CEPF | THROUGH **30 JUNE 2018**

IMPACT REPORT

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

GOAL

Empowering locally led conservation of biodiversity hotspots—some of the world's most biologically rich yet threatened ecosystems.

CEPF'S APPROACH

- **Donor partnership:** Since 2000, CEPF has been bringing together global and regional donors to conserve biodiversity, strengthen civil society and support sustainable development.
- **Focused investment:** Based on an assessment of opportunities and threats, CEPF donor partners choose which biodiversity hotspots to invest in as funding becomes available.
- **Participatory priority-setting:** Grant making is guided by ecosystem profiles, analyses of the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions in each hotspot that are produced by, and in consultation with, local stakeholders. The result is a regional conservation strategy tailored to the most urgent needs, using practical solutions.
- **Local management:** CEPF partners with a regional implementation team in the hotspot to help shepherd the investment and build local conservation leadership.
- **Grants to civil society:** Civil society entities—including nongovernmental organizations, communities, indigenous peoples groups, universities and small businesses—apply for grants that are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that contribute to CEPF's conservation strategy.
- **Enduring conservation:** Projects funded by CEPF add up to a portfolio of complementary conservation actions addressing critical priorities while also building local conservation communities that will continue to lead protection of the hotspots after CEPF funding is completed.
- **Achieving global goals:** The results achieved by CEPF grantees complement governments' efforts to meet targets related to the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity (the Aichi Targets), Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Goals.

OUR DONOR PARTNERS

CEPF is a joint program of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

For more information, please visit **www.cepf.net**.

2000 to 30 June 2018

24
Hotspot Strategies Implemented

2,305
Grantees Supported

US$232M
Grants Committed

US$371M
Leveraged by Those Grants

14.8M
Hectares Protected Areas Created

8.1M
Hectares Of Production Landscape With Improved Management

COVER PHOTOS/CREDITS
Top: Amboro National Park, Bolivia. © O. Langrand
Lower left: Yellow-striped poison arrow frog *(Dendrobates truncatus)*. © O. Langrand
Lower right: Local residents participate in a project to conserve the Paramo del Duende Key Biodiversity Area, Colombia, conducted by Fundación Ecológica Fenicia Defensa Natural. © Wilfredo Aranzazu

Introduction

A woman looks out at a forest on Flores Island, Indonesia, in the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot. © Conservation International/ photo by Aulia Erlangga

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was established in 2000 to empower civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems. The Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Since its inception, CEPF has awarded US$232 million in grants to 2,305 civil society organizations. These grants have been implemented in 24 biodiversity hotspots, covering 93 countries and territories.

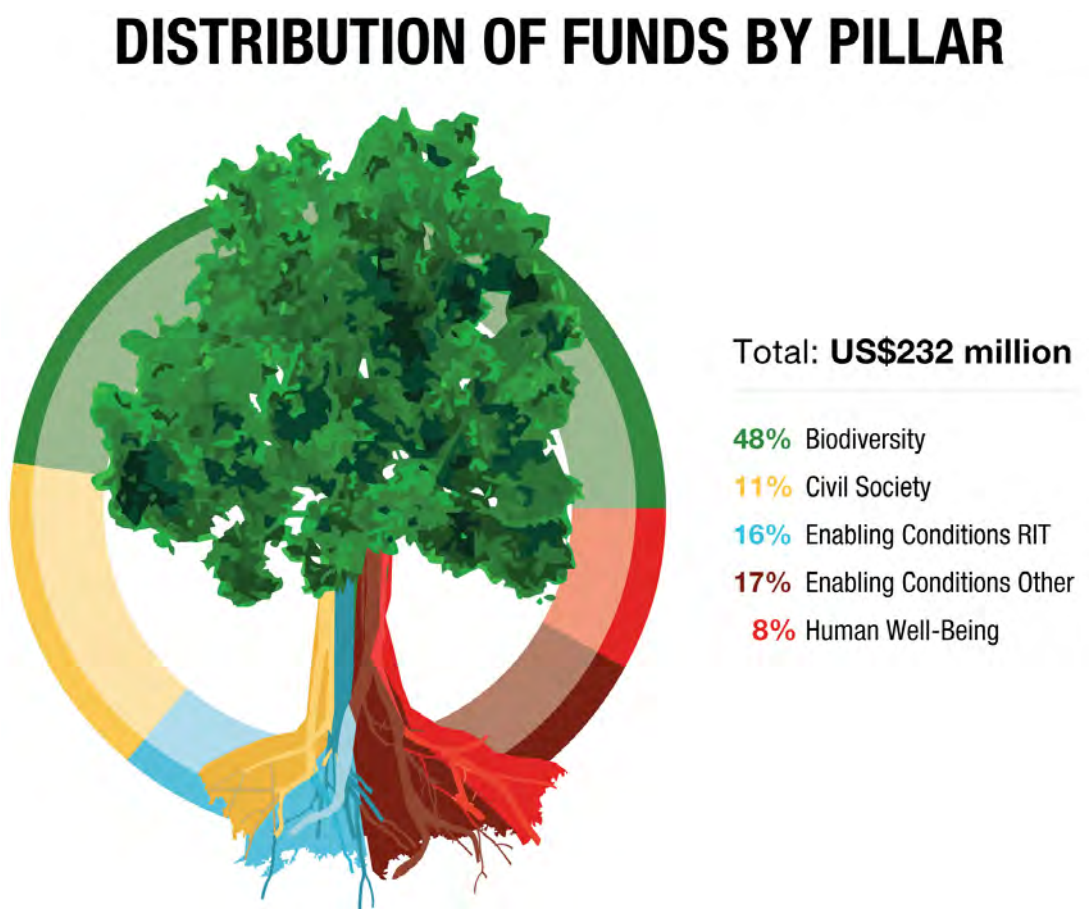
The CEPF program contributes to four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF:

- Biodiversity
- Civil society
- Human well-being
- Enabling conditions

The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. An empowered and capacitated civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. CEPF aims to measure progress in all four of these interlinked pillars to gain a holistic understanding of the impact of the fund.

Each CEPF grant is assigned to one of the four pillars, determined by identifying the major focus of the grant. This allows CEPF to determine, broadly, the number of grants and amount allocated for each of the pillars for the program as a whole. Figure 1 shows the distribution of funds for each pillar.

Figure 1



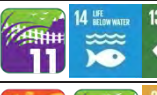
* *RIT = regional implementation team*

This figure demonstrates the priority CEPF gives to biodiversity, with nearly half of its funding allocated to this pillar. Enabling conditions receives the second largest allocation, noting that this amount includes funds to support the regional implementation teams (RITs), CEPF's on-the-ground institutions dedicated to rolling out CEPF's strategy and grant-making in the hotspots. The allocation of funds by pillar is similar to fiscal year 2017, with one change: the allocation to the RITs has reduced from 17 to 16 percent of program funds, with a corresponding increase in biodiversity funding from 47 to 48 percent. This change has come about as CEPF's two newest portfolios, Cerrado and Guinean Forests of West Africa, are actively awarding grants.

CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators, adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. Each indicator corresponds to one of CEPF's four pillars. CEPF has also linked all 16 indicators to relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets (Table 1).

Table 1

Pillar and Indicators	Target/ Goal
Biodiversity	
• Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.	
• Number of hectares of KBAs with improved management.	
• Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.	
• Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).	
• Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.	
Civil Society	
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).	
• Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).	
• Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.	

Human Well-Being	
• Number of people receiving structured training.	
• Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.	
• Number of people receiving cash benefits.	
• Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.	
• Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.	
Enabling Conditions	
• Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.	
• Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.	
• Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.	

Achievement towards these global indicators is measured only once for each grant, at the end of each project. CEPF's results are compiled annually for the program. For some indicators, where relevant, CEPF has reported on results by region. Several hotspots span regions; each region and the hotspots it includes are listed below.

- **Africa:** Cape Floristic Region; Eastern Afromontane (excluding Yemen); the former hotspot known as the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania; Guinean Forests of West Africa; Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands; Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany; Mediterranean Basin (North Africa only); Succulent Karoo.
- **Asia:** Caucasus; Himalaya; Indo-Burma; Philippines; Mountains of Southwest China; Sundaland; Wallacea; Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.
- **Caribbean:** Caribbean Islands.
- **Central America:** Mesoamerica.
- **Europe:** Mediterranean Basin (excluding North Africa, Lebanon and Jordan).
- **Middle East:** Eastern Afromontane (Yemen only); Mediterranean Basin (Lebanon and Jordan only).
- **Pacific Islands:** East Melanesian Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia.
- **South America:** Atlantic Forest; Cerrado; Tropical Andes; Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena.

CEPF grantees report on three levels. The first level is project level, for which grantees report on project-specific targets and deliverables. Grantees provide periodic updates via progress reports during their project, followed by reporting on overall project accomplishments at the end of the project. At this time, grantees also report on their contribution to portfolio indicators, as well as global indicators.

The second level is the hotspot level, for which each portfolio has a logframe and targets associated with its specific investment strategy, made achievable because of funding provided for the hotspot. Grantees, at the end of their projects, are requested to record their contributions to portfolio targets. Progress towards achievement of hotspot targets is assessed annually and reported on in an annual portfolio overview. Each hotspot has a different set of portfolio indicators due to the unique characteristics, challenges and opportunities present in the region, but nevertheless efforts are made to ensure that portfolio indicators are well correlated with CEPF's global indicators.

The third level is the global level. CEPF's donors have approved 16 global indicators that will yield clear and valuable data that articulates CEPF's impact. Contributions to the global indicators are recorded by grantees in their final reports, as well as by regional implementation teams who are able to report on collective portfolio achievements that go beyond individual project accomplishments. Notably, CEPF has not set global targets. As mentioned above, targets are set for each hotspot, and are directly related to the funding made available to achieve them.

Data collection and reporting processes

Each of CEPF's grantees makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. CEPF's monitoring system has evolved from a simplistic effort focused on rudimentary data collection and an emphasis on stories, to a complex framework applicable to grants of all sizes and scope, capable of articulating global impact and contributions to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets, in quantitative and qualitative ways.

CEPF's monitoring framework allows for reporting on the program's operational contribution, as well as on impact. During the application process, prior to project approval, each grant is assigned a pillar, a project category (a subset of the pillar), a habitat, one or more taxa if relevant, and applicable key words. These assignments allow the fund to ascertain amount of funds spent in certain categories and for various themes, and facilitate analysis of data by hotspot and region. The ability to quantify how much money has been spent on selected themes helps to frame results in terms of what CEPF grantees have been able to do with what they have been allocated.

Impact reporting is undertaken via comprehensive reporting tools and templates, available in multiple languages. Each grantee is responsible for completing selected monitoring tools, including regular programmatic progress reports, a final report, a final impact report, a gender tracking tool to measure change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues, and when applicable, a civil society tracking tool to measure change in institutional capacity. Grantees that work in protected areas may also be asked to complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, which measures change in various aspects of protected area management. Upon submission of monitoring reports and tracking tools,

data are reviewed and validated by the respective regional implementation team and/or CEPF grant director responsible for that grant.

At present, grantees submit monitoring data in a combination of offline and online formats. In 2016/2017, CEPF transitioned to a new electronic grants management system, *ConservationGrants*. While the system is fully functional for grant applications and grant management, the reporting component is still under development. It is expected that the reporting part of the system will be fully integrated in 2019. Once completed, *ConservationGrants* will allow CEPF to produce global impact data on a regular basis, directly from the system.

This report covers CEPF impact from the start of fund grant making in January 2001 through June 30, 2018.

CEPF Pillar 1: Biodiversity

Horn-eyed ghost crab (Ocypode brevicornis), Grand Police wetland area, Mahé, Seychelles, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. © Marine Conservation Society Seychelles

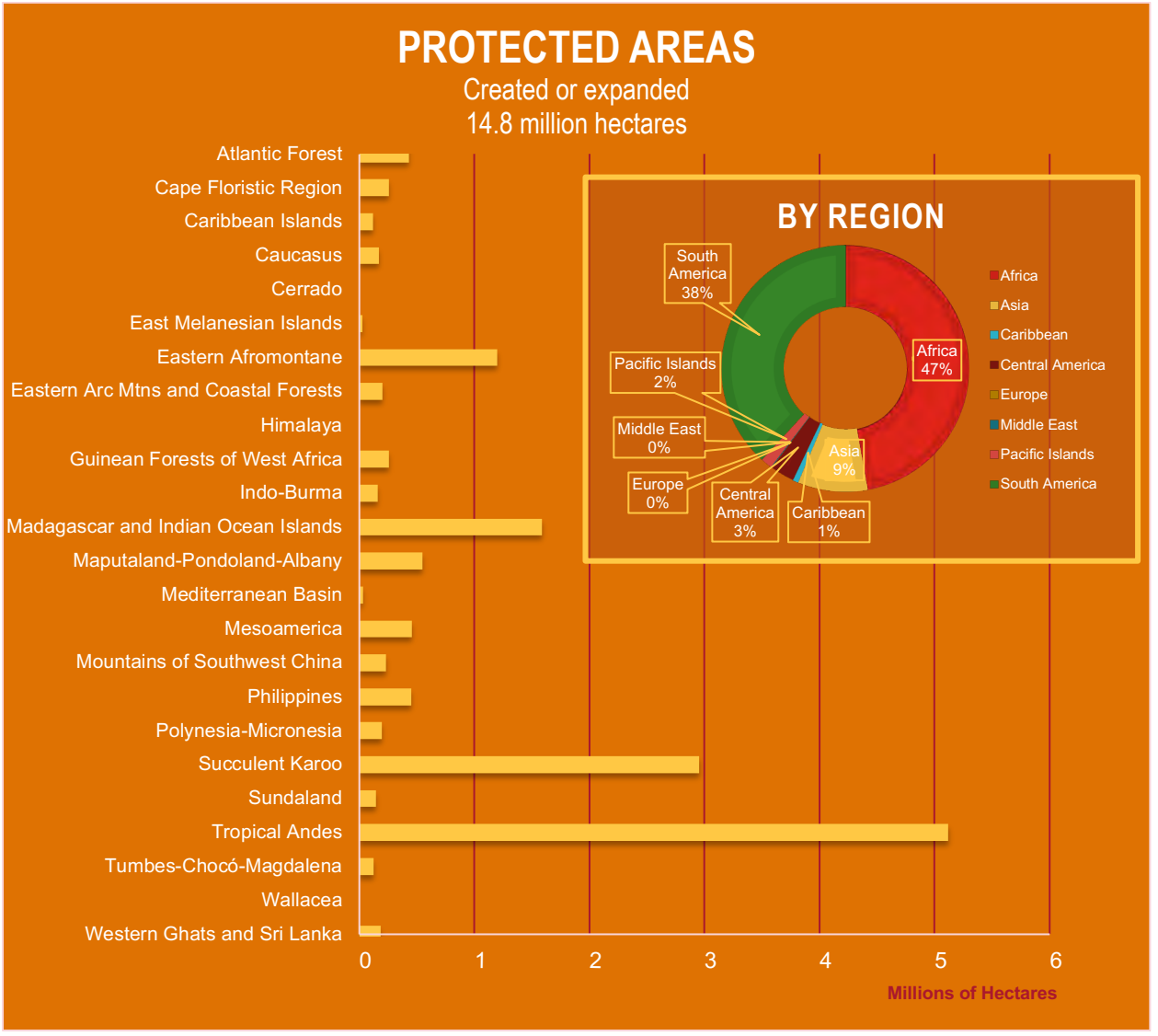
Indicator: Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Creation of protected areas is a high priority for CEPF. To date, CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,835,510 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots (Figure 2). To be included, protected areas must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. Stewardship and community agreements, insofar as they are legally binding, are also included in this amount.

The figure of 14.8 million is an increase of just over 50,000 hectares from the figure reported in 2017. Noting that grantees report on their accomplishments at the end of their project, some of the newly recorded hectares may have been afforded legal protection prior

to 2018. The charts below show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot, and by region, since inception of the fund.

Figure 2



Several of CEPF's newest protected areas have been established in the East Melanesian Islands. At the start of CEPF investment this hotspot had a limited coverage of protected areas, with only three formal protected areas for the Papua New Guinea Islands Region, five in the Solomon Islands, and only four in Vanuatu. Various factors contribute to the lack of formal protected areas, including the prevalence of customary land ownership, limited government capacity, and conflicting land-uses such as logging and mining. Conventional protected area approaches are not always appropriate, and thus CEPF sought to explore options to create community-based conservation areas, an effort that appears to be paying off. Three sites that have benefited from CEPF efforts are listed in Table 2.

Kait Community Conservation Area, Papua New Guinea, East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. © FORCERT/Image by Janet Tokupep

Table 2

New Protected Areas, East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot	
Protected Area	Description
Kait Community Conservation Area, 885 hectares **Papua New Guinea**	The Kait Community Conservation Area is jointly managed by three communities in the Cape St. George area. Grantee FORCERT – Forests for Certain; Forests for Life! worked with communities to raise awareness about their rights in relation to land and natural resources. FORCERT also furthered community understanding of environmental protection regulations and helped residents zone the area and prepare a sustainable land use plan for the site. This effort is empowering local communities to conserve the biodiversity occurring on their land, and to withstand pressure from logging, oil palm and mining companies.

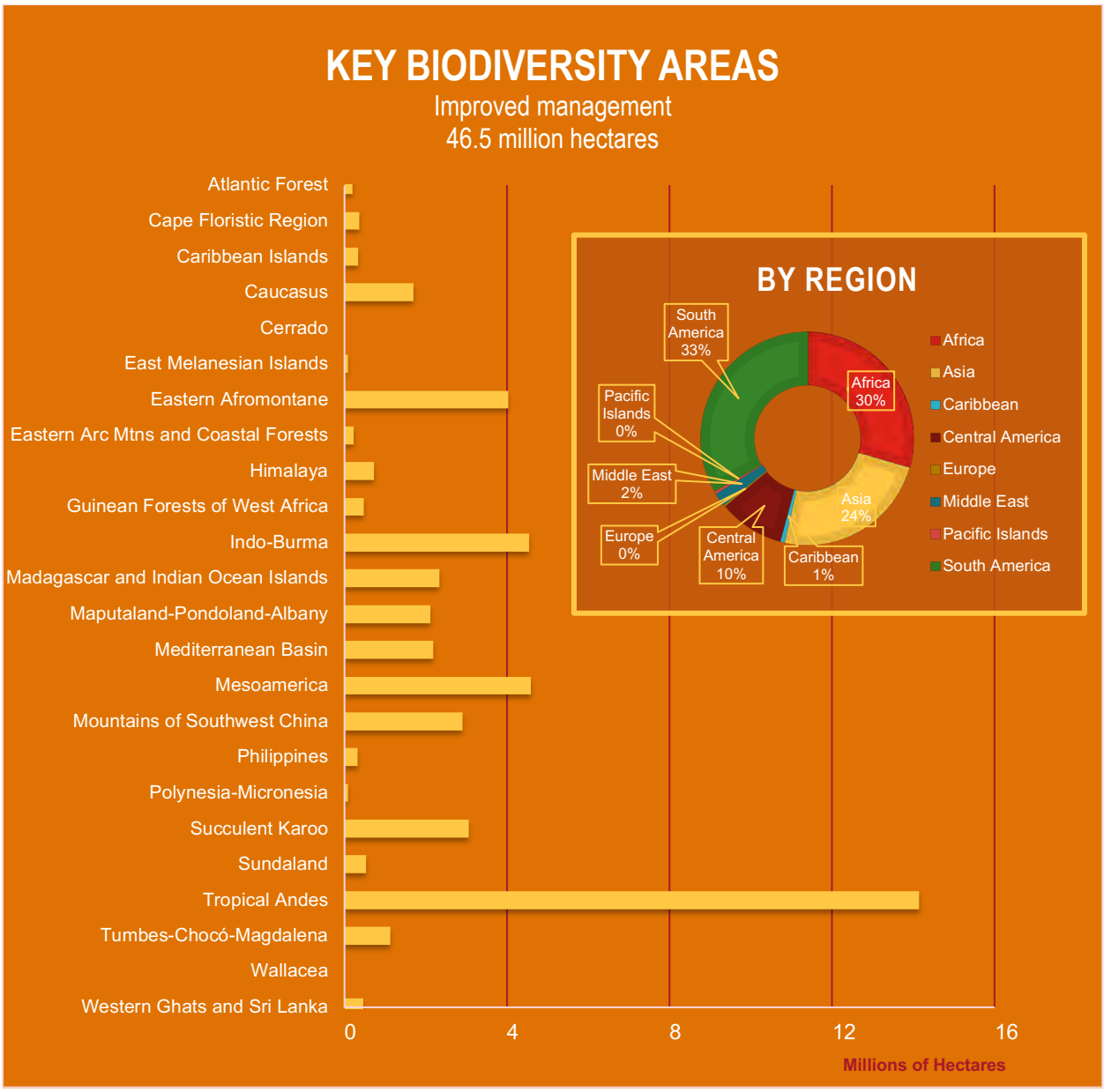
Table continued on page 10.

Arnavon Community Marine Park, 15,200 hectares **Solomon Islands**	Located between the Isabel and Choiseul provinces in the Solomon Islands, the 15,200-hectare Arnavon Community Marine Park was officially designated as a protected area in May 2017. Grantee Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Association contributed to the effort to protect the site, which entailed upgrading the Arnavon Islands Community Marine Conservation Area (established in 1995) with increased regulations and protections. Under its new status, logging and mining are prohibited, as are damaging vegetation and commercial collection of marine and terrestrial animals. Several taxa benefit from total bans on their harvest, including sharks, corals, sea cucumbers, pearl shells and turtles. Fuelwood collection and line fishing is permitted for subsistence only. This protected area is notable as the largest rookery for the Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtle in the South Pacific.
Lake Letas Community Conservation Area, 8,523 hectares **Vanuatu**	Lake Letas on Gaua Island, Vanuatu, is the largest freshwater lake in the Pacific Islands region outside of Papua New Guinea. The lake has a forest/shrub-covered catchment and abundant eels and prawns, which are harvested by local people. Grantee Eco-Lifelihood Development Association worked to create the Lake Letas Community Conservation Area, and also to propose the site for status as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Significant efforts were made to raise awareness among local communities about the threats posed by the invasive *Tilapia*, fish widely promoted in fish-farming projects. As a result, the local community decided to ban the import of *Tilapia* to Gaua Island, a move that is essential for the continued protection of the biodiversity of Lake Letas.

Indicator: Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are of paramount importance to CEPF, which contributes to the World Database on KBAs, www.keybiodiversityareas.org. To be counted for this indicator, an area must be a Key Biodiversity Area, must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the Key Biodiversity Area. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the Key Biodiversity Area. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management, such as increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, or introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. At the close of fiscal year 2018, CEPF had strengthened the management and protection of 46,527,673 hectares in 22 hotspots (Figure 3).

Figure 3


KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS
Improved management
46.5 million hectares
Atlantic Forest
Cape Floristic Region
Caribbean Islands
Caucasus
Cerrado
East Melanesian Islands
Eastern Afromontane
Eastern Arc Mtns and Coastal Forests
Himalaya
Guinean Forests of West Africa
Indo-Burma
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany
Mediterranean Basin
Mesoamerica
Mountains of Southwest China
Philippines
Polynesia-Micronesia
Succulent Karoo
Sundaland
Tropical Andes
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena
Wallacea
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka
0
4
8
12
16
Millions of Hectares
BY REGION
South America 33%
Africa 30%
Pacific Islands 0%
Middle East 2%
Asia 24%
Europe 0%
Central America 10%
Caribbean 1%
Africa
Asia
Caribbean
Central America
Europe
Middle East
Pacific Islands
South America

Grand Police Wetland in the Seychelles

Grand Police wetland with Colline du Sud in the background, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. © Marine Conservation Society Seychelles

The Grand Police wetland is the largest remaining untouched freshwater wetland in the Seychelles. It is of high ecological significance, as it hosts a variety of endemic and threatened plant and animal species, including two Critically Endangered freshwater terrapins, the yellow-bellied turtle *(Pelusios castanoides intergularis*) and black mud turtle (*Pelusios subniger parietalis*), which have populations of 120 and 660 respectively. Even though Grand Police is recognized as a Key Biodiversity Area, it is earmarked for development.

In response to the potential threat to Grand Police wetland, the Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles worked to document the biodiversity of the site, and to provide guidelines in order to minimize any environmental impact associated with future development. The group conducted biodiversity inventories to identify native and invasive species, produced more than 1,000 drone images, conducted GIS analysis and ground-truthed the data. At project close, the group had produced updated maps and information

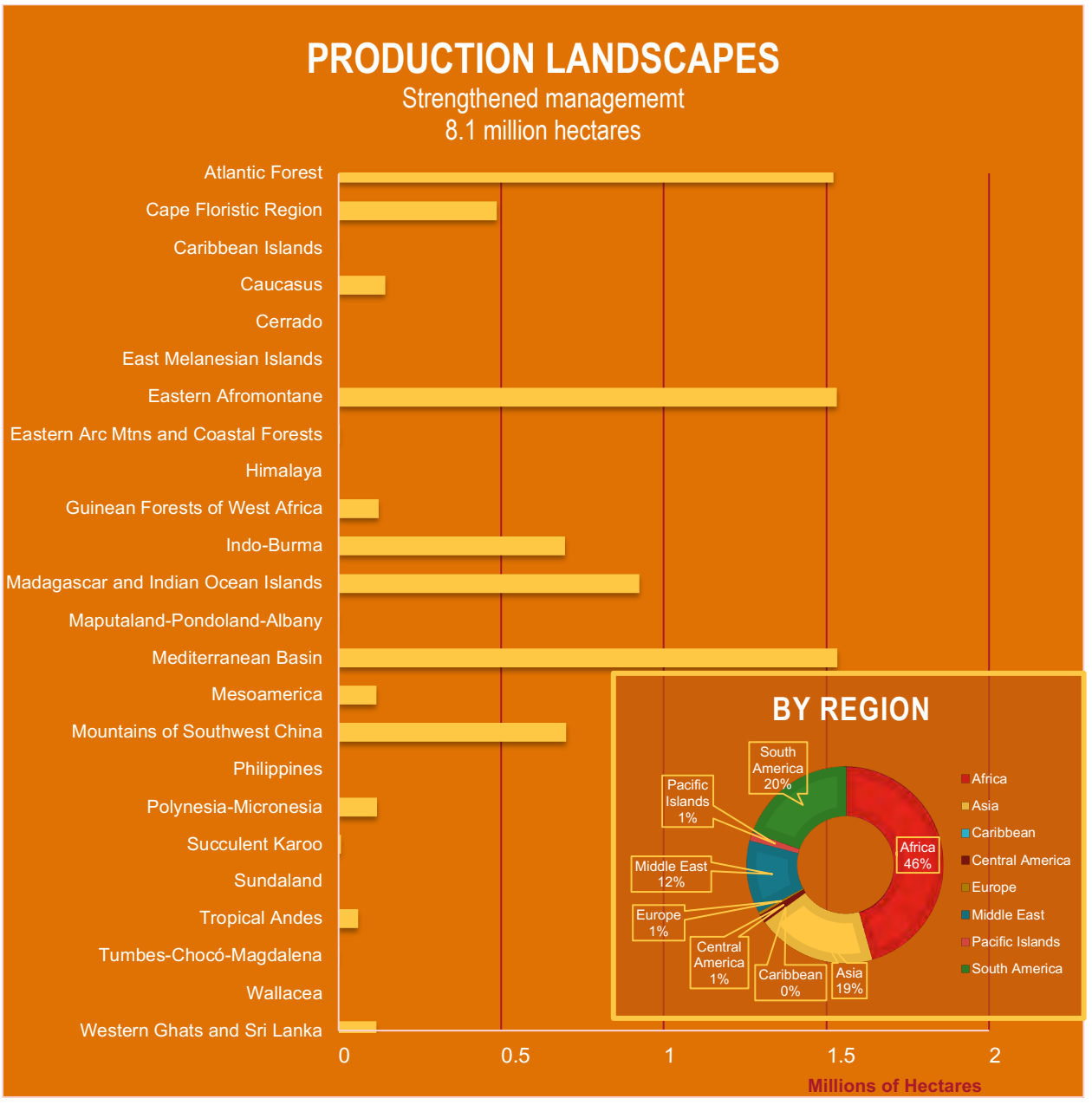
on the biodiversity of the site. They recorded 49 fauna and 33 flora species not previously recorded at the site, bringing the total to 61 animal species and 102 plant species present in the Grand Police KBA. Maps were produced showing the abundance and distribution of these taxa, as well as distribution of the eight most common habitat types. Recommendations for the treatment of some invasive species were also made. Finally, this exercise enabled the Marine Conservation Society to provide guidance on appropriate measures to rehabilitate the wetland, identify buffer zones and recommend measures to protect endemic wildlife. This guidance was shared and discussed with the developer of the area to encourage sustainable development of a tourist resort which, by conserving the wetland, could make this Key Biodiversity Area a unique selling point and will deliver long-term positive impacts both for conservation and biodiversity, and the local economy.

Indicator: Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity

Production landscapes, areas where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occur, can be very important for biodiversity. CEPF supports grantees to integrate management of biodiversity into these landscapes. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Since 2001, CEPF has contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 8,085,743 hectares (Figure 4). CEPF did not systematically record achievements in production landscapes until 2008, and thus hotspots receiving investment prior to this date are underrepresented.

Figure 4

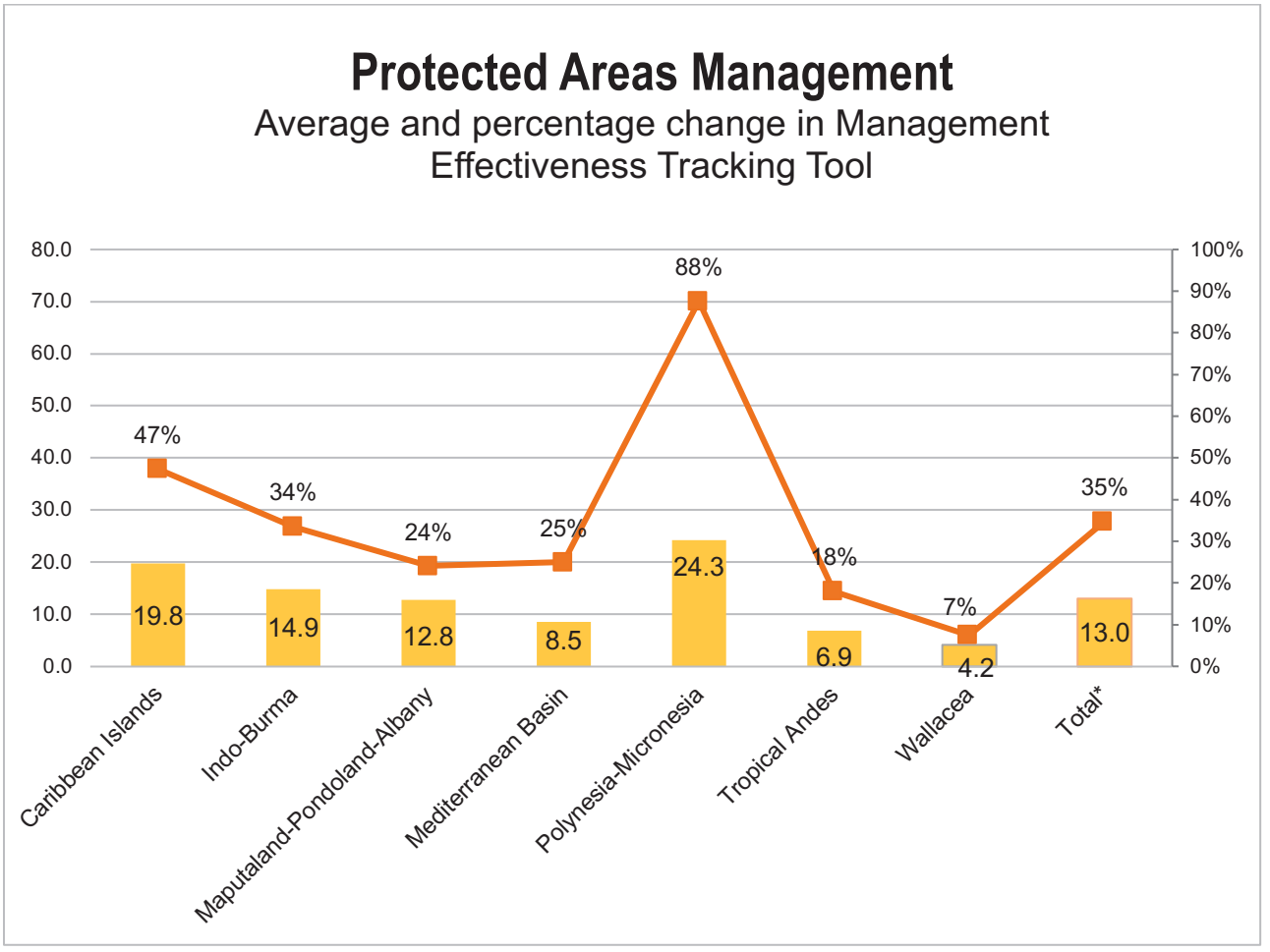


Indicator: Number of protected areas with improved management

CEPF strives to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Changes in score are determined by comparing a baseline scorecard to a final scorecard completed at the end of investment in a targeted protected area.

To date, CEPF has received 317 METT scorecards from 195 protected areas in 16 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Cerrado, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and Wallacea). As of June 2018, 91 of the 195 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 91 protected areas, 78 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness. For seven hotspots with a significant number of completed METT scorecards in fiscal year 2018, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 13 points on average (+35 percent) (Figure 5). As such, CEPF has been contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in helping countries increase the percent of coverage of protected area that has been assessed, as well as increasing their management effectiveness over time.

Figure 5



** Regions that were excluded are regions that don't have a significant number of completed METT scorecards.*

Indicator: Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action

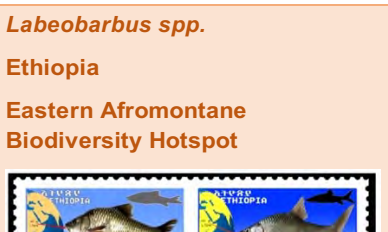
1,250

GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES BENEFITING

In 2017, CEPF attempted to calculate the number of species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species that have benefited from conservation action, dating from the fund's first grant making in 2001. The number was calculated by counting the number of globally threatened species occurring in KBAs where CEPF investments have strengthened biodiversity conservation. In 2018, instead of this overarching method, CEPF has reviewed all project documentation to identify the species benefiting, and the action taken in the project. To be counted, a species must benefit from an intervention that has direct conservation benefit. Examples include: preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan; captive breeding programs, habitat protection, species monitoring, patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking, or removal of invasive species.

Therefore, in 2018, we continue to report that 1,250 species have benefited from conservation action, but importantly, we are on track to identify these species and provide detail on the project intervention. The effort to review all project documentation is ongoing, and this number will grow as the backlog of past project reports is addressed. Thus far more than 780 species have been identified. Table 3 provides a few highlights of taxa that have benefited.

Table 3

Examples of Species-Focused Projects	
Madagascar fish-eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) CR, Madagascar **Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**  *© Lily Arison René de Roland*	The Madagascar fish-eagle is Critically Endangered and endemic to a coastal strip in northwest Madagascar, an area that includes four national parks. With a small grant, the Peregrine Fund built local community capacity to carry out a census of the fish-eagle population and to develop a conservation plan. Initial surveys were conducted with national park staff, fishermen and several doctoral students, to get a better sense of the abundance, location of nesting sites, and places where these birds tend to congregate. The census revealed that only 312 fish-eagles remain, with an average annual growth rate of 1.34 percent in the last decade. A Fish-Eagle Conservation Action Plan was developed at the grassroots level involving the local communities, community leaders, mayors, site-level managers and doctoral students. The involvement of all these stakeholders will ensure sustainability of the fish-eagle census and conservation efforts in years to come.
Burmese roofed turtle (*Batagur trivittata*) CR, Myanmar **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**  *© Kalyar Platt*	Endemic to the larger river systems of Myanmar, in particular the Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers, the Critically Endangered Burmese roofed turtle was thought to be extinct until some small remnant populations were discovered in 2001. In 2006, recovery efforts began with *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation programs to thwart the many threats facing this species, which include harvest of their eggs and incidental capture in fishing gear. CEPF joined the effort in 2014 by awarding a two-year grant to the Turtle Survival Alliance to conduct captive breeding, head-starting and reintroduction, as well as community outreach and monitoring of sites to ascertain presence of wild turtles and survival of released specimens. Turtle Survival Alliance now reports that they are at last seeing promising results. During the 2017-2018 season, with eggs from two sources (the Chindwin River and a captive-breeding group at Yadanabon Zoological Gardens in Mandalay), improved captive husbandry techniques bore fruit, resulting in 91 turtles hatched in 2017 and 155 in 2018. These will be head-started, and eventually released in four to five years. This success, coupled with continuing efforts to breed, release and conserve *in situ*, means that the future for the Burmese roofed turtle looks brighter than the team had ever imagined possible.
Labeobarbus spp. **Ethiopia** **Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**  *© Ethiopian Postal Service*	Lake Tana, in Ethiopia, is the largest lake in the country with a surface area of about 3,050 km^2. It hosts 28 fish species, including 17 endemic *Labeobarbus* species. Several of these species are threatened, such as *Labeobarbus macrophtalmus,* which is listed as Endangered. These fish are economically important, and support more than 30 percent of the Lake Tana fishery. However, this freshwater KBA, and the endemic fish living in it, are under threat from a range of factors including overfishing in tributaries where fish are migrating to spawning grounds, and development of dams on tributary rivers that prohibit the upstream migration of these fishes. Grantee Addis Ababa University has been working to address the numerous threats through raising awareness about migratory fishes, simulating the natural reproductive system of *Labeobarbus* to induce spawning, enhancing water bodies, and focusing on policy, management and strengthening of the provisions associated with the lake's status as a biosphere reserve.

CEPF Pillar 2: Civil society

Plant identification workshop, Lebanon, in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. © Université Saint-Joseph/photo by Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat

Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity

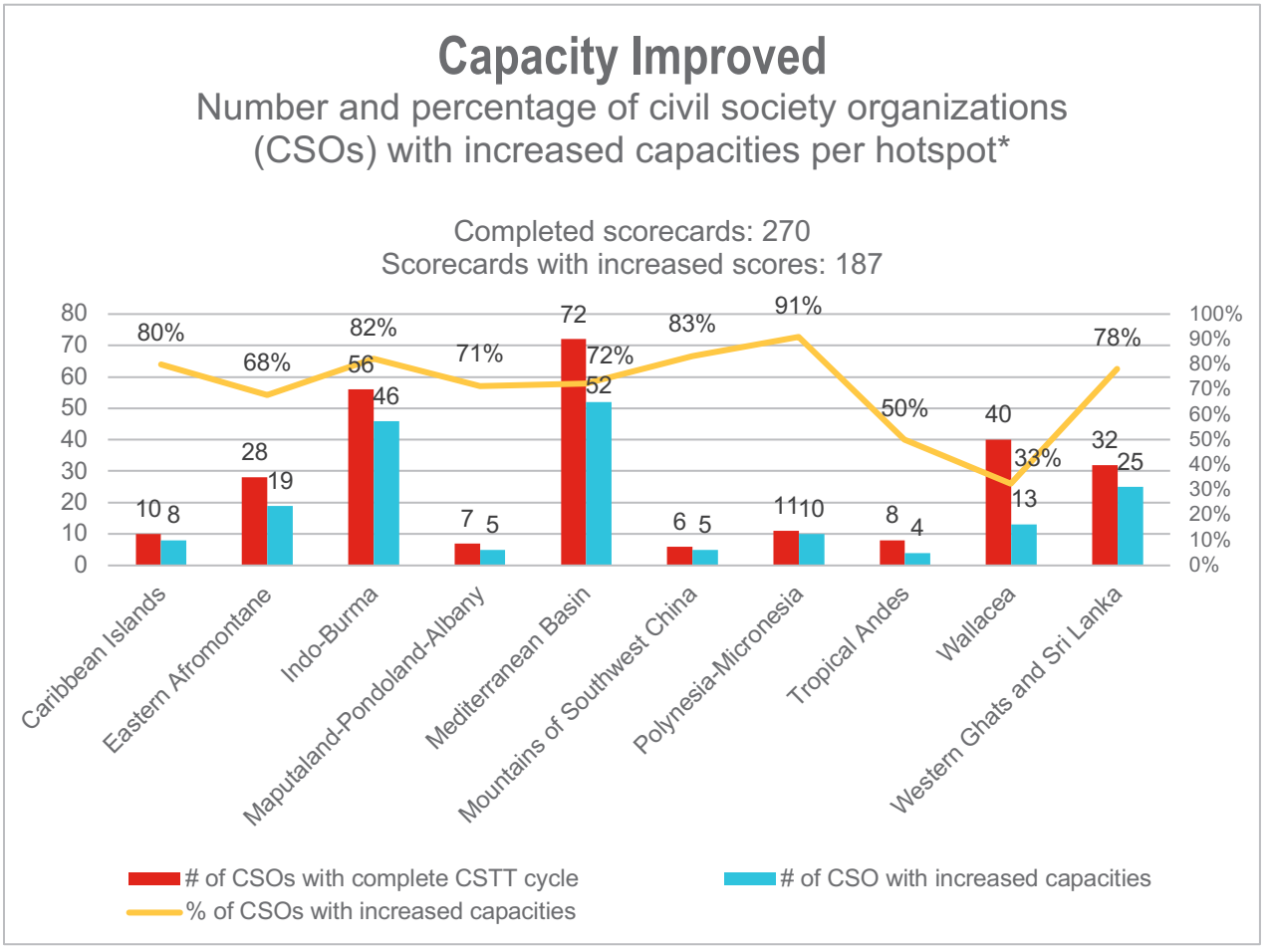
CEPF measures change in civil society capacity with a self-assessment tool, the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT). The tracking tool assesses, at the start and end of projects, each organization's capacity in five categories: human resources, financial resources, management systems, strategic planning and delivery.

Following the tool's successful pilot in Indo-Burma and the Western Ghats starting in 2009-2010, it was adopted across all active regions following the CEPF Donor Council's June 2012 decision. Due to the timing of the adoption of the CSTT, some organizations submitted final assessments without previously submitting a scorecard from an earlier point of collection. CEPF omits these organizations from the regional and global analysis. The tracking tool is also not requested from individuals, private enterprises or international NGOs.

As of June 2018, CEPF had received 282 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants. CEPF roughly estimates that it represents 82 percent of the 350 organizations which should have completed this assessment by now.

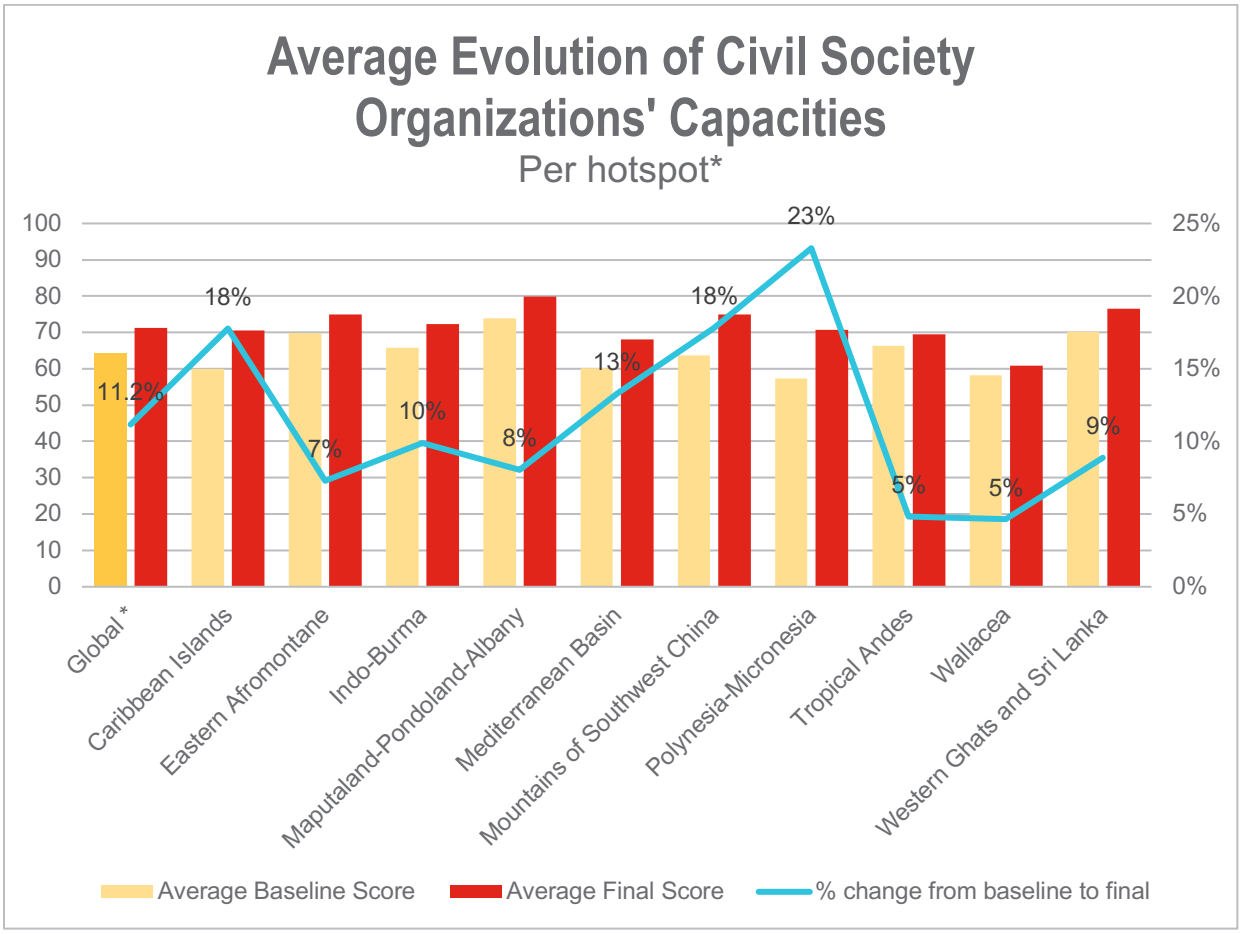
The 282 organizations that submitted a complete assessment come from 15 hotspots: Caribbean Islands, Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tropical Andes, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, Wallacea, and the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. However, only 10 biodiversity hotspots (Caribbean Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tropical Andes, Wallacea, and Western Ghats and Sri Lanka) had a significant number of organizations with a complete assessment. Within those 10 hotspots, out of the 270 organizations that completed their reporting cycles, 187 recorded an increase in organizational capacity (69 percent).

Figure 6



There was an overall weighted average increase of 7.1 points (+11.2 percent) in the capacities of civil society organizations. The Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot contributed the most to date to CEPF's global impact on capacity building of civil society organizations.

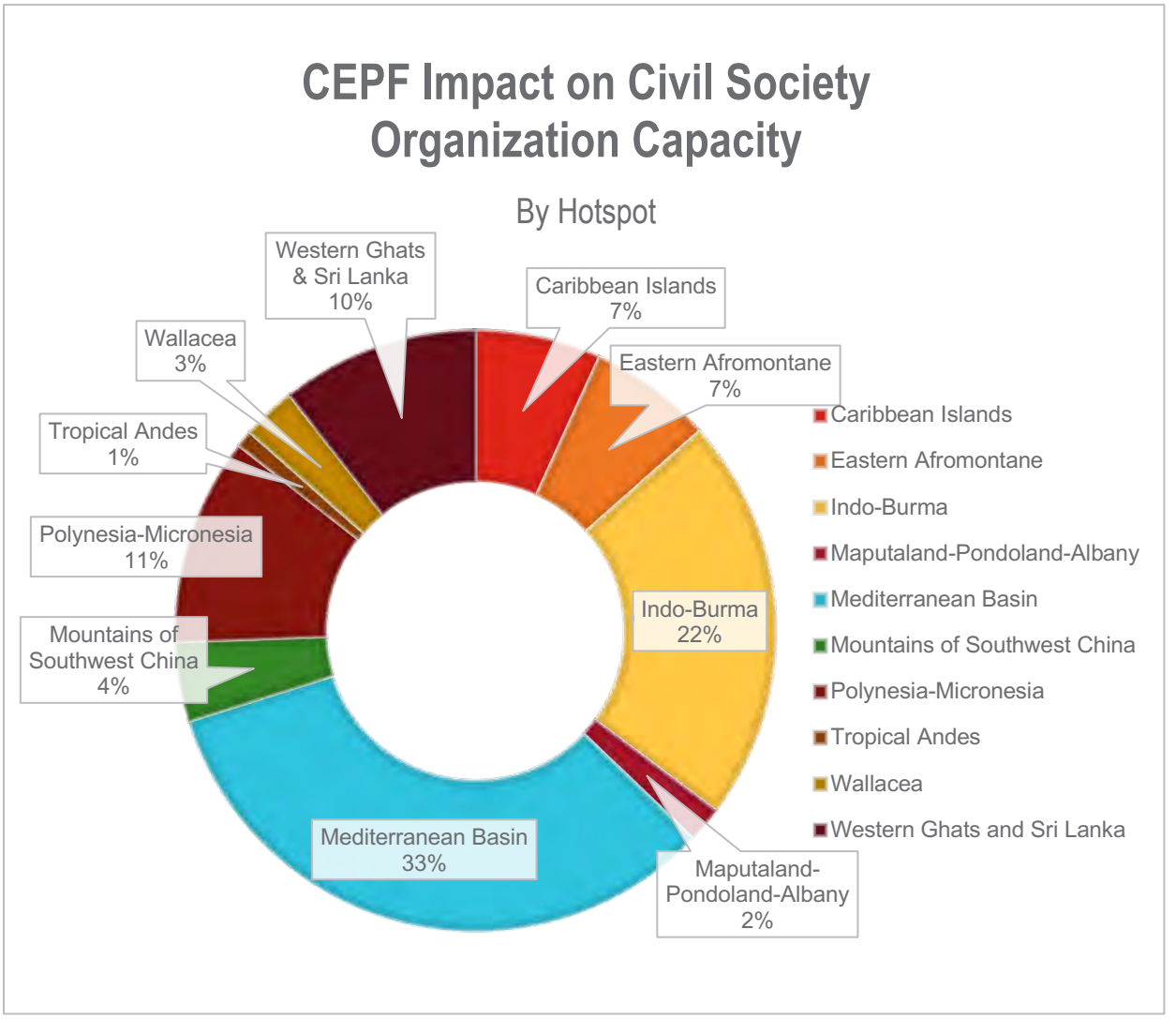
Figure 7



** The global data are weighted averages. Regions that were excluded are regions where investment was completed before the CSTT was introduced, consolidation regions that contained a statistically insignificant number of grants, and new regions where a significant number of final assessments are due at a later stage.*

Figure 8 shows the contribution that each hotspot makes to CEPF's impact pertaining to change in civil society capacity. These figures are derived by considering the number of CSOs in each hotspot, the percent changes in their CSTT scores, and by relating this to the total number of completed CSTT cycles to understand the percentage of the hotspot's contribution to change. For example, while Polynesia-Micronesia had 10 of 11 CSTTs show an increase in scores, meaning that 91 percent of Polynesia-Micronesia's participating grantees showed an increase on capacity, because the number of grantees with improved CSTT scores was 10, this represents a smaller contribution than a hotspot such as Indo-Burma, where 46 grantees showed an increase in capacity. In Indo-Burma, 82 percent of the grantees completing the CSTT cycle showed improvement in capacity, representing 22 percent of the overall change in CEPF's impact on civil society. Indo-Burma has a higher percentage contribution than Polynesia-Micronesia because more grantees have experienced an improvement in their scores.

Figure 8



Capacity Building in the Mediterranean Basin

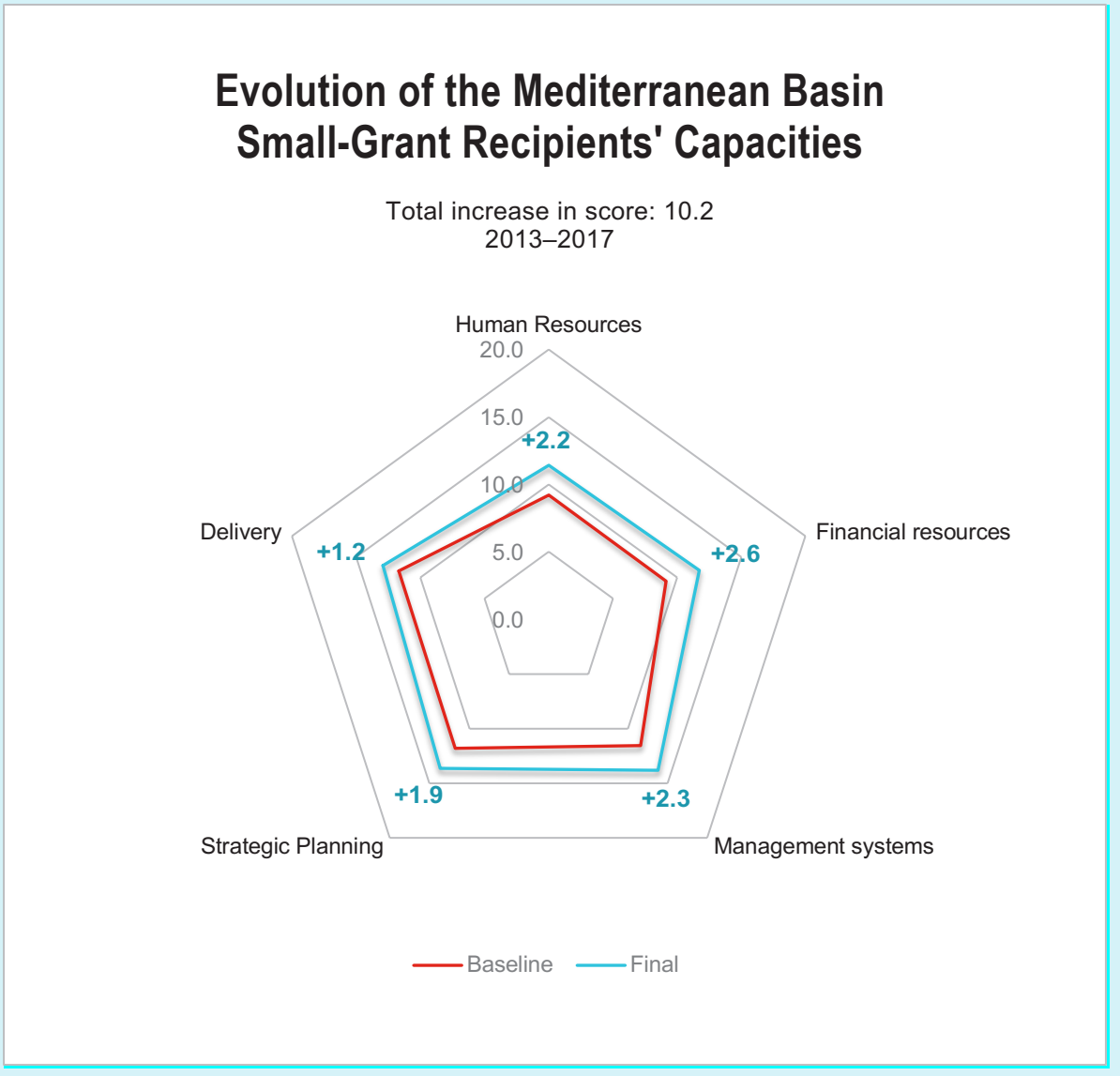
Discovering loggerhead turtle nest at Farwa, Libya, in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. © CEPF Med

In the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, CEPF supported 108 projects during the first phase of investment (2012–2017). Eighty-one percent of the grants where allocated to local organizations. While there was no specific strategic direction dedicated to capacity building, strengthening the capacities of organizations was included in all projects, based on initial assessments and discussions at the time of project design and during the monitoring of projects. Based on individual needs, organizations benefited from organizational audits, specific strategic planning exercises, trainings and expertise on technical issues, exchanges of experience with other organizations, participation in international conferences and events, as well as from equipment or software to help them fulfill their missions.

Overall, 72 percent of CEPF's local beneficiaries in the Mediterranean Basin reported increased capacities, as measured by the Civil Society Tracking Tool. Up to 16 percent of organizations reported a large increase (more than 25 points) in capacities. Those groups were mostly "young" organizations that emerged as important actors with the help of CEPF funding and support, stressing the important role CEPF played as an incubator of civil society groups in the region.

In addition to support to individual organizations, CEPF also played an important role in strengthening networks and partnership among civil society organizations at the national and regional level with the creation of eight formal networks (plus three "informal" but very active networks) as well as multiple peer-to-peer partnerships. The combination of direct support to organizations and the nurturing of networks and partnerships is a key element of building a strong "conservation community" able to address biodiversity conservation challenges in the region.

Figure 9



Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues

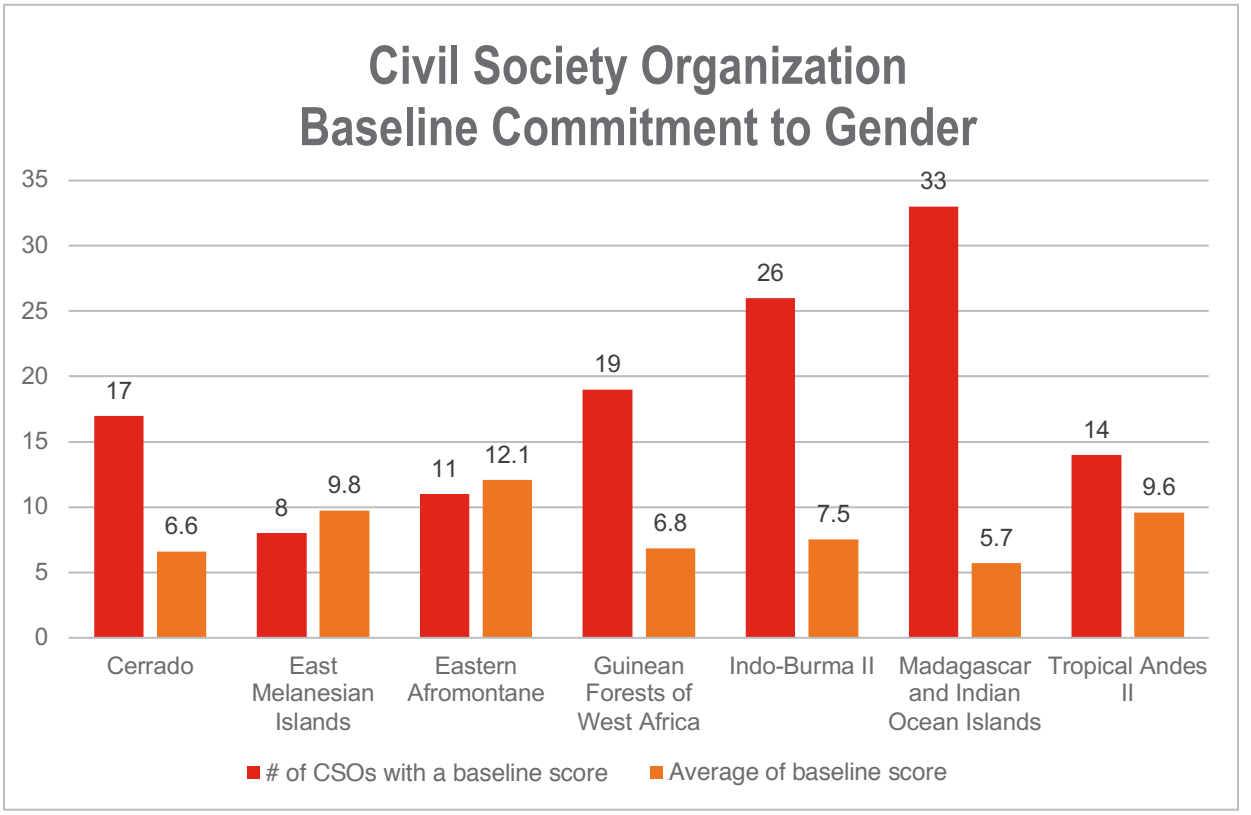
Since 2016, CEPF has worked to integrate gender concerns into its program at all levels. CEPF developed a gender policy that stipulates that staff of the CEPF Secretariat, regional implementation teams and grantees should understand and take into account the different roles of men and women in CEPF-related activities at all scales, and that gender issues and considerations will be actively incorporated throughout the grant-making and implementation process.

CEPF also developed its Gender Tracking Tool and put it into use in 2017. It is this tool that is used to measure progress towards this indicator. The Gender Tracking Tool is a self-assessment tool that can be used by an organization to understand if and to what extent gender considerations have been integrated into its program and operations. The tool should be completed twice, at the start of a project (within the first three months) and at the end of the project (together with the project's final completion report). All grantees and relevant subgrantees are required to complete the Gender Tracking Tool. The tool consists of eight questions for a total possible score of 20 with the last question being a yes-no-maybe choice on whether the grantee would like to receive more information about gender.

As of June 2018, CEPF approved 128 assessments from recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants across seven hotspots: Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, and Tropical Andes. This represents an additional 65 assessments compared to the previous year.

The overall average score is 8 points (40 percent) with relatively important geographic disparities among hotspots: Eastern Afromontane, East Melanesian Islands and Tropical Andes show the highest average score, while Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands shows the lowest.

Figure 10



Regions that were excluded are regions where a significant number of assessments are due at a later stage. "II" after Indo-Burma and Tropical Andes indicates that these scores have been gathered from grantees participating in CEPF's second investment in these two hotspots; the first investments in these hotspots predated the Gender Tracking Tool.

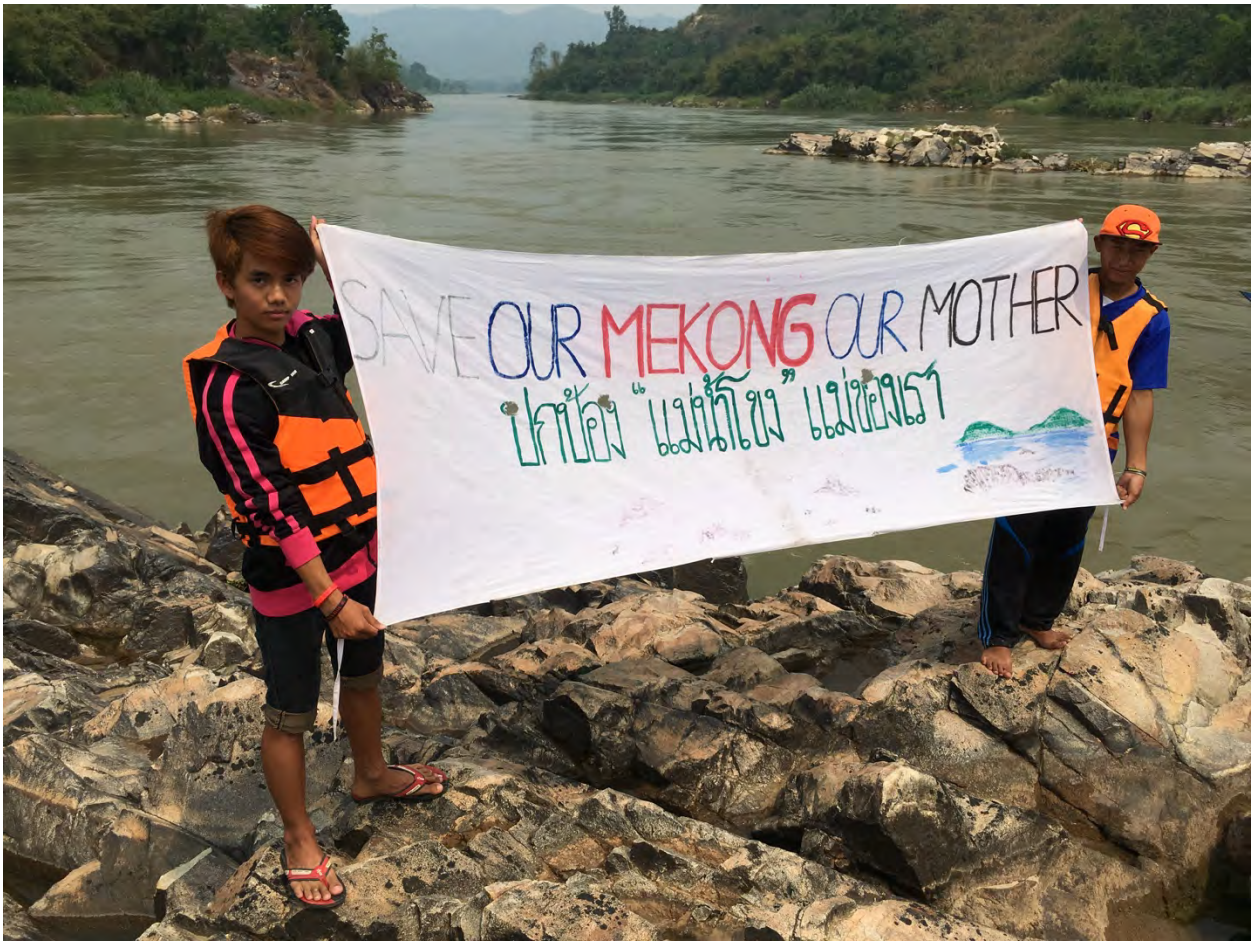
All the first seven questions still received an average of one point out of a highest possible score of three. However, the question on whether the organizations are monitoring and evaluating how their projects impact men and women differently received on average slightly more often the highest score of three. When asked whether there were people responsible for gender issues within their organization, most respondents mainly responded that their staff had not received appropriate training or had limited expertise.

For the eighth question, 66 percent of the respondents (including 92 from fiscal year 2018) requested additional training from the Secretariat on gender issues.

To date, nine civil society organizations have completed a baseline and a final Gender Tracking Tool. For these nine respondents, their Gender Tracking Tool score increased on average by 1.5 points. Further analyzing these initial data will allow the Secretariat to better target its support to grantees.

Based on the fiscal year 2017 responses to the question, for which 36 percent said they would like training/information about gender, CEPF developed a Gender Toolkit for use by applicants, grantees, regional implementation teams and other interested parties. The toolkit is available on CEPF's website, and it provides information on how to integrate gender into a proposal, project design, project implementation and monitoring, as well as into an organization. Helpful advice is given on what questions to ask to integrate gender into a project, what CEPF is looking for in a proposal, and ideas for how to circumvent gender barriers. To date, the Gender Toolkit is generating much interest, and has been downloaded 270 times (169 English versions, 50 French, 35 Spanish and 16 Portuguese) since it was posted online in November 2018.

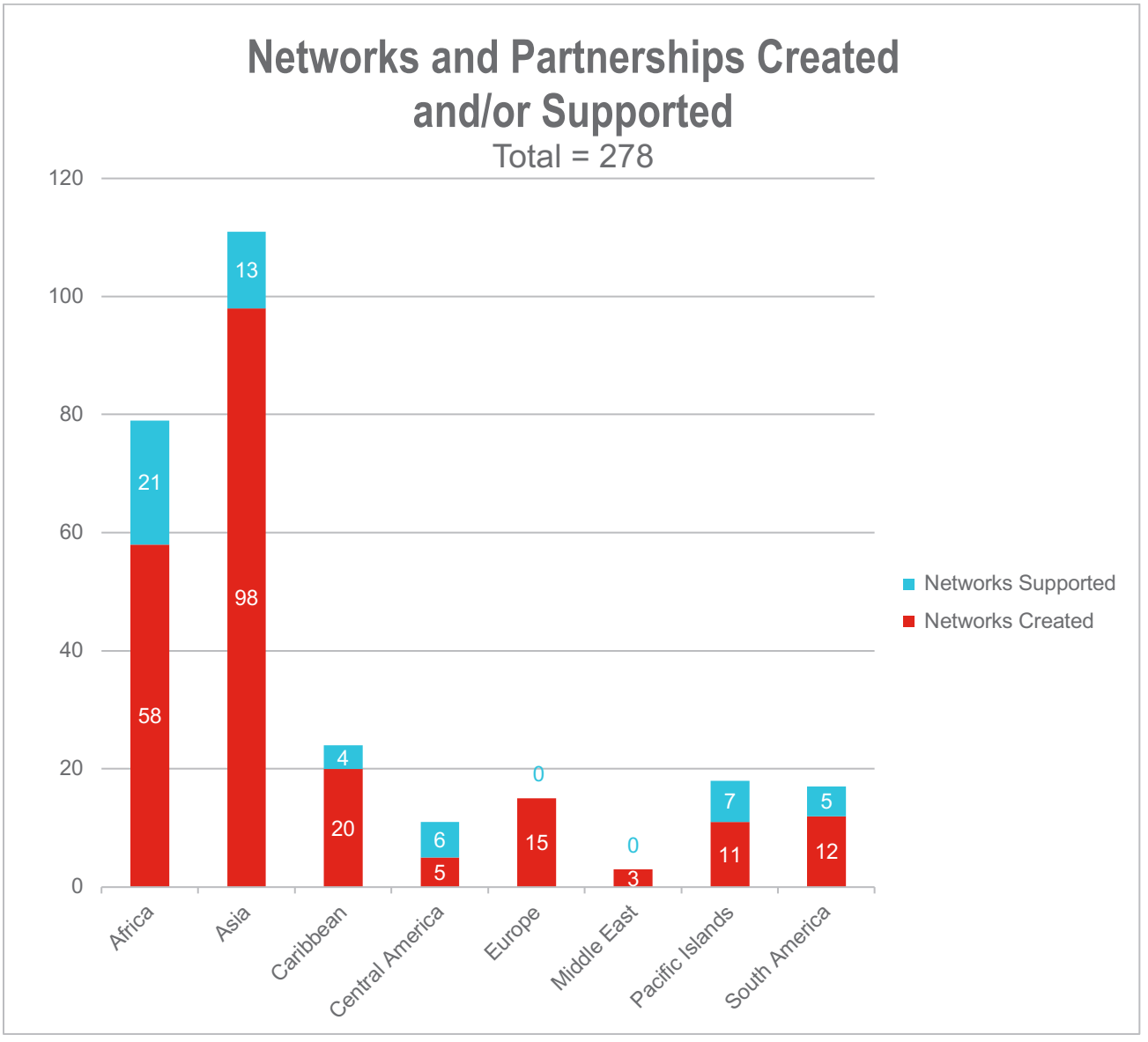
Indicator: Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened



Participants of a Mekong Community Institute Association project display signs supporting conservation of the Mekong River at Phayear Island, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. © Mekong Community Institute Association (MCI)

Partnerships are essential to CEPF's work at all levels, from donor partners to the CEPF Secretariat and regional implementation teams to grantees. Partnerships and networks created or supported by grantees are especially important, as these can make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. Partnerships can ensure broad support and promote inclusion in conservation efforts and activities. Since inception, CEPF has supported 278 partnerships/networks, and has been involved in creating 222 of them.

Figure 11



Recently, several hotspots have reported new partnerships, covering a range of topics, from monitoring to organic farming to sustainable tourism. The table that follows lists some of CEPF's newest partnerships.

Table 4

Examples of Recent Partnerships Created and/or Supported	
Peru **Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Association of Tourism Service Providers of Kosñipata Manu** Created in 2017, this network aims to strengthen and improve the conditions and opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism in Kosñipata District. It seeks to promote innovative tourism packages and opportunities and strives to be competitive and offer quality services. In July 2017, this network had 52 registered members.
Vanuatu **East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Vanua-tai Resource Monitors Network** The Vanua-Tai works with communities to conserve marine and terrestrial environments in Vanuatu. Including more than 500 monitors in the six provinces of Vanuatu, it is a network consisting of passionate and driven individuals working with each other and their communities to conserve marine and terrestrial environments.
Thailand **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Mekong Youth Network** The objectives of this network are to exchange information and experiences on the Mekong ecosystems, to voice the concerns of the youth, and to provide support to the youth on capacity building and organizing activities to save the Mekong.
Indonesia **Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Mayakeli Village Organic PADOE Farmer Group** This partnership was formed to establish a joint learning studio for residents and other community groups to train in environmentally friendly agricultural practices. The studio will encourage knowledge development and application of environmentally friendly agriculture.
Colombia **Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**	**Serraniagua** Alliance for activities in the scientific, academic and technological fields of common interest, including participation in joint projects that are of interest for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of the region's natural resources. A special focus is support for the implementation of the Avitourism Route in El Cairo/Serranía de los Paraguas.

CEPF Pillar 3: Human well-being

Participants of Flora and Fauna International's Principe Island project "From Bee-burners to Beekeepers," in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot. © Mique Madureira

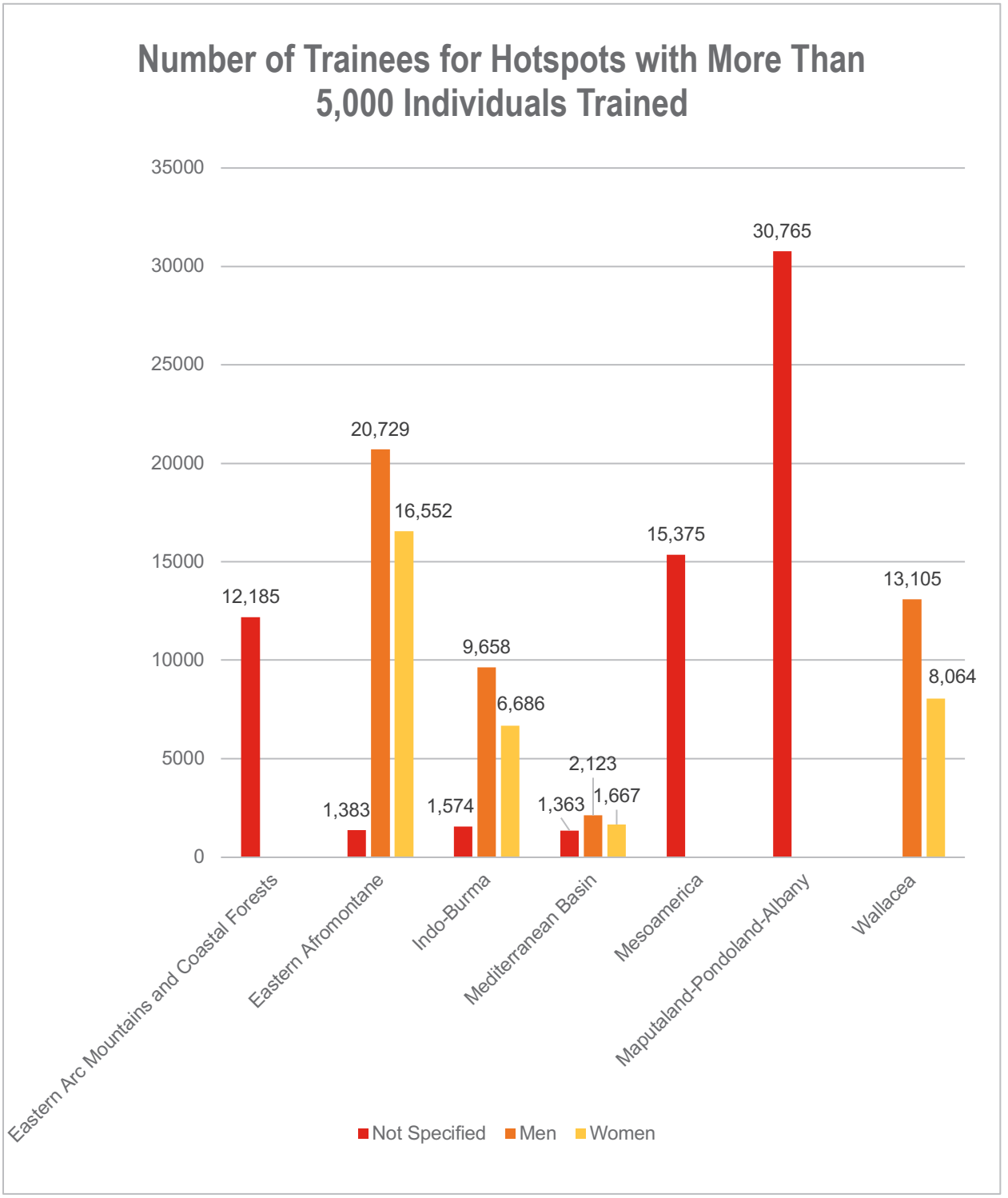
Indicator: Number of people receiving structured training

Capacity building is an essential part of CEPF's mandate. Eleven percent of CEPF's projects have a primary focus on capacity building, and 32 percent have a component or activities that include some element of capacity building, whether structured training, learning exchange, or other type of learning exercise. This indicator captures the number of men and women who have participated in a structured training opportunity. As with other indicators, sex-disaggregated data is only available since collection started in 2017.

To date, CEPF can report that 149,066 people have received structured training. Figures for 2018 represent a significant increase over 2017, with the addition of Wallacea in particular into the data.

Training topics vary and include ranger training, field survey techniques, marine resource management, mapping, GPS, bookkeeping, beekeeping, organic farming, sustainable tourism, project management, biosafety and waterbird monitoring, among others.

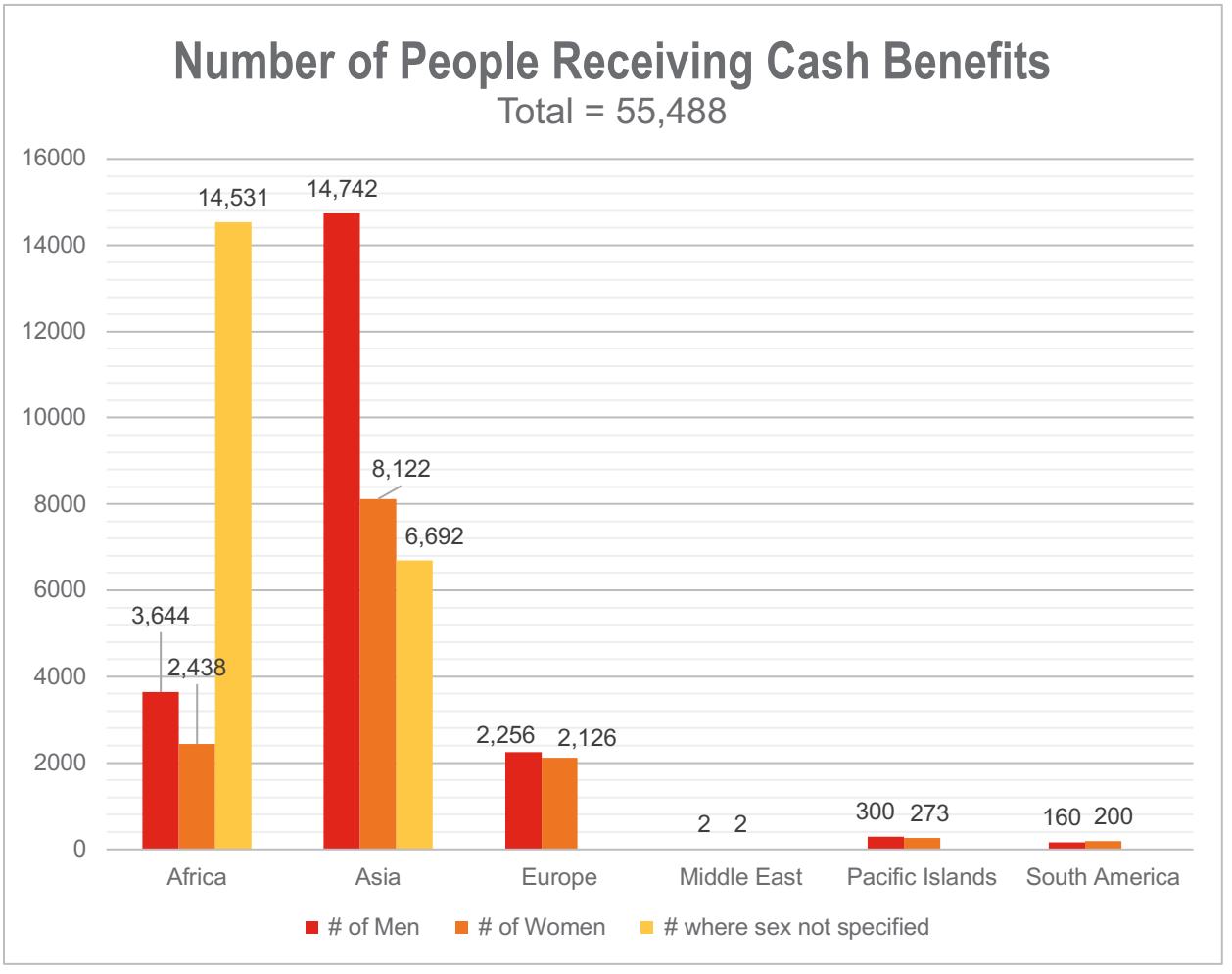
Figure 12


Number of Trainees for Hotspots with More Than 5,000 Individuals Trained
35000
30000
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
12,185
1,383
20,729
16,552
1,574
9,658
6,686
1,363
2,123
1,667
15,375
30,765
13,105
8,064
Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests
Eastern Afromontane
Indo-Burma
Mediterranean Basin
Mesoamerica
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany
Wallacea
Not Specified
Men
Women

Indicator: Number of people receiving cash benefits

Ensuring that people benefit sustainably from their natural resources is a key priority for CEPF. If people do not benefit, conservation outcomes may not endure. To this end, in 2017, CEPF started to systematically collect data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits, which include increased income from employment or increased income from livelihood activities. Since the collection of sex-disaggregated data has only recently begun, the numbers of men and women receiving cash benefits is far from comprehensive. Nevertheless, grantees are now aware that CEPF is requesting such data, and the response in new reporting formats has been positive. To date, CEPF has recorded a total of 55,488 people receiving cash benefits, an increase of more than 10,000 from 2017. Note that some regions (Caribbean, Central America) and hotspots are not represented in this table because data on benefits was not requested from grantees during these early investment portfolios.

Figure 13



The Komodo Survival Program

Carving Komodo dragon figures to sell, Flores Island, Indonesia, in the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot. © KSP/Achmad Ariefiandy

The Komodo Survival Program (KSP) is a small Indonesian NGO based in Bali with ongoing work on the northwest coast of Flores Island. Flores is not far from well-known Komodo Island, home to threatened Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*), which are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. CEPF has supported KSP since mid-2016 and their efforts are beginning to pay off.

The primary issue for the rural and poor communities in the area is that the Komodo dragons have home ranges outside of Komodo Island, which is a protected area. These huge lizards, which are protected by Indonesian law, are viewed as a threat to the livelihoods of people who keep goats and chickens. KSP is working with community members to turn this situation into an opportunity by playing up the tourism potential that the animals generate. Tourists are happy to leave the crowds and limited experience of Komodo Island to visit western Flores, where they can hike, visit communities and, with some luck, spot Komodo dragons. KSP is training people as guides, preparing promotional materials and teaching people to produce handicrafts for local sale. These activities are generating awareness and support for Komodo dragon conservation while generating income for local communities.

Indicator: Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training

CEPF's early efforts to measure non-cash benefits involved quantifying the number of communities receiving non-cash benefits as a result of CEPF projects. In recent years, efforts focused on describing the types of communities and identifying the different benefits received by communities. In 2017, CEPF also started to request that grantees report on the number of people in the communities that were receiving benefits. Since 2001, a total of 3,067 communities have benefited. In fiscal years 2017 and 2018, a total of 99,582 people (51,984 men and 47,598 women) in 553 communities have been recorded as benefiting.

Figure 14

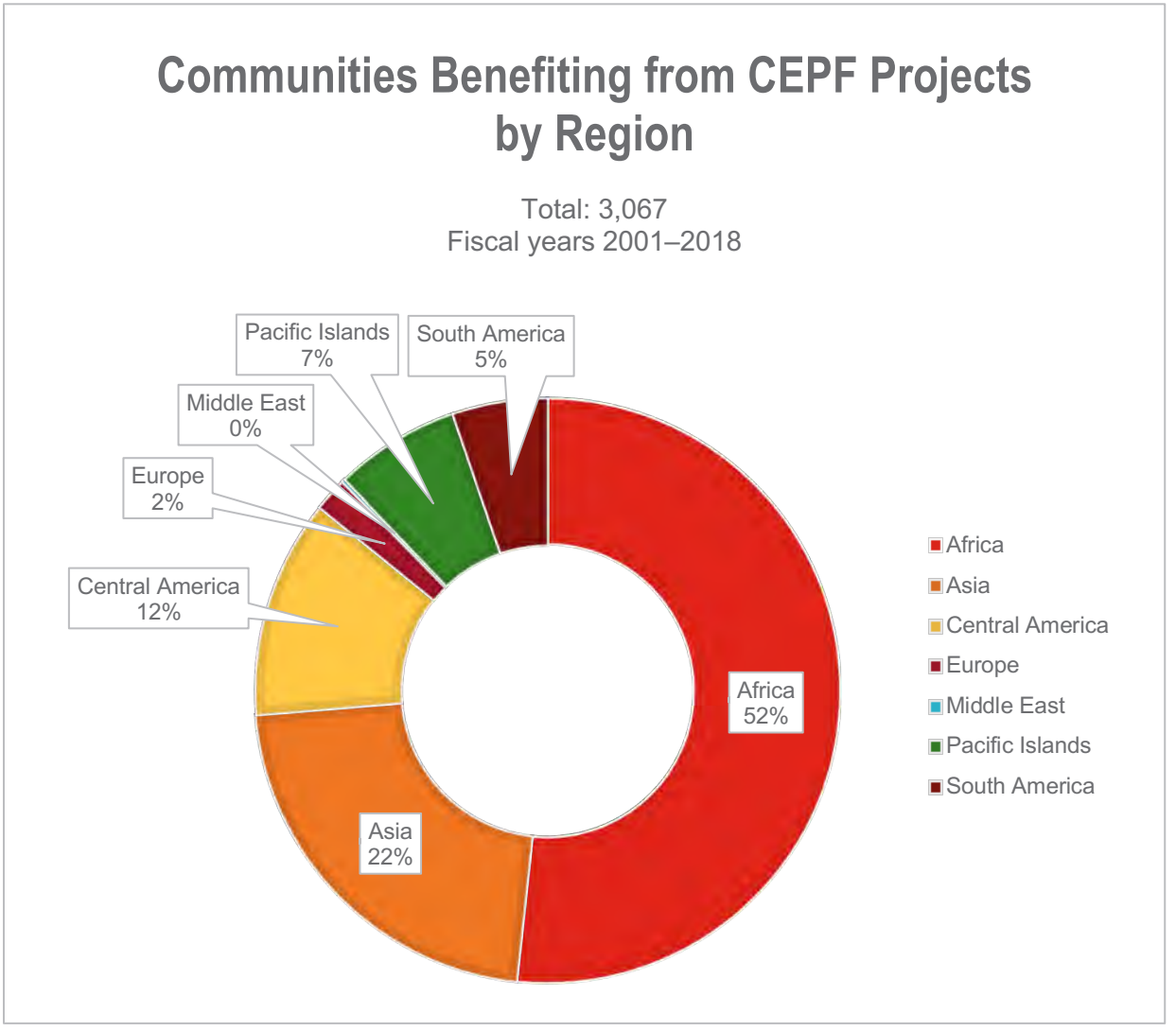
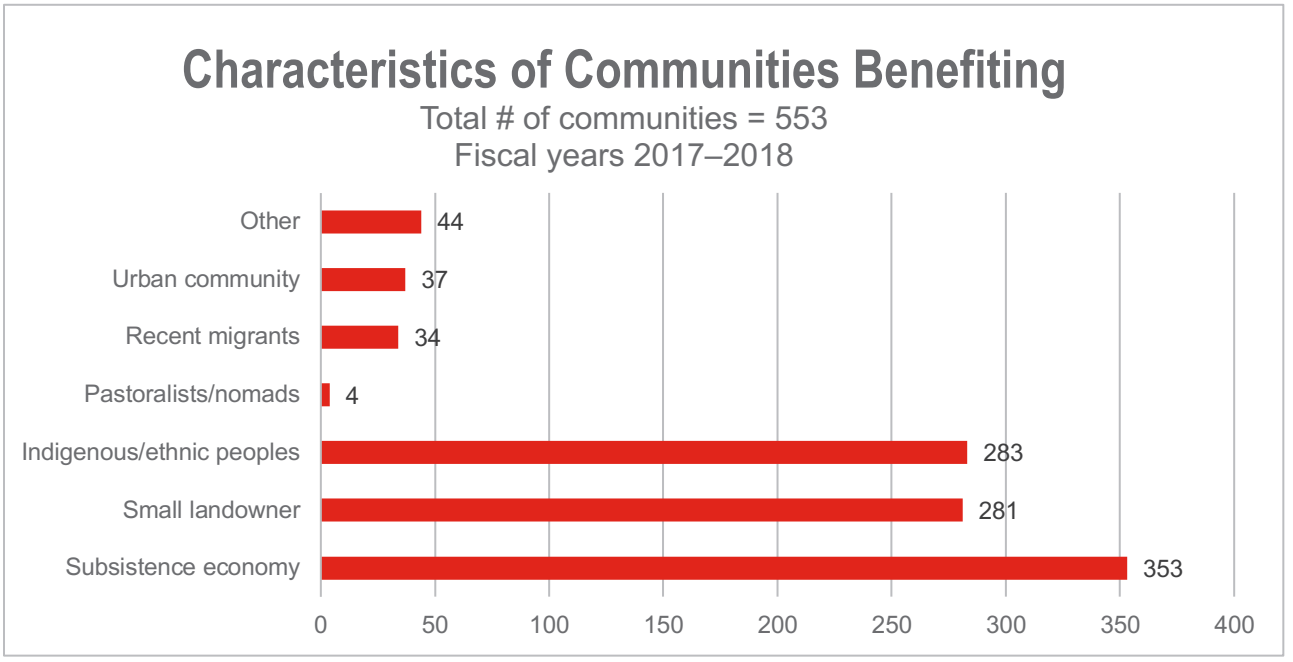
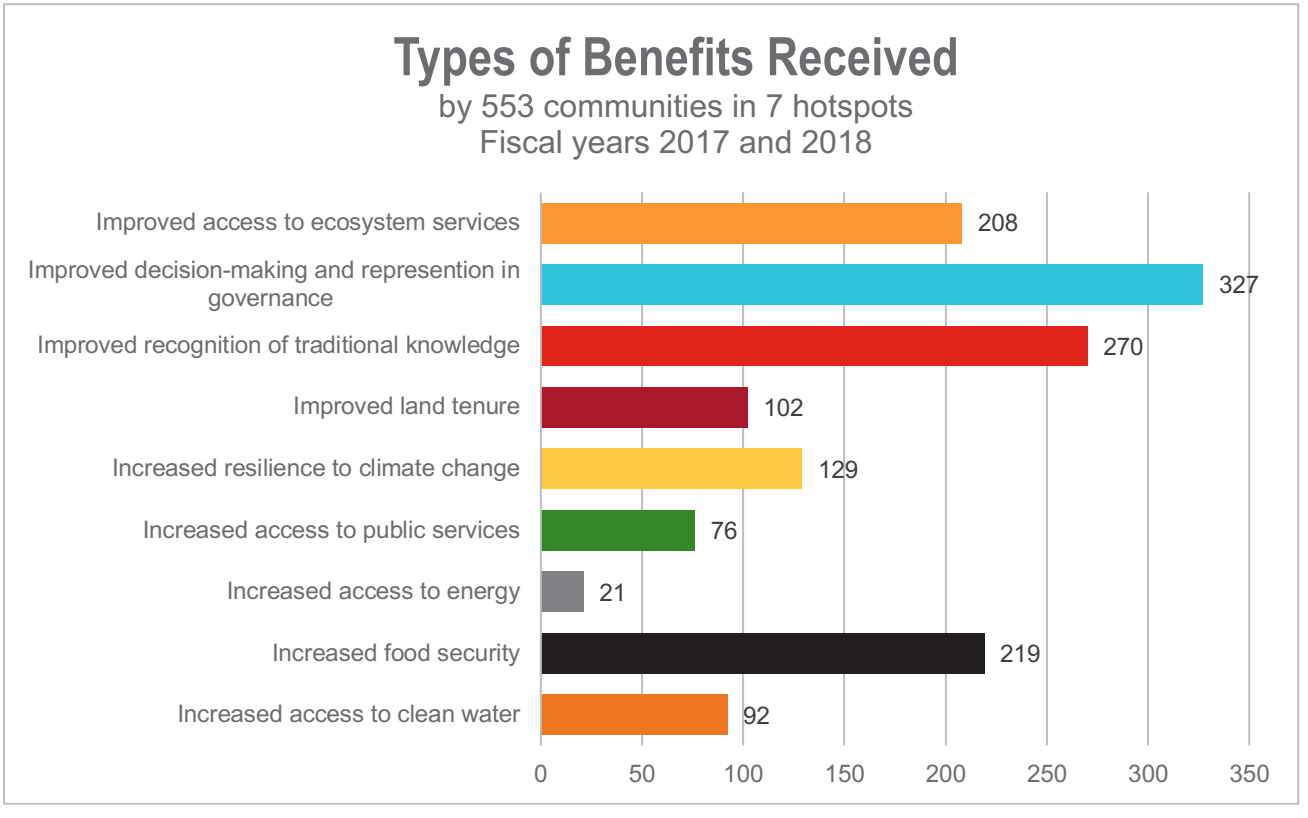


Figure 15



Note: Communities can have more than one characteristic.

Figure 16



Note: Communities can receive more than one type of benefit.

Indicator: Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change

Many CEPF projects support actions that safeguard natural ecosystems, which are essential for helping people adapt to changes in climate and for alleviating the negative impacts of climate change. In 2017, CEPF calculated the number of projects promoting nature-based solutions by compiling figures for the broad categories of projects strengthening protection and management of protected areas, KBAs and production landscapes, and found that CEPF had supported a total 317 such projects. In 2018, CEPF embarked on a new project to assign keywords to all of its projects. This task, now completed, allows more accurate identification of all the projects that include promotion of nature-based solutions to combat climate change. A search for all projects that contain one or more of the keywords listed below reveals that there are 1,159 projects, valued at US$113,160,388 that are likely to have promoted nature-based solutions to climate change.

Keywords: Buffer zones, carbon offsets, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, community-based conservation, conservation planning, ecosystem resilience, habitat conservation and management, land use planning, payment for ecosystem services, private reserves, protected areas, reforestation, restoration, soil conservation and water management.

1,159

PROJECTS PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Indicator: Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats

Adopted in 2017, this is a new indicator for which methodology is under development. Impact data is not yet available for this indicator.

CEPF Pillar 4: Enabling conditions for conservation

Data collected about pollution during beach clean-ups like this contributed to enactment of a new law in Vanuatu, in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. © Vanuatu Environmental Science Society

Indicator: Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended

Ensuring that there is an effective policy environment for conservation goals to be reached is an essential part of CEPF's work. To date CEPF has supported 143 projects with an explicit focus on biodiversity mainstreaming/policy work, valued at US$14.3 million. These projects have resulted in the enactment or amendment of 249 laws, policies or regulations, categorized into 15 themes: agriculture, climate, ecosystem management, education, energy, fisheries, forestry, mining/quarrying, planning/zoning, pollution, protected areas, species protection, tourism, transportation and wildlife trade. Ecosystem management is the most prevalent theme with 72 policies addressing this issue, followed by 56 addressing protected areas, 47 addressing species protection, and 45 addressing planning/zoning. Some policies address more than one theme.

Figure 17

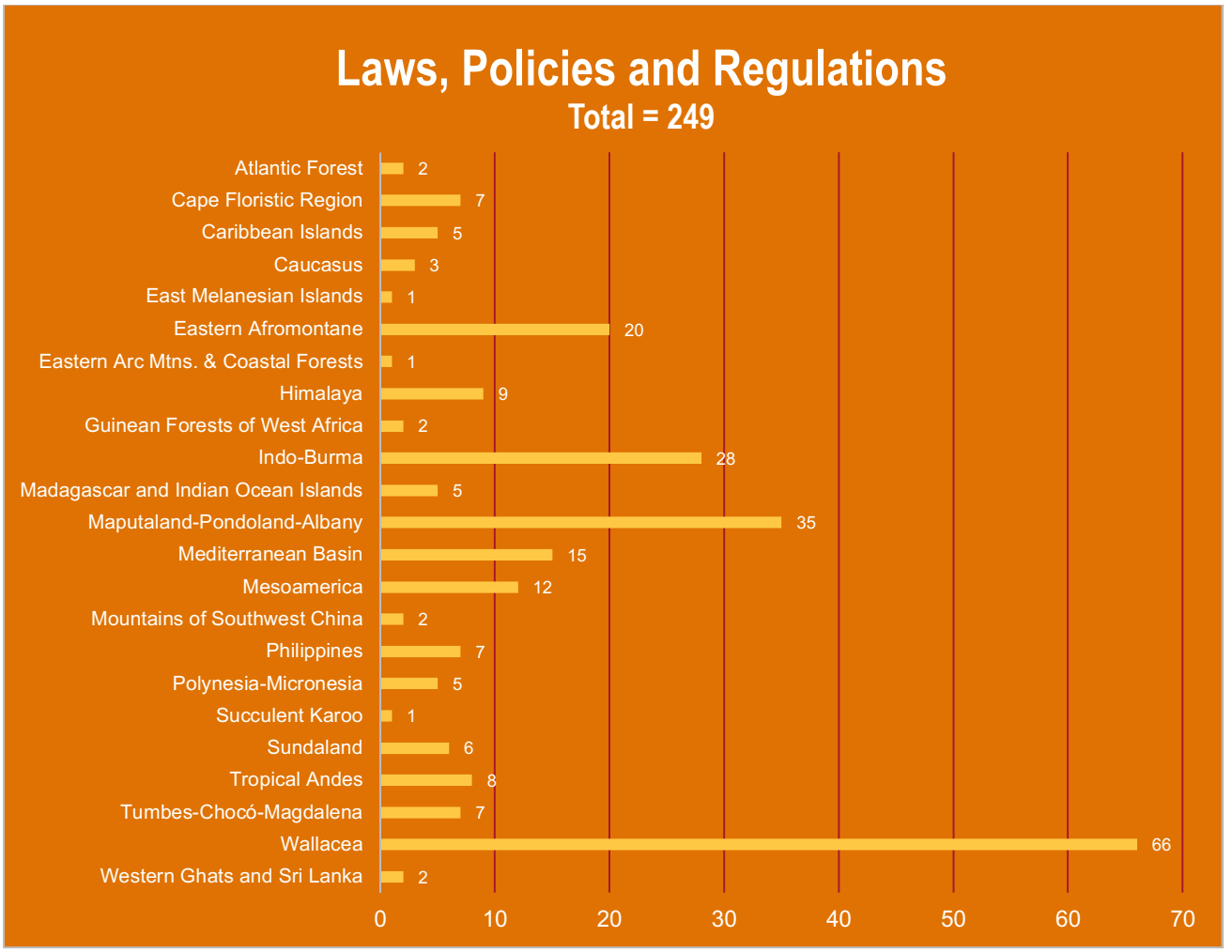
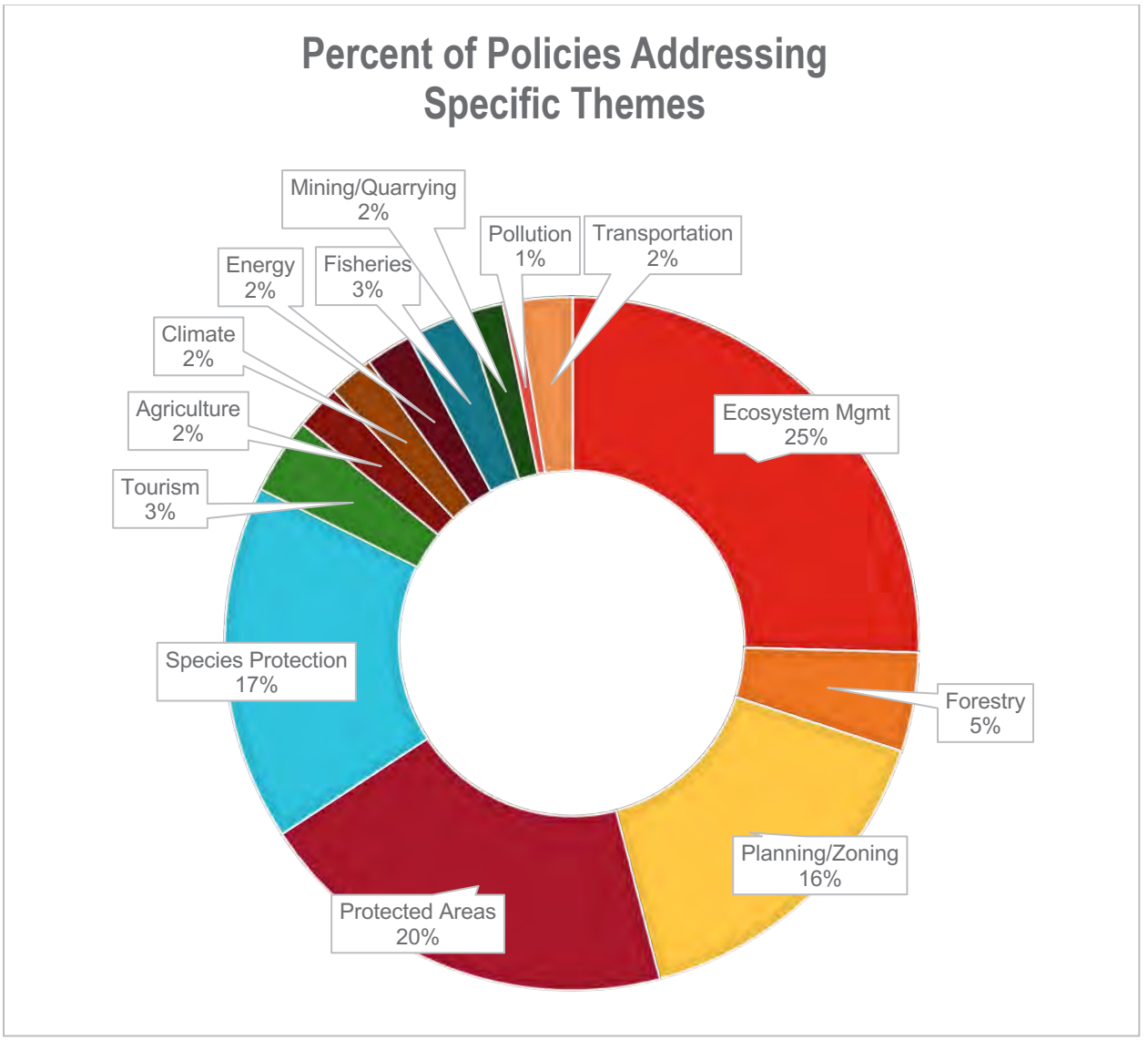

Laws, Policies and Regulations
Total = 249
Atlantic Forest 2
Cape Floristic Region 7
Caribbean Islands 5
Caucasus 3
East Melanesian Islands 1
Eastern Afromontane 20
Eastern Arc Mtns. & Coastal Forests 1
Himalaya 9
Guinean Forests of West Africa 2
Indo-Burma 28
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands 5
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany 35
Mediterranean Basin 15
Mesoamerica 12
Mountains of Southwest China 2
Philippines 7
Polynesia-Micronesia 5
Succulent Karoo 1
Sundaland 6
Tropical Andes 8
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena 7
Wallacea 66
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka 2
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

Figure 18


Percent of Policies Addressing Specific Themes
Mining/Quarrying 2%
Pollution 1%
Transportation 2%
Energy 2%
Fisheries 3%
Climate 2%
Agriculture 2%
Tourism 3%
Ecosystem Mgmt 25%
Species Protection 17%
Forestry 5%
Planning/Zoning 16%
Protected Areas 20%

Vanuatu Environmental Science Society

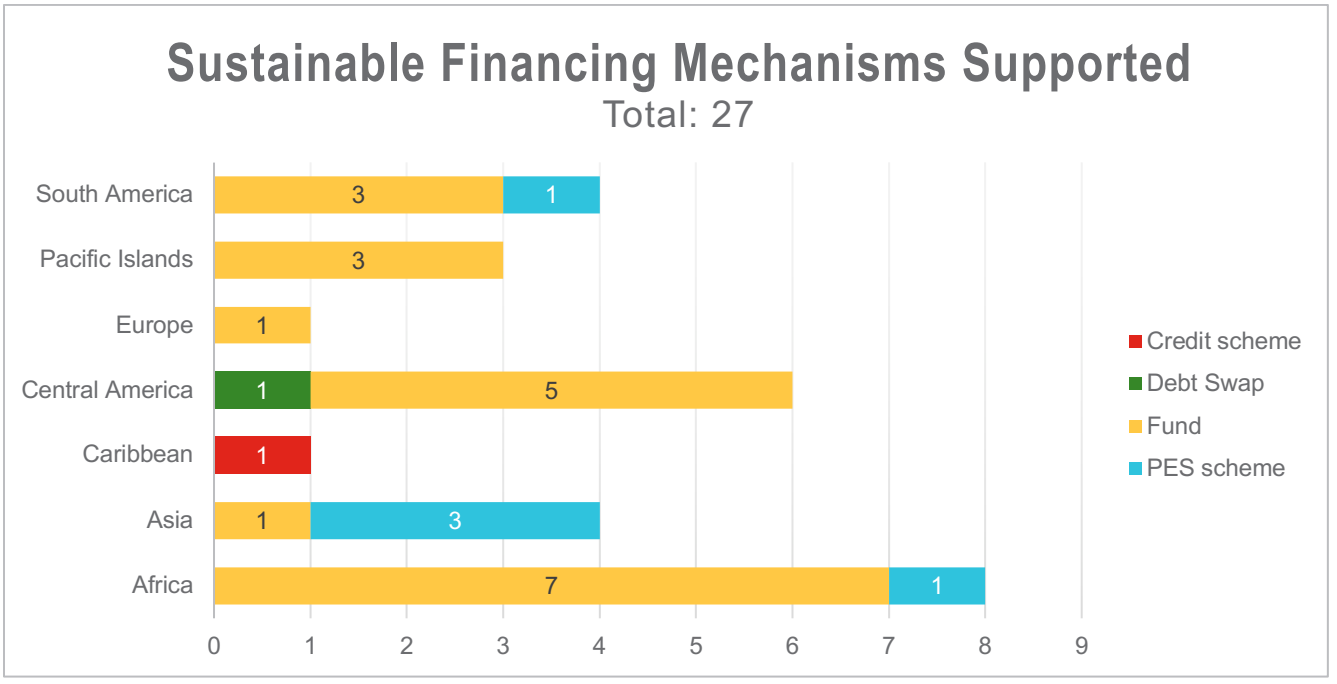
Participants in a litter clean-up project on Vanuatu, in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. © Vanuatu Environmental Science Society

Plastic waste litters the Pacific and causes immense damage to habitat and species. The Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (VESS) conducts coastal clean-ups, and recently began to collect data on the amount and type of litter found on beaches and in the ocean. The data was compelling and was used as evidence to persuade law makers that a ban was necessary and should include polystyrene takeaway containers and straws. A report was presented to the Government of Vanuatu, leading to a landmark policy achievement in February 2018—the Waste Management Regulations Order No. 15 of 2018: Control of plastic shopping bags, disposable containers and plastic straws. VESS anticipates that this new regulation will result in significant reduction in plastic pollution of the terrestrial and marine environment in Vanuatu.

Indicator: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation

In the past year, two new mechanisms have been established, bringing the total number of sustainable financing mechanisms created and/or supported to 27. These mechanisms vary in size, scope and type, and include conservation trust funds, debt swaps, and credit or payment for ecosystem service schemes.

Figure 19



Indicator: Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

In 2017 CEPF adopted a new indicator designed to measure efforts to change behavior within the private sector. This indicator specifically measures progress in getting companies to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices. Working with the private sector is not new to CEPF. Projects funded by CEPF have engaged companies in many sectors, involving a wide range of products. Data collection for this indicator is just starting, and it is expected that solid successes will be reported in fiscal year 2019. Some of the new efforts recently underway that are expected to yield positive results are listed below.

Engaging the private sector

Fisherman on Skadar Lake, Montenegro, in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. © Jamie Rojo

Sectors we work in: agriculture, energy, fisheries, food, forestry, health, mining and tourism.

Products/Industries CEPF grantees have been involved with:

- Agriculture (sustainable small-scale farming)
- Alternative energy (briquettes, fuel-efficient cookstoves)
- Aromatic plants (ylang-ylang)
- Barley
- Beekeeping
- Brazil nut
- Bushmeat
- Butterfly farming
- Cacao
- Carbon credits
- Cement
- Citrus
- Coconut (oil, cosmetics)
- Coffee

Continued on page 42.

- Decorative arts (matts, boxes, decorations, wood carvings)
- Electricity
- Energy (hydropower)
- Fisheries (fish, octopus, giant clams)
- Flowers (floristry, protea)
- Game ranching
- Handicrafts
- Livestock (beef, lamb, goats)
- Medicinal herbs
- Mining (sustainable gold mining)
- Mohair
- Neem (oil, fertilizer, repellant)
- Organic food crops
- Ornamental plants (orchids)
- Ostrich
- Palm Oil
- Peanuts
- Rice
- Rooibos
- Rubber
- Sugar
- Tea
- Tourism
- Tree seed oils
- Water
- Wine
- Wool

Table 5

Examples of Private Sector Engagement	
Brazil **Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot**	The Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola (IMAFLORA), as a founding member of the Cerrado Waters Consortium, along with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Ecological Research Institute (IPÊ), is working with the Cerrado Coffee Growers Federation and Cooxupé (a coffee cooperative), as well as Nespresso, to influence the creation of a pilot payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme in the municipality of Patrocínio. This PES scheme aims to spur the adoption of good agricultural practices in coffee production areas, habitat restoration and water conservation. Ultimately this pilot could be replicated in other municipalities in the Cerrado Mineiro Region and other agricultural value chains.
Seychelles **Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**	Silhouette Island hosts the largest population of the world's rarest bat, the Critically Endangered Seychelles sheath-tailed bat (*Coleura seychellensis*). Island Conservation Society is working with hotel and resort operators to develop a management plan and a biosafety protocol to prevent the introduction of invasive species, and to initiate best environmental practices in the tourism industry.
Rwanda **Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**	The Gishwati-Mukura National Park is the focus of Forest for Hope Association. The association is working with mining companies that operate legally on the park's borders to improve practices that will lead to decreases in sediment flow into the Sebeya River, which feeds into Lake Kivu, a freshwater Key Biodiversity Area.
Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana **Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot**	The organization Man and Nature is working to demonstrate the efficiency of the community-based conservation model and to illustrate that synergies can be, and need to be, created between conservation and economic development of communities in the Tanoé and Kwabre swamp forests of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. They are developing green value chains that adapt global best practices to the local context in partnership with private companies, local communities and government bodies.

Contributions to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

Table 6

Aichi Biodiversity Target		Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
	Target 1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	At least 149,066 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.	CEPF has supported a total of 541 projects with a primary emphases Education and Awareness, and Capacity Building, valued at US$39,637,948.
	Target 2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has influenced 249 policies, laws or regulations in 24 biodiversity hotspots.	CEPF has supported a total of 143 projects in 24 hotspots with a primary focus on Mainstreaming Biodiversity, valued at US$14,357,163.
	Target 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,085,743 hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 256 projects with a primary emphasis on Strengthening Management Outside Protected Areas, totaling US$24,459,495.
	Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Biosecurity plans prepared. Eradications undertaken. IAS training delivered.	CEPF has supported 87 projects with a component dedicated to addressing Invasive Alien Species, totaling US$6,450,653, in 11 biodiversity hotspots.
	Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,835,510 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 46,527,673 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 22 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,085,743 hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 556 projects with primary emphases on Protected Areas Creation, and improved management, totaling US$62,420,611.
	Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	At least 1,250 species have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 428 projects with a focus on Species Conservation, totaling US$34,599,215.
	Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011--2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 27 sustainable finance mechanisms that remain active, including five functioning PES schemes.	CEPF has supported 62 projects with a primary emphasis on Conservation Finance, totaling US$7,455,716.

Contributions to U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

Table 7

Sustainable Development Goal		Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
	Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	3,067 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved access to water, improved land tenure and increased representation in decision-making and governance. Since collection of data about types of benefits communities receive started in 2017, 219 communities have reported increased food security. 149,066 people benefiting from structured training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. Topics include coconut oil production, beekeeping, bookkeeping, gardening, horticulture, organic practices, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable harvest of medicinal plants. 8.08 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.	CEPF has supported 215 projects with a primary focus on Human Well-being, totaling US$18,414,593. 120 projects totaling US$12,514,320 with specific components on Agroforestry and Agriculture.
	Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	149,066 people receiving structured training. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, 34,264 women reported to have received training. Training topics were diverse such as beekeeping, sustainable tourism, medicinal plant production, environmental education, leadership, financial management and field survey techniques.	CEPF has supported 608 projects with a component/ emphasis on Capacity Building, valued at US$73,594,613. CEPF has supported 552 projects with a component/ emphasis on Education and Awareness, valued at US$47,421,296.
	Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 47,598 women and girls were recorded as receiving non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.	Introduction in 2017 of collection of sex-disaggregated data from grantees. Introduction in 2017 of new monitoring tool to measure change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues. Preparation and launch of a Gender Toolkit.
	Goal 6 ─ Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Since 2017, 16 percent of communities receiving non-cash benefits report increased access to clean water as a benefit.	CEPF has supported 250 projects associated with Wetland Habitats, valued at US$16,509,413. 136 projects valued at US$11,510,350 with a focus on Freshwater, covering a range of topics such as research and assessment, biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management. 68 projects with an emphasis on Water Management, located in various habitats, valued at $6,730,879.

	Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Since start of collection of number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, over 55,000 people reported to have received cash benefits.	Human well-being projects have taken place in 55 countries and territories.
	Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	8.08 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices. Enactment or amendment of 249 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.	39 projects totaling US$2,992,539 located in Agricultural / Artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.
	Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving: ▪ Restoration ▪ Tree planting ▪ Training in forest carbon technical work ▪ Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments ▪ Watershed management and restoration ▪ Mangrove/ coastal zone management ▪ Sustainable coastal tourism ▪ Climate change modeling ▪ Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	CEPF has supported 432 projects aimed at Strengthening Protection and Management of Areas within and outside of Protected Areas, thereby promoting nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects are valued at US$45,801,666. Since 2017, 23 percent of communities receiving non-cash benefits record increased resilience to climate change as a benefit.
	Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	More than 60 coastal protected areas benefiting from increased protection and management.	CEPF has supported 138 projects associated with marine and coastal habitat, valued at US$10,288,799. 32 Small Island Developing States receiving CEPF funds.
	Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14.8 million hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 46.5 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 22 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8.08 million hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots. At least 1,250 IUCN Red List species listed as CR, EN, and VU have benefited from CEPF support. 62 projects totaling US$6,468,293 focused on reducing wildlife trafficking, with targeted efforts to reduce demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolins, turtles and tortoises and a range of other species.	CEPF has supported 557 projects with primary emphases on Protected Area Creation and improved management, totaling US$62,440,604. 87 projects with a component dedicated to addressing Invasive Alien Species, totaling US$6,450,653, in 11 biodiversity hotspots. 432 projects totaling US$45,801,666 aimed at Strengthening Protection and Management of Areas within and outside of Protected Areas. CEPF has supported 428 projects with a focus on Species Conservation, totaling US$34,599,215.

	Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	278 networks/partnerships supported, 222 of which CEPF helped to create. 187 civil society organizations out of 270 in 10 biodiversity hotspots, for which two Civil Society Organizational Capacity Assessments have been completed, report an increase in their organizational capacity.	CEPF has supported 296 projects with an explicit focus on Civil Society Capacity Building and Networking, valued at US$24,934,398. All CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity since 2009

Conclusion

2018 has been an eventful year in which hotspots not previously featured have been able to illustrate some of their contributions to CEPF's global impact. The East Melanesian Islands in particular, a region at the mid-point of its CEPF investment, is seeing projects come to fruition and incredible successes in a region where conservation achievements are few. The Vanuatu Environmental Science Society is a stellar example, where their efforts to enact Vanuatu's first law regulating plastics such as polystyrene take-away containers and plastic straws, will result in significant reduction in plastic pollution of the terrestrial and marine environment in Vanuatu. Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, also nearing the mid-point of its CEPF investment, is starting to document achievements as well, the Grand Police wetlands in Seychelles providing an exciting example. The results of the Marine Conservation Society of the Seychelles' comprehensive research will be used to guide future tourism developments in this priority area to the benefit of biodiversity.

Overall, CEPF continues to make significant contributions to biodiversity conservation, civil society, human well-being and the underlying enabling environment that are essential for long-term conservation success. Contributions are relevant on the local level, as well as the global level, as evidenced by documentation about programmatic and operational contributions to the Aichi targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019, we look forward to seeing results come in from hotspots that are just now starting to generate impact data: Wallacea, Cerrado and Guinean Forests of West Africa. The year will also involve a continuing focus on refining CEPF's electronic reporting system to ensure smooth report submission by grantees and improved data extraction and compilation by CEPF. Our goal is to complete the integration of the monitoring process into a single system, so that we can devote full attention to our results and what they mean on the global scale.

Military macaw *(Ara militaris)*. © O. Langrand

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY BY EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Offices located at:
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202 USA

www.cepf.net