

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Donor Council
Brussels, Belgium
27 January 2015
10 a.m.-5 p.m. CET**

Report from the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the 25th meeting of the Donor Council on 24 June 2014. For information, a report highlighting the following activities since that date is attached:

- Follow-up to decisions made during the 25th meeting of CEPF Donor Council
- Special report from Patricia Zurita on results from last five years
- Partnership Highlights
- Featured New Grants
- Highlights from the Field
- Financial Summary
- Approved Grants (1 July 2014 – 30 September 2014)

FOLLOW-UP TO DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 25th MEETING OF THE DONOR COUNCIL

During the 25th meeting of the CEPF Donor Council on 24 June 2014, the Donor Council requested the following actions.

- *Revise the draft scope of work for the long-term strategic visions to incorporate the Donor Council and Working Group comments, which are due to the Secretariat by 11 July 2014, and engage the Working Group in the development of the long-term visions for the pilot hotspots. Present the long-term vision for the pilot hotspots during the next Donor Council meeting*

The scope of work for the long-term strategic visions was revised to reflect the Donor Council and Working Group comments, and the resulting scope was used to contract a consultant to develop the vision for the Albertine Rift and Eastern Arc Mountains within the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. More detailed information on progress on the long-term strategic visions will be presented during agenda item 5.

- *Distribute the final AFD Evaluation once available.*
Unfortunately, we have not received the final version of the AFD Evaluation in English yet.
- *Distribute the 30-page Wallacea summary.*
The 30-page summary of the Ecosystem Profile of Wallacea was produced and circulated to the Donor Council and Working Group in July 2014.
- *Distribute the Conservation International cash investment policy. The World Bank will then send confirmation on procurement requirements for appointing an investment advisor and on whether the CI investment policy aligns with their policy for investing cash from its grants.*
The cash investment policy was circulated and we received confirmation from the World Bank enabling us to appoint UBS as the investment advisor and manager of a portion of CEPF funds.

The Executive Director's Report

Partnership Highlights

New Executive Director Chosen

In late November, the Donor Council selected Olivier Langrand, most recently director of global affairs for the nonprofit Island Conservation, to replace Patricia Zurita as executive director, with a start date of 5 January.

In August, Ms. Zurita announced her departure from CEPF to take on the role of CEO for BirdLife International, effective February 2015. To ease the transition, she continued in the role of executive director through December.

Mr. Langrand, a veteran conservation leader, was chosen from among 40 applicants. He has 27 years of experience in international conservation, with an emphasis on environmental policy and governmental sector engagement as well as the implementation and coordination of on-the-ground conservation projects. Prior to his role at Island Conservation, he worked for several years with Conservation International, ultimately serving as executive vice president in charge of the Center for Conservation and Government. He also previously held multiple positions with the World Wildlife Fund. Mr. Langrand has extensive experience in the design and implementation of field research and tropical forest conservation programs in Madagascar and Southern and Central Africa, and is an expert in the birds of the southwestern Indian Ocean islands, having authored four authoritative books on the avifauna of Madagascar, the Comoros, the Mascarenes and the Seychelles islands.



Olivier Langrand

“CEPF’s mission of engaging civil society to protect the world’s most biologically diverse yet threatened ecosystems is of the utmost importance, and I’m thrilled to join the CEPF team as it continues to provide solutions to prevent the species extinction crisis and support communities who rely on these unique natural ecosystems,” Langrand said. “The fund has an impressive track record from its first 15 years of making grants to civil society to conserve the world’s biodiversity hotspots, and it is uniquely placed to help governments, multi- and bi-lateral organizations and the private sector meet commitments on the environment, climate and poverty alleviation and ensure the future of these vital ecosystems.”

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At a glance

Hotspot strategies implemented	22
Partners supported	1,941
Committed grants	178 million
Amount leveraged by those grants	346 million
Protected areas created [hectares]	13 million

CEPF Featured at Global Biodiversity Meetings

In October and November, CEPF participated the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Parks Congress 2014, at the Sydney Olympic Park in Australia.

In partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), the League for the Protection of Birds (LPO) and the Secretariat coordinated showings of the “35 Wonders of the World” photo exhibition at these international venues, in addition to many other venues throughout the course of the year. See photos from the exhibit showings in several countries [here](#).

The World Parks Congress

At this global conservation event held once a decade, CEPF participated in multiple events designed to share the Fund’s results and lessons, and elevate its profile among the global conservation and donor communities.

A highlight of the Congress for CEPF was the opening reception for the “35 Wonders of the World” exhibit at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney on 16 November. Hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and Domain Trust in partnership with CEPF and AFD, the event drew more than 180 guests to see the outdoor exhibit, hear speakers including CEPF donors and France’s Ambassador for the Environment Xavier Sticker, and enjoy food, wine and entertainment. The exhibit continued to be on display through the first week of December.



Xavier Sticker, France’s Ambassador for the Environment, speaks at the reception for the “35 Wonders of the World” exhibit at the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney.

CEPF “Small Grants Mechanism Day” on 15 November at the Conservation Finance Pavilion. This three-part event showcased small grants mechanisms as effective financial mechanisms for protected areas. Presentations from small-grant funds illustrated what we do, how we’re different, how we’re similar and how we complement each other. Small grant recipients shared their experiences and the importance of our funds in helping them advance the protected area agenda and play a key role supporting the conservation of biodiversity. The day concluded with a high-level donor panel discussing how small grants funds help them reach out to civil society and advance the Aichi Targets. Speakers included Yoko Watanabe of the Global Environment Facility; Valerie Hickey, the World Bank; Lynda Mansson, MAVA Foundation; Frédéric Launay, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi; and Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Conservation International.



The photo exhibition on display at the entrance of the U.N. CBD COP 12 plenary in Pyeongchang, South Korea. © Yoko Watanabe

CEPF also participated in the “Buy One, Get One Free” event on 15 November that featured the launch of the summary strategy for the Great Lakes in East and Central Africa; and in a panel discussion titled “Mediterranean Landscape: Financing approaches for marine conservation” hosted by MedPAN at the Conservation Finance Pavilion.

The CBD COP

CEPF celebrated the occasion of the CBD conference by participating in a reception hosted by the CBD LifeWeb Initiative on October 15, featuring both CEPF and Save Our Species (SOS). The event highlighted CEPF’s

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contributions to the global biodiversity targets, and illustrated how civil society is a vital partner in our global efforts to conserve biodiversity. Speakers included Gustavo Fonseca, GEF Director of Programs; Julia Marton-Lefèvre, CEO of IUCN; Charles Besancon, Coordinator, CBD LifeWeb Initiative; Ademola Ajagbe, team leader, Conservation Action and Policy, BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat, a member of the CEPF RIT for the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot; Nina Marshall, CEPF managing director; and Jean-Christophe Vié, deputy director IUCN Species Programme/director, SOS.

CEPF also showcased our work on transboundary conservation and mobilizing resources to civil society during a side event hosted by the National Nature Trust of South Korea, and the conference venue hosted the “Wonders of the World” photo exhibit on the biodiversity hotspots.

In conjunction with the CBD, CEPF published a report outlining the many contributions of its grantees to the CBD’s Aichi biodiversity targets. The report, available [here](#), illustrates how civil society is uniquely positioned to advance the global biodiversity agenda, supporting governments and the private sector. CEPF also published a summary of evaluations of the fund that captures the recommendations made by independent evaluations and demonstrates how CEPF learns from its own experiences to constantly improve efficacy and efficiency. This brochure is available [here](#).

Donor Council Approves RIT for Madagascar; Working Group Recommends Profile for Tropical Andes

Following the recommendation of the Working Group, the Donor Council approved via electronic no-objection the selection of Malagasy organization Tany Meva to serve as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the new investment in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands. The deadline for Donor Council review of the recommendation was 31 December 2014.

In a meeting held 11 December 2014, the Working Group not only reviewed the Secretariat’s recommendation for the Madagascar RIT, but also the ecosystem profile for the planned reinvestment in the Tropical Andes. The Working Group approved sending its recommendation of the Tropical Andes profile to the Donor Council after suggesting the strengthening of the niche section, linkage to public policy and the private sector, connection to indigenous people, and plans to collaborate with sustainable finance mechanisms.

Additionally, Working Group members approved the submission to the Donor Council of a request from the Secretariat to add Braulio Diaz, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to the Donor Council.

Requests for approval of both the Tropical Andes profile and the addition to the Donor Council will be sent to the Donor Council for its consideration in the new year.

Updates on Profiling

Guinean Forests of West Africa

During the first quarter, the IUCN team preparing the Guinean Forests of West Africa ecosystem profile conducted a remote consultation, in light of travel restrictions due to the Ebola outbreak, with stakeholders in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. More than 70 participants answered a series of questions about conservation priorities in their countries. In Liberia and Nigeria, the



Stakeholders participate in the Tropical Andes Hotspot final consultation in Quito, Ecuador. © CI/photo by Michele Zador

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environmental community convened small stakeholder meetings to up, the profiling team will compile the data and hold a regional validation workshop early in 2015 to bring together stakeholders from key countries in the hotspot. We appreciate the patience of the Donor Council as the profile timeline has been severely delayed due to the human health crisis in the region.

Tropical Andes

The Tropical Andes ecosystem profiling team led by NatureServe concluded the last stakeholder consultation with a regional meeting on 18 September in Quito, Ecuador. The meeting brought together more than 25 people to review the draft profile and CEPF investment strategy. Participants came from six countries and represented a variety of members within the Andean conservation community, including local leaders, representatives from national and international environmental groups, conservation donors, and national and international government agencies. Participants agreed that the profile is an important document, as it compiles a great deal of useful data and proposes a strategy that addresses high priority needs that are currently not met. Participants also made a number of suggestions to fine tune the CEPF investment strategy. As noted in the Partnership Highlights, the Working Group reviewed and approved the profile after making several suggesting for strengthening key sections. The Secretariat is implementing those changes and expects to submit the profile to the Donor Council for electronic approval in early 2015.

Wallacea

In July, the Wallacea ecosystem profile was formally approved by the Donor Council members, with a commitment of \$6 million for the implementation of the investment strategy. CEPF ran a competitive procurement process during the quarter for the RIT, receiving four bids. On 30 September, the Secretariat presented its review of the proposals to the Working Group members, who agreed with the assessment, and authorized the Secretariat to begin negotiations for the RIT. On 11 November, the Donor Council was asked to approve, on a no-objection basis, the selection of Burung Indonesia as the RIT for the hotspot. The approval was official at the end of November, and the Secretariat moved forward on the contracting process.

From the Field

Caribbean Islands

Protected area in Haiti to conserve Critically Endangered iguana

In Haiti, with assistance from CEPF grantee the International Iguana Foundation (IIF), a small community has taken a landmark step toward saving the last of the Critically Endangered Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordii*). The municipal government in Anse-à-Pitres created a Municipal Protected Area, legally protecting 3,000 hectares of dry forest for the conservation of a small population of Ricord's iguanas. One of only nine iguanas of its kind in the world, this species of large rock iguana has an extremely limited distribution. IIF worked on developing a management plan integrating the needs of local herdsman, and has provided awareness raising activities and environmental education for the communities of Anse-à-Pitres. Read a press release about the creation of the protected area [here](#).



A female Ricord's iguana leaving the nesting site during nesting season. © Pierre Richard Sanon

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Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Developing an ecolodge to benefit three communities

The CEPF grant to the African Safari Foundation (ASF) came to an end in June, but the project activities continued during the first quarter of fiscal year 2015. ASF received a grant of \$175,232 in June 2012 to support the community in empowering implementation of the Chemucane Lodge in the Maputo Special Reserve, Mozambique. The grant from CEPF allowed ASF to assist a community association, the Ahi Zameni Chemucane Association (AZC), which has a 50-year concession from the Government of Mozambique to build and operate a tourist lodge at Chemucane. Through facilitation by the International Finance Corporation and the ASF, AZC reached an agreement with the Bell Foundation, a South Africa-based private sector foundation, to develop the Anvil Bay Lodge and operate it through a joint venture between AZC and the Bell Foundation. The joint venture is called the Compañia Do Turismo Chemucane (CTC).

AZC is a 40 percent shareholder in the CTC, based on a real contribution to the capital costs of \$1 million out of a total of \$2.5 million. AZC is funding its contribution through a grant from the World Bank/Community Equity Fund and a zero-percent interest loan from ASF.

The grant from CEPF enabled ASF to cover some of its expenses in ensuring that the project went ahead while building a forum of local stakeholders for the Maputo Spatial Reserve that includes private sector, government, NGOs and communities. ASF trained 20 people to become highly skilled plumbers, carpenters and electricians, and facilitated the training of 18 others at the Southern African Hospitality College in Graaf Reinet, South Africa. The lodge is expected to open in March 2015. This grant is a great example of the catalytic power of CEPF.

Mediterranean Basin

Enhancing sustainable livelihoods and promoting community management of Shouf Biosphere Reserve

During the first quarter, the Al-Shouf Cedar Society undertook an assessment of the value of the ecosystem services within the Shouf Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon's largest natural cedar reserve. The results show that the economic benefits generated by the reserve are approximately \$15 million USD per year.

Most of these benefits come from water provision services and energy services from hydropower. The value of carbon sequestration services and production of biomass is also significant. Tourism brings an additional \$265,000 to the region every year and supports approximately 100 local jobs. Whereas some ecosystem services are not accounted for, the economic value of tourism activities in the reserve is clear, and growing.



Shouf Biosphere Reserve handicrafts on display. © Al-Shouf Cedar Society

The Al-Shouf Cedar Society expects these important services to add value to the protected area and help secure its future. With support from CEPF, the grantee will continue increasing awareness of the importance of the reserve and develop financial mechanisms, including handicraft production, to contribute to the economy of the surrounding area. During the quarter, the production of a number of handicraft items began in partnership with Green Hand Association, a local environmental NGO, and local women's groups. The new handicraft items were shown in many local and national exhibitions, and the program became part of the socioeconomic alternatives that Shouf Biosphere Reserve is providing for the community.

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Mountains of Southwest China

CEPF supports national workshop on ecological security in China

In July, Beijing Shanshui Conservation Center, Global Environmental Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, organized a national workshop in Beijing, with support from CEPF and the Blue Moon Fund. During this two-day event, central and provincial government officials discussed the current status of ecological security in China and emerging challenges, with a particular focus on legal safeguards, community-led conservation models, development of an ecosystem services economy, and “ecological red lines” that could be drawn to protect environmentally vulnerable areas.



CEPF Grant Director Jack Tordoff meeting with Shan Shui Conservation Center staff. © Shan Shui Conservation Center/photo by Yu Lu

Attendees also discussed the important role of academia, grassroots NGOs, local communities and other sections of civil society in developing new conservation models, including Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). The CCA model presents an alternative to conventional protected areas, empowering local communities to engage directly in conservation efforts and with greater opportunity for innovative financing from payments for ecosystem services, government incentives, corporate sponsorship or other models.

This workshop was an activity of a consolidation grant to Beijing Shan Shui Conservation Center, which aims to sustain and amplify the results of CEPF investments made in CCAs in Lixian County during the first phase of grant making in the Mountains of Southwest China by building capacity at the community level and promoting incorporation of CCAs within provincial nature reserve development plans.

The consolidation grant has also expanded the network of civil society organizations piloting the CCA approach, through communication and experience sharing. The program already has achieved impressive results, protecting more than 240,000 hectares in 81 communities, benefiting more than 35,000 people. The CCA model has great potential to influence China’s policy on public welfare forest compensation. This national policy covers more than 120 million hectares of forest, with an annual compensation budget of more than RMB 1.2 billion (US\$196 million). Integration of lessons learned into national policy is being promoted by a separate consolidation grant to the Conservation International China Program.

Western Ghats

Establishing a Vulture Safe Zone in southern India

During the first quarter, the 35 gram sabhas (local level governments) in Nilgiris District passed resolutions to protect vultures. The resolution bans the sale of diclofenac — an anti-inflammatory drug implicated in the catastrophic decline of vultures in the Indian sub-continent — for veterinary purposes, and warns villagers that poisoning of animal carcasses (in retaliation against predation by large carnivores) is an offense under Indian law. The resolution had earlier been passed

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unanimously by the gram sabhas in neighboring Erode and Coimbatore districts, helping to bring into being a diclofenac-free “Vulture Safe Zone” with a 100 kilometer radius in northwestern Tamil Nadu.

The area covered by the Vulture Safe Zone is home to four globally threatened vulture species, including the largest remaining population of the Critically Endangered white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) in south India.

This achievement was made possible by local NGO Arulagam, which is currently implementing a CEPF grant to establish the Vulture Safe Zone through targeted awareness-raising and community engagement activities. The grant is building a broad partnership for vulture conservation by engaging community conservation brigades, frontline forest department staff, and local civil society groups in public outreach, monitoring and conservation activities. By integrating conservation goals into gram sabha plans and budgets, Arulagam is helping to mainstream conservation into the activities of local government, thereby building financial and institutional sustainability.



Arulagam staff leading awareness-raising activities with community members. © Arulagam

Featured New Grants

Community Oriented Conservation of Plant Species in Ethiopian Hotspots – Eastern Afromontane

Gullele Botanic Garden, an independent public garden in Addis Ababa, has received a grant to enable it to become an active agent of in-situ conservation in Ethiopia. The Garden will work in three degraded priority key biodiversity areas, training community members in good environmental practice, establishing nurseries, collecting 250 IUCN-classified threatened plant species for conservation at the garden, and ensuring 50 threatened species are conserved in their natural sites.

Legal Capacity Building for Environmental Protection in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – East Melanesian Islands

Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Limited will work in capacity building for local civil society organizations working in the area of public interest environmental law, assisting four local civil society organizations in the hotspot to develop and implement effective financial management, project management and organizational governance systems, and thereby empower local communities to use legal tools to protect critical ecosystems from logging, mining and agro-industrial plantations that contravene statutory and customary law.

Updates on New Investments

East Melanesian Islands

Empowering the people of Temotu to protect their biodiversity

Since 2009, OceansWatch, a New Zealand NGO, has been providing local communities in Temotu Province—the most remote province in the Solomon Islands—with assistance in managing their marine resources. Containing two Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, Nendo and Vanikoro, the mainly coastal communities in the Temotu Province are completely reliant on marine and terrestrial resources for their food security and livelihoods.

In 2014, CEPF awarded OceansWatch a grant to expand its work into terrestrial ecosystems, thereby enabling a ridge-to-reef approach to ecosystem conservation. This is a very timely project, because Temotu Province contains significant areas of unlogged forest that are currently threatened by logging applications. The project aims to map ecosystems and inventory mammal and bird diversity at Vanikoro and Nendo AZE sites, raise awareness of conservation issues, create conservation committees in three communities to sustainably manage marine and terrestrial resources, and establish a women’s sustainable livelihoods cooperative to support the household economy.

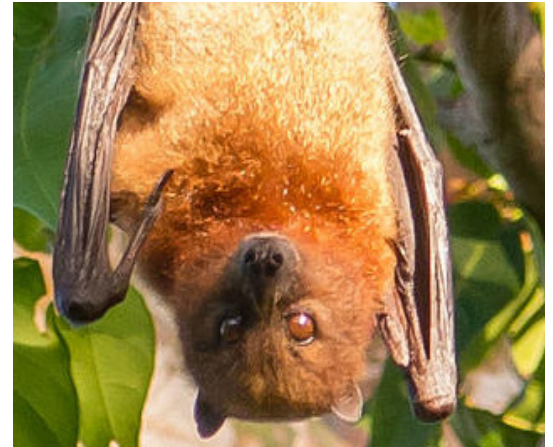
The project has achieved a number of significant results. Biological surveys have located a population of the Critically Endangered Vanikoro flying fox (*Pteropus tuberculatus*), as well as two Endangered species: Temotu flying fox (*Pteropus nitendiensis*) and Santa Cruz ground dove (*Gallicolumba sanctaerucis*). The rediscovery of Vanikoro flying-fox is particularly significant, as there had been no confirmed record of this species for decades. With regard to the livelihood activities, a pilot coconut oil processing plant has been established in Vanikoro’s Buma Village, and 25 liters of oil have been produced. These results will be built upon through a follow-on grant to empower communities to develop locally owned conservation plans, which are currently under development.

Indo-Burma II

Protecting breeding sites of sandbar-nesting birds along the Mekong River

The Mekong River Basin supports the largest population of sandbar-nesting birds left in Southeast Asia, including globally important populations of river tern (*Sterna aurantia*), river lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelli*), great thick-knee (*Esacus recurvirostris*) and small pratincole (*Glareola lactea*). However, as ground-nesting river channel specialists, this avian group is particularly sensitive to hydrological changes, predation, and disturbance by people and animals on sandbars. In response to the decline of sandbar-nesting birds in the Mekong Basin, IUCN, the CEPF RIT for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, awarded a small grant to the University of Minnesota Foundation for the project “Community-Based Conservation of Sandbar-Nesting Birds in Cambodia.”

This project successfully protected the breeding sites of sandbar-nesting birds along the Mekong River and two of its major tributaries, the Sekong and Sesan rivers, during the 2014 dry season. Working in partnership with WWF and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the project team located and monitored approximately 265 sandbar bird nests belonging to eight species. Using voluntary agreements and other conservation incentives, the project enlisted 47 community nest guards to protect sandbar-nesting birds and fit predator exclusion devices to nests. Preliminary results indicate that the project improved the breeding success of river terns — the species of highest conservation concern — and led to a slight increase in its breeding population. The achievements of the small grant are now being built on through a three-year large grant to the Royal University of Phnom Penh.



Temotu flying fox. © Lislegwynn

CEPF Upcoming Travel Schedule

Please join CEPF for any of our upcoming field visits, which provide good opportunities to meet our grantees and learn about CEPF in the field. Contact Patricia Zurita if you are interested in joining any of the following trips:

January

- TBD, Supervision mission, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany – South Africa
- 19-25 (TBC), RIT supervision mission, Caribbean Islands – Jamaica
- TBD, RIT training, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands – Madagascar
- TBD-March, Ecosystem profile workshops, Cerrado – Brazil

February

- TBD, RIT launch and training, Wallacea – Indonesia
- TBD, RIT training, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands – Madagascar
- February 8 (TBC), ecosystem profile workshop, Cerrado – Brazil

March

- March 1 (TBC) Supervision mission, mid-term assessment - Eastern Afromontane – Kenya
- March 1 (TBC), ecosystem profile workshop, Cerrado – Brazil
- March 2-6, Mid-term assessment workshop, Indo-Burma – Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- TBD, Mid-term assessment workshop, Mediterranean Basin – Tunisia

June

- TBD, Supervision mission, East Melanesian Islands – Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
- TBD, Final assessment workshop, Western Ghats Region – Bangalore, India

The Past Five Years of CEPF: A Report from the Outgoing Executive Director

Introduction

This report is a compilation of the results CEPF has seen in the last almost five years since I took over the Fund in March 2010. It is intended to inform the Donor Council and the incoming Executive Director of the changes the Fund has gone through that have paved the way for implementation of the Phase III strategy approved in January 2014. The report summarizes the changes implemented in five key areas: communications, finance and operations, monitoring and learning, fundraising and donor composition, and strategy.



Patricia Zurita © Fidel Tamayo

Communications

In 2010 CEPF had had a great track record of producing solid and beautiful annual reports. However, the publication of other products including ecosystem profiles, fact sheets, or other specific reports had not been fully exploited.

In light of the 2010 Anniversary of the Fund, CEPF launched a long-term campaign to brand the Fund. This campaign started with the 10th Anniversary Book, *INVESTING IN LIFE: THE CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND AT 10*, which was launched at the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity in Nagoya, debuting at a reception that featured high-level donor representatives and actor Harrison Ford as speakers, and also featured the Fund's first promotional video. The book and video—both of which were made available in English, French and Japanese—described the accomplishments of the Fund after 10 years, were the first CEPF marketing products their kind, and marked the beginning of a series of publications that would help position and brand CEPF. At the open-to-the-public CBD exhibition in Nagoya, the fund also hosted a booth that featured videos, materials and signage in Japanese as well as other core CEPF languages, and permitted CEPF staff members to talk with Japanese citizens and news media about CEPF and Japan's participation in the partnership.

Shortly after the COP and looking at the great value the ecosystem profiles have to the donor and the conservation community, we decided that it was important to summarize the large documents produced during the profiling processes and portray the results in a way that could make the profiles more visible, readable and effective in branding CEPF in each specific hotspot. The result is that since 2010 we have produced seven ecosystem profile summaries: Caribbean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, East Melanesian Islands, and Wallacea. All of these summaries have proven to be powerful communication and fundraising tools, demonstrating how CEPF strategizes its investments before granting in a hotspot. The summaries are printed in the key languages of each hotspot, reaching a far wider audience than the original ecosystem profile.

In addition to the ecosystem profiles, CEPF embarked on the production of overview and thematic fact sheets that would present in a couple of pages key information about the fund. These have proven to be useful for sharing data on CEPF’s approach and strategy, its global impact, its focus on civil society, its work with local communities, and the role of the fund in overseas territories.

To complement these products, we decided to publish key short documents that allow CEPF to more fully convey its impact to multiple audiences in an attractive and easy to ready format. These key documents include the results of the 2010 independent evaluation of CEPF, a special report showcasing CEPF’s impact advancing the Aichi Targets, and a compilation of all evaluations CEPF has had through the last 14 years that was launched at the CBD COP in Korea in October 2014. Additionally, CEPF produced two more videos to promote CEPF’s approach and results—one presenting an overview of the fund that debuted at the 2012 CBD COP, and one using the example of CEPF’s work in the Western Ghats to demonstrate the value of CEPF’s approach to local civil society and sustainable development.

While maintaining a lean budget, the CEPF communications team has focused significant energy and resources on improving our website. We started by adding two additional sites one in French and one in Japanese, to share our strategy, news and results with the donors and general public of France and francophone countries, and Japan. Also, the web manager has improved the way the site showcases CEPF’s work by enhancing the information architecture and implementing good search-engine optimization practices such as employing meta data and descriptive category hierarchies, and writing clear and pertinent text. This makes it easier to search for content and organize subjects and information in a way that facilitates navigation and makes it much more attractive to users. CEPF’s website in the last year had more than 97,000 visitors, a marked increase from the 50,000 who visited the website in 2010. While there is still ample room for improvement, the website has certainly progressed in terms of traffic and content quality and organization.

In 2013 CEPF expanded its communication channels to include social media, creating Twitter and Facebook accounts and a YouTube channel. This has served as a way to issue calls for proposals, provide information about the hotspots, and share the achievements of our grantees and donors more broadly. CEPF now has more than 360 followers for the CEPF account and more than 200 followers for the Executive Director account on Twitter, and more than 1,700 likes in FaceBook.

We have pushed to make CEPF more visible in the international arena. Partnering with AFD, Terre Sauvage and the Nature Picture Library, CEPF launched in December 2013 the exhibit “35 Wonders of the World” that showcases beautiful pictures and data representing the world’s biodiversity hotspots. The exhibit was associated with the 300th issue of Terre Sauvage magazine, published last year, which also serves as the catalogue of the exhibit, and showcases CEPF projects from around the globe. The exhibit has gone around the world and has been present at key international events through 2014 including the GEF Assembly in Cancun, the CBD WGRI and SBSTTA meetings in Montreal, the Conference of the Parties of the CBD in Korea, and the World Parks Congress. With the support of AFD and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CEPF’s exhibit has been presented in France, Mozambique, French Polynesia, Uganda, Côte d’Ivoire, and the Dominican Republic.



Opening of hotspots photo exhibit in Paris, January 2014.
Photo by Julie Shaw

The exhibit, magazine and associated receptions in multiple countries emerged from an innovative communications project implemented by CEPF and the French BirdLife partner Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO), designed to

build awareness in France and among French speakers of AFD's participation in the CEPF partnership and CEPF's results. That project also yielded articles and features on French government websites, in newsletters and on social media; CEPF presentations and material distribution at key biodiversity-related public events in France; and several features on CEPF projects in LPO publications, which have a wide circulation among some of our target audiences.

In addition to the CBD COPs, CEPF communications has engaged in international events to promote awareness of the partnership and its results, including the GEF Assembly, the GEF's Biodiversity Day event and the Global Festa in Japan.

CEPF's interactions with grantees on communications have also evolved over these five years. The CEPF communications team developed kits to aid RITs and grantees in promoting themselves and CEPF, and communications began participating more fully in RIT training. A communications representative also now participates in quarterly new grantee conference calls to encourage communication of results, offer guidance, and answer questions.

Through the outreach of our RITs, grantees and the Secretariat, CEPF has been included in hundreds of news articles published or broadcast by media in the countries where CEPF works, our donor countries and beyond.

Listening to the Donor Council recommendations, we have embarked on designing a communications strategy as one of the key components of Phase III. This will allow CEPF to define better target audiences and products that will produce better information and greater impact showcasing the fund and the donors that make CEPF possible. The communications strategy will be developed through 2015.

Finance and Operations

Historically, CEPF has had a very strong track record on financial management. Since 2010 one of the areas of focus was to improve the reporting and ensure that the spending Pplan submitted to the Donor Council every year is met. We embarked on a process of tightening the budgeting process as well as setting up quarterly targets for each of the regions to ensure we could meet the spending plan every year. The Secretariat is very proud of having achieved in excess of 95 percent of the spending plan during the last three years.

Tightening the budget and the financial management of the regions also allowed us to maintain stability in the program in terms of the level of granting, growing at a steady pace while the operational cost stayed relatively stable between 14 and 16 percent of total costs. The figure below shows the annual level of granting of CEPF since inception as well as the yearly cost of the Secretariat. Maintaining the level of granting at a steady pace has permitted better management of the grants and the portfolios, allowing local civil society to graduate from small grants to large grants and to close portfolios around the fifth year of investment.

Thanks to the support of the previous Chairman of the Council, James Wolfensohn, we overhauled the quarterly reporting, showcasing in more graphic ways CEPF's quarterly expenditure and demonstrating the high efficiency the fund has in committing and disbursing the donor partners' funds.

Another important development in the financial management of CEPF was the creation of an investment account for CEPF's funds that would produce greater returns. Until this year, the donors' funds that have been disbursed to CEPF have been invested by CI, as the host of the Secretariat, in a money market account generating annual interest of less than 0.3 percent. The interest generated by this account provided CEPF's Secretariat with flexible funding for special projects, such as the 10th anniversary event in Nagoya, the event in Hyderabad to welcome the European Union to the partnership, and the launching of the 35th Wonders of the World exhibit in Sydney, among others. While maintaining the surplus CEPF funds in a money market account was a way to carefully and very conservatively safeguard the funds of CEPF donors, the Secretariat was missing the opportunity to get a greater yield on this special projects account and thus invest in more fundraising, better communications and improving our operational systems.

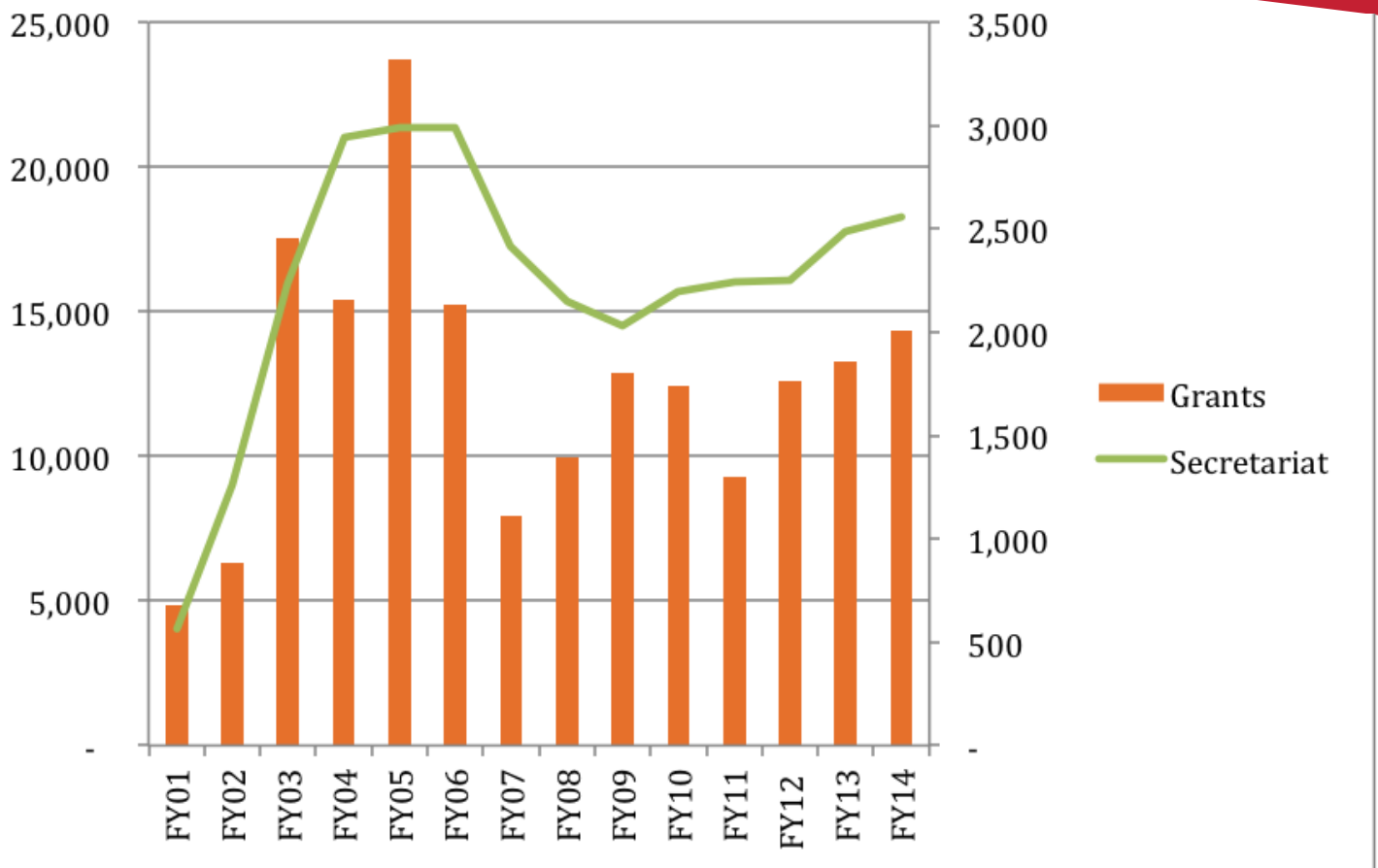


Figure 1 – level of granting and Secretariat’s cost since inception

In June 2014, after discussions with CI’s financial team that started the year before, the Donor Council was presented with the proposal and approved CEPF investing its funds in a better yielding account. In December 2014, after a competitive process that included JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs, CEPF and CI’s finance team selected UBS to manage \$30 million of CEPF’s funds in a conservative yet better yielding account—with only A and better rated securities—that will provide a healthier funding stream for special projects.

In terms of operations, CEPF’s Secretariat has revised the Operational Manual to include important elements that have improved CEPF’s work, enabling us to better comply with donor requirements. The most important one is the inclusion of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). With the support of the World Bank’s task manager, CEPF consolidated its safeguards section under the umbrella of the ESMF, adding and improving sections for pest management in particular.

The changes in the operational manual have also reflected the changes that the Donor Council has approved in terms of the role of Regional Implementation Teams (see the Strategy section that follows).

The most significant operational change is the upgrading of the granting system that CEPF has been using since 2007. While our system, Grant Enterprise Manager (GEM), has been useful for seven years, it was evident that CEPF grantees needed a better and updated system to facilitate the online capture of letters of inquiry as well as proposals, and for the Secretariat to have a unique system to track grant progress, get technical and financial reports uploaded online, and have a platform to collect the data that would feed the Monitoring Framework (see Monitoring Section below).

In January 2014, as part of the CEPF Phase III Strategy, the Donor Council approved the investment in a new and

upgraded granting system. CEPF embarked on procuring, on a competitive basis, software developers who could produce a package that would integrate all the different pieces of the granting process, including the impact monitoring of each of the grants.

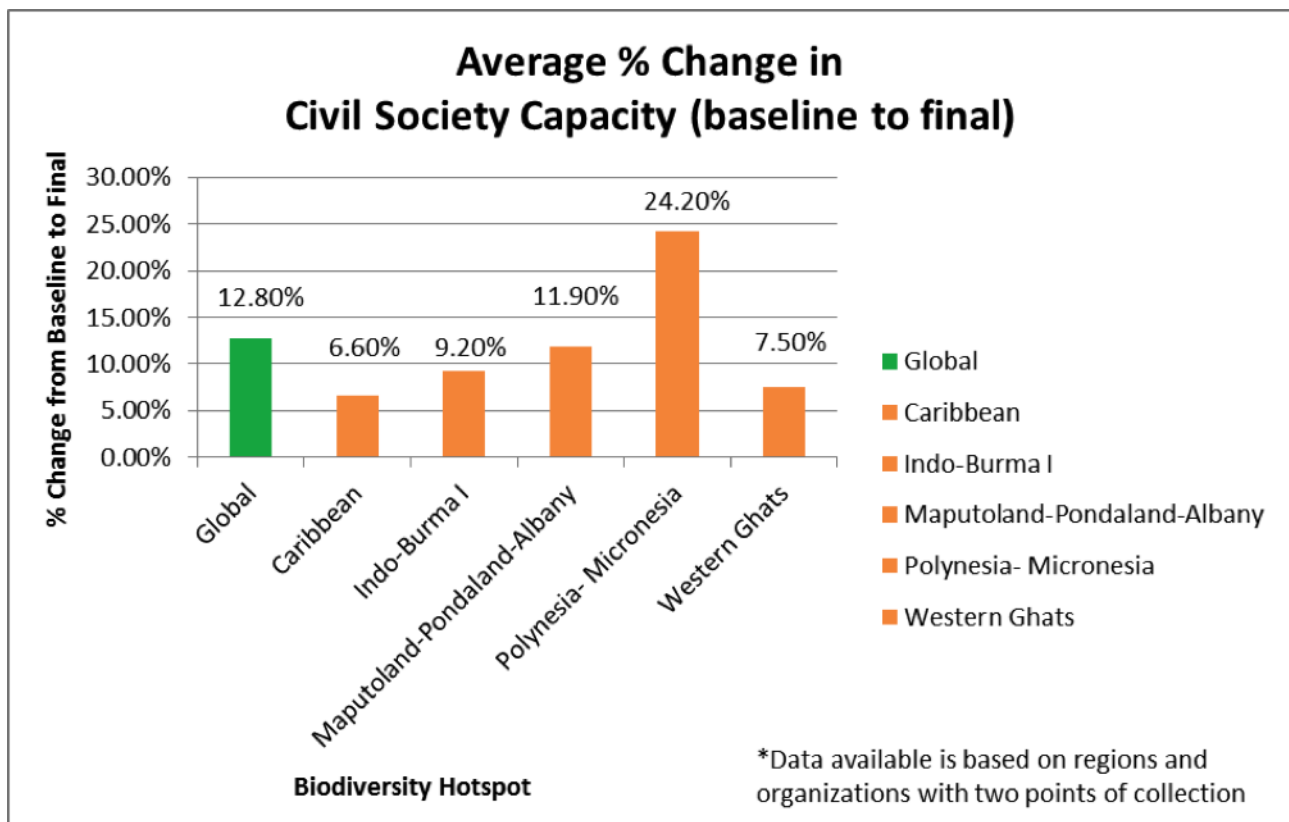
The system is under development and with the input of the grant directors, selected RITs and some grantees, it is expected that in 2015 CEPF will have a new system that will allow the Secretariat to make the granting system more efficient and the reporting easier for grantees.

Monitoring and Learning

During discussions with the Government of Japan for the replenishment of their contribution to CEPF Phase II in 2010, the Ministries of Finance and Environment were very clear that CEPF needed to improve its monitoring system. In 2011, the Secretariat embarked on the development of a monitoring framework that would allow the Secretariat to report on CEPF's global impact in four key areas that are crucial to the mission of the fund as well as for the donor partners. These include: biodiversity, civil society capacity, socioeconomics and sustainability.

The Monitoring Framework that was approved by the Donor Council in 2012 proposed a series of indicators under these four key categories. For biodiversity the key indicators included trends on threatened species, number of hectares of new protected areas created, number of hectares of key biodiversity areas under better management, and number of hectares of productive landscapes under improved management.

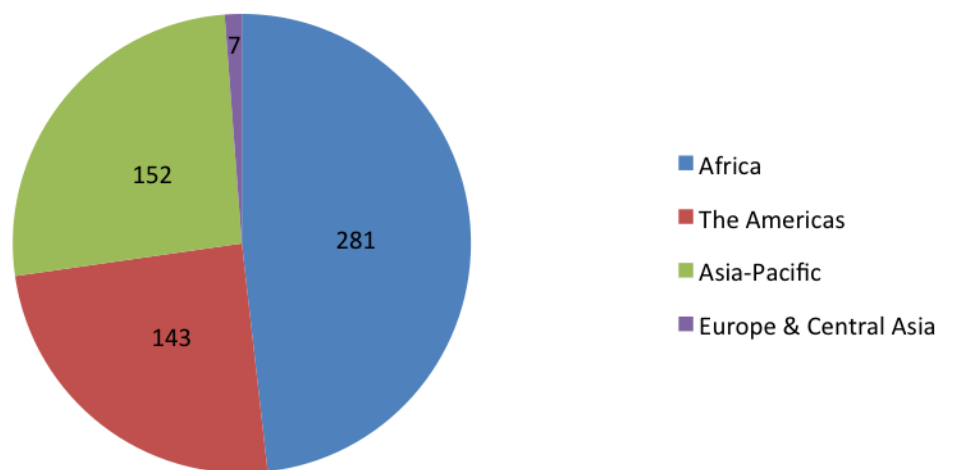
For monitoring civil society capacity, CEPF developed the civil society tracking tool in 2009 to review capacity of individual organizations in five areas: human resources, financial resources, management systems, strategic planning and



delivery. This tool was pioneered in Indo-Burma and in 2010 before the monitoring framework was under development, and was then rolled out to the other active hotspots. This ensured that when a grant was given, organizations would report on these five areas so then when the grants closed, the RITs and the Secretariat could measure the impact CEPF grants have had on the capacity of individual organizations. The monitoring framework built on this and proposed consolidating the results of the civil-society tracking tool to measure the impact on the civil society communities of the hotspots where CEPF invested. Thus this indicator tracks how CEPF is making progress in building the capacity of civil society in each hotspot and globally.

For human well-being, the least developed portion of the framework, CEPF is tracking direct and indirect impact on the communities CEPF grantees' work with. This includes the number of jobs created, additional income generated through sustainable production activities, access to water and other elements that showcase how our work in biodiversity is making peoples lives better. While this was a very good start, it requires additional work. Partnering with organizations that have much greater capacity and experience measuring human well-being was something we were pursuing but could not finalize during my tenure. Organizations such as the Poverty Action Lab of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) are very interested in working with CEPF, as it offers a potential wealth of information around the world.

Number of Communities Directly Benefiting Total: 583



For sustainability, CEPF is tracking its impact on sustainable finance and mainstreaming. Sustainable finance will allow conservation efforts to continue through support from funding sources that complement CEPF. In fact, CEPF has already made great progress on this front, supporting the creation or consolidation of close to 30 percent of the conservation trust funds of the world. In terms of mainstreaming, CEPF is tracking its impact on policy making and how biodiversity conservation is being factored into development decisions in ways that support the conservation of the unique ecosystems we work on for the long run.

The Secretariat produced the first report on the Monitoring Framework in November 2013 and is in the process of finalizing the 2014 version. One of the limitations the Secretariat has seen in producing the report is the difficulty of collecting and analyzing the data from all the different grantees. CEPF has granted to more than 1,900 organizations around the world, and without a systematic approach to collecting the data on their impact, it is very difficult to compile and analyze the progress towards these four indicators. That is why the new granting system (see previous section on Finance and Operations), is crucial to making the reporting on the monitoring framework easier and more effective. The new system looks at enabling every grantee to input the data from their projects that is relevant to the indicators of the framework, and for the Secretariat to be able to quickly consolidate it so it can analyze it in a way that truly tells the story of CEPF's impact at the global level. While the monitoring process is still evolving, the foundations are well set, and the new system will allow the Donor Council and all stakeholders to see the great impact CEPF is having around the world.

Complementary to the monitoring efforts, the Secretariat has been developing many new ways to learn from our own

experience and enable grantees to learn from each other. In September 2013 CEPF hosted representatives from all RIT for an exchange that would enable them to learn from each other's experiences and best practices. This three-day meeting proved to be very valuable to connecting teams around multiple regions that are representing CEPF in their hotspots to compare notes on how to build capacity, how to work with local grantees and get their suggestions to improve the way the Secretariat works with the RITs. The Secretariat expects to hold further exchanges of this type in the coming year.

Additionally, CEPF has developed training materials for the RITs and it is rolling out training sessions to all new RITs with refreshers and updates over the first years of implementation of the portfolios. Also, the Secretariat established quarterly calls for new grantees in multiple languages and for multiple time zones so organizations that are interested in CEPF's funding can learn about CEPF requirements and procedures before they apply. No doubt there is more CEPF can do on this front, but we have seen great progress on learning and lessons sharing over the last five years.

Fundraising and Donor Composition

One of the key tasks of the executive director is to secure additional funding for CEPF. Starting in 2008, CEPF had been in conversations with the Government of Japan to secure its replenishment for Phase II. However, by 2010 when my tenure started this had not crystallized. Thus securing the replenishment of the Japanese government was the highest priority. After I visited with the Government of Japan in April 2010 and agreed to a set of conditions such as the development of the monitoring framework, Rintaro Tamaki, vice-minister of Finance for International Affairs at the Ministry of Finance of Japan, announced during the spring meetings of the World Bank that the Government of Japan was committed to renewing funding to CEPF. The Secretariat managed to establish the grant agreement with the World Bank for the funding from the Government of Japan in 2012.

Through 2011, the Secretariat embarked on a process to secure the funding of a new donor, the European Union. In October 2012 CEPF officially welcomed the European Union to the partnership at an event in Hyderabad during the celebration of the Conference of the Parties of the CBD. In 2013, the World Bank finalized the agreement with CEPF for the funding of the European Commission.

In 2014, CEPF worked with the GEF Secretariat on a \$10 million bridge grant that would enable the early implementation of selected elements of the Phase III Strategy approved by the Donor Council in January 2014. Also, CEPF is in conversations with the French Development Agency in an effort to secure their replenishment in the near future.

In addition to securing funding from global donors, the Secretariat has sought to broaden the donor base and search for donors that may be interested in supporting CEPF at the hotspot level. In 2012, CEPF proposed to the Donor Council the possibility of working with "regional" donors that would support all or a portion of the strategies developed through the ecosystem profiles in a specific hotspot. The Council's approval allowed the Secretariat to move forward in conversations with the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation for Indo-Burma and the MAVA Foundation for the Mediterranean Basin. Securing these foundations' support in 2012 and 2013 respectively has allowed CEPF to increase the level of funding in specific



Karl Falkenberg, the European Commission's Director-General for Environment, at the Hyderabad reception announcing the addition of the European Union to the CEPF donor partnership.
© CI photo by Andrew Kolb

hotspots and develop a model of engagement that is serving as a foundation for new relationships in new hotspots. CEPF is in conversations with the Helmsley Trust to support Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation for Wallacea; and other foundations in the Tropical Andes.

Strategy

While the most important milestone in regards to CEPF's strategy over the last five years is the approval of the Phase III Strategy, this has also been the result of key strategic changes that have been proposed by the Secretariat and approved by the Donor Council through the course of the last five years. There are two strategic changes that are particularly relevant to the development of the Phase III strategy: the evolution of the role of the RITs, and the term of the funding of CEPF in each of the hotspots.

Following the 2007 evaluation, CEPF created the RITs, entrusting local and international organizations to represent CEPF at the local level. The role of the RITs by 2010 had been mostly managing the granting contracts, supporting the supervision of the projects, and the small grants program. However, it was very clear that the role the RIT could play was much more than just administrative, and the potential to build capacity at the local level was greater than what was being pursued. In 2011, CEPF proposed modifying the terms of reference of the RITs, separating the administrative and programmatic roles to promote through the programmatic activities greater grantee capacity building and support.

While the changes in the terms of reference had helped strengthen the programmatic role of the RITs in building capacity and supporting the grantees at the local level, by 2014 it was clear that the separation of roles was not enabling more organizations to apply for the role of the RIT and it was creating an artificial, bureaucratic separation of roles. Also, as the Secretariat developed the Phase III strategy with an emphasis on the long-term sustainability of CEPF's investment, it was clear that RITs needed to play a greater role in connecting local grantees to governments and private sector so biodiversity could be more effectively mainstreamed through policy and private sector practices.

In June 2014, CEPF proposed to the Donor Council another change to the terms of reference for the RITs, bringing the programmatic and administrative roles together but emphasizing more clearly the role the RITs play on three fronts: building the capacity of local civil society, mainstreaming biodiversity in public policy and private sector practices, and securing sustainability through fundraising and communications. The Donor Council approved the new terms of reference and the Secretariat has already used the new terms in the contracts of the RITs in Wallacea and Madagascar.

Parallel to this important change in CEPF's strategy was the analysis of CEPF's investment term in each of the hotspots. By 2010 as part of the Phase II strategy, CEPF had implemented or was implementing consolidation portfolios in several of its hotspots including Mountains of South West China, Southern Mesoamerica, Choco, Tropical Andes, Atlantic Forest, Succulent Karoo, Guinean Forest, Cape Floristic Region, the Caucasus and the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of East Africa. Consolidation portfolios were three-year portfolios with a much smaller number of grants that were dedicated to securing the gains achieved during the five-year investment of the portfolios. An analysis produced by the Secretariat in 2011 demonstrated that while the results of the grants were positive, the consolidation portfolios could only secure long-term sustainability in areas where civil society capacity had already been well advanced during the five-year investment. In areas where civil society capacity was not as advanced, the consolidation grants were helping, but not enough secure sustainability. The Secretariat proposed to the Donor Council in 2011 that consolidation grants be discontinued, and instead proposed re-investing for full five-year terms in the hotspots where CEPF was present. The proposal was approved and CEPF began a new round of reinvestments starting in Indo-Burma, followed by Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, the Tropical Andes, and the Guinean Forest of West Africa. Per the short experience in Indo-Burma, it is very clear that a sustained level of funding in areas where civil society capacity is low is the key to sustained capacity building and secured conservation results.

These two changes were the pillars for proposing the Phase III Strategy. After bringing the donors together in a retreat in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in June 2013, the Secretariat produced a proposal for a strategy for Phase III. The new strategy

builds on the knowledge that CEPF is the only global fund for biodiversity and civil society, and its achievements have been instrumental in the conservation of critical ecosystems in the biodiversity hotspots. Despite of all the great results during the first 13 years of the Fund, it was evident that to secure sustainability there were two key elements that needed to be scaled up: extending the period of funding in specific hotspots to the point where civil society is ready to continue conservation efforts without CEPF's support and "graduate" from CEPF; and enabling local organizations to become more effective at mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practices.

To achieve the Phase III Strategy, the Secretariat proposed two key new products: the development of long-term visions that would allow CEPF to determine the graduation targets of civil society in specific hotspots, thus defining the appropriate term of investment of CEPF in each region; and the change in the role of the RITs to become a stronger players in the building of local civil society capacity and enabling mainstreaming of biodiversity in both public policy and private sector practices. In addition to these two components, the Phase III strategy proposed an overhaul of the Secretariat's systems as described in the Operations and Monitoring section of this document, and the development of a stronger and more effective communications strategy. Lastly, looking at the great impact CEPF has had and the challenge of global biodiversity loss, the Secretariat proposed scaling up CEPF to a level where it can really tackle the biodiversity crisis and turn the tide. We had proven in the Atlantic Forest that by building civil society capacity, we can reverse biodiversity loss. The aim for the Phase III Strategy is to build a fund that can replicate what we were able to do in the Atlantic Forest in many more hotspots over many more years. While the challenge ahead is big, it is also true that CEPF has been able to make a huge difference with very little funding when compared to the global ODA for biodiversity. The Donor Council approved the strategy and has pushed CEPF to become even a greater mechanism for biodiversity and civil society.

Conclusion

During the last five years, while I have led the CEPF Secretariat, we have seen very positive changes in the fund that have positioned CEPF as a great mechanism for building the capacity of local, national and international NGOs working in the biodiversity hotspots for nature and people. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with a very engaged and professional Donor Council that has helped guide all these changes and support the evolution of CEPF during my tenure. I am immensely grateful for all your support and patience through this process, and for your continuing commitment to biodiversity and civil society, and to making CEPF an even better mechanism. I leave honored to have had the chance to work with you all and, with the support of the great team of the Secretariat, the backstopping of the Working Group and the guidance of the Donor Council, to have been able to tailor a Fund that is truly making a difference toward reversing global biodiversity loss.

CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement for 3 Months Ending 9/30/2014

<i>Revenue - CEPF II</i>	<i>Current Year</i>
Contributions	(1,448,068)
Gain/(loss) on EU foreign exchange ¹	(1,448,068)
Interest earned	34,066
Total revenue	(1,414,003)

<i>Grants by region</i>	<i>Grants Awarded²</i>			<i>Payments on Grants³</i>		
	<i>07/01/14 - 9/30/2014</i>			<i>07/01/14 - 9/30/2014</i>		
<i>Region</i>	<i>FY15 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>FY15 Approved Spending Plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Caribbean	277,899	83,187	30%	1,042,860	194,517	19%
Caucasus	-	-	0%	61,849	-	0%
East Melanesian Islands	2,000,000	235,549	12%	1,132,823	124,268	11%
Eastern Afromontane	2,500,000	340,957	14%	1,985,994	238,942	12%
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests	-	-	0%	348,583	-	0%
Guinean Forests of West Africa	1,700,000	-	0%	425,000	-	0%
Indo-Burma Reinvestment	2,500,000	2,124,605	85%	1,885,527	128,984	7%
Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands Reinvestment	2,250,000	-	0%	562,500	-	0%
Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany	100,000	170,380	170%	663,433	443,581	67%
Mediterranean	1,600,000	185,062	12%	2,633,773	697,171	26%
Mountains of Southwest China	-	-	0%	159,251	-	0%
Tropical Andes Reinvestment	2,000,000	-	0%	500,000	-	0%
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	-	-	0%	-	-	0%
Wallacea	1,500,000	-	0%	375,000	-	0%
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka	-	-	0%	461,447	133,350	29%
Unallocated	-	-	0%	-	-	0%
Total Grants	16,427,899	3,139,740	19%	12,238,041	1,960,813	16%

<i>Operational Costs</i>	<i>Spending plan</i>	<i>Actual YTD</i>	<i>%</i>
Operating Costs	2,712,025	413,421	15%
Management Fee	525,319	75,071	14%
Total Operations	3,237,344	488,493	15%

<i>Preparation</i>	<i>%</i>
Total Preparation⁶	320,000 432,823 135%

<i>Special Projects</i>	<i>%</i>
Audit Fee	45,000 - 0%
Fundraising	108,463 9,293 9%
Special Events ⁴	30,000 10,000 33%
LEAF - New CEPF Grant System ⁵	273,000 112,556 41%
Total Special Projects	456,463 131,849 29%

Total expense	20,441,706	4,192,905	21%
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Fund Balance at 9/30/2014

Bank Balance	46,104,660
Accounts Receivable	20,385,126
European Union	19,134,412
Margaret A Cargill Foundation	780,000
Mava Foundation	470,714
Grants Payable	(20,548,646)
Operating Expenses (due to)/from CI	(321,475)
Total Fund Balance	45,619,665

¹Loss due to foreign exchange rate change applied to the unpaid contribution from the EU (entrusted to the WB) from June 30 to September 30, 2014 of 1.3645 to 1.2685 .

²Negative amounts represent grant deobligations.

³Includes payments on grants awarded in prior years.

⁴Actual costs for events include expenses for CBD in Korea.

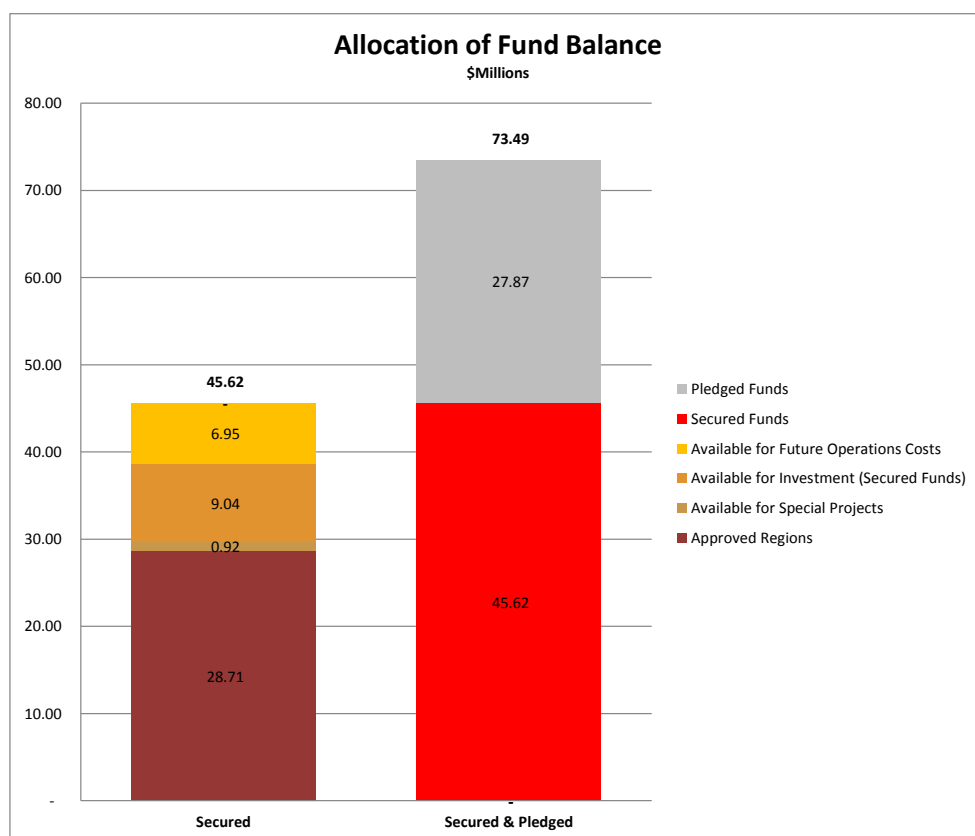
⁵Upgrade of CEPF granting system approved by Donor Council in January 2014.

⁶Budget adjustment due to extended timeline for Guinean Forests of West Africa ecosystem profile.

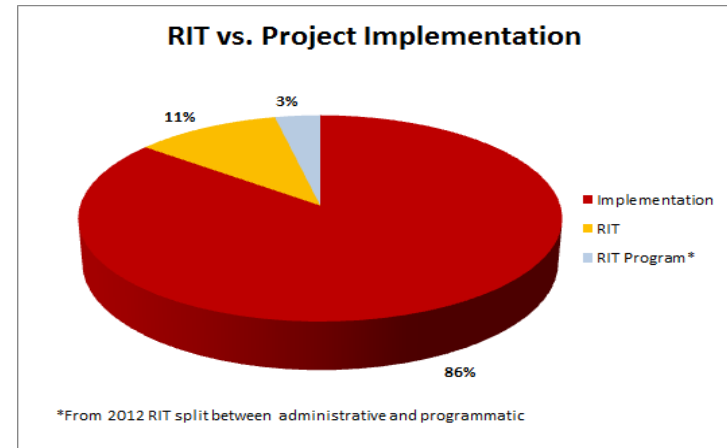
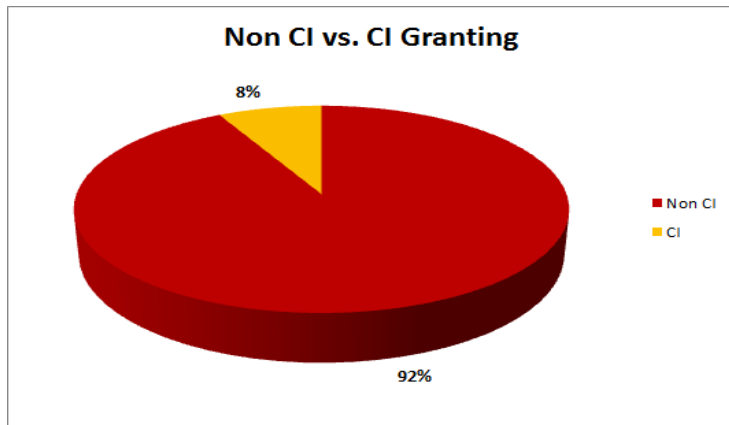
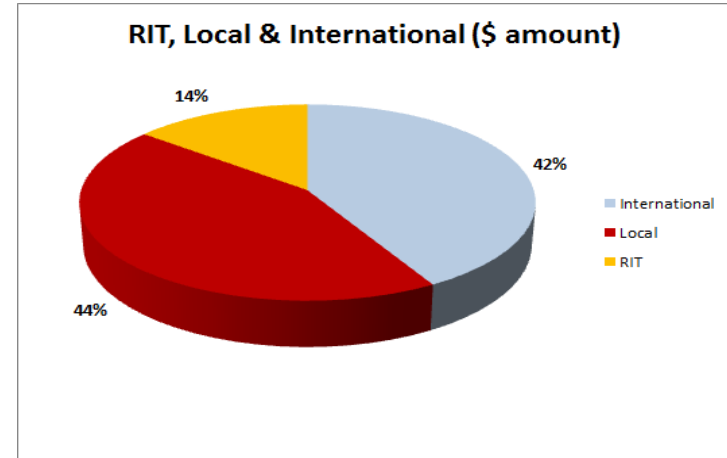
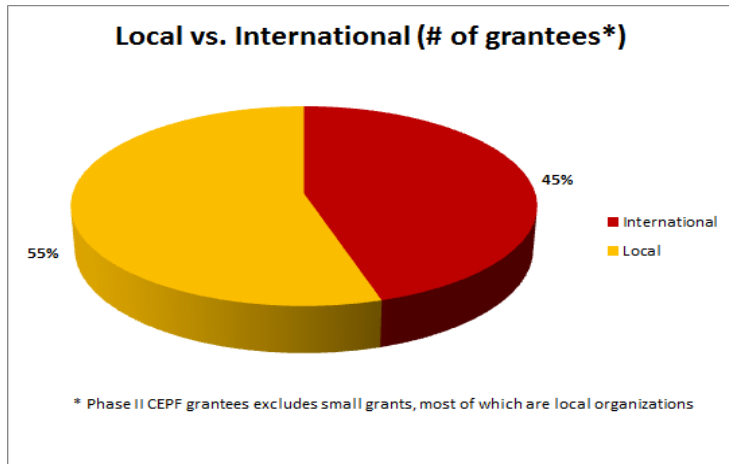
Summary of Available Resources as of 9/30/2014

Revenue to Date	268,524,671	
Expenses to Date	222,905,005	
Fund Balance		45,619,665
Allocated to:		
Approved Regions	28,713,761	
Available for Special Projects	920,120	
Available for Future Operations Costs	6,948,547	
Available for Investment (Secured Funds)		9,037,238
Pledged Funds ¹		
Operations Costs on Pledged Funds	27,873,000	
Preparation	4,180,950	
Preparation	-	
Balance for Investment (Pledged Funds)		23,692,050
Total Available for Investment - secured and pledged funds		32,729,288
Total Available Resources - secured and pledged funds		73,492,665

¹Includes \$14,813,000 from the Government of Japan, \$3,060,000 from The World Bank, and \$10,000,000 from the Global Environment Facility.

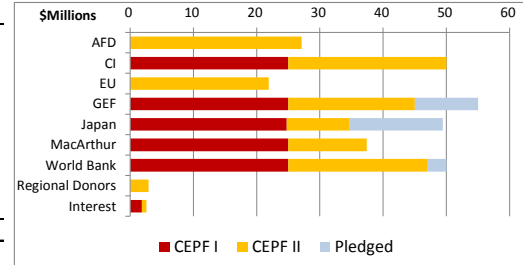


CEPF Phase II Grant Portfolio as of 9/30/2014

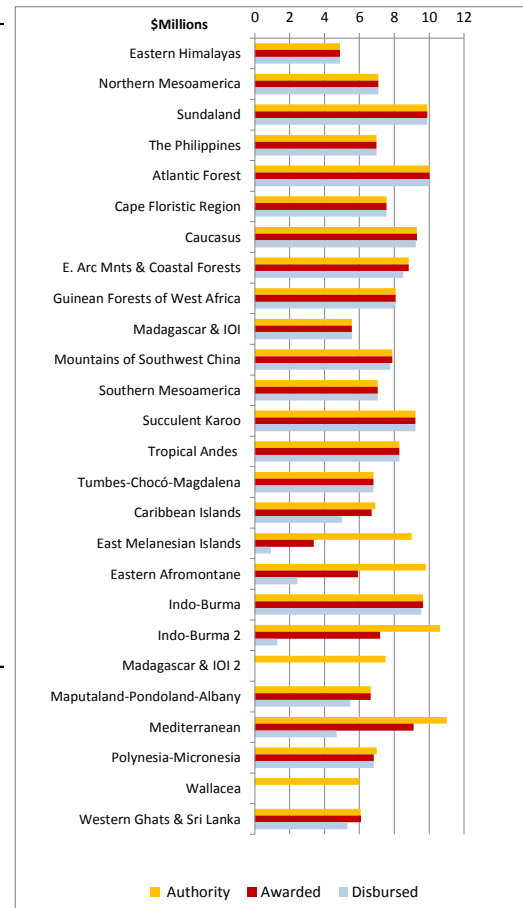


CEPF Quarterly Report
Income Statement from Inception to 9/30/2014 (US\$ 000's)

Revenue	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Pledged
l'Agence Française de Développement	0	27,117	27,117	0
Conservation International	25,000	25,000	50,000	0
European Union	0	21,913	21,913	0
Global Environmental Facility	25,000	20,000	45,000	10,000
Government of Japan	24,750	9,875	34,625	14,813
MacArthur Foundation	25,000	12,425	37,425	0
The World Bank	25,000	21,940	46,940	3,060
Regional Donors ¹	0	2,930	2,930	0
Interest earned	1,871	705	2,575	0
Total Revenue to Date	126,621	141,904	268,525	27,873



Expense	CEPF I	CEPF II	Total	Total	CEPF II
Grants by region	Awarded	Awarded	Awarded	Disbursed	Balance
CEPF I only					
Eastern Himalayas	4,883	0	4,883	4,883	0
Northern Mesoamerica	7,079	0	7,079	7,079	0
Sundaland	9,901	0	9,901	9,901	0
The Philippines	6,970	0	6,970	6,970	0
CEPF I and CEPF II consolidation					
Atlantic Forest	7,615	2,395	10,010	10,010	0
Cape Floristic Region	5,966	1,585	7,551	7,551	0
Caucasus	8,298	998	9,295	9,236	0
E. Arc Mnts & Coastal Forests	7,064	1,759	8,823	8,513	0
Guinean Forests of West Africa	6,165	1,907	8,073	8,073	0
Madagascar & IOI	4,170	1,386	5,556	5,556	0
Mountains of Southwest China	6,535	1,351	7,887	7,757	0
Southern Mesoamerica	5,411	1,636	7,047	7,047	0
Succulent Karoo	7,834	1,387	9,221	9,221	0
Tropical Andes	6,130	2,157	8,287	8,287	0
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	4,952	1,846	6,798	6,798	0
Consolidation (unallocated)	0	0	0	0	14
CEPF II only					
Caribbean Islands	0	6,704	6,704	4,984	196
East Melanesian Islands	0	3,379	3,379	916	5,621
Eastern Afromontane	0	5,912	5,912	2,443	3,888
Indo-Burma	0	9,657	9,657	9,539	0
Indo-Burma 2	0	7,183	7,183	1,295	3,438
Madagascar & IOI 2	0	0	0	0	7,500
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	0	6,650	6,650	5,475	0
Mediterranean	0	9,116	9,116	4,685	1,901
Polynesia-Micronesia	0	6,829	6,829	6,829	171
Wallacea	0	0	0	0	6,000
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka ²	0	6,094	6,094	5,325	(17)
Total Grants to Date	98,974	79,931	178,905	158,373	28,714



Other Expenses to Date				
Preparation	6,714	3,741	10,455	
Special Projects	349	1,307	1,655	
Operations Costs	17,659	14,231	31,890	
Total Other Expenses to Date	24,722	19,279	44,000	
Total Expense	123,695	99,210	222,905	
Fund Balance			45,620	

¹ Regional donors include Margaret A Cargill Foundation for Indo Burma Reinvestment and the Mava Foundation for the Mediterranean.

² Western Ghats is temporarily overspent against Spending Authority, will reverse on deobligations.



Approved Grants

From: July 1, 2014 To: September 30, 2014

East Melanesian Islands

Strategic Direction 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority key biodiversity areas under-served by current conservation efforts

Status and Conservation of the Solomon Islands' Most Threatened Endemic Terrestrial Vertebrates

Assess the distribution and conservation status of priority mammal and amphibian species at key biodiversity areas on Gatokae, Vangunu, Kolombangara, Makira and Ghizo islands. Formulate draft management plans to conserve confirmed populations and their habitats in collaboration with customary landowners. Prepare a textbook on terrestrial biodiversity of the Solomon Islands and its conservation, plus identification guides to mammals and amphibians.

Funding: \$78,549
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 11/30/2015
Grantee: The University of Queensland

Eastern Afromontane

Strategic Direction 1. Biodiversity mainstreamed into wider development policies, plans and projects, delivering the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in four priority corridors (and associated key biodiversity area groups) and seven countries

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for Improved Forest Conservation in Njombe, Tanzania

Apply Participatory Forest Management (PFM) approaches to bring together key players in forest management in the Njombe Forests Key Biodiversity Area in Tanzania; and provide forest conservation education and training on sustainable livelihoods with a view of reducing pressure on forest resources.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 1/31/2016
Grantee: Save Tanzania Forests
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Improved protection and management of the key biodiversity area network through involvement of civil society

Capacity Building on Environmental Safeguards and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Yemen

Contribute to the conservation of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and protected areas within the Eastern Afromontane Region in Yemen by reducing risks driven by unsustainable economic development and the ongoing economic shift toward unsustainable harvesting of biological resources. The project aims to strengthen grassroots organizations to support the enforcement and implementation of internationally accepted environmental safeguard policies and environmental impact assessment (EIA) systems, and to advocate for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in development planning in the KBAs in Yemen.

Funding: \$132,020
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2016
Grantee: The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment

Community Oriented In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation of Plant Species in Ethiopian Hotspots

Expand ex-situ conservation and education in Addis Ababa to include in-situ conservation and community engagement in three key biodiversity areas in Ethiopia: Semien Mountains National Park, Harena-Bale, Sheka-Bonga-Yayu biosphere reserves and Konso-Segen. Train people in three communities to better manage and restore 50 indigenous plant species on site, while also collecting genetic material for an additional 250 species to study and preserve at the garden headquarters in the capital city.

Funding: \$144,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 12/31/2016
Grantee: Gullele Botanic Garden

Promoting Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Conservation of the Cyamudongo Forest

Working in the Cyamudongo Forest Region, a small relic forest near Rwanda's border with Burundi and the DRC, the grantee will promote the use of high efficiency wood-burning stoves to relieve pressure on the forest; distribute stoves to 1,000 households; and raise awareness of the benefit of these stoves among the 3,000 households in the area.

Funding: \$25,000
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes

Strengthening the Conservation of the Gishwati Forest Reserve

Working in the Gishwati Forest Reserve, a small reserve of just 1,484 hectares in Rwanda, the Forest of Hope Association is training community forest guards, local government officials, and surrounding communities in awareness about the reserve, rights and responsibilities, reserve protection and law enforcement.

Funding: \$39,937
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2016

Grantee: Forest of Hope Association

Strategic Direction 3. Financing mechanisms established in four priority corridors and two additional sites ensuring substantial long-term financing for conservation activities in the most important sites, and conservation community enabled to raise funds and develop similar mechanisms in the hotspot

Accroissement de la Protection du Parc National de la Kibira par la Responsabilisation Accrue de la Société Civile

Based on a social map produced by Resilience Now in a parallel project, the Organisation pour la défense de l'environnement au Burundi (ODEB) will identify and approach all local conservation and development groups around Kibira National Park, one of the priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Burundi. ODEB will assess their capacities and capacity needs, and will organize a training workshop to fill some of the gaps. The workshop will also be used to exchange experiences and create new networks of civil society organizations working in and around the KBA.

Funding: \$9,880

Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 11/30/2014

Grantee: Organisation pour la défense de l'environnement au Burundi

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Assessing Plant Conservation Capacity in South Sudan

To incorporate South Sudan into the activities of the East African Plant Red List Authority (EAPRLA), assist in the development of national capacity in plant conservation, and initiate the Red-Listing process for the endemic plants of South Sudan, the project will establish the IUCN/SSC Red-Listing Toolkit in South Sudan as a mechanism to identify priority species and areas for plant conservation; develop a work plan with the University of Juba to build national capacity and regional collaboration with EAPRLA colleagues in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, including exploratory field work with university staff and students to a selected key biodiversity area; and provide South Sudanese institutions and teams with access to previously inaccessible data from international and regional collections.

Funding: \$19,500

Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 7/31/2015

Grantee: East Africa Plant Red List Authority

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Building Community and National Partners' Capacity for Sustainable Conservation Financing at Rugezi Marsh Key Biodiversity Area

Improve the technical skills of community-based groups and partners at Rwanda's Rugezi Marsh Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in conservation finance to sustain conservation efforts aimed at mitigating human-induced degradation of the wetland. The project will improve technical and management skills, enabling community groups to run viable alternative livelihood projects; develop business plans for ecotourism, beekeeping and craft-making projects; change environmental attitudes and behavior toward the wetland and species of conservation importance; and identify local and regional markets for ecotourism, beekeeping and craft-making businesses.

Funding: \$19,956
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: Endangered Wildlife Trust
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Indo-Burma II

Strategic Direction 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats

Building a Comprehensive Chelonian Conservation Program in Myanmar

Scale up pilot projects for highly threatened turtle species in Myanmar by establishing a group of free-living Burmese star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*), demonstrating that reintroduction is a feasible conservation strategy. Augment the wild population of Burmese roofed turtle (*Kachuga trivittata*), and generate lessons for future reintroductions. Prioritize conservation actions for Burmese eyed turtle (*Morenia ocellata*) through studies of its conservation status and natural history.

Funding: \$99,000
Grant Term: 10/1/2014 - 12/31/2015
Grantee: Turtle Survival Alliance

Conservation of Vultures in Myanmar

Protect populations of three Critically Endangered species of vultures in Myanmar, the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) and red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), by working with local communities at two key sites in Shan State and Kachin State to change local attitudes toward vulture conservation, establish community-based vulture conservation groups, and address threats related to lack of food for vultures and the use of the veterinary drug diclofenac.

Funding: \$19,947
Grant Term: 10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015
Grantee: Friends of Wildlife
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Development of a Holistic Approach to the Conservation of the Cat Ba Langur

Develop conservation efforts for Cat Ba langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*) in Vietnam that are supported by a multi-stakeholder approach by initiating a targeted scientific research program for the species; undertaking population surveys and initiating monitoring; creating and distributing technical inputs into conservation planning; and supporting Vietnamese nationals to participate in conservation of the species to ensure long-term sustainability of conservation efforts.

Funding: \$70,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 12/31/2015
Grantee: Fauna and Flora International

Embedding Sustainable Community Management Practices at Key Sarus Crane Wetlands in the Lower Mekong

Contribute to sustainable improvement of natural resource management at Anlung Pring, an important non-breeding site for sarus crane in the lower Mekong Delta of Cambodia, by improving local livelihoods to reduce pressures on crane habitat; and increasing community support for and active participation in crane conservation by establishing eco-schools and village environment and conservation action teams.

Funding: \$79,250
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 9/30/2016
Grantee: Mlup Baitong

Promoting the Conservation of Eld's Deer in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary Through Core Zone Management and Community Participation

Protect the population of Eld's deer (*Panolia eldii*) in Myanmar's Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary by improving management of the sanctuary's core zone, building the capacity of sanctuary staff and village-level civil society to support conservation initiatives, raising awareness of the importance of sustainable management of dry dipterocarp forest among local communities, and reducing the dependency of local communities on forest resources through community forestry.

Funding: \$19,993
Grant Term: 11/1/2014 - 10/31/2016
Grantee: Friends of Wildlife
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strengthening Conservation of the Most Critically Endangered Turtles in Vietnam

Inform conservation efforts for Vietnam's wild populations of Zhou's box turtle (*Cuora zhoui*) and the Vietnamese pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*) by using analysis of environmental DNA from northern and central Vietnam to confirm the locations of wild populations of these species.

Funding: \$19,990
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 3/31/2016
Grantee: Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Demonstrate innovative responses to illegal trafficking and consumption of wildlife

Mobilizing Public Action in Reducing Demand for Wildlife Products and Combatting Wildlife Crime in Vietnam

Strengthen Vietnam's civil society conservation movement, leading to societal changes in attitudes toward wildlife consumption, by expanding and strengthening Education for Nature-Vietnam's National Wildlife Protection Network. Engage volunteers in consumer crime monitoring and public outreach activities aimed at reducing consumer demand for wildlife. Increase public involvement in combating wildlife crime through a hotline, and promote responsible consumer behavior via an online platform.

Funding: \$227,678
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2017
Grantee: Education for Nature-Vietnam

Reducing Wildlife Consumption in Da Nang

Reduce consumption of wildlife and wildlife products in Da Nang, Vietnam, by supporting public officials in environmental protection, raising awareness among the public of the issue through the broadcasting of a talk show on local television, and conducting a communications campaign in partnership with Da Nang International Airport and Da Nang taxi companies during the 2014/2015 Christmas and Tet holiday season.

Funding: \$19,992
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas

Empowering Local Communities to Engage in Conservation and Management of Priority Key Biodiversity Areas and Threatened Primate and Plant Species in the Sino-Vietnamese Limestone Corridor

Engage local communities in conservation efforts for threatened primate and tree species at three priority sites in northern Vietnam by increasing ethnic minority representation in protected area co-management bodies; developing conservation action plans that take into account local concerns; improving local understanding of conservation-related legislation; enabling benefit sharing for local communities from natural resource management; and promoting locally appropriate livelihood alternatives.

Funding: \$400,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2017
Grantee: Fauna and Flora International

Strengthening Community-Based Bird Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring in the 3S River Basin

Increase populations of sandbar-nesting bird and turtle species in Cambodia's 3S River Basin by implementing conservation incentives for nest protection; raising community awareness of conservation issues; creating community fisheries or community-managed protected areas at key nesting areas and promoting their formal recognition by government; and strengthening capacity of community members, NGO staff and university students to monitor and conserve biodiversity.

Funding: \$150,000
Grant Term: 10/1/2014 - 9/30/2017
Grantee: Royal University of Phnom Penh

Strategic Direction 6. Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors

Advancing Environmental Media and Communications for Navigating the Public Discourse on Development and Conservation

Strengthen the capacity of PanNature to implement communication initiatives, and advance the capacity of journalists to report on environmental issues in Vietnam and neighboring countries. Focus public attention on the environmental impacts of development, especially the impacts of Vietnam's domestic and overseas investment on natural ecosystems, and elicit policy responses. Share lessons learned with regional civil society and stakeholders.

Funding: \$200,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2017
Grantee: Center for People and Nature Reconciliation

Developing Policies for Sustainable Tourism in the Upper Ayeyarwady River Corridor, Myanmar

Improve the capacity of Myanmar civil society to understand and shape national policy and strategy for tourism development in the Upper Ayeyarwady River Corridor by evaluating the challenges posed by the current rapid expansion of river-based tourism, proposing alternative development scenarios that maximize benefits for supporting rural development whilst minimizing detrimental impacts on the environment and biodiversity, and working with the domestic media to raise public awareness and inform public debate on the issue.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015
Grantee: Harrison Institute
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Evaluation of Co-Management as an Alternative Model for Aquatic Resource Conservation with Greater Participation by Local People in Northern Vietnam

Improve the equitable management of aquatic resources in Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam, by developing a better understanding of the effectiveness of the Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development co-management model being implemented in Na Hang District, and the strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness of implementation of Decision No. 01/2013/QD-UBND and related policy documents among local authorities in Tuyen Quang Province.

Funding: \$19,985
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 2/28/2015
Grantee: Center for Water Resources Conservation and Development
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strengthening Community Advocacy in the 3S River Basin

Strengthen networking among affected communities and grassroots civil society organizations in

Cambodia's 3S River Basin and Tonle Sap Lake to enable effective and full participation in public consultations related to hydropower dam development. Encourage informed public debate of hydropower development plans, as well as closer scrutiny of current economic development policies and decisions, through public campaigns, mobilization and media engagement.

Funding: \$120,000
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 5/31/2016
Grantee: Fisheries Action Coalition Team

Strategic Direction 8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels

Capacity Building of Local Communities in Bird Conservation in Huang Lianshan

Build capacity for schools and community groups around Huang Lianshan Nature Reserve in Yunnan, China, to play an active role in bird conservation at the site by holding training courses in survey techniques, encouraging active participation in biodiversity surveys, developing and publishing a textbook on community-based bird conservation in China, and planning other education and outreach events.

Funding: \$19,950
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 7/31/2016
Grantee: The Zoological Society of Yunnan Province
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Capacity Building of Local Conservation Groups in Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces

Develop a civil society network for bird conservation in coastal southern China by training at least five local groups in awareness-raising, monitoring and advocacy to government. Support local groups to put this training into practice, thereby leading to changed attitudes and behavior among local communities and increased action by government agencies to tackle illegal trapping and trading of wild birds.

Funding: \$99,975
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 2/29/2016
Grantee: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Creating Conservation Leaders for the West Nghe An Biosphere Reserve

Build capacity of the Center for Environmental and Rural Development (CERD) as a center for knowledge and expertise on community-based biodiversity conservation in Nghe An Province, Vietnam, by training CERD's staff; synthesizing lessons learned from past community-based conservation initiatives in West Nghe An Biosphere Reserve; and generating a community-based conservation strategy for the Biosphere Reserve, informed by input from key provincial and local stakeholders, and the findings of CERD's field research.

Funding: \$19,991
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015
Grantee: Center for Environmental and Rural Development, Vinh University

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Fostering Wildlife Guardians for Thap Lan National Park

Empower communities along the northern edge of Thailand's Thap Lan National Park to become a positive, integrated partner in the protection of Thap Lan's fauna and flora by facilitating the development of a Thap Lan National Park grassroots conservation NGO, and working with the newly established NGO and park officials to identify local conservation priorities and pilot mitigation measures.

Funding: \$19,839

Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

Grantee: FREELAND Foundation

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Training for Monitoring Spoon-Billed Sandpiper in Gulf of Mottama

Improve conservation of the spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*) and other threatened shorebirds in the Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar, by building the capacity of four local community-based conservation groups to monitor bird populations, and implementing conservation education and other outreach activities in the nearby communities.

Funding: \$17,985

Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 5/31/2015

Grantee: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Strategic Direction 2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 22 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches that sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services

Development of a Regional Action Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Develop and implement innovative approaches to expand private and communal protected areas in South Africa; integrate conservation practice into land-reform to expand conservation management; and build institutional capacity to coordinate and align different initiatives to develop a regional plan for biodiversity and ecosystem services that incorporates livelihoods and resilient economic development.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 7/31/2014

Grantee: Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region Non-profit Company

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

iziKhwenene Project

Clear alien plants from areas within the Cata and Upper Mnyameni regions of South Africa's Eastern Cape using a forest management plan and initiate rehabilitation of the regions by replanting indigenous

tree species.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 12/31/2014
Grantee: The Wild Bird Trust
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Kranskop Community Conservation Project

Work with the Mondi Group to develop a community engagement strategy that focuses on biodiversity conservation through sustainable grazing and fire management in South Africa's AmaBomvu and AmaHlongwa communities near Kranskop in KwaZulu-Natal; provide a toolkit for educating communities on land management; and develop a model for implementation in other communities within the hotspot.

Funding: \$8,500
Grant Term: 10/1/2014 - 7/31/2015
Grantee: Endangered Wildlife Trust
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors

Declaration Agreements for the AmaNgwane and AmaZizi Community Conservation Areas

Assist the AmaNgwane and AmaZizi communities in South Africa to manage their land sustainably and to conserve the areas' highly valuable natural and cultural resources by drafting and submitting declaration agreements for the community conservation areas.

Funding: \$19,850
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 7/31/2014
Grantee: Zunckel Ecological + Environmental Services
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Forest Carbon Market Development in the Eastern Cape

Work with state authorities and communities in the Manubi, Sebeni and Nqabarha forest areas of South Africa's Eastern Cape to develop a project that sequesters approximately 15,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. The goal is to finance the formal establishment and management of these forests as protected areas.

Funding: \$56,265
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015
Grantee: WWF-South Africa

Midmar to Albert Falls Biosphere Reserve

Initiate the designation of 70,000 hectares of South Africa's Midlands and Mistbelt Grasslands key biodiversity areas as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve, consisting of core protected areas and a surrounding production landscape with conservation-friendly management practices. Work with stakeholders to demarcate the boundaries and zones of the biosphere reserve, establish a formal steering committee led by federal and provincial government agencies, and complete the UNESCO nomination process.

Funding: \$69,995
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

Strategic Direction 4. Create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites

Amathole Endangered Species Conservation Plans

Improve management and stakeholder awareness of select Red-Listed species in the Amathole Mountains of South Africa through the development and dissemination of species-specific conservation management plans.

Funding: \$4,384
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 11/30/2014
Grantee: Endangered Wildlife Trust
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Building Capacity for the Proposed Lambasi Provincial Reserve and Mtentu Gorge Protected Area

Enhance the conservation status of two critical estuaries, Mtentu and Msikaba, in South Africa by proclamation and development of co-management agreements and implementation of participative operational plans; and build the capacity of 12 community field rangers for the proposed Lambasi Provincial Reserve and Mtentu Gorge Protected Area.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 7/31/2014
Grantee: Wild Side Environmental Services (Pty) Ltd
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Transformation of the Somkhanda Community

Work with the Somkhanda Community Trust in South Africa to improve structures and governance within the community and to improve management of the community trust.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 5/1/2015
Grantee: Southern African Wildlife college
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Mediterranean Basin

Strategic Direction 1. Promote civil society involvement in integrated coastal zone management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkans; Cyrenaican Peninsula; and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors

Circuit Ecotourism Within the Dunes of Ras Alby

Protect and rehabilitate the Ras el Malan dunes in Tunisia by implementing a circuit ecotourism trail; and develop awareness activities for local schools, hotels and relevant stakeholders about the importance of this key biodiversity area.

Funding: \$19,961
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 12/30/2016
Grantee: Association de protection de l'environnement Hammem Ghezaz (APEHG)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Promotion of Biodiversity Conservation Actions in Ulcinj Salina

Use video and animation to promote ecotourism in Montenegro's Ulcinj Salina; and produce a webpage that includes a set of five short educational and promotional films.

Funding: \$16,980
Grant Term: 6/1/2014 - 12/31/2015
Grantee: Kawka Production
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Studying the Involvement of the Tourism Sector in Financing Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas

Conduct a study to prepare a map of tourist organizations that provide a trust fund for the development of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Basin.

Funding: \$19,976
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 12/31/2014
Grantee: KANOPEE SAS (Horwath)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

The Essaouira Dunes: Mapping a Sustainable Future for the Coastal Atlantic Plains of Morocco

Secure the long-term future of Morocco's Essaouira Dunes and the surrounding corridor through integrated coastal zone management. The goal is to protect the dunes, archipelago and other associated habitats, and the wildlife that depends on these key biodiversity areas. Develop an ecotourism charter to be adopted by the local council, tour agencies and hotels pledging their commitment to protect the dunes and local ways of life. Build capacity of government and civil society to sustain conservation efforts for

the site.

Funding: \$19,871
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 10/30/2015
Grantee: Groupe de Recherche Pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (Grepom)
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 2. Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Atlas Mountains, (2) Taurus Mountains, (3) Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains and (4) Southwest Balkans

Agricultural Water Stewardship Initiative in Ohrid Lake Basin

Introduce water stewardship in irrigation practices in the Ohrid Lake area, between southwestern Macedonia and eastern Albania, as a tool for biodiversity conservation. The project will assess sustainable water use for agriculture in the Ohrid Lake Basin; build positive incentives to promote a change in behavior and practices of agricultural water use, management and governance; and propose policy measures for support of water stewardship practices at the farm level.

Funding: \$13,100
Grant Term: 8/1/2014 - 8/31/2015
Grantee: Gaus Institut – Fondacija za novi tehnologii, inovacii i transfer na znaenje
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Communication Support for Ifrane National Park

Produce a 15-minute documentary showing the importance of water conservation and biodiversity in the Ifrane National Park, Morocco. Distribute the documentary to partners and stakeholders throughout Morocco.

Funding: \$15,594
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 4/30/2015
Grantee: Addict.com
Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Developing Sustainable Water Management Practices for the Ohrid Lake Region

Prepare a strategy for sustainable water management of the Albanian side of Ohrid Lake integrating contemporary methods for water conservation, agricultural water treatment practices, rain water harvesting, and efficient irrigation systems. Develop a pilot project and toolkit for sustainable water management to conserve water in the area, irrigate efficiently, decrease pollution, adapt to climate change, and preserve biodiversity in the Pogradec area.

Funding: \$13,050
Grant Term: 9/1/2014 - 10/31/2015
Grantee: Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore (IEP)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Smart Water Use in the Ohrid Lake Region

Contribute to improving the efficiency of water use by raising awareness for farmers in the Ohrid Lake Basin. The participatory process for the project involves trainings, information days, a roundtable, a field visit and community outreach. It also strengthens the use of science in policy-making for smart water use, which reduces threats to the biodiversity of rivers flowing into Ohrid Lake.

Funding: \$18,989

Grant Term: 7/1/2014 - 8/31/2015

Grantee: Environmental Organization "Grashnica"

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Strategic Direction 3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas

Multimedia Communications Campaign for Lake Skadar

Raise awareness about the conservation of Dalmatian pelicans in Lake Skadar, on the border of Albania and Montenegro, by documenting biodiversity, threats and conservation activities in Lake Skadar, and developing a communication tool with the aim of promoting the engagement of civil society in biodiversity conservation. A social media campaign will be organized and an extensive database of photos and a short documentary will be produced to promote the site and civil society activities in the area.

Funding: \$17,000

Grant Term: 5/1/2014 - 12/31/2015

Grantee: Asociacion Beyond Light (The Living Med)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*

Rehabilitation of the Sweimeh Eco-Park

Involve the community around Jordan's Sweimeh Eco-Park in a rehabilitation program to support the area's conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources; and build capacity in the use of modern agricultural techniques in relation to water consumption and the sustainable growth of seedlings without pesticides and fertilizers.

Funding: \$19,800

Grant Term: 3/15/2014 - 4/14/2015

Grantee: Sweimeh Association Charity (SWEIMEH)

Notes: *Awarded by Regional Implementation Team*



[East Melanesian Islands Hotspot Call for Proposals now open](#)

By Online Editor

1:18 pm GMT+12, 01/07/2014, Fiji

The third Call for Proposals is now open for biodiversity conservation projects in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the islands region of Papua New Guinea.

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature invites Letters of Inquiry from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private companies and other civil society organizations working in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is investing US\$9 million in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and the islands region of Papua New Guinea, to help conserve their rich, natural wealth and its many benefits to local communities. Accelerating levels of habitat loss caused by widespread commercial logging and mining, expansion of subsistence and plantation agriculture, human population growth, over-exploitation of natural resources, invasive species and climate change are threatening the hotspot's biodiversity.

IUCN Oceania, as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT), is overseeing CEPF's investment to support conservation in 20 key biodiversity areas covering an area of 1.5 million hectares.

Central to CEPF's sustainability strategy for the hotspot is an explicit focus on capacity building for local and national civil society through partnerships, networks and mentoring.

“CEPF's grants in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspot provide a mechanism to enable civil society to find solutions that will help not only to protect the region's precious biodiversity, but to safeguard the benefits that species and intact natural systems provide for all levels of human society”, said Helen Pippard, IUCN Oceania's Species Officer and Programme Team Leader for the CEPF East Melanesian Islands RIT.

Media Clips—July-September 2014

CEPF's funding is delivered as small (up to \$20,000) and large (greater than \$20,000) grants to civil society organizations to run projects that will build capacity and protect biodiversity in the hotspot.

CEPF and IUCN Oceania issued the first two calls for proposals in August 2013, reviewed over 60 applications, and are in the process of awarding approximately 25 grants to both international NGOs and local groups working in the three countries of the hotspot. CEPF and IUCN Oceania are currently seeking proposals for projects aimed at establishing a foundation of capacity, partnerships and knowledge on which future calls for proposals will build. The deadline for receipt of Letters of Inquiry for small and large grant projects under this call is 17:30 Washington, DC time on Tuesday 26th August 2014.

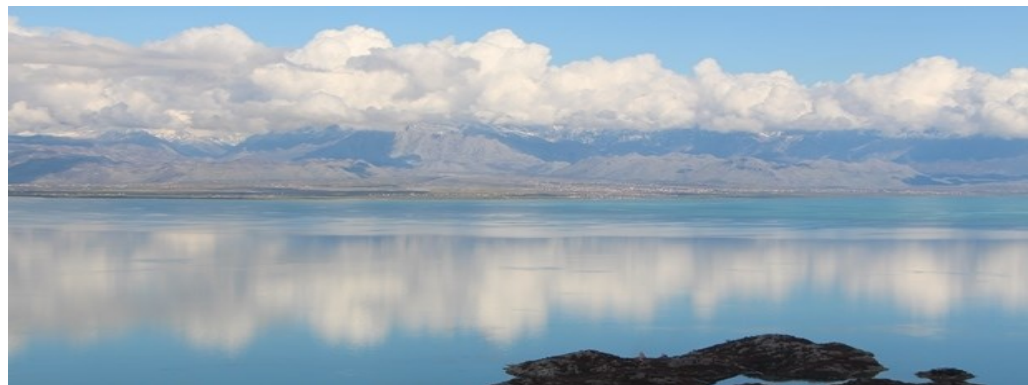
For general enquiries or to setup interviews please contact

Luisa Tagicakibau-Moce, CEPF Regional Implementation Team, IUCN Oceania Regional Office;
Phone +679 331 9084; email cepfeastmelanesia@iucn.org

SOURCE: IUCN/PACNEWS



[Cross-border cooperation with CEPF for Lake Skadar and its pelicans](#)



A shared responsibility: the Albanian shore of Lake Skadar viewed from Montenegro.

By Shaun Hurrell, Tue, 01/07/2014 - 11:28

Nestled between Montenegro and Albania, Lake Skadar has always captured its visitors – both human and bird – with its wild beauty and rich nature. Known as Skadar Lake to Montenegrins, Shkodra to Albanians, and Scutari to others, this iconic wetland in the Balkans is one of the largest bird reserves in Europe and harbours one of the largest birds in the world –Dalmatian Pelican.

Like the lake itself is shared by Montenegro and Albania, the pelicans, other biodiversity and the health of the habitat is a shared responsibility not only of both countries, but the international community. CEPF*-funded projects at Lake Skadar are proving that effective collaboration by local and international civil society organisations can be the best way to make positive results for conservation. The most successful breeding season for the Dalmatian Pelican has just happened at this transboundary site as a consequence!



Dalmatian Pelican: huge birds but a vulnerable species

Dalmatian Pelicans are a traditional symbol of Lake Skadar and more recently there has been a rich tradition of conservation effort and investment into sustainable management at the lake. CEPF experienced this first-hand when two calls for Mediterranean project proposals in 2012 were met with huge interest in Lake Skadar from 15 non-governmental organisations (NGOs). To proceed most effectively without ‘too many cooks spoiling the broth’, CEPF decided to organise and fund a workshop where all 15 NGOs plus 10 governmental and managing authorities met to

settle on conservation priorities for the lake.

Learning from best-practice at Lake Prespa in Greece where the workshop was held, two project proposals emerged directly from the event that together aligned 10 organisations into collaborations for conserving Lake Skadar. CEPF is more than just a funding provider, it works to bring together and engage civil society for the long-term benefit of biodiversity.

Project 1: A new management system for Lake Skadar, 3 NGOs

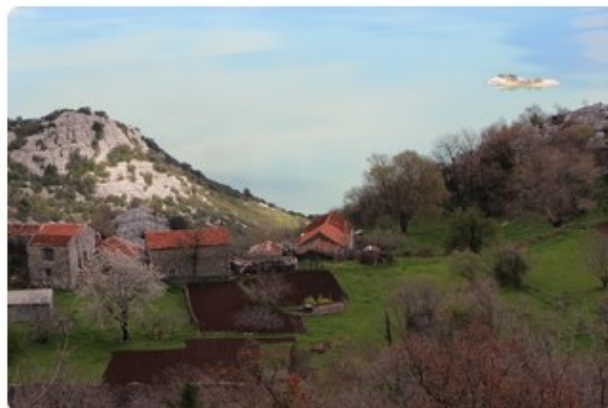
A major priority for Lake Skadar is to have a sustainable management system that realistically includes the needs of the local Montenegrin and Albanian communities. Regardless of what side of the border they live, these people live on the lake shore and depend upon it for their livelihoods. So a key element in the project is to bring the concept of sustainable management of natural resources to them, increasing their sense of ownership and shared responsibility for the lake for generations to come.

That means education and engagement. It is not good for everyone if people fish during the spawning season or shoot and disturb endangered bird species. And it means synchronised

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trans-border management between authorities from both countries. Unfortunately the management system of protected areas on the Albanian side is currently undergoing significant structural changes, but grantees are busy preparing a set of modifications to cope with them.

The cooperation of two local NGOs with one international is proving to be an effective model of project implementation, which brings globally-effective examples of good practice to the locally-specific environment. Project coordinator International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) brings international expertise on protected area management, whilst Green Home of Montenegro and the Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA) provide local engagement.



Communities on the shore of Lake Skadar, Montenegro

Project 2: Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake, 7 organisations

Lake Skadar harbours a small breeding population of Vulnerable Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, which has been struggling here since the 1970s due to many problems, mainly flooding and disturbance. In 2013, led by French NGO Noé Conservation, this large-grant CEPF project shows the power of even more collaborative partnerships.

The project aims to protect the colony and improve breeding success, with patrols by National Park guards, and floating nest platforms to reduce the impact of water level changes. Being an icon for the Lake Skadar, pelican-friendly tourism (Pelican Villages) will also promote the natural heritage of the entire lake, supported also by environmental education campaigns. The project also brings new practices in monitoring and research, and supports local institutions towards the main goal of a rich and stable pelican population.



A critical ecosystem worth conserving!

As well as coordinators Noé Conservation, international partners Tour du Valat and EuroNatur provide expert support on scientific practices, which have ensured the recovery of pelican populations and wetland sites in other parts of the Balkan region. This knowledge is combined with lengthy experience gathered by local partners from both sides of the lake – CZIP (BirdLife in Montenegro) and APAWA (the Association for Protection of

Aquatic Wildlife in Albania). Natural History Museum of Montenegro (traditionally most intensively involved in pelican study at the lake) and National Park of Skadar Lake (the main managing authority of the lake) combine with the Society for the Protection of Prespa and Pelicans Species Specialist Group (on a consultative basis). Altogether, these complementary actors share knowledge and experience, bringing strong cooperation to ensure the best protection of this critical ecosystem from both sides of the border.

And it is working! This year four nesting rafts were immediately accepted by the pelicans, and used for nesting. Now, from the population estimated at 70 individuals, 48 young pelicans have been counted! This is the biggest number of surviving chicks in over 37 years of counting on Lake Skadar. Both adult and young pelicans are squeezing onto the rafts or freely swimming around – a true nature spectacle and a promise of better days for the Dalmatian Pelican on Lake Skadar.



[NGOs helped with Pacific conservation projects](#)

Updated at 3:46 pm on 2 July 2014

NGOs and civil society groups in East Melanesia are being asked to submit proposals for biodiversity conservation projects.

It's the third time the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has extended the invitation under a fund set up to help local communities conserve their natural wealth.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the CEPF, is investing 9 million US dollars in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the islands region of Papua New Guinea.



Pacific ocean

Photo: RNZ

Luisa Tagicakibau from the CEPF's implementation team says the goal is to ensure that non government organisations and community groups are engaged in conservation projects.

CEPF recognises that at the end of the day local communities and their organisations are the ones that are the ultimate stewards of their biodiversity, their eco-systems, their natural resources."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Luisa Tagicakibau says widespread commercial logging and mining are among a number of threats to the region.



Opération de sauvetage d'un genévrier d'Haïti

Par La Rédaction 03/07/2014 08:35:00



Durant longtemps, le genévrier d'Ekman a été utilisé pour son bois par la population. Il est désormais protégé. Mais il y a urgence pour le sauver car il reste en reste très peu. | DR

L'objectif est de multiplier à Brest, des plants de cet arbre emblématique, en voie de disparition. Ils seront ensuite rapatriés sur l'île.

Le genévrier d'Ekman est un arbre emblématique d'Haïti. Mais seulement sept pieds sont actuellement recensés, y compris dans la proche République dominicaine. « Il a été très exploité par la population pour en faire du bois de chauffage, pour des maisons ou des sculptures », explique Fanch Le Hir, chargé du projet au Conservatoire botanique national (CNB) de Brest.

Le genévrier d'Ekman est désormais protégé. Mais il faut faire davantage pour le sauver de l'extinction. Un programme de sauvetage d'un montant de 100 000 € a été lancé par le Conservatoire, l'Arche aux

plantes et le laboratoire Vegenov. « Ce programme concerne le genévrier mais aussi le sauvetage d'autres espèces végétales », explique Éric Guellec, président du CBN. Car la flore de l'île a beau être très riche avec 11 000 espèces à fleur, dont 72 % ne poussent que dans cette région du monde, elle est menacée par la déforestation.

Pas si simple...

Le Conservatoire travaille en partenariat avec des organismes locaux, en l'occurrence le Jardin botanique de Cayes. Son directeur, William Cinéa, ingénieur forestier, est d'ailleurs à Brest en ce moment. Il rappelle que « seulement 0,26 % du territoire d'Haïti est classé en aire protégée ».

Mais l'opération n'est pas si simple. À l'automne, quelques boutures avaient été prélevées en Haïti et transportées à Brest. « Mais elles n'ont pas résisté au voyage en avion », explique Eric Guellec, président, du Conservatoire. D'autres boutures et graines seront renvoyées prochainement. Elles seront accueillies au laboratoire Vegenov de Saint-Pol-de-Léon qui va travailler à la multiplication in vitro du genévrier.

Le Conservatoire de Brest aide plusieurs pays (Maurice, Madagascar) à sauver des plantes de l'extinction. Il a déjà développé des programmes avec Haïti mais celui du Genévrier d'Ekman est le plus important par son ampleur. Fanch Le Hir précise les enjeux : « On espère avoir rapatrié plusieurs centaines de pieds de l'arbre d'ici septembre 2015. »



[CEPF announces call for proposals in the Indo-Burma Hotspot](#)

08 July 2014 | News story

Since July 2013, IUCN (with partners the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN) and Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG)) has been leading the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in Indo-Burma. 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, which has a fundamental goal of ensuring civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. The Indo-Burma hotspot comprises the non-marine parts of Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and parts of southern China. This current phase of investment by CEPF in Indo-Burma will continue until 2018. For more information, please see the CEPF website, the IUCN website, or contact the RIT at CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org.

Media Clips—July-September 2014

To date the CEPF RIT has issued calls for proposals in all six countries of the hotspot, reviewed over 330 applications, and are in the process of awarding approximately 70 grants - both small grants (up to \$20,000) and large grants (over \$20,000, and typically less than \$250,000), to both international NGOs and local groups. In addition to funding work with a strong focus on biodiversity conservation, we intend that these projects (and the ongoing coordination and capacity-building work of the RIT) will support the development more generally of civil society in the region - galvanizing local conservation movements to be more effective in protecting their nation's natural wealth.

The new "Call for Proposals", is being issued for work by local groups in Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, and China. **The deadline for submission of Letters of Inquiry (LoIs) is 17:30 (Bangkok time), Monday 18th August 2014.** More information, and the format for submitting LoIs may be found on the IUCN website. Project awarded grants following this call must address one of the following Strategic Directions:

Strategic Direction 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas

NOTE: Projects under this strategic direction must focus on one or more of the priority sites identified in Table 24 on page 198 in the Ecosystem Profile. If in doubt, please contact the RIT.

- 4.1 Raise awareness about biodiversity conservation legislation among target groups at priority sites
- 4.2 Pilot and amplify community forests, community fisheries and community-managed protected areas
- 4.3 Develop co-management mechanisms for formal protected areas that enable community participation in all levels of management

Strategic Direction 6. Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors

NOTE: Projects under this strategic direction must focus on one or more of the priority corridors identified in Table 24 on page 198 in the Ecosystem Profile. If in doubt, please contact the RIT.

- 6.1 Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures where needed
- 6.2 Integrate the biodiversity and ecosystem service values of priority corridors into land-use and development planning at all levels

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6.3 Develop protocols and demonstration projects for ecological restoration that improve the biodiversity performance of national forestry programs

6.4 Engage the media as a tool to increase awareness and inform public debate of environmental issues

Strategic Direction 8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels

8.1 Support networking activities that enable collective civil society responses to priority and emerging threats

8.2 Provide core support for the organizational development of domestic civil society organizations

8.3 Establish clearing house mechanisms to match volunteers to civil society organizations' training needs

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LOS BONOS DE CARBONO, TAMBIÉN LLAMADOS CRÉDITOS DE CARBONO, SON UN MECANISMO INTERNACIONAL DE DESCONTAMINACIÓN PARA REDUCIR LAS EMISIONES DE DIÓXIDO DE CARBONO AL MEDIO AMBIENTE; ES UNO DE LOS TRES MECANISMOS PROPUESTOS EN EL PROTOCOLO DE KIOTO

[Realizan la primera venta Bonos de Carbono Forestal en Dominicana y region del Caribe](#)

Publicada el: 08 de Julio del 2014, 05:42:04 am



Media Clips—July-September 2014

Santo Domingo, RD.- El Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) informó que Fueron vendidos los primeros bonos de carbono forestal en la República Dominicana, a través de una alianza de instituciones ambientalistas dominicanas y la empresa social de chocolate artesanal Chocosol.

Los bonos de carbono, también llamados Créditos de Carbono, son un mecanismo internacional de descontaminación para reducir las emisiones de dióxido de carbono al medio ambiente; es uno de los tres mecanismos propuestos en el Protocolo de Kioto para la reducción de emisiones causantes del calentamiento global o efecto invernadero.

El acuerdo se llevó a cabo entre la empresa social de chocolate artesanal y ecológico Chocosol de Toronto Canadá y el Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano. La rúbrica del compromiso estuvo a cargo del señor Jesús Moreno en representación del Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano y el señor Michael Saco Presidente de la empresa Chocosol, fungiendo como testigos la señora Altagracia Camilo Directora Ejecutiva de la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela, el señor Sèsar Rodriguez, Director Ejecutivo del Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano y el señor Charles Kerchner, Gerente del Proyecto.

Desde hace unos tres años en la Cordillera Septentrional se viene desarrollando el programa de Conservación del Zorzal Migratorio: Dos Mundos un Ave, el cual tiene como objetivo diseñar una variedad de mecanismos de incentivos cuyas acciones e inversiones logren la conectividad de los ecosistemas y la recuperación del hábitat forestal en la Cordillera Septentrional.

En el marco de esta iniciativa se han implementado actividades de reforestación, agroforestería, conservación de bosques, restauración de áreas y la prevención de la deforestación, las que son realizadas por pequeños propietarios o por comunidades en sus propias tierras o tierras en las que tienen derecho a cultivar.

Estas acciones de conservación son desarrolladas por el Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela, la Sociedad para el Desarrollo del Nordeste SODIN, el Centro Vermont de Estudios Ecológicos y las comunidades locales, con el apoyo técnico y financiero del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, a través del Proyecto de Reingeniería de las Áreas Protegidas, del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo y el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial y del Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF).



Conservación: Mecanismo de sostenibilidad para el hábitat del zorzal

[El CAD procura la creación de reservas privadas en la cordillera Septentrional a fin de instaurar un corredor para la preservación de esa ave migratoria](#)

Por Solange de la Cruz Matos/colaboradora Espacio Insular



SANTO DOMINGO, República Dominicana, 16 de julio de 2014.- El interés de conocer algunas iniciativas que se llevan a cabo en Norteamérica para la conservación del hábitat del ave migratoria el zorzal, y de que, en ese ámbito, empresarios estadounidenses apoyen actividades locales de conservación con una visión de negocios, llevó a una delegación dominicana a Boston, Vermont y Nueva York, en Estados Unidos, actividad organizada por el Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD).

En la misión de intercambio y de negocios, que se efectuó a mediados de junio recién pasado, participaron representantes de la comunidad El Guineal, en San Francisco de Macorís; del empresariado local, de la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela (FLQE), del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, de la Universidad INTEC y la entidad coordinadora de los encuentros.

La actividad formó parte del proyecto Financiamiento sostenible y fortalecimiento de reservas privadas de conservación de la biodiversidad en las reservas científicas Loma Quita Espuela y Loma Guaconejo, con financiamiento del Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF, por su sigla en inglés).

Ese proyecto, que se realiza en el marco del programa que implementa el CAD en la cordillera Septentrional para la conservación del zorzal, apoya puntualmente la creación de la primera área protegida privada del país para mejorar la conectividad entre ambas reservas científicas, y el fomento de la sostenibilidad financiera a través de la venta de créditos de carbono forestal.



El zorzal migratorio permanece unos seis meses en los bosques dominicanos, proveniente de Norteamérica.

La ejecución del proyecto financiado por CEPF inició en enero de 2012 y concluiría en junio pasado, pero fue extendido hasta diciembre próximo, en cuyo lapso el CAD terminará la guía con la sistematización del proceso de creación de reservas privadas y una auditoría de bonos de carbono forestal en la reserva privada, que tiene una extensión de 7,250 tareas.

Reproduciendo el modelo

El CAD se propone la creación de un corredor biológico entre las dos reservas científicas con la finalidad de preservar el hábitat del zorzal migratorio, replicando el modelo de áreas protegidas privadas en terrenos aledaños a ambas reservas que hoy son pastos con poca rentabilidad. César Rodríguez, director ejecutivo de la entidad, explicó que pretenden que esas tierras sean convertidas en bosques y que sus propietarios puedan recibir compensación por el carbono forestal que capturen los árboles. “Será el incentivo que tendrá ese productor de convertir ese pasto que no le da resultado productivamente en un bosque por el que va a recibir un incentivo por mucho tiempo”, argumenta.

Los esposos Urbano Jiménez y Gilda Ulerio, quienes desde hace 17 años poseen una finca forestal de cinco mil tareas en San Francisco de Macorís, participaron de la misión que estuvo en Estados Unidos.

Ulerio cuenta que la finca está sembrada totalmente de acacia y pino y que cuidan los ríos y

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manantiales que la atraviesan, aunque precisa que cada árbol ha sido plantado con el propósito de aprovechar su madera, pero de forma racional pues tienen su plan de manejo.



Representativos del CAD y de la empresa Chocosol firman el acuerdo para la venta de cacao orgánico con créditos de carbono.

Podrían interesarse por convertir esos predios en un bosque y recibir pagos por el carbono almacenado en vez de cortar la madera? Al formularse esa pregunta, no duda en responder: “Si nos conviene, claro que sí”.



Residentes en El Guineal poseen un vivero para mejorar las variedades de cacao que siembran en sus predios.

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En la misión también participó Jesús Moreno, presidente de la FLQE y del CAD, quien la calificó de exitosa al tiempo que abogó que el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente apoye el modelo de reservas privadas a través del Pago por Servicios Ambientales, lo que haría que más propietarios de tierras con potencial de bosque se interesen en ese esquema.

Sostuvo que en las áreas aledañas a las reservas científicas existen muchas fincas que están degradadas porque fueron dedicadas a la ganadería, y que con el proyecto que desarrollan pretenden mostrar a esos propietarios que el modelo funciona y provee rentabilidad.



Jesús Moreno, de la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela y del Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, ofrece explicaciones del proyecto de la reserva privada a propietarios de una fábrica de chocolate en Vermont, Estados Unidos.

Otros que participaron de la misión fueron, por el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente: Enrique Fabián, administrador de la Reserva Científica Loma Quita Espuela; Sol Teresa Paredes, coordinadora del Programa de Pago por Servicios Ambientales, y Eduardo Vásquez, coordinador técnico del Proyecto de Reingeniería del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas.

También, Marco Antonio Lajara, de la comunidad El Guineal, donde se encuentra la reserva privada; Altagracia Camilo, directora ejecutiva de la FLQE; Solhanlle Bonilla, investigadora de la Universidad INTEC, y Sésar Rodríguez, del CAD.

Más que bosques

Las reservas privadas podrán ser reforestadas con variedades productivas, como cacao y macadamia, cuya venta se realizará en el mercado internacional con los créditos de carbono como valor agregado, con lo que se obtendrá un mejor precio en la transacción, según la propuesta del CAD.

Para ejemplificar que eso es perfectamente viable, el director ejecutivo del Consorcio comunicó que hace unas semanas lograron colocar en el mercado de Toronto, Canadá, parte del cacao orgánico que producen en la reserva privada.

Dijo que firmaron un acuerdo por cinco años con la empresa de chocolate artesanal Chocosol, la que pagará un mayor precio por cada tonelada de cacao orgánico adquirido, debido a que amarraron la venta con créditos de carbono.

“El cacao fue muy bien colocado con relación al mercado actual, por el plus de créditos de carbono. Eso es parte de lo que está comprando, y puede argumentar que su empresa reduce sus emisiones porque (al adquirir el cacao) está comprando emisiones. Con ese modelo nosotros vamos a establecer que todo el cacao que se venda esté vinculado a bonos de carbono, involucrando a empresas que son socialmente responsables”, explicó.

La certificación de los créditos de carbono la realiza Plan Vivo, un estándar que se caracteriza por su vinculación con las comunidades y los productores pequeños, que pertenece al mercado voluntario de carbono.

Rodríguez dijo que durante la visita a Estados Unidos también hicieron contacto con potenciales compradores de cacao orgánico con el valor agregado de los créditos de carbono y con potenciales inversores. “Les hemos invitado a que vengan a conocer nuestro proyecto y tenemos pautado para noviembre una visita de empresarios tanto de Vermont como de Boston, que vendrán con el interés de hacer negocios”.

Rodríguez dijo que van a crear otras alianzas para que pequeños productores de cacao de la zona se vinculen al proyecto.

Informaciones de context

El Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) es una alianza de organizaciones ambientales oficiales y no gubernamentales, que promueve modelos y prácticas alternativas de manejo de los recursos naturales, biodiversidad y medio ambiente.

Entre sus iniciativas está la conservación del zorzal migratorio, que se reproduce en el noreste de Norteamérica y visita anualmente determinadas zonas boscosas de República Dominicana, permaneciendo por unos seis meses. Las hembras prefieren la cordillera Septentrional, estando

en una relación de una hembra por un macho, mientras que en los demás destinos se encuentra en una relación de una hembra por cuatro machos.

Debido a la pérdida de su hábitat esta especie se encuentra en peligro, por lo que tanto en el país como en Estados Unidos y Canadá entidades ambientalistas trabajan para conservar y recuperar los bosques donde habitan.



CENTRE COMING TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF PORTLAND BIGHT

Published: Wednesday | July 16, 2014

Keisha Hill, Gleaner Writer

To highlight the importance of wetlands in the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA), the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) will be constructing a Wetlands Interpretation Centre in the Salt River area in collaboration with its stakeholders that have an interest in the conservation of the PBPA.

According to Ingrid Parchment, executive director of C-CAM, the objective of building the facility is to create public awareness on the importance of wetlands and the habitats that they provide for the various species of birds, fish, plants and other animals in the PBPA.

"We want persons to recognise the importance of the area. It is a place that provides a habitat for animals and the people who rely on the species that grow there. We also want those persons who are destroying the mangroves to understand that they should not abuse the area as mangroves help to protect against storm surges, thus protecting lives," Parchment said.

Parchment said the facility will serve as an educational centre and an income-generating facility for C-CAM and persons living in the PBPA. School groups will also be able to utilise the facility, as well as tourists (local and overseas). A boardwalk leading to nearby ponds will be created so that persons can see the plants and animals.

"We will also have community tour guides and fishers/boat operators who can become involved, once trained and certified, and take persons to view different areas of the PBPA," Parchment said.

The Wetlands Management Interpretation Centre will also serve as a plant nursery as part of a conservation garden programme and, by extension, persons in the community will be encouraged to take these seedlings into their homes. The seedlings will include indigenous native plants that are under threat, and these persons will be required to care for them as they mature.

Funding

This centre will be funded by the Sugar Transformation Unit, Alcoa Foundation and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund with some interest being shown from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

"The property is owned by SCJ Holdings and they have given us permission to construct the centre there. We are still awaiting final permits from NEPA, the Clarendon Parish Council and a license from TPDCo. All being well, we should have all permits in June and construction should be completed towards the end of September," Parchment said.

According to Parchment, community outreach forms a large part of C-CAM's solution strategy as their programmes introduce those living and working in the PBA to be more effective and to find sustainable ways of utilising its [natural resources](#). The Portland Bight Protected Area encloses 1,876 square kilometres of coastal land and sea and is home to birds, iguanas, crocodiles, manatees, marine turtles and fish, many of which are endemic to the area.



[Empowering Local Communities for Biodiversity Conservation in Vanuatu](#)

17 July 2014 | News story

Live and Learn Environmental Education has recently received funding from CEPF to carry out a project which aims to address the issue of low awareness about biodiversity conservation among target communities living within and dependent upon key biodiversity hotspots

In Vanuatu the project will focus on Gaua, Santo Mountain Chain and Tongoa-Laika, while in the Solomon Islands, the focus will be on East Rennell.

Without effective biodiversity conservation education, there is an increased risk that local decision makers in these communities will choose unsustainable development options that fail to acknowledge the longer term impacts on biodiversity and its ability to provide ecosystem services, resources and livelihoods. Live and Learn Environmental Education believes that effective biodiversity education can strengthen the resolve of some communities to hold off unsustainable development and increase demand for sustainable alternatives.

The funding from CEPF will provide a good opportunity for Live and Learn to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of biodiversity education in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands using resources that have previously been developed and pre-tested for Melanesia schools, including the Discovering Biodiversity Education Guide.

A project mobilization workshop was held recently in Vanuatu where the Live and Learn Vanuatu project team was trained and equipped with resources and a strategy to deliver locally relevant biodiversity education at the Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in which they will work. Live and Learn hopes that people who participate in the CEPF-funded Biodiversity Conservation Education project will develop a sense of responsibility to their environment, to other people and to the future of both, translating their new found knowledge and skills into action.

For more information about Live & Learn's CEPF Biodiversity Conservation Education project please contact the Project Coordinator, Jessie Kampai, Tel: (678) 27455/27448, jessie.kampai@livelearn.org

Listin Diario

[El CAD coloca bonos de carbono forestal](#)

LA TRANSACCIÓN DE CRÉDITOS FUE VINCULADA A LA VENTA DE CACAO

Solange de la Cruz Matos
Santo Domingo

El Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) acaba de firmar un convenio con una empresa de chocolate artesanal de Toronto, Canadá, la que se ha comprometido a comprar durante cinco años cacao orgánico producido en una finca privada en San Francisco de Macorís dedicada a la conservación de la biodiversidad, denominada Reserva El Zorzal.

Esa transacción comercial tiene la particularidad de que al tiempo que la empresa canadiense Chocosol compra cacao también adquiere bonos de carbono, concepto por el cual por cada tonelada de cacao estará pagando un monto adicional.

Chocosol ha sido definida por el CAD como una empresa socialmente responsable, comprometida con la producción limpia y la reducción de dióxido de carbono (CO₂) en su proceso productivo, por lo que usa maquinarias con tecnología tradicional y adquiere bonos de carbono para compensar sus emisiones.



Michael Saco y Jesús Moreno firman el acuerdo.



Resulta que la reserva El Zorzal, además de conservar el hábitat de esa ave migratoria, tiene entre sus propósitos el secuestro de CO₂ en sus bosques, la certificación de esa captura y su colocación en el mercado mediante créditos de carbono forestal. Se trata de un mecanismo con el que pretende alcanzar ingresos para la sostenibilidad de la reserva, mayor rentabilidad para los productores localizados en esa demarcación donde los cacaotales son un cultivo predominante, y aportar a la lucha contra el cambio climático.

Los bosques tienen la capacidad de absorber grandes cantidades de CO₂ durante la fotosíntesis, puesto que cuando los árboles están creciendo absorben el CO₂ de la atmósfera y lo almacenan en el tronco, en las ramas, en las raíces y en el suelo, y cuando dejan de crecer todo ese carbono se queda almacenado si el bosque es conservado.

Transacción certificada

El mercado de carbono forestal es uno de los mecanismos propuestos por la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (CMNUCC) para enfrentar el calentamiento global. Se trata de un mercado voluntario en el que vendedores y compradores de bonos de carbono -denominados Reducción Verificada de Emisiones (VER)- realizan transacciones libremente.

La captura de emisiones de carbono en los bosques y en los cacaotales de la reserva El Zorzal está siendo certificada por el sistema Plan Vivo, que posee un conjunto de estándares basados en el Pago por Servicios Ambientales (PSA) que fue desarrollado por el Centro de Edimburgo para la Gestión de Carbono (CCME, sigla en inglés), la Universidad de Edimburgo y el Centro de Investigaciones Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Ecosur), con fondos de la cooperación inglesa.

Ese estándar apoya a las comunidades rurales, especialmente a través de pequeños productores, para que manejen de forma sostenible sus recursos naturales a fin de que generen medios de subsistencia y beneficios para el clima y los ecosistemas.

César Rodríguez, director ejecutivo del CAD, ha indicado que las acciones de conservación son desarrolladas por la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela (FLQE), la Sociedad para el Desarrollo del Nordeste (SODIN), el Centro Vermont de Estudios Ecológicos y las comunidades locales, con el apoyo técnico y financiero del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, el Fondo de Alianzas para Ecosistemas Críticos (CEPF, sigla en inglés), el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) y el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente.

En el marco de esa iniciativa se han implementado actividades de reforestación, conservación de bosques, agroforestería, restauración de áreas y la prevención de la deforestación, las que son realizadas por pequeños propietarios o por las comunidades.

Un buen plus

Respecto a la transacción comercial, el ejecutivo dijo que el cacao “fue muy bien colocado con relación al mercado actual, por el plus de créditos de carbono. Eso es parte de lo que está comprando y puede argumentar que su empresa reduce las emisiones porque está adquiriendo emisiones. Con ese modelo nosotros vamos a establecer que todo el cacao que se venda esté vinculado a bonos de carbono, involucrando a empresas que son socialmente responsables”.

A esos fines, dijo que harán alianzas con productores pequeños colindantes con la reserva privada. Tan solo en la reserva privada estiman una reducción de mil toneladas de CO₂ equivalente.

En procura de la expansión de la iniciativa, esa alianza de instituciones ambientalistas dominicanas realizó una misión de negocios e intercambio de experiencias en Boston, Nueva York y Vermont, en Estados Unidos.

En ese último estado realizaron una reunión de negocios en la fábrica que elabora la línea de chocolate Blue Bandana utilizando cacao de Madagascar y Guatemala, con el interés de suplirle cacao orgánico dominicano.

Jesús Moreno, presidente del CAD y de la Fundación Loma Quita Espuela, y quien participó de la misión, la calificó de exitosa. Dijo que representantes de la empresa se comprometieron a visitar el país próximamente para conocer con detalles el proyecto.

EN CONTEXTO

El director ejecutivo del CAD, César Rodríguez, precisa que la venta de bonos de carbono

forma parte del programa para la conservación del hábitat del zorzal migratorio, que se reproduce en el nordeste de Norteamérica y visita anualmente zonas boscosas del país, donde permanece prácticamente la mitad del año.

Debido a la pérdida de hábitat esa especie se encuentra en peligro, por lo que tanto en el país como Canadá y Estados Unidos, entidades ambientalistas trabajan para conservar y recuperar bosques. En el caso dominicano se procura crear un corredor biológico que conecte las reservas científicas Loma de Quita Espuela y Loma de Guaconejo, en la cordillera Septentrional.

“Para el corredor del que te hablo nosotros tenemos la aspiración de crear otras reservas privadas, que tierras que son pastos sean convertidas en bosques, no en una plantación forestal, diciéndole al productor: ‘si tú haces esto se te va a pagar unos créditos por el carbono que se guarde ahí. Eso irá de manera ascendente. Ese es el incentivo que tiene ese productor de convertir ese pasto que no le da resultado productivamente en un bosque por el que va a recibir un incentivo por mucho tiempo’”, explica.

Todo ese proceso conllevará, además, la mejora de las plantaciones de cacao, con variedades nativas altamente productivas.



[Tanzanian Conservationists propose ways of securing the Eastern Arc Mountain forests](#)

By Obaka Torto, Wed, 23/07/2014 - 14:58



Uluguru Mountains (Photo: Mercy Kariuki)

Media Clips—July-September 2014

Tanzanian conservationists drawn from government and civil society have drafted a set of six policy and management recommendations on how to reduce threats currently facing biodiversity in the Eastern Arc Mountain forests of Tanzania (EAM), part of a global biodiversity hotspot. This was accomplished during a workshop held on 16th July 2014 in Morogoro, Tanzania, at the foot of Uluguru Mountains.

The Eastern Arc Mountain forests of Tanzania consist of a complex of ranges and peaks that are among the oldest in Africa, as they are the forest communities of the region. They cover about 5,350 km² and host large numbers of endemic plants and animals. Many locally endemic species of plants and animals are restricted to single mountain ranges, for e.g. the Usambara Mountains of northeast Tanzania alone have some 50 endemic tree species. Two Critically Endangered bird species, the Uluguru Bush-shrike and the Long-billed Tailor-bird are found in these forests. They also provide water for industrial, agriculture and domestic use to the main towns as well as a rich site of biodiversity attracting both local and international tourists.

The participants, including Nature Reserve Conservators, Regional Agricultural Advisors, Tanzania Forestry Service (TFS) zonal managers, Mining Officers as well as Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Tanzania Biodiversity Facility (TanBIF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST) and Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) analysed threats facing the forests. They identified major threats to the forests as illegal harvesting of trees/poles, forest fires, encroachment for agriculture and illegal mining.



Participants discussing policy recommendations (Photo: Mercy Kariuki)

threats.

For some time, degradation in the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests has been driven by poor law enforcement arising from differing forest ownership and management structures; over-reliance on forests for livelihoods; and limited participation of communities in forest management. Moreover, the fact that institutions mandated to conserve and protect these precious forests pulled in different directions only helped to worsen degradation and amplify the

“We have resolved that the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) and Local Government Authorities need to work in greater harmony in order to address these challenges” concluded Mr. Bruno

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Mallya, TFS Southern Highland Zonal Manager. “Key forests that have never been fully protected also require attention as well as implementing Participatory Forest Management (PFM) across all forest reserves. Forest fires will be better addressed if forest authorities work with land owners and forest boundaries respected”, added Mr. Rwamugira Sosthenes, the Conservator for the Uluguru Nature Reserve.



Stored water directly from Uluguru Mountains

(Photo: Mercy Kariuki)

The recommendations from the meeting will be documented in a policy brief that will be shared with policy makers, including Permanent Secretaries in relevant line ministries, and forest and local government officers at district level. “We will support in delivering these recommendations to the relevant authorities through producing the policy brief and meeting the relevant authorities in Tanzania” committed Festo Semanini, the Head of Conservation Programmes in the BirdLife Tanzania Project Office.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Anna Lawuo, the TFS Coordinator of the Coastal Forest Project, representing the TFS Director of Resources Management at the event, challenged conservation workers to make local communities even more aware of the values of these unique forests. “We need to halt the key threats mentioned today, especially illegal logging of timber, since these have huge negative implications for ecosystem services provided by the forests”, she said. “We must also reduce the pressures these forests are facing externally” she added.

The workshop was facilitated by a team from BirdLife International supported by Mr. Chacha Werema of University of Dar es Salaam. This was part of a BirdLife project entitled ‘Consolidating biodiversity data and information in Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya’ and funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Story by Mercy Kariuki, Kariuki Ndang’ang’a and Olivia Adhiambo

[Empowering fishermen for conservation of Lake Tana and its resources](#)

By Obaka Torto, Thu, 14/08/2014 - 13:11



Lake Tana (Photo: gordontour/flickr)

Lake Tana is located in the Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) in the North-Western Ethiopian Highlands. It is the largest lake in Ethiopia and is the source of the Blue Nile River. The lake and its surrounding wetlands have grown to be home to many rare animal and plant species. In addition, the region has immense historical and cultural significance with many churches and monasteries having bloomed in the area.

Despite being a key biodiversity area (KBA), the lake and its surroundings are threatened by intense resource use, pollution and urbanization. Fishers fishing too close to the shoreline that serves as a breeding ground and removal of juvenile fish through use of small nets are the major causes of declining fish stock. ***Empowering major stakeholders for sustainable utilization and conservation of Lake Tana fish resources project*** is being implemented by Bahir Dar University to rebuild the declining fish stock of Lake Tana and to conserve this KBA. The project also aims to raise awareness and increase knowledge in the wider community of Lake Tana's fish resources and the human impacts on these resources.



Training fishermen (Photo: Bahir Dar University)

To date, Bahir Dar University has overseen the formal training of 66 experts, inspectors, and targeted members of associations over the course of four days and conducted a one day awareness campaign targeted at over 250 local fishers. The awareness campaign was recorded and later screened on Amhara TV there by increasing the numbers that could be reached by the campaign. The training sessions were a success, culminating in a decision by the fishers at Delgi, Takusa Woreda, to observe the Lake Tana Closed Season (set by ANRS in its Fisheries Proclamation and Regulation) and to enforce the same after being made aware of their negative impact on the Lakes fish resources. Closed season coincides with the breeding season for catfish and the Labeobarbus, a rare fish species in the Lake, and lasts from June the 1st to the 20th of September. Closure of the Lake allows the fish to breed uninterrupted and to increase in number so that by open season fish in the lake will be replenished. This and the introduction of inspectors around the lake, trained to identify any fishers without identification cards should see an upward trend in the quantities and quality of fish resources in the Lake.

This project is being funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) through its coordinator in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and will run from January 2014 to June 2015.



[Community Based Forest Management in Bechi Peasant Association exceeds expectations](#)

By Obaka Torto, Fri, 15/08/2014 - 10:25



Beneficiaries of the project (Photo: GPRDO)

The Bechi peasant association is located in the Bechi Kebele of the Sheka zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS). The Bechi Kebele is home to 10,171 people, most of which are dependent on the slowly dwindling Sheka forest. God for People Relief and Development Organisation (GPRDO) has been working in this region since 2005 to promote community based forest management systems. In 2013 GPRDO was able to expand their work in this region after receiving a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to implement GPRDO's project: ***Scaling up alternative livelihoods income sources focused forest development and protection approaches in Bechi Peasant Association***. GPRDO signed the small grant agreement with Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), coordinator of CEPF in Ethiopia, in December 2013 and the project is expected to run until November 2014.

Cash crops, especially coffee form the economic backbone of this area but many residents also rely on tree felling as means to make a living. The aim of the project was to scale up the production of non-timber forest products (NTFP) as an alternative income source and a way to preserve the remnant indigenous forest. These NTFP include spices, coffee, fruits, amaranth, and rice among others.

The targeted community play a pivotal role in this project, contributing over 50% towards the total costs of the project. Community members volunteered at nursery sites, provided materials for the construction of beekeeping shelter sites and participated in forest conservation activities. Community members exceeded expectations when they volunteered their own land for the construction of development centres in instances where land could not be secured from local government or by renting.

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Community discussions on key environmental issues and selection of project sites (Photo: GPRDO)

Four community forest protection group (CFPG) development centres were constructed and serve as the central location for the development of NTFPs, they also function as demonstration sites that facilitate easy transfer of knowledge. This scheme was so successful that local government and other agencies now also utilise the centres as a way to provide centralised and experiential learning to farmers.

Success of this project can be attributed mainly to the early involvement of the community and other stakeholders. GPRDO engaged the community at a very early stage involving them in the proposal design phase and building on projects that the community members had initiated. GPRDO also involved the targeted community through to the implementation stages, regularly holding workshop days and training to ensure that members were on board and up to date at every stage.

This project encapsulates the idea of community ownership and illustrates that once communities are made aware of the value of their resources and the importance of conserving them, they are willing to not only participate but they are quite prepared to own the process.



[Welcome to Taita Hills, Kenya – a guide is now available!](#)

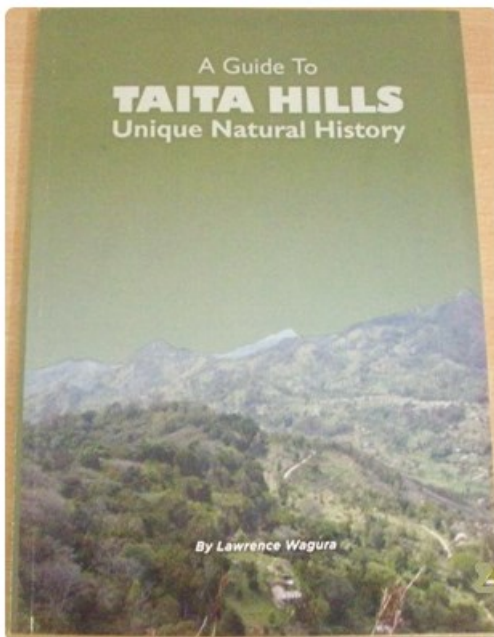
By Obaka Torto, Wed, 20/08/2014 - 11:15

Media Clips—July-September 2014



Taita hills landscape (Photo: Lawrence Wagura)

A guide to Taita Hills’ unique natural history has just been released. This book, authored by Lawrence Wagura, a naturalist and fieldworker based at the National Museums of Kenya is the first published guide for this important site. In simple language, backed up by colourful pictures, Lawrence comprehensively describes the site: he includes, among other topics, its history, geography, value, indigenous culture, and various types of plants and animals found there.



A Guide to Taita Hills Unique Natural History book cover

The book is not only useful for visitors and researchers; Lawrence also intends to use it as a tool for educating the youth and other residents of the Taita Hills on the value of conserving the site.

“With support from teachers, I have already been giving talks in schools in the area and I often take students for educational trips to the forests. I will now distribute free copies of the book to the schools, and in future use them for my educational talks”, says Lawrence. “With the initial support I got, only 400 copies of the book were printed. Although a good start, these copies are not enough. Some of the copies will therefore be sold to those who can afford to pay and the proceeds used to print even more copies that can be freely distributed to schools and communities”, he adds. Lawrence hopes that the book will also encourage tourists who venture into

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the lower Tsavo plains and other areas to include a visit to the Taita Hills, thus bringing income to the communities.

Located in south-eastern Kenya, the Taita Hills forests form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains and are part of the Eastern Afromontane global biodiversity hotspot. The hills rise from the Tsavo plains at 600 to 2200 metres above sea level. They have patches of rain forest at the hill tops, which act as water towers feeding the lowlands. They also support 34 globally threatened species. They are therefore categorised as an Important Bird Area (IBA), a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and an Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site. They host over 200 bird species including the two rare, endemic and Critically Endangered birds: the Taita Apalis *Apalis fuscigularis* and Taita Thrush *Turdus helleri*.

Lawrence is excited about this initiative and thanks all who supported him in collecting information, editing the book and its printing. He is happy to see the fruits of over five years spent undertaking field observations in the Taita Hills. Printing of the initial copies of the books was supported by BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat and Nature Kenya (BirdLife Partner) as part of a project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Story by Mercy Kariuki – BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat



[Biodiversity project launched in Chitipa](#)

August 20

Grace Thipha



A new biodiversity conservation project has been launched in Chitipa targeting Wilindi, Matipa and Mughese forest reserves.

The Misuku Hills Biodiversity Conservation Project has been funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and is going to be implemented within two years, beginning this year.

It is being implemented by Environmental Sustainability – a local organization implementing various climate change initiatives in the country.

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Environmental Sustainability executive director, Daniel Mwakameka, says the project will help to raise awareness on the importance of the area's biodiversity in among surrounding communities.

“It will focus on building the capacities of rural impoverished communities to sustainably harvest and sell forest products from customary land and forest reserves,” said Mwakameka.

He says the project will contribute and help fast track the finalisation of a management plan which is currently still under modification and says this process is being led by a local forest management board under the supervision of the forest department which has been assigned to monitor the implementation of the plan.

According to Mwakameka, the project is not a new model but rather builds on the successes and lessons learnt from biodiversity conservation work that has previously been implemented around the Mughese, wilindi and Matipa forestry reserves.

Project staffers will among various stakeholders work closely with the communities of Traditional Authority Mwenemisuku, the Department of Forest, the Wilindi Matipa local forest reserve management committee and Misuku Bee Keepers Association in the implementation of the initiative.



[Seventeen Rare Siamese Crocodiles Released in Lao PDR by WCS and Partners](#)

Fewer than 1,000 critically endangered Siamese crocodiles remain in the wild

NEW YORK (August 28, 2014) – The Wildlife Conservation Society announced today the successful release of 17 juvenile critically endangered Siamese crocodiles into a protected wetland in Lao PDR.

The one-to-two-year-old crocodiles, which range between 50-100 cm (20-39 inches) in length, were raised in facilities managed by local communities working with WCS to protect the endangered reptiles and their habitat.



The juvenile crocodiles were released this week into the Xe Champhone wetland, Than Soum village, Savannakhet Province. This is one of two RAMSAR wetland sites in the country. Lao PDR became a signatory to the RAMSAR convention in 2010.

A ceremony observing cultural traditions was held prior to the release and involved participants from local communities, government and WCS staff. Local communities have traditional beliefs about Siamese crocodiles, and events on the day included welcoming the crocodiles to the village area and wishing both them and community residents good luck in the future.

Following the completion of the release ceremony, the crocodiles were transported by boat into the heart of the wetland complex that is managed by local communities to provide habitat and protect the species.

It is estimated that there may be fewer than 1000 Siamese crocodiles remaining in the wild, with a significant proportion of this population located in Lao PDR.

The release of these crocodiles is the culmination of several years of conservation action implemented by WCS, local communities, and the Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Forest Resources and Environment.

Alex McWilliam of the WCS's Lao PDR Program said: "We are extremely pleased with the success of this collaborative program and believe it is an important step in contributing to the conservation of the species by involving local communities in long term wetland and species management."

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Classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, the Siamese crocodile grows up to 10 feet in length. The species has been eliminated from much of its former range through Southeast Asia and parts of Indonesia by overhunting and habitat degradation and loss.

WCS's Lao PDR Program designed and implemented the Community-based Crocodile Recovery and Livelihood Improvement Project, whose goal is the recovery of the local Siamese crocodile population and restoration of associated wetlands, linked by socio-economic incentives that improve local livelihoods.

The program has three key objectives: contributing to local livelihoods by improving coordination of water resource use and zoning of lands used in local agriculture; conserving and restoring crocodile wetland habitat important for local livelihoods, crocodiles, and other species; and replenishing the crocodile population in the wetland complex and surveying and monitoring the current population.

The program has worked with nine villages – each village has a “Village Crocodile Conservation Group” (VCCG) to coordinate implementation of program activities in the Xe Champone wetland complex and surrounding areas.

The program has received extensive financial support from MMG Lane Xang Minerals Limited Sepon. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and IUCN support ongoing components of the program. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Francaise de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

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[FISH CONSERVATION ZONES FOR ENDANGERED MEKONG FISHES](#)

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Media Clips—July-September 2014



The iconic Jullien's Golden Carp, *Probarbus jullieni*, and Thicklipped Barb, *Probarbus labeamajor* are two of the largest freshwater fishes in Southeast Asia, and are both listed as endangered on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Both *Probarbus* species are under serious long-term decline, likely due to fishers targeting and catching the fish during their

spawning period before they can reproduce. Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs), or areas that are closed to fishing, can be used to protect important habitats and can allow fish populations to rebound. FISHBIO is currently working with three villages in northern Lao PDR to establish three FCZs that encompass *Probarbus* spawning and refuge habitats. These areas will be closed to fishing year round, and represent the first FCZs on the mainstream Mekong River in Xayabouri and Luang Prabang provinces.

FISHBIO previously joined a team lead by IUCN that laid the groundwork for this project through biodiversity surveys and village workshops in the project villages. Community members identified previously undocumented *Probarbus* spawning habitats in the region, and, with assistance from project leads, drafted community regulations for FCZs. Now, with a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, FISHBIO is working to secure government approval of these regulations to officially recognize and establish



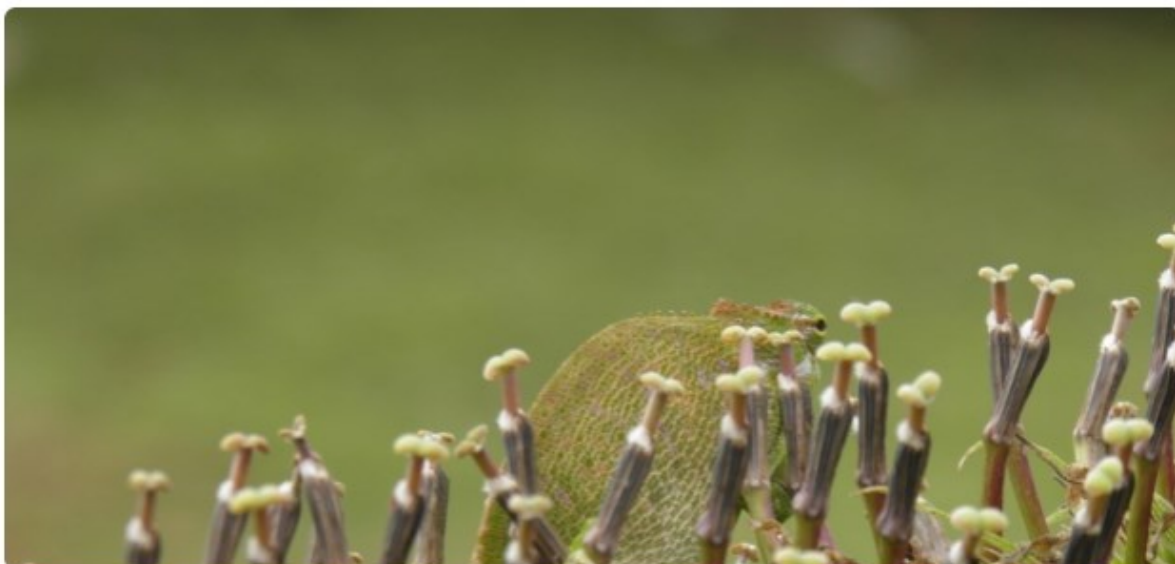
the FCZs. Other project activities include installing signs to mark the no-fishing boundaries and display the protected area regulations of each FCZ. We are also training village management and enforcement teams how to monitor and enforce the conservation regulations at each

site, especially during the *Probarbus* migration and spawning season from December to February. These FCZs are community-managed efforts, and the project is building the capacity of local communities to oversee the sustainable management of their aquatic resources.



[Many more threatened species in an East African biodiversity hotspot than previously thought](#)

By Obaka Torto, Fri, 19/09/2014 - 10:05



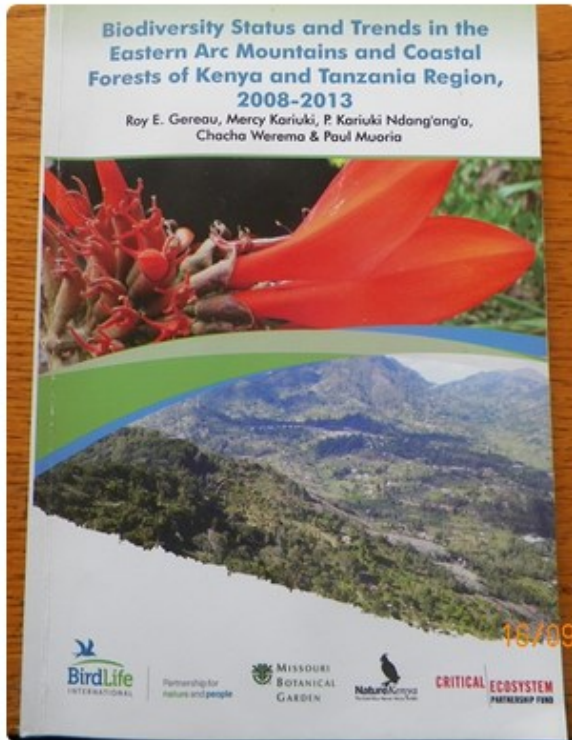
Several reptiles are endemic to the EACF (Photo: Kariuki Ndang'ang'a)

The Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya (EACF) are currently understood to host over 750 globally threatened species of plants and animals, more than double the 333 species listed in an assessment undertaken in 2003. This is according to the newly released 2008-2013 biodiversity status and trends report for the EACF, a region that now forms parts of both the "Eastern Afrotropical" and "Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa" global biodiversity hotspots.

In addition to 26 species now listed as more threatened than 10 years ago, the increase is mostly attributed to a comprehensive assessment of plants, which was not available in the previous assessment. New species descriptions for the region are also highlighted, including 20 amphibians and reptiles, one mammal and one plant species. The report recommends

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consideration of a further 17 sites for recognition as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), owing to the presence of globally threatened taxa within them.



The report (Photo: Mercy Kariuki)

Threats that are reported as facing biodiversity in the EACF include unsustainable charcoal production, which is a major driver of the decline in forest cover and habitat fragmentation in Dakatcha Woodlands in Kenya, important for the endangered Clarke's Weaver *Ploceus golandi* and Sokoke Scops-owl *Otus ireneae*. Other threats include conversion of forest for agriculture, human population increase and forest fires. Invasive species are underscored as probably a more serious problem in the region than had previously been realised. At least 22 invasive plant species are considered problematic, with *Maesopsis eminii*, *Rubus sp.* and *Cedrela odorata* being probably the most serious. In Kenya, *Prosopis juliflora* is reported to have invaded the Tana River Delta.

On a positive note, improved forest management resulting from improved protection status is observed at some sites. Among these are three forest blocks in Amani Nature Reserve, Tanzania, which changed from private to state tenure. Evidence also continues to emerge supporting the effectiveness of a Participatory Forest Management (PFM) approach; this is demonstrated by increased populations of wild game species in some sites, such as West Usambara, where PFM is implemented.

Further good news for the region follows implementation of new Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) projects, especially in Tanzania: for example, Piloting REDD in Zanzibar through community forest management project and Making REDD work for communities and forest conservation in Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania project". These projects are designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to improve livelihoods in local communities by making them beneficiaries of REDD financing. However, the report recommends that successful REDD projects must have a strong focus on strengthening village institutions to ensure high levels of compliance and enforcement of forest user rules within project boundaries.

The report finally highlights some recent positive policy developments. Among these is the development of the conservation strategy for the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests in Tanzania.

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Also highlighted is the development of an action plan for conservation in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest which emphasizes enhancement of connectivity and quality of habitat and security of elephants while safeguarding against human-wildlife conflict. The enactment of the Kenya Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013, as well as the Tourism Act and policy in Tanzania are also highlighted.

The EACF runs 900 km along the Kenya-Tanzania coasts and includes Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia Islands off the Tanzanian mainland. The region is very important for its biological diversity and richness. It is characterized by a high level of species endemism, exceptional diversity of its plant and animal communities and a severe degree of threat. This report is a result of a recently concluded BirdLife project that aimed at consolidating and presenting biodiversity data for the region in order, among other objectives, to increase leverage of REDD+ and REDD Readiness for the EACF. The report mostly relies on collating published information from a variety of sources, including direct contributions by the researchers in the region.

The project was implemented by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat and Nature Kenya (BirdLife Partner). It was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), which 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 is to ensure that civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

A copy of this and previous reports for the region can be downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/EAMHome>.

Story by: Mercy Kariuki and Kariuki Ndong'ang'a



[Enquête pour l'inventaire bibliographique relatif aux sites de l'Ichkeul et de la Sebka de Sidi Mansour \(Tunisie\)](#)

28 September 2014

Le projet “Promotion de la valeur des zones clés pour la biodiversité à travers l'implication des organisations de la société civile (OSC) dans leur conservation et gestion en

Afrique du Nord” est un projet sous régional, coordonnée par le Centre de Coopération pour la Méditerranée de l’UICN (UICN-Med), visant l’amélioration du mode de gestion et de gouvernance des espaces protégés et des zones clés pour la biodiversité dans le hotspot de la Méditerranée.

Il est financé par le CEPF dans le cadre de sa ligne stratégique «Amélioration de la conservation et du statut de protection de 44 zones clés pour la biodiversité ».

Pour la Tunisie, le projet concerne les sites de l’Ichkeul (gouvernorat de Bizerte) et de la Sebkhia Sidi Mansour (gouvernorat de Gafsa). La présente enquête vise à inventorier les publications et les études qui ont été réalisées pour ces deux sites.



Parc National d’Ichkeul (Tunisie)
Photo: <http://ferryville-menzel-bourguiba.com/>

Les personnes, les organisations et les institutions de recherche concernées sont invitées à contribuer à l’enquête en fournissant les références et autres informations à la base de données qui a été élaborée à cet effet et qui est consultable et modifiables à travers le lien ci-après: [Enquête pour l’inventaire bibliographique relatif aux sites de l’Ichkeul et de la Sebkhia Sidi Mansour.](#)

For further info: [Maher MAHJOUB](#)

THE CITIZEN

[Tanzania home to 27 unique life species](#)

By Syriacus Buguzi ,The Citizen Reporter
Posted Sunday, September 28 2014 at 12:12

IN SUMMARY

A leading expert on Africa’s biodiversity, Prof Neil Burgess of the Centre for Macro-Ecology at the University of Copenhagen, noted that the ranges were already known for a high density of endemic species, although there was no comprehensive data for at least six of the 13 mountain blocks.

Johannesburg. Scientists have discovered 27 new animal species that do not exist elsewhere in the world except in the forests of the Eastern Arch Mountains of Tanzania in East Africa,

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revealing that the ranges have an exceptional biological potential that qualifies them for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (Unesco) List of World Heritage Sites.



A group of scientists under the Italian Science Museum (MUCE)--an institution that advocates inclusion of the ranges in the Unesco list--have for the past decade been surveying the forested mountains that run from Southern Kenya through Tanzania.

In their latest findings, published in the Diversity and Distributions Journal, they have uncovered 27 vertebrate species in the forests of these mountain ranges that are new to science and 14 other species that were not previously known to exist in the area.

The Tanzanian government can use the latest research findings to apply to Unesco to be included on the World Heritage list, said the executive director of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Mr Charles Meshack.

In a press release, he said Tanzania will assume greater international visibility and qualify for support in the long-term protection of these exceptional but highly threatened fragments of forests.

Before this study, the mountain ranges of North Pare, Nguu and Nguru, Ukaguru, Rubeho as well as Mahenge had been completely or partly un-surveyed for forest vertebrates.

A leading expert on Africa's biodiversity, Prof Neil Burgess of the Centre for Macro-Ecology at the University of Copenhagen, noted that the ranges were already known for a high density of endemic species, although there was no comprehensive data for at least six of the 13 mountain blocks.

Media Clips—July-September 2014

The new findings, according to Prof Burgess, affirm the importance of conserving as large an extent of forest as possible, particularly where a forest extends across different altitudes.

In the forests of the Udzungwa Mountains in south central Tanzania, the researchers found the greatest number of species whose distribution is confined to the Eastern Arc mountains, with 20 of species occurring in the area. The curious forest chameleon, one of the three new reptiles reported in the latest study, belongs to the genus *Kinyongia* and has been discovered in the Mahenge Mountains.

The findings further reveal that the mountain ranges are geologically ancient--and that the persistence of forests on these mountains for several million years has driven an extraordinary differentiation of living forms.

The researchers, who also include conservation agencies in Tanzania and across the world, were supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)--a global partnership dedicated to providing funding and technical assistance to NGOs and private sector involved in the conservation of globally important biodiversity hotspots.

The biodiversity research that was supported by CEPF targeted the most remote and least-surveyed forests in the Eastern Arc Mountains. “Twenty-three of the 27 new species that we reported in the study are amphibian and reptiles,” said Michele Menegon, researcher with the Tropical Biodiversity Section at MUSE.
