

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

No-Objection Approval Request June 1, 2022

Revisions to the Operational Manual

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is asked **to approve on a no-objection basis** changes to the CEPF Operational Manual as per the attached document, List of Revisions to the Operational Manual.

The deadline for no-objection approval is **June 15, 2022**.

Background:

The Operational Manual sets out the operating policies and procedures of CEPF agreed by the donor partners, in line with the CEPF Strategic Framework (2008-2012). The Operational Manual contains the operating policies and procedures that apply to all new investment regions beginning in fiscal year 2008. It includes all pertinent documents, including grant application templates, the grant agreement template, reporting forms, and provisions pertaining to safeguard policies, ethics and conflict of interest, the decision-making process, and the global monitoring framework. The manual may only be amended with approval by the CEPF Donor Council.

The original version of the Operational Manual was approved by the Donor Council on 18 September 2007, following an electronic, no-objection process. Subsequent updates to the manual were approved by the Donor Council in February 2009, January 2011, August 2012, March 2013, June 2017 and, most recently, September 2018.

Since the latest update, there have been several no-objection approvals that have been included in this new edition. References to the World Bank policies have been removed. Lengthy reporting templates have been replaced with a link to online templates. Overall, the Operational Manual's outlook has been tightened with better references to other sections of the documents. It is now more manageable and shorter, with less than 150 pages. With these changes, the document will be accurate and more accessible to grantees and partners.