

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
43rd Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday 9 October 2024
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Brussels and Paris Time
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. (+1 day) Tokyo Time

Partnership Highlights

Global Donors:

Agence Française de Développement (AFD): An application to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is being prepared through AFD as Accredited Entity for a 10-year program focused on wetland-based adaptation to climate change in the Indo-Burma Hotspot. With support from AFD, a feasibility study and funding proposal were prepared in 2023-2024. The funding proposal will be finalized in late 2024 and is expected to be considered by the GCF board in 2025. Matching funding of €5 million will be committed by AFD in its 2025 budget.

European Union (EU): Following the signing of the convention between the EU and AFD on 30 November 2023, CEPF signed the financing agreement with AFD for a grant of €9.4 million to “Reduce the vulnerability of island populations in the Indian Ocean” on 21 May 2024.

European Union (EU): A new convention is going to be signed in October 2024 between the EU and AFD for a total amount of €16 million to the benefit of CEPF. This grant will benefit the following hotspots: Mountains of Central Asia (US\$4 million), Indo-Burma (US\$4 million), East Melanesian Islands (US\$4 million) and the Cerrado (US\$4 million).

European Union (EU) - Rapid Rescue for Conservation Crises (R2C2): an emergency response facility for nature.

The R2C2 facility will address crises resulting from natural causes, such as wildfires, droughts, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and cyclones, massive strandings of animals and plants, etc. It will also address human-induced crises, such as security threats to environmental activists or protected-areas rangers, sudden spikes in poaching or illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, accidental or intentional pollution events, acts of

terrorism, etc. The EU will sign a convention of €5.5 million with AFD to the benefit of CEPF in October 2024, with an expected starting date of January 2025 and for a duration of four years.

Global Environmental Facility (GEF): On 20 September 2024, the Program Information Framework (PIF) for the Small Grant Program (SGP) 2.0 was submitted by CI-GEF Implementing Agency with CEPF as an Executive Agency to the GEF-Secretariat. SGP will be implemented by CI-GEF/CEPF in five countries in GEF-8. The total amount solicited from the GEF is US\$4,687,500 of which US\$4,300,360 is for grants. We expect implementation to begin in early 2026.

Global Environmental Facility (GEF): On 20 June 2024, CI-GEF Implementing Agency with CEPF and CI-Community-Led Solutions Partnership as Executive Agencies responded to the call for proposals from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP), expressing its interest in serving as the Implementing Agency for the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Challenge Program. On 15 August 2024 CI-GEF was informed that the proposal had not been selected.

Regional Donors:

Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: In January 2024, CEPF was invited by the government of Canada to submit a full proposal for a total amount of US\$15 million focusing on the Tropical Andes, the Cerrado and Indo-Burma. The final version of the proposal was submitted in April. Final approval is still pending.

Watch and Jewellery Initiative (WJI 2030): In June 2024, CEPF submitted a proposal in response to a call from WJI 2030 to design, launch and implement a fund for nature restoration. The WJI selection committee indicated that given CEPF's expertise, "CEPF will be a key implementation partner that will receive a set portion of the fund to be dispersed as grants to priority restoration projects around the world." The final decision is pending WJI board approval.