

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
44th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
In-Person, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday 11 February 2025  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Santo Domingo Local Time  
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**

Government of Canada:

On 13 December 2024, the Government of Canada and CEPF signed an agreement for CAD20 million (US\$14.4 million) that will end on 31 March 2026. The investment will focus on gender and community-based approaches to conservation in the Tropical Andes, Cerrado and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots. Due to the amount of the investment, the CEPF Secretariat has invited the Government of Canada to join CEPF as a Global Donor. The Government of Canada is evaluating this possibility, which is the reason why we have the pleasure to welcome Dorothy Uy, Senior Program Advisor, International Biodiversity Program, Environment and Climate Partnerships, Global Affairs Canada, as an observer to the 44<sup>th</sup> CEPF Donor Council meeting.

European Union and Agence Française de Développement:

On 26 November 2024, the European Union and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) signed an agreement for US\$21.5 million to be used by CEPF to support civil society organizations to engage in nature conservation in four biodiversity hotspots: Cerrado, Indo-Burma, Mountains of Central Asia and East Melanesian Islands (US\$16 million), as well as for the Rapid Rescue for Conservation Crises (R2C2) facility (US\$5.5 million). The convention to be signed between AFD and CEPF is still being reviewed by CEPF and should be signed shortly.

Conservation International:

The contribution that CEPF receives from Conservation International (CI) will come to an end on 30 June 2025. Discussions have started to make sure that CI will continue to support CEPF. CI is the only source of unrestricted funding for CEPF. This funding is

essential to maintain key functions within the CEPF Secretariat, such as monitoring and evaluation, communications and fundraising.

Watch and Jewlery Initiative 2030:

A meeting with Watch and Jewellery Initiative 2030 (WJI 2030) and Clarmondial, originally scheduled for December 2024, was postponed. CEPF is trying to reschedule this meeting to continue engagement with this initiative.