

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
30th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Washington, D.C.
12 January 2017
8:00 -11:00 a.m. EST

Executive Director's Report

At a Glance

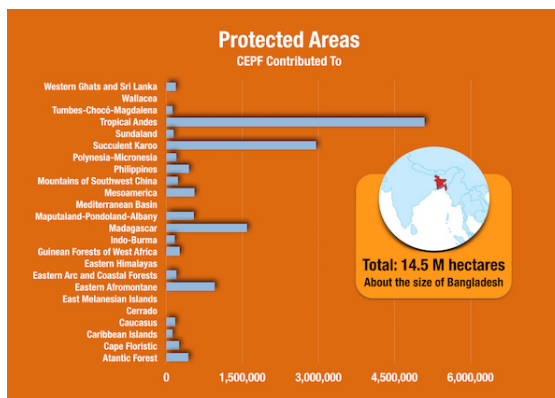
• Hotspot strategies implemented	24
• Countries and territories included	92
• Grantees supported	2,122
• Grants committed	\$208 million
• Amount leveraged by those grants	\$351 million
• Protected areas created [hectares]	14.1 million
• Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) with strengthened management and protection [hectares]	39.2 million
• Biodiversity management strengthened in production landscapes [hectares]	5.8 million
• IUCN Red-listed species benefited	1,200

Actions From Previous Meeting

The CEPF Donor Council met on 10 June 2016 in Arlington, Virginia. During the meeting, Donor Council members approved a new chairperson and made important decisions about new investments, governance, criteria for Donor Council membership and special grants to support civil society after a devastating earthquake in Ecuador. [Continue reading](#)

Impact Report

Between its inception and fiscal year 2016, CEPF has awarded 1,906 grants in 24 biodiversity hotspots. In our new Impact Report, we review CEPF's global influence. [Read the report](#)



CEPF Upcoming Travel Schedule

We hope you will consider joining CEPF during an upcoming field visit. These trips provide an opportunity for you to meet our grantees and learn more about CEPF in the field. [View upcoming field visits](#)

Partnership Highlights

Securing Financial Commitments From Regional Donors

The Helmsley Charitable Trust recently confirmed a \$900,000 investment for CEPF's work in Myanmar.



CEPF is working with Rainforest Trust on a new type of investment for the Fund: Rainforest Trust will match the investment that CEPF makes for the establishment of new protected areas, up to \$16 million. The timeframe is four years but may be extended.

CEPF received \$100,000 from the MAVA Foundation and \$100,000 from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the update of the Mediterranean Basin ecosystem profile.

AFD pledged €5 million which will benefit the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot and the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot. The amount will be divided equally between the two hotspots and should be available in September 2017.

[Read all partnership highlights](#)

Updates on Profiling

Caribbean Islands Reinvestment



In advance of CEPF's reinvestment in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot, the ecosystem profile update has begun, orchestrated by a consortium of four conservation groups (CANARI, BirdLife International, IUCN and the New York Botanical Gardens).

Though Cuba was not included in CEPF's investment due to World Bank restrictions, CANARI will cover the country using an independent grant, thus the information will be included in the final ecosystem profile. [Read all profiling updates](#)

Communications Corner

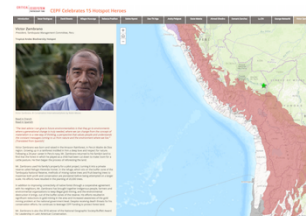
CEPF Overview Video

Our new video explains how CEPF is helping protect the world's biodiversity hotspots by supporting civil society organizations. [Watch the video](#)



Hotspot Heroes

This interactive story map includes personal stories and quotes from CEPF's 15 Hotspot Heroes. [View the map](#)



[Read recent articles from CEPF](#)

Highlights From the Field

Creating Connections in the Tropical Andes

CEPF Executive Director Olivier Langrand, Grant Director Michele Zador and Grant Manager Priscila Borba completed a successful supervision mission to Colombia and Bolivia in December.

To date, CEPF has awarded \$2.1 million for 14 projects to local and national indigenous and environmental groups in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

The team participated in two workshops in Bogota and La Paz that allowed more than 50 participants — representing CEPF grantees, regional and national environmental authorities, and CEPF donors — to exchange information on their grants and to explore opportunities for collaboration.

The mission then traveled to Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Colombia to discuss opportunities to collaborate with Kogi, Wiwa and Arhuaco ethnic authorities and their communities. According to IUCN, the KBA is biologically the most irreplaceable site in the world because it is home to 93 globally threatened and endemic species.



Next the team traveled to La Paz to train the Tropical Andes RIT in monitoring and safeguards compliance and to plan priorities for the new year. Secretariat staff took advantage of their mission in La Paz to meet with organizations who submitted promising letters of intention in a recent call for proposals.

[See more highlights](#)

From the Secretariat

Foundation Connect

CEPF has been using a custom database for its grants management and grantee portal needs since 2005. To address some shortcomings of that custom application (including outdated technology, data and workflows being handled in multiple systems, and outcomes not being easily searchable and reportable), CEPF searched for a new grants application and reporting solution that would streamline and automate workflows and improve impact monitoring and tracking. CEPF selected the Foundation Connect, a Salesforce-based solution, because of the following:

- Grantee portal is available in multiple languages
- Grantee portal and database are integrated
- Dashboards and reports are flexible and customizable
- Workflows are customizable
- Ability to integrate with CEPF website

The project is moving forward steadily and is on target with rollout to three pilot CEPF regions including Eastern Afromontane, Cerrado, and Guinean Forests. The other CEPF regions will be migrated to the new system during the course of the year.

Grants Management Unit Update

Conservation International is creating a centralized Grants and Contracts Unit to standardize and centralize the administration of grants and contracts in order to reduce risks and realize increased efficiency in CI's grant-making and contracting practices. Some of the goals of the new unit include (1) strengthening risk assessment and risk management practices across portfolio of grants and contracts, (2) standardizing monitoring protocols and tools for monitoring of grants and contracts, and (3) strengthening and supporting our grantees and staff through targeted training.

As part of this initiative, in early 2017 CI will hire a fourth grants manager for CEPF grants as well as a procurement specialist to guide CEPF and CI's other programs on program-level procurement and sub-grantee procurement matters.

Photo credits (top to bottom):

- Cinnamon flycatcher (*Pyrrhomyias cinnamomeus*), Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot. © O. Langrand;
- East Nimba Nature Reserve in Liberia, Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot. © CI/photo by Bailey Evans;
- Vulnerable Rhinoceros iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*) in the Dominican Republic, Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot. © O. Langrand
- CEPF staff members speak with Kogi community members in Colombia, Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot. © Tchendukua Association