

## **Annual Portfolio Overview Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands July 2016 – June 2017**

### **Introduction**

The Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot (MADIO Hotspot) comprises the island of Madagascar and neighboring islands and archipelagos in the western Indian Ocean, covering a total land area of 600,461 km<sup>2</sup>. While the different islands of the hotspot share specific biogeographical features, they form a single unit characterized by a wide disparity in scale in terms of both land mass and human population. Madagascar, an island-continent, makes up about 95 percent of the hotspot's land area and is home to about 98 percent of the population, overwhelming the three island groups of Comoros, Seychelles, the Mascarene Islands (comprising La Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues) and other scattered islands in the Western Indian Ocean in those respects.

The hotspot has often been considered a priority among hotspots, because of its extreme diversity—with about 15,000 plant species, of which more than 12,000 are endemic—and because of the high-level taxonomic endemism, which demonstrates distinct evolutionary mechanisms related to the isolation of the hotspot. The area also qualifies as a hotspot due to a very high level of degraded natural ecosystems. While human well-being and economic development rely heavily on ecosystems, the environment of the hotspot is under immense threat. Humans have deeply disturbed ecosystems and biodiversity across the hotspot for centuries, but today enhanced anthropogenic pressures due to population growth and exacerbated by climate change seriously threaten the already degraded and often fragmented ecosystems. Deforestation and habitat loss continue at an alarming rate in Madagascar and the Comoros, mostly as a response to the need for farmland and energy for the growing local communities. Wild species are overexploited for local consumption or international markets—a situation that is especially a concern in regard to coastal resources, which provide a majority of the protein for the hotspot's people. In Madagascar, the mining industry, while in a position to provide economic benefits to the country, also threatens sites of high biodiversity value.

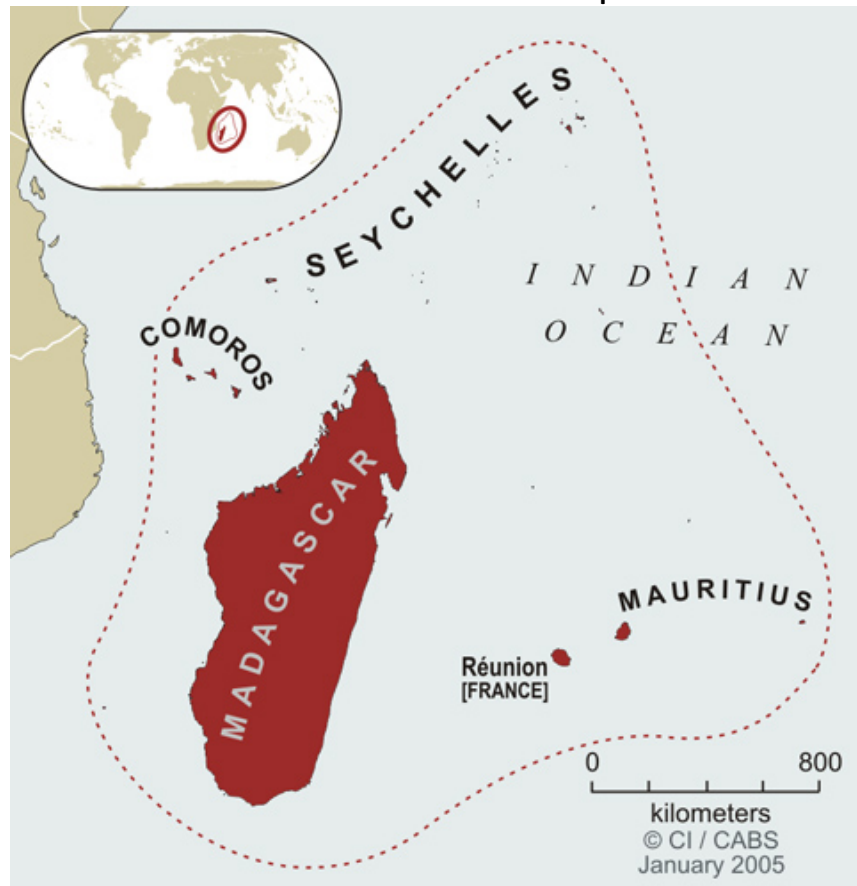
Focusing on 38 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (among the 369 identified in the region), CEPF intends to enable a stronger voice, influence and action by civil society in the region, to tackle the immense environmental challenges of the hotspot. CEPF considers strengthening the conservation community, at

local, national and regional level, as an important element for safeguarding the natural wealth of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot.

Annual Portfolio Overviews (APOs) aim at providing an update on progress of CEPF's investment strategy. This particular APO covers progress in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot from July 2015 to June 2016.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot benefits from an additional contribution from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

**Figure 1. General Map of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot**



## I- Niche for CEPF Investment

### 1. Overview

The CEPF niche for investment was formulated through an inclusive participatory process involving the national, sub-regional and expert consultations during the Ecosystem Profiling process which took place in 2013-2014. The niche is also based on a geographical prioritization process to reduce the number of KBAs and corridors to a level commensurate with the funding that is likely to be available. This process involved the interplay of several criteria, namely biodiversity priority, past and current donor investment levels, protection status, significant threats and provision of ecosystem services.

The CEPF niche in the hotspot was defined to take advantage of CEPF’s ability to provide variable levels of funding, in particular with its small grants mechanism. In this context, the niche is intended to enable CEPF to support the emergence and strengthening of local organizations that could work toward the implementation of site-based conservation actions, maximizing the chances of local ownership, and work hand in hand with other economic sectors and government to support mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in development policies and business practices. CEPF is also ideally positioned to support concrete regional collaborations among the civil society organizations of the hotspot, maximizing the wealth and diversity of experiences developed—so far in isolation—within the hotspot and using the heterogeneity of the regions to their benefit, fostering the emergence of a regional conservation community.

In terms of geographical focus, the consultations resulted in a plan to primarily focus on seven priority corridors or clusters in Madagascar, plus three other sites, totaling 38 priority KBAs in Madagascar, and 19, 9 and 12 priority KBAs for the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles, respectively. Most of these sites focus on ecosystems that have extraordinary biodiversity but so far have been underfunded relative to other ecosystems: the wetlands and freshwater bodies, the dry forests, and coastal and near-shore marine areas.

The following four strategic directions and 10 investment priorities, set out in the ecosystem profile, guide CEPF’s five-year investment in the region:

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
<b>1. Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas.</b>	1.1 Support local communities to design and implement locally relevant conservation and sustainable management actions that respond to major threats at priority sites. 1.2 Support the development of economic models to improve both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. 1.3 Build the technical, administrative and financial capacity of local organizations and their partners.
<b>2. Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices.</b>	2.1 Support local research institutions to improve basic knowledge of biodiversity of priority ecosystems. 2.2 Support civil society to disseminate biodiversity information and influence political and economic decision-makers in favor of biodiversity and conservation priorities. 2.3 Explore partnerships with private sector stakeholders to promote sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation.
<b>3. Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.</b>	3.1 Foster the emergence of a new generation of conservation professionals and organizations through small grants for technical and practical training. 3.2 Encourage exchanges and partnerships between civil

	society organizations to strengthen conservation knowledge, organizational capacity, management and fundraising skills.
<b>4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.</b>	4.1 Make operational and coordinate the allocation and monitoring process of the CEPF grants to ensure effective implementation of the strategy. 4.2 Foster the emergence of a conservation community beyond institutional and political boundaries to achieve conservation objectives.

The implementation of the CEPF investment strategy started in February 2015, when the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) was recruited. The overall budget available for the Hotspot is \$8.265 million, comprising an allocation from the CEPF global donors supplemented by additional funds from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

## II- Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

### 1. Regional Implementation Team

Fondation Tany Meva was recruited in 2015 as the RIT for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, following a competitive selection process. Tany Meva is a Malagasy foundation created in 1996 with the objective to support civil society organizations in Madagascar to develop community-based management and sustainable use of natural resources. Since inception, Tany Meva has supported over 1,700 projects for a total amount of more than \$14.4 million, on issues covering reforestation, renewable energy, alternative livelihood activities, biodiversity conservation or environmental education.

During the fiscal year 2017, CEPF led two supervision missions of the RIT, one in July 2016, with visit to the Seychelles, the second one in February 2017 in Madagascar, including site visits on the Menabe landscape, and a two-day grantees meeting held in Antananarivo. The supervision missions allowed for monitoring the RIT performance, providing continuous training on CEPF procedures and mentorship on grant management.

The structure of the team evolved during FY17, based on evaluation by CEPF secretariat and discussions with Tany Meva. The RIT organized itself around a "core team" composed of staff entirely dedicated to CEPF implementation, with one Team Leader, two Project Managers, a Finance and Administration Assistant, and a half-time Communication Officer - supported by other Tany Meva staff for some specific support tasks (accounting, finances, logistics and monitoring). A focal person for the Comoros (50 percent time) has been hired to support for reaching-out with local CSOs as well as communication with donors and governmental authorities. His contract, ending in December 2016, has not been renewed.

In December 2016, the RIT Leader resigned, and was replaced at the end of February by Mr. Alain Randriamaherisoa, previously Managing Director of Tany Meva. In parallel, Monique Randriatsivery was hired in September 2016 to replace Mrs. Randrianarijoana. These changes, occurring at the same time when Tany Meva Executive Director resigned, created some disturbances as regards implementation – in particular for small grant management.

*Table 1. Composition of the CEPF Core Team, as of June 2017.*

<b>Alain Randriamaherisoa</b>	RIT Lead	Overall coordination of the RIT, preparation of calls for proposals, supervision of the Project
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		Officers, piloting of the communication and outreach, supervision of monitoring and evaluation, coordination with partners
<b>Miara Rajaobelina</b>	Project Manager	Main contact and day-to-day management, projects in Madagascar's Western corridors, and support for Mauritius
<b>Monique Randriatsivery</b>	Project Manager	Main contact and day-to-day management, projects in Madagascar Eastern corridor, Highlands cluster and other sites in Malagasy, as well as the Seychelles and Comoros.
<b>Patricia Otonia</b>	Finance and Administration Officer	Day-to-day administrative support, organization of event, project database management and coordination of information.
<b>Patrick Raharinjatovoa</b>	Chauffeur	Chauffeur, logistical support.
<b>Elodie Randrianarijaona</b>	Communication Officer (50%)	Preparation of communication material and events, preparation of newsletters.

Based on recommendation from CEPF supervision mission, the RIT is expected to pursue structuration efforts and capacity strengthening during FY18, in particular with recruitment of a third Project Manager, two part-time "country representatives" for the Comoros and Mauritius/Seychelles, and strengthening the role of the admin and finance assistance to also provide capacity-building for grantees in those fields.

## 2. Advisory Committee

A third session of the CEPF MADIO Advisory Committee was organized in February. The Advisory Committee is composed of 15 members, plus three observers from CEPF Donors community (World Bank, Conservation International and European Commission). The members, coming from civil society organizations, research, private sector, governmental and inter-governmental organizations, are members *intuitu persona*. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide strategic advice for the implementation of the CEPF investment in the region. They do not play any role in terms of selection of proposals.

*Table 2. Composition of the CEPF MADIO Advisory Committee, as of June 2017.*

Adrian SKERRET	Président, Island Conservation Society	Seychelles	Civil Society
Claude-Anne GAUTHIER	Directeur Océan indien, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	Madagascar, Regional	Scientific cooperation
Edmée RALALAHARISOA	Directrice, Point Focal CBD	Madagascar	National authorities
Gérard RAMBELOARISOA	Directeur, Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar (FAPBM)	Madagascar	Foundation, Civil Society
Jean-Baptiste ROUTIER*	Advisor to the Director for Sustainable Environment and Climate Change, Indian Ocean Commission	Régional	Intergovernmental organization
Guy RAMANGASON	Directeur, Madagascar National Park	Madagascar	Civil Society
Abdouchakour Mohamed ABDEREMANE	Point focal Adjoint FEM, Direction Générale Ressources	Comores	National authorities

	Halieutiques		
Lily Arison Rene DE ROLLAND	Directeur, The Peregrine Fund	Madagascar	Civil Society
Lisa GAYLORD	Conseiller Environnement, Rio Tinto Madagascar	Madagascar	Private Sector
Vishnuduth BACHRAZ*	National Park and Conservation Service	Maurice	National authorities
Roger EDMOND	Botaniste, Université de Madagascar	Madagascar	Research
Ronley FANCHETTE	Wildlife Director, Ministry of the Environment	Seychelles	National authorities
Steve GOODMAN	Expert Biodiversité, Vahatra, Field Museum	Madagascar	Civil Society, Research
Vikash TATAYAH	Conservation Director, Mauritian Wildlife Society	Maurice	Civil Society
Jimmy RAMIANDRISON	President, Tany Meva	Madagascar	Fondation, RIT.
Sahondra RAJOELINA*	Director, Conservation International - Madagascar	Madagascar	Civil Society, Donor representative
Marie Ange BONNESCUELLE DE LESPINOIS	Programme Officer, European Commission, Comoros office	Comores	Donor representative
Benjamin GARNAUD*	Program Officer, Environment and Natural Resources, World Bank	Madagascar	Donor representative

\* new members, replacing members of their organizations

### 3. External Reviewers

CEPF team often asks external reviewers to provide technical or expert opinion on project proposals, either at Letter of Inquiry or Full Proposal stage. To date, seventy-five experts, civil society representatives, researchers etc. are part of the MADIO "college" of volunteer reviewers. Their combined expertise has provided high quality assessment and guidance to improve project proposals.

### 4. Communication

The RIT manages the CEPF content on the Tany Meva website, which complements the [MADIO pages](#) of the CEPF website. The Tany Meva pages include an interactive map, which allows users to zoom in and find projects by location.

The RIT has produced [quarterly newsletters](#), shared with approximately 800 contacts in the region. The newsletters combine articles in French and English – some written by the RIT and other submitted by the grantees or other partners from conservation community.

Among available communication material are the ecosystem profile brochure in [French](#) and in [English](#), the bilingual [map of the Key Biodiversity Areas](#) of the MADIO Hotspot, and several informational brochures available on the website.

The most widespread communication medium at present time is [Facebook](#), widely used by Malagasy conservation community and in the wider Indian Ocean region; CEPF MADIO Facebook page currently has currently 875 "likes."



## 5. Grantee Meeting, 2017

On 9 and 10 of February, Tany Meva in its role of CEPF RIT organized the first grantee meeting in Antananarivo, Madagascar. About 80 representatives of grantee organizations participated, from all but two of CEPF-funded project in the region. Participants came from Madagascar, but also Mauritius, Comoros and Seychelles.

Several sessions were organized for grantee to present their project, and specific thematic sessions allowed for networking and exchange of experience among CEPF grantees.



### III- Portfolio Status to date

The CEPF portfolio in the MAD-IO hotspot has progressed well during fiscal year 2017 (July 2016-June 2017), with 24 grants signed for an amount of \$2.023 million committed for civil society organizations in the four countries of the country. The Large Grants portfolio progressed according to the plan (14 grants for \$1.750 million); in parallel, the Small Grants portfolio really took off with 14 grants awarded during the fiscal year.

#### 1. Calls for Proposals

Five calls for proposals have been launched since January 2015, details of which are presented in the table below.

The first call was launched prior to the recruitment of the RIT, with limited reach-out, and was responded to generally by the larger organizations.

The second call, for Small Grants, raised an unexpected and somehow unprecedented interest in the region, with more than 200 Letters of Inquiry submitted. This influx of proposals, combined with the necessary learning curve for the RIT, led to delays in processing and a low rate of success. This was the first call to be issued for small grants, and provided good lessons learned for improvement of the Small Grant mechanism and adaptation of the regional context and civil society dynamism.

The third call for proposals, which was restricted to large grants, saw an increase in terms of participation of national/local organizations. 49 proposals were received, leading to 9 projects signed.

One proposal is still pending, following results of preparation grant provided through the small grant mechanism.

The fourth call for proposals was launched in June 2016 with a deadline in September 2016. The review of the Lols received coincided with the resignation of the RIT Team Leader, leading to delays in review of small and large grant proposals. In parallel, issues in terms of grant management at the CEPF secretariat in months March-June 2017 led to several grant contracts being processed only in early FY18. In parallel, several proposals were also held up, either awaiting clarity on additional budget available for some Strategic Direction, taking into account the Helmsley Charitable Trust's additional support, or due to the security situation in Madagascar leading some applicants to reconsider the feasibility of the implementation. In spite of these delays, the financial target originally set for the fiscal year was attained and, indeed, exceeded (111 percent against objectives).

Call	Deadline	Specifications	Letters of Inquiry	Grants awarded
CfP 1	January 2015	Large grants SD 2, SD 3 All countries	83	20 granted 63 rejected
CfP 2	August 2015	Small Grants, All SD, All countries	223	20 granted 1 in pipeline* 202 rejected
CfP 3	January 2016	Large grants SD 1, SD 2. Madagascar, Comoros	49	9 granted 1 in pipeline** 39 rejected
CfP 4-a	September 2016	Large Grants SD 1, SD 2, SD3 Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	59	3 granted 4 in pipeline 5 awaiting decision*** 47 rejected
CfP 4-b	September 2016	Small grants SD 1, SD 2, SD3 Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	83	8 in pipeline 75 rejected
<i>Grants by Invitation</i>				1 LG, closed 2 SG, in pipeline (preparation grants) 1 LG, in pipeline

\* Project start postponed for reasons inherent to grantee

\*\* Proposal finalization postponed in Comoros

\*\*\* Awaiting decision: decision postponed until clarity on budget availability re. Helmsley Charitable Trust



## 2. Grant-making Status

Huge progress was made with grant making over FY17, with a \$ 2.023 million engagement. Excluding the RIT grant, the portfolio now comprises 53 grants (33 large and 20 small), while about a dozen large grants and 8 small grants are in the pipeline. Three grants have closed thus far (1 Large and 2 Small grants).

**Table: Grant-making Status by Strategic Direction, June 2017**

Strategic Direction		Budget Allocation	Contracted Grants			Budget balance	% Contracted
			Total Amount	No. of Large grants	No. of Small grants		
SD1	Empower local communities to protect biodiversity	\$ 3 100 000	\$ 1 921 017	10	11	\$ 1 178 983	62%
SD2	Maintream conservation into political and economic decision making	\$ 2 200 000	\$ 2 410 407	17	9	\$ (210 407)	110%
SD3	Strengthen Civil Society at local and regional level	\$ 1 465 000	\$ 1 058 277	6	0	\$ 406 723	72%
SD4	Regional Implementation Team	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 1 425 000	1	0	\$ 75 000	95%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 8 265 000</b>	<b>\$ 6 814 702</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 1 450 298</b>	<b>82%</b>

Note: the budget allocation (available funds) does not take into account the commitment of Helmsley Charitable Trust to raise their support by \$ 1.5 million, which was only confirmed toward the end of Fiscal Year.

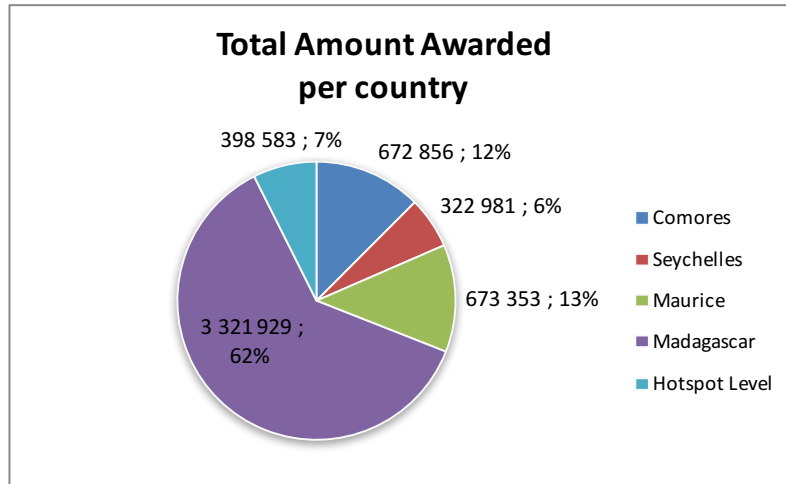
The Strategic Direction 1 was the focus for the last Fiscal Year, jumping from about \$ 700,000 committed to \$ 1.9 million (from 23% to 62% of initial allocation). Madagascar took the lion's share of this Strategic Direction (75%), which was expected considering the importance of community-based conservation and links between poverty and biodiversity protection in this country, underlined in the ecosystem profile. The Comoros benefited from two projects (totaling \$ 348,000) and Mauritius from one (\$ 143,000)

The commitment for Strategic Direction 2 has already exceeded the initial budget allocation. There are several reasons for this situation:

- The strategic direction raised interest of national organizations, in particular in Madagascar, for policy and advocacy work;
- As SD1 (field-based conservation with communities) was not open during the first Call for Proposals, several projects working at the same time with communities and private sector were submitted under SD2 during the first call, but have components addressing community work as well;
- In Seychelles and Mauritius, which represent about 1/3 of this budget line, field conservation work generally implies collaboration with private sector (due to land ownership system); the role of local communities is less prominent, making the SD2 the preferred option for civil society organizations in these two countries.

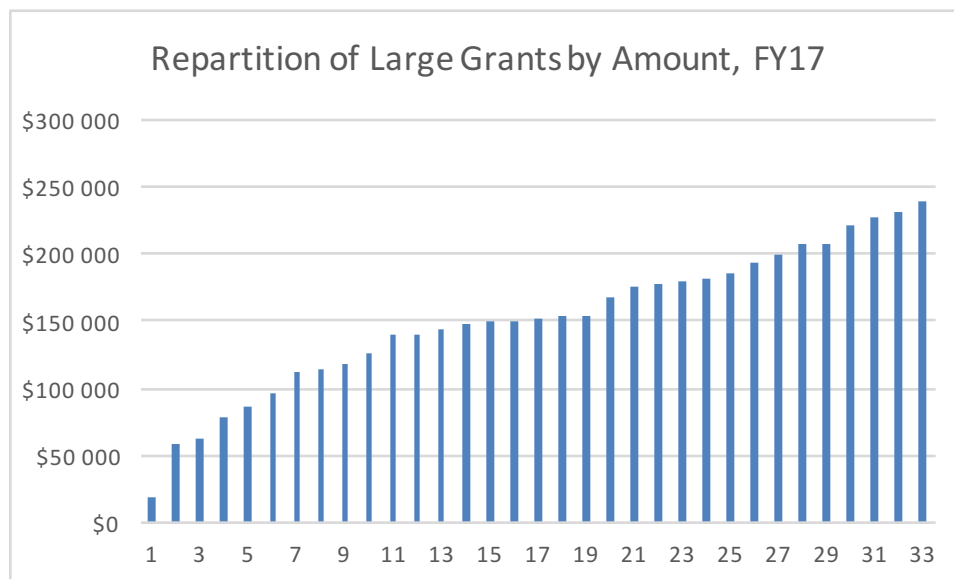
Investment under Strategic Direction 3 is steady, with projects supporting networks and collaboration at regional level. Two proposals in the pipeline will be working specifically on capacity building and networking amongst CEPF grantees of the region.

In terms of **geographical distribution**, Madagascar represents about 62 percent of the total in financial terms, with 36 grants and a budget of \$ 3.322 million. The geographical distribution so far respects the initial projection of CEPF. The imbalance for Comoros (around 6 percent of budget in FY16) is now being corrected, with the country reaching 12 percent of the portfolio in amount.



The balance between **national and international organizations** is evolving in favor of national organizations, which now represent 58 percent of the grants, and 51 percent of the budget (from 50 percent of grants and 45 percent of budget in FY16). This evolution is a reflection of the efforts of the RIT and CEPF secretariat to reach out to local organizations.

For Large Grants, the **amounts** are well distributed with two thirds of the grants between \$ 100,000 and \$ 200,000, and no grant above \$ 240,000. The average grant amount is \$ 151,000, which is also the median value of grants. This distribution, with limited "threshold effect" (while calls for proposals provide for indicative ceilings, at \$150,000 or \$ 200,000) demonstrates the attention given to respond to the partners' needs.



## IV- Performance of CEPF Investment

### 1. Assessment

While the RIT was coming up to speed at the end of the previous fiscal year, the resignation of the Team Leader, combined with resignation of Tany Meva Executive Director (in February 2017) led to a disruption of the team ability to fulfill their tasks, and delays for grant processing, in particular for the Small Grant programme. Tany Meva took some steps for improving grant management cycle toward the end of the fiscal year. The ability of the RIT to work in the neighboring isles of the Indian Ocean, supporting regional cooperation and providing ad hoc technical review and advice to civil society of the Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles, remains limited, calling for additional support for these countries. Efforts have been made by Tany Meva to enhance the reach-out to national organizations, with workshops in the provinces and closer monitoring with local organizations through site visits. Overall, the performance of Tany Meva in the role of RIT will require close monitoring during FY18.

Despite these shortfalls, the granting objectives were reached in FY17, with \$ 2,000,706 awarded to 10 large and 14 small grants projects – 11% above the \$ 1.8 million target for the year. The portfolio is evolving well, reaching a balance between the different strategic directions. The portfolio now comprises 33 large and 20 small grants, and covers all countries and 37 Key Biodiversity Areas (objective for the investment period being 40 KBAs). The analysis of projects' objectives shows that most of CEPF targets for the hotspot are on their way to be achieved, and in several cases, exceeded (see *Progress against CEPF Logical Framework*, in Annex I).

The only objective that appears not achievable at this stage is the one on new protected areas, which was set at "10 new protected areas covering 1 million hectares". This figure was set up in 2014, at the time of profiling, based on the number of KBAs that were at the time under "temporary protection" – with the idea that CEPF would support organizations to finalize the protection process. Nevertheless, the Malagasy government launched, in 2015 and 2016, an initiative to grant permanent protection status to many "New Protected Areas (NPAs)" – independently from CEPF support. While CEPF supports many organizations in the effective management of these NPAs, the actual creation of these protected areas cannot be accounted for as a result of CEPF engagement. As a consequence, CEPF shifted the approach to PA creation toward smaller, innovative protected area models (with private sector, stewardship approaches...) which should allow for achieving creation of 10 new protected areas, but with a smaller surface area.

The main objective for the fiscal year was to develop the portfolio of community-based conservation projects under SD1, following the first calls for proposals focusing on SD2. This objective is being achieved, with now 21 projects under this strategic direction, and about a dozen more in the pipeline. The work in the southernmost corridors of western Madagascar (Mikea, Menabe...) happens to be difficult due to security issues in relation with in-migration. Strong progress is being made in North-West corridor, in wetlands and dry forests ecosystems – leading to a new dynamism for conservation in the region.

The level of investment in the island States of the Indian Ocean is also progressing, with a series of new projects in the three countries. In the Comoros, additional effort to support smaller, local organizations is still needed, but the capacities of organizations is very low, requiring the recruitment of a national officer to reach out and bring specific, ad hoc support.

## 2. Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

### ***Strategic Direction 1: Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas***

This Strategic direction was not open for the first call for proposals, and therefore has taken off only recently, with 7 projects allocated in FY16 and 14 in FY17. All projects have a strong focus on capacity development as well as development of alternative livelihood options – including activities in tourism (Antrema, Ibity), marine or inland fisheries (Barren Isles, Mangoky-Ihotry, Ambato-Boeny), or agriculture (Menabe, Anjouan), increasing involvement of local communities in the management of the areas through management transfer agreement, or improving management of production landscape in buffer zone of protected areas (green belt), for instance around Montagne des Français and Beza.

In Bongolava, in North-West Madagascar, local association Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso, made a new start thanks to CEPF support. The protected area was designated (based on a former "forest reserve") back in early 2010, but absence of external support led to a lack of effective management. The local association, officially recognized by the administration as protected area manager, launched a large series of consultations with local communities to adapt former management plans, redesign boundaries, start alternative livelihood activities and build an effective, community-based enforcement system to prevent wild fires and loss of forest cover. In Antrema, Identi'Terre works on developing a long-term sustainable financing scheme, including not only protected area management but economic activities development for communities living in the protected areas. The level of threats – being mangrove degradation or wildfires in the savannah ecosystem, has already been lowered by the active participation of local communities.

In the same corridor, but on freshwater ecosystems, the Aspinall Foundation works with local communities on identifying the most promising wetland sites for protection, developing management plans with local fishermen to preserve the resources at the basis of the local economy. In neighboring sites, *Association des Producteurs Privés d'Alevins* works on improving fishing systems and reinforcing populations of endemic freshwater fishes. In parallel, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust selected some of those sites as pilots for their project on developing guidance for freshwater wetlands' management, under SD2. The combined efforts of local and international civil society organizations for the preservation of this priority corridor for freshwater biodiversity are bringing new hope for the protection of some unique freshwater species.

### ***Strategic Direction 2: Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices.***

For this SD, the Ecosystem Profile underlined the importance of developing the knowledge base of under-studied areas, as a prerequisite for informing decision-making and supporting conservation. In particular, sites under specific threats were considered for investment (IP2.1). In 2016, the Marine Conservation Society of the Seychelles (MCSS) was granted a small grant (\$ 19,996) on this very basis. Grand Police, one of the last remaining coastal wetland of Mahé, the largest granitic island of the Seychelles, was threatened by an infrastructure programme, including a five-star resort and marina. MCSS asked for CEPF support to lead a thorough biodiversity assessment of the area, largely understudied at the time. The organization demonstrated the importance of the area in terms of biodiversity, with a total of 61 animal species and 102 plant species, of which nine species of both fauna and flora listed on the IUCN Red List, from Critically Endangered to Near Threatened. This species

diversity, presence of sea-turtle nesting sites and endangered terrapins populations confirmed the importance of this area for Seychelles biodiversity. Following the release of MCSS findings, combined with a *Save Grand Police* petition signed by 7500 people, the President and Cabinet of Ministers of the Seychelles decided that the land must be returned to the Government and turned into a Protected Area. CEPF is now considering providing additional support to MCSS to continue their work, in collaboration with the national authorities, for protection of Grand Police.

In Mauritius, CEPF supports several projects promoting engagement of private sector in conservation. With support from CEPF, François Leguat Ltd, an ecotourism park in Rodrigues, expanded an ecosystem restoration programme in Plaine Corail, with 35,000 plants from 24 endemic species reproduced in nurseries in 2017. This project should allow for restoration of 6 ha of unique, highly endangered, limestone dry forests, with a management structure in place for their long-term sustainability. In Mauritius island, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation works with three large landowners on reintroduction of endemic birds. 30 Echo Parakeets, 30 Pink Pigeons and 5 Mauritius Kestrels were released in private land, and staff of the estate were trained to monitor and manage bird populations. In March 2017, a young un-ringed Echo Parakeet turned up at the release aviaries in the Ferney Valley. Two months later an un-ringed young Pink Pigeon was sighted with his parents on the same valley. It was the first time that the two birds have bred in the Bambous Mountains in over a century. The confirmed breeding of birds is a yardstick of success and shows that the area is suitable for these birds and is favorably managed. The sighting of these young birds in Ferney Valley, a private-run estate, demonstrates that the translocations are a success and hopes are high that many more shall be sighted in the near future.

***Strategic Direction 3: Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.***

CEPF supported the creation of the first network of insect specialists in the region: IPSIO (Insects and People of the Southern Indian Ocean), an initiative launched by Dr. Brian Fisher from the California Academy of Science. The entomologists organized their first two workshops, in January and April 2017. The first workshop was dedicated to structuring the network and working groups, and starting reflection on insect ecotourism. The second one focused on edible insects farming. The network grows in strength and impacts, with a dedicated website ([www.ipsio.org](http://www.ipsio.org)), and already successful fundraising: the group secured a \$ 225,000 from USAID to support edible insects research and promotion. In parallel, at the first meeting of the IPSIO Biodiversity working group, the network members decided to propose adding Madagascar to an international proposal on Massively Parallel Sequencing of insects genome, supported by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation for a budget of \$3.8 million. The proposal was recently approved, including the Madagascar component. As quoted by Brian Fisher, IPSIO president, "*without CEPF funding and the IPSIO meeting, Madagascar would not be part of this project.*" These two recent successes exemplify the value of collaborative efforts and regional networking in advancing science and conservation action.

## V- Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders

The CEPF Secretariat has paid a specific attention to contacting and informing the local representatives of the CEPF Donors in the region during the current fiscal year, paving the way for future collaboration during the investment phase.

- Several exchanges took place with Benjamin Garnaud, in charge of Environment projects at the **World Bank** Office in Madagascar, who also participated to the Advisory Committee meeting in February in Antananarivo.
- The RIT met with Marie-Ange Bonnescuelle de Lespinois, from the **European Commission** office in the Comoros, who also participated actively in the review of some proposals for the Comoros. Regular exchanges occurred with the managers of the Biodiversity programme of the Indian Ocean Commission, supported by the European Union, in particular Chantal Nicole Andrianarivo.
- The team continued exchanges with Mrs. De Toma Cadinouche, manager of the **French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)** marine protected areas programme, based at the Indian Ocean Commission in Mauritius. Grant Director met with Patrick Buzaud, first secretary of the **French Embassy** in the Seychelles in July 2016. A meeting was organized in Antananarivo with RIT Leader, Grant Director and Mrs. Hélène Gobert, from **l'Agence Française de Développement** and Mr. Laurent Lapeyre, **French Embassy** (Cooperation services) in February 2017.
- The CEPF grant director met on several occasions with **Conservation International's** Vice President, director of Madagascar Office, Leon Rajaobelina, and the CI team in Madagascar. The new CI Madagascar Vice-President, Sahondra Rajoelina, participated to the Advisory Committee meeting.
- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** focal points in all four countries were regularly informed by the Secretariat and the RIT. They are also members of the advisory committee. Grant Director and RIT met with GEF/UNDP team in the Seychelles (Andrew Greiser Johns, Andy Rylance, James Millett) with specific discussions on support to the protected area network.
- The CEPF Secretariat was in contact with Mrs. Renu Saini and Mrs. Lilian Cheng from the **Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust**, including during the preparation of the special annual report to the HCT in January 2016. The collaboration with HCTF is progressing well, with a pledge for an additional support of \$ 1.5 million, confirmed toward the end of the fiscal year.

## Conclusion

After two years of implementation, the CEPF programme in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands hotspots has granted \$ 6.9 million to 42 organizations, including 28 local organizations. Most projects are still on-going and actual conservation results of the entire portfolio cannot yet be monitored, but the expected impacts of CEPF are in line with Ecosystem Profile's objectives. The challenges of working with three new countries has been overcome, with a strong portfolio developing in Mauritius and Seychelles, while additional effort is still needed to reach out to local organizations in Comoros. The deployment of the Small Grant Mechanism is still on-going, with an increase in granting (14 small grants) to be continued in the year to come. CEPF is making efforts in parallel to increase funding available for the region, starting with an additional support from Helmsley Charitable Trust of \$ 1.5 million pledged in FY17. A highlight of the next fiscal year will be the organization of the mid-term assessment and second CEPF-grantee workshop, a great opportunity for enhancing networking and collaboration among the CEPF community of the Indian Ocean.

## Annex I – Progress Against the Logical Framework

Note that only three grants have officially closed and submitted their final reports as of June 2017 – therefore data presented here represents expected outcomes of the portfolio rather than actual results.

Objective	Targets	Progress to date (June 2017)
<p>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities.</p> <p>Total amount: \$ 8,265,000</p>	<p>40 Key Biodiversity Areas, covering 2.8 million hectares, have new or strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>At least 10 Key Biodiversity Areas that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status, covering 1 million hectares.</p> <p>At least 10 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, government and communities to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the</p>	<p>Projects awarded with specific conservation objectives on 37 KBAs, plus 3 sites outside of KBAs. With projects awarded to date, strengthened management is expected for 1,157,000 ha.</p> <p>8 organizations work with CEPF support on promotion of 11 new protected areas, to date, on an expected surface of about ½ million ha.</p> <p>Small grant in <b>Seychelles</b> (MCSS) resulted in commitment by government to protect Grand Police wetland and adjacent areas (200 ha?)</p> <p>First "micro-reserve" with private landlord in <b>Comoros</b> (Anjouan) to preserve Livingstone's bats roosting sites (5 ha); two other roosting sites under discussions.</p> <p>Project in <b>Mauritius</b> to establish a private PA in Medine and promote a managed forest" in protected area for biodiversity (flagship species: bats)</p> <p>Preparatory work on Saint-Brandon archipelago (Mauritius) to design areas as marine areas managed for biodiversity (from fishing zones).</p> <p><b>In Madagascar:</b></p> <p>Project to secure permanent protection status (Barren Isles, 430,000 ha).</p> <p>Project in Beza Mahafaly to extend existing PA with new forest blocks</p> <p>Project in Ambato Boeny to create small Protected Areas (preparatory work)</p> <p>Project to establish a "Natural Laboratory" with Institut des Sciences Halieutiques, on Toliara Reefs.</p> <p>13 projects are actively working on significant network or partnership initiatives (national/regional level). Partnerships between local governments, communities also exist in all site-level projects.</p> <p>In Comoros, several CEPF grantees collaborate on reducing Ylang-Ylang environmental impact</p> <p>In Mauritius, Arche aux Plantes coordinate involvement of civil society and government partners working on plant conservation.</p> <p>Mauritian Wildlife Foundation works with a network of private landowners for reintroduction of endemic birds and land management</p>



	<p>ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 local organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p>	<p>ERA is developing parallel efforts with large landowners and litchi farmers. IPSIO, the first insect science and conservation network in Indian Ocean, now operating MIHARI network on locally managed marine protected areas, supported by CEPF Amphibian Survival Alliance has developed a network of scientist and conservationists for preservation of Madagascar's frogs. IHSM develops a partnership with Nature Seychelles, Reef Doctor and WCS on training of young professionals and protection/restoration of reefs The Peregrine Fund has developed a network of site managers for monitoring and protection of Malagasy Fish Eagle. Wildfowl and Wetland Trust brings together conservationists and governmental bodies to strengthen management practices for wetlands in Madagascar In Seychelles, IBC and ICS are both developing partnerships with civil society and private sector for site protection. Tropical Biology Association has just been granted a project to strengthen partnership and mentoring amongst CEPF grantees in Indian Ocean.</p> <p>42 organizations, including 28 local organizations, have been granted projects to actively participate in conservation activities guided by the ecosystem profile This does not include subgrantees or partner (local) organizations benefitting from projects.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b></p> <p>Local communities empowered to protect and manage biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas.</p> <p>\$ 3,100,000</p>	<p>Threat levels to at least 25 priority sites reduced through locally relevant conservation actions implemented by local communities.</p> <p>Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities in at least 25 priority sites.</p> <p>Effective participation of local communities in the</p>	<p>CEPF currently supports projects in 22 priority sites, with specific objectives to work closely with communities to reduce threats to biodiversity, and engage local communities in site management (1 in Comoros, 2 in Mauritius, 19 in Madagascar)</p> <p>Specific awareness raising activities are included in projects for 16 priority sites.</p> <p>One new protected area (micro-reserve) in Comoros includes the local community in management.</p>

	<p>management of at least 10 new protected areas at priority sites.</p> <p>Mechanisms for effective participation of private landowners in improved biodiversity management on private lands for at least four priority sites.</p> <p>Economic tools and models improving livelihoods while preserving natural capital and biodiversity (ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services, conservation agreements, etc). piloted and implemented in at least eight priority sites.</p> <p>At least 75 percent of local communities targeted by site-based projects show tangible well-being benefits.</p> <p>Capacities of local community organizations in charge of conservation and local development improved in at least 20 sites, allowing for increased sustainability</p>	<p>On the other 10 expected protected areas, 8 are expected to include strong community involvement.</p> <p>Development of mechanisms for private sector involvement in priority site management currently pursued in 12 sites.  6 in Mauritius, mostly with large landowners  4 in Seychelles, mostly with resorts/ hotels  1 in Comoros, with small, rural landowners  1 in Madagascar, with private company (old plantations).</p> <p>Projects under implementation include development of economic models, on 13 priority sites.  6 projects developing community ecotourism models, with innovative approaches (partnership with private sector, "eco-volunteer tourism" etc.  2 projects work on improved fisheries management, providing increased income to fishing communities.  1 project develop payment for ecosystem services  1 project pilot stewardship agreement for protection of forests  1 project develop a market for baobab fruits, enhancing value of baobab groves  6 projects develop partnerships with private sector on agricultural products or tourism.</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i></p> <p><i>Not yet assessable.</i></p>
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	and efficiency of these organizations.	
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations have enhanced the knowledge base for biodiversity conservation and influence decision-makers for improved mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>\$ 2,200,000</p>	<p>Baseline studies, inventories and mapping of important biodiversity areas completed for at least six sites—with at least three sites in the Comoros.</p> <p>At least three platforms or dialogues positively engaging stakeholders from development agencies, government and local authorities and private sector, in place and delivering results for mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making.</p> <p>Civil society actively participating in and influencing at least five local development strategies, environmental impact assessments or other appropriate decision process.</p>	<p><b>Baseline studies on-going or completed on at least 9 sites. Several other projects include data compilation (Madagascar, Mauritius) and field conservation project generally include monitoring and inventories.</b></p> <p>Seychelles, 2: Grand Police wetland (biodiversity inventory), Silhouette Island (habitat mapping)</p> <p>Mauritius, 1: baseline inventories for St Brandon</p> <p>Comoros, 4: Moya forest, Mount Ntringui, biodiversity of rural areas of Anjouan (outside KBAs), and coastal zone of Anjouan (Bimbini peninsula)</p> <p>Madagascar: Great Reef of Toliara and North Salary NPA (monitoring and inventories of marine wildlife)</p> <p>Madagascar: monitoring of Madagascar Sea Eagle (assessments in various sites)</p> <p>Madagascar: two projects include assessments of freshwater species in several sites of Ambato-Boeny wetlands</p> <p><b>Five projects working on strengthening existing platform or creating new platforms:</b></p> <p>MIHARI network for Locally manages protected areas, Madagascar – improvement noted;</p> <p>Astiria project for data management and protection of rare &amp; endemic plants in Mauritius (creation of platform)</p> <p>Working group created on wetland management in Madagascar (reinforcement of existing RAMSAR Committee)</p> <p>IPSIO network involves the conservation community working on insects research and conservation and open dialogue with government and development NGOs.</p> <p>Mauritian Wildlife Foundation structure an informal network of private landowners working on biodiversity preservation.</p> <p><b>Active participation led to influence on 1 national policy, and several projects work on three policy issues at national level in Madagascar.</b></p> <p>MCSS in Seychelles conducted biodiversity inventories and advocacy work leading to cancellation of infrastructure plan and engagement for creation of protected area.</p> <p>WCS and MIHARI (Blue Ventures) projects are actively participating to the development of the Malagasy policy on Marine protected areas.</p> <p>Background documents and guidance for wetland management and inclusion of wetlands in national protected area network conservation (IUCN project on Freshwater KBAs and redlisting, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust on guidance).</p> <p>Vahatra project on protected areas assessment, MBG project on strengthening plant conservation in protected areas, ONE and ARSIE project on biodiversity</p>

	<p>At least 12 national organizations improve their skills in advocacy and engagement with authorities and/or private sector.</p> <p>At least five partnerships between civil society organizations and private sector companies or professional organizations lead to concrete actions benefitting biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>information expected to contribute to priority setting for protected area network in Madagascar/  <b>Several projects at field level (in Madagascar particularly) include work on local development planning (design or revision of protected area boundaries, co-management arrangements with local communities; etc.)</b></p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i></p> <p><b>At least 10 partnerships under development, between civil society and private sector.</b>  Partnership between MWF and three private sector landowners in Mauritius, with plans to expand to others  Partnership expected through Ebony Forest for active participation of resorts and hotels in financing conservation  Partnership between ERA and private company Medine in restoration &amp; management of 100 ha for biodiversity  Partnerships under development with agricultural products companies in Menabe (Fanamby), Bongolava (FBM), with fisheries products in Ambodivahibe (CI Mada), tourism industry (Beza Mahafaly, Oranjia)  Project in Comoros for labelling of "sustainable" ylang-ylang essential oil, with private sector  Project on Baobab fruits market in Menabe.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 3:</b></p> <p>Regional and national capacity to conserve biodiversity increased through civil society partnerships, within the conservation community and with other stakeholders.</p>	<p>At least 40 community leaders and/or development professionals with improved capacities and engagement to preserve biodiversity.</p> <p>At least 15 students—including at least six from the Comoros—</p>	<p><b>Not yet assessable; several projects includes objectives relating to this outcome.</b></p> <p><b>34 students to get an academic diploma in fields related to conservation under CEPF-funded projects, plus 45 young conservationists trained.</b>  2 students Master Economics &amp; Environment (IdentiTerre)</p>
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<p>\$ 1,465,000</p>	<p>successfully achieve a degree in a field related to conservation.</p> <p>At least 12 organizations engaged in a lasting mentoring or partnering relationship at the regional level.</p> <p>At least one regional network is created or reinforced allowing exchange of experience and mutual support at the regional level, enabling collective responses to priority and emerging threats.</p> <p>At least 20 local civil society organizations demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity, project development and institutional fundraising.</p>	<p>2 students, Doctor Ecology, and Master environment in Comoros (Dahari)  4 students, Master in Environment, Vahatra  20 young professionals certified in Marine conservation &amp; management (IHSM)  6 postgraduate in endangered species recovery, 45 conservation professionals trained in species monitoring, field ecology and ecosystem restoration.  Several other projects offer opportunities for internships, supporting training of new generation of conservationists.</p> <p><b>7 existing mentoring or long-lasting partnering relationship active, 10 more expected with dedicated project on mentoring.</b>  Durrell and local Malagasy organization VIF  IHSM (Mada) and Nature Seychelles on reef management  FBM and Missouri Botanical Garden  MWF-Vahatra-Durrell on training of conservationists at regional level  Arche aux Plantes with several organizations working on plant conservation in Mauritius  Dahari and Blue Ventures on locally managed marine areas in Comoros  Durrell and FSR on rehabilitation of Lake Ravelobe  10 mentoring relationship expected between CEPF grantees under TBA grant</p> <p><b>IPSIO, Insects &amp; People of the Southern Indian Ocean, created and active with already important results</b> (additional funding for insect research, for insect &amp; food programme etc.)  Networking exercise among CEPF grantees in the region supported by Tropical Biology Association.  Four informal networks created/supported at national level (Madagascar: Amphibians, Freshwater biodiversity and LMMAs, Mauritius: plants database)</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable. Baseline data received (CSTT) for 28 local organizations</i></p>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> A regional implementation</p>	<p>At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 local</p>	<p><b>42 organizations, including 28 local organizations, have been granted projects to actively participate in conservation activities guided by the ecosystem profile</b></p>

<p>team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot.</p> <p>\$ 1,500,000</p>	<p>organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 80 percent of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.</p> <p>At least 20 civil society organizations supported by CEPF secure follow-up funding from other donors.</p> <p>At least two participatory assessments are undertaken and lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot are documented.</p>	<p>This does not include subgrantees or partner (local) organizations benefitting from projects.</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i> <i>Baseline data received (CSTT) for 28 local organizations</i></p> <p><i>Not assessable at this stage.</i></p> <p><i>First CEPF grantee workshop organized in 2017.</i> <i>Mid-term assessment planned for 2018.</i></p>
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## Annex 2: Contracted Grants to date

Country	Strategic Direction	Applicant/ Grantee	Title	Total	Start
Comores	SD1	Dahari	Conserving Biodiversity of Anjouan through a Landscape Development Model	\$140 000	01 April 2017
Comores	SD1	Association 2 Mains	Program of Action for a Sustainable Ylang-Ylang Industry in Comoros	\$208 010	01 November 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Madagascar National Parks	Conservation du complexe de Sakamena : ceinture verte de l'AP de Bezà Mahafaly	\$16 244	04 April 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Madagasiraka Voakajy	Lac Tseny fivevomako, arovako ny Damba	\$17 553	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD1	Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement SAGE	Appuyer les communautés locales de base à bien conserver et protéger la biodiversité en répondant aux principales menaces au niveau de la Nouvelle Aire Protégée de la Montagne du Français à Diégo II.	\$18 034	06 June 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	Appui à l'Association Fikambanana Sakaizan-Ravelobe (FSR) pour la conservation du Lac Ravelobe	\$18 889	01 December 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Association des Producteurs Privés d'Alevins	Conservation et développement intégrés vers une valorisation durable de poissons endémiques, Complexe de Zones humides fulvio-lacustre du Nord Ouest	\$19 427	01 December 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Groupe des Spécialistes des Plantes de Madagascar	Savoirs Traditionnels, Valorisation et Restauration des Espèces Patrimoniales dans la Forêt Classée de Vohibola (Mdg – 107) (Savar)	\$19 427	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD1	VOI LOVA Ampanotoamaizina	Evaluation du transfert de gestion du VOI Lova et création d'activités génératrices de revenu dans le Fokontany d'Ampanotoamaizina	\$19 516	17 July 2016
Madagascar	SD1	The Peregrine Fund	Support for Local Communities for the Fight Against Deforestation of the Forest Tsimembo	\$19 569	26 October 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Velondriake Association / Blue Ventures	Sustainable, Locally-Led Mangrove Management and Restoration in the Bay of Assassins	\$19 583	01 July 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Asity Madagascar	Sustainable Management of Lake Ihotry Natural Resources, Part of the Complex Mangoky-Ihotry New Protected Area	\$19 718	04 August 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Missouri Botanical Garden	Starting Ecotourism for the Ibity New Protected Area	\$19 947	25 November 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Biodiversity Conservation Madagascar	Long-term Fire Management to Protect Beanka Protected Area	\$119 133	01 July 2016



Madagascar	SD1	Planet Madagascar	Preserving Fragile Ecosystems through Community-Based Fire Management and Education Program in Ankarafantsika National Park, North-West Madagascar	\$140 756	01 October 2016
Madagascar	SD1	Blue Ventures	Strengthening Community Management of the Indian Ocean's Largest LMMA	\$147 658	01 July 2016
Madagascar	SD1	The Peregrin Fund	Enhancing Local Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Tsimembo-Manambolomaty Protected Area	\$180 600	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD1	Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso	Structuring and strengthening Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso for a efficient management of the new protected area of Bongolava	\$185 843	01 March 2017
Madagascar	SD1	The Aspinall Foundation	Developing Community-based Conservation in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana Forests and Wetlands	\$207 390	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD1	Identi'terre	Strengthening Capacities and Payment for Ecosystem Services, towards inovating financing of New Protected Areas - pilot case of Antrema (FINAP)	\$240 090	01 July 2016
Maurice	SD1	Environmental Restoration Alliance - Indian Ocean	Mauritian Fruit Bat (Pteropus Niger) – A Tool for Forest Regeneration	\$143 630	01 July 2017
Comores	SD2	Blue Ventures Conservation	Towards a Blueprint for Locally-Managed Marine Conservation in the Comoros: Building the Knowledge Base and Capacity for Monitoring and Management	\$149 846	01 October 2015
Comores	SD2	Dahari	Identifying and Monitoring Terrestrial Conservation Priorities in the Comoro Islands, and Building Results into Policy and Practice	\$175 000	01 July 2015
Madagascar	SD2	Madagasikara Voakajy	Vers une gestion rationnelle, équitable et rentable des baobabs Malagasy – Cas de la Région Menabe	\$19 326	15 April 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC) - Royal Botanic Gardens	Baseline mapping of plant diversity, landscape utilisation and fire history, leading to effective management of biodiversity and natural resources in a Madagascar Central Highland	\$19 404	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD2	Association du Réseau des Systèmes d'Information	Projet de mise en place de Systèmes d'Information Hotspot de la Biodiversité de Madagascar SIHBM	\$19 465	01 January 2017
Madagascar	SD2	The Peregrine Fund	Conservation de l'Aigle Pêcheur à travers le renforcement de capacité et le développement de partenariat entre gestionnaires de site	\$19 853	26 April 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Institut et Observatoire de Géophysique d'Antananarivo	Comptes Verts pour la Gestion Durable des Aires Protégées et des Parcs	\$19 866	01 December 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Office National pour l'Environnement	Strengthening the System of Environmental Indicators for Monitoring the Environment in Madagascar and Updating the Environmental Board of the Region of Menabe	\$19 982	05 September 2016

Madagascar	SD2	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Developing National Management Guidance for Madagascar's Freshwater Wetlands	\$62 575	01 November 2015
Madagascar	SD2	Missouri Botanical Garden	Promoting the Self Sufficiency of Reserves in the Ramena Complex, Antsiranana, by Conceiving, Developing, and Testing New Tourism Products	\$85 513	01 January 2016
Madagascar	SD2	NGO Arboretum d'Antosokay	Maintain Biodiversity and Ecosystem Goods and Services through Promoting Ecotourism in Tsinjoriake Community Managed New Protected Area, South West Madagascar	\$95 900	01 January 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Missouri Botanical Garden	Compilation and Dissemination of Plant Information for Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Madagascar	\$126 000	01 June 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Conservation International Madagascar	Promotion of Fisheries and Ecotourism with the Private Sector to Reinforce the Conservation and Management of Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area	\$153 899	01 April 2016
Madagascar	SD2	Fanamby	Renforcement de la Coordination et des Capacités des Associations Co-Questionnaires du Développement Local et de Conservation Durable des Ecosystèmes de l'Aire Protégée du Menabe Antimena	\$154 825	01 March 2016
Madagascar	SD2	WCS Madagascar	Fulfilling Madagascar's 'Sydney Promise' through a National Process of Marine Protected Area Planning	\$177 803	01 July 2015
Madagascar	SD2	Association Vahatra	Madagascar's Protected Areas: A Bilingual Book and Associated Database Reviewing their History, Biodiversity and Guiding the Future	\$182 633	01 October 2015
Madagascar	SD2	IUCN	Mobilising Freshwater Biodiversity Information for Better Representation within Protected Areas in Madagascar	\$226 835	01 July 2015
Maurice	SD2	Mauritian Wildlife Foundation	Developing the Vision for Conservation of Saint-Brandon	\$19 817	01 March 2016
Maurice	SD2	Francois Leguat, Ltd	Expanding Rodrigues Dry Coastal Forest at Plaine Corail to Protect Threatened Biodiversity	\$58 954	01 April 2016
Maurice	SD2	Ebony Forest, Ltd	Restoring Native Forest at Chamarel: Ecological Restoration, Species Reintroduction, and Reconnecting the Public with Nature	\$77 706	01 February 2016
Maurice	SD2	Mauritian Wildlife Foundation	Support to Private Sector to Engage in the Conservation of Mauritius' Threatened Endemic Birds	\$222 225	01 July 2016
Seychelles	SD2	TFC International	Cartographie actualisée 3D et haute résolution de l'île Silhouette aux Seychelles à l'aide d'un drone	\$19 985	01 January 2017
Seychelles	SD2	Marine Conservation Society of the Seychelles	Protection of KBA biodiversity in Grande Police wetland (KBA SYC-13)	\$19 996	01 May 2016

Seychelles	SD2	BirdLife International	Seychelles Magpie Robin Project	\$20 000	01 June 2015
Seychelles	SD2	Island Biodiversity and Conservation Center	Advancing ecosystem restoration, ecotourism & threatened species recovery through NGO/University & private sector partnerships	\$113 000	01 November 2016
Seychelles	SD2	Island Conservation Society	Integrated Management and Ecosystem Restoration Program for Silhouette Island, Seychelles	\$150 000	01 June 2016
Hotspot Level	SD3	California Academy of Sciences	Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean: A Network of Researchers for Insect-Focused Approach to Conservation	\$166 907	01 May 2016
Hotspot Level	SD3	Tropical Biology Association	Strengthening Civil Society Organizations' Capacity for Improved Conservation and Sustainability	\$231 676	01 July 2017
Madagascar	SD3	Blue Ventures Conservation	Strengthening the MIHARI Network to Support Community Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in Madagascar	\$114 672	01 December 2015
Madagascar	SD3	Global Wildlife Conservation-Amphibian Survival Alliance	Building a Future for the Amphibians of Madagascar	\$194 200	01 November 2015
Madagascar	SD3	Institut des Sciences Halieutiques et Marines	Renforcer les capacités des jeunes conservationnistes marins dans le sud-ouest Malagasy	\$199 801	01 July 2017
Maurice	SD3	Arche Aux Plantes	Projet d'Action de Conservation Flore, Habitat, Region Maurice - Rodrigues	\$151 021	01 April 2016

## ***Projects in Madagascar***

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### **Building a Future for the Amphibians of Madagascar**

**Grantee:** Global Wildlife Conservation / Amphibian Survival Alliance

Support the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan, the Malagasy national action plan for amphibian conservation, in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Facilitate networking, engage private sector and national authorities, and develop long-term sustainable financing tools to support amphibian conservation. Build the capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampandrosoana, a local association mandated by the Madagascar government to create the new protected area on the Ankaratra Massif, a site of great importance for amphibian conservation.

**Amount** \$194,200

**Grant Term** 11/15 - 12/18

### **Strengthening Coordination and Capacity of Communities, Local Authorities and Private Sector Actors, Co- Managers for Local Development and Sustainable Conservation of the Menabe Antimena Protected Area Ecosystem**

**Grantee:** Association Fanamby

Work closely with each municipality in Madagascar's Menabe-Antinema region, which was declared a new protected area in 2015 under IUCN category VI. Develop participatory territorial planning exercises, including zoning plans, that are aligned with the protected area management plan. Support local farmers to adopt more intensive agricultural productions (e.g., peanuts, corn) to increase income while reducing the need for new land. Approach private sector actors in the region to set up voluntary agreements to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and support local economic development.

**Amount** \$154,825

**Grant Term** 03/16 - 02/18

### **Long-term Fire Management to Protect Beanka Protected Area in Madagascar**

**Grantee:** Biodiversity Conservation Madagascar

Main threat on Beanka forest is unmanaged fires, mostly lit for agricultural and grazing purposes. BCM project addresses this threat through an integrated approach, including training of local fire management associations, creating alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forest, or replanting fire-resistant species in buffer zones of the protected area. The project also include a pilot study to investigate whether the reintroduction of giant tortoises could restore ecological processes (grazing and seed dispersal) and reduce the frequency and intensity of grassland fires to achieve long-term, low maintenance and low cost approaches to landscape management.

**Amount** \$119,633

**Grant Term** 07/16 - 07/19

**Related News and Information** [Safeguard document](#) (PDF - 473 KB)

### **Supporting Association Fikambanana Sakaizan-Ravelobe (FSR) for Conservation of Lake Ravelobe**

**Grantee:** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Restore freshwater ecosystems of the lake with local communities, through involvement of local association FSR.

<b>Amount</b>	\$18,889
<b>Grant Term</b>	12/16 - 11/18

### **Conservation and Integrated Development for a Sustainable Valorization of Endemic Fish Species in the North-West Complex of Freshwater**

**Grantee:** Association des Producteurs Privés d'Alevins

Mettre en place les centres de reproduction pour mieux connaître l'environnement des poissons endémiques du Nord-Ouest de Madagascar, tout en responsabilisant les communautés locales à la protection de ces espèces. Il vise également à valoriser de manière durable les poissons d'espèces endémiques et en voie de disparition dans la zone

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,427
<b>Grant Term</b>	12/16 - 05/18

### **Traditional Knowledge, Valorization and Restoration of Patrimonial Species in Vohibola Classified Forest.**

**Grantee:** Groupe des Spécialistes des Plantes de Madagascar

Intégration des connaissances et des pratiques traditionnelles des populations autochtones dans la cadre de conservations et de gestion de la biodiversité.

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,427
<b>Grant Term</b>	01/17 - 06/18

### **Assessment of the Management Transfer Agreement to VOI Lova and Creation of Income Generating Activities in Fokontany Ampanotoamaizina**

**Grantee:** VOI LOVA Ampanotoamaizina

Évaluation du contrat de transfert de gestion, la mise en œuvre des mesures correctives, le renforcement/amélioration des outils de protection et le développement d'alternatives économiques dans la zone.

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,516
<b>Grant Term</b>	07/16 - 01/18

### **Strengthening Community Management of the Indian Ocean's Largest Locally Managed Marine Area, the Barren Isles**

**Grantee:** Blue Ventures

Build the capacity of Vezo Miray Nosy Barren (VMNB) association through bespoke training and mentoring in practical skills needed to manage the association and fisheries. Obtain definitive protected status for the LMMA by

commissioning the formal evaluation of the protected area dossier and additional impact assessment studies, and convening community consultations. Support the implementation of the Melaky regional fisheries management plan and develop the Barren Isles Marine Protected Area as a pilot site for management measures through community consultations.

**Amount** \$147,658

**Grant Term** 07/16 - 06/19

#### **Strengthening the MIHARI Network to Support Community Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in Madagascar**

**Grantee:** Blue Ventures

Support the strengthening of the MIHARI network of locally managed marine protected areas in Madagascar by developing a clear governance structure, strategic action plan and business plan to ensure MIHARI's long-term sustainability and increase its role in supporting local managers of marine areas and advocating for local management of marine areas.

**Amount** \$114,672

**Grant Term** 12/15 - 11/18

#### **Madagascar's Protected Areas: A Bilingual Book and Associated Database Reviewing their History, Biodiversity and Guiding the Future**

**Grantee:** Association Vahatra

Produce a bi-lingual (French and English) book gathering information on all protected areas in Madagascar, including latest species inventories, protection status, current management and ecotourism information. The book will provide a basis for decision-making for biodiversity conservation by all stakeholders, from government and local authorities to civil society and tourism operations, and comes with an online database accessible to a wide audience.

**Amount** \$182,633

**Grant Term** 10/15 - 09/18

#### **Strengthening Capacity of Local Communities and Establishing an Innovative Mechanism for Sustainable Funding for the Antrema Protected Area in Madagascar**

**Grantee:** Identi'terre

Set up a sustainable financing mechanism for Antrema National Park, based on payment for ecosystem services and crowd-funding. Strengthen the capacities of local communities on ecotourism, natural resources management, administration and finance, ecological monitoring etc to enhance their role as co-managers of the protected areas. Develop alternative economic activities for local communities, based on sustainable natural resources management.

**Amount** \$240,090

**Grant Term** 07/16 - 01/20

### **Mobilizing Freshwater Biodiversity Information for Better Representation within Protected Areas in Madagascar**

**Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature (Global Species Programme; Freshwater Biodiversity Unit)**

Mobilize the expertise of a large number of scientists to identify freshwater key biodiversity areas in Madagascar; red list freshwater species that have either never been redlisted or have outdated assessments; and identify the most important sites for the conservation of freshwater biodiversity. Share the results with the Malagasy government and protected areas managers, as a tool for strengthening management of freshwater ecosystems, and to guide further expansion of the protected area network by including the most important freshwater ecosystems.

**Amount** \$226,835

**Grant Term** 07/15 - 08/17

### **Fulfilling Madagascar's 'Sydney Promise' Through a National Process of Marine Protected Area Planning**

**Grantee: Madagascar Wildlife Conservation Society**

Work closely with Madagascar's Ministry of Environment to design a road map for the creation of the "Sydney Promise," a future network of marine protected areas, which will include guidance on technical, legal and sustainable financing issues.

**Amount** \$177,803

**Grant Term** 07/15 - 6/18

### **Promoting the Self Sufficiency of Reserves in the Ramena Complex, Antsiranana, by Conceiving, Developing, and Testing New Tourism Products**

**Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden**

Increase the self-sufficiency of three reserves in the Ramena Complex, northern Madagascar. Conceive, develop and test new "participative tourism" products, which will offer tourists an opportunity to participate in conservation activities with local communities. Assess the expectations of potential tourists, then develop — together with communities — the tourism products. Advertise the products to the target audience, helping to generate a sustainable source of income for the communities.

**Amount** \$85,513

**Grant Term** 01/16 - 12/17

### **Compilation and Dissemination of Plant Information for Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Madagascar**

**Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden.**

Compile and disseminate reliable flora information on 31 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in Madagascar, to enhance conservation planning and site management, and identify major gaps in knowledge. Establish for each KBA a dedicated, site-specific, on-line database. Catalyze effective use of information by KBA stakeholders in conservation and sustainable management.



**Amount** \$123,390  
**Grant Term** 06/16 - 05/18

**Starting Ecotourism for the Ibity New Protected Area**

**Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden.**

Supporter le développement social et l'autofinancement de la Nouvelle Aire Protégée à travers l'écotourisme

**Amount** \$19,947  
**Grant Term** 11/16 - 07/17

**Preserving Fragile Ecosystems through Community-Based Fire Management and Education Program in Ankarafantsika National Park, North-West Madagascar**

**Grantee: Planet Madagascar**

Reduce habitat loss and disturbance due to fire in a highly fragmented region of Ankarafantsika National Park. Through the project, Planet Madagascar evaluates and improves upon the ongoing fire management program set up with local communities, and develops an educational programme for the delivery of the conservation message.

**Amount** \$140,756

**Grant Term** 10/16 - 12/18

**Promotion of Private Sector Engagement in Ecotourism in Tsinjoriake Community Managed New Protected Area, Southwest Madagascar**

**Grantee: NGO Arboretum d'Antsokay**

The project aims to support local economy in the vicinity of the Tsinjoriake protected area, by fostering private sector investment on ecotourism and promoting partnership between private operators and communities. The project include training and development of ecotourism products at community level, together with communication and influence activities to engage private operators from the tourism sector in Toliara in ecotourism activities.

**Amount** \$95,900  
**Grant Term** 01/16 - 12/17

**Developing National Management Guidance for Madagascar's Freshwater Wetlands**

**Grantee: Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**

Prepare a national wetland management guidance in close cooperation with the National RAMSAR Committee, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Asity and the Organisation de Soutien pour le Développement Rural à Madagascar (OSDRM), drawing on lessons and experiences from a vast array of stakeholders. The guidance document will be widely communicated to wetland managers and policy makers, and tested at a minimum of three sites: Lake Kinkony, Lake Alaotra and Lake Sofia.

**Amount** \$62,575  
**Grant Term** 11/15 - 10/18

**Support Local Communities to Conserve and Protect Biodiversity by Tackling the Main Threats at the New Protected Area of Montagne du Français, Diego II.**

**Grantee: Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement**

Improve the conservation of biodiversity of Montagne des Français Protected Area in Madagascar by strengthening technical and organizational capacity of local communities, and evolving and promoting local communities' autonomy.

**Amount** \$18,034  
**Grant Term** 06/16 - 09/17

**Conservation of Sakamena Complex: Green Belt around Beza Mahafaly Protected Area**

**Grantee: Madagascar National Parks**

Ensure connectivity of vegetation between the Beza Mahafaly Protected Area and the Mikea Landscape, as stated in the ecosystem profile of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot.

**Amount** \$16,244  
**Grant Term** 04/16 - 10/17

**Toward a Rational, Equitable and Profitable Management of "Malagasy Baobabs" - Case of Menabe Region**

**Grantee: Madagasiraka Voakajy**

Ensure sustainable exploitation of three species of Malagasy baobab in Betainkilotsy, Bepeha Andoviana to improve household income and livelihoods while conserving biodiversity. The project will strengthen organizational and technical capacities of local communities; involve local communities in the sustainable management of Malagasy baobabs; and establish a collaboration between various stakeholders (i.e., operators, local communities, local authorities and ministry of environment) in the baobab exploitation industry.

**Amount** \$19,326  
**Grant Term** 04/16 - 01/18

**Lac Tseny fivevomako, arovako ny Damba**

**Grantee: Madagasiraka Voakajy**

Ensuring the viability of at least 500 individuals of critically endangered fish *Paretroplus menarambo* (Damba menarambo) in Lake Tseny

**Amount** \$17,553  
**Grant Term** 01/17 - 03/18

**Baseline mapping of plant diversity, landscape utilisation and fire history, leading to effective management of biodiversity and natural resources in Madagascar Central Highlands**

**Grantee:** Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC) - Royal Botanic Gardens

The project will complete a series of vegetation plots, quadrats and random botanical sampling across the Itremo Massif NPA and Ambatofinandrahana KBA region covering the main vegetation types. It will also establish a number of long-term fire exclusion plots

**Amount** \$19,404

**Grant Term** 01/17 - 12/19

**Projet de mise en place de Systèmes d'Information Hotspot de la Biodiversité de Madagascar SIHBM**

**Grantee:** Association du Réseau des Systèmes d'Information

Collecte, partage et échange des données sur le hotspot de biodiversité de Madagascar avec la participation des partenaires nationaux et régionaux, en mettant en commun des ressources matérielles et logicielles. Facilitation des communications et du travail des différents partenaires, car fournira les éléments de base pour la prise de décisions stratégiques et rendra les données accessibles par les Technologies de l'information et de la communication.

**Amount** \$19,465

**Grant Term** 01/17 - 12/19

**Comptes Verts pour la Gestion Durable des Aires Protégées et des Parcs**

**Grantee:** Institut et Observatoire de Géophysique d'Antananarivo

Contribuer à l'intégration des valeurs économiques de l'écosystème dans les processus de prise de décision.

**Amount** \$19,866

**Grant Term** 12/16 - 11/17

**Strengthening the System of Environmental Indicators for Monitoring the Environment in Madagascar and Updating the Environmental Board of the Region of Menabe**

**Grantee:** Office National pour l'Environnement

Fournir des données à jour, des informations et connaissances sur la biodiversité et les services des écosystèmes au niveau national et au niveau de la Région de Menabe afin de faciliter le suivi de l'état de l'environnement servant à améliorer les prises de décision pour la protection de la biodiversité de la Région.

**Amount** \$19,982

**Grant Term** 09/16 - 06/17

### **Support for Local Communities for the Fight Against Deforestation of the Forest Tsimembo**

**Grantee: The Peregrin Fund**

Establish a mechanism for exchange between site managers and for a common ecological monitoring related to the conservation of the Critically Endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*).

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,579
<b>Grant Term</b>	10/16 - 10/17

### **Enhancing Local Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Tsimembo-Manambolomaty Protected Area**

**Grantee: The Peregrin Fund**

Empower community-based organizations to become the stewards of the Tsimembo-Manambolomaty protected area in Madagascar. Supervise the local management structure and offer training to enhance the organizational and technical capacities of local committees. The project includes restoration of degraded land and promotion of alternative sources of income or improved agricultural and fishing practices, in close partnership with local associations.

<b>Amount</b>	\$180,600
<b>Grant Term</b>	01/17 – 12/19

### **Conservation de l’Aigle Pêcheur à travers le renforcement de capacité et le développement de partenariat entre gestionnaires de site**

**Grantee: The Peregrin Fund**

Contribution dans la mise en place d’un mécanisme d’échange entre gestionnaires de site et de suivi écologique commun pour la conservation de l’aigle pêcheur

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,853
<b>Grant Term</b>	04/16 – 04/17

### **Structuring and Strengthening the Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso Association for the Effective Management of the New Protected Area of Bongolava**

**Grantee: Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso**

Strengthen the capacities of Fikambanana Bongolava Maitso, a local association selected in 2015 as co-manager of Bongolava National Park in Madagascar. The organization will be given the financial means to recruit a team, and get support to strengthen administrative, financial and technical capacities through mentoring with strong conservation organizations working in Madagascar. Develop awareness-raising activities with local communities, as well as strategic planning, monitoring and field-based conservation activities in the protected area.

<b>Amount</b>	\$185,843
<b>Grant Term</b>	03/17 - 12/19

### **Developing Community-based Conservation in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana Forests and Wetlands**

**Grantee: The Aspinall Foundation**

Collaborate with Wildfowl and Wetland Trust to take the first steps for an improved management of the freshwater ecosystems of the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana region in Madagascar. Actively involve local communities in a participatory assessment of values of the sites for biodiversity and local livelihoods, leading to a prioritization of wetlands and forests based on biodiversity indices, threats and community-based conservation opportunities. The project will then focus on a selection of sites to design and implement, with local communities, appropriate natural resource management and biodiversity conservation strategies. At the same time, local community associations and livelihood groups will be supported to improve their capacity to function during and after the project.

**Amount** \$218,090

**Grant Term** 01/17 - 06/20

### **Promotion of Fisheries and Ecotourism with the Private Sector to Reinforce the Conservation and Management of Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area**

**Grantee: Conservation International**

Forge partnerships with private sector actors that support community-based management of Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area in Madagascar, and thereby enhance the economic well-being of local communities. Cooperate with private sector actors operating in octopus fisheries and aquaculture to build partnerships and gain access to international markets for local communities. Liaise with private sector actors operating in tourism to build potential activities to generate new income for the communities and promote local and cultural knowledge through sustainable community-based ecotourism. Develop local and marketable sustainable products related to tourism to generate additional income and increase incentives to the community for their monitoring activities. Strengthen community structures and capacity to sustain all activities beyond the end of the CEPF grant period

**Amount** \$153,899

**Grant Term** 04/16 – 03/18

### **Sustainable, Locally-Led Mangrove Management and Restoration in the Bay of Assassins**

**Grantee: Velondriake Association**

Contribution à la réduction des taux de la déforestation dans la Baie des Assassins à travers des plans de gestion et de restauration locale, à la préservation la biodiversité et à la sauvegarde des moyens de subsistance locaux.

**Amount** \$19,583

**Grant Term** 07/16 - 12/17

### **Sustainable Management of Lake Ihotry Natural Resources, Part of the Complex Mangoky-Ihotry New Protected Area**

**Grantee: Asity Madagascar**

Renforcement de la gouvernance du lac à travers le renforcement du rôle de VOI Soamanantaly et la collaboration avec les acteurs locaux dont les Services des ressources halieutiques et de la pêche, les autorités locales. Des campagnes d'information et de communication sur la gestion du lac seront également menées au niveau local et régional.

**Amount** \$19,718

**Grant Term** 08/16 - 10/17

#### **Strengthening the Capacities of Young Marine Conservationists in South-Western Madagascar**

**Grantee: Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines**

While Madagascar aims at strengthening its network of Marine Protected Areas in the context of Sydney's Promise, the number of professionals skilled in marine environment protection remains limited. IHSM will train 20 young professionals in marine wildlife monitoring, protected area management and fisheries management, through in-door training as well as field research in two important sites of the Toliara region. Regional exchanges will be organized with Nature Seychelles to transfer experience on coral reef management and restauration.

**Amount** \$199,801

**Grant Term** 07/17 - 06/19

#### ***Projects in Mauritius***

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#### **ASTIRIA - Cooperation Programme for the Conservation of Threatened Flora in Mauritius and Rodrigues Islands**

**Grantee: Arche aux Plantes**

Work in close relationship with Mauritius partners, including the National Parks and Conservation Service and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, to set up a knowledge management system on the Mauritian flora that could inform decision-makers from the government, private sector and civil society. Introduce partners to the model of multistakeholder institutions set up in France for plant conservation called "Conservatoires Botaniques." The project will include a field component: the reintroduction in the wild of rare and endangered plants that have been safeguarded by the Conservatoire Botanique de Brest since the 1970s.

**Amount** \$151,021

**Grant Term** 04/16 - 03/19

#### **Restoring Native Forest at Chamarel: Ecological Restoration, Species Reintroduction, and Reconnecting the Public with Nature**

**Grantee: Ebony Forest Ltd**

Restore forest cover over 6 hectares of degraded land in Chamarel, Mauritius, as part of activities to re-create a natural area that hosts a great diversity of flora and fauna in Black River Gorge National Park. Demonstrate the value of innovative ecosystem restoration practices and raise awareness of the importance of native biodiversity. Create a facility for the preservation and multiplication of native snails, and develop a forest education program.

<b>Amount</b>	\$77,707
<b>Grant Term</b>	02/16 - 03/19

**Expanding Rodrigues Dry Coastal Forest at Plaine Corail in Mauritius to Protect Threatened Biodiversity**

**Grantee: Francois Leguat Ltd**

Rodrigues Island, once described as covered with forest, is now considered one of the most degraded tropical islands in the world. The objective of François Leguat reserve, a privately owned tourism and conservation area, is to revive the original environment. With CEPF support, François Leguat aims at expending the restoration of ecosystem of six hectares of degraded land, including planting of about 100,000 native plants, and to develop a program of international eco-volunteers on ecosystem restoration and environmental education.

<b>Amount</b>	\$58,954
<b>Grant Term</b>	04/16 - 05/19

**Developing the Vision for Conservation of Saint Brandon**

**Grantee: Mauritian Wildlife Foundation**

Establish a dialogue between all stakeholders involved in the management of the natural resources of St Brandon, collect baseline data that will help in the formulation of an agreed 'Vision for St Brandon' that will highlight the need for the sustainable management of natural resources.

<b>Amount</b>	\$19,817
<b>Grant Term</b>	03/16 - 02/18

**Support to Private Sector to Engage in the Conservation of Mauritius' Threatened Endemic Birds**

**Grantee: Mauritian Wildlife Foundation**

Re-establish or strengthen populations of three endangered Mauritian birds (Mauritius Kestrel, Echo Parakeet, Pink Pigeon) on private estates. Sign memorandum of understanding with private sector stakeholders to ensure long-term protection of native birds, and build capacity of their staff on bird monitoring and management. Communicate lessons learned to other private sector stakeholders in Mauritius to prepare scaling of the approach.

<b>Amount</b>	\$222,225
<b>Grant Term</b>	07/16 - 06/19

**Mauritian Fruit Bat (Pteropus Niger) – A Tool for Forest Regeneration**

**Grantee: Ecosystem Restoration Alliance Indian Ocean**

ERA uses the threatened Mauritian Fruit Bat as an umbrella species to advocate for preservation and restoration of natural habitats, by removal of invasive species and planting of bat-preferred, indigenous plant species. ERA explores non-lethal methods and awareness raising to minimize the conflict between bats and fruit farmers.

**Amount** \$143,630

**Grant Term** 07/17 - 06/20

***Projects in the Comoros***

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**Identifying and Monitoring Terrestrial Conservation Priorities in the Comoro Islands, and Building Results into Policy and Practice**

**Grantee:** Dahari

Map the remaining forests of the Comoro Islands to study the drivers of deforestation and the possible alternatives to cultivation and extraction of ylang-ylang, an essential oil that is a key element in the local economy; and define conservation plans for two important endangered species relying on these forests, Livingstone's fruit bat (*Pteropus livingstonii*) and mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*).

**Amount** \$175,000

**Grant Term** 07/15 - 02/18

**Towards a Blueprint for Locally-Managed Marine Conservation in the Comoros: Building the Knowledge Base and Capacity for Monitoring and Management**

**Grantee:** Blue Ventures Conservation

Improve the knowledge base in biology and socio-economics for the Bimbini Key Biodiversity Area of Anjouan Island in the Comoros, an area threatened by fishing. Identify better management practices for the fishing communities, based on what has been tried and tested by Blue Ventures with coastal communities in Madagascar, and work towards establishing the first Locally Managed Marine Protected Area in the Comoros.

**Amount** \$149,846

**Grant Term** 10/15 - 09/17

**A Landscape Management Model for Biodiversity Conservation in the Comoros**

**Grantee:** Dahari

The project aims at establishing sustainable management practices for 400 hectares of water catchment in the Moya Forest area in Anjouan. Local communities will be supported for land restoration, including planting of 20,000 trees. Conservation activities will be implemented with local stakeholders on the highest biodiversity spots of the Moya Forest, including roosting sites of the Critically Endangered Livingstone's Fruit Bat.

**Amount** \$140,000

**Grant Term** 07/15 - 02/18

**Program of Action for a Sustainable Ylang-Ylang Industry in Comoros**



**Grantee: Association 2 Mains**

Ylang-ylang represents the first commodity produced in the Comoros and an important source of income for rural population, but its production leads to deforestation of the remaining natural forests of the country. Association Deux Mains works with local farmers in Anjouan to improve their practices and reduce their impact. Deux mains will introduce low-energy stills, promote non-forest energy sources for distillation, and support improved agricultural practices. The project will also document biodiversity in and around ylang-ylang production areas and include biodiversity conservation measures in a "charter" signed between producers and perfume companies.

**Amount** \$208,010

**Grant Term** 11/16 - 10/18

***Projects in the Seychelles***

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**Seychelles Magpie-Robin Project**

**Grantee: BirdLife International**

Undertake emergency actions to understand and document the causes of the population collapse of the Seychelles magpie-robin (*Copsychus sechellarum*), which went from 38 to 12 individuals on Aride Island in the Seychelles in 2014; and take immediate actions to prevent further transmission of the disease, which is likely caused by a protozoan parasite, to other islands.

**Amount** \$19,697

**Grant Term** 06/15 - 02/16

**Project Documents** - **Final Report** (PDF - 497 KB)

**Integrated Management and Ecosystem Restoration Program for Silhouette Island, Seychelles**

**Grantee: Island Conservation Society**

The project sets up the foundation for improving the management of Silhouette, an island hosting the largest population of the World's rarest bat, *Coleura seychellensis*. ICS associates with the Hotel and Resort operating on the island to develop a new management plan for the entire island, biosafety protocol to prevent introduction of invasive species and to introduce best environmental practices in tourism industry. Codes-of-conduct will be published and shared with government and private sector operators in the Seychelles.

**Amount** \$150,000

**Grant Term** 06/16 - 07/18

**Protection of KBA Biodiversity in Grand Police Wetland**

**Grantee: Marine Conservation Society Seychelles**

Produce updated information on the biodiversity in the Seychelles' Grand Police Wetland using Geographic Information Systems layers of distribution for the four most common habitat types and the abundance and distribution of endemic

species. Provide guidance on appropriate measures to be undertaken to improve or rehabilitate the wetland; activities that should not be allowed during the development; and appropriate buffer zones to secure access of endemic wildlife to foraging and critical wetland areas.

**Amount** \$19,996

**Grant Term** 05/16 - 04/17

#### **Cartographie actualisée en trois dimensions (3D) et haute résolution de l'île Silhouette aux Seychelles à l'aide d'un drone**

**Grantee:** TFC International

Réaliser une cartographie de l'île Silhouette devant permettre aux gestionnaires de disposer de documentation cartographique récente, à grande échelle, numérique et tridimensionnelle

**Amount** \$19,985

**Grant Term** 01/17 - 06/17

#### **Advancing Environmental Management Practices and Threatened Species Recovery through Partnerships with Private Sector in the Seychelles - First Phase**

**Grantee:** Island Biodiversity and Conservation

The project supports private sector companies and landowners from the Seychelles, on the islands of Mahé, Grande Soeur and Sainte-Anne, to adopt best practices in terms of biodiversity management. IBC will also prepare the ground, together with private sector partners, for future reintroduction of rare, native Seychellois species, and invasive species management. This includes preparation of reintroduction plans, environmental impact assessment and pesticide management plans, according to the Government of Seychelles' regulations.

**Amount** \$113,000

**Grant Term** 11/16 - 04/18

#### ***Regional Projects***

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#### **Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean: A Network of Researchers for Insect-Focused Approach to Conservation**

**Grantee:** California Academy of Sciences

Set up "Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean (IPSIO)" as a network of interdisciplinary insect researchers and organizations in the hotspot. IPSIO will provide local conservation decision-makers with information, tools, and expert analysis to enable insect data to be used directly in local and regional conservation and restoration planning efforts. It will serve the varied roles of central information clearinghouse, source for technical expertise, and advocacy group.

**Amount** \$166,907

**Grant Term** 05/16 - 12/19

**Strengthening Civil Society Organizations' Capacity for Improved Conservation and Sustainability**

**Grantee: Tropical Biology Association**

Tropical Biology Association will build the organizational capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) working on biodiversity conservation across the hotspot, through an integrated, learning-by-doing-together approach. The project includes master classes on organizational capacity, mentoring visits focusing on specific, pre-identified capacity needs, thematic site exchanges for sharing best practices, documentation of lessons learned and development of thematic networks among CEPF grantees and with other stakeholders.

<b>Amount</b>	\$231,676
<b>Grant Term</b>	07/17 - 12/19