

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

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

Ecosystem Profiles

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is requested to **review** and **approve** six ecosystem profiles covering ecosystems within the biodiversity hotspots of the Atlantic Forest, Cape Floristic Region, Choco-Darien/Western Ecuador, the Philippines, Mesoamerica and Sundaland. Grant disbursement within countries of each region is contingent on securing GEF Focal Point endorsement.

Background:

CEPF has prepared six ecosystem profiles for review and approval by the members of the CEPF Donor Council. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, each profile was initially submitted to the CEPF partners 45 days prior to the second meeting of the Donor Council. The attached profiles have since been revised to incorporate additional comments and information received from CEPF partners and peer review contributors. Status of the profiles is as follows:

1. The proposed geographic focus and design process for each of the six ecosystem profiles was discussed during a CEPF Technical Working Group Meeting on 11 May 2001. Members of the Technical Working Group representing Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank, as well as representatives of UNDP and UNEP, participated in this meeting. They were encouraged to become part of the profile preparation process in each region.
2. CEPF distributed draft ecosystem profiles to technical staff within Conservation International for comment and review on 1 October 2001. CI's Program Strategy Management Team met on 3 October 2001 to discuss each of the regional ecosystem profiles. Comments from this process were incorporated into subsequent versions of the profiles.
3. Drafts of the ecosystem profiles were provided to staff from each donor institution on 5 October 2001.
4. On 15 October 2001, CEPF convened a Technical Working Group Meeting with representatives from CI, GEF, MacArthur Foundation, World Bank, UNDP and UNEP to present and discuss each of the six new ecosystem profiles. Issues and observations discussed during and subsequent to this meeting were incorporated into new drafts of the ecosystem profiles.
5. Members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission were invited to provide an external peer review of the ecosystem profiles. In all regions except for Brazil, a minimum of two SSC representatives per region reviewed the profiles. Comments from this process were incorporated into the profiles. Additionally, the regional representatives of the BirdLife International secretariat also provided external peer review.
6. CEPF submitted revised drafts of the ecosystem profiles on 26 October 2001. Subsequent to this submission, bilateral meetings between CEPF and each donor institution were held to discuss each individual regional profile. Kathy MacKinnon, Tony Whitten, AVECITA Chicchon, Kanta Khumari, Mario Ramos, Claudia Sobrevila, Agi Kiss, David Hulse and Russ Mittermeier were consulted on any outstanding technical and institutional points in the ecosystem profiles. Conclusions from these bilateral meetings were incorporated into the ecosystem profiles.

7. GEF Focal Point endorsement has been secured for South Africa, Panama, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The ecosystem profiles are in the process of being considered by GEF national focal points in Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Costa Rica. It is anticipated that the focal point endorsement letters will be secured prior to the 11 December CEPF Donor Council Meeting or immediately thereafter.
8. Finally, CEPF will address a number of general comments provided by each donor institution during a January meeting.