and commit funding, which remains at \$174,750,000.

The Secretariat has included in the Ecosystem Grants (page 1) the projected disbursement and new grant award amounts for East Melanesia Islands that is currently under profiling, as well as an amount for pending regions, to be discussed and approved by the Donor Council during its 21st meeting on 11 June 2012. The pending regions will include the prioritized regions for investment recommended by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Working Group following the decision of the Donor Council during its 20th meeting held on 6 February 2012.

In the Grant Making and Monitoring of the Operations budget (page 2), the Secretariat has included, in the personnel line, \$50,000 for the additional monitoring staff that will be presented to the Donor Council for approval in preparation for its 21st meeting on 11 June 2012.

The Fundraising budget included in the Special Projects table includes costs of fundraising efforts namely travel and special events. These efforts will be targeted to the European Commission and the Governments of India, the United Kingdom and Norway as well as opportunities for showcasing CEPF's results in Global Meetings such as the World Conservation Congress to be convened in Jeju, Korea in September 2012.

The Secretariat has included in the Preparation (Ecosystem Profiles) budget (page 2) the projected amounts for the ecosystem profiles for two new hotspots and the updates of two regions where CEPF has previously invested. These regions are pending discussion and approval of the Donor Council during its 21st meeting on 11 June 2012.

Pending approval of the Donor Council on 11 June 2012, the balance of the \$20 million consolidation portfolio (page 1) will be allocated to be invested in a new hotspot or a region where CEPF has previously invested.

The Donor Council is in the process of approving the selection of Birdlife as the RIT for the Mediterranean Basin hotspot so that CEPF can proceed with awards in the region. The delay in the appointment of the RIT resulted in the granting in this region being slower than originally anticipated. The proposed awards for this region for FY13 are thus higher than those proposed for FY12 in an effort to compensate for the delay.