

## **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

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

28 May 2013

### **Selection of IUCN Oceania as the Regional Implementation Team for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

#### **Recommended Action Item**

The Donor Council is asked to approve the selection of IUCN Oceania as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for Administration and as the RIT for Programs for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

The Council is asked to further instruct the Secretariat to work with IUCN Oceania to finalize its respective work plans and budgets for RIT-Administration and RIT-Programs.

The deadline for no-objection approval is 11 June 2013.

#### **Background**

On 19 December 2012, the CEPF Secretariat distributed two calls for proposals inviting civil society groups to apply for the roles of RIT-Administration and RIT-Programs with respective maximum values of \$900,000 and \$600,000. CEPF received three sets of proposals by the closing date of 18 March 2013. IUCN Oceania applied for the roles of RIT-Administration and RIT-Programs, while CI applied for RIT-Administration only, and SPREP applied for RIT-Programs only. A third organization, Tigona Development Services submitted a pair of proposals that did not respond to the RfP, and therefore these proposals were omitted from further review.

The Secretariat analyzed the applications and concluded that the proposals submitted by IUCN Oceania were superior to those of the consortium consisting of Conservation International's Pacific Island Program, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. On 15 May 2013, the Secretariat provided documentation to the Working Group and requested their review of the applications. On 23 May 2013, the Secretariat held a meeting of the Working Group to develop a recommendation for the Donor Council. Consensus was reached and Working Group members agreed to recommend to the Donor Council the selection of IUCN Oceania as RIT for the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

The following documents were provided to the Working Group on 15 May 2013, and are available for Donor Council perusal at the following link: <http://www.cepf.net/resources/publications/Pages/EMI-proposals-and-clarifications.aspx>.

- RfP No. EMI-1, RIT Administration
- RfP No. EMI-2, RIT-Programs
- IUCN Oceania proposals and clarifications
- CI/SPREP proposals and clarifications
- Secretariat Assessment of Proposals
- Secretariat Comparative Table for RIT Selection