

**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

Caribbean Islands Hotspot Portfolio Overview

Recommended Action Item:

This paper is presented for information. There is no action item for the Donor Council.

Background:

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot comprises more than 7,000 islands, islets, reefs and cays with a land area of 230,000 km² scattered across 4 million km² of sea. The hotspot takes in 30 biologically and culturally diverse nations and territories, of which seven are currently targeted for CEPF support: Antigua and Barbuda; The Bahamas; the Dominican Republic; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Lucia; and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Due to the dire security situation following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, there are no CEPF-funded activities in Haiti at present.

The current phase of CEPF investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot began in August 2021 and will continue until July 2027. It builds on the achievements made during the first CEPF investment phase in the hotspot from 2010 to 2016. The source of funding is the Government of Japan trust funds managed by the World Bank. The regional implementation team (RIT) is the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), based in Trinidad and Tobago. Implementation is also supported by the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) in the Dominican Republic, with a focus on building platforms for constructive engagement among public sector institutions, local communities and civil society organizations.

There have been nine calls for proposals to date, which have generated applications from all eligible countries and resulted in the award of 20 large grants and 22 small grants, plus the RIT grant. The total value of the grant portfolio is US\$8.1 million. Local organizations have received the majority of grants, by number and amount, with 29 grants, totaling US\$5.3 million, compared with 14 grants totaling US\$2.8 million to international organizations.

One-third of the available funding for grant-making remains to be committed. Moreover, all but two of the awarded grants are still active. Nevertheless, the expected results of the awarded grants provide an indication of progress towards the targets for the portfolio:

- 29 civil society organizations (CSOs) have received grants from CEPF (against a target of 50).
- The capacity of 15 CSOs to reduce threats to biodiversity is being strengthened (against a target of 25).
- Grantees are working to reduce threats to biodiversity at 17 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (against a target of 20).
- Grantees are also developing and/or implementing conservation action plans for 38 priority species (against a target of 30).
- 13 networks are being supported to improve collaboration and coordination among CSOs (against a target of 10).

During the Donor Council meeting, an overview of the CEPF investment in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot will be presented, with highlights from the grant portfolio in the Dominican Republic.