

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Seventieth Meeting of the CEPF Working Group
Arlington, Virginia
8 September 2022
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Eastern Time**

**Review of Ecosystem Profile for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
Biodiversity Hotspot**

Recommended Action Item:

The Working Group is asked to review the ecosystem profile for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (MADIO) Biodiversity Hotspot and recommend it for approval to the Donor Council.

Background

The ecosystem profile for the MADIO Hotspot was updated between September 2021 and August 2022, following the Donor Council's approval, at its Thirty-second Meeting on 6 February 2018, of CEPF accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to promote Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to climate change in the hotspot. Subsequently, in March 2021 a US\$38 million grant financing agreement was signed between CI (GCF Implementing Entity on behalf of CEPF) and AFD (GCF Accredited Entity) for a 10-year program entitled *Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean*.

According to the design of the GCF program, the ecosystem profile will be updated during the first and sixth years of the program, to guide CEPF grant making to civil society organizations to promote the EbA approach in the hotspot. To this end, the updated ecosystem profile sets out a five-year investment strategy with five strategic directions: (1) empower communities and civil society to implement actions to improve the resilience of species, ecosystems, and human populations to climate change in priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs); (2) support local communities and civil society to strengthen the integration of the EbA approach, ecosystem resilience and biodiversity conservation into political and economic decision-making processes and education; (3) strengthen the capacities of local communities and civil society at the regional and local levels to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce exposure to climate change risks; (4) support research and ensure the dissemination of results for the promotion and improvement of knowledge on EbA actions and related good practices; and (5) provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment across the hotspot through a Regional Implementation Team.

CEPF investments will target 70 priority KBAs across the four countries, selected using the KBA+ methodology based on their relative importance for the delivery of ecosystem services important to local populations. By definition, all KBAs are of global importance for the conservation of biodiversity.

The ecosystem profile was updated by a consortium led by CI's Madagascar Program, in partnership with Missouri Botanical Garden, Asity Madagascar, Biotope and the Moore Center for Science & Oceans at CI, and with support from consultants recruited locally. Consultations were organized with the participation of various government ministries, donor agencies, national and international NGOs, associations, universities and research centers. Around 270 individuals from more than 120 institutions were consulted as part of the process.

The draft ecosystem profile is shared with the Working Group for its review and recommendation to the Donor Council. A 50-page technical summary in English has been prepared for review by Working Group members. Full drafts of the ecosystem profile in English and French, plus technical reports in English on the KBA+ analysis in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands are also shared.