

## **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

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

30 April 2013

### **CEPF Financial Summary, Fourteenth Spending Plan and increase in Spending Authority for Western Ghats**

#### **Recommended Action Item:**

The Donor Council is asked to **review and approve** the Fourteenth 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 2013 – 30 June 2014.

A summary of expenditures through 31 March 2013 against the Thirteenth Spending Plan is attached for information.

The Donor Council is also asked to **approve on a no-objection basis** an increase of \$77,000 for the Western Ghats Hotspot from the consolidation portfolio effectively increasing the spending authority to \$6.077 million.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **17 May 2013**.

#### **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.

The Fourteenth Spending Plan provides for CEPF's operational budget for fiscal year 2014 (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014). The Plan does not increase the authority to grant and commit funding, which remains at \$194,528,000.

The Secretariat has included in the Ecosystem Grants spending category (page 1) the projected disbursement and new grant award amounts for Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, which is currently being profiled.

The fundraising budget included in the Special Projects table includes costs of travel and special events related to fundraising efforts. These efforts will target the governments of India, Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway. In addition, in the Special Projects budget provision is made for a global regional

implementation team (RIT) exchange, where representatives from RITs in all regions and the Secretariat will come together to share lessons and promote the exchange of best practices and tools.

The Secretariat has included in the Preparation (Ecosystem Profiles) budget (page 2) the projected amounts for the ecosystem profiles for the Tropical Andes and Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspots that have been approved by the Donor Council and could not be contracted in FY13.

In September 2012, the Donor Council approved an increase in the Spending Authority for the Western Ghats hotspot from \$4.5 million to \$6 million, with the increase coming from unspent funds in the consolidation portfolio. As grants in the consolidation portfolio are closed at the end of the investment period, unspent funds are being returned to the consolidation pool. The Secretariat recommends using an additional \$77,000 of these unspent funds to increase the current spending authority of the Western Ghats hotspot from \$6 million to \$6.077 million.