

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**No-Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement
September 21, 2016**

Increase the Spending Authority for Indo-Burma and Wallacea Hotspots

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** an increase in Spending Authority to the following hotspots:

1. Indo-Burma: An increase of \$2,380,000 in the Spending Authority to include the additional funding made available by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. The total Spending Authority for the Indo-Burma hotspot will total \$24,858,000 comprising the approved \$9,878,000 for Phase 1, the \$12,600,000 for Phase 2 approved, and this request of \$2,380,000.
2. Wallacea: An increase of \$850,000 in the Spending Authority to include the additional funding made available by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. The total Spending Authority for the Wallacea hotspot will increase from the approved \$6,000,000 to \$6,850,000.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **October 06, 2016**.

Background:

The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation has provided two grants to CEPF in support of work in two hotspots, Indo-Burma and Wallacea. These funds are additional to an earlier grant to CEPF in support of work in the Indo-Burma Hotspot over the period 2013-2016.

The agreement in support of the work of CEPF in Indo-Burma is entitled *Sustaining Healthy Ecosystem through Local Action in the Mekong Basin and Transferring Experience to the Ayeyarwady Basin*, and will be undertaken between March 2016 through February 2019. The project is intended to engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities. This will be achieved by a sub-grants program to civil society groups active in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, with built-in technical assistance, networking, and capacity building to ensure an overall impact greater than the sum of its parts. Special emphasis will be given to empowering communities in the Mekong Basin to engage in the conservation and sustainable management of critical ecosystems, and on transferring experience to the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) Basin, where civil society is beginning to grapple with a similar set of challenges to those already manifested in the Mekong. Of the \$2,800,000 award, \$2,380,000 will be invested in the region as sub-grants, with the balance helping to support CEPF Secretariat operations.

The agreement in support of the work of CEPF in Wallacea is entitled *Community-Based Marine Conservation in Indonesian and Timorese Wallacea*, and will be undertaken between January 2016 through December 2019. The project is intended to engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through investments targeted at the highest conservation priorities, particularly Key Biodiversity Areas. This will be achieved by a sub-grants program to civil society groups active in the Indonesian and Timorese regions of the Wallacea Hotspot while also providing those groups with

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technical assistance, networking, and capacity building to ensure an overall impact greater than the sum of its parts. Of the \$1,000,000 award, \$850,000 will be invested in the region as sub-grants, with the balance helping to support CEPF Secretariat operations.