

## **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

Second Meeting of the Donor Council  
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC  
11 December 2001

### **Report on Decisions Taken at the First Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council**

1. **The Donor Council decided** to approve the provisional agenda set forth in document CEPF/DC1/1 (Rev.2), while noting that item 4 (signing of memorandum of understanding) had already been concluded.

*Status: no follow-up required.*

2. **The Donor Council decided** to establish a permanent working group, with one member from CI, GEF and IBRD each that shall start its work in January 2001, shall report to the Donor Council and shall be charged with discussing ecosystem profiles and providing input to their respective organizations before their submittal to the Donor Council and with coordinating other CEPF matters at working level. **The Donor Council also decided** that CI shall consult the permanent working group from time to time on implementation of the ecosystem profiles.

*Status: During 2001, substantial effort was made to implement the Donor Council's decision. Five formal meetings of the working group were held, and numerous bilateral consultations and meetings took place between the CEPF management team and the group's individual members. However, as the Donor Council did not establish terms of reference for the working group, ambiguity persists as to the group's authority and role. Agreement on formal terms of reference is requested from the second meeting of the Donor Council.*

3. **The Donor Council decided:**

- (a) to invite the permanent working group to report to it on the workshop to be held in January 2001;
- (b) to request CI to amend documents CEPF/DC1/2, CEPF/DC1/3 and CEPF/DC1/4 taking into account any relevant input from the referred workshop, in order to finalize the ecosystem profiles, and
- (c) that no disbursements for the Vilcabamba-Amboro (Tropical Andes), Madagascar and Upper Guinean Forest (West Africa) ecosystem profiles shall be made until (i) approval of the finalized ecosystem profiles by each of the donors, and (ii) endorsement by the GEF focal points of the finalized ecosystem profiles has been obtained.

*Status: As requested by the Donor Council, the ecosystem profiles for Vilcabamba-Amboro, Upper Guinean Forests, and Madagascar were revised following the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the working group. A substantial number of additional comments and new information were incorporated, and the final version was posted to the CEPF Web site following approval by each of the donors. No disbursement of funds took place prior to this approval. In addition, no disbursement of funds took place in countries where GEF focal point approval had not been obtained. By the end of January 2001, all focal point endorsements had been obtained.*

4. **The Donor Council decided to request** the permanent working group to review accounts, fees and expenses, including in-kind expenses for CEPF to determine costs for each of the donors and report back to the Donor Council.

*Status:* This decision has been subject to substantial discussion within the working group. The collection of the requested information is thought to be very time consuming and complicated, and of limited benefit. No comparable data were collected. The working group is recommending that no further attempt be made to collect the requested information.

5. **The Donor Council decided** to approve the proposed Annual Spending Plan, on condition that the text of Document CEPF/DC1/5 be amended so as to clearly reflect that the reference to CI's comparative advantage is made for disclosure purposes only and does not imply that actual funding will be limited to CI, and that procedures for distribution of funds to external entities have already been put in place. The Donor Council asked the permanent working group to review the amended text.

*Status:* Information related to the Annual Spending Plan is available on the CEPF Web site and it is clear that actual funding is open to all applicants and not limited to CI. Procedures for distribution of funds to external entities were available on the CEPF Web site from the time the Ecosystem Profiles were posted in January. All texts, document templates, and procedures are an integral part of the CEPF Operational Manual, which was reviewed by each donor and agreed to in every respect.

6. **The Donor Council decided** to approve the priorities for year two of the CEPF as set forth in document CEPF/DC1/6.

*Status:* Preparation activities, including priority-setting, stakeholder consultation and capacity building, were initiated for all eight priorities agreed by the Donor Council. Six ecosystem profiles have been completed for approval by the second meeting of the Donor Council. Ecosystem profiles for the remaining two priority area (Succulent Karoo, Mountains of Southwest China) are scheduled for approval by July 2002.

7. **The Donor Council requested** that information on disclosure policies be included in the operational manual.

*Status:* As a result of the Donor Council's decision, and following a CEPF meeting with the World Bank Safeguard Team, disclosure policies were included in the Operational Manual and agreed to in every respect by the donors.

8. **The Donor Council decided** to approve the fund raising strategy set forth in Doc. CEPF/DC1/8.

*Status:* The fund raising strategy was implemented, and a revised strategy has been prepared for approval by the second meeting of the Donor Council.

9. **The Donor Council decided** to elect Mr. Wolfensohn, President of the IBRD, as its chairperson for the first year of CEPF.

*Status:* No follow-up was required during the year, but the Donor Council needs to revisit this issue at its second meeting.

10. **The Donor Council agreed that its** next meeting should be held sometime in the Spring of 2001 – the exact date to be determined after additional consultation and depending upon progress achieved.

*Status:* Consultation on the next meeting took place in April and it was decided that sufficient progress had not been achieved to warrant a meeting. An informal luncheon of the member of the Donor Council took place at the invitation of the Chairman on 16 October, and the second meeting of the Donor Council is scheduled for 11 December 2001.

11. **The Donor Council decided** to appoint Ms. Caryl Jones-Swahn as secretary to the Donor Council.

*Status:* Ms. Jones-Swahn acted as the Donor Council's secretary for a few months but has since left her position with the World Bank. The Executive Director of CEPF has filled the position on an ad hoc basis in

*the interim. The working group has discussed this subject and is recommending that the Donor Council appoint the Executive Director as secretary to the Donor Council.*