

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
No Objection Approval Pursuant to Section 4.1 of the Operational Manual

8 June 2021

Revised Long-term Vision for the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to endorse on a no-objection basis** the revised long-term vision for the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot.

The deadline for objections is **22 June 2021**.

Background

At its 24th meeting, on 28 January 2014, the CEPF Donor Council approved the strategic framework for Phase III of CEPF. The new strategy proposed taking CEPF to a scale where it can have a transformational impact on reversing biodiversity loss in the hotspots. To this end, four key outcomes were agreed for the new phase, including:

Long-term strategic visions developed and implemented for at least 12 hotspots, facilitating the development of credible, effective and well-resourced civil societies, and delivering improved biodiversity conservation, enhanced provision from healthy ecosystems of services important to human wellbeing, and greater alignment of conservation goals with public policy and private sector business practices.

Unlike an ecosystem profile, which outlines investment priorities for CEPF grant-making over five years, a long-term vision is meant to be a guide for both CEPF and other actors (e.g., host-country government, private sector, donors and NGOs from the economic development community) on how to positively influence conservation in a region over a longer time period. A long-term vision is built around five conditions for graduation from CEPF support, which address issues of: conservation priorities; civil society; financial resources; the enabling environment; and the ability to respond to new issues.

The long-term vision for the Cerrado Hotspot was developed by the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil (IEB), with inputs from CEPF grantees and other local experts. The consultation and drafting process began in May 2019 and was completed in July 2020.

The draft long-term vision was reviewed by the CEPF Working Group at its 65th meeting, on 4 March 2021. Following the meeting, the document was revised to address comments from the Working Group and submitted to the Donor Council for no-objection approval on 17 May 2021 (CEPF/DC/electronic/72). By the deadline for objections of 31 May 2021, comments had been received from two Donor Council

members, requesting that the formulation of the document be reviewed, to make it clearer, sharper and more to the point, to strengthen causal chains, and to check for consistency between certain statements.

Consequently, the long-term vision was thoroughly revised and edited by the CEPF Secretariat, to respond to these comments. The revised long-term vision and a matrix summarizing the responses to the Donor Council's comments are enclosed as Attachments 1 and 2.