CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

CEPF Report of Global Impact 2000-2016

December 2016

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Report of Global Impact, 2000-2016

1. Background

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. It provides grants to nongovernmental and private sector organizations to help conserve critical ecosystems located in biodiversity hotspots, Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions.

CEPF was created in 2000, and since inception through June 30, 2016, has awarded 1906 grants in 24 biodiversity hotspots, covering 92 countries and territories, amounting to just over $202 million. Each grant is placed into one of four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being, and enabling conditions (Figure 1). CEPF's first two pillars, which aim to conserve biodiversity and build civil society capacity to achieve conservation, are closely linked. Strong civil society capacity is essential for a sustainable foundation for biodiversity conservation. Underpinning both are the third and fourth pillars. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need, such as fresh water. Enabling conditions are critical for successful conservation, but can be altered and improved by civil society, in particular a civil society that is empowered and informed. CEPF aims to measure progress in all four of these interlinked pillars to gain a holistic understanding of impact of the fund.

CEPF's Mediterranean Basin hotspot RIT La Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux (LPO) project team with local partners in El Haouaria, Tunisia.

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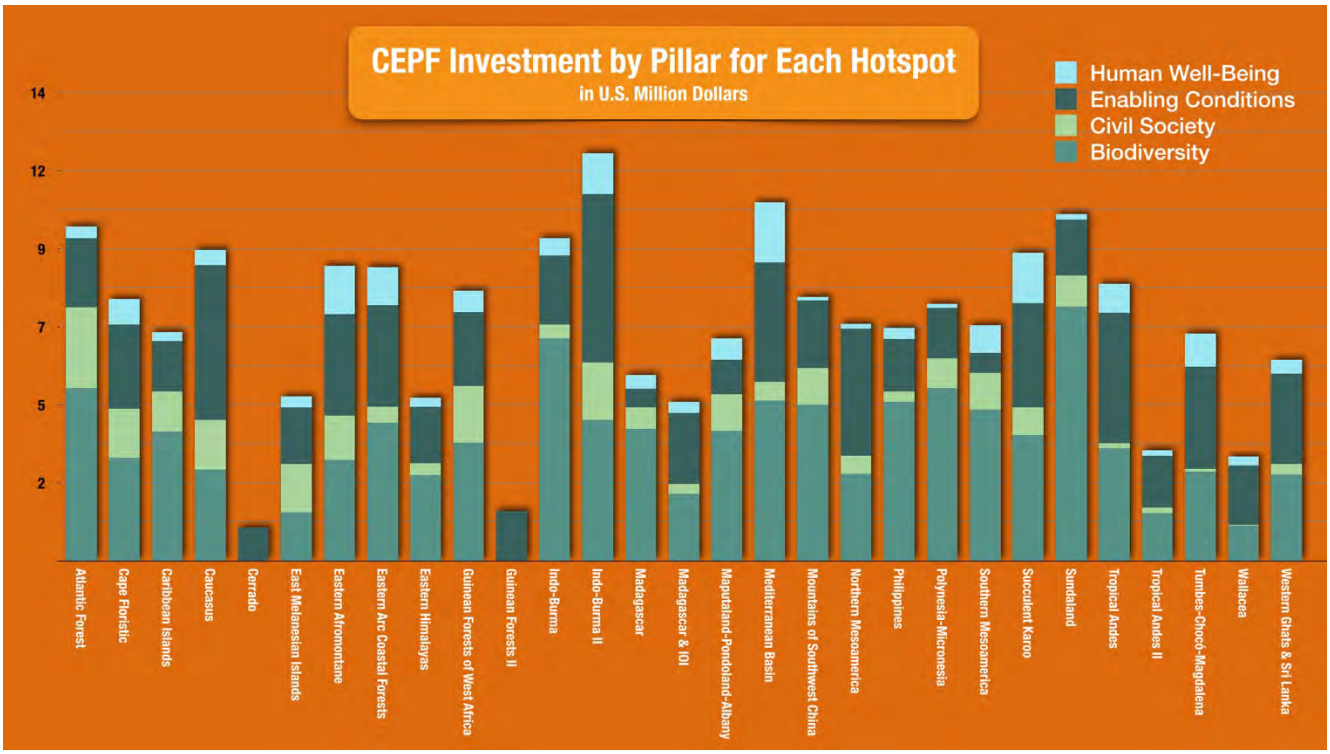


Figure 1. CEPF investment by pillar, by hotspot, FY2001 to FY2016.

CEPF's monitoring system operates on three levels: the grant, hotspot and global program levels. At the grant level, each project supported by CEPF is designed to contribute to the conservation outcomes identified in the ecosystem profile, the document that guides CEPF's investment in each hotspot. Grantees report on performance and impact via semestral and final reports. At the hotspot level, each ecosystem profile contains a logframe, with indicators and targets. Data compiled from all grants in a portfolio are used to measure progress toward the conservation outcomes identified in the ecosystem profile. At the global level, CEPF measures its global impact by compiling and aggregating portfolio data and applying these data to the global indicators contained in its global monitoring framework.

2. Data collection past and present

CEPF has a wealth of information that has been produced by nearly 2,000 projects over the past 15 years. The quality and quantity of this information has evolved, as CEPF has become better at collecting data and asking for relevant data. With each iteration of CEPF's monitoring efforts, the definition of each indicator has improved, increasing the likelihood that grantees with varying levels of capacity and ability to speak the major CEPF languages (English, French and Spanish) will respond accurately.

Report review, data extraction and data aggregation have in the past been undertaken on a report-by-report basis. This effort has been time consuming, but has allowed for identification of issues needing validation or correction. It has been an immense challenge for compilation and aggregation, however, for many reasons, including a) reports are sometimes submitted after deadlines, making aggregation of data inaccurate if some data is omitted; b) reports may

need to be validated, thereby delaying efforts to aggregate data; and c) lack of an electronic system to host the full range of impact data that is requested; and d) lack of an electronic system to record changes to existing data, if revisions or updates are needed.

The need to improve CEPF's means of data collection, storage and aggregation, as well as communication of results, was recognized by the CEPF Donor Council during development of CEPF's second Strategic Framework, which was approved in January 2014. In response, CEPF has integrated its monitoring needs into a larger initiative aimed at creating a new state-of-the-art electronic grants management system for the fund. Named *Conservation Grants*, this new system launched in late 2016. It is a full spectrum electronic grants management system, covering every facet of grant making from applications to grant implementation to project close out. Key for CEPF's monitoring efforts is that this system allows for electronic report submission, and automated storage and aggregation of impact data submitted via each grantee report. Although still in the testing phase, there is every indication that *Conservation Grants* will be an incredible asset in the future that will allow CEPF to report on its impact accurately and regularly.

3. CEPF's global impact

In 2012, CEPF's donors approved a monitoring framework containing 23 indicators. CEPF has been able to report on some, but not all, of these indicators, and this report is no exception. Some of the indicators devised in 2012 are not designed to be reported on frequently, e.g. *Change in the Red List Index*, which can only be updated when new taxonomic assessments are completed by IUCN Specialist Groups, while others have proven to be potentially expensive and unclear, e.g. *Change in the amount of fresh water secured at CEPF invested sites and delivered to downstream users,* which necessitates clarity on the type of project that might contribute to water security as well as an understanding of the demographics outside of a project area. CEPF acknowledges that the 2012 monitoring framework deserves to be revisited and revised, and has set this as a priority for 2017.

This report therefore addresses the following indicators:

- change in # of hectares of new protected areas.
- change in # of hectares of KBAs with strengthened protection and management.
- change in the # of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation.
- change in the # of direct beneficiaries.
- change in the # of communities directly benefitting.
- change in the # of policies (legislative, regulatory or strategic) that include provisions for conservation management.
- change in the # of sustainable finance mechanisms with improved management.
- change in the # of sites (protected areas) with improved management.
- change in the # and % of local, national and regional CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity.
- change in the # of networks and partnerships.

This report covers CEPF impact from fund inception in January 2001 through June 30, 2016.

4. Change in the # of hectares of new protected areas

Creation of protected areas has been an objective of CEPF since inception. To date, CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,531,117 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots (Figure 2). Protected areas included in this amount must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. Stewardship and community agreements, insofar as they are legally binding, are also included in this amount.

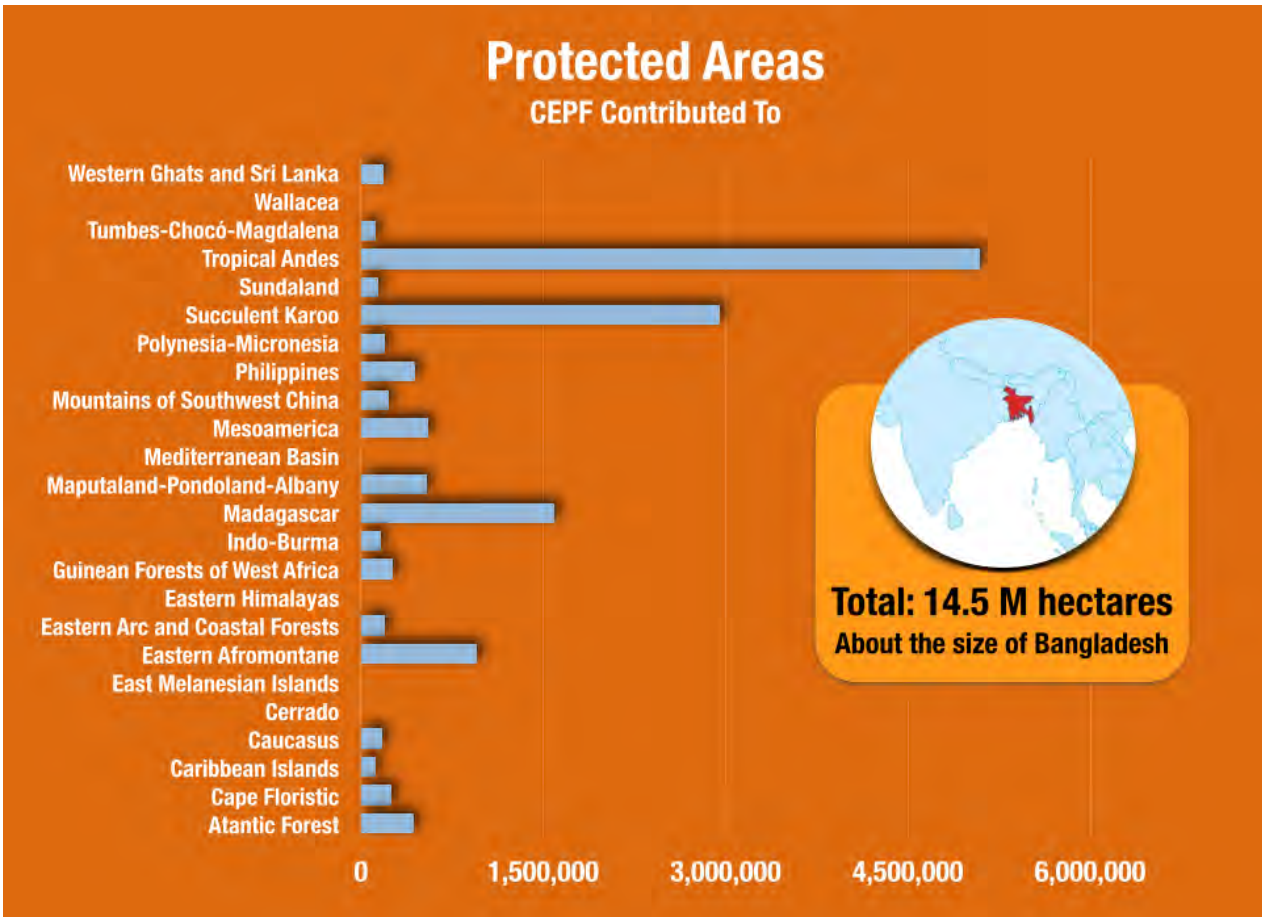


Figure 2. Number of Hectares of New Protected Areas, by Hotspot, FY2001-FY2016

CEPF's contributions to the establishment of new protected area is significant, especially given the imperative to increase the percentage of Earth's terrestrial and inland water areas under protection to 17 percent by 2020, as per UN Convention on Biodiversity Aichi Target 11; and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss." At present (December 2016), terrestrial protected areas cover 14.8 percent of the globe, with 16.1 M hectares having been added to the total

protected area since April 2016 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2016). For the period FY2015 and FY2016, CEPF grantees have reported creating 626,812 hectares of protected areas in 12 countries. While some are small, these do represent important conservation achievements. The table below shows how the CEPF achievement relates to the overall situation in a selection of countries.

CEPF contribution	**Comparison to national total**
Western Ghats (India): Expansion of Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary, 35,673 ha	India has 185,647 km2 of protected areas, 6 percent of the country's land area. Expansion of the Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary represents 0.2 percent of this amount.
Caribbean Islands (Dominican Republic): Creation of Área de Conservación Municipal (ACM) Río Las Damas, 10,000 ha	The Dominican Republic has 11,167 km2 of protected areas, which is 23 percent of the country's land area. Creation of this municipal conservation area represents 0.9 percent of this amount.
Mediterranean (Jordan): Protected area within the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, 21,200 ha	With only 1,552 km2 of protected areas (1.7 percent coverage) the addition of Mujib represents a contribution of 13.66 percent to Jordan's protected area.

From the smallest protected area CEPF has helped to create, such as the 5 ha customary land area in Lagona Bay, Vanuatu, in the East Melanesian Islands, to Namibia's 2,600,000 ha Sperrgebiet National Park that CEPF helped to create in its first phase, each and every one of these sites helps nations to meet their goals pertaining to the Aichi Targets.

5. Change in # of hectares of KBAs with strengthened protection and management

CEPF strives to strengthen the management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). To be counted, an area must be a KBA, must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the KBA. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management, such as increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, or introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.

To date, CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 41,691,341 hectares in 22 hotspots (Figure 3). Hotspots demonstrating the largest gains in 2015 and 2016 include Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean Basin. Other hotspots have demonstrated improved management, but due to smaller size of the sites, have contributed fewer hectares to the global total. Notably, some KBAs are protected areas, whereas others are unprotected. For these unprotected sites, CEPF's interventions are particularly valuable. For example, in June 2016, active projects in the Indo-Burma portfolio

reported on work being undertaken at 26 KBAs. Of these, only 73 percent, or 19 KBAs, have partial/full protection.

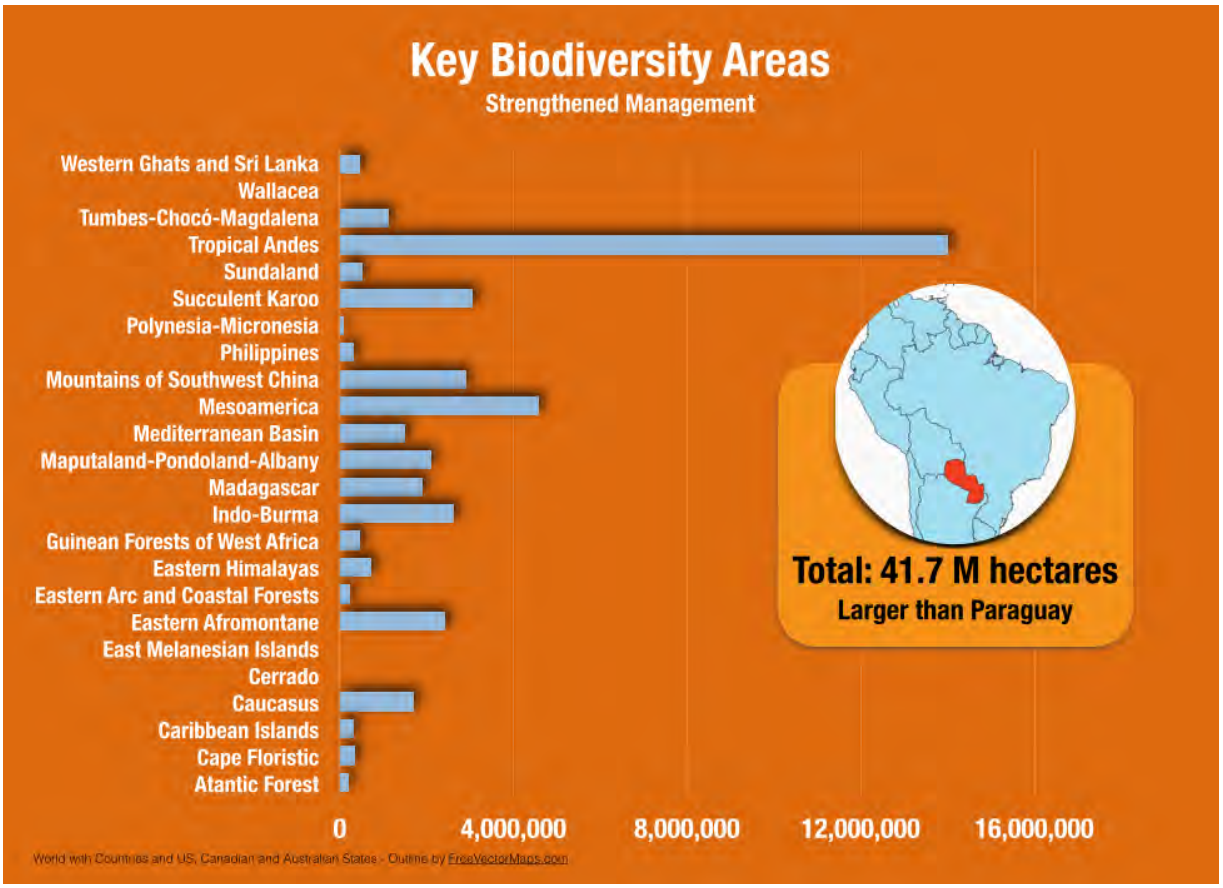


Figure 3. Number of Hectares of KBAs with Strengthened Management and Protection, FY2001-FY2016 (Total = 41,691,341 ha)

6. Change in the # of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation

Cacao farmers in the Dominican Republic work on reforestation.
© Charles Kerchner

CEPF seeks to strengthen the management of biodiversity in production landscapes, and measures the number of hectares that have benefited from site-based projects in productive landscapes as well as those benefiting from a broader, sectoral or corridor-wide impact.
Examples include landscapes

where best practices and guidelines have been implemented, where incentive or certification schemes have been introduced, or landscapes where sustainable harvesting regulations have been introduced.

Since 2001, CEPF has contributed to improved management of biodiversity in 6,377,335 hectares (Figure 4). Most gains have taken place since 2008, when CEPF systematically started to document achievements in production landscapes. The Mediterranean Basin has excelled in this category with numerous contributions, most notably the Mujib Biosphere Reserve in Jordan with 656,376 hectares benefiting from improved grazing regimes and management of tourism.

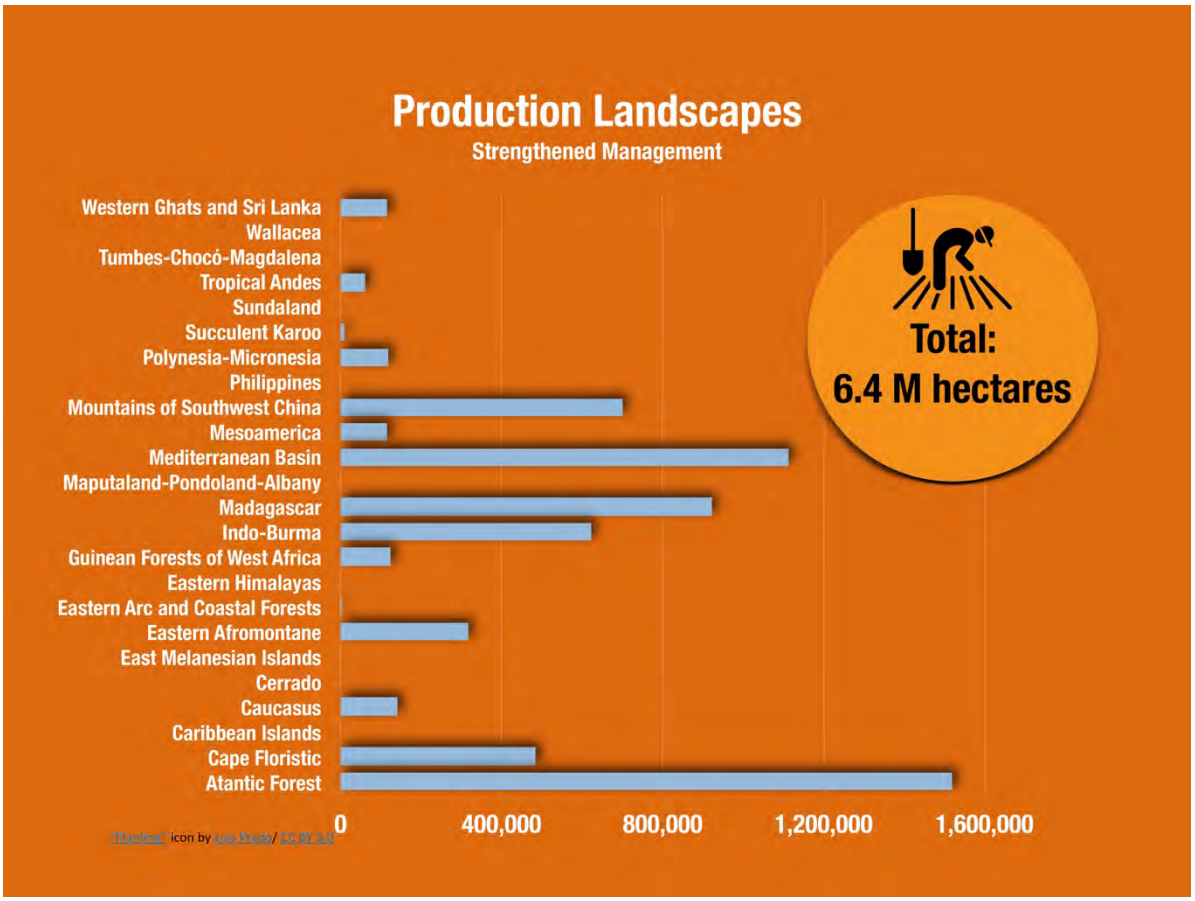


Figure 4. Number of Hectares of Production Landscape with Strengthened Management of Biodiversity, FY2001-FY2016 (Total = 6,377,335 ha)

The following table lists some examples of production landscapes and the interventions that CEPF supported to improve the management of biodiversity in production landscapes.

Production Landscape	Product	Intervention
Stung Treng Ramsar Site, Mekong River	Fisheries	Co-management of community fisheries with community-sanctioned access restrictions and patrolling.
Shuiman tea plantation, in buffer of China's Wuzhishan National Nature Reserve	Tea	Research on biodiversity and introduction of conservation measures.
Zinkwazi region, South Africa	Sugar	Alien clearing and targeted control of a creeper (*Pereskia*).
Ohrid Lake, Albania	Water	Development of sustainable water management strategy that integrates contemporary methods for water conservation, agricultural water treatment practices, rain water harvesting, and efficient irrigation systems.
Buffer of Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve, South Africa	Grasslands	Aliening clearing and grassland restoration.
Mujib Biosphere Reserve, Jordan	Rangelands	Improved grazing regimes, management of tourism.

7. Change in the # of direct beneficiaries and # of communities directly benefiting

CEPF measures direct benefits for human well-being by compiling data on number of communities benefiting, as well as number of individuals receiving selected benefits, such as training. Collection of sex-disaggregated data commenced in 2016.

To date, CEPF grants have benefited 2,612 communities (Figure 5). Communities have received benefits that accrue to the community as a whole, such as improved access to clean water, improved land tenure, or increased representation in decision-making processes. CEPF has also compiled data on individuals benefiting from CEPF projects.

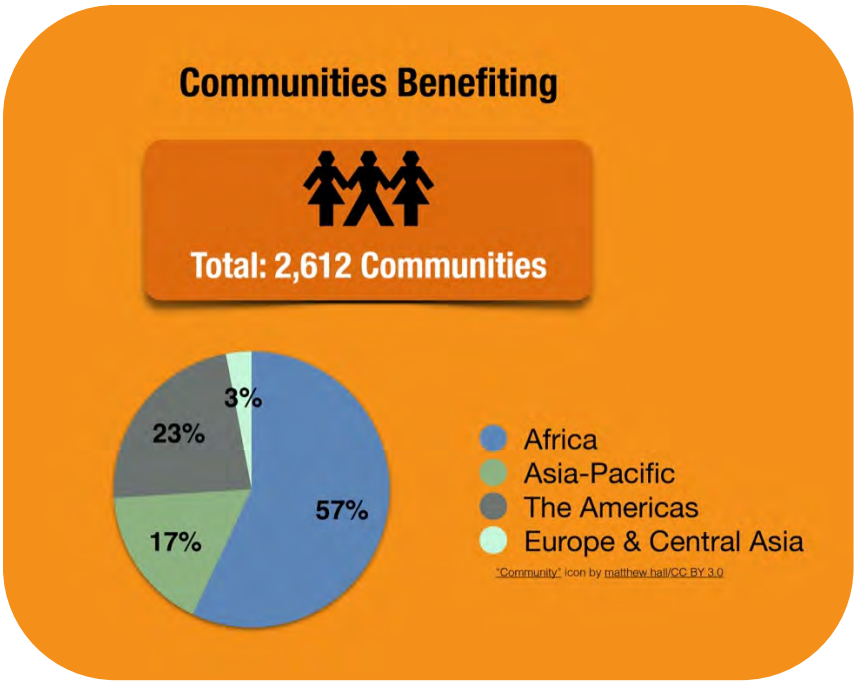


Figure 5. Number of Communities Benefiting from CEPF Projects, by Region, FY2001-FY2016

Furthermore, CEPF has recorded **at least 97,648** individuals benefiting from training and increased income. As CEPF only started to collect this data in FY16, the figure is a gross underestimate of the number of individuals that have benefited from CEPF projects. For example, in hotspots where grantees have been requested to count the numbers of individuals benefiting, the numbers are significant. Also, for some hotspots, collection of sex-disaggregated data has been undertaken. In the future, all grantees will be required to report on number of men and women benefiting from training and increased income. A look at training reveals significant benefits for civil society in three hotspots:

Hotspot	# of men trained	# of women trained	Total trained	Examples of topics of the trainings
Indo-Burma	7,321	4,734	12,512	Fisheries law, habitat conservation, bird nest protection, botany, horticulture, CITES enforcement
Eastern Afromontane	4,062	2,931	6,993	Wildlife monitoring, fish farming, poultry care, beekeeping, micro-credit
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	n/a	n/a	30,765	Herbicide application, chainsaw operation, first aid, grazing regimes, waterbird identification, plant propagation

8. <u>Change in the # of policies (legislative, regulatory or strategic) that include provisions for conservation management</u>

Many CEPF grants aim to have an impact on the regulatory environment. Since inception, CEPF has supported a total of 113 projects in 22 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at $23,997,553. While these projects have contributed to CEPF's policy accomplishments, many more projects have also made contributions to mainstreaming, but have not been counted in this figure as they have a different primary focus.

With regard to policy work, to date CEPF has influenced 161 policies, laws or regulations in 21 biodiversity hotspots (Figure 6). Of these interventions:

- 95 are local, 64 are national, and two are regional.
- 141 (of 161) interventions are supported by legislation.
- The policy interventions can be put into three categories; 60 percent of these are for strengthening conservation policy (Figure 6).
- Emphasis on mainstreaming is increasing, with 2016 recording 55 policy interventions (Figure 7).

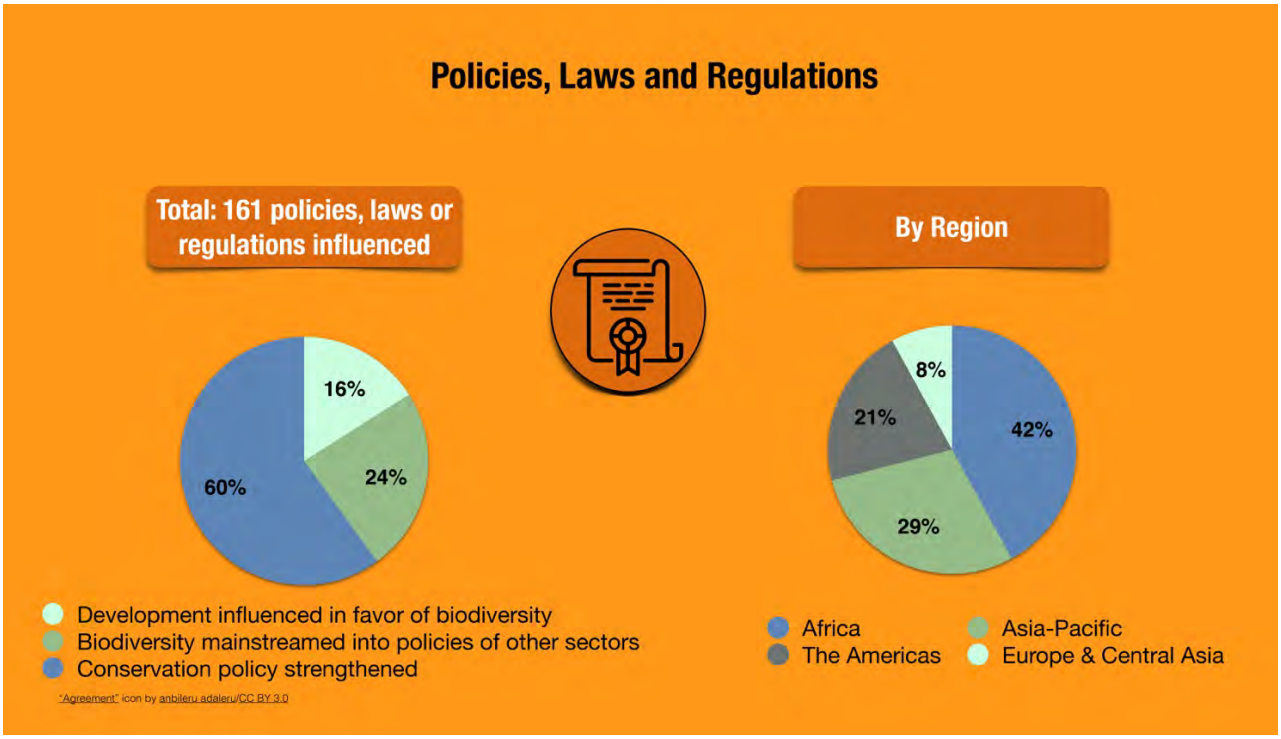


Figure 6. Number of Interventions by Type and by Region, FY2001-FY2016 (Total = 161)

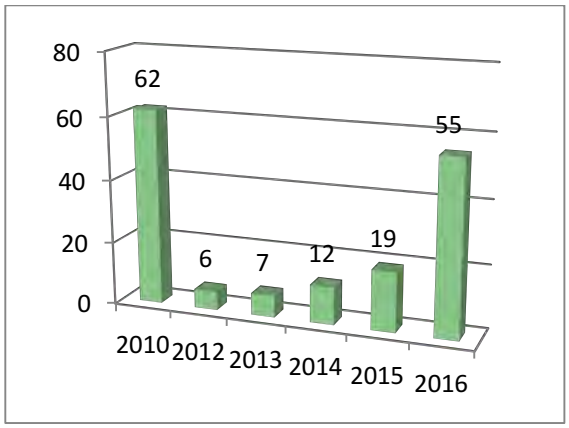


Figure 7. Number of Interventions by Year.

Note: All interventions for the period 2001-2010, are listed in the column "2010".

The four hotspots with the highest number of interventions are Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany and Mediterranean Basin. Not surprisingly, all have investment strategies that have identified mainstreaming and policy work as an investment priority.

Impact on the ground: some examples

Hotspot/Intervention	Expected Impact
Eastern Afromontane: Mafinga Hills Conservation Action Plan (2016-2025)	This plan, approved by the local government and national conservation agencies, is designed to improve the management and rehabilitation of 800 hectares of riverine forest, and to benefit 45 households via increased income from beekeeping.
Indo-Burma: Wildlife Protection Decree 160/2013/ND-CP	This new legislation offers protection for Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) and Indochinese Box Turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*, *C.bourreti* and *C.picturata*) in Vietnam. All four species are threatened by over-exploitation and trade.
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany: Nelson Mandela Bay Bioregional Plan	The Nelson Mandela Bay Bioregional Plan formally designates areas of strict conservation interspersed with areas of productive multiple use, with buffer zones separating the two.
Mediterranean Basin: Governmental Decree - Law number 61/2016, dated 6.2.2016	The legislation extends the existing two-year hunting ban in Albania for an additional five years. This action will have significant positive impacts for birds.

9. Change in the # of sustainable finance mechanisms with improved management

CEPF aims to ensure that sustained, sufficient and timely financing is available to conduct conservation management activities. Since inception, CEPF has supported 54 projects with a primary emphasis on conservation finance, totaling $6,674,264. These projects are diverse but could relate to sustainable financing, including creation or strengthening of long-term financing vehicles (e.g., conservation trust funds), payment for ecosystem service schemes, forest carbon projects, mobilizing private sector resources for conservation, and exploration of financial incentives for conservation.

To date, CEPF results include:

- At least 54 projects supported in the category of conservation finance.
- At least 24 sustainable finance mechanisms supported that remain active, including four functioning PES schemes.
- The mechanisms benefit 20 different countries.

The most recently established fund, the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT), was established in late 2015 with assistance from CEPF. PONT is a transboundary conservation trust fund dedicated to conserving the Prespa–Ohrid ecoregion, which is located in the Balkans, covering parts of Albania, Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The region is rich in natural and cultural heritage, and is regarded as one of the most ecologically valuable regions in Europe.

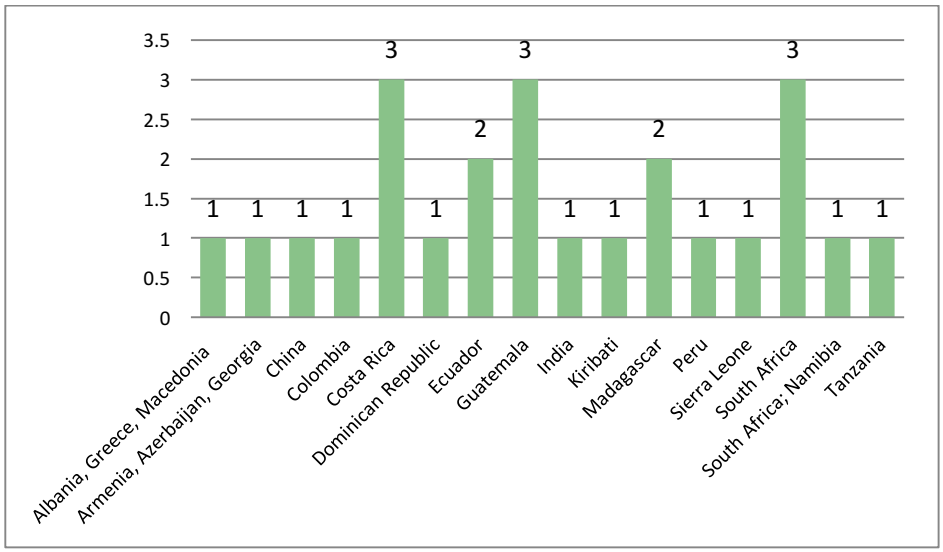


Figure 8. Number of Sustainable Finance Mechanisms Supported by CEPF, by Country

10. Change in the # of sites (protected areas) with improved management

CEPF strives to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The methodology is a rapid assessment based on a scorecard questionnaire of all six elements (context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes) of protected area management identified in the IUCN World Commission on

Protected Areas (WCPA) Framework, with an emphasis on context, planning, inputs and processes. It is basic and simple to use, and provides a mechanism for monitoring progress toward more effective management over time. It is used to enable park managers and donors to identify needs, constraints and priority actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.

In total, CEPF received 201 METT scorecards from 14 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (MPAH), Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of South West China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes and Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena). Up until June 2016, 64 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. With at least two scorecards per protected area, CEPF is able to measure the evolution in their management effectiveness as either improved management (increase in METT score), stable management (zero change in METT score) or decreased management effectiveness (decrease in METT score). Out of these 63 protected areas, 55 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness, two were stable (both in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot) and seven showed a decreasing management effectiveness (one in the Caribbean Islands, three in Indo-Burma, two in the Mediterranean Basin and one in Mesoamerica).

Five biodiversity hotspots (Caribbean, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin and Polynesia-Micronesia) had a significant number of protected areas with at least two METT scorecards. Within those five hotspots, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 14.9 points on average (+36 percent).

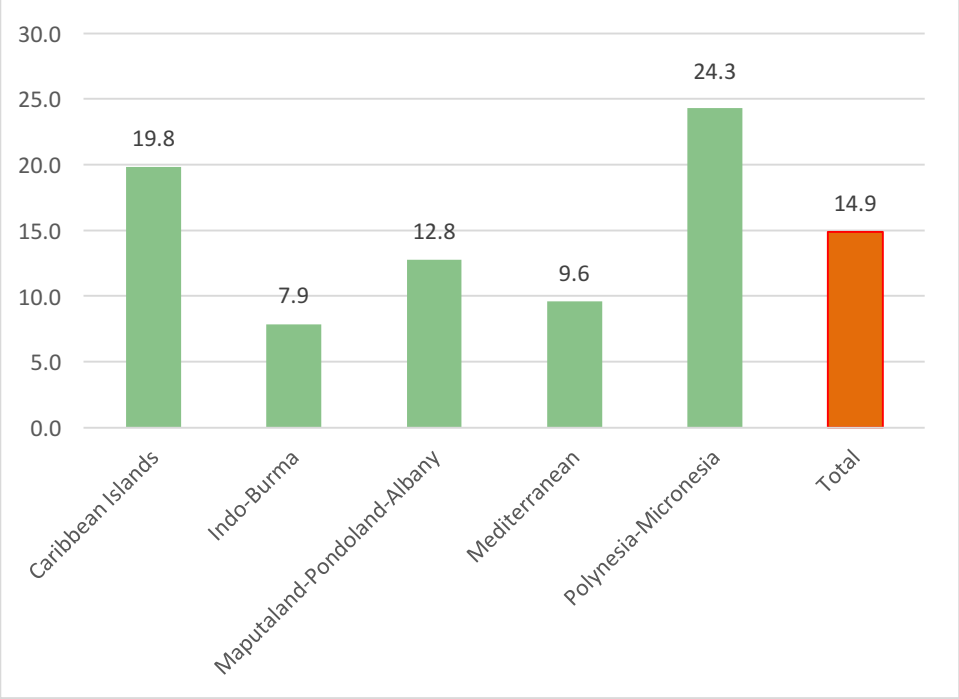


Figure 9. Average Change in METT Score for Five Hotspots

11. <u>Change in the # and % of local, national and regional CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity</u>

Since 2010, CEPF is using the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), a tool developed by CEPF for grantees to self-assess and score their organizational capacity. The tool asks 20 questions across five thematic areas: human resources, financial resources, management systems, strategic planning and delivery. Of a possible total score of 100 points, or 20 points per theme, a completed CSTT shows a score of an organization's civil society capacity. CEPF now collects completed CSTT tools at two points of grant implementation: at the beginning of a grant (baseline score) and at the final stage of the grant (final score). Where there are two points of collection, baseline and final, CEPF can measure change in capacity.

Because of the timing of CEPF's adoption of the CSTT, there are some organizations that only submitted final assessments. Organizations that lack two points of measurement are omitted from CEPF's impact calculations. As of June 2016, CEPF received 117 complete assessments (*i.e.* baseline plus final) from large grantees, small grantees and subgrantees across 11 hotspots: Caribbean Islands, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and the Western Ghats.

Seven biodiversity hotspots (Caribbean, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia and the Western Ghats) had a significant number of organizations that submitted at least two CSTT scorecards. Within those seven hotspots, there was an overall increase of 7.8 points (+12 percent) in the capacities of civil society organizations. Figure 9 shows this percent change in civil society capacity globally and by region during CEPF investment.

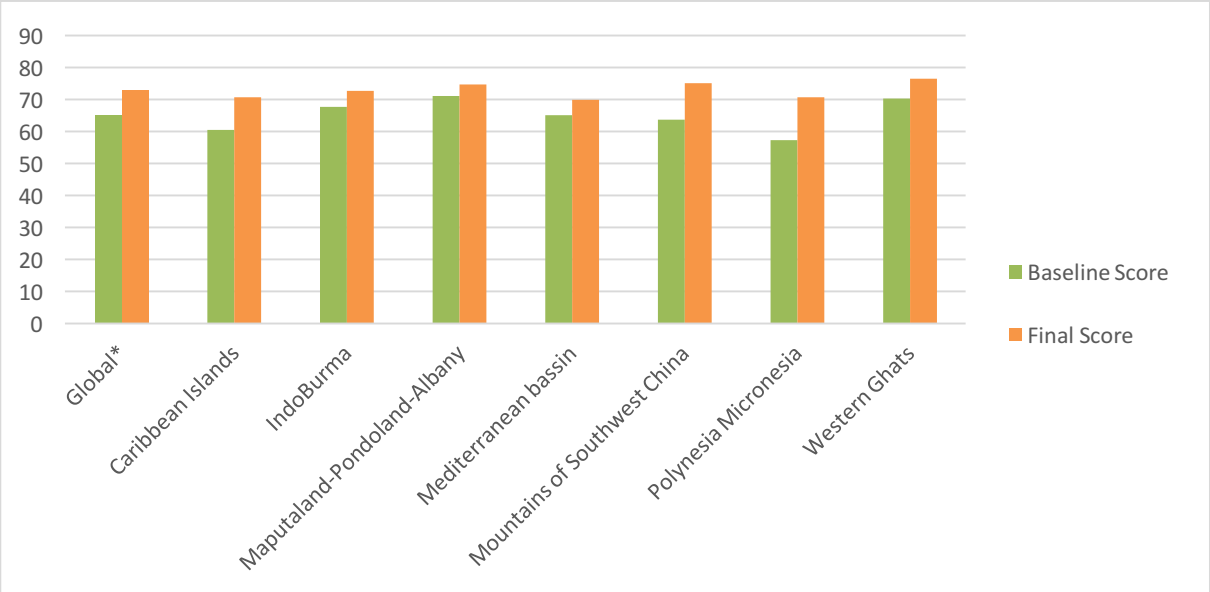


Figure 10. Percentage of Change in Civil Society Capacities with Support from CEPF, FY2010-FY2016

Polynesia-Micronesia had the largest increase, with 23 percent. This hotspot is where the capacities were the lowest (54 points on average) with the lowest average scores for four of the five themes (human resources, financial resources, management systems and delivery). On the contrary, civil society organizations from the Western Ghats and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspots, which ended up with the highest average final CSTT scores (76 and 75 respectively), had already started with the highest average baseline CSTT scores (70 and 71 points respectively). Organizations from the Western Ghats are on average the strongest in terms of human resources, financial resources and management systems, while organizations from Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany are the strongest in strategic planning and delivery.

12. Change in the # of networks and partnerships

Creation of partnerships and networks is integral to CEPF's approach to conservation. CEPF tracks the number of new networks and partnerships established with CEPF support. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or other type of validation. As of June 30, 2016, CEPF has helped to establish 119 networks and partnerships (Figure 10).

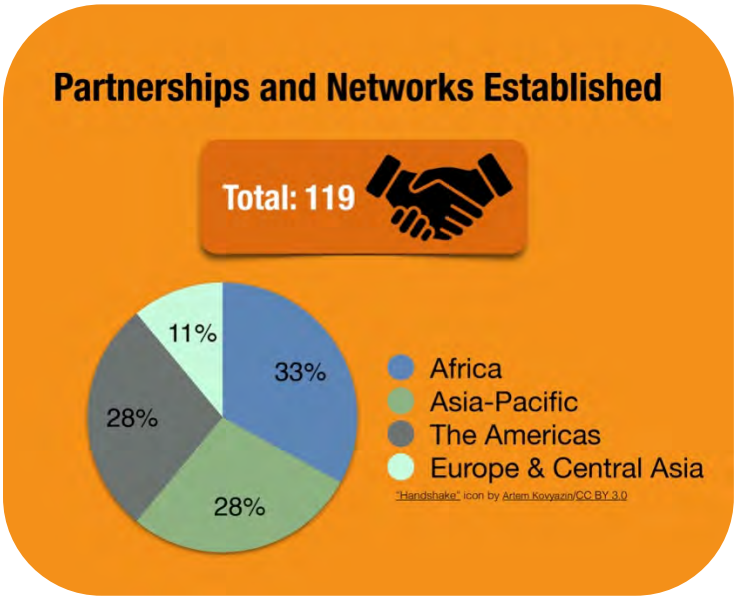


Figure 11. Number of Networks/Partnerships Established with Support from CEPF, FY2001-FY2016

These partnerships are diverse, but have the ability to help civil society have a significant impact. Below are several examples of partnerships created in 2015/2016.

- Stung Treng Ramsar Site community fisheries network. Located in Cambodia, this is a network of active community fisheries (CFi) of 14 villages managing five conservation areas. The network meets monthly to share progress with management of the areas, emerging issues and lessons learned.

- A network of more than 40 interested journalists in China. Journalists from different media outlets receive regular feeds on wildlife trafficking topics from Wildlife Conservation Society via group chat on a social media platform. The objective is to promote media coverage of efforts to combat wildlife crime to provide enforcement incentives and increase public awareness.
- Act4Drin Alliance (FYR Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro). The objective of this network is to coordinate and strengthen NGO participation in the upcoming policy developments in the region driven by the Drin MoU implementation process, and to enhance cooperation and networking among and between regional, national and grassroots NGOs in the Drin Basin.
- Caribbean Partners in Amphibians and Reptile Conservation – CaribPARC. This is a new network of local, national and international practitioners and organizations working on amphibian and reptile conservation.

Members of the Act4Drin Alliance. © Thomais Vlachogianni

13. Contribution to Global Biodiversity Targets

Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets			
Aichi Biodiversity Target		**Contribution to Impact**	**Operational Contribution**
	**Target 1**. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Hundreds of thousands of people with increased awareness of the value of biodiversity. At least 67,000 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.	CEPF has supported a total of 249 projects with a primary focus on education and awareness, valued at $27,372,140.
	**Target 2.** By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has influenced 161 policies, laws or regulations in 21 biodiversity hotspots, 141 of which are supported by legislation.	CEPF has supported a total of 113 projects in 22 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at $23,997,553.
	**Target 7.** By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 6,377,335 hectares of production landscapes in 19 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 226 projects with a primary emphasis on strengthening management outside protected areas, totaling $45,026,036.
	**Target 9.** By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Biosecurity plans prepared. Eradications undertaken. IAS training delivered.	CEPF has supported 66 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive species, totaling $8,975,131, in six biodiversity hotspots.
	**Target 11.** By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,531,117 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 41,691,341 hectares in 22 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 6,377,335 hectares of production landscapes in 19 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 471 projects with primary emphases on protected areas creation and improved management, totaling $109,692,968.
	**Target 12.** By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	At least 1,200 IUCN Red List species have benefited from CEPF support. Red List Index determined for all hotspots in 2014. Report posted on CEPF website.	CEPF has supported 208 projects with a primary emphasis on species conservation, totaling $34,976,166.
	**Target 20.** By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	At least 24 sustainable finance mechanisms supported that remain active, including four functioning PES schemes.	CEPF has supported 54 projects with a primary emphasis on conservation finance, totaling $6,674,264.

14. Looking Ahead

In the coming year CEPF will focus on a) refining its global monitoring framework, b) perfecting the language associated with individual indicators and related guidance materials, and c) ensuring smooth operation of the new electronic reporting system.

The global monitoring framework will be examined to ensure indicators are relevant, feasible and useful. Attention will be given to ascertaining level of effort required by grantees to collect the requested information, in the context of the value of the information that will be generated.

Grantees and Regional Implementation Teams (RITs) will collaborate to articulate the indicators. These must be easy to translate and feasible to comprehend by people in different cultures with varying levels of capacity.

The eventual goal will be for all grantees to report with ease and efficiency in the electronic system, *Conservation Grants*, and for their data to be recorded and aggregated accurately. *Conservation Grants* will be the repository of CEPF's monitoring data, and it will be the tool that the Secretariat uses to generate reports on portfolio and global impact. Significant effort will be required to integrate CEPF's existing databases into the new electronic system in a manner that avoids double counting, and does not omit any data.

Conserving Biodiversity, Supporting People: A focus on CEPF's socio-economic impact, 2001–2016

CEPF's primary focus is biodiversity conservation. However, CEPF recognizes that successful conservation is inextricably linked with human well-being, a favorable policy environment, and a vibrant and skilled civil society. Therefore, in addition to the many diverse projects that CEPF supports to conserve species, habitats, and ecosystem function and services, CEPF also strives to improve the lives of the people who depend on nature for their survival and well-being. CEPF projects contribute to poverty eradication, job creation, livelihood improvement, increased capacity, and a diverse range of benefits and conditions that support a sustainable future for people and nature.

This addendum summarizes CEPF's socio-economic influence, from both an impact and an operational context, for the period 2001–2016, the duration of the existence of the fund. The report includes a summary of CEPF's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, and then focuses on results from four hotspots for FY16, to illustrate the many diverse projects that CEPF supports to conserve biodiversity, while making significant contributions to the people whose livelihoods and future depend on it.

A. Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, for the Period 2001-2016

Sustainable Development Goal		Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
	Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2,612 communities receiving socio-economic benefits such as improved access to water, and improved food security. 67,000 people benefiting from training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, increased production. Topics include beekeeping, gardening, horticulture, organic practices, sustainable fisheries. 6,192 people in Cambodia with improved nutrition and income, due to implementation of fish conservation zones. 6.4 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.	CEPF has supported 207 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US$16,692,339. 26 projects supporting local communities to manage fisheries for conservation and sustainable use. 39 projects totaling US$2,843,554 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.
	Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and	67,000 people trained, including 14,500 women. Women received training in diverse topics such as beekeeping, tourism, medicinal plant production,	CEPF has supported 249 projects with a primary focus on education and awareness, valued at US$27,372,140.

	promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	environmental education, leadership, financial management, etc.	CEPF has supported 202 projects with an explicit focus on capacity building, valued at US$15,273,956.
	Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	In the Indo-Burma hotspot, 4,734 women trained and 8,923 women with increased income. In the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, 2,931 women trained and 1,079 women with increased income. .	In 2016, CEPF formulated and adopted a gender policy, and began to collect sex-disaggregated data on number of men/women trained, number of men/women with increased income, and number of men/women within a community receiving socio-economic benefits. CEPF introduced a gender tracking tool to be completed at start and end of each grant, to gauge organizational understanding of the importance of considering gender. Gender training delivered to all new Regional Implementation Teams; each team has appointed a Gender Focal Point.
	Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	7% of communities in Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, and 9% of communities in Mediterranean Basin biodiversity hotspot, in 2015-2016, report increased access to water as a benefit.	CEPF has supported 221 projects associated with wetland habitats, valued at US$15,095,096. These projects will help to ensure sustainable management of natural resources, including water. 39 projects focusing on freshwater research and assessment, including biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management.
	Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	In 2015-2016, 33,872 people in two biodiversity hotspots (Indo-Burma, Eastern Afromontane) benefiting from increased income.	CEPF has supported 207 projects with primary focus on human well-being, totaling US$16,692,339. Human well-being projects have taken place in 58 countries and territories.
	Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	6.4 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices. 161 policies, laws and regulations influenced, including 16% where development has been influenced in favor of biodiversity.	39 projects totaling US$2,843,554 located in agricultural / artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices. 85 projects totaling US$4,162,280 awarded to private sector entities, with 24.7% of projects aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity into production processes.
	Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	1.2 billion tons of carbon sequestrated. Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving: Tree planting	CEPF has supported 291 projects promoting nature based solution to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects aimed at improving the management and

		Training in forest carbon technical work Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments Mangrove management Coastal zone management Sustainable coastal tourism Climate change modeling Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	protection of forest habitats, valued at US$36,318,583. In 2016 CEPF started recording of communities benefiting from increased resilience to climate change.
	Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	41 coastal protected areas benefiting from increased protection and management.	CEPF has supported 114 projects associated with coastal habitat, valued at US$8,872,204. 308 projects totaling US$29,494,947 have taken place on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
	Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14.5 million hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 41.6 million hectares in 22 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 6.37 million hectares of production landscapes in 19 hotspots. At least 1,200 IUCN Red List species listed as CR, EN, and VU have benefited from CEPF support. 49 projects valued at US$5,331,511 focused on reducing wildlife trafficking, with targeted efforts to reduce demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolins, turtles and tortoises and a range of other species.	CEPF has supported 471 projects with primary emphases on protected area creation and improved management, totaling US$109,692,968. CEPF has supported 65 projects in 6 hotspots valued at US$4.6 million, with a focus on invasive species control/ eradication. CEPF has supported 291 projects aimed at improving the management and protection of forest habitats, valued at US$36,318,583. CEPF has supported 210 projects with a primary focus on species conservation, valued at US$18,142,125.
	Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	119 networks/partnerships established. 117 CEPF grantees in 7 biodiversity hotspots, for which two assessments have been completed, demonstrate a 12 percent increase in organizational capacity score.	CEPF has supported 202 projects with an explicit focus on capacity building, valued at $US15,273,956. All CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity since 2009.

B. In Focus: A Review of Benefits Accruing to Individuals and Communities in Four Biodiversity Hotspots

In FY16, CEPF expanded its reporting requirements to generate information on socio-economic benefits accruing to individuals and communities. Specifically, CEPF collected data on the different benefits accruing to communities, and sex-disaggregated data on the number of men and women benefiting from training and increased income. Data from four biodiversity hotspots, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands, and Mediterranean Basin, were analyzed for the exercise. Data collection was restricted to these four biodiversity hotspots as other biodiversity hotspots had recently completed their investment phase, or had not yet completed sufficient projects to provide results.

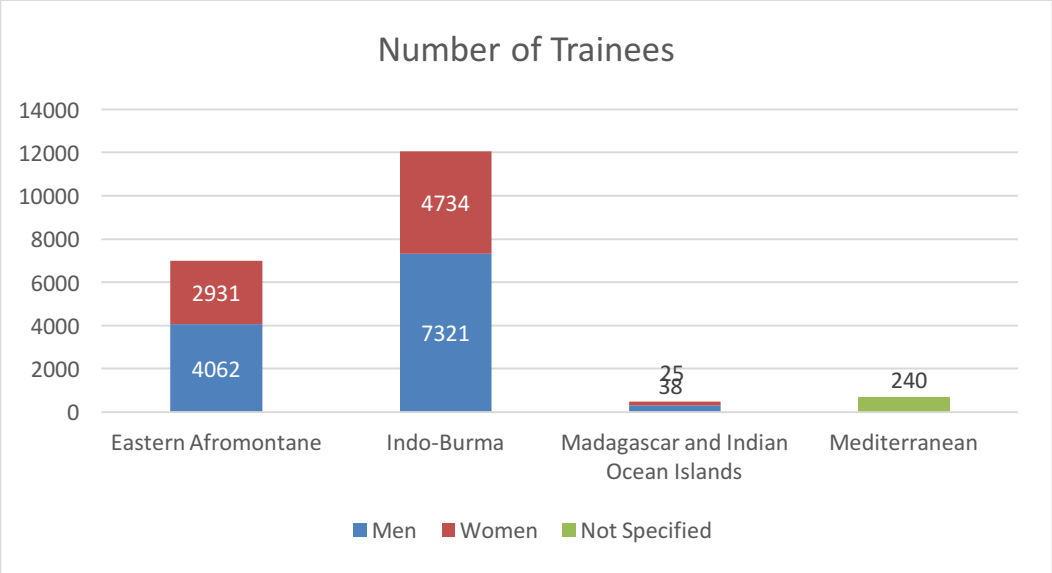
Benefits for Individuals – Training

During the period under review, **88 projects** were identified that supported training opportunities for individuals. These training opportunities were diverse and benefited **21,468 people**, of which 40 percent (8,587) are women.

While all training opportunities are expected to improved people's lives, some opportunities have an explicit focus in human well-being. Trainings in poultry rearing, beekeeping, sustainable gardening, medicinal plant production, pig raising, organic agriculture, fruit production, nutrition, health and sanitation, and improved grazing techniques are just a sample of what people have been trained in.

Other emphases include 22 projects that trained people in species conservation and monitoring techniques; 17 projects in project design/management/leadership; and 16 project in community-based conservation.

Chart 1. Trainees from four hotspots, FY16



In one project in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, "**Building community and national partners' capacity for sustainable conservation financing at Rugezi Marsh KBA, Rwanda,**" 74 people have been trained in beekeeping-related topics. The project has focused on the training of trainers, with seven new trainers trained in beekeeping and seven more in beekeeping business management. Already, the new trainers have trained 60 people in beekeeping. In addition, 10 more people have received training in bird-guiding. This project site is near the Rugezi Marsh in Rwanda, a site whose ecosystem functions and services are not only important for local communities and biodiversity, but also are critical for the Rwandan economy as water from the wetland drains into dam sites where 45 percent of the country's hydroelectric power is generated. The project recognized the diverse ecosystem services (honey production and birding potential) that presented opportunities for introducing community-based conservation finance mechanisms to sustain wetland conservation efforts, and to raise incomes from tourism and honey sales, thereby addressing some of the economic drivers contributing to the unsustainable and extractive practices putting pressure on the marsh.

This project has contributed to improved conservation for the threatened species inhabiting the Rugezi Marsh, including the grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*), listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. For local communities, however, the project offers hope that income can be generated from honey production, as well as from tourism at the marsh. During the project, local (community-level and district) markets for honey produced by local beekeeping cooperatives were identified. Information on the quantities bought, prices, packaging preferences and how the transactions take place was collected. Efforts were made to exhibit honey produced by the cooperatives and crafts produced by community members at key events organized at the district level. These events were attended by local communities, business operators and other nonprofit organizations, who are all potential buyers and promoters of the beekeeping and craft products. This project has set a sound foundation for successful community-based beekeeping in the area that will ensure employment in honey production. The project will also generate jobs in the tourism sector, as visitors come to view the marsh and its birdlife.

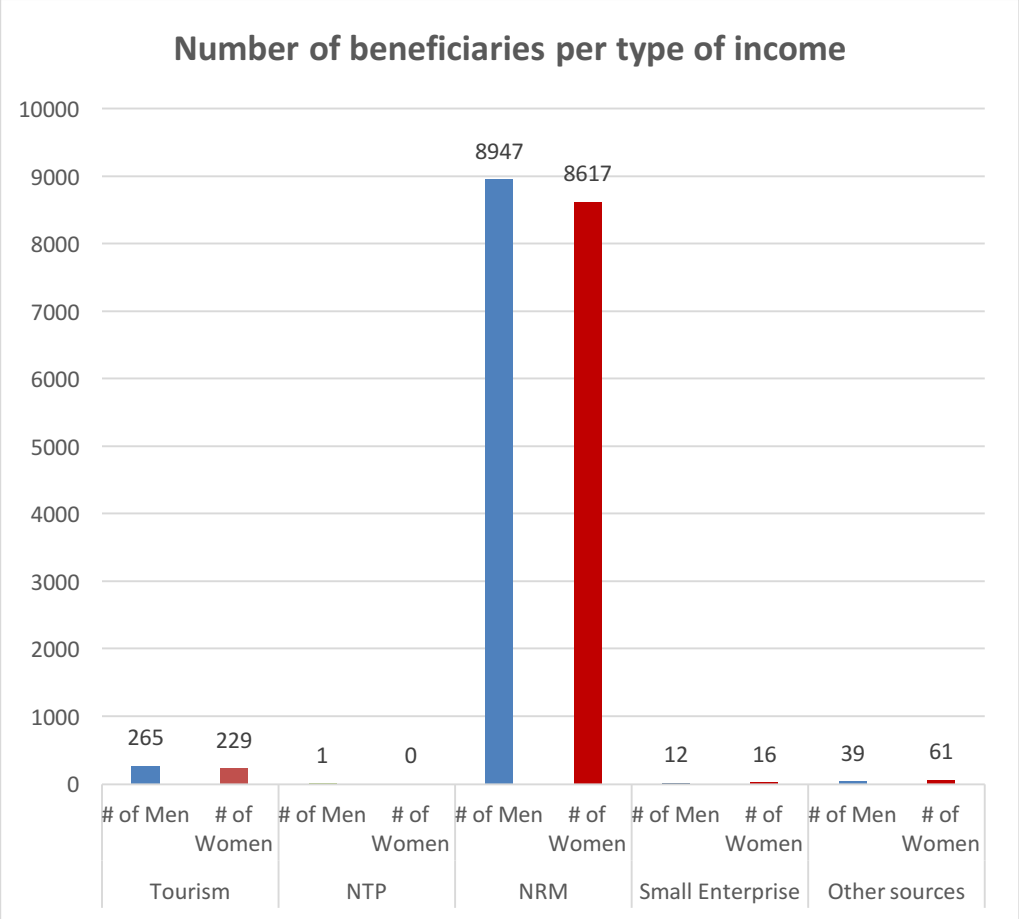

Left: Rwandan beekeepers in training. Right: Beehive placement platform near Rugezi Marsh. Photos: Endangered Wildlife Trust

<u>Benefits for Individuals – Increased Income</u>

In FY16, increased income is reported for **33,872** people living in the four selected biodiversity hotspots: Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands, and Mediterranean Basin. Sources of income vary considerably and range from tourism, small enterprise, nontimber forest products and natural resources management.

Overall, for the four hotspots of interest, 45 projects generated one type of income for local communities and 13 projects generated income from several sources. Twenty projects generated income from natural resources management, 19 from tourism, 12 from small enterprise, 5 from non-timber products and 4 from other sources. By far, the largest number of individuals benefited from increased income due to improved natural resource management practices: 8,947 men and 8,617 women.

Chart 2. Beneficiaries by type of income, FY16



Note: NTP = Nontimber Forest Products; NRM = Natural Resources Management.

In Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, 16 projects resulted in 18,187 individuals benefiting from income generation, 9,264 of which were men (51 percent) and 8,923 women (49 percent). By far and away the largest percentage (97 percent) of the beneficiaries experienced increased income due to improved natural resources management. In the project "**Stung Treng Ramsar Site in Cambodia – Integrating Fisheries Management and Wetlands Conservation,**" project participants worked to designate fish conservation areas, and develop and implement management plans for the sites. The effort has led to community patrolling, a reduction in illegal fishing, better management of fishery resources and improved access for local fishermen. In total, 6,192 people have benefited from increased income, and

the communities they live in record improved food security and access to ecosystem services because of this project.

Above: Focus group meeting to discuss the community fisheries implementation process.
Left: Fisherman attending to his nets.
Photos: WorldFish Center

In Eastern Afromontane, 15,681 people benefited, including 10,579 small holder tea farmers in Burundi. Via the project "**Conserving Biodiversity Through Sustainable Tea Farming Around Kibira National Park, Burundi,**" smallholder farmers living around the Teza Tea Factory received training on best management practices, and over 36,000 native and economically useful seedlings to plant on their farms. During the project two tree nurseries were established, producing 80,000 indigenous trees to be planted on farms and wildlife corridors for habitat restoration and connectivity (*Prunus africana, Strombozia scheffleri* and *Chrysophyllum gorungosanum*) and 60,000 agroforestry trees to be planted on farms for fruit and fuel-wood production, and to serve as bird habitat (*Grevillea robusta* and *Persea americana* – avocado).

This effort resulted in improved conservation for indigenous bird species and increased income for farmers, and set the stage for certification of the tea for conservation best practice.

Above: Farmer from Banga cell proudly showing the *Grevillea robusta* seedling planted on her farm.
Right: *Strombozia scheffleri*, and *Chrysophyllum gorungosanum* in the nurseries.

Photos: Rainforest Alliance

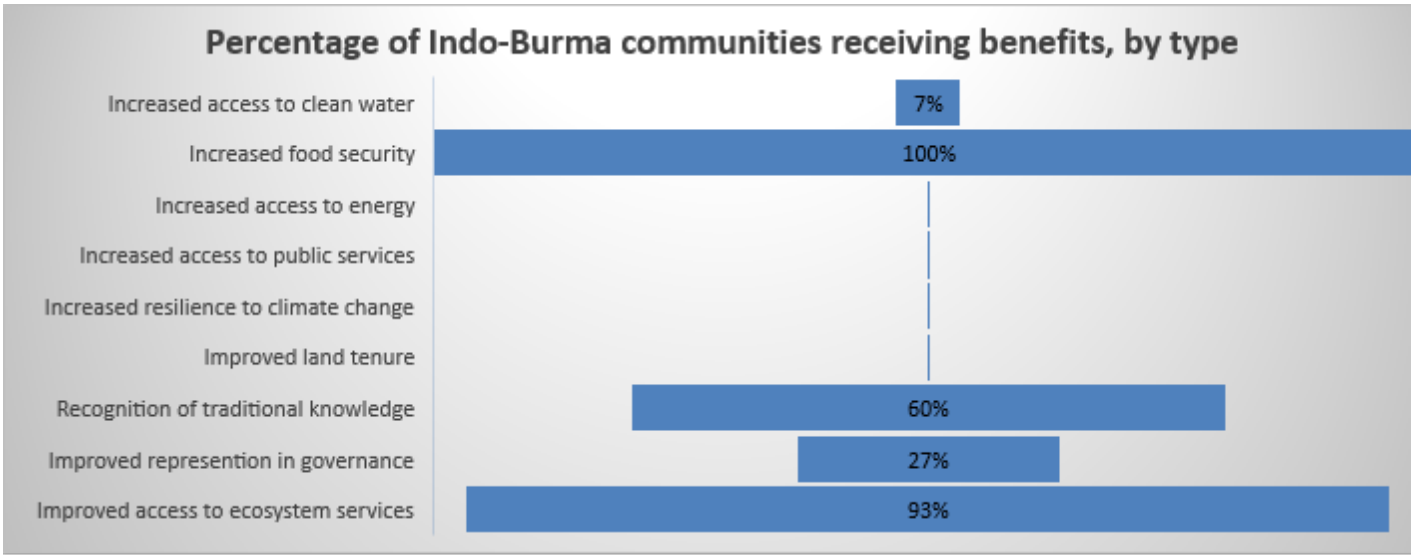
Benefits for Communities

In FY16, two hotspots, Indo-Burma and Mediterranean Basin, generated results pertaining to communities and the benefits they receive. Grantees were requested to report on each community, recording its size and the benefits they received. The types of benefits that could be selected were ones accruing to a community as a whole, such as increased access to water and increased resilience to climate change.

In total, 149 communities benefited (15 in Indo-Burma and 136 in Mediterranean Basin). In Indo-Burma, all 15 communities have a livelihood based on subsistence economy and one of them consists of recent migrants falling below the poverty line. In terms of size, 40 percent are small with 251–500 people per community, 47 percent have 501–1000 people, and 13 percent have over 1001 people. All of the 15 communities reported benefiting from increased food security and all but one from improved access to ecosystem services. Nine of these communities (60 percent) benefited from an improved recognition of their traditional knowledge, while 27 percent recorded improved decision-making and representation in governance bodies. One community also benefited from an increased access to water. The project "**Emergency funding for the recovery of a globally significant population of IUCN Red Listed as Critically Endangered Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) in Lao PDR,**" while focusing on safeguarding a critically endangered species—the Siamese crocodile—contributed to wetland conservation and engaged the local community in project implementation. The project aimed to increase the population of this Critically Endangered species and release it into the wetland where the community resides. The increased number of crocodiles at the site has resulted in increased interest in wildlife tourism opportunities, leading to the development of a small community-based wildlife tourism product at the site. This, along with other program activities such as improved wetland management, has contributed to increased food security and improved water access. The community has also noted that their traditional knowledge was used, and they appreciated that they benefited from increased representation within local governance bodies.

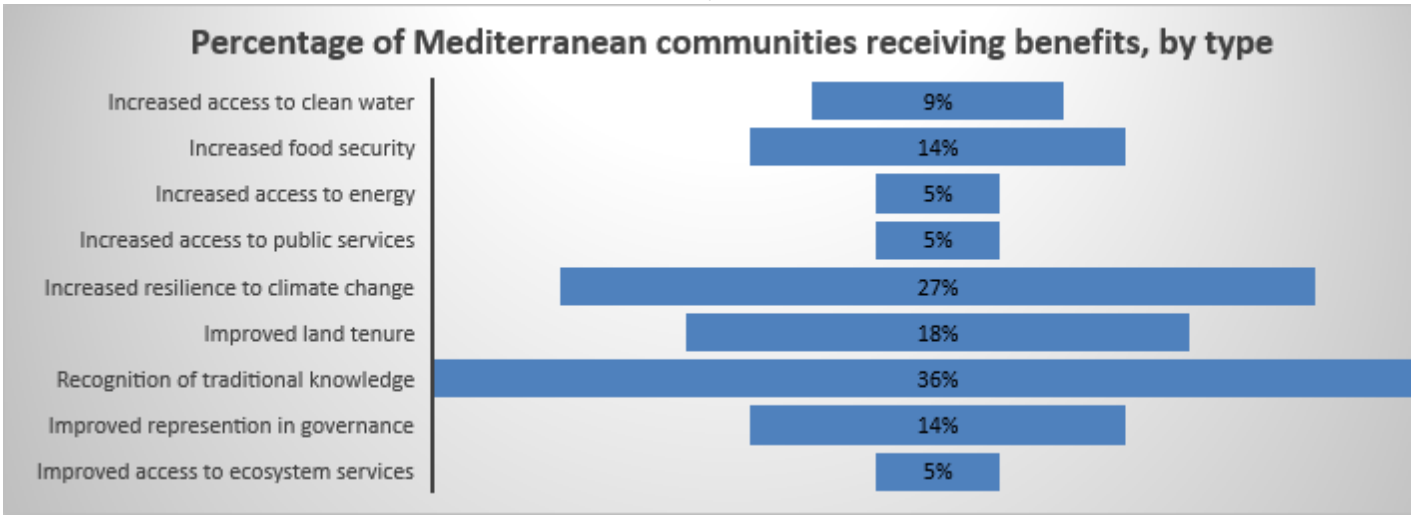
Buddhist monks and village elders perform ceremonies prior to the release of 17 crocodiles into Xe Champhone (XC) wetlands, located in eastern Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR.
Photos: Wildlife Conservation Society

Chart 3. Benefits for Communities in Indo-Burma, FY16



In the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, a total of 134 communities benefited from projects supported by CEPF. Out of the 22 communities for which more detailed information is available, all are rural communities with five of them having an estimated population size ranging from 1–250 people, one from 251–500 people, 12 over 1,001 people, and 4 have an unknown population size estimate. All benefited from between two to five different types of benefit. Eight communities (36 percent) have benefited from improved recognition of their traditional knowledge, six (27 percent) from increased resilience to climate change and four (18 percent) from improved land tenure. Three communities (5 percent each) benefited from increased access to energy, public services and ecosystem services, respectively.

Chart 4. Benefits for Communities in Mediterranean Basin, FY16



Of special interest are the communities reporting increased resilience to climate change. In Albania, the project "**Integrated Drini River Basin Management**" aimed to initiate a process to manage natural

resources and human activities on a watershed basis. The objective was to protect important water resources, while at the same time address critical issues such as current and future impacts of rapid growth and climate change. The project benefited local communities by ensuring resilience of the key ecosystems and local livelihoods to climate change, instigating local pilot actions of Integrated Drini River Basin Management natural resources integrated management, and implementing biodiversity conservation activities within protected areas and the natural environment. Specifically, the project worked to stabilize vulnerable land erosion and mudslides around residential housing communities, protect agricultural land and roads from mudslides and erosions, reduce deforestation, reduce siltation in water reservoirs, and strengthen community initiatives to protect the areas around human settlements.

Four communities benefited from the project, reporting benefits such as increased income from improved natural resource management, increased access to water, improved use of traditional knowledge and representation in local government, and reduced incidence of natural disasters (e.g., mudslides and floods).

Panorama of Great Prespa Lake, part of the Drin River Basin shared by Albania, Greece and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Photo: Thomais Vlachogianni.

Conclusion

The results presented in this addendum mark the start of a greater effort to record CEPF's socio-economic impact. CEPF has demonstrated that in addition to conserving species and habitats, significant contributions have been made to improving people's lives. Individuals have benefited from training and opportunities that have helped them realize jobs and increased income. Local communities have recorded improved food security, increased access to water and increased resilience to climate change, among others. CEPF's efforts to quantify its socio-economic impact are evolving, and improving. As this process proceeds, reporting templates may be revised to better capture results, and systems will be refined to ensure standardized recording of results across the global program. Nevertheless, this initial effort has recorded a solid contribution to the well-being of thousands of people who live in the hotspots, and has set the stage for more comprehensive reporting in the future.