

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Twenty-First Meeting of the Donor Council
Conservation International, Arlington, VA

11 June 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 Twentieth Meeting of the Donor Council on 6 February 2012. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

Follow-up to decisions made during the Twentieth Meeting of CEPF Donor Council
Partnership Highlights
Featured New Grants
Highlights from the Field
Approved Grants (1 January 2012 – 31 March 2012)

A financial summary is also included.

CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement for the 9 Months Ending 3/31/2012

<i>Revenue - CEPF II</i>	<i>Current Year</i>
Contributions	
The World Bank	3,000,000
Interest Earned	91,153
Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)	(519,425)
Total revenue	2,571,728

<i>Grants by region</i>	<i>Grants Awarded¹</i>			<i>Payments on Grants²</i>		
	<i>7/01/11 - 3/31/12</i>			<i>7/01/11 - 3/31/12</i>		
<i>Region</i>	<i>FY12 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>FY12 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Atlantic Forest	0	(4,741)	0%	370,032	337,088	91%
Cape Floristic Region	0	(21,733)	0%	235,259	118,393	50%
Caribbean	1,400,000	754,181	54%	890,000	445,512	50%
Caucasus ³	0	440,000	0%	350,000	223,457	64%
Eastern Afromontane	1,500,000	0	0%	500,000	0	0%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests ³	1,040,000	1,735,852	167%	870,000	502,646	58%
Eastern Himalayas	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Guinean Forests of West Africa	0	(184,620)	0%	500,000	353,310	71%
Indo-Burma ³	50,000	86,000	172%	2,229,000	1,968,865	88%
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands	0	(664)	0%	200,000	178,920	89%
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	1,800,000	1,454,550	81%	960,460	665,864	69%
Mediterranean	3,200,000	0	0%	1,260,000	0	0%
Mountains of Southwest China	1,350,000	1,348,406	100%	675,000	299,979	44%
Polynesia-Micronesia	1,500,000	953,288	64%	1,607,000	1,454,092	90%
Southern Mesoamerica ³	0	16,001	0%	456,600	388,358	85%
Succulent Karoo	0	0	0%	458,800	353,230	77%
Tropical Andes	0	0	0%	721,142	507,337	70%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	0	0	0%	600,000	463,341	77%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	500,000	451,184	90%	904,750	719,777	80%
Total Grants	12,340,000	7,027,705	57%	13,788,043	8,980,170	65%

<i>Operational Costs</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Operating Costs	2,065,063	1,258,951	61%
Management Fee	390,296	302,329	77%
Total Operations	2,455,359	1,561,280	64%

<i>Preparation</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Eastern Afromontane ³	182,284	262,284	144%
East Melanesia Islands	362,000	336,091	93%
Other ¹	0	(25,165)	0%
Total Preparation	544,284	573,209	105%

<i>Special Projects</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Audit Fee	55,000	40,000	73%
Fundraising	119,946	52,114	43%
Total Special Projects	174,946	92,114	53%

Fund Balance at 3/31/2012

Bank Balance	40,700,208
Accounts Receivable	18,436,252
l'Agence Française de Développement	4,531,975
Conservation International	5,000,000
Global Environment Facility	8,904,277
Grants Payable	(13,283,772)
Operating Expenses due to/from CI	(128,478)
Total Fund Balance	45,724,211

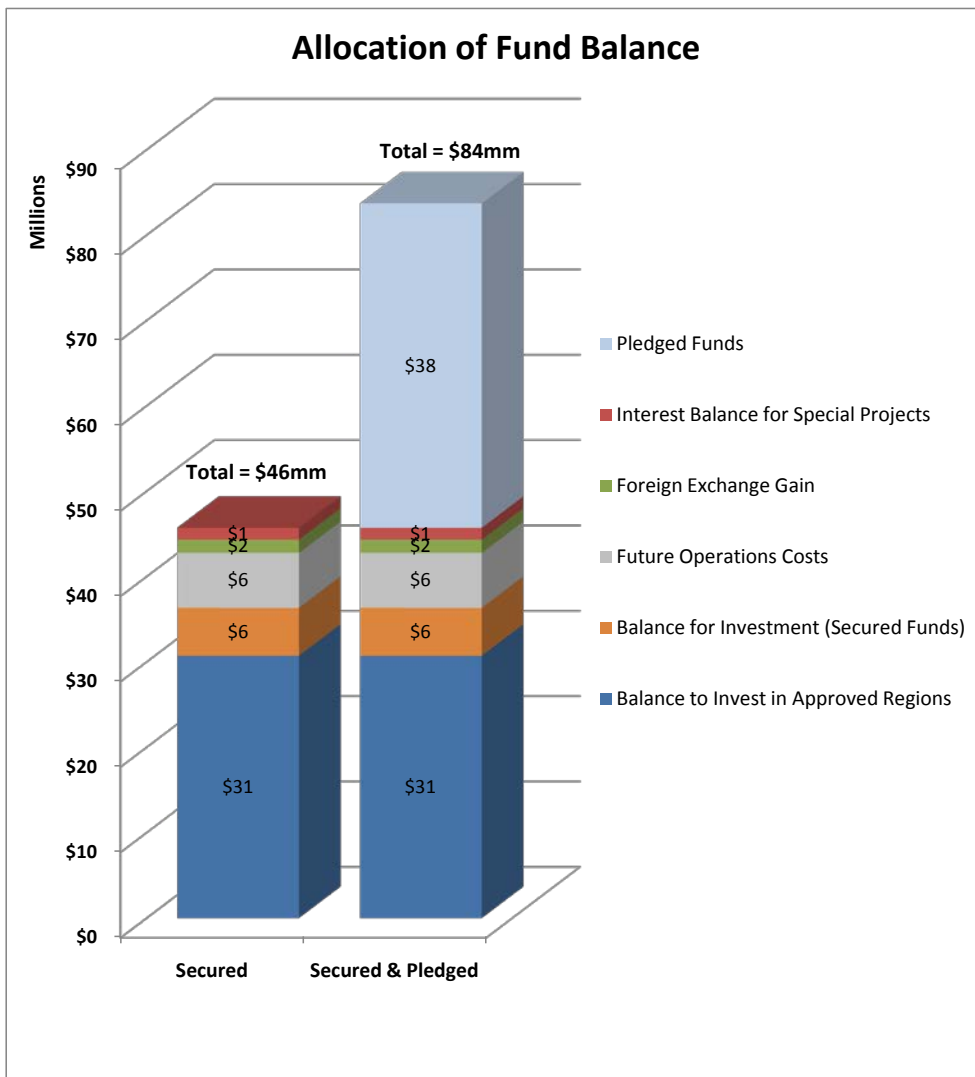
¹ Negative amounts represent grant deobligations

² Includes payments on grants awarded in prior years

³ Includes funds rolled forward from FY11

Summary of Available Resources as of 3/31/2012

Revenue to Date	223,203,668	
Expenses to Date	177,479,457	
Balance		45,724,211
Allocated to:		
Balance to Invest in Approved Regions	30,740,439	
Interest Balance for Special Projects	1,384,034	
Foreign Exchange Gain	1,563,921	
Future Operations Costs	6,422,806	
Balance for Investment (Secured Funds)		5,613,011
Pledged Funds:		
Pledged Funds ¹	38,000,000	
Operations Costs on Pledged Funds	5,700,000	
Balance for Investment (Pledged Funds)		32,300,000
Total Balance for Investment		37,913,011

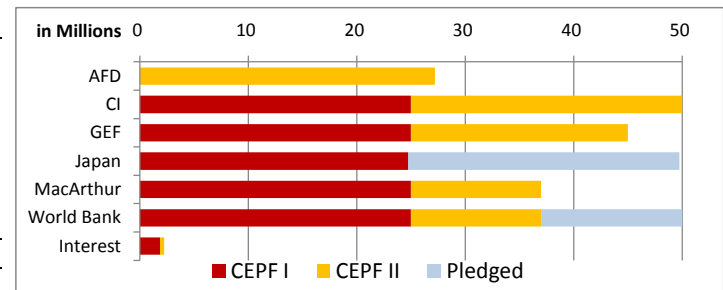


¹ Includes \$25mm from the Government of Japan and \$13mm from The World Bank

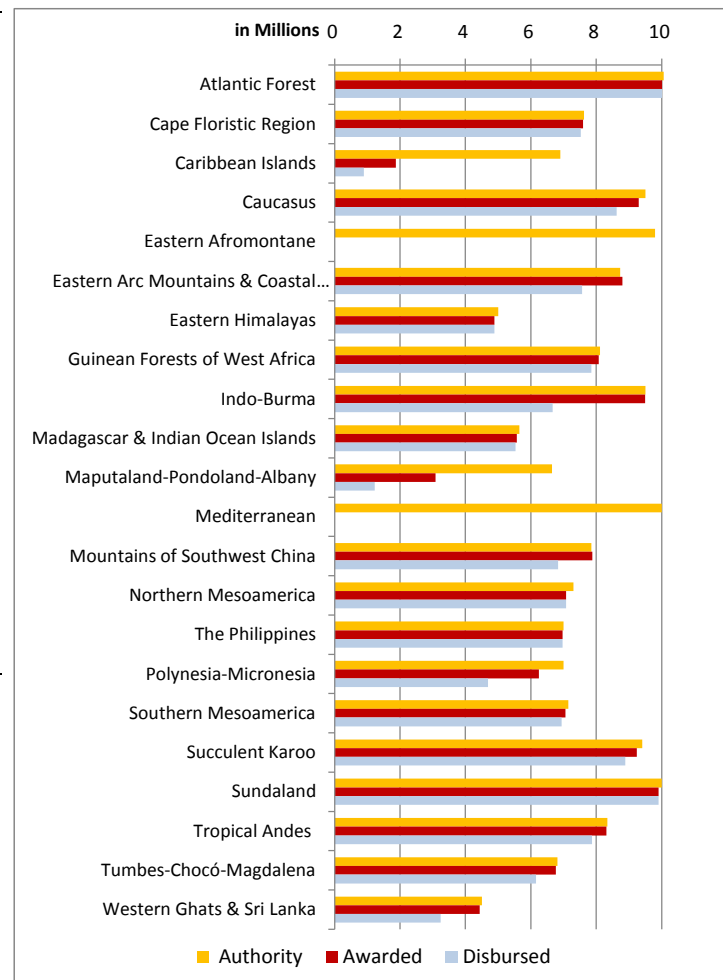
CEPF Quarterly Report

Income Statement from Inception to 3/31/2012 (in US\$ 1,000's)

Revenue	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Pledged
l'Agence Française de Développement	0	27,201	27,201	0
Conservation International	25,000	25,000	50,000	0
Global Environmental Facility	25,000	20,000	45,000	0
Government of Japan	24,750	0	24,750	25,000
MacArthur Foundation	25,000	12,000	37,000	0
The World Bank	25,000	12,000	37,000	13,000
Interest Earned	1,871	382	2,253	0
Total Revenue to Date	126,621	96,583	223,204	38,000



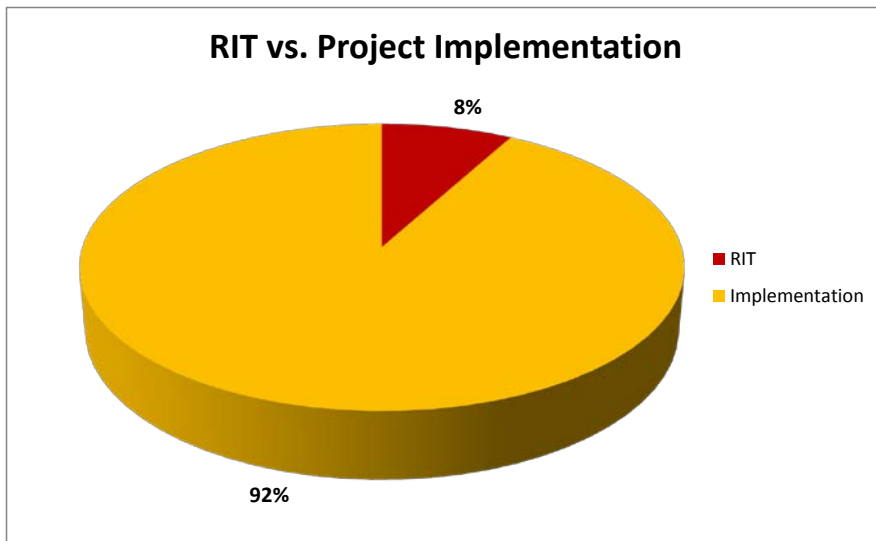
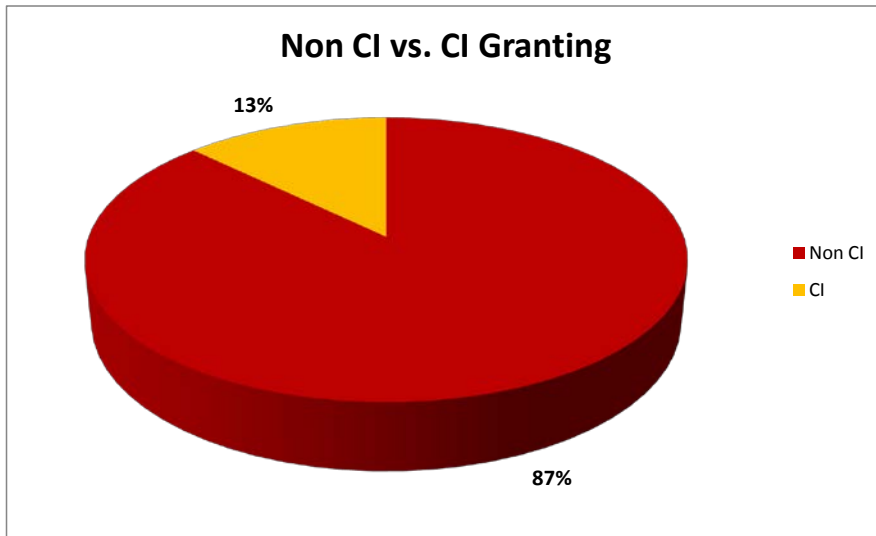
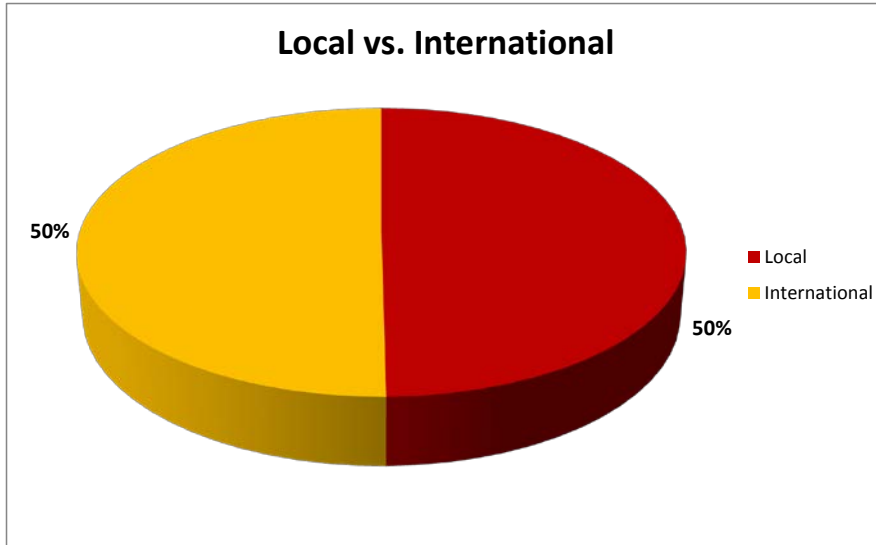
Expense	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	CEPF II	Total
Grants by region	Awarded	Awarded	Awarded	Balance	Disbursed
Atlantic Forest	7,615	2,395	10,010	0	10,010
Cape Floristic Region	5,966	1,628	7,594	0	7,528
Caribbean Islands	0	1,874	1,874	5,026	894
Caucasus	8,298	1,000	9,298	0	8,623
Eastern Afromontane	0	0	0	9,800	0
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	7,064	1,736	8,800	0	7,567
Eastern Himalayas	4,883	0	4,883	0	4,883
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165	1,915	8,080	0	7,846
Indo-Burma	0	9,492	9,492	8	6,671
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands	4,170	1,403	5,573	0	5,535
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	0	3,083	3,083	3,567	1,225
Mediterranean	0	0	0	10,000	0
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535	1,348	7,884	0	6,836
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079	0	7,079	0	7,079
The Philippines	6,970	0	6,970	0	6,970
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	6,244	6,244	756	4,692
Southern Mesoamerica	5,411	1,644	7,055	0	6,938
Succulent Karoo	7,834	1,409	9,243	0	8,886
Sundaland	9,901	0	9,901	0	9,901
Tropical Andes	6,130	2,185	8,315	0	7,874
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,952	1,814	6,766	0	6,159
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	0	4,439	4,439	61	3,245
Consolidation (unallocated)	0	0	0	1,523	0
Total Grants to Date	98,974	43,610	142,583	30,740	129,363



Operations to Date	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total
Preparation	6,714	1,721	8,435
Special Projects	345	524	869
Operations Costs	17,584	8,007	25,592
Total Operations to Date	24,643	10,253	34,896

Total Expense	123,617	53,863	177,479
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Fund Balance	45,724
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FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

During the twentieth meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 6 February 2012, the Donor Council made the following requests of the Secretariat.

- *Asked the Executive Director to send the Donor Council copies of the letters that went out requesting focal point endorsement of the Eastern Afromontane ecosystem profile, and the Chairperson directed the Secretariat to make this standard procedure for all investment regions.*

The Secretariat provided the letters to Donor Council members, and is making this part of the standard procedure for focal point endorsement requests.

- *Requested that the Executive Director report to the Council at its next meeting on communications with the donor partners about and during each ecosystem profiling process.*

This information will be included in the discussion about regions for new investment (agenda item 6).

- *Directed the Secretariat to present the enhanced global monitoring framework in detail, including timeframe and finalized budget, to the Working Group and then present it to the Donor Council electronically as a bridge to consideration of the framework at the next Donor Council meeting.*

The Secretariat included the monitoring framework budget and timeframe on the agenda of the Working Group meeting held 11 April 2012. The Working Group discussed the budget and timeline, and the Secretariat incorporated the Working Group's input into the monitoring framework documents included in the packet of documents for this meeting, and the topic is on the agenda. The Working Group agreed that it was not necessary to present the documents electronically to the Donor Council, because it was felt that this was an unnecessary additional step.

- *Asked the Executive Director to finalize the plan provided in CEPF/DC20/7 Annex A to enhance engagement of GEF focal points in the development of ecosystem profiles, and present this during the next Donor Council meeting. The Executive Director was also asked to draft a letter for the Chairperson's signature, to be sent to all of the focal points explaining the need for the change to a 60-day time-bound endorsement process for the profiles. The Secretariat was directed to send the draft of the letter to the GEF for review before distributing.*

The Secretariat drafted the letter, had it reviewed by the GEF, and distributed it to the list of focal points provided by the GEF.

- *Requested the Secretariat to review the criteria for choosing investment regions with the Working Group, and present the resulting criteria and prioritization to the Donor Council for their consideration as the Council weighs the next CEPF investments.*

The Secretariat reviewed the criteria with the Working Group at its 11 April 2012 meeting, incorporated the Working Group's input, and provided the resulting criteria and prioritization of hotspots in the document packet for this Donor Council meeting. Discussion on where CEPF will invest next is agenda item 6.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Program Overview (as of March 31, 2012)

Hotspot strategies implemented: 20

Partners supported: 1,669

Committed grants: \$142.6 million

Amount leveraged by those grants: \$322.8 million

Protected areas created or expanded with CEPF support: 12.5 million hectares

Donor Council Meeting Held in February

The Donor Council met 6 February 2012 at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Agenda items included:

- A proposal for the addition of a suite of global grants to CEPF's portfolio to fund multi-regional projects as called for in the strategic framework, including funding for the enhanced monitoring framework. This proposal was turned down, and Council members asked the Secretariat to make a full presentation on the enhanced monitoring framework at the next meeting.
- A Secretariat request for revision of the GEF requirement for focal point endorsement of the ecosystem profiles for each country included in the profiles prior to CEPF investment in that country. Donor Council members approved a time-bound, no-objection process for focal point endorsement, with a deadline of 60 days. The Secretariat must demonstrate this is not a passive process, but rather a process that includes active pursuit of focal point awareness and understanding of CEPF and the profiles.
- Requested approval for revisiting the prioritization process for selecting regions for investment. It was agreed that the Working Group would review the criteria for investment with the Secretariat, and the resulting criteria and prioritization will be presented for Donor Council approval.

Meeting minutes are included in the packet of documents for this meeting.

Working Group Meeting Held in April

The Working Group met on 11 April 2012. They reviewed the updated Global Monitoring Framework and budget, and agreed to send them on to the Donor Council for consideration. Working Group members also discussed the Secretariat's proposal on selection criteria for prioritizing CEPF investment, and provided input on tweaking the criteria to include factors such as whether there is good opportunity/enabling political/financial environment for conservation; whether a hotspot is a safe place to work; opportunities to enhance conservation of biodiversity in productive landscapes; and potential for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem concerns into development. They requested an updated report on lessons learned from the consolidation program as the Secretariat proposes to assess the possibility of investing for longer periods of time in hotspots where CEPF has previously invested, and proposes that the Donor Council consider these areas along with new regions when determining where CEPF will invest. Following the meeting, the revised prioritization criteria and consolidation lessons learned paper were circulated to the Working Group, and now move to the Donor Council for consideration.

Working Group members also reviewed the Secretariat's proposed criteria for global grants, and agreed to share the criteria with the Donor Council for consideration when a global grant is ready for approval, emphasizing that such grants be used for substantive conservation issues and on-the-ground activities. It was also decided to establish some form of electronic topical discussions for the Working Group to facilitate informal communications outside of meetings.

Partnership Talks Continue with the European Commission

The Secretariat continued to work closely with the European Commission (EC) toward enlisting the EC as a global donor partner, in particular supporting the writing of a Project Identification Fiche (January) and a Project Action Fiche (February), which represent the two main stages for the technical validation of

the proposal. In March, the proposal from CEPF for global funding of 18 million euros was approved by the EC's second quality support group. In the coming months, the proposal (together with others included in the "annual working plan") is expected to be submitted for validation of every EC directorate, and then presented to the European Council and Parliament for approval. A final financing decision by the European Commission is expected by September 2012. Provided that the grant is approved, the World Bank will serve as the conduit for CEPF to receive the funds from the European Commission.

East Melanesian Islands Ecosystem Profile Nearing Completion

Work to prepare the ecosystem profile for the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot continued during the quarter. From January to March, local stakeholder consultations were held in the five provinces of Papua New Guinea within the hotspot: Manus; New Ireland; West New Britain; East New Britain; and Bougainville. Local radio broadcasts were used to advertise the consultations, and more than 200 representatives of local communities, NGOs, church groups and local government units took part. During March and April, similar consultations took place in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, involving more than 100 more participants. The consultation process concluded with a regional consultation workshop, held in Honiara, the Solomon Islands capital, from April 30 to May 2, 2012. This workshop was attended by representatives of the three hotspot governments, as well as international, national and grassroots NGOs, plus academic institutions. The GEF operational focal points in the region were frequently consulted during the process, and their representatives participated actively in the regional consultation workshop (the focal points themselves being unable to attend). Invitations to donor members also were extended well in advance to the meetings. Through these consultation workshops, broad consensus was reached on the main conservation issues facing the hotspot: population pressure, small-scale habitat encroachment, logging, mining and commercial plantations. Based on this a draft investment strategy has been prepared that will be circulated to stakeholders for comment in June as part of the draft ecosystem profile.

As the Donor Council considers at this meeting where the next CEPF investments will take place, the Secretariat would also like to review how it communicated with the donor partners in the East Melanesia process, and whether changes are needed in such communications to enhance donor participation and awareness during the profiling process.

Proposed CEPF Learning Event at Rio+20

CEPF submitted a proposal for an official learning event, titled "Biodiversity Conservation: An Essential Pillar of a Green Economy." The Secretariat learned on 14 May that the event was not accepted as an official learning event. The Secretariat is exploring other options for holding the session. As proposed, it would focus on demonstrating how CEPF works to conserve biodiversity and set a foundation for a green economy through support to civil society. It would bring together four presenters: CEPF's Executive Director, a CEPF donor partner, a civil society grantee and a government partner to present the case for civil society involvement in biodiversity conservation as a means to achieve green economies. It would include presentations, followed by focused discussions where participants can learn about building civil society capacity to achieve biodiversity conservation and green economies, and stimulating collaboration between government and civil society. Donor suggestions on other potential venues at Rio+20 are welcomed.

CEPF at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

CEPF will co-present a workshop titled "Investing in Natural Infrastructure as an Element of Green Economies," with the World Bank, the Nature Conservancy, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. The workshop is scheduled for 9 September 2012 at the conference in Jeju, South Korea. It will include discussion on piloting new approaches to integrating the values of natural infrastructure into local and national development planning, taking CEPF as an example of a mechanism for catalyzing innovation.

Saudi Wildlife Authority to host CEPF Investment Launch

The Saudi Wildlife Authority has agreed to host an event tentatively set for this fall in Riyadh launching CEPF's \$9.8 million investment in the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, which includes portions of 17 countries stretching from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. A specific date has not yet been determined. The Secretariat will keep the Donor Council informed as this event develops, and encourages donor participation.

Update of Indo-Burma Hotspot Profile Completed

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 foundations 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.

During January 2012, the process to update the ecosystem profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot concluded with a stakeholder consultation workshop in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma). This concludes a consultation process that has engaged more than 470 people from government and donor agencies and all sectors of civil society, making it one of the most extensive yet. The results of the Myanmar consultations were included in the updated ecosystem profile, which is now in final editing. The completed profile will be made available to the Donor Council and Working Group, and if the Council decides to reinvest in Indo-Burma (to be considered as part of investment prioritization discussion set for this meeting), the specific definition of CEPF's niche in the new strategy will be circulated for approval.

Consolidation Update

Madagascar

Beginning in August 2009, CEPF supported Conservation International-Madagascar's Nodes Program as part of the consolidation investment. This grant included funds for an independent evaluation of the progress towards the short and long-term goals of the project, undertaken by the Malagasy organization the Bureau d'Expertise Sociale et de Diffusion Technique (BEST). In February, 33 people representing partner organizations, communities and the Nodes Program came together to discuss the findings of the independent evaluation. This workshop provided the participants with an opportunity to discuss the findings of the external evaluation, discuss the process involved in managing microgrants, and share experiences and lessons learned. The workshop took place despite cyclone Giovanna making landfall resulting in significant logistical and transportation problems.

The Malagasy organizations supported through the Node program include:

Corridor	Node Organization
Corridor Ankeniheny-Zahamena (CAZ)	Association Nationale d'Actions Environnementales (ANAE)
	Organe de développement du Diocèse de Toamasina (ODDIT)
	MATEZA (Malagasy teknisiana mivondrona ho Aro sy TEzan'i Zahamena ary ny Ala Antsinanana)
Nosivolo	DURRELL Wildlife Conservation Trust

Daraina-Loky-Manambato	Association FANAMBY
Menabe	Association FANAMBY
Mahavavy-Kinkony	ASITY Madagascar
Mangoky-Ihotry	ASITY Madagascar
Corridor Forestier Ambositra - Vondrozo	Ny Tanintsika Ambositra
Corridor Forestier Ambositra - Vondrozo	Haona Soa (Des Hommes, des Acteurs et de leur Organisation, de la Nature Avec une Solidarité Active)
Corridor Forestier Ambositra - Vondrozo	Ny Tanintsika Fianarantsoa

The external review found that the Node program has already achieved a majority of its objectives. The highlights of the program include 427 micro-projects totaling \$624,603 since 2009. These projects focused on generating revenue through sustainable livelihoods or promoting sustainable management of natural resources. Activities supported include: cash crops production, raising livestock, rice production, organic farming, tree nursery development and reforestation, ecotourism initiatives, creation of fish ponds, ecological monitoring, fishery management, beekeeping, agroforestry and handicrafts. The 266 projects supported with CEPF's funding to the Node program have benefitted 145 communities.

Additional results include:

- Increased capacity of node organizations to manage similar funding mechanisms.
- Improved awareness among communities of the value of biodiversity and potential economic benefits of conservation.
- Leveraged funds from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (\$6,400) and Dell (\$240,000) and coordinated with tsunami relief projects.

Southern Mesoamerica

Two very positive developments out of Southern Mesoamerica provided testament to the efficacy of CEPF's support in the region since 2002. A recent CEPF-funded study found that the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve has experienced no decrease in its natural capital in the last 10 years, which corresponds roughly to when CEPF began its engagement in the reserve. This finding is particularly remarkable in light of the rate of degradation experienced throughout the southeast outside of the reserve. Part of this success in Indio Maiz can be attributed to CEPF's support for the preparation and implementation of its management plan. Another factor has been CEPF support for environmentally sustainable livelihood projects in the buffer zone communities. CEPF's support of the Southeast Nicaragua Cocoa Strategic Plan has now permitted 1,500 small-holder farmers to export organic cacao to the Ritter Sport company in Germany, while sustainably managing 50,000 hectares in the Indio Maiz buffer zone.

Another important legacy of CEPF's investments was the establishment of the tri-national International Foundation for Sustainable Conservation (FINCOS), which is made of 67 current and former grantees from Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The alliance aims to foster collaboration and the sustainability of conservation efforts between partners who have worked with CEPF. Exchange meetings have allowed FINCOS members to share their experiences and expertise.

Tropical Andes

January 26-27, more than 60 participants from Bolivia and Peru met in Puerto Maldonado to exchange their experiences in mitigating the socio-environmental impacts of the Southern Inter-Oceanic Highway in Peru and the Northern Corridor Road in Bolivia. A broad cross section of stakeholders was represented, including CEPF grantees, farmers, indigenous representatives, park directors, municipal representatives and the construction company. Participants discussed a wide variety of issues related to the roads,

including how to monitor and mitigate potential negative impacts from the roads arising from rapid migration and uncontrolled gold mining. They also discussed how to spur a green development. CEPF has helped local citizens to monitor and engage in efforts to mitigate the negative impacts arising for the roads.

FEATURED NEW GRANT

Caribbean Islands

The Caribbean Islands Hotspot contracted a variety of small and large grants in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica. The grants are helping to prepare management plans for five KBAs, supporting forest management planning and reforestation, promoting nature-based tourism and developing communications networks. Several innovative projects also are supported, including the establishment of Haiti's first municipal reserve and the following Dominican Republic grant.

- The expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Dominican Republic via unsustainable production practices, as well as illegal logging, are affecting the habitat of species, vital natural resources and livelihoods tied to organic agriculture and ecotourism. To encourage protection of ecosystems and the livelihoods they support, CEPF awarded a grant to the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo for the establishment of a payment for ecosystems services (PES). The grantee will develop a PES scheme for drinking water and irrigation to support watershed conservation in the Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo key biodiversity areas in the Dominican Republic. Information on the economic value of water will be used to design and obtain agreement on a PES scheme involving the country's water authority, environment ministry and local civil society groups. Sustainability will be fostered by building the capacity of key stakeholders. Objectives of the project include conducting a study on economic valuation of water for drinking and irrigation; establishing a scheme based on these values; conducting workshops with stakeholders; and holding an international meeting on the use of such financial mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean

FROM THE FIELD

Polynesia-Micronesia

A BirdLife Fiji project supported by CEPF was awarded an Equator Prize, given to outstanding local and indigenous groups from across the world working towards sustainable development. The prize, presented by the Equator Initiative, was awarded to BirdLife's community-based Sisi Initiative. It was developed in response to illegal logging, forest fires, overgrazing, agricultural encroachment and invasive alien species around the Natewa Tunuloa Important Bird Area. Natewa Tunuloa covers large tracts of old-growth rainforest which support globally threatened birds. In a short space of time the Sisi Initiative made a big difference, establishing of more than 6,000 hectares of community protected forest. The voluntary community group has also worked to develop income-generating activities that are compatible with nature conservation. A model farm and a tree nursery have reduced the pressure on forest clearance. Through activities such as handicraft and jewelry-making, communities have learned to use raw materials from their environment to create products that generate income, adding to the value of natural resources to people and reinforcing residents' motivation to conserve their ecosystems for future generations.

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena

In Colombia's Chocó-Manabí corridor, CEPF's PES project achieved an important milestone with the creation and first contribution of capital for the Minga for Water Fund, a mechanism that creates an economic incentive for conservation and watershed management. This project is part of a larger PES scheme based on the generation and utilization of water resources in the buffer zone of Munchique National Park. It is one of the first PES projects to work with indigenous communities in Colombia.

Further north in Colombia, the Cerro El Inglés Nature Reserve, which has received CEPF support, was officially recognized as a “model reserve” nationally to serve as an example of best practices in biodiversity conservation and science tourism.

In northwest Ecuador, partners worked with local communities and the government to update the management plan for Golondrinas Protected Forest, which was officially approved and published to cover 2012 to 2017. The protected forest covers a vital 13,509-hectare link in a larger conservation corridor spanning the Pacific Coast to the peaks of the Andes Mountains. Within the protected area, two new conservation areas covering 80 hectares were officially accepted into Ecuador’s Socio Bosque program, providing an additional income of \$2,800 per year for the next 20 years to the owners for conserving the land.

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

The largest city in South Africa’s Eastern Cape province is Port Elizabeth, known now by the larger geographic designation the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal area. Although it is a city that suffers from many typical big-city issues, including poverty and crime, it is the meeting place of six different biomes and still has patches of important floral biodiversity. In June 2011, CEPF awarded a grant to the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) to undertake an urban greening and community partnership project around the Baakens Valley, an urban stream and park. The park has rare and endangered wildflowers, but also suffers from alien weeds, trash and crime. WESSA has been addressing all of these issues, starting with community engagement and creating local pride in this green space. Most recently, WESSA sponsored a Freedom Day picnic in the park, received funding from the Coca Cola Company to pay for park safety officers, worked with a neighborhood association and golf course to pay for the manual removal of 7.5 hectares of alien plants, and facilitated a rapid response by the Municipal Infrastructure and Engineering Department when local residents reported a sewage spill in the river.

Tropical Andes

The World Bank approved the National Roads and Airport Infrastructure Project in Bolivia for \$109.5 million in May 2011 to upgrade a local airport and an existing dirt road that runs from the town of San Buenaventura to Ixiamas, which is located in the buffer zone of Madidi National Park. To complement the Bank’s infrastructure project, the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) has provided conditional approval of \$2.2 million for the Integrated Community-Driven Territorial Development for Remote Communities in the Amazon Project. This JSDF project, which the World Bank manages, will support small-scale sustainable development sub-projects and participatory municipal land-use planning along the San Buenaventura-Ixiamas Road, targeting Tacana y Esse Eja indigenous communities and multicultural farming communities. The World Bank office in Bolivia selected Fundación para el Desarrollo del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (FUNDESNA) and Conservation International–Bolivia to implement the JSDF project. Both are CEPF grantees who received funding to facilitate a sustainable development trajectory along the Bank’s road improvement project. Their experience with the CEPF-funded projects was one of several factors that led to their selection for the JSDF project. Thus, the JSDF project will build on the experience gained by FUNDESNA and CI-Bolivia while implementing their CEPF grants.

**Approved Grants and Subgrants
January 01, 2012 - March 31, 2012**

Caribbean Islands Hotspot

**Strategic Direction 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas
Assessing the Feasibility of Sustainable Financing Mechanisms in Bahoruco Oriental**

Evaluate and identify the feasibility of developing sustainable financing mechanisms to improve biodiversity conservation in Bahoruco Oriental, Dominican Republic. This includes engaging key stakeholders and authorities in the issues that affect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity in the area; identifying key ecosystem service benefits, beneficiaries and suppliers; drafting a report outlining the feasibility of implementing local and global ecosystem markets in Bahoruco Oriental; and creating an action plan with recommendations for developing those mechanisms that are deemed feasible.

Funding: \$19,720

Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 11/30/2012

Grantee: Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Floristic Survey of the Hellshire Hills, Manatee Bay, and Goat Islands, Jamaica: A Contribution to Improved Protection and Management of the Jamaican Iguana

Collect floristic baseline data in Hellshire Hills, Jamaica, which is needed to inform conservation management action plans for the key biodiversity area, including actions to identify and remove invasive alien species. The grant supports field surveys to identify plant species required to inform conservation actions; posting of collections in herbaria and online; an assessment of the status of Critically Endangered species; and engagement of key local stakeholders.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 2/1/2012 - 2/28/2013

Grantee: Caribbean Wildlife Alliance

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Informing Biodiversity Conservation Actions in Lake Enriquillo: Demonstrating the Recovery of Critically Endangered Species by the Removal of Invasive Alien Species

Establish and implement a monitoring program for Critically Endangered species on Cabritos Island in the Lake Enriquillo key biodiversity area (KBA) to measure the results of the elimination of invasive species. A baseline assessment will be conducted and two annual evaluations thereafter. The project builds on work being carried out in invasive species control, eradication and maintenance by a number of local and international partner organizations and agencies and aims to inform the development of conservation actions for this KBA and other offshore islands in the Dominican Republic.

Funding: \$19,954

Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 12/31/2014

Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Management Planning in the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge and Bight Key Biodiversity Areas of Jamaica

Develop two participatory management plans for the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge key biodiversity areas in Jamaica. The grant supports collection of baseline data, identification of high-priority conservation actions and establishment of a monitoring program for endangered and endemic species; consultation with and validation by key stakeholders involved in management planning; and

strengthening the grantee's institutional and technical capacity to become a more effective leader in conservation. Furthermore, approaches to fostering climate change adaptation will be assessed and recommended.

Funding: \$141,187
Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013
Grantee: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation

Management Planning and Threats Reduction from Agricultural Encroachment for La Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks in the Dominican Republic

Develop participatory management and action plans for long-term conservation of Montaña la Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks, two key biodiversity areas with special significance since they protect critical catchment areas for Santo Domingo's water supply. The grant supports the development of baseline studies to assess the state of biodiversity, agriculture and its encroachment, and local socioeconomic conditions. Special consideration will be paid to the provision of ecosystem services (particularly for water resources), agricultural encroachment, and climate change adaptation. Outreach to local communities and park management authorities will result in the management plan recommendations and approval.

Funding: \$110,880
Grant Term: 5/1/2012 - 3/31/2013
Grantee: Fondo Pronaturaleza Inc.

Promoting a Payment for Environmental Services Scheme through the Economic Valuation of Water Resources in the Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Science Reserves, Dominican Republic

Develop a payment for environmental services (PES) scheme for drinking water and irrigation to support watershed conservation in the Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo key biodiversity areas in the Dominican Republic. Information on the economic value of water will be used to design and obtain agreement on a PES scheme involving the country's water authority, environment ministry, and local civil society groups. Furthermore, sustainability will be fostered by building the capacity of key stakeholders.

Funding: \$59,101
Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 8/31/2013
Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo

Sustainable Financing and Establishment of Private Reserves for Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo, Dominican Republic

Create the Dominican Republic's first private protected area to enhance connectivity with two existing protected areas and foster its financial sustainability through the sale of forest carbon credits. The grant supports the development of a framework by which private investors will purchase land to establish the private protected area; proposal preparation and sale of forest carbon credits; support to cacao farmers for reforestation with native species; and dissemination of the project's experience for replication.

Funding: \$209,860
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 6/30/2014
Grantee: Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

Strategic Direction 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors

Building a Framework for Sustainable Tourism in Key Biodiversity Areas in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica: The Caribbean Birding Trail

Conduct a participatory feasibility assessment for developing sustainable nature tourism, in particular, the Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT), in five key biodiversity areas including Cockpit Country and Portland Ridge and Bight in Jamaica and Valle Nuevo, Sierra de Bahoruco and Bahoruco Oriental in the

Dominican Republic. The grant supports stakeholder workshops, consultations and feasibility assessments for each of the five sites; creation and enhancement of sustainable tourism networks; and development of a draft operational plan for the CBT that includes strategies for interpretation, marketing and funding.

Funding: \$62,754

Grant Term: 4/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Grantee: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds

Strategic Direction 3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration

Connecting Conservationists in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot

Support a cohesive network of CEPF grantees in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot by providing high quality tools to share information and best practices. The grant supports the development and annual updating of project profiles in English, French and Spanish on the Eco-Index website; creation of grantee webpages; provision of online webinars and courses related to sustainable natural resource management; and promotion of CEPF projects through a variety of tools including feature interviews, articles and social media outlets.

Funding: \$105,021

Grant Term: 4/1/2012 - 10/31/2015

Grantee: Rainforest Alliance, Inc.

Stakeholder Consultation and Strategic Planning for Coordinated Biodiversity Conservation Action in Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte

Organise a one day meeting with stakeholders in the in Massif de la Hotte key biodiversity area in Haiti to identify current initiatives and investments and to help determine the potential niche for CEPF support in the area. The grant supports the planning and preparation of the meeting.

Funding: \$11,473

Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 4/30/2012

Grantee: Organisation pour la Rehabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Support for the Pine Forest-Haiti, Preserving Biodiversity by Strengthening Capacity of Schools and Community Associations

Produce material to be used by trainers, teachers and members of farmers groups to provide them with basic knowledge and key concepts related to the biodiversity in Haiti and Foret des Pins in particular. Set up a short training program to be implemented in at least three schools in the area. To encourage and strengthen concerted action and collaboration among relevant stakeholders, project components will include production of material, communication and outreach, evaluation and validation of a training guide.

Funding: \$19,990

Grant Term: 2/1/2012 - 7/30/2012

Grantee: Reseau d'Enseignement Professionnel et d'Interventions Ecologiques (REPIE)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania

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

Update the Forest Cover and Change Analysis of the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests Region of East Africa

Update of the forest cover analysis for the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya, using 2010 satellite data and improved technology and analytical methods. These data will assist natural resource managers and decision makers and provide key information for emissions baselines for the voluntary carbon market and national REDD+ planning. This analysis will be undertaken in partnership with the Sokoine University of Agriculture and the forestry management authorities in Tanzania and Kenya.

Funding: \$100,000
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Conservation International

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

Educator Development in Environmental Learning in the Greater Midlands Region

Treverton Trust develops a project to educate teachers on environmental management in the Midlands region. The project will promote professional development and environmental learning.

Funding: \$19,737
Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 2/28/2013
Grantee: Treverton Trust

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Implementation of Biodiversity Stewardship by the Botanical Society of South Africa in Eight Botanically Significant Sites in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

The Botanical Society of South Africa will work with the provincial land management agency of the province of KwaZulu-Natal, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and volunteers from the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) to facilitate the stewardship process on privately owned plots of land totaling 12,000 hectares. This includes South Coast grassland and Mistbelt grassland habitat that is the breeding ground of wattled crane, oribi, cycads, and the Hilton daisy (*Gerbera aurantiaca*). The team will work with land owners, conduct biodiversity site assessments, and contribute to the ultimate designation of these areas as provincial nature reserves.

Funding: \$146,793
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Botanical Society of South Africa

Lubombo Spine Wildlife Biodiversity Corridor

Thanda Private Game Reserve is a 7,500-hectare exclusive safari tourism resort with well-managed biodiversity. Neighboring Thanda is Mduna-Royal Reserve, a 6,000-hectare community-managed parcel that is relatively degraded. Neither is assured long-term conservation per their current legal designation. Space for Elephants will facilitate the process by which the two are merged, fences between them are removed, and the resulting new area, the Thanda Royal Mduna Reserve, is proclaimed a formal stewardship area under the National Biodiversity Act.

Funding: \$161,750
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Space for Elephants Foundation

Ongeluksnek: Biodiversity Custodianship through Innovative 'People & Parks' Cooperation

Environment & Rural Solutions is working in 13,000 hectares of the upper Umzimvubu River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in the eastern part of South Africa. The grantee is working in the Ongeluksnek Provincial Nature Reserve, manually clearing invasive plants, improving trails and wildlife viewing opportunities for tourists, and attempting to create formal payment for ecosystem services agreements between the residents of the area and the downstream beneficiaries of the watershed.

Funding: \$217,429

Grant Term: 2/1/2012 - 12/31/2013

Grantee: Environmental & Rural Solutions

Umgano Project Mentoring (Environmental Education and Training of Field Rangers)

The Mabandla Community Trust is developing and implementing a community stewardship initiative through various mentorship projects that will contribute to enhancing understanding and appreciation of biodiversity. This project will strengthen the capacity of community field rangers and improve the effectiveness of protected-area management

Funding: \$19,649

Grant Term: 2/1/2012 - 2/28/2013

Grantee: Mabandla Community Trust

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 4. Create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites**The Mountain Zebra Wilderness Corridor Partnership**

The Wilderness Foundation is working with South Africa National Parks to create a mosaic of protected areas anchored by the Mountain Zebra National Park and the Camdeboo complex, a key biodiversity area. The grantee will work with as many as 75 land owners to place as much as 30,000 hectares of land under formal stewardship.

Funding: \$219,780

Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 2/28/2014

Grantee: Wilderness Foundation

Workshop to Aid in Determining the Human Capacity Needs for the Lubombo TFCA

This project will formulate an approach to address the capacity needs of civil society in the MPAH region. This training intervention will bring the stakeholders together and determine the training needs and how to address the capacity building.

Funding: \$19,998

Grant Term: 4/1/2012 - 9/30/2012

Grantee: Southern African Wildlife College

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot**Strategic Direction 6. Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of the initial 5-year CEPF investment in this region****Building Legal Capacity to Protect Biodiversity in the Mountains of Southwest China**

Reduce negative impacts of development projects on biodiversity in the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot through applying environmental law to resolve conflicts between development and conservation agendas, strengthening the capacity of local civil society organizations to use the law to protect biodiversity through training and hands-on support in legal cases; and publishing a biodiversity

conservation law handbook.

Funding: \$100,000
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 11/30/2014
Grantee: Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims

Consolidate Civil Societies' Participation in the Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in China

Consolidate networks among civil society organizations and government agencies combating illegal wildlife trafficking in China by strengthening the Save Wildlife in Trade Coalition. Enhance the coalition's role by establishing a system of financial contributions from its members, strengthening collaboration among government agencies at national and provincial levels, and supporting the finalization and implementation of key policies related to wildlife trade.

Funding: \$350,000
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Beijing Normal University

Integrating Experiences Gained from Community Conservation Areas into China's Protected Area Legislation Processes

Document experiences gained by CEPF investments in the Mountains of Southwest China, including work on community conservation areas (CCAs), conservation agreements and payments for ecosystem services, and integrate them into relevant legislation. Identify and pursue opportunities to establish long-term financing mechanisms in support of CCAs. Promote the recognition of the conservation agreement model by at least one provincial or national policy.

Funding: \$250,000
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Conservation International Foundation

Promote Community-Conserved Areas and Civil Society's Involvement in Development Planning in the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot

Sustain and amplify the results of CEPF investments in Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) during the first phase of grant making in the Mountains of Southwest China by building capacity at the community level and promoting incorporation of CCAs within provincial nature reserve development plans. Consolidate and expand the network of civil society organizations piloting CCAs through communication and experience sharing.

Funding: \$400,000
Grant Term: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Grantee: Beijing Shanshui Conservation Center

Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen the conservation status and management of 60 key biodiversity areas

Conservation, Cystematic and Cultural Connections of Fiji's Endemic *Placostylus* Land Snails

Placostylus land snails are found only in the western Pacific. Their declining habitat and poor dispersal ability have resulted in several members of the genus being recorded as threatened or extinct. Fiji has 14 endemic species of *Placostylus*, eight of which are recorded from a single small island. This study will investigate these endemic species ecologically and genetically to assist in their conservation.

Funding: \$17,754
Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 12/31/2012
Grantee: University of the South Pacific
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Build awareness and participation of local leaders and community members in the implementation of protection and recovery plans for threatened species

Raising Community Awareness of Environmental Laws in Samoa

Publication of Samoa's biodiversity-related laws in the local language so they can be understood by the general public. This booklet is the first of its kind to be produced in Samoan language and distributed widely in country to raise awareness of biodiversity. The aim is to deter people from engaging in activities which will lead to species or habitat loss.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 12/1/2011 - 4/30/2012

Grantee: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Western Ghats & Sri Lanka Hotspot

Strategic Direction 1. Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors

Networking and Information Support for Conservation of Rocky Plateaus in the Sahyadri-Konkan Corridor

Project focuses on networking groups working on the rocky plateaus and building their capacity for conservation and management of 15 sites in the northwestern portion of the Western Ghats. Capacity building to monitor and assess threatened biodiversity will be done by team of scientists, a manual will be prepared, and information will be openly shared. Management guidelines will be formalized with the concerned government department.

Funding: \$13,872

Grant Term: 2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013

Grantee: Biome Conservation Foundation

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Showcasing the Western Ghats at the Society for Conservation Biology (Asia) Conference and Beyond

Create a compelling showcase of the incredible biodiversity of the Western Ghats, with special focus on lesser-known organisms and ecosystem services for the Asia Regional Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology to increase awareness and understanding of the landscape in the larger science and conservation community in Asia.

Funding: \$19,992

Grant Term: 3/1/2012 - 8/31/2012

Grantee: Nature Conservation Foundation

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*