

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement

November 11, 2014

Change in the Operational Manual to reflect the changes to the Regional Implementation Team Terms of Reference; and

Selection of Burung Indonesia as Regional Implementation Team for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot and increase in individual grant amounts

Recommended Action Items

The Donor Council is asked to approve, on a no-objection basis:

1. A modification to the CEPF Operational Manual to reflect the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Regional Implementation Teams; and
2. The selection of Burung Indonesia as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot;

The deadline for no-objection approval is 25 November 2014.

Background

Change to the Operational Manual

During the 25th meeting of the Donor Council hosted by the GEF Secretariat on June 25 2014, the Donor Council approved changing the terms of reference for the Regional Implementation Teams (RITs). This change reflects the greater role the RITs have to play mainstreaming conservation into policy and private sector action through actively connecting with government agencies and private companies, as well as greater role building the capacity of local organizations to secure sustainability. Lastly, the change brought together the programmatic and the administrative roles under one single contract. With all these modifications, it is expected that in more than one case, the budget for the Regional Implementation Teams, being grants over the span of five or more years, will be well in excess of \$1m.

The Operational Manual of CEPF in its section 4.4.3. "Grant Decision Making Process" states that CEPF will not award grants for \$1 million and above. The Secretariat proposes the following language to replace that statement:

CEPF will not award grants for \$1 million and above, except for Regional Implementation Teams once the Donor Council has approved their proposed budget as described in the Terms of Reference of the Donor Council (OM 5.1 j).

In addition, the current section 4.3 of the Operational Manual dealing with the Terms of Reference and Selection Process for Regional Implementation Teams will be replaced by the new Terms of Reference and Selection Process approved by the Donor Council at its 25th meeting, as contained in CEPF/DC25/5b.

Selection of the Regional Implementation Team for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot

On 20 June 2014, CEPF requested that organizations interested in serving as the RIT submit an expression of interest by 17 July 2014 in order to pre-qualify to submit a formal proposal. Seventeen organizations submitted an expression of interest by the closing date, and invited to submit full proposals. The RfP was released on 18 July 2014. The RfP placed the maximum value of proposals at \$1,500,000 as per the approved Spending Authority for this Strategic Direction in the Ecosystem Profile. Four organizations submitted valid proposals by the closing date of 29 August 2014: Burung Indonesia, Yayasan KEHATI, a consortium of Yayasan Samdhana and the Rare Center for Tropical Conservation, and the State University of Papua. The CEPF Secretariat evaluated these proposals and ranked Burung Indonesia first. The Secretariat then shared the full proposals and its evaluation summary with the Working Group.

On 30 September 2014, the Working Group met to discuss the assessment presented by the Secretariat. The Working Group agreed with the assessment and authorized the Secretariat to begin negotiations with Burung Indonesia to resolve various issues. During the presentation, the Working Group expressed its satisfaction with the quality and breadth of competition from organizations based in Indonesia. The Working Group also asked why the allocation for the RIT (Strategic Direction 7 in the Ecosystem Profile) was set at \$1,500,000. The Secretariat explained that this amount is based on the new “expanded” scope of work for RITs approved by the Donor Council at its 25th Meeting held on 24 June 2014. After further discussion, the Working Group members agreed to recommend to the Donor Council the selection of Burung Indonesia as RIT for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot.

The documents provided to the Working Group through this review process are available for Donor Council review at the following link and are listed below.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6p2a2thr4r1i0r/AACGQffPsJzVOKUoueHRnEYla?dl=0>

1. Memo to the Working Group for meeting of 30 September 2014
2. Procurement Summary and Assessment of Proposals
3. Request for Proposals, Wallacea RIT
4. Proposal from Burung Indonesia
5. Proposal from the Samdhana Institute and the Rare Center for Tropical Conservation
6. Proposal from the KEHATI Foundation
7. Proposal from the Center for Environmental Research at the State University of Papua

Management of conflict of interest

CEPF Executive Director Patricia Zurita accepted an offer to become CEO of BirdLife International in advance of receipt of proposals for the Wallacea RIT. Burung Indonesia, although a fully independent and Indonesia-registered organization, is the national partner representative of BirdLife International. To avoid a conflict of interest, Patricia Zurita was in no way involved in the review of proposals, evaluation of proposals, or presentation to the Working Group. Proposals were evaluated by John de

Wet (Conservation International Vice President for Finance & Operations), Nina Marshall (CEPF Managing Director), and Dan Rothberg (CEPF Grant Director).