

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Twentieth Meeting of the Donor Council
The World Bank, Washington, DC

6 February 2012

8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. EST

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Nineteenth Meeting of the Donor Council on 18 March 2011. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Follow-up to decisions made during the Nineteenth Meeting of CEPF Donor Council
- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Approved Grants (1 July 2011 – 30 September 2011)

A financial summary is also included.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Summary Fund Statement

As of September 30, 2011

Revenue	Cumulative
Grants and Contributions	\$216,386,650
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Exchange	2,083,346
Interest Earned	<u>2,190,524</u>
Total Revenue	220,660,520
Expenses	
Grants	\$137,298,449
Ecosystem Profile Preparation	8,239,996
External Evaluation, Compliance Audit & Special Projects	786,932
Operations	<u>24,548,356</u>
Total Expenses	170,873,733
Difference	<u><u>\$49,786,788</u></u>

FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE PERIOD CONSISTING OF:

Cash Net of Amount Due to/from CI	\$38,323,017
Accounts Receivable	25,860,682
Grants Payable	<u>(14,396,912)</u>
Fund balance at end of the period ¹	<u><u>\$49,786,788</u></u>

¹ The Balance is fully earmarked.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Summary Fund Statement
As of September 30, 2011

Revenue	Fiscal Year to Date	Cumulative Total
Grants and Contributions		216,386,650
Gain (Loss) on Foreign Exchange		2,083,346
Interest Earned	28,580	2,190,524
	Total Revenue	220,660,520
 Expenses		
Grants:		
Atlantic Forest		10,015,144
Cape Floristic Region		7,615,942
Caribbean Islands		1,119,542
Caucasus	440,000	9,297,904
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	1,044,687	8,108,554
Eastern Himalayas		4,882,859
Guinean Forests of West Africa ¹	(216,320)	8,048,521
Indo-Burma		9,406,179
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands		5,573,421
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	404,404	2,032,549
Mediterranean		
Mountains of Southwest China		6,535,418
Northern Mesoamerica		7,079,430
The Philippines		6,970,399
Polynesia-Micronesia ²	(3,692)	5,287,088
Southern Mesoamerica	16,001	7,054,908
Succulent Karoo		9,242,594
Sundaland		9,901,465
Tropical Andes		8,314,972
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena		6,765,573
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	57,700	4,045,988
	1,742,780	137,298,449
Ecosystem Profile Preparation ³	377,782	8,239,996
Use of Interest: External Evaluations, Audit and Special Projects	9,984	786,932
Operations	518,037	24,548,356
	905,803	33,575,283
	Total Expenses	170,873,733
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	(2,620,003)	49,786,788
Fund balance at beginning of the year	52,406,791	
Fund balance at end of the period	49,786,788	
 FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE CURRENT PERIOD CONSISTING OF:		
Cash Net of Amount Due to/from CI		38,323,017
Accounts Receivable		25,860,682
Grants Payable		(14,396,912)
Fund balance at end of the period ⁴		49,786,788

¹ Adjustment of the consolidation portfolio

² Adjustments to grants in portfolio

³ Eastern Afromontane & East Melanesian Islands hotspots

⁴ The balance is fully earmarked.

CEPF Summary Fund Statement
Grant Summary

Inception through September 30, 2011

Spending Category: Grants

<u>Funding Region</u>	<u>Funding Phase I</u>	<u>Funding Phase II</u>	<u>Total Grants Committed</u>	<u>Approved Spending Authority</u>	<u>%</u>
Atlantic Forest	7,615,144	2,400,000	10,015,144	10,400,000	96%
Cape Floristic Region	5,966,237	1,649,705	7,615,942	7,649,705	100%
Caribbean Islands ¹		1,119,542	1,119,542	6,900,000	16%
Caucasus	8,297,904	1,000,000	9,297,904	9,500,000	98%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	7,063,867	1,044,687	8,108,554	8,740,000	93%
Eastern Himalayas	4,882,859		4,882,859	5,000,000	98%
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165,487	1,883,034	8,048,521	8,299,354	97%
Indo-Burma		9,406,179	9,406,179	9,500,000	99%
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands	4,169,802	1,403,619	5,573,421	5,850,000	95%
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany		2,032,549	2,032,549	6,650,000	31%
Mediterranean			-	10,000,000	0%
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535,418		6,535,418	7,900,000	83%
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079,430		7,079,430	7,300,000	97%
The Philippines	6,970,399		6,970,399	7,000,000	100%
Polynesia-Micronesia		5,287,088	5,287,088	7,000,000	76%
Southern Mesoamerica	5,410,526	1,644,382	7,054,908	7,128,381	99%
Succulent Karoo	7,833,594	1,409,000	9,242,594	9,409,000	98%
Sundaland	9,901,465		9,901,465	10,000,000	99%
Tropical Andes	6,129,972	2,185,000	8,314,972	8,335,000	100%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,951,709	1,813,864	6,765,573	6,950,000	97%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka		4,045,988	4,045,988	4,500,000	90%
Consolidation (unallocated)				938,560	
Total Ecosystem Grants	<u>98,973,812</u>	<u>38,324,637</u>	<u>137,298,449</u>	<u>164,950,000</u>	<u>83%</u>

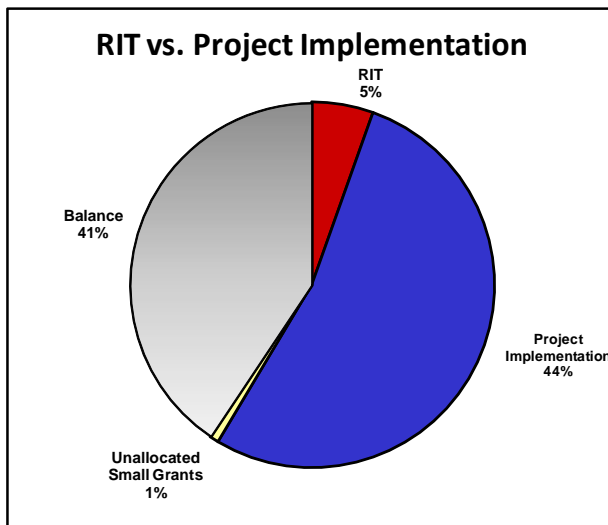
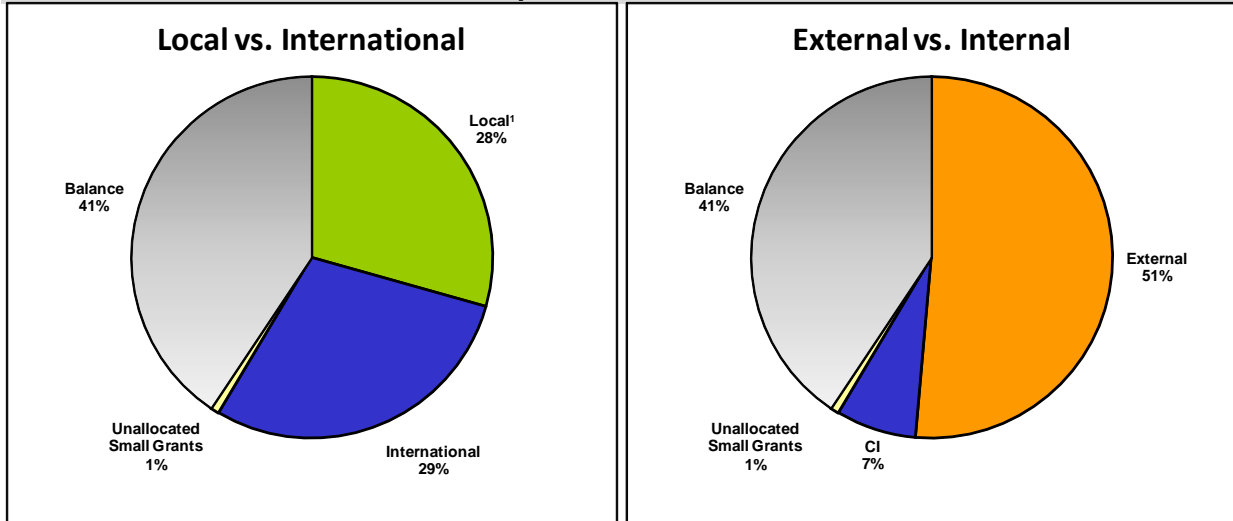
¹ Includes \$400k for Haiti emergency relief from Phase 1 funding

CEPF Cash Disbursements
Fiscal Year 2012

Spending Category: Grants

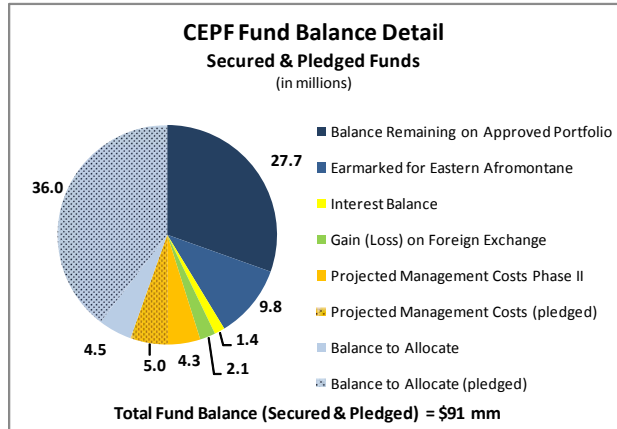
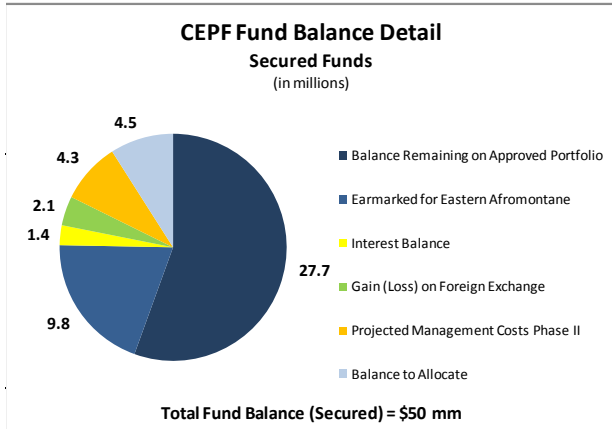
Funding Region	FY12 Spending Plan Expected Disbursement	FY12 Cash Disbursed to Date	%
Atlantic Forest	370,032	208,393	56%
Cape Floristic Region	235,259	45,699	19%
Caribbean Islands	890,000	58,976	7%
Caucasus	350,000	56,190	16%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	870,000	284,330	33%
Guinean Forests of West Africa	500,000	(1,088)	0%
Indo-Burma	2,229,000	432,251	19%
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands	200,000	64,814	32%
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	960,460	162,913	17%
Mediterranean	1,260,000	-	0%
Mountains of Southwest China	675,000	-	0%
Polynesia-Micronesia	1,607,000	459,278	29%
Southern Mesoamerica	456,600	141,820	31%
Succulent Karoo	458,800	79,271	17%
Tropical Andes	721,142	316,493	44%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	600,000	181,727	30%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	904,750	183,954	20%
Eastern Afromontane (amid profiling)	500,000	-	0%
Total Disbursements	13,788,043	2,675,023	19%
Number of Active Regions in FY12		15	

CEPF Phase II Grant Portfolio as of September 30, 2011

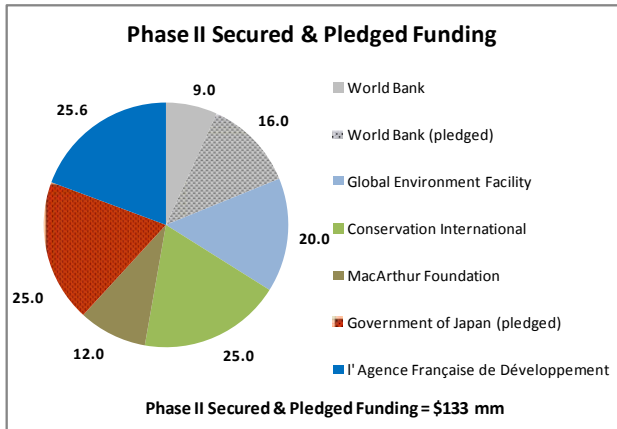
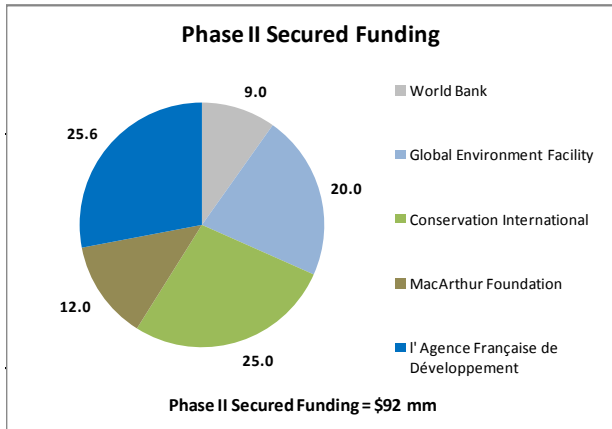


¹ Local: The grantee is legally registered in a country within the hotspot and has an independent board of directors or similar independent governing body.

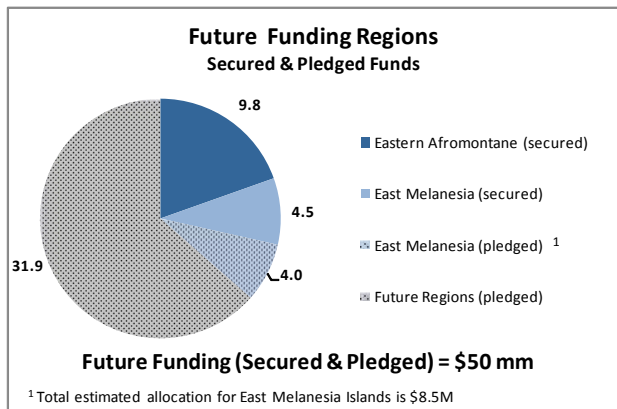
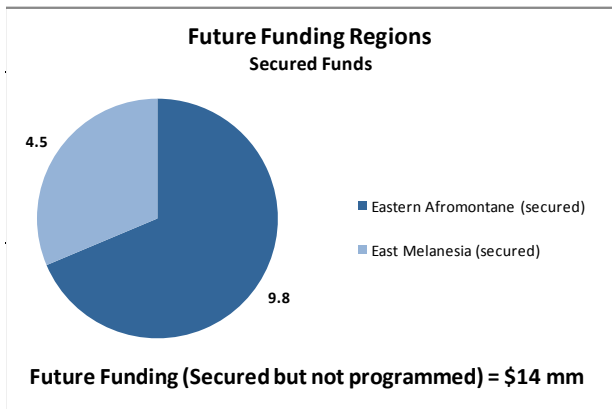
CEPF Phase II Fund Balance Detail as of 09/30/2011



CEPF Phase II Funding by Donor as of 09/30/2011



CEPF Phase II Funding Future Regions



FOLLOW UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

List of Follow-up Actions from the Nineteenth Meeting:

During the Nineteenth Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 18 March 2011, the Donor Council made two key requests of the Secretariat:

- 1. Submit a preliminary draft of the ecosystem profile for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot to donors for review at a mid-way point in its development.*

During the Executive Director's report, a council member requested that donors be given the opportunity to review the in-progress profile in order to allow donors to provide additional information as needed on funding projects already going on in the region and possibly provide other information that would help guide CEPF's investment strategy.

The Secretariat provided preliminary drafts of the profile to members of the Working Group at its July 27 meeting.

The final draft for the Working Group was submitted for discussion at its meeting 15 November 2011. A brief report on the results of the Working Group meeting follows in the Partnership Highlights. The final version was approved by the Donor Council on a no-objection basis on 20 January 2012.

- 2. Provide more regular information about fundraising prospects.*

Following the discussion about CEPF's approach to financial decision making, members of the Council asked the Secretariat to provide more regular information regarding which entities are thought to be the best targets for joining the partnership, and how the donor partners might help enlist these entities.

In terms of fundraising at the global level, the Secretariat has targeted mainly the replenishment of the French Government and the potential of securing funds from the European Commission. Information about these fundraising efforts has been shared via quarterly reports, and additional details have been provided to the Chairman of the Donor Council, the World Bank, l'Agence Française de Développement and Conservation International at times when their support could help advance CEPF's cause. (Also, please note the information under "Partnership Highlights" about recent discussions on potential partnership with the Government of India.)

At the regional level, the Secretariat has placed special emphasis in supporting the process of updating the ecosystem profile of the Indo-Burma Hotspot, working closely with the MacArthur Foundation, as reported in the First Quarterly Report of Fiscal Year 2012. The relationship with the MacArthur Foundation has helped secure support from the Margaret A. Cargill and the McKnight foundations.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Program Overview (as of 30 September 2011)

Hotspot strategies implemented: 20

Partners supported: 1,627

Committed grants: \$137.3 million

Amount leveraged by those grants: \$322.1 million

Protected areas created or expanded with CEPF support: 12 million hectares

Secretariat, Grantee Representatives Meet with Indian Government Officials

In late November/early December, a small team representing the Secretariat and a grantee organization working in the Western Ghats traveled to Delhi for talks with government officials about CEPF and how the government might work with CEPF to benefit the Indian people. The Executive Director, Grant Director Jack Tordoff and Pratim Roy of the Tamil Nadu-based Keystone Foundation met with the Minister of the Environment Jayanthi Natarajam, the Minister of Rural Development Jariam Ramesh and officers of the Government of India to discuss the possibility of securing financial support for the Western Ghats. As a result of our discussions, the Minister of the Environment invited a proposal from the Secretariat to join the global partnership. The proposal was submitted in December 15 and we are awaiting reactions from the Ministry. Should a partnership with the Government of India be secured we will aim for having a special event at the COP of the Convention of Biological Diversity to be hosted by the Indian Government in October in Hyderabad.

Auditor's Report Distributed

On 23 November 2011, the Secretariat submitted to members of the Donor Council the report and financial statement issued by the independent auditor for fiscal year 2011 (July 01, 2010 to June 30, 2011). A management letter is sometimes issued by the auditors if they believe significant improvements need to be made or they find internal control issues. The Secretariat has not received a management letter for CEPF for fiscal year 2011. Should the Secretariat receive such a letter, we will forward it to Donor Council members for your information.

Working Group Meetings Held

The Working Group gathered at the Secretariat's offices in Arlington, Virginia, on 27 July 2011 to review the proposal for the regional implementation team (RIT) for the Mediterranean Basin investment and progress made on enhancement of the global monitoring framework. An early draft of the Eastern Afromontane ecosystem profile was also provided to Working Group members, although it was not discussed during the meeting.

On 15 November 2011, the Working Group reconvened to again discuss the update of the global monitoring framework, as well as the Mediterranean RIT proposal, the draft ecosystem profile for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, and possible options for addressing challenges related to the required GEF Focal Point endorsement in each country where CEPF works before it can begin activities.

Regarding the GEF country focal point endorsements, Working Group members considered data provided by the Secretariat about the time needed to secure focal point endorsements that showed the average

response time by focal points is 19 months. In the case of the Indo-Burma investment, a lack of response from China prevented CEPF from investing in Yunnan as part of the Indo-Burma portfolio.

Working Group members recommended that the Secretariat suggest to the Donor Council two options for addressing the focal point endorsement issue: 1) eliminate the requirement, but make sure CEPF continues to engage with governments where it's investing; 2) use a time-bound process, giving the focal point a specific deadline for responding and if they don't respond, assume approval. These options are being presented for Donor Council consideration at this meeting.

Please see the following entries on monitoring, the Mediterranean Basin and the Eastern Afromontane for other actions resulting from these meetings.

CEPF, Donors Work Together to Update Indo-Burma Profile

In April 2011, CEPF came together with the MacArthur Foundation, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation and the McKnight Foundation to discuss common interests with regard to coordinating their investments in civil society in the Greater Mekong Subregion, with which the Indo-Burma Hotspot broadly corresponds. The four donors agreed to fund an update of the ecosystem profile.

All three foundations are in the process of considering or developing funding strategies for the region, and the updated profile will allow them to identify mutually reinforcing funding niches that complement initiatives supported by CEPF, and reinforce and amplify their results. This is an excellent example of an ecosystem profile acting as a public good, and guiding a wider program of investment that extends beyond the CEPF program in terms of timeframe and scope.

Consequently, in July 2011, CEPF began a process of desk study supplemented by extensive stakeholder consultations to update the profile, with a view to guiding future investments in biodiversity conservation led by civil society by other funders, and, in the longer term, potential future additional investment by CEPF. In this way, the process is helping to ensure that the considerable impacts of the CEPF investment program between 2008 and 2013 are sustained and amplified at the portfolio scale.

The exercise began with a series of thematic studies, looking at such issues as the civil society context for biodiversity conservation in the hotspot and the implication of climate change for biodiversity conservation. The findings of these studies were then validated at a series of stakeholder consultation workshops covering Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, held between July and October 2011, which also provided stakeholders with an opportunity to prioritize conservation issues in the hotspot and propose potential priorities for future investment. These consultations, which involved more than 300 participants from a wide range of local and international civil society groups, as well as government and donor agencies, culminated in a regional workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which developed detailed strategies for addressing the highest priority issues. Overall, the results of the consultations have strongly validated the existing geographic and thematic priorities that CEPF has been working toward, and emphasized the need for a sustained investment over a prolonged period to ensure an enduring impact on the intense threats facing biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Hotspot.

World Bank Mid-Term Assessment

In August the World Bank issued its mid-term assessment of the second phase of CEPF based on data gathered via meetings with Secretariat staff and field visits to programs in Polynesia-Micronesia and Indo-Burma, as well as the independent evaluation conducted by David Olson in 2010 and the financial assessment conducted in February 2011. The results of the assessment have been shared with the Working Group and are included in the Donor Council packet for this meeting.

Progress Made on Monitoring Program

CEPF made significant progress on development of an updated monitoring framework. A first draft was presented to the CEPF Working Group on 27 July 2011, and it generated much discussion, including a request that CEPF organize a one-day workshop for each donor partner to articulate their information needs and to develop indicators that would yield the desired data. The workshop was held on 16 September at the World Bank, and benefitted from input from key resource persons and active donor participation. Following the workshop, CEPF was able to refine the monitoring framework in accordance with donor recommendations, and submitted the revised version to the Working Group, and the Working Group recommended it be sent on to the Donor Council for review and approval at this meeting.

Update on New Priorities

Mediterranean Basin

The Secretariat has taken numerous steps to move the Mediterranean Basin portfolio into the grant-making phase. During the 29th meeting of the CEPF Working Group on 27 July 2011, the Working Group reviewed documentation pertaining to selection of the regional implementation team (RIT). A single application was submitted, by Doğa Derneği, to fulfill the role of the RIT. The application comprised two separate proposals, one for the administrative functions of the RIT, and the other for the programmatic functions. The Working Group expressed overall positive support for the Doğa Derneği application and recommended that the Secretariat work with the applicant to refine the proposals and address a number of concerns. Doğa Derneği submitted revised logframes and budgets, and the Secretariat submitted the revised proposal materials to the Working Group at its meeting on 15 November 2011. The Working Group then recommended the Doğa Derneği proposals to serve as the RIT be sent to the Donor Council for approval. The request for no-objection approval was sent to members of the Donor Council on 29 November 2011, and approval was effective 13 December 2011. Contracting of Doğa Derneği is pending focal point endorsement from the Government of Turkey, where they are based.

East Melanesia

The profiling process was officially launched at annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, held in Lami, Fiji, in July 2011. The launch was well attended by representatives of government agencies, civil society and donor agencies involved in conservation efforts in all three countries of the hotspot. It was followed by a national launch for a wider group of stakeholders in Papua New Guinea, held in Port Moresby in September 2011. The launches provided an opportunity to reach out to a diverse group of stakeholders, inform them about the process, and encourage them to contribute to the data collation phase. Data collation and identification of conservation outcomes for the East

Melanesian Islands Hotspot is now ongoing, and the preliminary results were reviewed at a technical workshop in December 2011.

Eastern Afromontane

At BirdLife International's Middle East office on the banks of the Dead Sea in Jordan, representatives of the Saudi Wildlife Authority (SWA), Yemen's Ministry of the Environment, as well as biologists from the region and representatives from CEPF and Conservation International convened July 28-29. The meeting focused on the advancement of the ecosystem profile for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, which includes critical ecosystems in Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The participation of two staff of the Saudi Wildlife Authority—Mohammad Sulayem, advisor for international cooperation, and Mohammad Al Salamah, deputy director—was particularly instrumental, and their input has proved invaluable. The event built a foundation for a strong collaboration between the Saudi Wildlife Authority and CEPF, establishing a better understanding of our respective activities, building confidence and developing paths for mutually beneficial future exchanges and activities. Several members of the Saudi Wildlife Authority prepared comments and gathered data on biodiversity related to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that have been in the ecosystem profile, enabling CEPF to produce a more comprehensive document on the preservation of biodiversity within the hotspot.

After working throughout the summer and fall putting the final touches on the profile, the profiling team provided a final draft for the Working Group to review at its November meeting. Following review and recommendation from the Working Group, the final draft of the ecosystem profile for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was sent to the Donor Council for no-objection approval on 7 December 2011. Donors approved the profile effective 20 January 2012.

Update on Consolidation

In September, the four consolidation grants in the Atlantic Forest came to a close, bringing to an end a 10-year and \$10.4 million engagement of CEPF in the region. Thus, in mid-September in the city of Belo Horizonte, CEPF convened the leaders of the four consolidation grantees, plus representatives from four grantees from the first phase of investment (2003-2008) to consider whether CEPF had achieved its long-term goals, and to weigh the future of conservation in the hotspot and the implications for CEPF and other donors. The meeting was chaired by CI-Brazil's director for Atlantic Forest programs, Luiz Paulo de Souza Pinto, as the group discussed the achievement of conservation priorities, the strengthening of civil society capacity, sustainable financing, the enabling environment, and the ability of stakeholders to respond to emerging issues. The Atlantic Forest remains the most populated region of Brazil, and its status as a hotspot will surely not change. However, the group concluded that CEPF has been a critical contributor to conservation in the region and that in the future, while absent CEPF funding, civil society is well-placed to participate in the effort. CEPF will soon release a final report summarizing both the consolidation portfolio and the overall 10-year investment in the Atlantic Forest.

In other regions new consolidation grants were signed. In the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, six new grants have started, effectively launching consolidation efforts aimed at furthering local communities' involvement in increasing the level of connectivity between fragments of forest in six key areas by providing realistic economic alternatives through nature-based livelihood

activities and forging links with new markets and upcoming opportunities. The ultimate goal of these approaches is to ensure financial stability of these activities, which are vital to sustain ecosystem services and conserve endangered species.

In the Caucasus, four grants signed in June commenced with July 1 start dates, thereby launching consolidation action in this region.

Combined, these grants will ensure that the legacy of CEPF's original investment will continue well into the future.

FEATURED NEW GRANT

In the Hogsback region of South Africa's Eastern Cape, CEPF has made a grant that, at first glance, is merely about restoring the habitat of the Critically Endangered Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*) through the planting of its preferred yellowwood trees and the installation of nest boxes. However, the grantee, the Wild Bird Trust, is actually involved in work at the intersection of the country's colonial history, more recent political history, land stewardship, and avian epidemiology. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, colonial foresters cut out the massive yellowwood trees, and later farmers used mechanized agriculture to transform the plains surrounding Hogsback, dramatically reducing the nesting and feeding habitat for Cape parrots while also lowering much of the agricultural fertility of the land. In the 1960s and '70s, the apartheid government made this now degraded land into the "homelands" of Siskei and Transkei, where, given the economic and political situation, people had little incentive to act as wise land managers. Thus, we are left with the situation today, where there are degraded natural forests, non-native forests comprised of invasive, water-hoarding trees, overgrazing of cattle, and a wild Cape Parrot population of only 500 animals. At the same time, the birds are facing a different crisis of beak and feather disease, due in part to the animal being forced to forage for non-preferred food sources and due to the inherent lack of robustness of a small population. The Wild Bird Trust, working with money from CEPF and other donors, is engaged in a multi-pronged effort that, at its base, is about working with local communities to restore and protect their natural forests in a way that allows both birds and people to flourish.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Western Ghats

With support from CEPF and other donors, principal investigator Dr. S. D. Biju of the University of Delhi coordinated a broad partnership of researchers and volunteers to search for 50 species of endemic amphibians that were believed lost to science—some of which have not been seen for more than a century. Extensive explorations over the last 10 months have rediscovered an incredible 38 species. This is a tremendous achievement for amphibian conservation, as it allows conservation action and monitoring to be taken for these species, actions that were previously impossible due to lack of information about whether the species still existed and if so, where. The University of Delhi team was visited in the field by a journalist from the Economist, and a three-page article on the project will appear in one of the December issues.

Tropical Andes

In Peru, CEPF's collaboration with the Americas Fund of Peru (FONDAM) came to a conclusion. Through four subgrants to local organization, the collaboration helped bring 21,557 hectares under improved management in 29 communities in strategic locations to contribute to biodiversity conservation while slowing down degradation due to the spread of informal mining into sensitive areas. The grant directly benefitted 135 families and helped establish seven new community organizations. A subgrant to CAMDE Peru helped strengthen the competitiveness of Brazil nut concessions located near the Peru-Bolivia border by contributing to the construction, equipment, and implementation of the group's first process plant. The subgrant provided appropriate techniques for harvest, post-harvest and processing, allowing for the sustainable management of 15,538 hectares of Brazil nut forests.

In Bolivia, CEPF supports FUNDESNAIP and four local partners to foster local civil society engagement in efforts to mitigate the impacts of the Northern Corridor Road Improvement Project. The project is part of the Peru-Brazil-Bolivia hub of the Initiative for Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA), aimed at strengthening the connection between northern Bolivia with the rest of the country, Peru and Brazil. The potential for environmental degradation is significant, as the road crosses an area with low population density, indigenous territories, and protected areas with well-conserved forests and savannas. During the quarter, FUNDESNAIP helped establish local environmental and social monitoring committees that have engaged a broad cross section of stakeholders in mitigation efforts, including indigenous and campesino groups, academia, and municipal, regional and national governments. These local monitoring committees represent the first time in the history of Bolivia that local civil society groups and municipalities are working together and with the national government to ensure the social and environmental sustainability of the road project.

Chocó-Magdalena-Tumbes

In Colombia, Centro de Investigaciones y estudios en Biodiversidad y Recursos Genéticos (CIEBREG) facilitated the achievement of a major agreement between five public environmental agencies, Conservation International, and CEIBREG to collaborate for the next five years on data exchange and environmental monitoring along the Colombian portion of the Chocó-Magdalena-Tumbes Hotspot. The agreement is a major step forward in helping the government of Colombia to monitoring environmental trends in an integrated way that encourages collaboration between key government agencies and NGOs. In addition, the Pereira Technological University has agreed to provide the information technology platform through its supercomputer for the next two years.

Southern Mesoamerica

CEPF grantees in Panama have made important strides to ensure that local civil society organizations are engaged in discussions related to the conservation of La Amistad Biosphere Reserve, which traverses Costa Rica and Panama. These local groups have participated in the binational commissions related to the conservation and monitoring of the biosphere reserve. Panamanian officials recognize the important contributions made by these local groups. Environmental partners have collaborated with such international bodies as UNESCO, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank to mitigate the impacts arising from hydroelectric development, mining, and road building. Furthermore local groups have worked more cohesively through the strengthening of networks that included holding four

exchanges to design joint conservation plans. Thanks to CEPF's consolidation grant and promotion of sustainable financing, 15 projects valued at more than \$600,000 were funded for environmental education, reforestation, sustainable tourism, sustainable production of vegetables and conservation coffee production.

APPROVED GRANTS

July 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

Caucasus Hotspot

Strategic Direction 5. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of the initial 5-year CEPF investment in this region

Enhancing the Landscape and Ecological Integrity of the Greater Caucasus Corridor through Establishment of Khevsureti National Park, Georgia

Sustain CEPF investments in the Greater Caucasus Corridor through establishment of Khevsureti National Park. Conduct baseline assessments, complete the legal designation process, and establish essential management structures and capacity. Implement outreach and trust-building measures to expand the existing constituency of support for the protected area among local stakeholders and promote the adoption of alternative livelihoods directly linked to conservation goals.

Funding: \$440,000

Grant Term: 7/1/2011 - 12/31/2013

Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature

Eastern Arc & Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania Hotspot

Strategic Direction 6. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of the initial 5-year CEPF investment in this region

Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Communicating Hotspot Conservation

Raise awareness throughout Tanzania and Kenya of the importance of the countries' forests and natural resource base and the ecosystem services provided by these through targeted campaigns focusing on decision makers, communities and the next generation. Ensure long-term impacts by increasing access to relevant data and information on the Internet and through publications.

Funding: \$314,687

Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 6/30/2014

Grantee: Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

Consolidating Biodiversity Data and Information

Maintain the monitoring network that operates at local, national and international scales to provide up-to-date information on the status and trends of threatened species of several taxa and key biodiversity areas throughout Tanzania and Kenya. Interpret these data to influence sustainable development and mitigate threats to key biodiversity areas and the ecological services that they provide.

Funding: \$260,000
Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 6/30/2014
Grantee: Birdlife International

Consolidating Gains in Ecosystem Connectivity, Monitoring and Communication Networks

Enhance the ability of community-based site support groups in the Taita Hills and Dakatcha Woodland to monitor their environment through surveys of the Critically Endangered site-endemic bird species including the Clark's Weaver (*Ploceus golandi*) and Taita Thrush (*Turdus helleri*). Market locally produced handicrafts from these community groups through the newly established butterfly exhibit at Fort Jesus Museum in Mombasa. In addition, promote environmental awareness at local, national and international scales.

Funding: \$180,000
Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 5/31/2014
Grantee: Nature Kenya

Consolidating Indigenous Forest Connectivity in the Taita Hills for Biodiversity Conservation

Work with community forest associations to develop and implement participatory forest management agreements with the Kenya Forest Service that will allow the rehabilitation of exotic plantations by planting native trees. These actions will benefit the communities through improved watershed management and, in time, restore the ability of endemic bird species to move freely between the fragments

Funding: \$100,000
Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 7/31/2013
Grantee: Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum

Enhancing the Sustainability of Nature-Based Community Livelihood Initiatives Adjacent to Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Assist with finalizing a live butterfly exhibit at Fort Jesus Museum largely funded by USAID. The exhibit will be stocked with pupae reared by communities along the coast and Taita Hills in Kenya and Amani Nature Reserve, Tanzania. Develop a gift shop at this exhibit offering nature-based products, community-made handicrafts and “good wood” carvings to the visiting public. The project will directly benefit the communities involved and promote sustainable conservation practices.

Funding: \$190,000
Grant Term: 9/1/2011 - 6/30/2014
Grantee: International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

Indo-Burma Hotspot

Indochina Region

Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species in Indochina by mitigating major threats

Community-Based Planning of the Lam Binh Forest Area, Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam

The first on-ground conservation initiative engaging local stakeholders to raise conservation awareness to start addressing threats to the Francois' langurs population in the Lam Binh Forest Area, Francois' Langur Conservation Landscape, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam through participatory forest land use planning and mapping, conservation agreements and awareness-raising, supplementing a variety of conservation planning activities carried out at the area.

Funding: \$19,994

Grant Term: 10/1/2011 - 3/31/2012

Grantee: People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF)

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Perform Participatory Survey, Assessment and Conservation of Green Peafowl (*Pavo muticus*) in Dongkhanthung Provincial Protected Area of Champasak, Southwestern Lao PDR.

Intensively survey the Critically Endangered green peafowl in probably the only area in Lao PDR that supports a recent viable population of this species, providing an assessment of its abundance and distribution, and initiating conservation interventions with local communities and government authorities at the province and district levels to secure the survival of the species.

Funding: \$19,930

Grant Term: 10/1/2011 - 9/30/2012

Grantee: The Lao Wildlife Conservation Association (Lao WCA)

Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot

Strategic Direction 2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 22 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches that sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services

IziKhwenene Project

The Wild Bird Trust is working with rural communities living along the Amathole mountain range between Hogsback and Stutterheim, among the most economically disadvantaged regions in South Africa. In an effort to prevent the extinction of the Critically Endangered Cape parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*, known as the iziKwenene in the local language, Xhosa), the Wild Bird Trust is engaging community members to plant indigenous trees, install nest boxes, and establish a small Cape parrot sanctuary in an existing pecan tree orchard.

Funding: \$82,740

Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 7/31/2013

Grantee: The Wild Bird Trust

Lower Tugela Biodiversity Protection Project

The Zinkwazi-Blythedale Conservancy is improving the management of an estuary and putting an additional 1,000 hectares of private land under protection. The Conservancy, part of a pristine coastal dune and estuary environment north of metropolitan Durban, is working with local farmers and large agribusinesses to ensure the conservation of the flora of the Lower Tugela River Valley.

Funding: \$167,335
Grant Term: 9/1/2011 - 8/31/2013
Grantee: Zinkwazi Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association

Midlands Conservancies Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative

Dargle Conservancy is working to change the status of more than 5,000 hectares of land in the Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal from a basic level of protection, a “conservancy,” to a more robust and long-lasting level of protection, land falling under a formal biodiversity stewardship agreement. Dargle is working with landowners, conservancy managers and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in five areas centered around the town of Howick: Dagle, Karkloof, Karkloof/Gartmore, Fort Nottingham, and uMgenyane.

Funding: \$154,329
Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 6/30/2013
Grantee: Dargle Conservancy

Participative Community-Based Environmental Management Planning and Livelihoods for the Region North of Mkambati

The project aims to buffer the Mkhambathi Nature Reserve in Pondoland from unsustainable development by working with surrounding communities on a variety of local livelihood strengthening and education projects. Key outputs include a community-based environmental management plan and support for community development projects.

Funding: \$19,966
Grant Term: 5/1/2011 - 4/1/2012
Grantee: Sustaining the Wild Coast
Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Upper Thukela Community Stewardship Project

This project is engaging and facilitating a civil society initiative to secure land for a biodiversity stewardship program. The project is being implemented in an important corridor that borders Lesotho and South Africa.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 9/1/2011 - 8/31/2012
Grantee: Wilderness Action Group
Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Strategic Direction 3. Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors

Grassland and Ecosystem Function Improvement Through Control of Alien Vegetation and Improved Grazing Practices.

The project seeks to expand the grasslands under formal conservation in the greater Cedarville Conservancy through implementing an innovative approach to grazing and land management on privately owned and communally owned areas. The project seeks to bring about 10,000 hectares of land under conservation in the Highland Grasslands Corridor.

Funding: \$19,988

Grant Term: 5/1/2011 - 5/1/2013
Grantee: Cedarville Conservancy
Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team

Tropical Andes Hotspot

Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Strategic Direction 7. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of the initial 5-year CEPF investment in this region

Preparing Peru's Madre de Dios Region for REDD+

Promote REDD+ as a mechanism for sustainable conservation financing in Madre de Dios by increasing understanding and technical capacity of local stakeholders, targeting local and regional governments, grassroots conservation groups, agricultural producers, indigenous communities and protected areas management committees. Grant will result in a consensus-based deforestation map to serve as a baseline and a participatory REDD+ strategy for the region.

Funding: \$199,315
Grant Term: 8/1/2011 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integral

Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Hotspot

Western Ghats Region

Strategic Direction 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action

Building Capacities for Conservation Planning Using Open Source Tools and Data

Address the gap between availability of spatial data and its use by conservationists. Basic level training will be provided in a user-friendly and open source Geographical Information System (GIS) package, covering vector and raster GIS applications. Participants selected from across the Western Ghats will subsequently use the training for conservation planning, research and as a stepping stone to advanced spatial analysis

Funding: \$18,889
Grant Term: 10/1/2011 - 1/31/2012
Grantee: Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL)
Notes: Awarded by Regional Implementation Team