

CONSERVATION IMPACTS FOR THE CERRADO HOTSPOT



Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>An ideal (positive) long-term strategic vision for the Cerrado Hotspot as a whole considering the complex articulation of its varied conservation and productive landscapes.</p>	<p>The RIT developed the long-term for the Cerrado, which the Donor Council endorsed in December 2019, encompasses revised strategic directions adapting some of the lessons learned from the first phase of the CEPF and adding new aspects emerging from the experiences so far. Geographically this long-term vision concentrates its investments in the most endangered areas in the Cerrado, specifically the Matopiba Region. Nevertheless, the RIT suggested adding some formed regions of investment not to lose momentum. Thematically the work with ecosystems services, especially water provision for agriculture and the urban centers, was strengthened. From the implementation of the first phase, the long-term vision intensifies the work with local CSOs to reach out in such a diverse territory and reboot the environmental movement after the COVID and the adverse political climate. More details are described in the long-term vision document. In addition to the long-term vision document, the IEB (RIT) developed an organizational vision to act in the Cerrado hotspot. The geographical focus is on the Aliança Nosso Cerrado territory, and the IEB will concentrate its effort on working with NTFP products, mainly the Baru nut, and the restoration agenda.</p>
<p>An effective, transparent and coordinated system established in the Cerrado Hotspot for CEPF proposal solicitation and review, which creates local ownership and succeeds in reaching out to a diverse range of local, national and international civil society organizations.</p>	<p>The RIT managed to improve the process by adding training, communication and external reviewers. The 1st call was opened in 2016. Relevant documents were in both languages and IEB prepared additional instructions. The first 6 SDs were eligible so we could gain an overview of the demand. 145 LOIs were received. This 1st call represented 60% of the investment made. The 2nd call opened in 2017 and was more selective to fill in areas with a recognized gap. In geographic terms, less LOI had been received from the Matopiba during the 1st call, since the density of CSOs in the region is low. Therefore, the RIT intensified the outreach and announced the 2nd call in MA and BA. The financial limit for SGs was raised from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000 to attract organizations and the outreach for the 3rd call visited cities in MG; MS; SP and PI. The objectives during the outreaches were: to make CEPF known, advertise</p>

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	<p>for the calls and to train the participants. The 3rd call opened in 2018 and focused on the priority corridors. After the 3rd call, almost all portfolio targets were expected to be reached, except for IP 6.2 (CSOs' training). This led to a 4th call opened in 2020 in collaboration with the Cerrado Alliance. The 5th call opened in 2021 and aimed at communicating CEPF results.</p>
<p>At least 60 local civil society organizations including at least 40 local and indigenous organizations of the Cerrado Hotspot engaged in the conservation of its ecosystem functions and threatened biodiversity with positive consequences for human wellbeing in the biome.</p>	<p>After CEPF closed in the Cerrado, we had 54 beneficiary organizations (52 local and two international) and over 560 other organizations representing civil society associated with the direct beneficiaries. CEPF was not able to reach many indigenous organizations directly. Most of this work was undertaken by qualified organizations, which led and developed proposals with the indigenous peoples in the hotspot.</p>
<p>At least 85 percent of local civil society organizations receiving grants with increased capacities to manage their life territories and to actively participate in conservation actions and public policies.</p>	<p>Those involved with the CEPF increased their ability to manage their territories and improved their living conditions. The CSTTs showed a slight improvement, but the long-term positive impacts are more difficult to document. Of the 54 organizations, 47 responded to the CSTT, and 81% demonstrated more effective capacity in managing resources according to CEPF and government rules, achieving goals and objectives, and learning to mobilize more resources. CEPF, for example, was very active during the COVID crisis, when many organizations suffered from a lack of government support or the breakdown of the natural product supply chains they were working. Therefore, the donor's support kept these organizations active during the pandemic and allowed them to raise more resources to continue the actions and activities.</p> <p>In political advocacy, some organizations have mobilized and drafted recommendations in Cerrado's defense to presidential candidates in the 2018 election campaign. With a new government that will begin in 2023, the expectation is that the environmental agenda will be taken up again with support from public authorities and other international donors, who have already shown interest in returning their investments in Brazil but only highlighting the Amazon.</p>
<p>At least \$2 million funding leveraged from other donors towards the priorities set in the Ecosystem Profile.</p>	<p>\$2.757.385</p>

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	<p>The RIT successfully leverages resources from seven grants:</p> <p>CI - US \$142,383 - Project to create municipal protected areas in 10 priority municipalities in MATOPIBA, 5 in Bahia, and 5 in the Tocantins, Brazilian states, financed by Conservation International. 2019/2021.</p> <p>Preparation of a GEF project - US \$50,000 - In 2021, the project proposal "Cerrado standing with income generation: the baru production chain as an ally of biodiversity and traditional communities" was submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), FUNBIO, and the Ministry of Economy. The project received endorsement from this ministry in the same year and proceeded to GEF's analysis. In May 2022, the technical project was approved, which led us to the preparation phase, to talk to partners, visit the territories of action for alignment with the target audience and start the mobilization and articulations for the realization of the project in the north/northeast of Goiás. This work was carried out between August and November 2022. The project is financed by program 7 of the Global Environmental Fund - GEF 7. 2022/2026</p> <p>GEF - US \$1,883,369 - (this resource will be transferred to the IEB after approval of the full proposal that will be submitted to GEF and FUNBIO in December 2022) Project aimed at the extractive chain of Baru, focused on the northeast region of Goiás, in 3 municipalities in the state of Goiás. The project is financed by program 7 of the Global Environmental Fund - GEF 7. 2022/2026</p> <p>Aliança Nosso Cerrado - US \$108,205 - Fundraising with network members to continue the Acelera Cerrado program, aimed at civil society organizations in legal issues, through management and communication, as well as fundraising. This project was executed by the Impact Hub in Brasilia in 2021.</p> <p>Furnas Centrais Elétricas S/A - US \$38.355 - Execution of a project that focused on capacity building of local communities in environmental education and ecological restoration and the</p>

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	<p>restoration of 3ha in the Bagagem river basin, in Niquelândia, Goiás 2022/2023</p> <p>PNUD/Ministry of Environment (MMA) – US \$ 466,695 - Fundraising with UNDP to strengthen four local productive arrangements in the herbal medicine chain in the Cerrado, with technical assistance and grants. As a result, it seeks the insertion of some natural remedies in the public health system and market access.</p> <p>Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (IPHAN) – US \$68,378 - Technical instruction process for the registration of the Craft of the <i>Raizeiras and Raizeiros do Cerrado</i> as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Brazil.</p>

Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years

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<p>A structured Regional Implementation Team (RIT) providing strategic leadership and coordinating the CEPF investment in the Cerrado Hotspot.</p>	<p>Michael Becker provided overall coordination of the team as the RIT Leader since 2016. The full-time Grants Manager, Camila Pinheiro de Castro, was the second staff member of the RIT until late 2018 and was substituted by Claudia Sachetto in early 2019. Aryanne Amaral, the third full-time staff, reinforced the team in 2017 as a Project Assistant and was responsible for communications as well. Michael Jackson of Oliveira Alves, a GIS specialist in charge of monitoring, first joined the team as an intern and then became the fourth full-time employee in 2019. This core team was additionally supported by Magdalena Lambert, IEB's Financial Officer, Wladia Alves da Silvé, IEB's Financial Assistant, Ailton Dias, IEB's office coordinator in charge of the capacity building/public policy aspects for the RIT, and by Maria-José Gontijo, founder and General Coordinator of IEB.</p>
<p>A set of networks and/or alliances of civil society organizations strengthened, and with enhanced skills to participate in relevant policy forums.</p>	<p>We had four big moves in Hotspot Cerrado:</p> <p>One of them was the civil society movement to contribute to political decisions. The SCOs released a publication containing policy strategies for the hotspot, where eighteen organizations formulated goals in 5 central pillars: responsible socioeconomic development, sustainable use, biodiversity</p>

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	<p>conservation, deforestation reduction, and native vegetation restoration. The document resulted from inter-institutional consultations, including a seminar at the national congress and a workshop in 2018. After the election in 2018, a pro-active and positive environmental agenda ceased, forcing the political activities to concentrate on assuring rights and sustaining a minimal functioning of the civil society movement across the territory.</p> <p>Another movement was based on gender actions, where we can highlight the activities implemented by ECOA and ActionAid, which held three events in 2019 focused on strengthening the articulation and visibility of women in the Cerrado. The Cerrado's Women Meeting held a series of debates during the celebrations of the National Cerrado Day (September, 11th), entitled Women of the Cerrado – knowledge, experiences, and resilience. These meetings involved approximately 230 women, who had the opportunity to create links and exchange experiences. The major outcome was a national report about gender and its contribution to the environmental agenda, which entered the list of the seven global highlights of the 2019 CEPF Impact Report.</p> <p>The main objectives of these meetings were: a) to strengthen women's political organization; b) to give social visibility to their experiences as protagonists of the environmental and political resilience of its people, and c) to build solidarity with the challenges faced by women in the territories through their political empowerment.</p> <p>The RIT promoted a virtual meeting of beneficiaries and partners to present the program impacts and outline new strategies and partnerships based on the network formed during CEPF's implementation years. This meeting allowed the identification of strategic actions in the territory as well. For instance, we can highlight: 1) the partnership between FAPEG/LAPIG and FUNDACCER that enabled the mapping of areas for carbon estimates and good practices in coffee production. 2) In the Grande Sertão Veredas Mosaic, through an effort made by AMDA and other organizations, it was possible to put pressure on the actions of a multinational company - Brasil Agro - preventing the</p>

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	<p>implementation of a project in Bonito de Minas (MG), which would lead to the deforestation of more than 10 thousand hectares in an important area for the biodiversity conservation and for the extractivist activities of traditional populations.</p> <p>Another unexpected impact was the establishment of a network to discuss the baru chain, which brought together several actors. CEPF's investments in strengthening extractivism and good practices allowed some cooperatives to obtain quality seals and reach a recognized supermarket chain in Brazil and companies abroad, which increased sales of Cerrado sociobiodiversity products. The work in the baru chain was one of the first steps to guarantee income generation and conservation in the territories of traditional populations.</p>
<p>A minimum of 40 small grants (less than \$20,000 each) and about 60 large grants successfully disbursed to a diverse range of local, national and international civil society organizations in the Cerrado Hotspot, addressing the priorities identified in the Ecosystem Profile.</p>	<p>99.8% of the allocated resources for projects have been invested. The CEPF benefited 31 small grants and 34 large grants, including the RIT. It's essential to mention that the limit of US\$20,000 was lifted after the 1st call to US\$50,000. This change was a result of the implementation costs in Brazil. It improved the management quality of the projects, but consequently reduced the number of possible grants (from the expected 40 small grants to 31). The lower commitment of funds compared to the available budget under Strategic Direction 1 resulted from 2 factors: Firstly, CEPF focused on supporting smaller CSOs. Secondly, direct investment in those supply chains needs long-standing relationships. IEB had no long-standing relationships with the private sector in Cerrado. Nonetheless, CEPF was able to support a major project linked to a global commodity: coffee. In this case, it's important to note that sustainable water management for production was a much more robust argument reinforcing the need for investment. On the other hand, Strategic Direction 2 received more attention due to the desired commitment to support traditional communities. Two projects on these issues represent more than a third of the investment under that Strategic Direction. In addition, some of the investments included COVID-19 relief actions. Fostering the creation of private reserves was also another primary drive under Strategic Direction 2. The minor</p>

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	<p>deviations under Strategic Direction 4 and Strategic Direction 5 are explained through the reallocation of funds to other Strategic Directions.</p>
<p>The CEPF portfolio in the hotspot is effectively monitored and reported on, using a system which captures high-quality performance data as well as lessons learned.</p>	<p>Michael Jackson de Oliveira Alves, the GIS specialist in charge of monitoring, was responsible for closely monitoring the portfolio in close collaboration with CEPF. When he joined the team in 2019, most of the projects still had to report back to the RIT, and the team still had some more calls to launch. With his help and the implementation of Wrike, ONA, and Tableau as online monitoring systems, it was possible to accurately register individual small grants' progresses under the RIT's direct supervision. The registration of the progress of large grants was done directly on ConservationGrants, the grant making system of the CEPF Secretariat. The RIT also introduced additional analysis with the software Tableau and conducted network analysis with the software Gephi.</p>
<p>A multilayered strategy to mainstream the results of the CEPF grant portfolio into public policies and private sector practices is developed and successfully implemented.</p>	<p>During the first phase of the CEPF in the Cerrado (2016), the engagement with the private sector was based on the LOI the CEPF received considering the four major strategic directions. In each if this strategic direction a first relation with the private sector was built through the LOIs, then further developed and refined. As this is the first phase of the CEPF in the Cerrado and many other groups – donors; SCOs; and private sector entities – already established mature dialogues processes to diminish negative impact on natural resources; like Roundtable on Responsible Soy or the Brazilian Roundtable on Sustainable Livestock; the CEPF looked at opportunities were the Fund could make a difference in terms of implementing time and specific niches. The CEPF in the Cerrado had a limited scope to operate when it comes to private sector engagement, since there is the need to develop solid relationships with the private sector partners to create conservation impacts and mainstream biodiversity conservation into business practices. Building these relationships takes time.</p> <p>To accelerate the process after the first calls (2016-2017), the RIT pursued the strategy to start relations with the private sector through the established portfolio. The RIT either introduced the CEPF to the private sector partners through the grantees or explored possible connections in a specific territory</p>

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	<p>shared by a private partner. These two options were reasonable to start the conversation with the private partners hoping to mainstream biodiversity into their practices. Nonetheless, the RIT chose to work with some specific private sector entities according to their interests and the best-expected impact considering our strategies. Some of these partnerships prospered, others failed. We explored these connections to the private partners, according to the SD and to sectors in which we have found private partners interested, like: responsible commodities production, responsible extractivism of Cerrado fruits, sustainable finance, and protected areas.</p> <p>After 2018, mainstreaming into public policies was impossible considering the political environment which was averse to environmental protection and disregarded a proactive and positive environmental agenda. The private sector remained open in the case of the coffee sector, but timid when it came to implementing new conservation activities. Nonetheless, the CEPF funds concentrated on the local arenas with state level authorities and municipal council for the environment.</p> <p>Some of the suggestions and strategies developed at the Cerrado das Água Consortium are being accepted by the major players in the supply chain. This was also possible to thought a massive investment and continuous mentoring.</p>
<p>CEPF investment in the Cerrado and resulting best practices are widely communicated to a broad audience both within the hotspot and internationally, through a variety of media.</p>	<p>The initial efforts to communicate CEPF through RIT were limited due to the staff allocated to manage the entire program. Aryanne Amaral worked hard to meet this demand, as there were many technical tasks that were being supervised by her as her main activity. A 5th call was released to reinforce the communication component in search of an institution that could take care of RIT's communication actions and disseminate the content generated by IEB and grantees. Some examples were: the final videos, news about the projects, and a final publication that brings together the impacts, results, and interviews from CEPF Cerrado.</p>

Unexpected impacts

During the program's implementation in the Cerrado, a new voluntary and self-declaratory way to protect communities' territories emerged, giving more visibility to the territories of traditional peoples and communities. The international concept of territories, and areas conserved by Indigenous People and communities, also called 'Territories of Life,' or ICCAs, was introduced in alignment with what was stated in the Ecosystem Profile. The designation of ICCAs in the Cerrado is an exciting strategy since the process brings various advantages:

1. It gives the traditional territories international visibility.
2. It is a self-declaratory process.
3. Peers do the recognition.
4. The territories could be recognized as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).
5. The territories are registered in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

In the Cerrado, the creation of ICCAs is a good alternative for conservation, considering the lack of new initiatives to create new protected areas in the last decade. The RIT had meaningful participation in this process, mobilizing and encouraging at least ten organizations from the portfolio to act on this front with the communities of the portfolio. Several meetings were held with the organizations and the communities to present and answer questions about the registration process. The RIT also actively translated some of the WDPA materials into Portuguese and worked directly with the WDPA colleagues to facilitate the registration process. The first ICCA in Brazil was the Kalunga Historic Site and Cultural Heritage, registered by AQK, one of the program's grantees (CEPF-100459). The challenge was greater than expected due to the size of the territory: 39 communities spread over 216,000 hectares were involved. The RIT participated in the support and mobilization of this action. Nonetheless, AQK concluded the case study inserted in the ICCA Consortium Website and the WDPA database. We expect the territory to gain visibility and investment to strengthen the communities and forest conservation in the Historic Site. With the repercussions of this first registration in Brazil, the RIT understood that this agenda could gain momentum in the communities and the traditional people of the Cerrado. This is the reason why the RIT stimulated the creation of another ICCA, this time with COPABASE, another grantee of the program (CEPF-100461). The Urucua Grande Sertão River Territory was the second ICCA created in Brazil and in direct collaboration with the RIT.