

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**  
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 2.03(c) of the Financing Agreement

11 December 2014

**Selection of Fondation Tany Meva as Regional Implementation Team  
for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Recommended Action Item**

The Donor Council is asked to approve, on a no-objection basis, the selection of Fondation Tany Meva as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **31 December 2014**.

**Background**

*Selection of the Regional Implementation Team for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot*

On 20 June 2014, CEPF requested that organizations interested in serving as the RIT submit an expression of interest by 17 July 2014 in order to pre-qualify to submit a formal proposal. Eight organizations submitted an expression of interest by the closing date, and were invited to submit full proposals. The RfP was released on 21 July 2014. The RfP placed the maximum value of proposals at \$1,500,000 as per the approved Spending Authority for this Strategic Direction in the Ecosystem Profile. Four organizations submitted valid proposals by the closing date of 14 September 2014: Biotope, Conservation International Madagascar, Fondation Tany Meva, and WIOMSA/BirdLife, a consortium of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and BirdLife International Africa Division. The CEPF Secretariat evaluated these proposals in October, and short-listed the top three applications. Interviews were conducted on 4 and 5 November with these top three applicants. Following the review and interviews, the Secretariat ranked Fondation Tany Meva first. The Secretariat then shared the full proposals and its evaluation summary with the Working Group.

On 11 December 2014, the Working Group met to discuss the assessment presented by the Secretariat. During the presentation, the Working Group expressed its satisfaction with the clarity and transparency of the review, and also indicated its full support for the assessment prepared by the Secretariat. The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Donor Council the selection of Fondation Tany Meva as RIT for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, and authorized the Secretariat to begin negotiations with Fondation Tany Meva to resolve various issues.

The documents provided to the Working Group through this review process are available for Donor Council review at the following link and are listed below.

Attachments can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vprgw580mqbskzs/AAAvnDn81rZRloBoRXrYT9eEa?dl=0>

Attachment 1: Proposal from Biotope

Attachment 2: Request for Proposals, MIOI RIT

Attachment 3: Proposal from Conservation International Madagascar

Attachment 4: Proposal from Fondation Tany Meva

Attachment 5: Proposal from WIOMSA and BirdLife International

Attachment 6: Procurement Summary and Assessment of Proposals

### **Management of conflict of interest**

CEPF Executive Director Patricia Zurita accepted an offer to become CEO of BirdLife International in August 2014, in advance of receipt of proposals for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands RIT. One of the applications, WIOMSA/BirdLife, includes the BirdLife International Africa Division as a consortium partner. To avoid a conflict of interest, Patricia Zurita was in no way involved in the review of proposals, evaluation of proposals, or preparation of the presentation to the Working Group. Proposals were evaluated by Nina Marshall (CEPF Managing Director), Pierre Carret (CEPF Grant Director), and John de Wet (Conservation International Vice President for Finance & Operations) with support from Antonia Cermak-Terzian (CEPF Grant Manager). The Secretariat requested the support of John Watkin, Program Officer at the MacArthur Foundation as an external reviewer, per his experience as a Grant Director in Madagascar.