

Executive Director's Report

43rd Donor Council Meeting
9 October 2024



Follow-Up to Decisions of the 42nd Donor Council Meeting



Secretariat Action Points

- The Secretariat will produce, for future Donor Council meetings, an updated version of the Approved Grants report, addressing the comments received.
- The CEPF Secretariat will do an analysis of its operation to ensure that CEPF is adequately staffed for its current program.
- The CEPF Secretariat will provide suggestions of revision for the Operational Manual section OM5.4 to define the role of a guest on the Donor Council more clearly.



© Elena Kreuzberg

Partnership Highlights

Global Donors

- Agence Française de Développement
- European Union
- The GEF

Regional Donors

- Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Watch and Jewellery Initiative (WJI 2030)



© Jack Tordoff



Approved Grants

Third and Fourth Quarter
FY24



BIODIVERSITY



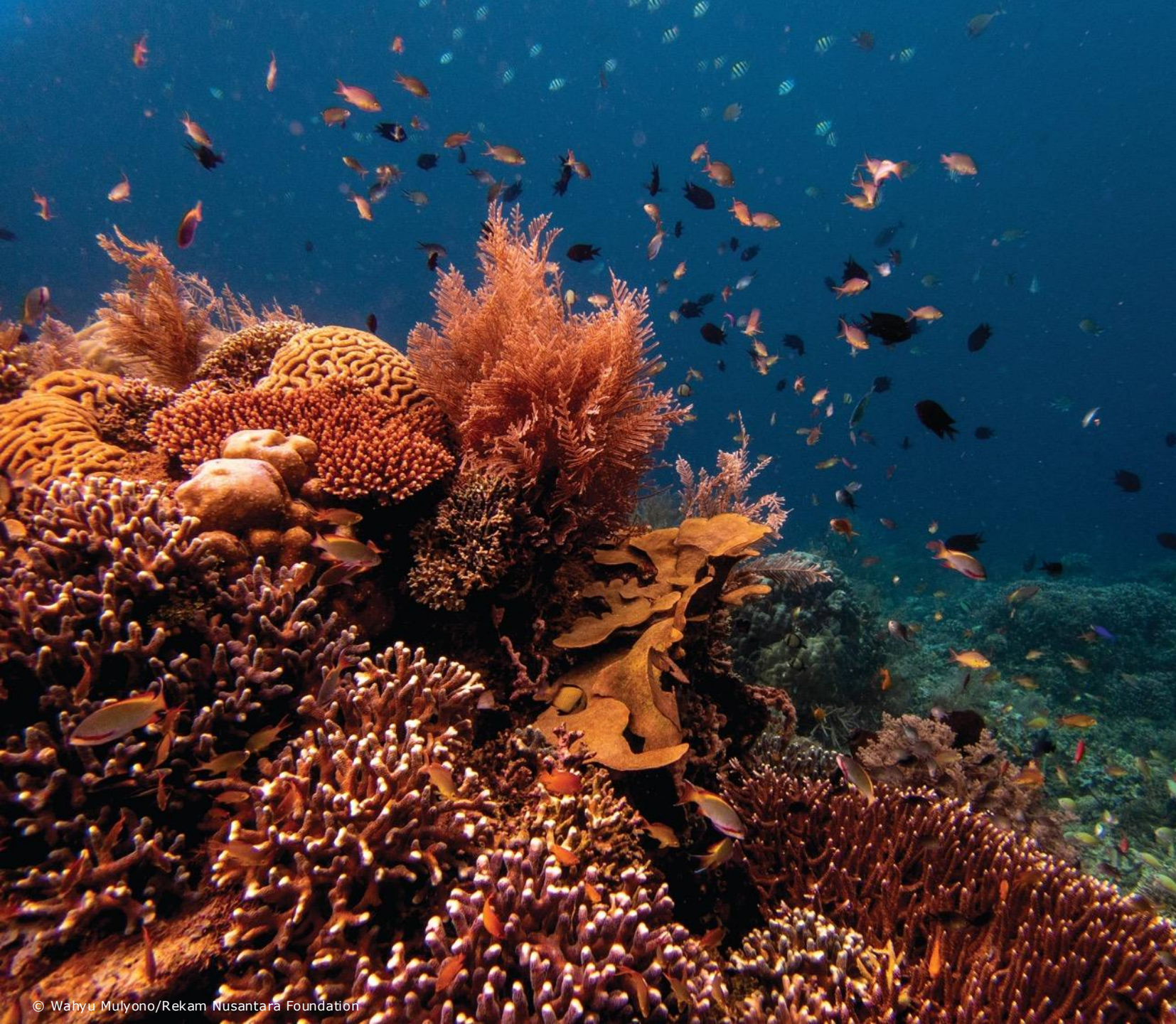
CIVIL SOCIETY



HUMAN WELL-BEING



ENABLING CONDITIONS

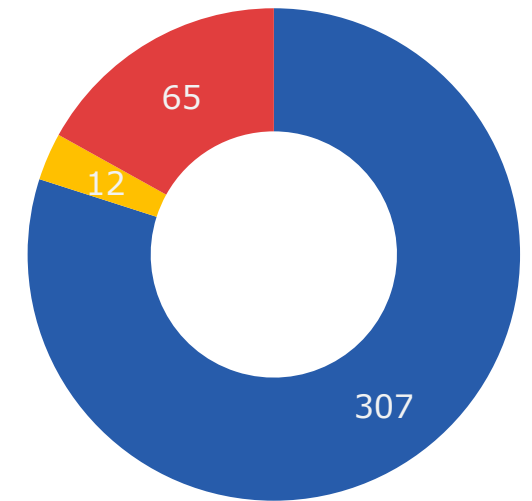


Financial Report

Inception to Date

30 June 2024

| \$K | PHASE I (2000 – 2007) | PHASE II + III (2008 – to date) | TOTAL (2000 – to date) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Revenue | 126,621 | 322,522 | 449,143 |
| Expenses | 123,695 | 263,539 | 387,235 |
| Balance | 2,926 | 58,983 | 61,908 |
| Pledged & Prospect Funds | 0 | 31,000 | 31,000 |



- Grants US\$307 million
- Secretariat US\$65 million
- Preparation US\$12 million

Current Year FY24

30 June 2024
USD \$K

| EXPENSE CATEGORY | FY24 BUDGET | FY24 ACTUAL | FY24 BURN RATE | FY23 ACTUAL |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Grant Awards | 11,200 | 11,165 | 100% | 12,686 |
| Secretariat Costs | 4,363 | 3,795 | 87% | 3,529 |
| Profiling | 200 | 242 | 121% | 13 |
| Special Projects | 0 | 0 | 0% | 58 |
| Total | 15,763 | 15,202 | 96% | 16,286 |
| Grant Disbursements | 12,800 | 11,776 | 92% | 12,041 |

Discussion





The 2023 CEPF Impact Report

22 Years of Impact

CEPF grantee projects from 2001 through 30 June 2023

- 25 biodiversity hotspots
- 34 investment phases
- 112 countries and territories
- US\$294 million awarded in grants
- 2,735 civil society organizations
- 2,918 grants awarded



© Douglas Pikacha Jr.



CEPF's Monitoring Framework

- Four pillars
- 16 indicators
- Grant tagging
- Significant contributions the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals
- Our first contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework targets

CEPF's Monitoring Framework

- Emphasis on biodiversity
- Achieved by an empowered civil society
- Linked to human well-being
- Supported by sound policies and sustainable financing



© O. Langrand

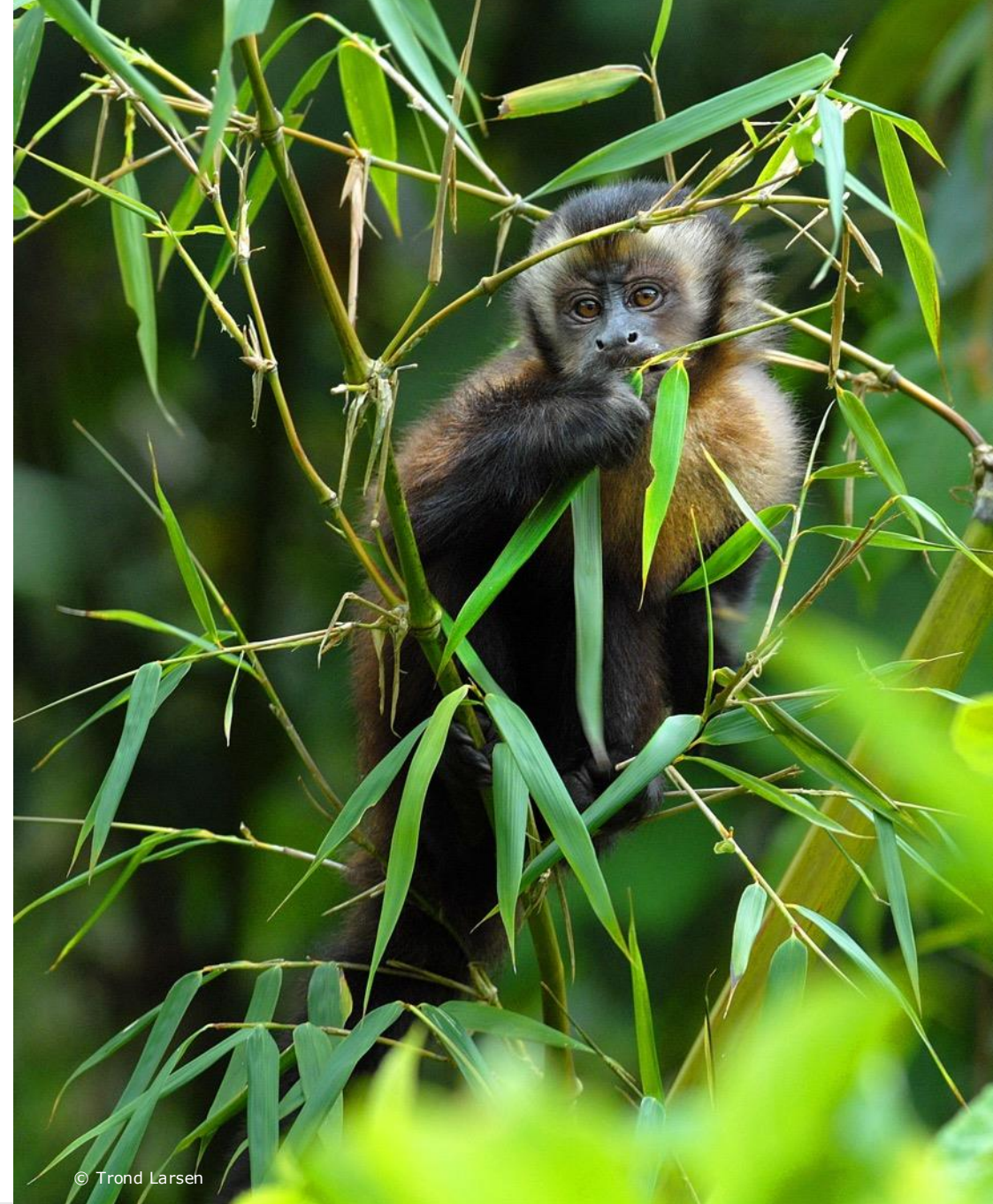


Monitoring and Evaluation Tools

- Customized tracking tools
 - Civil Society Tracking Tool
 - Gender Tracking Tool
 - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection
- Online/offline systems for data capture and storage
- Ability to aggregate and report on results accurately and efficiently
- Continual evolution to meet new needs

Challenges Encountered

- Interpretation and overreporting
- Maintaining a focus on reporting during implementation
- Continual need for training of RITs
- Timely validation of grantee results
- Additional indicators (and tracking tools) for specific investments
- Integration of hotspot specific indicators into ConservationGrants
- Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting





Biodiversity



- 17.1 million hectares of new protected areas
- 55.1 million hectares of KBAs with improved management
- 12.4 million hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity
- 20% average increase in METT score
- 1,259 species benefiting

Strengthened Civil Society

- 2,735 civil society organizations receiving support from CEPF
- 461 local grantees reporting an increase in their organizational capacity
- 286 local grantees reporting an increased understanding of and commitment to gender issues
- 998 networks/partnerships supported, 722 of which CEPF helped to create



© Cynthia Garland



© Rindra Andriamahemasoa, ACT (Acting for Communities and Trees)

Human Well-Being



- 5,709 communities benefiting
- More than 228,445 people receiving structured training, including 64,817 women
- More than 112,560 people receiving cash benefits, including 36,758 women
- At least 1,727 projects promoting nature-based solutions to climate change

Enabling Conditions



- 73 sustainable financing mechanisms created and/or supported
- 511 laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions enacted or amended
- 235 companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices





Looking Ahead

- Continued emphasis on training
- Reporting on the new Global Biodiversity Framework
- Review tracking tools—new emphases and priorities
- Review monitoring framework indicators

Discussion





© Jack Tordoff

Partnership with the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030

The Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 (WJI 2030)

Launched in 2021 by Maisons Cartier and Kering in partnership with the Responsible Jewellery Council.

Unites watch and jewelry brands to collaborate on projects that deliver impact all along the value chain: >60 members, including Chanel, Gucci, Pandora and Piaget.

Committed to sustainability goals: building climate resilience; preserving resources; and fostering inclusiveness.

In May 2024, launched a Nature Roadmap: a framework for businesses to act together in response to the nature and biodiversity crisis.



© W. Hawthorne

Fund for Nature Restoration

In June 2024, WJI 2030 issued a request for proposals to design, launch and implement a Fund for Nature Restoration.

The fund aims to provide financial and technical support to priority projects in and around supply chains of the watch and jewelry sector (from raw material production to processing).

Projects will be founded on strong engagement with local communities and Indigenous people and will drive measurable improvement in biodiversity, including species protection and restoration of ecological integrity, along with enhanced benefits for local communities.

After being invited by WJI 2030, CEPF responded to this call.



Fund for Nature Restoration: Private Investment Facility

In July 2024, CEPF was informed that it had been selected to develop and manage the fund, in partnership with Clarmondial, a Swiss advisory company specializing in sustainable natural resource management (collaborates with CI & the GEF on Food Securities Fund).

CEPF would focus on implementing a civil society grants program; Clarmondial on establishing a private investment facility.

The facility would be managed either by Clarmondial or a fund manager selected for the purpose.

Clarmondial would mobilize investors looking for return on investment.

The CEPF Secretariat would have an advisory role (to be elaborated) on the selection of landscapes and investments.

Fund for Nature Restoration: Civil Society Grants Program

The grants program would be delivered through CEPF's established processes; there would be no investment of funds.

Grant-making will take place in hotspots where CEPF has ongoing investments, to take advantage of existing relationships, strategies and structures; ensure greater cost efficiency; and minimize workload.

Interest of WJI 2030 members on gold and colored gemstones; strong overlap with Guinean Forests, MADIO and Tropical Andes Hotspots.

WJI 2030 wants to start quickly with grants for "trailblazer" projects (c. US\$1 million total) in 2025, then US\$1 million to US\$2 million in grants per year; funds to be raised from WJI 2030 members.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY - BOLIVIA



International conservation organization promoting the adoption of sustainable mining and habitat rehabilitation in the Andes Region.

Working in Madidi, Apolobamba, Cotapata and Pilon Lajas protected areas: some of the most biodiverse places on Earth.

Project would improve environmental and social sustainability of legal gold mining in protected areas, including alternatives to mercury.

Project would build on past work on capacity building for miners and park service personnel, promotion of green gold certification, and public policy support for environmentally and socially responsible mining.

Initial Due Diligence

At its 40th Meeting, on 12 December 2022, the Donor Council encouraged the Secretariat to pursue funding from private sources.

CEPF's approach to engaging the private sector is set out in Section OM4.1.1 of the Operational Manual:

"CEPF will continue to recognize the important role that the private sector can play in biodiversity conservation and seek to further scale up its engagement of this sector."

CI, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, conducted a due diligence review of WJI 2030 and its founding member, Kering.

In July 2024, CI's Corporate Engagement Committee granted its approval for CEPF to seek support from WJI 2030.

Recommended Action Item

The Donor Council is asked to give the Secretariat a mandate to negotiate a partnership with WJI 2030 to design, launch and implement a Fund for Nature Restoration.

If a partnership is successfully negotiated, the Secretariat will seek the Donor Council's no-objection approval to receive funding from the WJI 2030.

Negotiations would include: governance arrangements; conditions for accepting financial contributions; CEPF's role in decision making by the private investment facility; and use of CEPF name and logo.

The negotiation team would include relevant experts from CI, to better understand the robustness of the investment model, and to conduct more detailed due diligence.

Discussion





Impacts of CEPF Investment on Globally Threatened Species

Globally Threatened Species

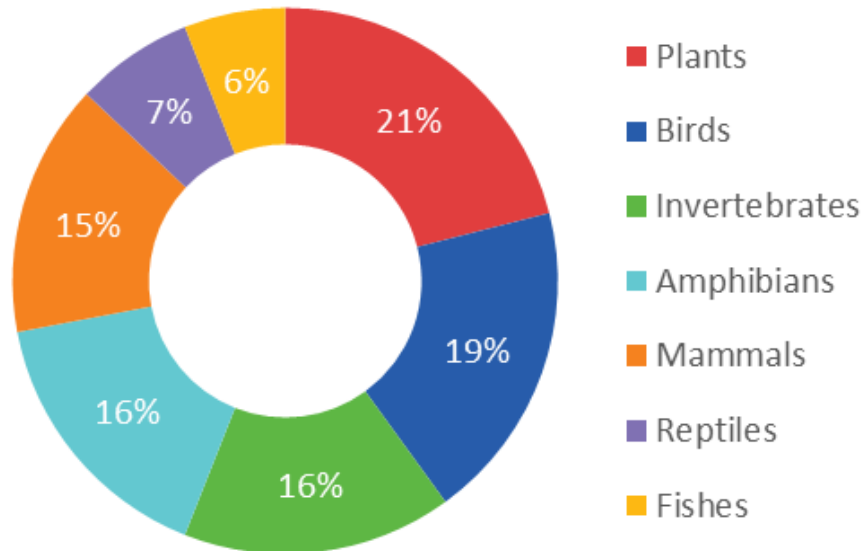
- >45,000 species are threatened with extinction.
- 12% of birds, 26% of mammals and 41% of amphibians are threatened.
- >800 species have gone extinct over the last 500 years.
- Extinction rates are 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than background rates.
- Loss of species means loss of food, materials, medicines and essential ecosystem services.



© Jack Tordoff

Species Conservation and CEPF

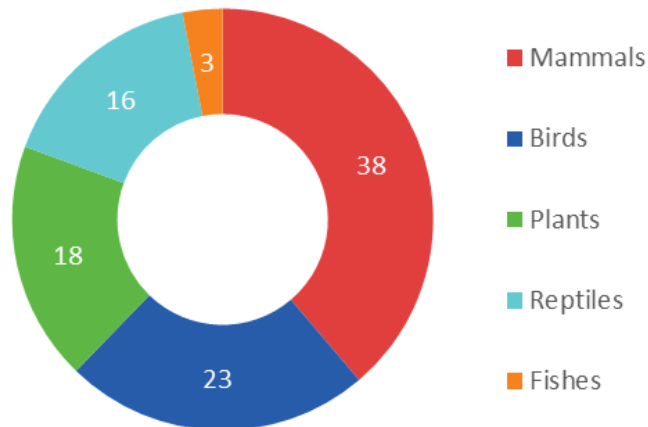
- Species conservation is a focus of 1 in 4 CEPF grants; a major focus of 1 in 8.
- 1,344 GT species have benefitted from conservation actions by CEPF grantees:



© Jack Tordoff

Indo-Burma Hotspot

- Largest human population and highest deforestation rates of any hotspot.
- Located in SE Asia: the top priority globally for averting species extinctions.
- 414 grants since 2009; 178 focus on species conservation.
- Action taken for 98 GT species:





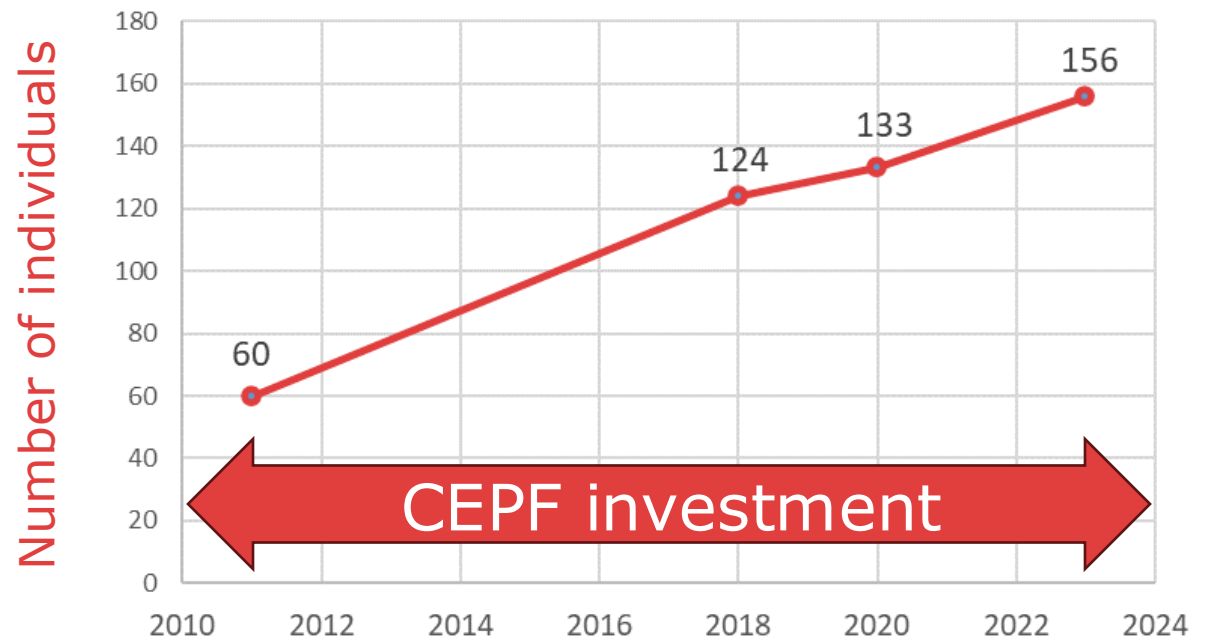
© Le Anh Tu / PRCF

François's Langur

Trachypithecus francoisi



- CEPF has supported People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) to conserve a core population at Lam Binh forest, Vietnam, since 2010.





© Nguyen Duc Tho

Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkey

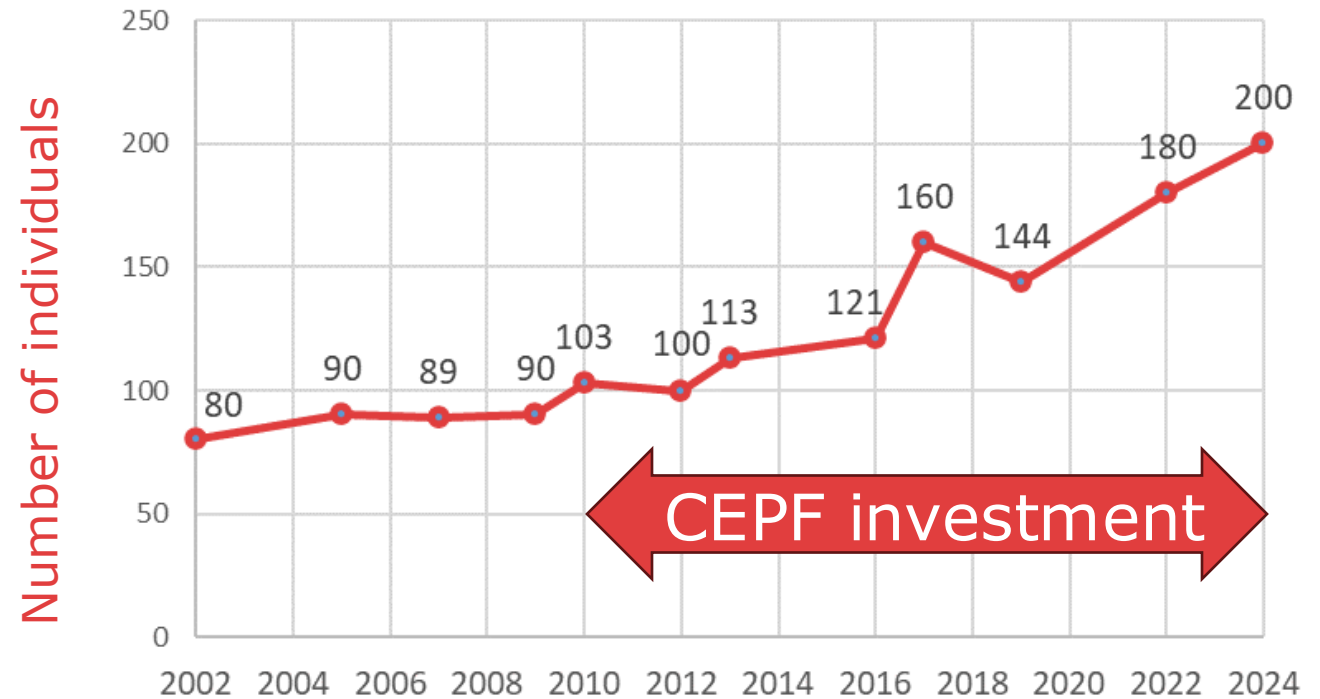
Rhinopithecus avunculus

Conservation status

Extinct (EX) Threatened (EW, CR, EN, VU) Least Concern (NT, LC)

CR Critically Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

- CEPF has supported Fauna & Flora to conserve the core population at Khau Ca forest, Vietnam, since 2010.





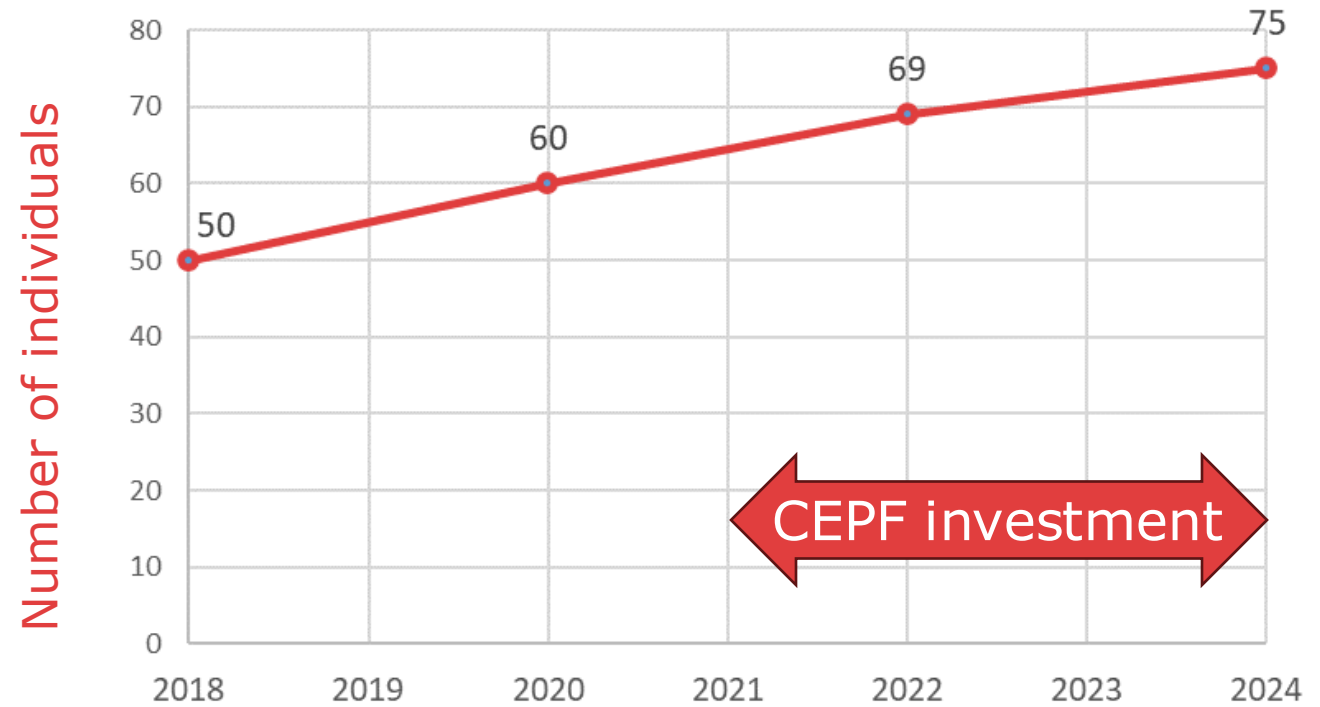
© Hoang Quoc Huy / GreenViet

Grey-Shanked Douc Langur

Pygathrix cinerea



- CEPF has supported GreenViet to conserve the core population at Tam My Tay forest, Vietnam, since 2021.





© Jonathan C. Eames

White-Shouldered Ibis

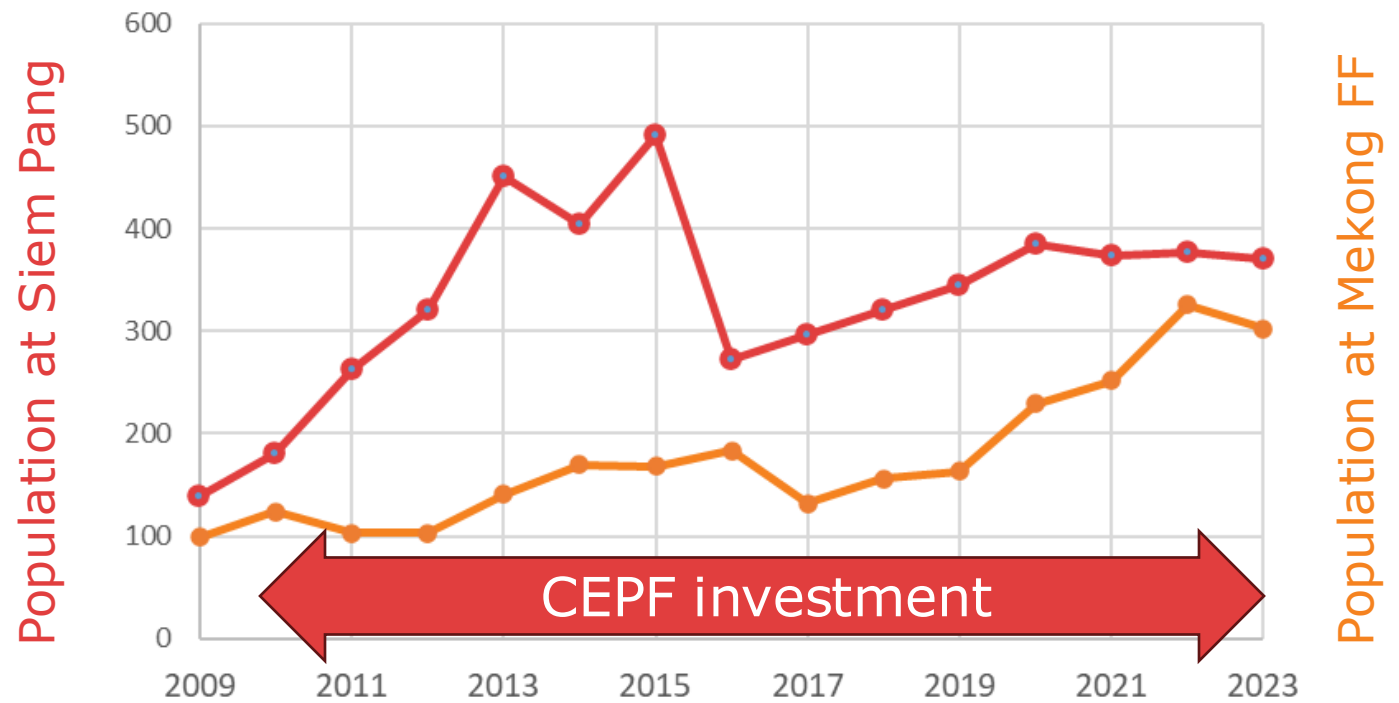
Pseudibis davisoni

Conservation status

Extinct (EX) Threatened (EW, **CR**, EN, VU) Least Concern (NT, LC)

Critically Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

- CEPF has supported BirdLife, WWF and Rising Phoenix to conserve core populations at Siem Pang WLS and Mekong Flooded Forest, Cambodia, since 2010.





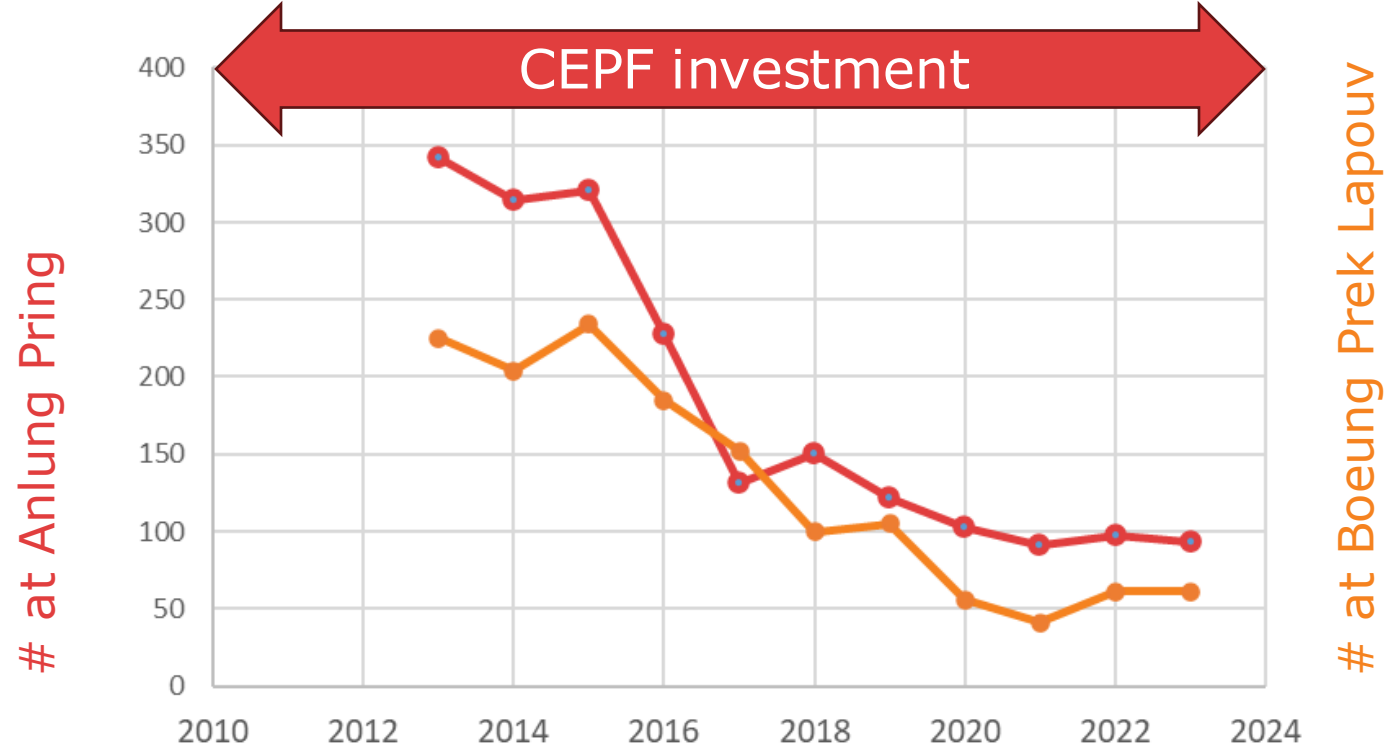
© NatureLife Cambodia

Sarus Crane

Grus antigone



- CEPF has supported Mlup Baitong, NatureLife and WWT to conserve core populations at Anlung Pring and Boeung Prek Lapouv, Cambodia, since 2010.





© Turtle Survival Alliance



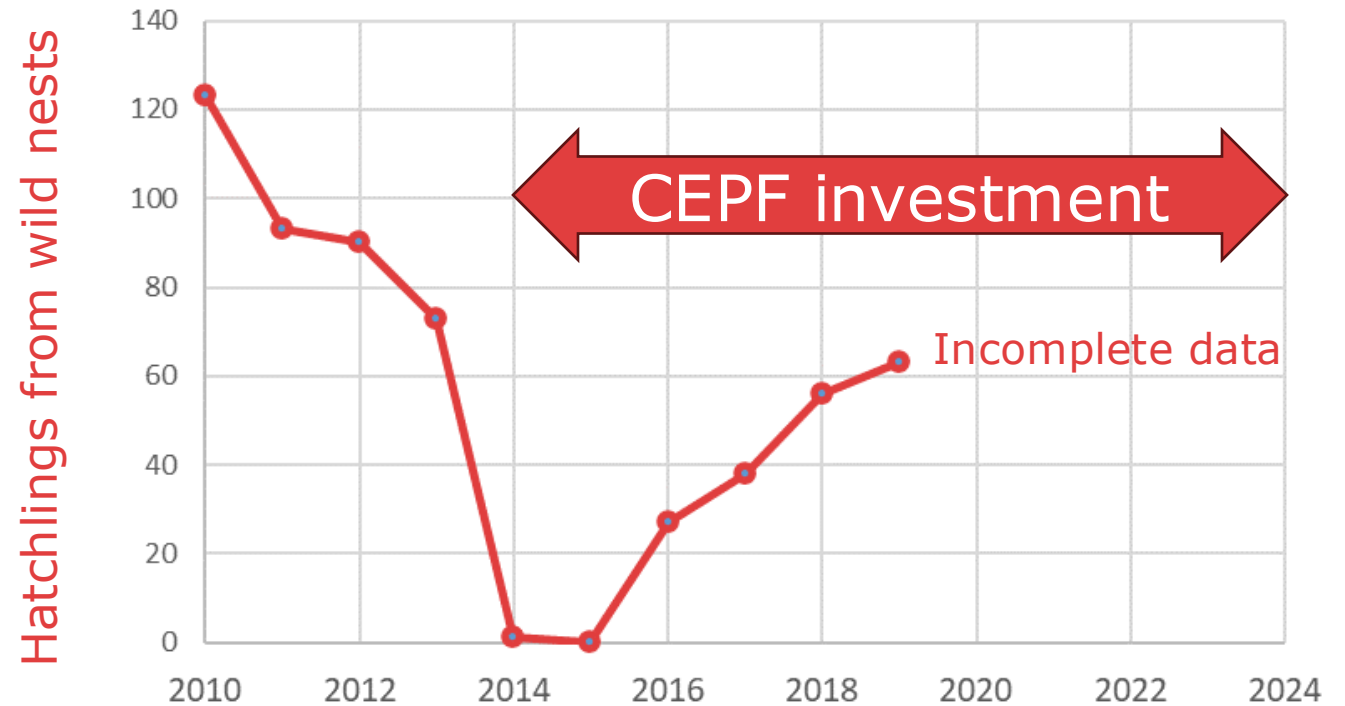
© Kalyar Platt / TSA

Burmese Roofed Turtle

Batagur trivittata



- CEPF has supported Turtle Survival Alliance to conserve the core population on the Upper Chindwin River in Myanmar since 2014.





© Steven G. Platt

Burmese Star Tortoise

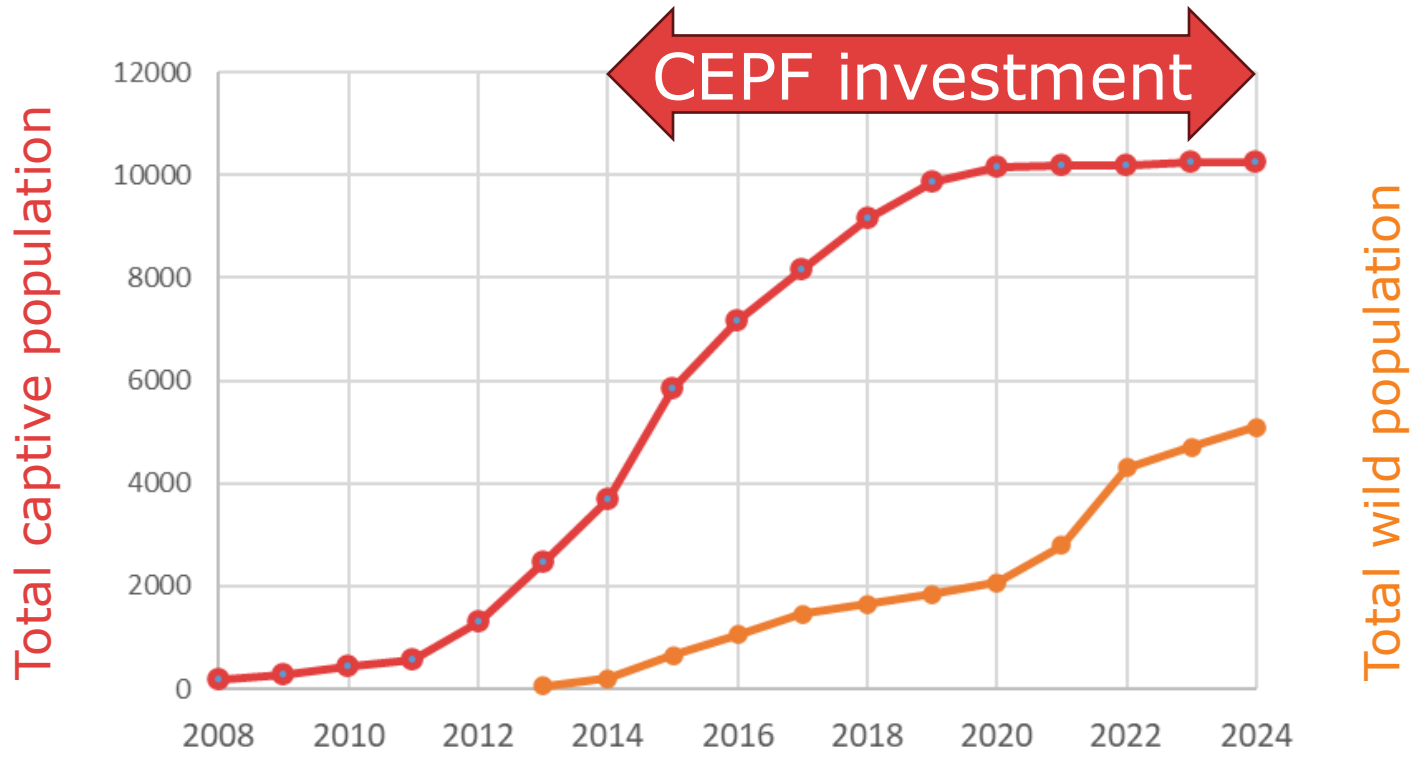
Geochelone platynota

Conservation status

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|--|
| Extinct | Threatened | | | | | Least Concern | |
| EX | EW | CR | EN | VU | NT | LC | |

Critically Endangered (IUCN 3.1)^[1]

- CEPF has supported Turtle Survival Alliance to conserve core populations at Minzontaung, Shwesettaw and Lawkanandar WLSs, Myanmar, since 2014.





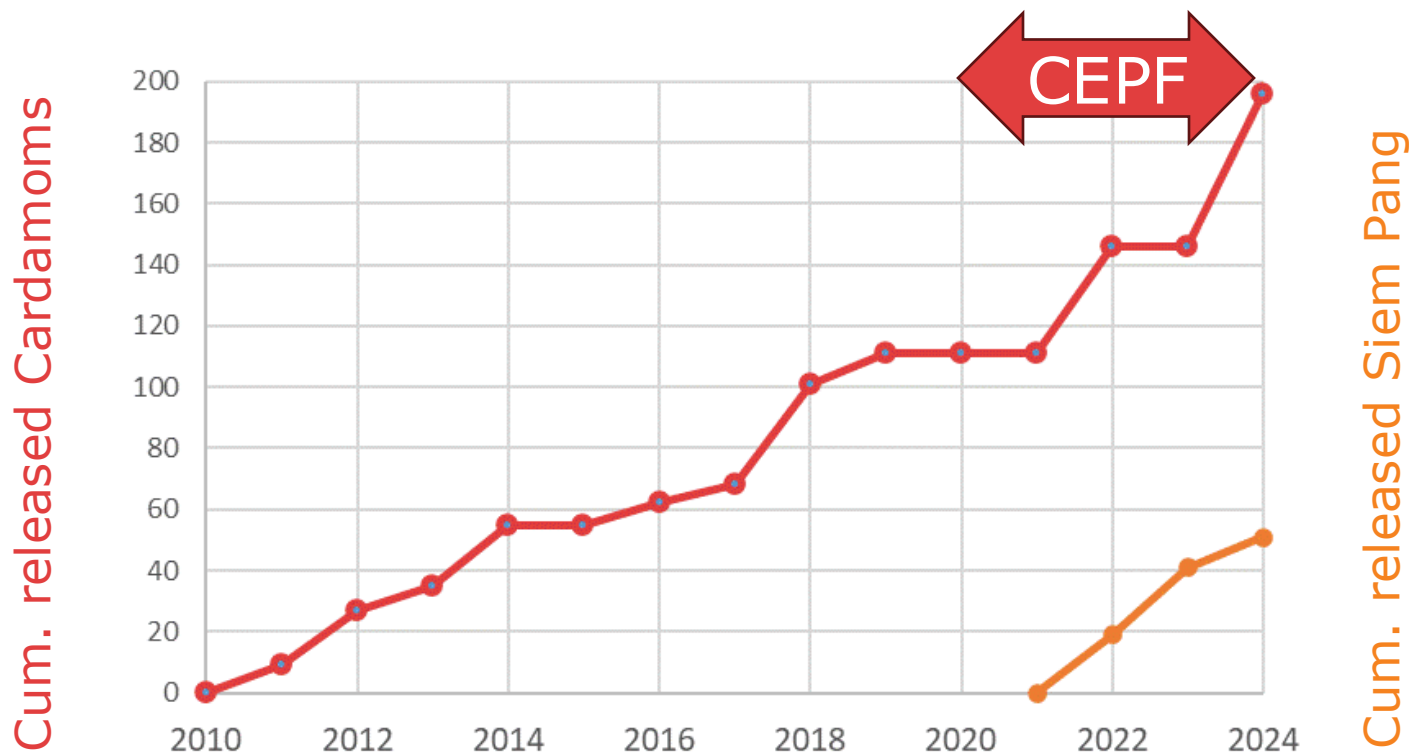
© Jonathan C. Eames / Rising Phoenix

Siamese Crocodile

Crocodylus siamensis



- CEPF has supported Fauna & Flora and Rising Phoenix to restore core populations in the Cardamom Mountains and at Siem Pang WLS, Cambodia, since 2020.



Discussion





Grantee Perception Survey



Background

CEPF's first Grantee Perception Survey was conducted in 2019 to:

- Improve interactions with grantees.
- Increase our flexibility and efficiency.
- Help CEPF be more user-friendly.
- Improve the quality of our technical and administrative support.

Background

Created an anonymous online survey for computer and mobile phone.

Five categories of questions:

- Application Process
- Administration
- Technical Supervision
- Capacity Building
- Donor-Grantee Relationship

Sent to all grantees at the end of the grant.

Available in five languages.



What did our grantees say in 2019?



What did we learn in 2019?

HIGHLIGHTS

Consistent high marks for clarity, utility and quality of experience across all 5 categories.

Negative responses were few or absent for some questions.

Average rating of 5.9 for question “How would you rate your overall experience as a CEPF grantee, on a scale from 1 (negative) to 7 (positive)?”

AREAS TO IMPROVE



Capacity Building & Training



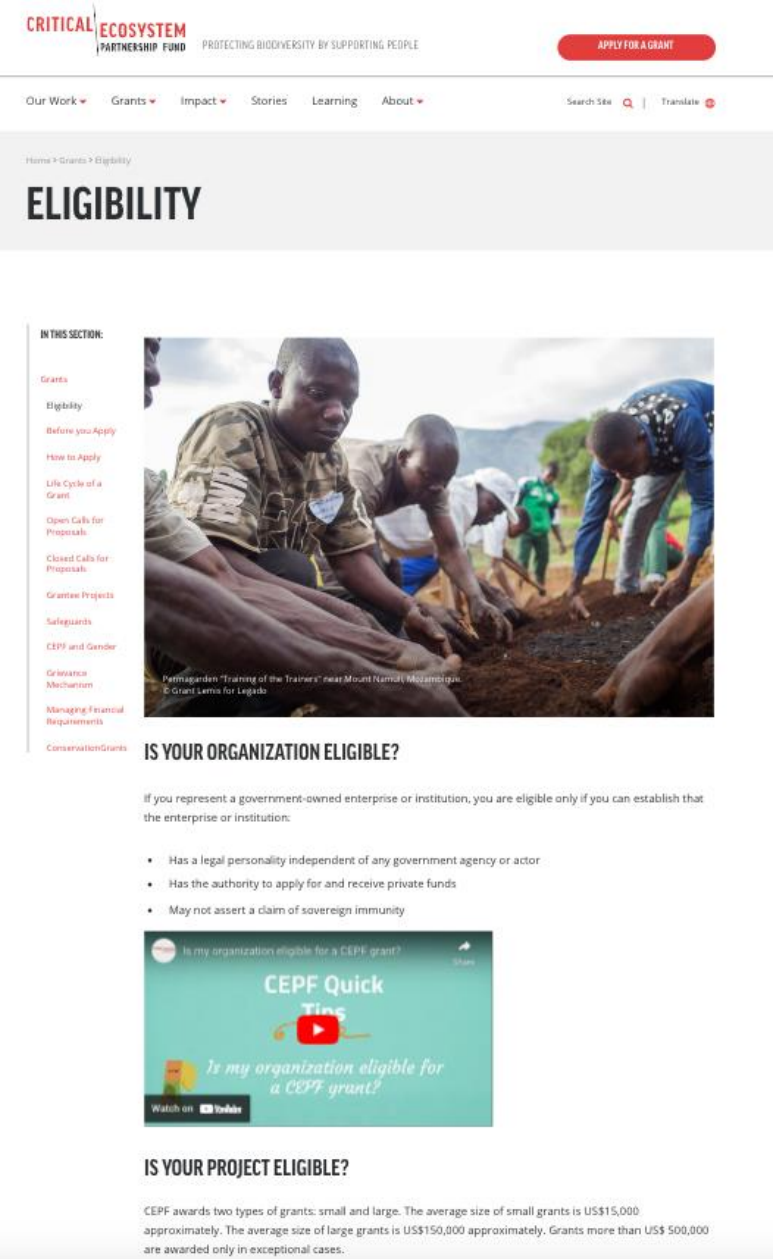
Financial & Technical Guidance



Site Visits

How did CEPF respond?

- Developed guidance materials and videos in multiple languages on many topics.
- Improved feedback/responses after site visits.
- Provided better guidance and training on project design/proposal preparation—master classes.
- Promoted gender and communications toolkits.
- Increased financial training during site visits.
- Increased interactions with grantees via meetings, feedback, regular check-ins.
- Improved information on the website—more templates, better schematics.



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE [APPLY FOR A GRANT](#)


Our Work ▾ Grants ▾ Impact ▾ Stories Learning About ▾ Search Site 🔍 Translate 🌐

Home ▸ Grants ▸ Eligibility

ELIGIBILITY

IN THIS SECTION:

- Grants
- Eligibility
- Before you Apply
- How to Apply
- Life Cycle of a Grant
- Open Calls for Proposals
- Closed Calls for Proposals
- Grantee Projects
- Safeguards
- CEPF and Gender
- Gravance Mechanism
- Managing Financial Requirements
- Conservation Grants




Perthapattan "Training of the Trainers" near Mount Namuli, Mozambique. © Grand Lenita for Legado

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE?

If you represent a government-owned enterprise or institution, you are eligible only if you can establish that the enterprise or institution:

- Has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor
- Has the authority to apply for and receive private funds
- May not assert a claim of sovereign immunity



IS YOUR PROJECT ELIGIBLE?

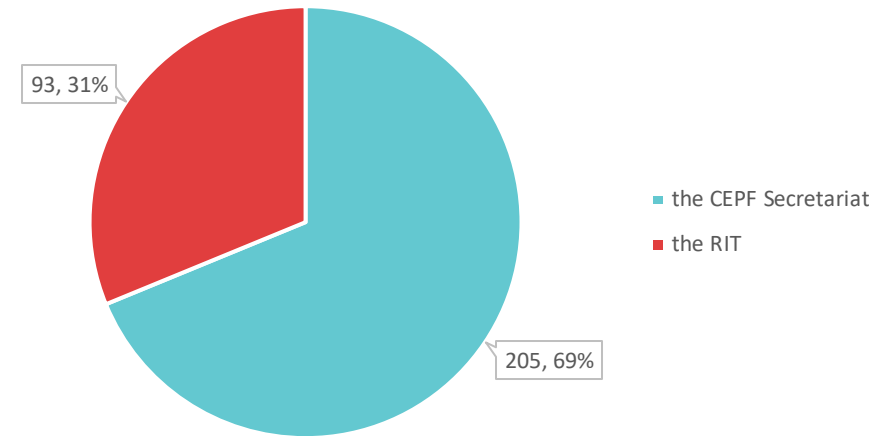
CEPF awards two types of grants: small and large. The average size of small grants is US\$15,000 approximately. The average size of large grants is US\$150,000 approximately. Grants more than US\$ 500,000 are awarded only in exceptional cases.

Fast Forward to 2024

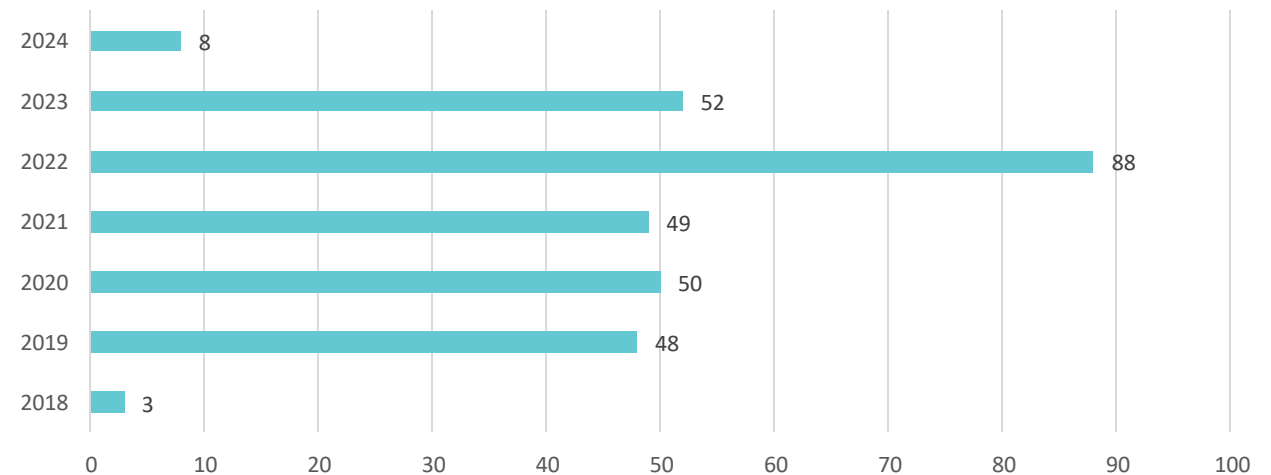
New survey report covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024

- 298 responses received out of a possible 865 (36%)
- 69% from large-grantee recipients; 31% from small-grantee recipients
- Responses from 12 hotspots
- Hotspots at varying stages of development
- The pandemic was a huge factor—no site visits!

Number of responses for grants managed by the Secretariat and the RIT



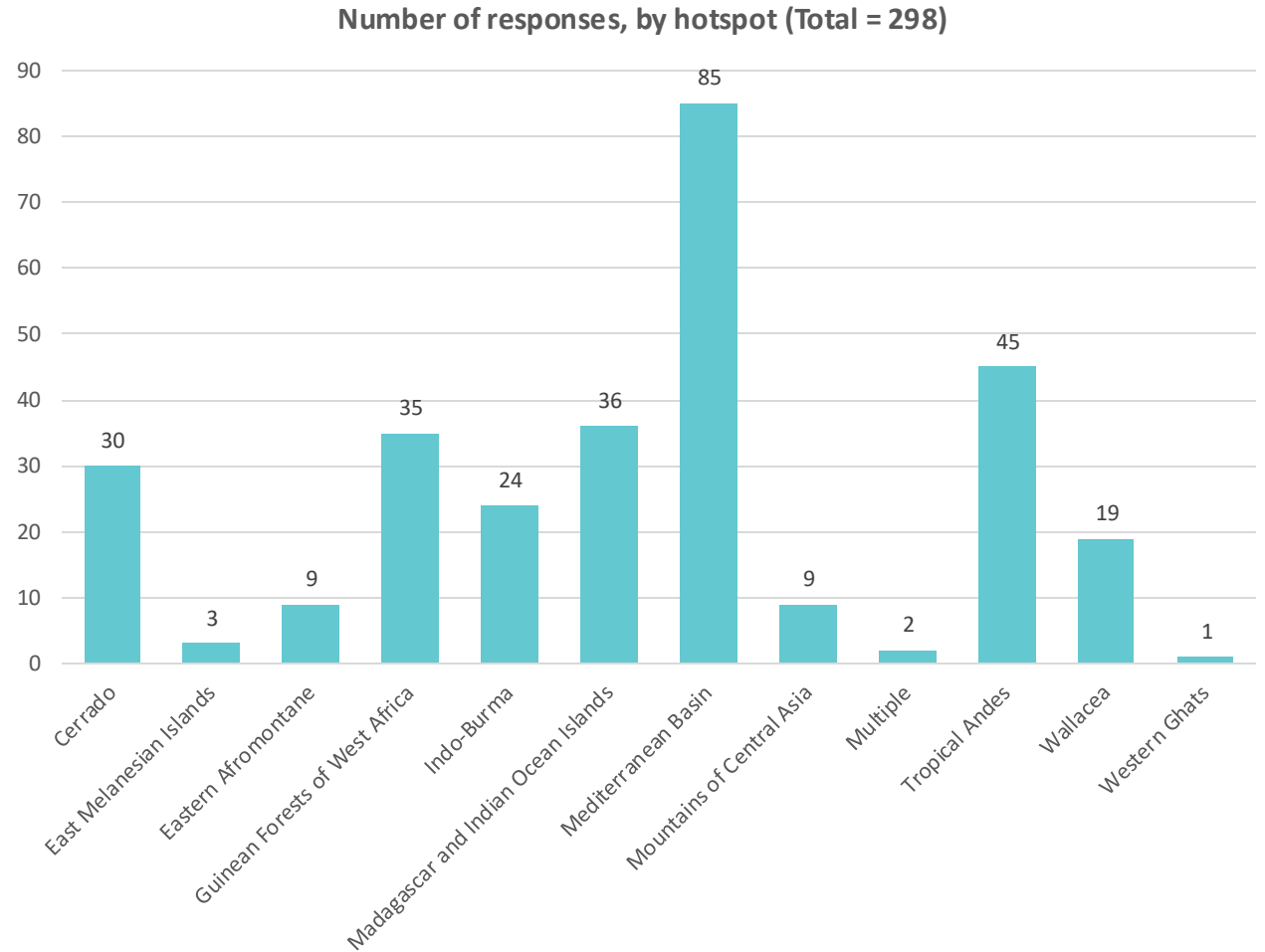
Number of responses received, by year of project completion



Responses

Survey is requested in the close-out letter. Some portfolios nearing completion or just starting.

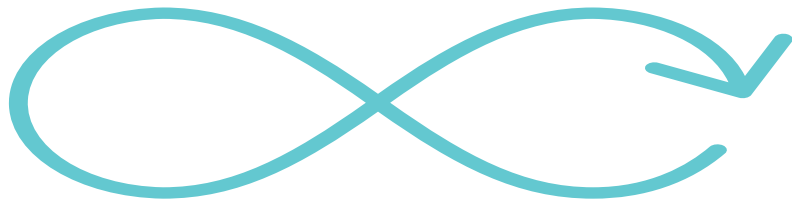
- Overall, extremely positive responses and comments.
- CEPF and RIT staff received high praise for their commitment and competence.
- Grantees appreciated the site visits, trainings and supervision.
- CEPF is regarded as a partner rather than a supervisor.
- Technical and administrative support is high quality.



Application Process



- Clear guidance provided on the ecosystem profile.
- Website useful.
- Programmatic and budgetary guidance rated high or satisfactory.
- Reactions to length of time to get the grant varied.
- High marks for efficiency of the process.

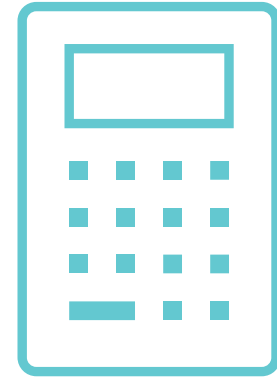


Recommendations for improvement:

- Provide better guidance on inclusion of indicators.
- Create a webinar on how to prepare a letter of inquiry.
- Speed up the award process.
- Reduce bureaucracy—too many steps.
- Allow online applications.
- Allocate more staff to support applicants.

Administration

- Guidance pertaining to financial reporting, procurement and financial procedures rated high or satisfactory.
- Financial site visits rated as very or somewhat useful.
- 42% of respondents did not have a financial site visit.
- Financial report and site visit follow up very or somewhat useful.



Recommendations for improvement:

- Increase frequency of site visits.
- Include capacity building.
- Reduce delays in payments.
- Increase the frequency of communication.

Technical Supervision

- Technical support regarded as very or somewhat useful.
- Site visits and follow up rated as very or somewhat useful.
- 25% of respondents did not have a programmatic site visit.
- Support on gender issues varied.
- Support on safeguards varied but increased from 2019.
- Guidance and information on technical issue in general rated as very or somewhat useful.



Recommendations for improvement:

- Increase the space for exchange of experiences
- Increase interactions with other hotspots
- Provide more opportunity for feedback and regular monitoring

Capacity Building

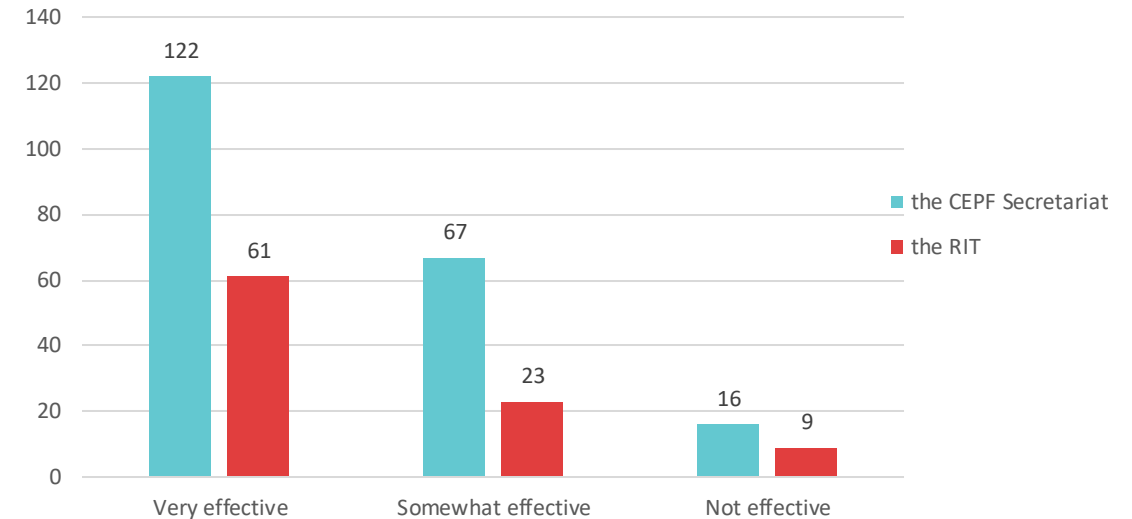
- 200 respondents (out of 298) received some form of capacity building.
- Capacity building events regarded as very or somewhat effective.
- Efforts to build organizational capacity rated as very good or satisfactory.



Recommendations for improvement:

- Increase the number of capacity building events
- Expand to include a range of opportunities (e.g. mentoring, peer to peer exchanges)
- Include an explicit focus on organizational development

Effectiveness at building organizational capacity



Donor-Grantee Relationship

- Grantees feel comfortable interacting with Secretariat and RIT.
- The Secretariat and RIT are rated very responsive.
- CEPF delivers consistent messaging.
- CEPF's reporting requirements are varied in relation to other donors.
- Relationship with CEPF pertaining to communications is very good or satisfactory but staff are too few.



Recommendations for improvement:

- Regarding communication, increase contact and follow-up with grantees about their projects.
- Increase interaction between CEPF and grantees to have an even stronger donor-grantee relationship.

Where to Focus in the Future

- Increase interactions with grantees (virtual and in-person).
- Expand our capacity building efforts to include organizational development.
- Increase interactions pertaining to communications issues.
- Overall rating of 6.5 out of 7.



© O. Langrand

Questions for the Donor Council

1. Is the Donor Council satisfied with the recommendations identified by the Secretariat to address the concerns of the grantees?
2. Does the Donor Council see value in continuing the survey and reporting on a regular basis?
3. Are there any changes to the survey that the Donor Council would recommend?





Discussion



Other Business

A large flock of birds is silhouetted against a bright orange and yellow sunset sky. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center-left. The birds are scattered throughout the frame, some in flight, some landing, and some perched. The overall scene is peaceful and celebratory.

THANK YOU

CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND