

**Midterm Assessment**  
**Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**  
**September 2012 – February 2015**

## **1. Introduction**

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot — which stretches over a curving arc of widely scattered but biogeographically similar mountains, covering an area of more than 1 million square kilometers and running over a distance of more than 7,000 kilometers — is remarkable for both its high level of biological diversity and the life-sustaining systems it maintains for millions of people. Characterized by a series of montane “islands” (including the highest peaks in Africa and Arabia) and extensive plateaus, the Hotspot is home to several ecoregions, including the East African Montane forests, Southern Rift Montane Forest-Grassland mosaic, the Albertine Rift and the Ethiopian Upper Montane Forests, Woodlands, Bushlands and Grasslands, as well as the ecoregions of the Southern Montane “islands” in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The result is a region suitable for a wide range of vegetation types, with an estimated 7,600 plant species, of which at least 2,350 are endemic, or unique, to the region.

The hotspot covers fifteen countries, from north to south: Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

The challenge for CEPF in the region is one of sheer geographic breadth and diversity of the socio-political landscape. Fourteen of the countries in the hotspot – all except Saudi Arabia – are eligible for CEPF investment, and eleven of the countries – all except Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Kenya, and Uganda – have priority KBAs. Grantees are operating in at least six languages: English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Amharic, and kiSwahili. The countries in which they work have very different economic outlooks and very different operating environments for civil society. The issue for CEPF and its Regional Implementation Team (RIT) is creating a grants program that is more than the sum of its parts.

CEPF grant-making in the region formally began in September 2012 with a commitment of five years. This assessment covers the first half of the investment and is based on internal review, an external review conducted by Fauna & Flora International, a senior advisory meeting held from 22-23 July in Laikipia, Kenya, and a formal all-grantee “exchange” event held on 26 July in Nairobi, Kenya. The data in this report reflects information through June 2015.

## **2. Niche for CEPF Investment**

### **2.1. Overview**

The ecosystem profile for the region was formally approved in January 2012 and the five-year investment period began in September of that year with the commencement of the RIT grant, led by BirdLife International. The total allocation to the region is \$9,800,000 with the initial plan being that all money is obligated and all grants are closed by August 2017.

In 2011, a team led by BirdLife International and Conservation International consulted more than 200 stakeholders from civil society, government, and donor institutions to gather and synthesize data on biodiversity, socioeconomic and institutional context, climate change, ecosystem services, and ongoing

and planned conservation investments in the three countries in the hotspot. This team identified 261 terrestrial KBAs, 49 freshwater KBAs, and 14 corridors, which include representative elements of the Hotspot’s 2,350 endemic plant species, 157 endemic bird species, 90 endemic reptile species, 100 endemic mammal species, 100 endemic amphibian species, and 181 globally threatened freshwater fish species.

In order to match the level of funding available from CEPF with a concomitant geographic scope, CEPF and the consulted stakeholders prioritized 37 terrestrial sites, ten freshwater sites, and eight corridors. The terrestrial sites represent 5.5 million hectares, or 18 percent of the total key biodiversity area and 5.5 percent of the total surface of the hotspot. Criteria used to prioritize these targets include: number of globally threatened species, presence of threatened habitat types, resilience to climate change, status of protection, provision of ecosystem services, threats, and opportunities for conservation action.

Being so geographically vast, CEPF thinks of the hotspot in terms of five units, from north to south: the Arabian Peninsula, the Ethiopian Highlands, the Albertine Rift, the Eastern Arc Mountains, (including the Kenyan and northern Tanzanian volcanic mountains) and the Southern Highlands (including the Northern Lake Niassa Mountain Complex). *CEPF’s niche in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot to support civil society to apply innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated and underfunded protected areas, key biodiversity areas, and priority corridors thereby enabling changes in policy and building resilience in the region’s ecosystems and economy to sustain biodiversity in the long term.* This is expressed via four Strategic Directions, each with a target allocation of funds per the CEPF Donor Council.

**Table 1. Strategic Directions and Allocation**

No.	Strategic Direction	Allocation
1	Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors	\$3,200,000
2	Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot	\$2,800,000
3	Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors	\$2,300,000
4	Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (the RIT)	\$1,500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,800,000</b>

## 2.2. Field-Based Coordination

The RIT has a complex contractual and organizational structure. At the time of the RIT competition in mid-2012, standard operating procedure for CEPF was to split RIT grants between administrative and programmatic components. BirdLife International, via its East and Southern Africa Programme Office based in Nairobi, submitted the highest ranked paired proposals for the two components, with IUCN, via its offices in Nairobi and Maputo, and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), based in Addis Ababa, in subordinate roles. Normally, this would have yielded three separate agreements for BirdLife: RIT administration, RIT programs, and a small grants fund. However, due to unique elements of Ethiopian law on organizations being required to have a maximum of one third of donor funds allocated to “headquarters” versus two thirds of funds disbursed to the “field,” EWNHS needed its own

direct engagement with CEPF as both RIT and as the manager of small grants funds (whereas IUCN falls under the BirdLife agreement). The resulting arrangement is as follows:

**Table 2. RIT Contract Structure**

Agreement Holder	Administration	Programs	Total RIT	Small Grant Allocation	Total Agreement Value
BirdLife	\$919,395		\$919,395		\$919,395
BirdLife		\$477,717	\$477,717		\$477,717
BirdLife			\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
EWNHS	\$60,606	\$42,282	\$102,888	\$250,000	\$352,888
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$980,001</b>	<b>\$519,999</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$2,250,000</b>
<b>Percent</b>	65%	35%			

The BirdLife agreements run from September 2012 through August 2017; the EWNHS agreement runs from October 2012 through August 2017.

The scope of work of the RIT is ambitious in all hotspots, and is especially so in the Eastern Afromontane. Very few organizations have the capacity or mission to undertake the RIT role in this region. Of those, BirdLife International, with network partners in several of the EAM countries (including EWNHS), and IUCN, with multiple program offices and network partners, are among the best-suited, for the job. BirdLife and IUCN are able to make use of their network partners for country outreach to potential grantees and as a pool of experts for proposal review. Table 3 shows the staffing structure of the RIT.

**Table 3. RIT Staffing Structure (full time positions in bold)**

Location	Core Team	Expanded Team
Nairobi, Kenya	<b>Maaiké Mantén</b> , Team Leader (BirdLife)	Julius Arinaitwe, Regional Director (BirdLife Africa)
		Ademola Ajagbe, Team Leader Conservation Action and Policy; IBA/KBA Specialist (BirdLife)
	<b>Jean Paul Ntungane</b> , Project Officer (BirdLife)	Edith Onyango-Hongo, Team Leader Finance and Administration (BirdLife)
		Leo Niskanen, Scientist (IUCN)
	<b>Dalphine Adre</b> , Finance Officer (BirdLife)	Mine Pabari, M&E specialist (IUCN)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	<b>Zewditu Tessema</b> , Ethiopia Project Officer (EWNHS)	Mengistu Wondafrash, Executive Director (EWNHS)
		Tesfaye Gebresenbet, Finance officer (EWNHS)
Maputo, Mozambique	Thomas Sberna, Mozambique Project Officer (IUCN)	Maria Cruz, Country Director (IUCN)
Amman, Jordan	Sharif Jbour, Yemen Project Officer (BirdLife)	Ibrahim Khader, Regional Director (BirdLife Midden East)
Cambridge, UK		Chris Wuestner, Finance Manager (BirdLife)
		Neil Burgess, Scientist (independent)

Only the names in bold are billed full-time to CEPF. All other staff listed have a CEPF budget of between 10-35 percent full-time, but actually contribute far more time to the work effort. BirdLife, EWNHS, and IUCN all also contribute or bill small amounts of time of senior advisory personnel who are of great value to the program.

### **3. Implementing the Strategy**

#### **3.1. Collaboration with CEPF Donors and Other Funders**

CEPF works with donors at the level of the Secretariat, the RIT, and via individual grantees. For the Secretariat and RIT, the challenge has been finding the right party with whom to interact given that there are so many countries and relatively little CEPF money in any single place. For example, it is difficult to attract donor interest with only one grant in Zimbabwe, or to attract donor interest in a country like the DRC when there are other ongoing development imperatives. It is also difficult for the RIT, based in Nairobi but with no priority sites in Kenya, to attract local donor interest. On the other hand, the RIT offices in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (i.e., via EWNHS) and Maputo, Mozambique (i.e., via the IUCN), have been able to leverage reasonably-sized portfolios to forge donor connections.

Contact with donors via grantees has been more productive in terms of achieving CEPF log frame targets. High-capacity grantees like FZS, FFI, WCS, the Rainforest Alliance, ARCOS, Population Health Environment Ethiopia, and MELCA, all have either large grants from CEPF, major grants from other donors, or long-standing connection to particular sites that have had previous donor support, enabling them to ensure interest and leverage further support.

The above being said, by design, CEPF works closely with the Macarthur Foundation in the Albertine Rift / Great Lakes region. The Macarthur Foundation's Great Lakes strategy utilizes a climate resilient altitudinal gradient approach – as opposed to CEPF, which uses a hotspot boundary with a lower altitude limit – such that many of its grantees or geographic areas of interest overlap with those of CEPF. BirdLife International, ARCOS, and The Nature Conservancy are all receiving funding from both Macarthur and CEPF in a purposeful manner. The RIT and Macarthur have released coordinated calls for proposals and purposefully consider each other's awards when making decisions on proposals.

#### **3.2. Portfolio Status**

CEPF grant-making formally began with the set of grant awards that constitute the RIT: “programmatic” and “administrative” grants for a combined \$1,500,000. These grants are for the full amount of the Strategic Direction, with no plans for any further obligation as of this time.

The Secretariat and RIT have released calls for Letters of Inquiry to solicit applications for the other strategic directions. Table 4 summarizes the calls released to date. Note that the RIT accepts small grants on a rolling basis, and thus has received more total applications than those itemized in open calls for proposals.

The large number of LOIs reflects the size of the region and demand for this type of funding, and also reflects on the workload of the RIT.

**Table 4. EAM Calls for Letters of Inquiry**

No.	Release Date	Due Date	LOIs Received*
1	September 7, 2012	October 19, 2012	50 [46 core / 4 small]
2	February 21, 2013	April 1, 2013	175 [66 core / 109 small]
3	July 10, 2013	August 21, 2013	10 [all small]
4	September 19, 2013	October 31, 2013	90 [45 core / 45 small]
5	November 11, 2013	December 16, 2013	99 [all core]
6	February 14, 2014	April 2, 2014	26 (small)
7	30 July 2014	Open call	102 (by end of June 2015)
8	4 August 2014	September 15	142 [65 core / 77 small]
9	September 19, 2014	October 14, 2014	10 [all core]
10	October 1, 2014	November 14, 2014	13 [4 core / 9 small]
11	May 18, 2015	June 15, 2015	2 (small)
		<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>

\* Due dates are for core grants (small grant application due dates were generally two weeks later than core grants). LOIs received includes those submitted for both core and small grants; CEPF GEM database only captures small grants awarded, not all small grant applications.

The CEPF Secretariat sets obligation targets by Conservation International’s fiscal year, which ends on June 30. There are disconnects between various tracking systems for determining how much money has been obligated each year.

- The GEM system available to the RIT shows the contract award date, but not the year that CEPF “books” the amount. Thus, there are awards from July 1, 2014 (FY 15) that are still counted as FY 14 grants.
- The GEM system shows all money “obligated” in the form of the small grants fund to BirdLife and EWNHS, which is not the same amount of money they have actually obligated to small grantees.

**Table 5. Obligation Rate**

Fiscal Year End Date	Target Obligation	Actual Obligation
June 30, 2013	\$2,000,000	\$2,719,749
June 30, 2014	\$3,200,000	\$1,719,242
June 30, 2015	\$3,000,000	\$3,850,773
June 30, 2016	\$1,300,000	
June 30, 2017	\$300,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,800,000</b>	<b>\$8,289,664</b>

Note that the total amount obligated is greater than the amounts listed as “obligated” in other tables in this report. The additional amount represents (1) \$1.5 million obligated to BirdLife and EWNHS as the RIT under Strategic Direction 4 plus (2) the approximately \$300,000 that CEPF has “obligated” via the RIT small grant mechanisms, but that BirdLife and EWNHS have not in turn obligated to smaller organizations.

LOIS that received a positive review were then moved to a full proposal and eventual award. For these, Table 6 shows grants by strategic direction and Table 7 shows grants by country.

**Table 6. Pending, Active, and Closed Large and Small Grants by Strategic Direction**

SD	Title	Allocation	Obligation	Percent	Large Grants	Small Grants
1	Mainstream biodiversity	\$3,200,000	\$2,262,975	70%	14	19
2	Protect KBAs	\$2,800,000	\$3,176,020	110%	24	10
3	Sustainable financing	\$2,300,000	\$991,364	43%	4	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,300,000</b>	<b>\$6,430,359</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>

While CEPF accounts for funds in only one strategic direction, the reality is that multiple grants address both Strategic Direction 1 and 2. Many grants that seek to protect KBAs (SD 2) do so, in part, by mainstreaming biodiversity into local development activities. Many grants that seek to mainstream biodiversity at local or regional levels (SD 1) have the result of improving the management of KBAs. The fact that SD 2 is already over-subscribed compared to the original estimate at the time of the Ecosystem Profile reflects that the large demand for this type of work and the high quality of proposals. In such a large hotspot, with 310 KBAs, this is an unsurprising result.

Strategic Direction 3 is undersubscribed. This reflects (1) an overestimation, at the time of the Ecosystem Profile, of the likely uptake from civil society, and (2) perhaps an overly optimistic set of investment priorities in the Profile. The investment priorities in this strategic direction are to support CSOs to develop forest carbon projects, PES schemes, and other market mechanisms for conservation; development of civil society in Eritrea, South Sudan, and Yemen; and, support to CSOs in fundraising capacity. Of these, the team has focused on the last element, fundraising capacity. Small grants and initial experience shows that we will accomplish little in Eritrea, South Sudan, and Yemen beyond the current grants. The result of the Senior Advisors meeting is that the team will continue to attempt to make awards regarding forest carbon, PES, and market mechanisms.

Table 6 highlights that even with 80 grants – dispersed over fourteen countries and regional initiatives – any one country will have relatively few activities. The fact that Ethiopia and Tanzania have the largest obligations to date adheres to the RIT’s strategy, which reflects that those two countries have the largest number of KBAs and the largest number of priority KBAs.

Table 7 shows the division of funds by “national” recipients, which include any organization from one of the fifteen hotspot countries, and “international” recipients, which include recipients from France, Germany, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The relatively large amount of money devoted to international organizations reflects the challenges of working in this hotspot. The RIT is not physically present throughout the hotspot, and many of the KBAs are, by definition, remote, making it advantageous to make awards to high-capacity groups that are typically “international.” That being said, most of the international organizations to which CEPF grants have a long-term local presence and are staffed almost entirely by national personnel.

Division of funds by number of projects is only gives part of the picture. Apart from three individuals that received small grants, 64 unique organizations have received CEPF funds. Of those, 47 are national, representing CEPF’s commitment to reaching such organizations.

**Table 7. Pending, Active, and Closed Large and Small Grants by Country**

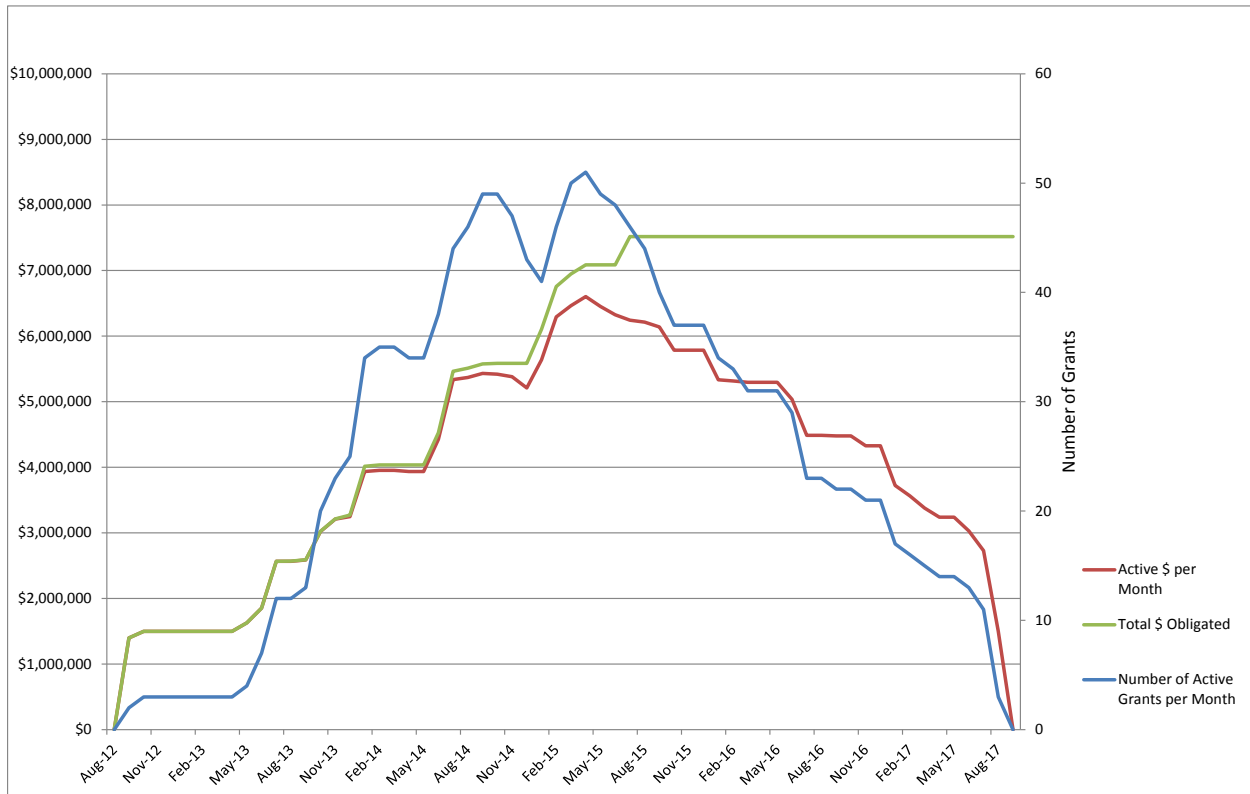
Country	Obligation	Large Grants	Small Grants
Burundi	\$602,995	4	3
DRC	\$485,222	3	0
Eritrea	\$16,000	0	1
Ethiopia	\$1,488,392	10	7
Kenya	\$39,980	0	3
Malawi	\$293,088	3	0
Mozambique	\$687,681	5	6
Rwanda	\$109,893	2	3
Saudi Arabia	<i>Not eligible for funding</i>	0	0
South Sudan	\$38,673	0	2
Tanzania	\$1,082,058	6	6
Uganda	\$19,944	0	2
Yemen	\$290,052	2	2
Zambia	\$28,846	0	2
Zimbabwe	\$129,390	1	0
Multi-country	\$1,118,145	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,430,359</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>

**Table 8. International versus National Funding Recipients**

	International Grantees		National Grantees	
	Obligation	Projects	Obligation	Projects
<b>Large Grants</b>	\$3,000,941	18	\$2,788,723	24
<b>Small Grants</b>	\$186,470	10	\$454,225	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,187,411</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$3,242,948</b>	<b>54</b>

Figure 1 shows the obligation trend over the five year life of the portfolio. The green line is simply the cumulative obligation. It reaches a flat state in August 2015 (i.e., the date of this report), the last point at which funds were obligated and reflects what would happen if no further grants are made. On the other hand, the red and blue lines reflect the managerial workload of the RIT, again assuming no further grants will be made. As expected, the first two years show a focus on proposal review and awards. Moving forward, we can expect relatively few proposals to obligate remaining funds. Instead, the focus will be on management, and then close-down, of ongoing projects.

**Figure 1. Obligation Trend**



#### 4. Performance of CEPF’s Investment

##### 4.1. Portfolio-Level Performance

In terms of the biophysical and socioeconomic indicators in the logical framework, after only two years of operations, it is more appropriate to speak of progress toward those goals than achievement, *per se*. Performance can be assessed by several managerial and qualitative measures.

- Efficiency of operations.** The RIT grant was awarded in September 2012. In the subsequent two years, the team released six calls for proposals, reviewed 450 letters of inquiry, and awarded 53 individual grants. These 53 grants represent \$4,603,457 out of an available \$8,300,000 for Strategic Directions 1, 2, and 3, or 55 percent of available funds. The pace of award is reasonable – roughly 2 grants per month since inception – but the challenge for the team is getting a greater success rate for LOIs moving to full proposal and award. Surely, it is inefficient for the RIT and Secretariat to process so many unsuccessful LOIs, but more importantly, the message to civil society (i.e., the applicants) is possibly mixed if so many LOIs are rejected.
- Engagement of civil society.** CEPF has made awards to 53 organizations. Of these, 27 are organizations founded and based in one of the eligible EAM countries, and fourteen can be characterized as first-time recipients of international funds or as smaller groups who can use their association with CEPF – and its donors – as a springboard to a broader and more demanding pool of funders. Admittedly, several internationally-based NGOs have received grants, including the



Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), and the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew. This is a reflection of the reality of civil society capacity in the priority KBAs in the EAM. These groups are working in conflict-prone areas where very few conservation groups are active (WCS in the eastern DRC), building on long-standing efforts with host-country government “ownership” (FFI and FZS in Tanzania, FZS in Ethiopia, FFI in Mozambique), or providing scientific services not available locally (Kew Gardens in Mozambique). However, in all cases where the grantees are international, they are either working with local civil society partners, local government partners, or local personnel.

- **Breadth of operations.** The mandate of the Ecosystem Profile is to work in 47 priority KBAs and eight priority corridors covering fifteen countries. Table 9 demonstrates the breadth of achievement thus far.

**Table 9. Grants per KBAs and Corridors**

No. *	KBA / Corridor Name	Grantees
fwBDI12	Burundi: Lake Tanganyika	BNA
BDI1	Burundi: Bururi Forest Nature Reserve	ABN
BDI2	Burundi: Kibira National Park	Rainforest Alliance, ACVE, ODEB, Resilience Now
COD4	DRC: Itombwe Mountains	WCS
COD 5	DRC: Kahuzi Biega NP	Horizon Nature
COD 7	DRC: Luama-Katanga-Mount Kabobo	WCS
fwETH4	Ethiopia: Lake Tana	Addis Ababa University, Bahir Dar University
ETH6	Ethiopia: Ankober-Debre Sina Escarpment	SUNARMA
ETH 15	Ethiopia: Bonga Forest	Gullele Botanical Garden, PHE
ETH 21	Ethiopia: Choke Mountains	EWCP
ETH36	Ethiopia: Guassa Plateau	FZS
ETH 47	Ethiopia: Konso-Segen	Gullele Botanical Garden
ETH61	Ethiopia: Mount Guna	EWCP
ETH69	Ethiopia: Sheka Forest (Metu-Gore-Tepi)	MELCA (2x), Gullele Botanical Garden, PHE, GPRDO
ETH76	Ethiopia: Wadela (Wadila)	EWCP
ETH 78	Ethiopia: Yayu Coffee Forest	PHE
KEN3	Kenya: Chyulu Hills	AWF
fwMWI 1	Malawi: Lake Malawi	
MWI1	Malawi: Dedza Forest Reserve	WESM
MWI2	Malawi: Misuku Hills Forest Reserves	AES, Misuku Beekeepers Association
MWI5	Malawi: Ntchisi Mountain FR	WESM
fwMOZ1	Mozambique: Lake Malawi	Manda Wilderness CT, UCA
MOZ1	Mozambique: Chimanimani Mountains	MICAIA, RBG Kew, EMU
MOZ4	Mozambique: Mount Mabu	FFI
MOZ6	Mozambique: Mount Namuli	Ukalene, LUPA
RWA1	Rwanda: Cyamudongo Forest	ARECO
RWA2	Rwanda: Gishwati	FHA
RWA4	Rwanda: Nyungwe	SDS Ltd
RWA5	Rwanda: Rugezi Marsh	EWT
RWA6	Rwanda: Volcans NP	IGCP
SSD1	South Sudan: Imatong Mountains	Wetlands International, EAPRLA
TZA7	Tanzania: Greater Mahale	FZS, FFI
TZA11	Tanzania: Livingstone Mountains Forests	WCS
TZA17	Tanzania: Mount Rungwe	WCS

No. *	KBA / Corridor Name	Grantees
TZA21	Tanzania: Njombe Forests	Development Impact, SATAFO
TZA23	Tanzania: (M)Poroto Ridge	WCS
UGA4	Uganda: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest	IGCP
YEM3	Yemen: High Mountains of Ibb	FEW
ZMB4	Zambia: Sumbu NP and Tondwa GMA	CLT
ZWE2	Zimbabwe: Chimanimani Mountains	BLZ
ZWE3	Zimbabwe: Chirinda Forest	BLZ
ZWE4	Zimbabwe: Nyanga Mountains	BLZ
ZWE5	Zimbabwe: Stapleford Forest	BLZ
ZWE6	Zimbabwe: Vumba Highlands	BLZ
Corridor 1	Arabian Peninsula Highlands	FEW (Enviromatics, USDWE, Ahmed)
Corridor 3	Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains	BLZ, MICAIA, RBG Kew, EMU
Corridor 4	Greater Mahale Landscape	FFI, FZS
Corridor 6	Itombwe-Nyungwe Landscape	Horizon Nature, , WCS
Corridor 7	Kaffa-Yayu Coffee Biosphere Reserve	Gullele Botanical Garden, MELCA, PHE, GPRDO
Corridor 9	Lake Tana Catchment	Addis Ababa University, Bahir Dar University
Corr. 10	Mount Kabobo-Margungu Highlands	WCS, CLT
Corr. 12	Northern Lake Nyassa Catchments	WCS, Development Impact, SATAFO

\* Numbering per Conservation Outcomes map.

- Progress toward goals.** The logical framework and performance monitoring plan provide more details, but in terms of progress toward higher-level targets in the ecosystem profile, the portfolio is well on its way toward reaching 60 civil society organizations, strengthening the civil society sector as whole in at least some of the countries, and strengthening the management of 25 priority KBAs representing 1,200,000 hectares. Progress toward creation of 500,000 hectares of new protected areas, improving the management of 1,700,000 hectares of production landscapes, and creating sustainable financing schemes in each of the eight priority corridors appears less likely at the moment. The reasons for this are multiple, but can be distilled to two: the targets in the profile may be unreasonable given the resources; and, while grants are awarded for numerous reasons, the size of contribution to the targets is not a major discriminator. Rather, grants are awarded, appropriately, recognizing the trade-off between working with small civil society organizations in challenging or critical environments versus making grants to large organizations or quasi-state agencies that might affect larger land areas.

Rather, the RIT and Secretariat will need to respond to the following challenges in the coming year.

- Forge a strategic relationship with a leading organization in the DRC, given the region's importance within the hotspot and low capacity of civil society in the country.
- Promote hotspot-wide and regional networks of civil society.
- Reallocate resources toward achievement of targets rather than focusing on investment priorities, as some investment priorities have found little traction within the grantee customer base at the level of funding CEPF can provide.

## 4.2. Preliminary Impact Summary

- **Biodiversity conservation.** The investment, to date, is making important strides on species and site-based conservation *in the sites in which grants are working*. There is limited evidence of replication to non-grant sites, which is unsurprising given the geographic spread of the hotspot. The investment is also not making great progress in terms of corridors; however, the corridor concept has limited utility in an “island”-type hotspot like this one. The approach of the Macarthur Foundation, which uses altitudinal gradients, presents an interesting counterpoint for comparison when the respective investments end.

Through the investment, CEPF commissioned UNEP/WCMC to write a baseline report on the management effectiveness of protected areas in the hotspot. This report is included as an annex to this document.

- **Civil society.** CEPF directly measures the improved capacity of grantees through a self-assessment survey, the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT). Grantees report several areas in need of strengthening, most notably fundraising, monitoring, communications, and financial management. Since grant award, the vast majority of grantees report an increase in ability to fundraise, an increase in ability to manage projects, an increase in ability to work with the economic development sector, and an increase in ability to work with government representatives.

There is also a notional attempt to measure the capacity of civil society at large, within the hotspot portion of each country, within the hotspot as a whole, and within each country. At least at a country level, the World Resources Institute has created an environmental governance index. Unfortunately, since CEPF began in the region, forces have been working against collective civil society, or not improved conditions, in many of the countries.

- **Human well-being.** Many grants support alternative livelihoods and improved production practices; however, it is too early to site specific and long-lasting changes.
- **Enabling conditions.** Many grants support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into local and regional development policies and programs, although it is too early to site specific and long-lasting changes. Grants have not addressed broader national-level policies.

## 4.3. Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

***Strategic Direction 1: mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors***

This Strategic Direction is meant to (1) engage civil society in local government planning processes, (2) leverage donor funding for development activities to address causes of environmental degradation, (3) mainstream conservation into national policies and plans, and (4) facilitate engagement between civil society and private sector to both benefit biodiversity and reduce poverty. As originally conceived, this only applied in Burundi, parts of DRC, Rwanda, Malawi, parts of Tanzania, Zambia, and Ethiopia, but not Yemen, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Sudan, or selected parts of DRC or Tanzania. The portfolio has evolved to now consider this Strategic Direction relevant throughout the hotspot. Nevertheless, the

biggest challenges to date have been finding grantees to meaningfully engage with the private sector and to meaningfully “mainstream” biodiversity into national development plans.

Highlights include:

- Fifteen local development plans that incorporate biodiversity have been completed, with 20-25 more underway.
- One beekeeping venture is already underway and reporting initial success, while at least eight others are expected to deliver viable commercial activities in production of honey, tea, fodder, aquaculture, fishing, charcoal, and ecotourism.

***Strategic Direction 2: improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot***

This Strategic Direction is meant to (1) improve the protection status of KBAs, (2) facilitate the engagement of civil society in environmental impact assessments and other processes meant to protect sites, and (3) identify new KBAs in the hotspot.

Highlights include:

- Eight KBAs have strengthened management for a combined 55,255 hectares.
- One management plan has been produced covering 238,750 hectares.
- Civil society groups have given input into two environmental impact assessments.
- One new KBA has been identified: Ol ari Nyiro in Kaikipia, Kenya.

***Strategic Direction 3: initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors***

This Strategic Direction is meant to support CSO to develop (1) forest carbon partnerships and projects and (2) non-carbon PES schemes and other market mechanisms, particularly for freshwater KBAs. It also (3) supports CSOs to improve their management financial capacity and (4) supports the development of the civil society sector in Eritrea, South Sudan, and Yemen. As originally conceived, these investment priorities did not apply in all parts of the hotspot, but the Secretariat and RIT have revised this to apply throughout the region. Nevertheless, this strategic direction has proven challenging. It has been difficult to find grantees with the sophistication and ability to operate at the typical \$150,000 grant level that CEPF provides to develop forest carbon partnerships or PES schemes, and political reality is preventing progress in Eritrea, South Sudan, or Yemen. The greatest success has been with the development of CSO capacity.

***Strategic Direction 3 Highlights to Date***

- Combined across 17 completed projects, 3,424 people, 36 percent of whom are women, have been trained in project management, conservation agriculture, or fundraising.

## 5. Priorities through August 2017

A midterm assessment is not just a reflection of accomplishments to date, but also an opportunity to adapt in response to constraints and opportunities. Priorities for the remainder of the investment period are based on:

- The external review by FFI, the meeting of the RIT-convened senior advisory board in Laikipia, Kenya, and the grantee workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, all in July 2015.
- The likelihood of an additional \$2 million and two years of time for the region via the GEF support for CEPF Phase III, with its own focus on mainstreaming policy, the private sector, and agriculture-related development.
- Insights gleaned from the Albertine Rift long-term vision exercise conducted by Alex Muhweezi of Future Dialogues International of Kampala, Uganda in April 2015.

### 5.1. Under-Prescribed Investment Priorities

As is evident, there are fewer grants in some investment priorities. This is due to, variously, few or poor applications, a mismatch of the goals of the investment priority and the amount of money offered by CEPF, and/or a mismatch of the goals of the investment priority and the capacity of civil society to undertake the work. Per the midterm assessment, plans are as follows for each of these investment priorities.

Investment Priority 1.2 calls for as many as ten national development plans to be developed, with to date, no grants addressing this. This goal remains critical. However, with currently available money (i.e., before the release of any new funds from the GEF) and the need to divide this money in approximate amounts of \$100,000, we will not push any grantee to undertake this work. Nevertheless, all three members of the RIT (BirdLife, EWNHS, IUCN), high-capacity grantees (e.g., WCS and ARCO in the Albertine Rift; PHE and MELCA in Ethiopia), and leading non-grantee partners (e.g., Nature Kenya) are in a position, without additional funding, to participate in national dialogues (e.g., around national biodiversity strategic action plans). We will continue to track progress on this goal even if not directly funded. Furthermore, if and when further funding becomes available from the GEF, we may allocate an appropriate portion to one or two countries, if not ten.

Investment Priority 3.1 calls for forest carbon partnerships in three corridors and two KBAs and Investment Priority 3.2 calls for development of non-carbon PES schemes, particularly for freshwater. None have been funded, to date. Nevertheless, the senior advisors all agreed that while the initial targets were too ambitious, these are still important priorities and should not be abandoned completely. They recognized that in order for this to happen, we need to work in the right countries. In particular, during the Ecosystem Profile, it was agreed that no KBAs in Uganda or Kenya would be prioritized, as the feeling was there was enough investment already in these countries. However, these two countries actually offer the best opportunity for the developing forest carbon partnerships and PES schemes. The RIT will conduct extensive outreach on these investment priorities in late 2015 and early 2016 with a goal of making three awards.

Investment Priority 3.4 calls for strengthening the conservation community in Eritrea, South Sudan, and Yemen. CEPF funded an initial assessment in Eritrea, and with further political developments in that country, it is apparent that now is not the appropriate time to attempt to engage civil society there. Further, with no priority KBAs, there is less conservation need. All agreed that there should be no plans

to invest in Eritrea country through 2017. South Sudan has presented similar challenges, with a nascent civil society, continued instability, and focus on obviously urgent development matters; thus, there are no plans to invest there through 2017. Yemen has also suffered from instability and a government not overly supportive of civil society. However, the few grants that have been made have actually been quite successful. While CEPF will not expand its operations in the country, we will continue to fund existing grantees in Yemen to consolidate the gains.

## **5.2. Country Allocations**

With fourteen eligible countries (plus Saudi Arabia), it is obvious that allocations will be uneven. As noted above, there are no plans to invest in Eritrea or Yemen, while, on the other hand, grantees in Kenya and Uganda will now likely receive funds. Political reality and instability will constrain further grant-making in Burundi and the DRC beyond existing grants. Lastly, no large grants have yet been made in Zambia. There is only one, very remote, priority KBA there. The RIT will focus on making one grant in the country in the coming semester, but will otherwise focus resources elsewhere.

## **5.3. Opportunistic Investment**

In addition to the points noted above for investment priorities and countries, per the combined outputs of the midterm assessment process, remaining funds will be targeted at the following opportunities.

- Continuation of work in the Chimanimani Mountains on the border between Zimbabwe and Mozambique, building on previous grants to BirdLife Zimbabwe and MICAIA, and leveraging ongoing World Bank support to Mozambique through the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) program.
- Building on the regional agricultural development, biosphere reserve support, and mainstreaming work in Ethiopia based on previous grants to PHE-Ethiopia, MELCA, Addis Ababa University, and Oxford University's Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme.
- Further support for the Gishwati Forest KBA in Rwanda due to its success, high degree of threat, presence of iconic species (chimpanzees), involvement of indigenous people, and importance of local civil society engagement.
- Support for innovative participatory engagement methods as piloted by Resilience Now in Burundi and to be continued, if not in that country, then in culturally and geographically similar locales near to the north in Rwanda.
- Deepening of engagement in the Greater Mahale Landscape of eastern Tanzania via the Frankfurt Zoological Society's connection to the Tuungane population-health program and the Tongwe Trust. This site, in particular, allows for synergies with the Macarthur CRAG program and multiple donors' interest in Lake Tanganyika.
- Targeted support to efforts that complement the Macarthur CRAG program, including soil "fingerprinting" in the Rusizi River Basin.

- Leveraging engagement with The Nature Conservancy and its leadership on the Great Lakes Partnership and multi-donor conference in 2017.
- Building on initiatives like BirdLife’s Pan Africa Business and Biodiversity Forum in order to explore alliances with the extractive industries.
- Capacity building support to engage existing trust funds in the region in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Uganda.
- Dedicated RIT support for several ongoing grantees on program management and design to consolidate gains, including in the form of a “master class” in early 2016.

## **6. Conclusion**

There are inherent challenges in attempting to work over the breadth of fifteen heterogeneous countries with only \$9.8 million, reliant upon civil society organizations, sometimes with low capacity, and which, in implementing CEPF-funded projects, rightly bring their own agenda and goals, which may not completely overlap with that of CEPF. In this context, the portfolio has performed very well over its initial 2.5 years, and CEPF and the RIT will use the remaining time and funds to consolidate gains, leverage resources, and continue to conserve biodiversity via the engagement of civil society.

## Annex 1. Update of the Logical Framework

Objective	Targets	Progress report (from Mid-Term Review report)	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
<p>Strengthening the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in achieving conservation and management of globally important biodiversity in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot</p>	<p>At least 60 civil society actors participate in conservation programs guided by the ecosystem profile</p>	<p>On track. With 2 years to go, 66 separate CSOs have been supported so far to deliver projects under the CEPF EAMH Profile</p>	<p>It is expected that this number will go up to 70-75 in the remaining 2 years</p>
	<p>The conservation community in the Hotspot is better organized, show improved capacities, and has improved collaboration with development stakeholders</p>	<p>On track. Of the 45 grantees who responded to the online questionnaire, 39 (87%) reported increased capacity of their organisation in project management and/or fundraising. 38 (84%) reported improved collaboration with development stakeholders. Of the 29 non-grantees who responded to the questionnaire, 9 (31%) reported an observable increase in CSO organisation in the region, 10 (34%) reported improved CSO capacities and 11 (38%) reported improved collaborations with development stakeholders</p>	<p>The RIT will continue to support capacity building through a major, hotspot-wide training programme. In addition, CEPF contracted one grantee (TBA) to develop networks among grantees (at sub-regional level and hotspot level) while ‘informal’ networks are already happening – so far, 5 new networks have already been established (out of the 17 closed projects) with at least another 10 expected in the next 2 years</p>
	<p>At least 25 priority key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management, representing at least 1.2 million hectares, and including at least 500,000 hectares of new protected areas</p>	<p>17 projects have completed their final reports, with strengthened management reported in 4 unique priority key biodiversity areas. This translates into 55,255 hectares (5% of the target). To date, no new protected areas have been created</p>	<p>The portfolio already covers 37 priority KBAs. The cumulative area that is expected to be under strengthened management, based on figures in the project proposals, exceeds 2 million hectares, with over 1 million hectares of new protected areas promised</p>



Objective	Targets	Progress report (from Mid-Term Review report)	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
	At least 1.7 million hectares of production landscapes under improved management for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services	The 17 completion reports report that 280,024 ha of production landscapes are under improved management (16.4% of target)	This is difficult to measure but it is expected that another 500,000 – 1m hectares will be added in the next 2 years. NB there is some overlap between the 1.2 million target above, and this 1.7 m target as most work takes place within KBAs
	New sustainable financing schemes exist for at least one priority site in each of the priority corridors	Of the 17 projects completed, none have sustainable financing schemes. While there are a number of projects under SD3 which are focused on sustainable development, these are focused on the early stages – feasibility, capacity building and fundraising for further development of the scheme. It is therefore unclear how a sustainable financing scheme can be put in place by 2017 without significant further investment being secured to consolidate the initial investment by CEPF	None planned yet

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress report	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
Biodiversity mainstreamed into wider development policies, plans and projects, delivering the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in 4 priority corridors	Number of local and community development plans or other processes in which biodiversity conservation priorities and actions are incorporated through civil society engagement in the process	Of the 17 completed projects, 15 local development plans have been developed, all under one project in Burundi	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 10 local plans. It is expected that at least 20-25 local plans will be added to the 15 already produced. NB most of these are community-based action plans

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress report	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
(and associated KBA groups) and 7 countries	Number of national development plans or other processes in which biodiversity conservation priorities and actions are incorporated through civil society engagement	Of the 17 completed projects, no national development plans have been developed to date. There are two further projects under IP 1.2 yet to report	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 10 national plans. However, no national plans are expected to be produced/influenced, though there are various advocacy-related processes at district / zonal / national and international level ongoing
	Amount of funding directed at livelihood activities (using CEPF investment as leverage) which also benefit biodiversity conservation in and around KBAs in priority corridors	Of the 17 completed projects. \$208,000 has been leveraged for livelihood and conservation activities. This included \$98,000 being leveraged by CSO participants of an African Wildlife Foundation fundraising workshop, supported by CEPF	The internal monitoring framework set a target of USD 250,000 to be leveraged by CEPF grantees, which obviously was an under-expectation
	Number of private sector ventures which benefit biodiversity and local livelihoods	One developed to date: A project based near Nyungwe national park, Rwanda, developed a business plan for beekeeping development in the landscape, reported as being implemented post-closure	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 10 ventures. Various projects include work with new / existing production groups (honey, tea, grass, ecotourism...) and it is expected that at least 8 projects will deliver viable commercial activities - though not necessarily as / with the private sector
Improved protection and management of the KBA network through involvement of civil society	Number of terrestrial KBAs under enhanced protection status and number of hectares covered	17 projects have completed their final reports, with strengthened management reported in 8 KBAs. This translates into 55,255 ha	See above
	Number of management plans developed or improved, with enhanced implementation underway, and number of hectares covered	One management plan has been produced to date with 238,750 ha covered	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 10 new management plans. Over and above the 1 produced, another 8 management plans are in the pipeline

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress report	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
	Number of engagements of civil society in EIA and site safeguard processes resulting in strengthened implementation at the most urgently threatened sites	Following training in EIAs by Arcos in the Albertine Rift, technical input was provided into two EIA reports	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 10 engagements. As it stands, 6 small grant projects funded / being contracted by CEPF under cfp 7 (the 'rapid response fund') involve engagement in EIAs, in addition to 3 large grant projects working at one or more threatened sites
	Number of new KBAs identified and changes in KBAs status resulting from an improved knowledge and information (including sites for irreplaceable plant diversity)	One new KBA has been identified in 2015: Ol ari Nyiro in Laikipia, Kenya	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 5 new KBAs. A second new Eastern Afromontane KBA is in the pipeline (Lolldaiga Hills, also in Laikipia, Kenya) and a targeted call for proposals is planned to go out as soon as the new KBA criteria are agreed
Financing mechanisms established in 4 priority corridors and 2 additional sites ensuring substantial long-term financing for conservation activities in the most important sites, and conservation community enabled to raise funds and develop similar mechanisms in the Hotspot	Number of forest carbon partnerships and projects established and achieving biodiversity conservation objectives in each of three priority corridors and in two individual KBAs	None to date	None planned
	Increased levels of CSO capacity in all Hotspot countries for conservation fund raising and project management	Of the 17 projects completed, a rather remarkable 3,424 people (36% women) have been trained in fundraising and/or project management (including in conservation agriculture)	The internal monitoring framework set a target of training 'organisations from 10 countries'; so far, fundraising and management training has been provided to CSOs in 10 countries already, with 3 countries in the pipeline

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress report	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
	New conservation community developed and playing an effective role in KBA conservation in Eritrea, South Sudan, and Yemen	No activities are currently taking place in Eritrea. There are two small projects in South Sudan, not completed at time of writing. One individual attended a training of trainers in Jordan, subsequently providing training to 15 Yemeni conservationists. Two further large grants are aimed at strengthening CSOs in Yemen	The internal monitoring framework set a target of 9 'conservation community' activities in the 3 countries. So far, one new conservation network is developing in Yemen, one South Sudanese organisation is incorporated into a regional network (EAPRLA), and one informal 'sharing' group has formed among NGOs in Kenya that work in South Sudan. It is not expected that much else will happen in these 3 countries
Strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment provide, and a broad constituency of civil society groups built across institutional and political boundaries, through a regional implementation team (RIT)	All groups receiving grants achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard	Not implemented	Baseline CSTT scores have been received from 43 CSOs, with an average score of 67.6. Final scores will be asked for at the end of the investment period
	RIT performance in fulfilling approved terms of reference	All RIT targets, both administrative and programmatic, appear on track. The RIT has disbursed 45 and 38 large and small grants respectively (target 50 each)	It is expected that another 20-25 small grants will be disbursed (unless more funding will be channeled to small grants), and another 10 large grants (or extensions / upscaling of current grants)
	All civil society groups in investment areas know CEPF and are given equal chance to participate in calls for proposals	Not assessed	The internal monitoring framework set a target of '1000 people being regularly informed about CEPF activities in the region'. The CEPF EAM e-bulletin has a mailing list of 1500 people already, and is still growing. Almost 600 people are following us on Facebook. All 11 calls for proposals have been open to all applicants; only 3 projects have been requested on a sole source bases (1 small, 2 large)

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Progress report	Expected results based on current portfolio (July 2015)
	Amount of co-funding (for activities implemented by CEPF grantees) that have been facilitated by the RIT	Of the 11 projects completed, \$148,308 has been leveraged in co-funding from other donors	The target is USD 5 million (by grantees) and USD 15 million (in total). This will be a challenge
	At least 60% of the CEPF grantees have improved management capacities thanks to RIT capacity building activities	Of the 45 grantees who responded to the questionnaire, 36 (80%) reported increased management capacity	See above

## **Annex 2. All Awarded Grants, by Grantee**

### **1. Action Ceinture Verte pour l'Environnement**

*Conserving the Biodiversity of Kibira National Park by Raising Awareness About its Importance and Promoting Improved Stoves*

Amount            \$16,000            Grant Term        01/14 - 12/14

Train 60 local community representatives, of which 32 are women, in the production and marketing of fuel-efficient stoves in Burundi; these representatives will then train others within their communities. Raise awareness of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in and around the Kibira National Park Key Biodiversity Area for 600 people around the park.

### **2. Action for Environmental Sustainability**

*Misuku Hills Biodiversity Conservation*

Amount            \$123,100            Grant Term        07/14 - 03/17

Raise awareness of the need for conservation among community members in and around the Wlindi-Matip and Mughese forest reserves in Malawi; establish a village-based savings and loan system to support the sustainable use of natural resources; and support the completion and implementation of a forest reserve management plan.

### **3. Addis Ababa University**

*Conserving Fish in Lake Tana and Abay Basin, Ethiopia*

Amount            \$197,435            Grant Term        01/14 - 06/17

Document the aquatic biodiversity and the potential threats in Lake Tana and Abay Basin, Ethiopia, and suggest mitigation measures. Fill gaps in scientific study of the lake by studying the area's fish stock, enhancing alternative fisheries and raising awareness about the threats. Develop an outcomes plan that will include plans for co-management and alternative livelihood trainings and practices in collaboration with a network of NGOs and community-based organizations.

### **4. Additive Adventure**

*Lost Mountain Phase III: Scalable Innovative Conservation and Development on Mount Namuli*

Amount            \$150,000            Grant Term        02/15 - 06/16

Promote conservation of Mozambique's Mount Namuli and improved human welfare for local communities with support from Mozambican NGO LUPA; and work with community members and local governments to promote cooperative planning that mainstreams conservation of the Namuli Key Biodiversity Area into local development objectives.

### **5. Africa Wildlife Foundation**

*Strengthening Local Organizations' Capacity for Conservation of the Chyulu Hills, Kenya*

Amount            \$19,980            Grant Term        10/13 - 09/14

Strengthen the capacities of four local organizations in the Chyulu Hills landscape in developing, securing finances for, and implementing REDD+ projects and/or improving water management in the areas around the Chyulu Hills National Park catchment in Kenya. The project will start with a capacity assessment, followed by targeted training and/or workshops focusing on key skills within project cycle

management, such as fundraising, proposal writing, grant management, project management, and technical and financial report writing. After the training, skills will be further nurtured and enhanced through on-the-job support and a mentoring scheme through collaboration with Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF). At the end of the project, all four local partners will have increased capacity to independently and successfully seek financial support for and manage projects on their own, and six high-quality proposals will have been submitted to donors by the beneficiary organizations.

#### **6. African Wildlife Foundation**

*Improved Conservation, Agribusiness and Land Use Planning at Mount Rungwe, Tanzania*

Amount           \$159,432           Grant Term       02/15 - 01/17

Work in the villages of Bujingijila and Nbumbulu, between the Mount Rungwe Nature Reserve and Kitulo Plateau National Park in Tanzania, to train farmers in conservation-friendly farm management.

#### **7. Ahmed Yehia Ali**

*Training Workshop for Monitoring, Management and Conservation in Yemen*

Amount           \$18,400           Grant Term       09/14 - 02/15

Participate in a training of trainers workshop in Jordan, which will be organized by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature over a 10-day period in late August to early September 2014, then share acquired knowledge and skills with 15 other civil society organization representatives from Yemen during a two-day training course in November 2014. The goal is to increase the capacity of nongovernmental organizations, local communities and official staff on the conservation of protected areas in Yemen, with topics to include sustainable environmental management and a range of biodiversity conservation principles, with a specific focus on Afromontane key biodiversity areas in Yemen.

#### **8. Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)**

*Civil Society Alliance for Enhanced Implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments in Key Biodiversity Areas of the Albertine Rift Region Phase I*

Grant Term       06/13 - 12/13       Amount           \$57,310

Promote the use of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to safeguard sensitive areas in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. Train as many as 40 local NGOs and community organizations in EIA processes, creating a network of EIA practitioners that can become engaged in these processes more broadly in the region, promulgating better EIA policy, standards and guidelines.

#### **9. Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)**

*Civil Society Alliance for Enhanced Implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments in Key Biodiversity Areas of the Albertine Rift Region Phase II*

Amount           \$267,310           Grant Term       06/14 - 05/17

Promote the use of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to safeguard sensitive areas in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu. Train as many as 40 local NGOs and community organizations in EIA processes, creating a network of EIA practitioners that can become engaged in these processes more broadly in the region, promulgating better EIA policy, standards and guidelines.

#### **10. Association Burundaise Pour la Protection des Oiseaux**

*Integrated Management of Bururi Forest Nature Reserve*

Amount            \$175,943            Grant Term        07/14 - 06/16

Conserve the 3,300 hectare Bururi Forest Nature Reserve in Burundi through improved stakeholder engagement. Promote partnerships between the formal park management agency, Institute National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la nature (INECN), and local civil society organizations so that the latter may gain formal management rights and responsibilities. This entails creation of site support groups, reforestation, promotion of the use of fuel-efficient wood stoves, and promotion of beekeeping as an alternative livelihood.

#### **11. Association pour la Promotion des Etudes d'Impacts Environnement aux au Rwanda**

*Building Capacity of Farmers' Associations for Land Use Planning and Conservation of Lake Kivu Landscape, Rwanda*

Amount            \$20,000            Grant Term        05/15 - 04/16

Engage 156 members of cooperatives and farmers' associations and 104 local and opinion leaders along the shores of Lake Kivu, a freshwater key biodiversity area in Rwanda, to participate in land use planning and biodiversity conservation by providing training in land use planning, environment and biodiversity protection, watershed management, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, and energy management.

#### **12. Association Rwandaise des Ecologistes**

*Promoting Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Conservation of the Cyamudongo Forest*

Amount            \$25,000            Grant Term        09/14 - 08/15

Working in the Cyamudongo Forest Region, a small relic forest near Rwanda's border with Burundi and the DRC, the grantee will promote the use of high efficiency wood-burning stoves to relieve pressure on the forest; distribute stoves to 1,000 households; and raise awareness of the benefit of these stoves among the 3,000 households in the area.

#### **13. Bahir Dar University**

*Empowering Major Stakeholders for Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Lake Tana Fish Resources, Ethiopia*

Amount            \$19,994            Grant Term        01/14 - 09/15

Train 60 community members from two cooperatives in natural resource management of Lake Tana, Ethiopia, and provide information on its potential, and the challenges and conservation opportunities present. Raise awareness in the wider community on who owns Lake Tana's fish, where and when the fish breed and live, and on human impacts on Lake Tana fish stocks. The aim is to rebuild the declining fish stock of Lake Tana, particularly Labeobarbus species, through the enforcement of the Amhara National Regional State Fisheries Proclamation and Regulation.

#### **14. Bahir Dar University**

*Rehabilitation and Sustainable Utilization of Little Abbai River Mouth Wetlands*

Amount            \$149,307            Grant Term        02/15 - 07/17



Improve the management of Ethiopia's Little Abbai River Mouth Wetlands, where the Little Abbai River flows into Lake Tana, by working with community members, representatives from fishing cooperatives, and representatives from papyrus crafters to train people in improved production practices.

#### **15. Bees for Development Ethiopia**

*Modelling Integration of biodiversity management and sustainable livelihoods in Awi Zone*

Amount            \$19,997            Grant Term        04/15 - 09/16

Demonstrate how the challenges of degeneration of biodiversity and land degradation, livelihood insecurity of poor households and landless rural youth, and the interplay between natural resources degradation and poverty can be addressed in Awi Zone; and work to ensure forest resources and key endangered tree species can be rehabilitated and sustainably managed by the agrarian community of two kebeles of Dangila Wereda while improving livelihoods.

#### **16. BINCO**

*Filling the Gap: Biodiversity Survey to Increase Long-Term Forest Sustainability in Sheka Forest Key Biodiversity Area, Ethiopia*

Amount            \$19,813            Grant Term        07/15 - 09/16

Produce an inventory of biodiversity at the Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Ethiopia, including checklists of birds, mammals and amphibians, and identify priority sites within the KBA for enhanced protection. Deliver training to five local community representatives in monitoring and identifying birds, mammals and amphibians, and in nature guiding. Establish a research center and construct a protocol that can be used for researchers and tourists to visit the Biosphere Reserve. Share results and information via meetings, websites and tour operators, and feed results into the Biosphere Reserve management plan.

#### **17. BirdLife International**

*Eastern Afromontane-1, RIT Administration*

Amount            \$919,395            Grant Term        09/12 - 08/17

Birdlife International leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. The program is based out of Birdlife's Nairobi offices. Birdlife is joined in its consortium by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via its offices in Kenya and Mozambique. Together, this consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.

#### **18. BirdLife International**

*Eastern Afromontane-2, RIT Programs*

Amount            \$477,717            Grant Term        09/12 - 08/17

Birdlife International leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. The program is based out of Birdlife's Nairobi offices. Birdlife is joined in its consortium by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), based in Addis Ababa, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via its offices in Kenya and Mozambique. Together, this

consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.

#### **19. BirdLife Zimbabwe**

*Stakeholder Capacity Building for Key Biodiversity Area Management Planning in the Chimanimani–Nyanga Mountains*

Amount            \$129,390            Grant Term        05/13 - 04/15

Work to improve biodiversity and increase areas under effective management in the key biodiversity areas (KBAs) of the Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains Corridor in Zimbabwe. The KBA sites involved include the Chimanimani Mountains National Park, Nyanga Mountains National Park, Chirinda Forest Reserve, Stapleford Forest Reserve and Vumba Highlands.

#### **20. BirdLife Zimbabwe**

*Transboundary Cooperation in the Chimanimani Mountains of Zimbabwe and Mozambique*

Amount            \$65,000            Grant Term        01/16 - 06/17

BirdLife Zimbabwe and MICAIA of Mozambique are implementing parallel and complementary grants on either side of the Chimanimani transboundary key biodiversity area. Together, the two groups are improving networking and skills and knowledge sharing between the organizations and communities working on either side of the border. The end result will be better managed formal protected areas and more sustainable use of the surrounding buffer zones.

#### **21. Burundi Nature Action**

*Restoration and Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika*

Amount            \$74,400            Grant Term        10/13 - 09/15

Identify and map the major threats on an area that stretches over 120 kilometers of coast, south of Bujumbura, where the coastal biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi is threatened by pollution, erosion and the destruction of the remaining natural sites. Prepare a holistic management plan for this area, which will be discussed with all stakeholders and in particular the government agencies. For each threat, implement pilot activities such as the planting of bamboo to limit erosion or advocating for the creation of small protected areas along the coast of Lake Tanganyika.

#### **22. Capacity Building and Leadership Institute**

*Assessing the Capacity of Civil Society in Tanzania to Support Sustainable Financing and Related Actions for the Conservation of Priority Key Biodiversity Areas and Corridors*

Amount            \$19,857            Grant Term        02/14 - 06/14

Identify the areas in which Tanzanian civil society organizations (CSOs) need to build capacity, in order to be able to initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of CEPF priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and corridors in the country. The capacity assessment exercise will describe the 10 Tanzanian CSOs most likely to contribute to the conservation of priority KBAs and corridors; review their capacity needs; produce a capacity development plan; and raise awareness among stakeholders and donors interested in supporting CSO capacity development within Tanzania of the main barriers to capacity development.

#### **23. Conservation Lake Tanganyika**

*Facilitate Elections of Village Action Groups for the Nsama Community Resource Board*

Amount            \$8,864    Grant Term    10/14 - 08/15

Strengthen local involvement in decision-making about the management of three Eastern Afromontane key biodiversity areas by supporting fully inclusive and representative elections for the establishment of the Nsama Community Resource Board (CRB) and provide training to this CRB to contribute to ongoing efforts in the protection of Zambia's Nsumbu National Park and Tondwa Game Management Area, as well as the waters of Lake Tanganyika. The CRB provides a legal and institutional mechanism for shared responsibilities for conserving and managing wildlife areas in Zambia and consists of representatives of Village Action Groups.

**24. Development Impact**

*Empowering Women to Become Agents of Change for Conservation in Four Villages surrounding Njombe Forests, Tanzania*

Amount            \$20,000            Grant Term    10/13 - 04/15

Use a village-banking model to empower women in the four villages around the Njombe Forests Key Biodiversity Area of Tanzania to enable them to become "agents of change" in enhancing sustainable community-based forest management. The project will provide women with alternative sources of income for themselves and their families through a saving and credit model that aims to reduce overdependence on agriculture, which is one of the major threats to biodiversity in the area. The women's groups will serve as role models in conservation as they use loans they receive from the village banks to engage in enrichment planting, sustainable agriculture and environmentally-friendly businesses. The project also aims to build the women's capabilities through literacy programs so they can participate in and influence decision-making in their villages, wards and districts.

**25. East Africa Plant Red List Authority**

*Assessing Plant Conservation Capacity in South Sudan*

Amount            \$19,500            Grant Term    08/14 - 03/16

To incorporate South Sudan into the activities of the East African Plant Red List Authority (EAPRLA), assist in the development of national capacity in plant conservation, and initiate the red-listing process for the endemic plants of South Sudan, the grantee will establish the IUCN/SSC Red-Listing Toolkit in South Sudan as a mechanism to identify priority species and areas for plant conservation; develop a work plan with the University of Juba to build national capacity and regional collaboration with EAPRLA colleagues in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, including exploratory field work with university staff and students to a selected key biodiversity area; and provide South Sudanese institutions and teams with access to previously inaccessible data from international and regional collections.

**26. Eduardo Mondlane University**

*Reducing Knowledge Gaps for Active Participation of Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation in the Chimanimani Region*

Amount            \$19,925            Grant Term    06/14 - 11/15

Train local natural resource management committees so they can participate more actively in the implementation of the management plan of the Chimanimani National Reserve in Mozambique; train field rangers and young community members in plant and animal species identification and other aspects of nature interpretation; develop community-based ecotourism initiatives; establish effective

measures to mitigate human-elephant conflicts; and create a network among local civil society organizations in the Chimanimani Mountains, on both the Mozambican and the Zimbabwean sides.

### **27. Endangered Wildlife Trust**

*Building Community and National Partners' Capacity for Sustainable Conservation Financing at Rugezi Marsh Key Biodiversity Area*

Amount            \$19,956            Grant Term        09/14 - 10/15

Improve the technical skills of community-based groups and partners at Rwanda's Rugezi Marsh Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in conservation finance to sustain conservation efforts aimed at mitigating human-induced degradation of the wetland. The project will improve technical and management skills, enabling community groups to run viable alternative livelihood projects; develop business plans for ecotourism, beekeeping and craft-making projects; change environmental attitudes and behavior toward the wetland and species of conservation importance; and identify local and regional markets for ecotourism, beekeeping and craft-making businesses.

### **28. Enviromatics - Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company**

*Capacity Needs Assessment of Civil Society Organizations in Yemen*

Amount            \$19,825            Grant Term        10/13 - 03/14

Conduct a capacity needs assessment of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Yemen, identifying active environmental and social development CSOs, assessing their capacity needs, and establishing a plan of action to develop the capacities required to implement effective conservation action in the Eastern Afromontane Region of Yemen. The capacity needs assessment will be a participatory and consultative process that will produce a technical report which will be used to more efficiently target the CEPF investment in Yemen.

### **29. Ethiopian Wildlife & Natural History Society (EWNHS)**

*Regional Implementation Team – Administration and Programs*

Amount            \$350,000            Grant Term        10/12 - 08/17

Birdlife International leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. The program is based out of Birdlife's Nairobi offices. Birdlife is joined in its consortium by the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) via its offices in Kenya and Mozambique. Together, this consortium leads the grant solicitation and award process, builds the capacity of grantees, and is responsible for liaison with donors and host country government agencies.

### **30. Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme**

*Biodiversity-Friendly Futures for Ethiopia's Afroalpine Ecosystem*

Amount            \$99,966            Grant Term        01/14 - 03/17

Work closely with six communities in the Mt. Guna, Delanta-Gubalaftu and Mt. Choke areas of Ethiopia to identify, in a participatory way, livelihood options that reduce the impact on natural resources. Support four Nature Clubs to implement small-scale environmental activities, and recruit Wolf Ambassadors to raise awareness of environmental issues in each community. As a pilot activity to reduce the need for firewood, this project by the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme also supports the establishment of a local fuel-efficient stove producer's micro-enterprise.

### **31. Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme**

*Rabies Emergency Response in Ethiopian Wolves*

Amount            \$9,925            Grant Term    02/15 - 10/15

Work to halt rabies infections in Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) in the Bale Mountains Key Biodiversity Area of Ethiopia through vaccination of domestic dogs, development of community awareness campaigns, monitoring of wolf populations, analysis of demographic data pre- and post-rabies outbreak, and the production of a "Disease Management Plan" for Ethiopian wolves, based on the new information and on the lessons learned during the current intervention.

### **32. Fauna & Flora International**

*Securing the Ntakata Forest as a Community-Owned Village Land Forest Reserve in Tongweland, Western Tanzania*

Amount            \$158,026            Grant Term    07/13 - 09/15

Transition 18,300 hectares of open access land into land formally protected as the Ntakata Village Land Forest Reserve. Community members from three surrounding villages will directly benefit from employment opportunities. Fauna and Flora International will also work to strengthen the Tongwe Trust to continue its efforts into the future. This grant complements a grant to the Frankfurt Zoological Society to work in the Greater Mahale Landscape along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania.

### **33. Fauna & Flora International**

*Building Capacity in Project Design and Proposal Writing in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot*

Amount            \$157,430            Grant Term    01/14 - 12/16

Support 45 young or mid-career conservation professionals from national non-governmental organizations in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot in building their capacities to write proposals, raise funds for their projects and develop long-term financing strategies. The young professionals chosen will join the Conservation Leadership Programme alumni network and can benefit from the experience of hundreds of conservation leaders worldwide.

### **34. Fauna & Flora International**

*Mount Mabu Conservation Project*

Amount            \$127,140            Grant Term    07/13 - 03/16

Guided by a community-based conservation management plan, Fauna and Flora International and the Mozambican organization Justica Ambiental! will work to register Mt. Mabu, one of the last Afromontane remnant forests, as land for conservation use and nature-based tourism only. Work will entail strengthening of a community-based organization and collaboration with a tea estate that is being rehabilitated and brought back online by Mozambique Holdings.

### **35. Fauna & Flora International**

*Systematic Evaluation of CEPF and Capacity Development of CEPF Grantees*

Amount            \$249,999            Grant Term    01/15 - 07/17

Work with the Tropical Biology Association to collaboratively run a series of region-wide capacity-building and networking events. This includes running the portfolio-level mid-term and final

assessments, and purposefully connecting practitioners and providing them with tools to deliver successful conservation projects.

### **36. Forest of Hope Association**

*Strengthening the Conservation of the Gishwati Forest Reserve*

Amount           \$79,937           Grant Term    07/14 - 06/17

Working in the Gishwati Forest Reserve, a small forest reserve of just 1,484 hectares in Rwanda, the Forest of Hope Association is training community forest guards, local government officials, and surrounding communities in awareness about the reserve, rights and responsibilities, reserve protection and law enforcement.

### **37. Foundation for Endangered Wildlife (Yemen)**

*Building Advocacy and Developing a Management Plan for the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area*

Amount           \$120,000           Grant Term    10/13 - 03/16

Lead inventories of the largely unknown biodiversity in the High Mountains of Ibb Protected Area and identify the most important sites and the level of threats in order to prepare participatory management plans. An important component of the grant is advocacy and awareness-raising activities with communities, government officials and traditional authorities, preparing the ground for the official protection of the most important parts of this key biodiversity area.

### **38. Frankfurt Zoological Society**

*Protecting Priority Conservation Sites in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, Tanzania*

Amount           \$260,271           Grant Term    07/13 - 12/16

Work with eight communities to form the Tongwe West Forest Protected Area in order to directly protect 120,488 hectares via the creation of village land forest reserves. The Frankfurt Zoological Society and Fauna & Flora International are receiving parallel grants to work in the Greater Mahale Landscape along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania.

### **39. Frankfurt Zoological Society**

*Improved Community and Ecological Resilience for the Guassa Community Conservation Area*

Amount           \$149,213           Grant Term    01/14 - 12/16

Work to strengthen the conservation and management of rare and endangered species of fauna and flora, including endemic and globally significant biodiversity, within the Guassa Community Conservation Area of Ethiopia.

### **40. God for People Relief and Development Organisation**

*Scaling up Alternative Livelihoods and Forest Development and Protection Approaches in Bechi Peasant Association, Sheka Forest, Ethiopia*

Amount           \$20,000           Grant Term    12/13 - 11/14

Train 325 households from Peasant Associations of Bechi Kebele in participatory forest management principles and practices to contribute to a well-conserved Sheka Forest buffer zone in Ethiopia; and scale up alternative means of livelihoods income sources to target forest-dependent communities.

#### **41. Ian Gordon**

*Promoting the Recognition of the Eastern Afromontane Key Biodiversity Areas and Corridors to an International Audience of Ecologists and Climate Change Scientists*

Amount            \$3,983    Grant Term    08/13 - 10/13

Mainstream biodiversity conservation into national development policies and plans by promoting the recognition of Eastern Afromontane key biodiversity areas (KBAs) within the global scientific community at the 2013 London International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) Conference, specifically during the symposium dedicated to climate change and African mountain ecosystems: Modeling ecological change at different scales. The presenter is also the main author and compiler of the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot ecosystem profile.

#### **42. Governance Links Tanzania**

*Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Applying the World Bank Safeguard Policies and Procedures on Natural Habitats in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area, Tanzania*

Amount            \$10,000    Grant Term    03/15 - 02/16

Work with Nyakitonto Youth for Development Tanzania to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships among local authorities, community conservation groups, private sector entities and the media at the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Tanzania. Build their capacities to prepare, implement and monitor World Bank safeguard policies and procedures on natural habitats, as part of the KBA, Igamba Falls, is reported to be highly threatened by a planned hydropower scheme.

#### **43. Gullele Botanic Garden**

*Community Oriented In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation of Plant Species in Ethiopian Hotspots*

Amount            \$144,000    Grant Term    07/14 - 12/16

Expand ex-situ conservation and education in Addis Ababa to include in-situ conservation and community engagement in three key biodiversity areas in Ethiopia: Semien Mountains National Park, Harena-Bale, Sheka-Bonga-Yayu biosphere reserves and Konso-Segen. Train people in three communities to better manage and restore 50 indigenous plant species on site, while also collecting genetic material for an additional 250 species to study and preserve at the garden headquarters in the capital city.

#### **44. Gulu University**

*Community Information, Education and Communication for Healthy Biodiversity Habitats and Ecosystems Around Murchison Falls National Park Key Biodiversity Area, Uganda*

Amount            \$9,944            Grant Term    03/15 - 09/15

Enhance biodiversity conservation in and around Murchison Falls Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Uganda in the face of increasing oil and gas exploration in the region by enabling 120 community leaders in the districts of Amuru and Nwoya to actively engage in environmental impact assessment (EIA) implementation and compliance. Help local communities and their leaders understand what the EIA process is and how it can be used to prevent or mitigate adverse environmental impacts of industrial developments at the KBA.

#### **45. Horizon Nature**

*Building a Civil Society Advocacy Alliance to Support Government Agencies in South Kivu*

Amount            \$98,340            Grant Term        07/14 - 06/16

Inventory and monitor mining activities in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, in relation to legal provisions of biodiversity conservation, mining laws and global mining standards; create a network of civil society organizations, NGOs, park authorities, local administration, and provincial officers responsible for mining, agriculture and the environment to advocate for better mining practices.

**46. Indigenous Heartland Organization**

*Developing Tools and Methods for Community Participation to Protect the Ngorongoro Crater Rim of Tanzania from Tourism*

Amount            \$10,000            Grant Term        10/15 - 09/16

Mitigate threats from tourism development at Tanzania's Ngorongoro Crater by facilitating an environmental impact assessment (EIA) report review with various stakeholders, and formulate a resolution that discourages new lodge development within the conservation area based on review of the General Management Plan of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

**47. International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

*Strengthening Local Institutions in the Albertine Rift for Community Development and Conservation of the Mountain Gorilla in Rwanda and Uganda*

Amount            \$19,710            Grant Term        11/13 - 12/14

Engage people in community project planning and development and empower them to become more actively engaged in sustainable financing of community activities. Work in 63 villages in Rwanda and Uganda and train at least 30 people in techniques of community organization for village profiling and planning, and 40 people in project proposal writing and fundraising, producing a range of community project proposals that can be submitted to donor agencies.

**48. Khaiya**

*Study the Perceptions and Management of Customary Practices for Biodiversity in Communities Adjacent to Mount Namuli, Mozambique*

Amount            \$19,030            Grant Term        11/15 - 07/16

Produce a document that reflects the local communities' perceptions on biodiversity and their practical experiences in Mount Namuli, Mozambique. This document is expected to serve as a basis for the knowledge of local sociocultural dynamics for all actors who want to preserve biodiversity and improve the quality of life for Namuli communities.

**49. Lem, the Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia**

*Mainstreaming Biodiversity into District Development Planning and Improving Livelihoods in Ethiopia*

Amount            \$149,399            Grant Term        03/15 - 06/17

Train community members in Ethiopia's Aliyu Amba–Dulecha Key Biodiversity Area in the link between agricultural activities and biodiversity conservation; promote better local development policy and planning; rehabilitate 460 hectares of degraded land; and build capacity in alternative livelihood activities.

**50. Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project**



*Protecting Biodiversity Through Conservation Agriculture in Lake Niassa, Mozambique*

Amount           \$19,995           Grant Term    10/13 - 11/14

Train community members from 15 villages on the shores of Lake Malawi/Niassa, a freshwater key biodiversity area, in biodiversity-friendly agricultural and agroforestry methods and techniques to increase the provision of habitat for endemic species that are crucial to the success and sustainability of ecological agriculture.

**51. Manda Wilderness Community Trust**

*Manda Wilderness Biodiversity Project Phase 2*

Amount           \$139,325           Grant Term    04/15 - 03/17

Work with several communities in northern Mozambique on the shores of Lake Malawi/Niassa, training people in sustainable agriculture techniques that improve productivity while reducing negative environmental impacts on the lake, a freshwater key biodiversity site.

**52. MELCA-Ethiopia**

*Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve: Strengthening the Management System and Working with Nearby Communities on Bio-Cultural Learning and Livelihoods Development*

Amount           \$117,229           Grant Term    06/13 - 11/14

Support local community and local leaders to enforce the approved land use plan for the Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, and to develop economic activities compatible with the long-term conservation of the forest, such as beekeeping, spice gardens or sustainable animal husbandry. Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA) has worked in the Sheka Forest area since 2005, supporting local communities in the establishment of a Man and Biosphere Reserve that was approved by the Ethiopian government and endorsed by UNESCO in 2012.

**53. MICAIA Foundation**

*In From the Cold: Providing the Knowledge Base for Comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation in the Chimanimani Mountains, Mozambique*

Amount           \$150,408           Grant Term    07/13 - 08/15

Working closely with the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew, the MICAIA Foundation will conduct a baseline botanical survey for the Mozambican highland areas of the Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), inform local stakeholders so they are better able to act on biodiversity conservation priorities, and facilitate improved communication and collaboration between civil society organizations and formal governmental bodies in Mozambique and Zimbabwe in the context of the Chimanimani TFCA.

**54. Misuku Beekeepers Association**

*Misuku Hills Indigenous Forest Project*

Amount           \$60,000           Grant Term    06/14 - 05/16

Conserve 1,000 hectares across six forest blocks within the Wilindi, Matipa and Mughese forest reserves of Malawi. This area is surrounded and used by 71 villages. The project seeks to strengthen community management of the reserves, promoting the regeneration of 100 hectares of forest, and provide training and equipment in beekeeping to 350 community members.

### **55. The Nature Conservancy**

*The African Great Lakes Summit: Improving Conservation in the African Great Lakes Through Cross-Basin Collaboration*

Amount            \$150,000            Grant Term        07/15 - 06/17

Promote cooperative and collaborative conservation management by countries in the African Great Lakes Region by establishing an African Great Lakes Summit Advisory Committee and Technical Committee, organizing an African Great Lakes Summit and creating a web-based African Great Lakes information platform.

### **56. Nature Kenya**

*Catalyzing the Application of Site Safeguard Policies and Procedures in Kenya: Using Lake Bogoria National Reserve Key Biodiversity Area as a Case Study*

Amount            \$10,000            Grant Term        03/15 - 08/16

Establish and empower the local people and the county government of Baringo, Kenya, to maintain the conservation and environmental values of Lake Bogoria in the face of planned geothermal explorations at the key biodiversity area. Develop and promote a safeguard guide for the Baringo County Government to ensure high-quality environmental impact assessments will be carried out, and complied with, when needed. Develop a geothermal energy safeguard policy and will monitor new geothermal developments across the country.

### **57. Nature Uganda**

*Guide Biodiversity Conservation in the Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Areas in Uganda's Albertine Graben*

Amount            \$10,000            Grant Term        08/15 - 07/16

Collate biodiversity data from the Murchison National Park, Uganda, that will guide the exploration and development of the oil and gas activities in the Albertine Graben area. Contribute in piloting the existing environment monitoring plan developed by the Uganda National Environment Management Authority to generate baseline data to monitor impacts of oil and gas activities. Disseminate the lessons from the work through a poster to the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) and Uganda – Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (UPCLG).

### **58. Nyakitonto Youth for Development Tanzania**

*Participatory Action to Safeguard Ecosystems and Enforce Environmental Impact Assessments in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area, Tanzania*

Amount            \$10,000            Grant Term        03/15 - 02/16

Work with Governance Links Tanzania to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships in the Malagarasi River System Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and strengthen their capacity to coordinate, monitor and enforce environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and environmental conservation laws. Establish a task force and provide Governance Links Tanzania with the knowledge and tools needed to share information on developments in the KBA, including on issues related to compliance with EIA audits and suggested mitigation measures.

### **59. Organisation pour la défense de l'environnement au Burundi**

*Improved Protection of Kibira National Park by Increasing Civil Society's Accountability*

Amount            \$9,769            Grant Term      08/14 - 10/14

Based on a social map produced by Resilience Now in a parallel project, the Organisation pour la défense de l'environnement au Burundi (ODEB) will identify and approach all local conservation and development groups around Kibira National Park, one of the priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in Burundi. ODEB will assess their capacities and capacity needs, and will organize a training workshop to fill some of the gaps. The workshop will also be used to exchange experiences and create new networks of civil society organizations working in and around the KBA.

### **60. Organization for Rehabilitation and Development in Amhara**

*Community Based Biodiversity Conservation in Mount Guna Area*

Amount            \$145,024            Grant Term      02/15 - 01/17

Help establish a formally protected area in Ethiopia's Mount Guna Area using a participatory process, establishing 11 community bodies to advise on the management plan and help implement it. Raise awareness within local government agencies and communities; and support 110 households with training and equipment in alternative livelihood methods.

### **61. The Peregrine Fund – East Africa Project**

*Mapping Mara's Threatened Raptors: Emergency Action to safeguard sensitive hotspots for threatened raptors in the Masai Mara National Reserve*

Amount            \$10,000            Grant Term      02/16 - 01/17

To prevent loss of nesting sites for the Critically Endangered species of raptors in Masai Mara KBA, Kenya. Map known and newly discovered raptor nests to guide future development away from sensitive areas, and produce a Masai Mara Raptor Management and Conservation Action Plan for threatened raptors, which will be presented to the local Government and authorities of the Masai Mara National Reserve to enhance safeguard measures. The Peregrine Fund will also publish a peer-reviewed paper and will share data with other citizen science projects such as the African Raptor Data Bank and Kenya Bird Map.

### **62. Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium**

*Network Creation and Capacity Building in Yayu Biosphere Reserve*

Amount            \$214,789            Grant Term      07/14 - 06/17

Create task forces in the Chora, Hurumu and Yayu districts of the Yayu Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia to better manage the reserve, fostering relationships between local stakeholders and regional and federal decision-making structures. Train school children and families in conservation activities; provide post-harvest training to coffee and honey producer associations; train jobless youth in fuel briquette production; and lead members of parliament on tours of the biosphere reserve so they better understand its economic and social value to the country.

### **63. Rainforest Alliance, Inc.**

*Conserving Biodiversity Through Sustainable Tea Farming Around Kibira National Park, Burundi*

Amount            \$158,465            Grant Term      10/13 - 12/15

Support the tea industry in Burundi and local tea producers in the Teza area to produce certified tea by promoting environmental best practices and introducing agricultural practices that minimize environmental impacts, such as reduced use of pesticides and soil conservation. Partner with the Association Burundaise de Protection des Oiseaux to implement activities on ecosystem restoration and to introduce native trees in agricultural systems in order to improve biological connectivity between natural habitats.

#### **64. Resilience Now**

*Awareness and Capacity Development for Neighboring Populations of Kibira National Park to Improve Their Management of Arable Land and Wood Resources*

Amount        \$18,418            Grant Term    12/13 - 07/14

Strengthen natural resource management practices in the fragile biodiversity area around Kibira National Park in Burundi, with a focus on energy and agriculture, and introduce the concept of permaculture to enhance local communities' resilience and their quality of life.

#### **65. Resilience Now**

*Civil Society Engagement in and around Kibira National Park in Burundi*

Amount        \$150,000           Grant Term    07/15 - 06/17

Work with communities living next to Burundi's Kibira National Park to reduce their impact on the park by providing training in business practices that leads to less intensive use of natural resources. Strengthen 15 community-based organizations to be able to function as business associations.

#### **66. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

*In From the Cold: Providing The Knowledge Base For Comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation in the Chimanimani Mountains, Mozambique*

Amount        \$150,408            Grant Term    06/13 - 06/16

Working closely with the MICAIA Foundation, the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew will conduct a baseline botanical survey for the Mozambican highland areas of the Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA). This will enable MICAIA to then inform local stakeholders so they are better able to act on biodiversity conservation priorities and facilitate improved communication and collaboration between civil society organizations and formal governmental bodies in Mozambique and Zimbabwe in the context of the Chimanimani TFCA.

#### **67. Saku Accountability Forum**

*Bridging the Gap: Promoting the Integrity of Mt. Marsabit Forest Ecosystem through Community-Based Advocacy around Environment Safeguards, Kenya*

Amount        \$10,000            Grant Term    09/15 - 05/16

Improve knowledge and awareness on the framework for environmental safeguards for Kenya's Mt. Marsabit Forest Ecosystem Key Biodiversity Area (KBA); promote community-based monitoring of projects to assess compliance with relevant environmental safeguards; improve synergies and networks/partnerships for promotion of environmental safeguards in the KBA; and improve the implementation and enforcement of policies and laws relating to environmental safeguards.

### **68. Save Tanzania Forests**

*Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for Improved Forest Conservation in Njombe, Tanzania*

Amount            \$20,000            Grant Term      08/14 - 01/16

Apply Participatory Forest Management (PFM) approaches to bring together key players in forest management in the Njombe Forests Key Biodiversity Area in Tanzania and provide forest conservation education and training on sustainable livelihoods with a view of reducing pressure on forest resources.

### **69. Sokoine University of Agriculture**

*Map the Remaining Unprotected Natural Forests and Assess Their Resources and Threats as a Roadmap to Conserve the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot in Ludewa, Tanzania*

Amount            \$79,033            Grant Term      06/15 - 11/16

Assess the Njombe Forest Region of southern Tanzania, mapping all remaining unprotected natural forests in Ludewa District, conducting a biodiversity survey of mapped forests to update information from existing baselines, assessing main threats and defining priority actions, and prioritizing surveyed forests to start a process for their protection.

### **70. Straightfoward Development Services Ltd.**

*Feasibility Study on the Value of Honey Bees for Sustainable Livelihood and Biodiversity Conservation: Case of Nyungwe Landscape, Rwanda*

Amount            \$5,000            Grant Term      01/14 - 06/14

Conduct a feasibility study on beekeeping opportunities around Nyungwe National Park Key Biodiversity Area in Rwanda. This pilot study will facilitate the development of a full project plan on the value of honeybees for livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation, which will involve identification of melliferous (honey yielding) plants in order to provide reliable information regarding the important bee flora and to use as the basis for new areas of beekeeping development.

### **71. Sustainable Natural Resource Management Association**

*Wof Washa Community-Based Ecotourism Project*

Amount            \$177,693            Grant Term      01/14 - 12/16

Develop five tourism cooperatives in the Wof Washa villages of Ethiopia and support training for eco-guides and identification of trails for wildlife watching. An umbrella organization, the Wof Washa Ecotourism Union is in charge of administration, quality standards enforcement and awareness activities with tour operators and the expatriate community of Addis Ababa, with a goal to attract 150 tourists each year.

### **72. Tropical Biology Association**

*Systematic Evaluation of CEPF and Capacity Development of CEPF Grantees*

Amount            \$249,938            Grant Term      01/15 - 07/17

Work with Fauna & Flora International to collaboratively run a series of region-wide capacity-building and networking events. This includes running the portfolio-level mid-term and final assessments, and

purposefully connecting practitioners and providing them with tools to deliver successful conservation projects.

### **73. Ukalene Productions LLC**

*The Lost Mountain: Mt Namuli, Mozambique*

Amount            \$20,000            Grant Term        09/13 - 10/14

Coordinate and lead the inception of a long-term integrated conservation plan of Mt. Namuli and surrounding environs, one of the most significant, threatened and understudied massifs in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. In doing so, the goal is to build the capacity of local project partners and establish relationships among diverse stakeholders such that the conservation plan is sustainable in the long term and that it is carried out under the leadership of a Mozambican civil society organization with local buy-in and broad-based support.

### **74. Tharcisse Ukizintambara**

*Capacity Needs Assessment of Civil Society Organizations in South Sudan and Eritrea*

Amount            \$16,000            Grant Term        12/13 - 08/15

Conduct a capacity needs assessment of civil society organisations (CSOs) in South Sudan, Eritrea and DRC, identifying active environmental and social development CSOs, assessing their capacity needs, and establishing a plan of action to engage these CSOs in effective conservation action in the Eastern Afromontane Region. The assessments will follow a similar approach as the capacity needs assessment in Yemen by Enviromatics.

### **75. União dos Camponeses e Associações de Lichinga**

*Preservation of the Environment in the Lake Niassa Key Biodiversity Area, Mozambique*

Amount            \$19,905            Grant Term        11/13 - 10/14

Strengthen the capacities of the Comité de gestão de recursos naturais (CGRNs), the Committee of Management of Natural Resources; promote the use of environmentally-friendly stoves; reduce the level of erosion and uncontrolled logging in the area; and create nuclei for cleanliness and hygiene at tourist sites around Mozambique's Lake Niassa.

### **76. The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment**

*Capacity Building on Environmental Safeguards and the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Yemen*

Amount            \$132,020            Grant Term        07/14 - 06/16

Contribute to the conservation of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and protected areas within the Eastern Afromontane Region in Yemen by reducing risks driven by unsustainable economic development and the ongoing economic shift toward unsustainable harvesting of biological resources. The project aims to strengthen grassroots organizations to support the enforcement and implementation of internationally accepted environmental safeguard policies and environmental impact assessment (EIA) systems and to advocate for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in development planning in the KBAs in Yemen.

### **77. University of Gondar**

*Strengthen Emerging Conservation Efforts in Mount Guna Through Community-Based Ecotourism and Agroforestry*

Amount            \$18,663            Grant Term        01/15 - 06/16

Preserve the remaining vegetation and begin restoring depleted areas in Mount Guna, Ethiopia, by developing sustainable management alternatives, including community-based ecotourism and agroforestry, that ensure ecosystem conservation and improved livelihoods for local communities.

**78. Wetlands International**

*Developing the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations for Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Imatong Mountains of South Sudan*

Amount            \$19,173            Grant Term        01/14 - 03/15

Build the capacity of 10 environmental and development civil society organizations in the Imatong Mountains of south Sudan to engage effectively in biodiversity management and conservation. This will be done based on a capacity assessment of non-governmental organizations working in the area; identifying and designing training modules; coordinating two interactive training sessions for 20 participants using the developed modules; production of communication materials; and the development of a longer-term conservation program.

**79. Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia**

*Mafinga Hills Conservation Programme, Zambia*

Amount            \$19,982            Grant Term        07/15 - 09/15

Use formative research to identify key threats to the Mafinga Hills Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Zambia and develop locally-driven environmental interventions that address these key threats. Use a three-step approach to obtain up-to-date knowledge of Mafinga Hill's biodiversity, and identify knowledge gaps and conservation issues; engage a wide range of stakeholders; and develop an environmental action plan for Mafinga Hills KBA.

**80. Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi-Dwangwa Branch**

*Advocating for Awareness of Forest Degradation and Policies and Procedures in Conducting Environmental Impact Assessments in and around Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain Forest Reserves*

Amount            \$149,988            Grant Term        07/14 - 06/17

Promote the better management of Malawi's Ntchisi Mountain and Dedza Mountain forest reserves, a combined 3,462 hectares of community-managed multi-use forest land. Train community members and Department of Forestry personnel in environmental impact assessment laws and procedures.

**81. Wildlife Conservation Society**

*Designing Management and Monitoring Plans for the Livingstone Mountain Forests*

Amount            \$185,403            Grant Term        02/15 - 02/17

Work with the community managers of four forest reserves in Tanzania's Livingstone Mountain Region, Madenge, Mdandu, Mshola and Sakaranyuma, to improve community buy-in and engagement for forest conservation activities and a reduction in direct and indirect threats via environmental education activities. The goal is to reach at least half of each village, totaling 7,300 people across seven villages. Coordinate with village environmental committees to demarcate and protect corridors between the forest reserves.

## **82. Wildlife Conservation Society**

*Establishing Honey as a Viable Alternative Livelihood Across the Northern Lake Nyasa Mountain Complex, Tanzania*

Amount            \$149,855            Grant Term        11/13 - 10/16

Promote the active engagement of communities in eastern Tanzania within the catchment to Northern Lake Nyasa by creating a long-term and sustainable benefit to local natural resource user groups, specifically through the creation and promotion of the Southern Highlands Honey Cooperative. Cooperative members conduct beekeeping in villages adjacent to the Livingstone, Rungwe and Proto Ridge key biodiversity areas (KBAs). In exchange for the support that members receive as part of the cooperative, they personally promise to no longer engage in illegal hunting or harvesting within the KBAs and to serve as local environmental leaders in their villages.

## **83. Wildlife Conservation Society**

*Establishment and Management of the Itombwe Massif and Misotshi-Kabogo as New Protected Areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

Amount            \$187,300            Grant Term        07/13 - 12/15

Establish two important protected areas in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Itombwe Massif and the Ngamikka Forest. Working closely with local communities and the Congolese authorities, the project team gathers the necessary data and ensures the legal requirements are fulfilled; and organizes consultations with local communities to ensure their rights and their vision are fully taken into account. For both sites, preliminary management plans will be prepared in consultation with local communities. Determine the feasibility of REDD+ at both sites as a means to sustainably cover the costs associated with conservation of the protected areas and some local development needs.

## **84. Wildlife Conservation Society**

*Protecting the Ngamikka-Luama Landscape by Establishing Infrastructure and Capacity*

Amount            \$199,582            Grant Term        06/14 - 05/16

Build a park headquarters and guard stations, train senior staff and field officers, and develop a 10-year landscape management plan that leads to better conservation of almost 450,000 hectares of woodland and gallery forest in Ngamikka Park and Luama Katanga Reserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## **85. Zesman Consultancy**

*Assisting EWNHS with the strategic roll-out of the CEPF investment in Ethiopia*

Amount            \$20,000            Grant Term        02/16 - 06/17

To assist EWNHS with the implementation of the CEPF program in Ethiopia, with a focus on technical and institutional support to grantees in order to achieve successful project outputs and outcomes.



### Annex 3. Progress Toward Long-Term Goals

Goal	Criteria				
<b>Conservation Priorities</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>KBAs</b>	<b>Corridors</b>	<b>Conservation Plans</b>	<b>Best Practices</b>
	<b>Not met:</b> threat assessments not conducted for > 50% of species, especially plants	<b>Partial:</b> KBAs not fully identified in entire hotspot	<b>Not applicable:</b> island hotspot; corridors may not be entirely meaningful	<b>Partial:</b> varies by country	<b>Not met:</b> best practices not adopted at most sites
<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Management Systems/Planning</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Financial Resources</b>	<b>Transboundary Cooperation</b>
	<b>Not met:</b> capacity varies widely by country	<b>Partial:</b> among CEPF partners, this is evident	<b>Partial:</b> varies by country	<b>Not met:</b> funding needs significant	<b>Partial:</b> varies by country
<b>Sustainable Financing</b>	<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>	<b>Donors</b>	<b>Livelihoods</b>	<b>Long Term Mechanisms</b>
	<b>Not met:</b> varies widely, needs significant	<b>Not met:</b> varies widely, needs significant	<b>Not met:</b> difficult to assess across multiple countries	<b>Not met:</b> fundamental issue across the region	<b>Not met:</b> small number of funds insufficient for region
<b>Enabling Environment</b>	<b>Policy for Conservation</b>	<b>Policy for Civil Society</b>	<b>Education / Training</b>	<b>Transparency</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>
	<b>Partial:</b> varies widely by country	<b>Partial:</b> varies widely by country	<b>Partial:</b> varies widely by country	<b>Partial:</b> varies widely by country	<b>Not met:</b> varies widely
<b>Responsive-ness</b>	<b>Biodiversity Monitoring</b>	<b>Threats Monitoring</b>	<b>Ecosystem Services Monitoring</b>	<b>Adaptive Management</b>	<b>Public Sphere</b>
	<b>Not met:</b> no monitoring system exists for anything more than a few selected sites and species	<b>Not met:</b> no threats monitoring system exists within anything more than a few selected parks	<b>Not met:</b> almost no monitoring systems in place for any ecosystem service	<b>Not met:</b> all organizations espouse this principle but few demonstrate that they apply it	<b>Partially met:</b> varies by country

**Annex 4. Baseline management effectiveness in the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot region**

See separate file by Burgess, et. al.

# Baseline management effectiveness in the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot Region

# This report

## Authors:

Neil D. Burgess, Andy Arnell, Yara Shennan-Farpon, Rebecca Newham (UNEP-WCMC)

In collaboration with: CEPF Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation Team,  
Nairobi, Kenya.

Published: March 2015

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# Summary

The aim of this project was to:

Provide a baseline of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (using the METT tool) and forest cover to measure future changes following CEPF investment. This has been done by a team from UNEP-WCMC who did the following work:

- 1) Gather and input METT assessments into a database and analyse them in terms of reserve effectiveness.
- 2) Spatially depict sites that are KBAs, Protected Areas, have METT scores, where CEPF is working, and where the forest loss is known.

The results are presented in simple form to allow CEPF to return to the sites in some years and measure changes that have occurred over time. In addition to the report the main outputs are an Excel file of METT data for PA and KBA sites and a GIS project of the spatial data and analysis

## Summary results

CEPF has identified 310 KBAs in the Eastern Afromontane region and is working in 49 priority KBA sites on the ground.

Of the 310 KBAs, 142 are Protected Areas within the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) and 97 have METT assessments available. The WDPA may not be complete and capture all PAs in the Eastern Afromontane but is the only database available for the analysis we have undertaken.

The largest number of METT assessments have been completed in Tanzania (95 sites), with the fewest in Malawi (1 sites), Rwanda (2 sites) and Burundi (2 sites). Not all of these are protected areas within the global protected area database (WDPA), for example some of the Tanzanian sites are Village Land Forest Reserves and not found in the WDPA.

Of the available METT assessments, only 8 were collected by CEPF, the rest were obtained from UNEP-WCMC's Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness.

The average METT scores for protected areas in the region was 49.79, with scores higher in countries such as Kenya (81.35, n=3 sites), Rwanda (61.41, n=2 sites) and Zimbabwe (60.66, n=3 sites). The lowest average METT score was recorded for Burundi (36.11, n=2 sites).

Where METT scores have been repeated there is a tendency for scores to increase, mainly where these have been associated with a GEF-funded project.

Because so few METT assessments have been completed for CEPF funded sites, it is not possible to make clear statements on the baseline effectiveness of the protected areas in the CEPF Eastern Afromontane hotspot. There are also no trends available in METT scores in CEPF funded sites.

A visual comparison of protected areas and forest loss 2000—2012 suggests that protected areas are broadly helping reduce forest loss. However, more detailed analysis of effectiveness of protected areas at reducing forest loss, and the incremental value of the CEPF investment, has not been possible using the available data and funding.

### **Summary recommendations**

In order to better assess the changes due to their investment, CEPF needs to consider the following:

- 1) Request all CEPF grantees working in Protected Areas to complete a METT form at the start and end of project investment to determine changes in management effectiveness.
- 2) Assist grantees to conduct simple data collection (for example using the IBA monitoring tool) to measure changes in conservation state, pressure and responses at their sites.
- 3) Conduct further analysis of the CEPF effectiveness baseline when a larger data sample from CEPF funded sites is available.
- 4) Analyse data on changes in habitat and species trends to sites where CEPF is investing and not-investing, and conduct further analysis, to provide further guidance to the CEPF Eastern Afromontane RIT on the outcomes of their investment.

# 1. Introduction

**The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** brings together a consortium of several organizations who have invested in conserving the world's most biologically diverse areas, or 'hot spots', notably through the involvement of civil society (NGOs, CSOs, Universities and other research bodies). It has for some years been investing in conservation activities that aim to improve the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, in terms of protecting both species, sites and habitats.

The Eastern Afromontane hotspot covers 1,017,806 km<sup>2</sup> and stretches from Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the North, through parts of Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi, to Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the south (CEPF, 2012).

The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot is composed of a number of scattered mountain ranges, which are biogeographically similar (CEPF, 2014). These include the Eastern Arc Mountains, the Southern Rift, the Albertine Rift, the Ethiopian Highlands, and isolated mountain patches in Arabia in the north and Zimbabwe and Mozambique further south (CEPF, 2012).

Within the hotspot, CEPF has identified 310 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as priorities for investment: 261 terrestrial and 49 freshwater (CEPF, 2012). Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites that meet defined criteria of importance for species (CEPF, 2012, Knights *et al.*, 2007, Langhammer *et al.*, 2007). Whilst many of the KBAs in the Eastern Afromontane fall within already Protected Areas (PAs), i.e. those found in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) produced by UNEP and IUCN, the CEPF profile document states that "almost 40 percent of the total KBA are situated outside of PAs and thus without protection" (CEPF, 2012). Our calculations using the 2014 version of the WDPA suggest that this is actually around 55% of the KBAs that are unprotected, if the WDPA has accurately captured all protected areas within the hotspot profile region.



## **Monitoring Protected Area effectiveness**

Protected Areas (PAs) have long been regarded as an important conservation tool (Geldmann *et al.*, 2013) and cover 15.6% of the planet's land surface (Juffe-Bignoli *et al.*, 2014). However, there is a growing concern that many PAs around the world are not achieving their objectives. In response to this concern, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has made the systematic measurement of the management effectiveness of the global PA network part of the Targets agreed at the CBD COP 10 meeting in Japan and it is embedded as one element of Aichi Target 11.

A number of different tools have been developed to systematically assess PA management effectiveness. The most widely used is the World Wildlife Fund/World Bank 'Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool' (METT) which was built upon the WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) framework for assessment of Protected Areas (Hockings *et al.*, 2006). Operational in 2003, the METT is now applied as a mandatory reporting mechanism for all Protected Area projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, and the World Bank, and is additionally used by other international agencies to track PA management, for example WWF, IUCN, CEPF and CI. The tool has also been used by national agencies, although they have often adopted it to their own interests. Besides METT, a large number of other management effectiveness assessment systems have been used globally and these are reviewed in Leverington *et al.* (2010).

In addition to the quality of management, changes in conservation outcomes are also important to measure within conservation programmes. In this hotspot most of the area is mountainous tropical forest, with some areas of montane grassland and drier woodlands. One of the measurable conservation outcomes that can serve as a baseline is forest cover where time series are readily available.

Here we establish a baseline of effectiveness of management within the Eastern Afromontane hotspot protected areas, using results from the METT tool, in particular within sites that are receiving support from CEPF. We also outline the forest cover status of these areas and the changes that have occurred over the past 10 years using a globally standardized dataset (Hansen *et al.*, 2013; updated in 2014). The overall aim is to establish a baseline against which future changes, e.g. due to CEPF investment, might be measured.

## 2. Methodology

### *Study Area*

The study area covers the entire Eastern Afromontane hotspot region (Figure 1). It covers both the Eastern Arc Mountains (which received past CEPF support) and the remaining mountain ranges (which are receiving investment from CEPF at the present time). We have brought all data from the whole region together as there is a process within CEPF to bring the Eastern Arc Mountains back under the overall investment of CEPF within the region.



**Figure 1:** Location map of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot region in Africa

## *Scope of Work*

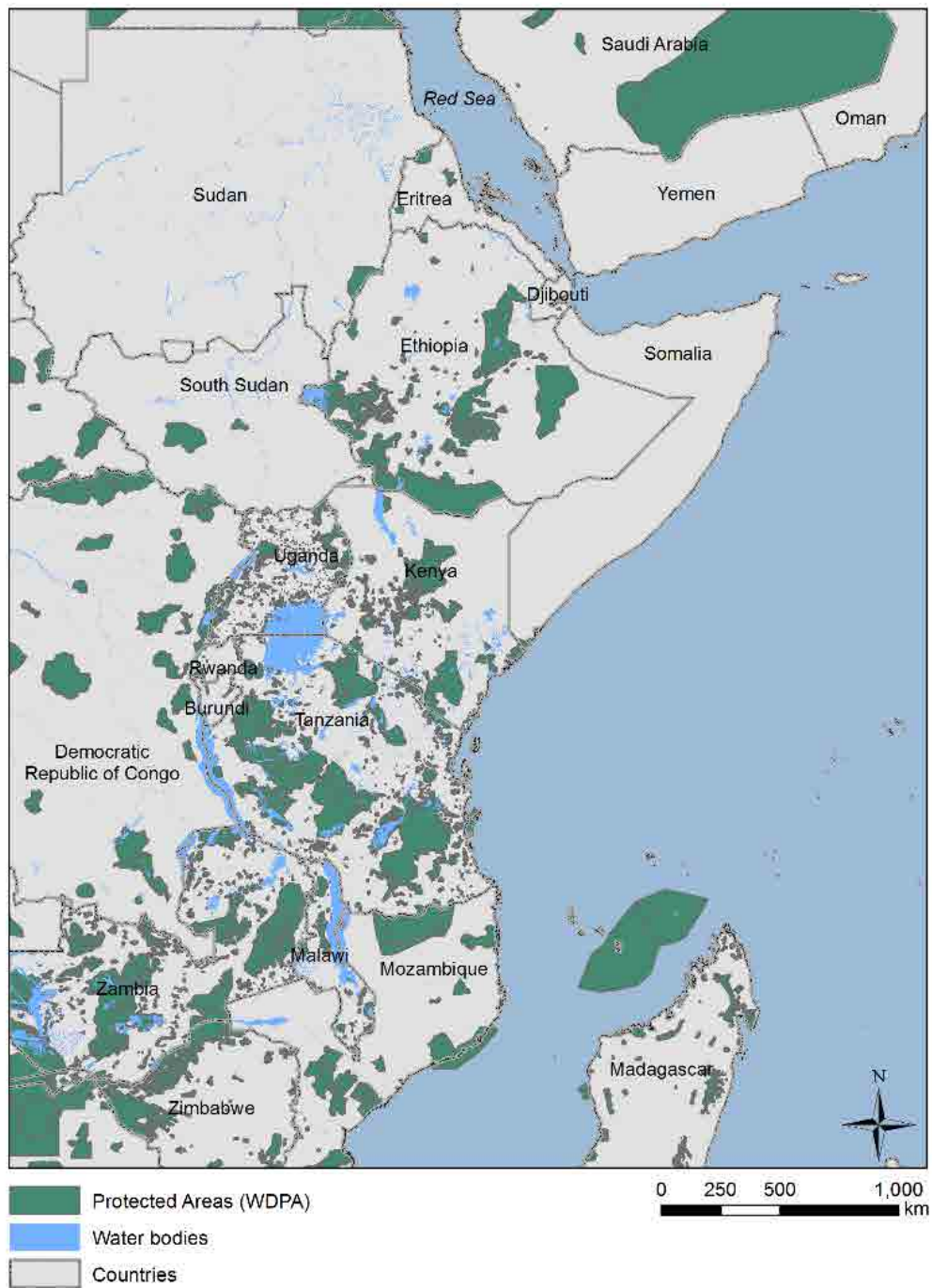
The work undertaken was as follows:

- 1) Produce maps of the Eastern Afromontane region showing:
  - a. The extent of the CEPF investment region and the KBA and Protected Areas within the region.
  - b. The location of all Protected Areas with METT assessments (based on the database developed under 2).
  - c. The location of all KBA sites where CEPF is investing in improved conservation.
  - d. The forest change across the region from 2000–2012 (updated to 2013 where possible).
- 2) Complete database of METT data for the Eastern Afromontane region which allows for the following analyses:
  - a. Analysis of METT data within the different countries in the region.
  - b. Analysis of the number, distribution and linkage to KBA sites for all METT data from protected areas across the Eastern Afromontane region. This provides a baseline assessment of METT scores in CEPF investment sites. If possible, analysis of METT scores in CEPF investment sites compared with sites where CEPF has not been investing.

## *Description of databases used for analysis*

### **World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)**

The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, and is a joint product of the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), managed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). For the purposes of this analysis, the January 2015 version of the WDPA was used for analysis, which comprises over 210,000 Protected Areas globally, and several hundred in the eastern African region (Figure 2).



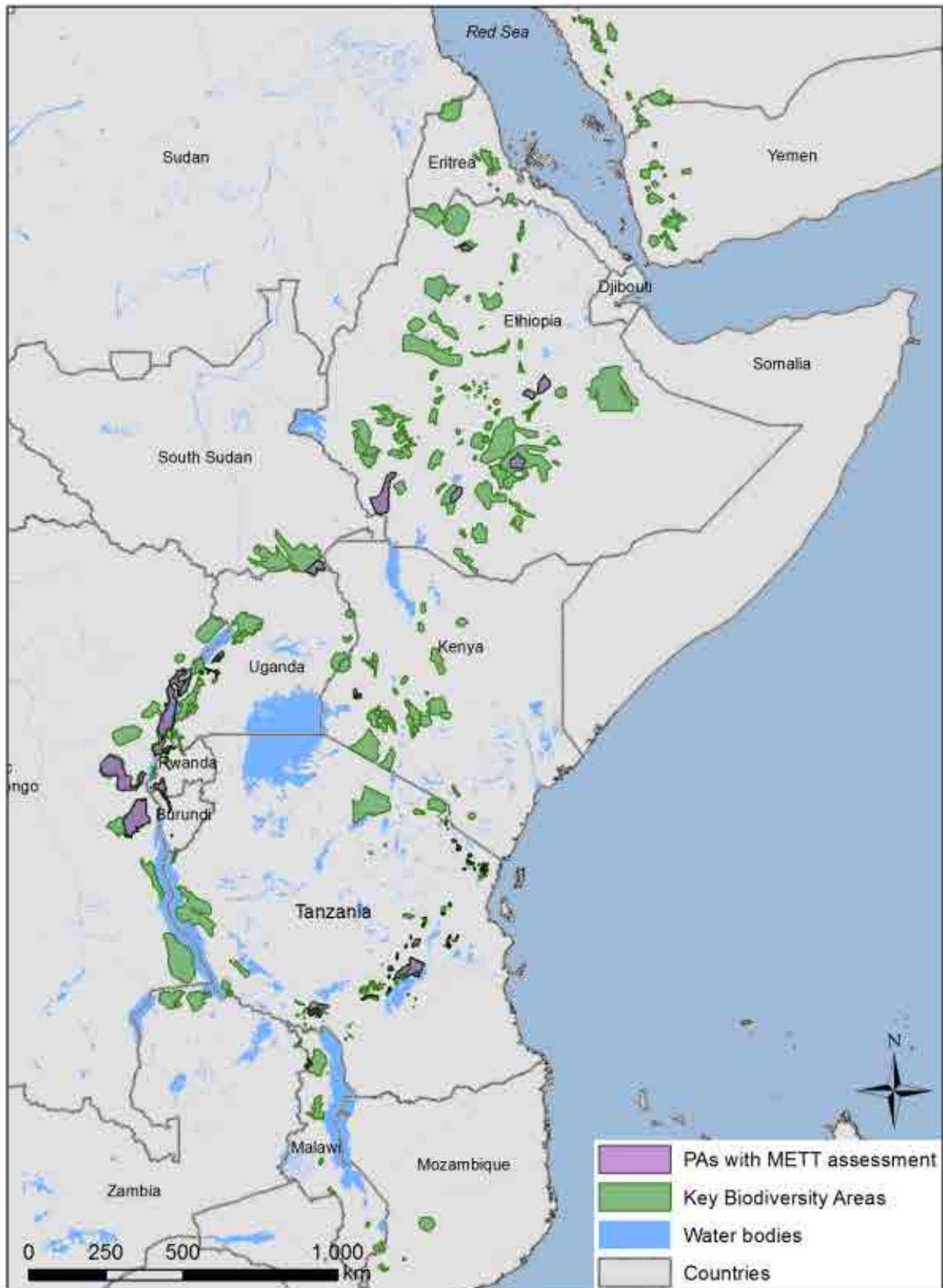
**Figure 2:** Protected Areas in the Eastern Afrotropical region

**Global METT data**

METT data come from the Global Database of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) that is maintained at UNEP-WCMC. The GD-PAME database is an MS Office Access database that contains the results of METT assessments from Protected Areas

around the world, as well as results from other protected area management effectiveness tools (such as RAPPAM).

The METT database currently contains over 4,500 assessments globally with 135 assessments in the Eastern Afromontane region, although 5 of these contain no data and one more is mostly incomplete, giving a total sample of 129 assessments (Appendix 1). METT assessments are, where possible, linked to the WDPA polygons through the use of the WDPA Identification (WDPA ID) code (Figure 3).



**Figure 3:** KBA sites that are Protected Areas and have METT data in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot

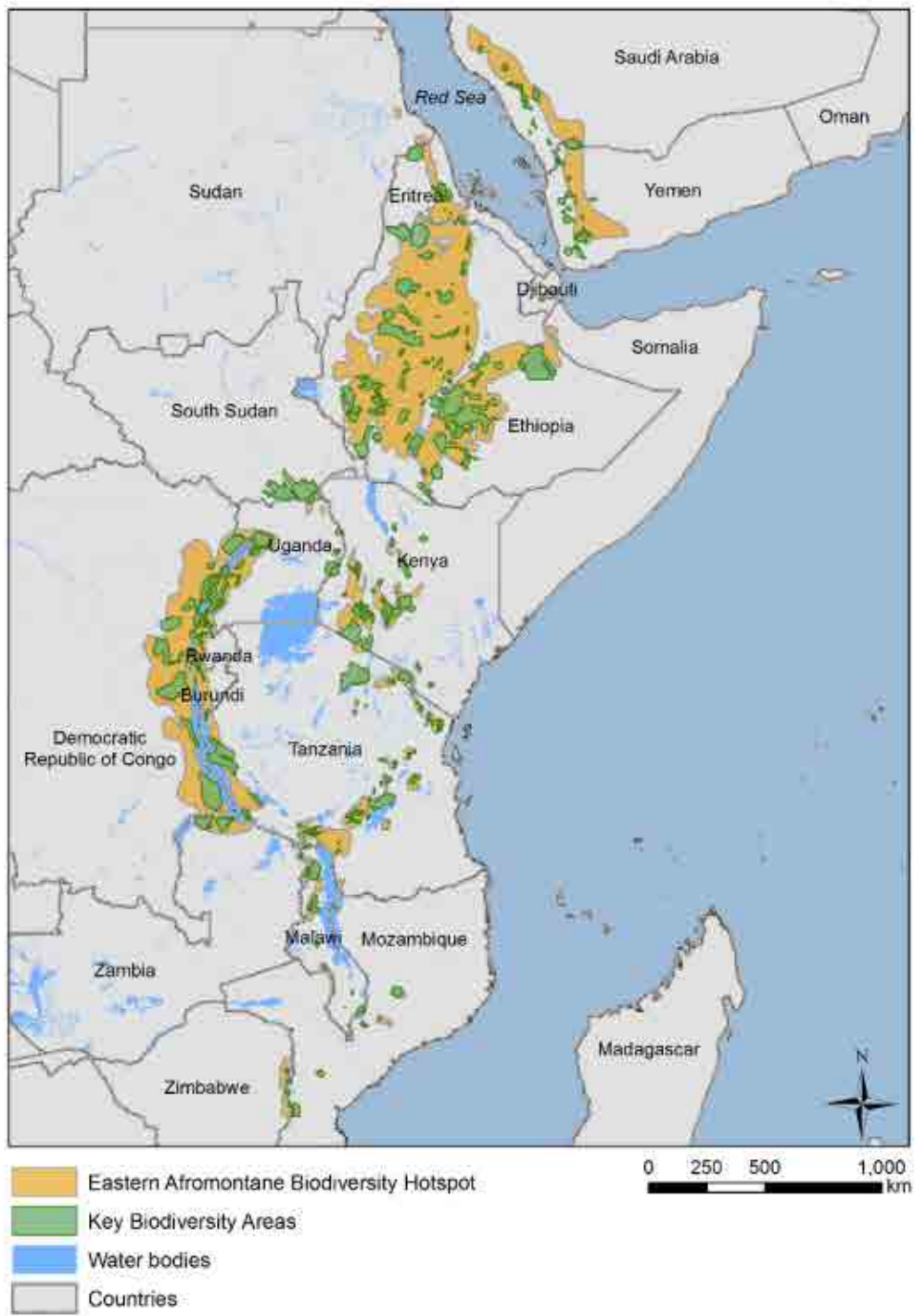
### **Calculation of METT scores for each Protected Area**

The METT tool (last updated in 2007) consists of three datasheets. The first contains information on PA context (such as PA legislation, ownership and governance), PA management inputs (such as PA budget and staff numbers), and PA objectives and management activities. The second datasheet focuses on PA threats. The third datasheet comprises a series of 30 questions scored between 0 and 3 (4 ranks) and covers various elements of site management (Hockings *et al.*, 2006; Belokurov *et al.*, 2009; Coad *et al.*, 2013).

In this report we only use the METT data derived from the 30 ranked questions. The overall METT score for each assessment is calculated by summing the score data (0–3 ranking) for each of the 30 questions in the METT assessment tool. This is then used to provide a percentage score for each assessment, by dividing the total score achieved by the total potential score that could have been attained (some assessments leave questions unanswered, because they are not relevant to the site in question, and therefore the overall potential score that can be achieved can vary among sites). The calculated percentage score is herein referred to as the 'METT score'. Where multiple assessments were available for a site, we took the most recent assessment to calculate the site METT score.

### **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)**

KBAs bring together Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites and important sites for other taxa that are not captured in IBA and AZE sites. We obtained the KBA data layer for the Eastern Afrotropical region as a GIS file from BirdLife International, who developed the original KBA layer for CEPF. There are 310 KBAs in this region (Figure 4).

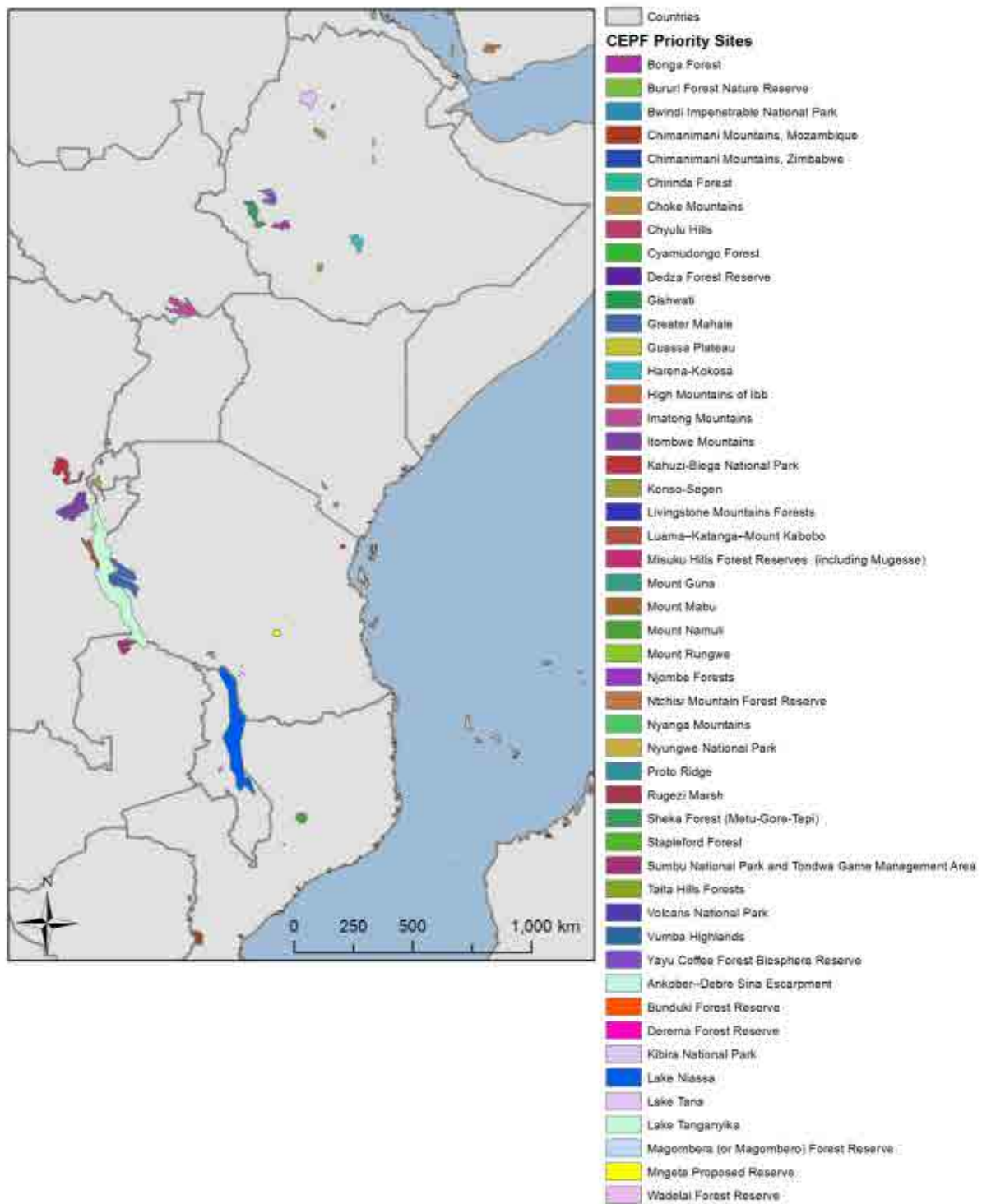


**Figure 4:** Location of KBA sites in the Eastern Afrotropical hotspot



### **CEPF intervention sites**

Based off a list developed by the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation Team (RIT), we have mapped the spatial distribution of all sites in the hotspot that have received CEPF investment in the period 2013–2015. This list comprises 49 KBAs and includes the sites that fall under the CEPF consolidation funds provided to the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests portion of the hotspot (Figure 5).



**Figure 5:** All CEFP intervention sites (KBAs) in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot - including the Eastern Arc and Coastal Forests

### **Forest cover change dataset**

We based our analysis on the Hansen *et al.* (2013) forest change dataset, which looked at the changes in forest cover over time in this region (2000–2012) (Figure 11). Since the publication of this dataset it has been updated to forest cover change to 2013 and various errors have been fixed, and this is the dataset we have used here.

# 3. Results

We present basic analyses that serve as baselines against which trends in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot, and the KBA sites with CEPF investment might be measured.

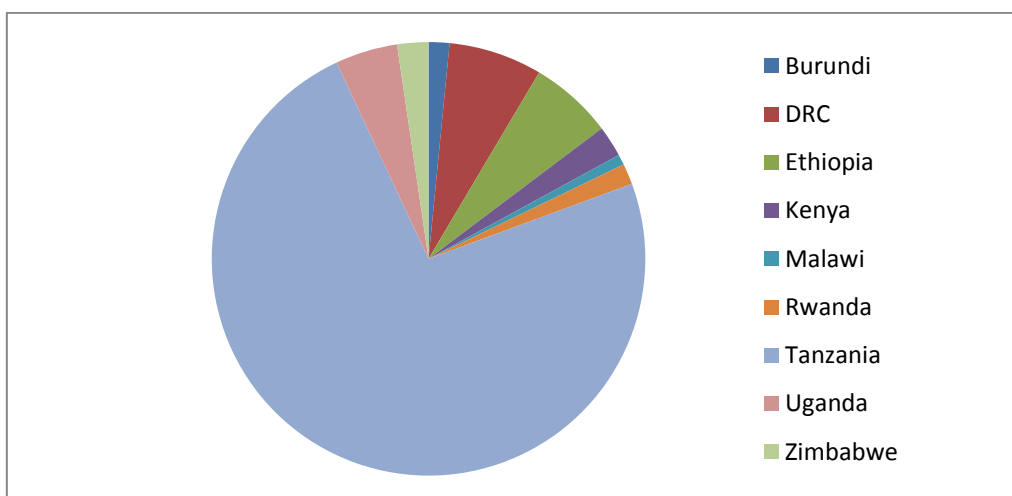
## Analysis of METT data from the Eastern Afromontane region

### Baseline METT data

From those 310 KBAs in the Eastern Afromontane region, 142 were linked to protected areas in the WDPA database. From these we were able to extract a total of 135 assessments from the METT database, covering 97 of the 310 KBAs recognized in the hotspot profile. From these, 129 assessments had at least 50% of the questions answered, and 127 assessments had all 30 METT questions answered.

### Countries

The 127 METT assessments that were complete, were from 9 countries, out of the total of 17 countries in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot area. Seventy-one of the sites with METT data were from Tanzania (TZA), which represents almost three quarters of the available data (see Figure 6). Tanzania has received GEF, WWF and CEPF investments in recent years, where METT is a mandatory part of the project reporting.

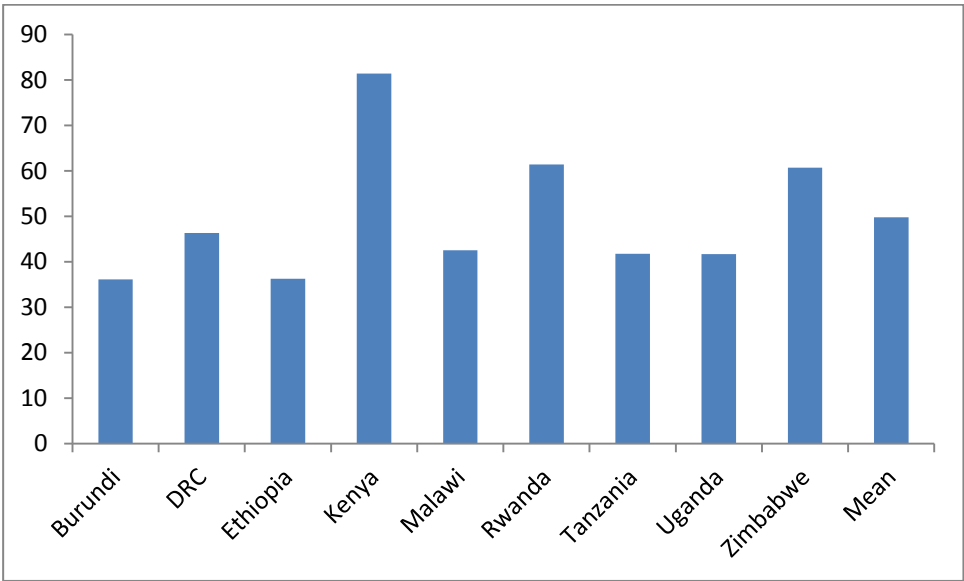


**Figure 6:** Number of sites with METT assessments within the Eastern Afromontane hotspot

Across the different countries in the hotspot, the mean METT score varies considerably (Table 1, Figure 7). This may be due to the kinds of reserves that have been sampled. For example, in Kenya the sites assessed using the METT tool are mainly fairly well-resourced National Parks, whereas in Tanzania they are mainly Forest Reserves, which have minimal budgets.

**Table 1.** Summary of the METT data available from the Eastern Afromontane region

Country	Number of METT assessments (n=129)	Average. METT Score	Number of METT assessments with complete data (n=127)	Average. METT Score for assessments with complete data
Burundi	2	36.1	2	36.1
DRC	9	36.0	7	46.3
Ethiopia	8	36.2	8	36.2
Kenya	3	81.3	3	81.3
Malawi	1	42.5	1	42.5
Rwanda	2	61.4	2	61.4
Tanzania	95	41.7	95	41.7
Uganda	6	41.6	6	41.6
Zimbabwe	3	60.6	3	60.6
Mean	129	48.6	127	49.7

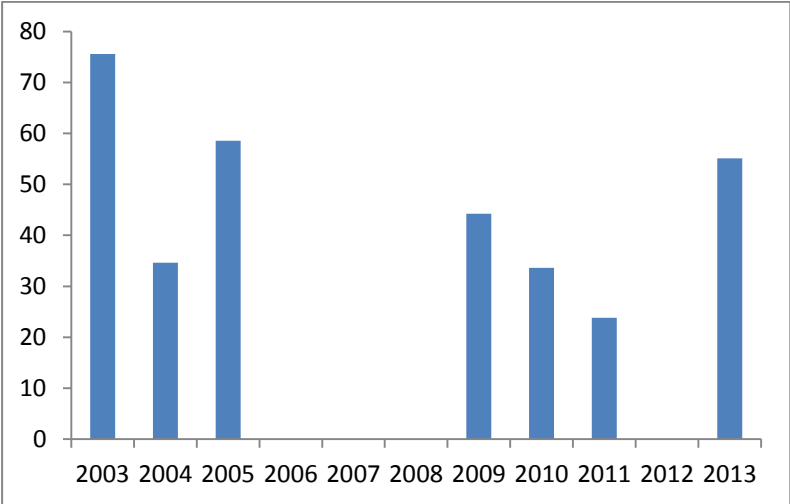


**Figure 7:** Mean METT Scores per country (n = 127 sites)

Although 40% of the area of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot is found in Ethiopia, we were only able to locate seven METT assessments from that country, which does not give a good assessment of effectiveness of the management in this country. The next largest area of the hotspot (25%) is found in Tanzania, which contains the majority of METT assessments, and does give a reasonable reflection of the protected area management effectiveness within this country.

Changes in METT scores over time

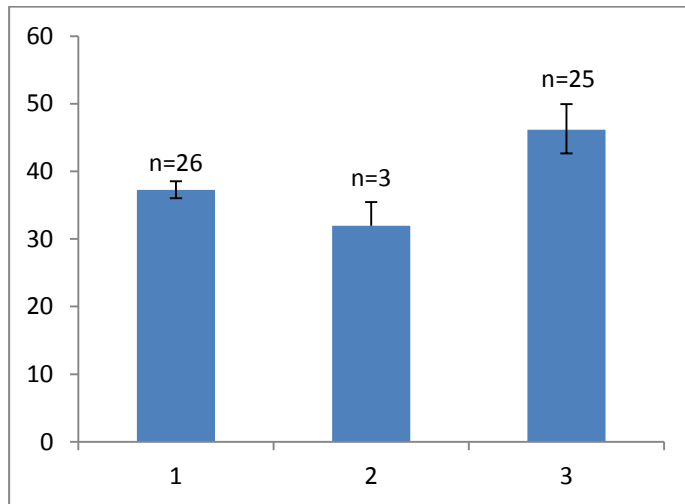
To further illustrate trends we analysed the Tanzanian mean METT scores over time as there was the largest number of repeat assessments, suggesting a slight decline (Figure 8). However, this may be because the types of sites differ over time, with a general change from using METT in National Parks in the earlier years, to an increasing emphasis on assessing Forest Reserves and community managed forest areas in later years. It is already known that National parks in Tanzania have generally higher scores than other Protected Area categories, in particular Forest Reserves (Knights *et al.*, 2014).



**Figure 8.** Mean METT scores in assessed Protected Areas in Tanzania over time (2003-2013). We have no assessments from 2006, 2007 and 2012.

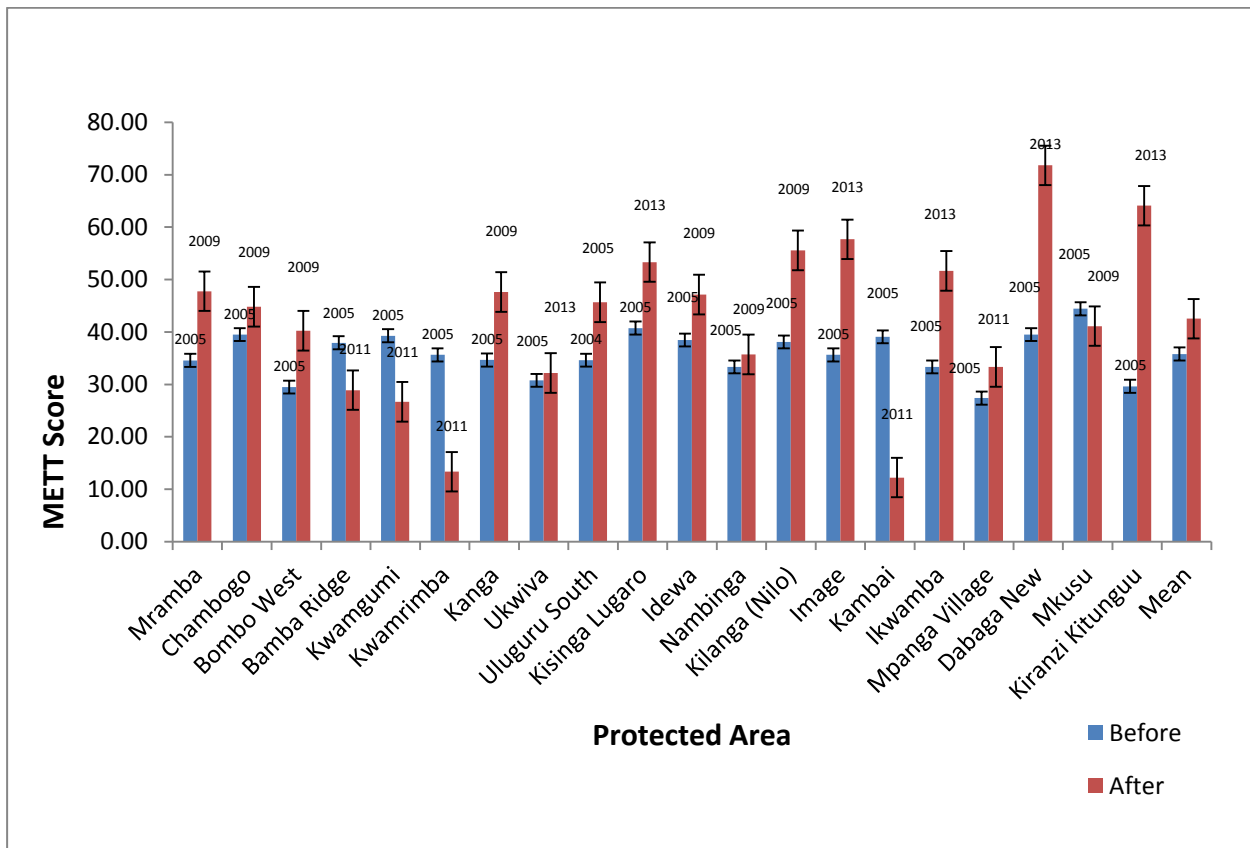
From the 97 sites with METT assessments, 26 had several assessments available. Of these, 21 were found in Tanzania (but one was for the same site in the same year – Mufindi scarp), 1 in Ethiopia, 2 from DR Congo, 1 from Kenya and 1 from Uganda. From these assessments we calculated the mean METT score in the first, second and third assessment

(Figure 9). This shows how METT assessment scores tend to increase over time, but that in sites with 3 assessments the second is generally lower than the last.



**Figure 9.** Mean METT scores per assessment for those sites with more than one repeat application (n=26).

To assess changes in individual sites, we calculated the difference between start and end assessments (Figure 10). This was only done for Tanzania as there are many sites with repeat assessments in that country. This analysis shows that there are increases in METT scores in 14 of the 20 assessments.



**Figure 10.** Mean METT scores with standard error for 20 Tanzanian KBAs with two assessments (2005 baseline to 2009, 2011 or 2013 as the end point) (we omit Mufindi scape that had 2 assessments in 2005). The blue bar represents the first assessment, and red bar represents the last assessment. The mean (last columns) show the amount of change from first to last assessment across all sites

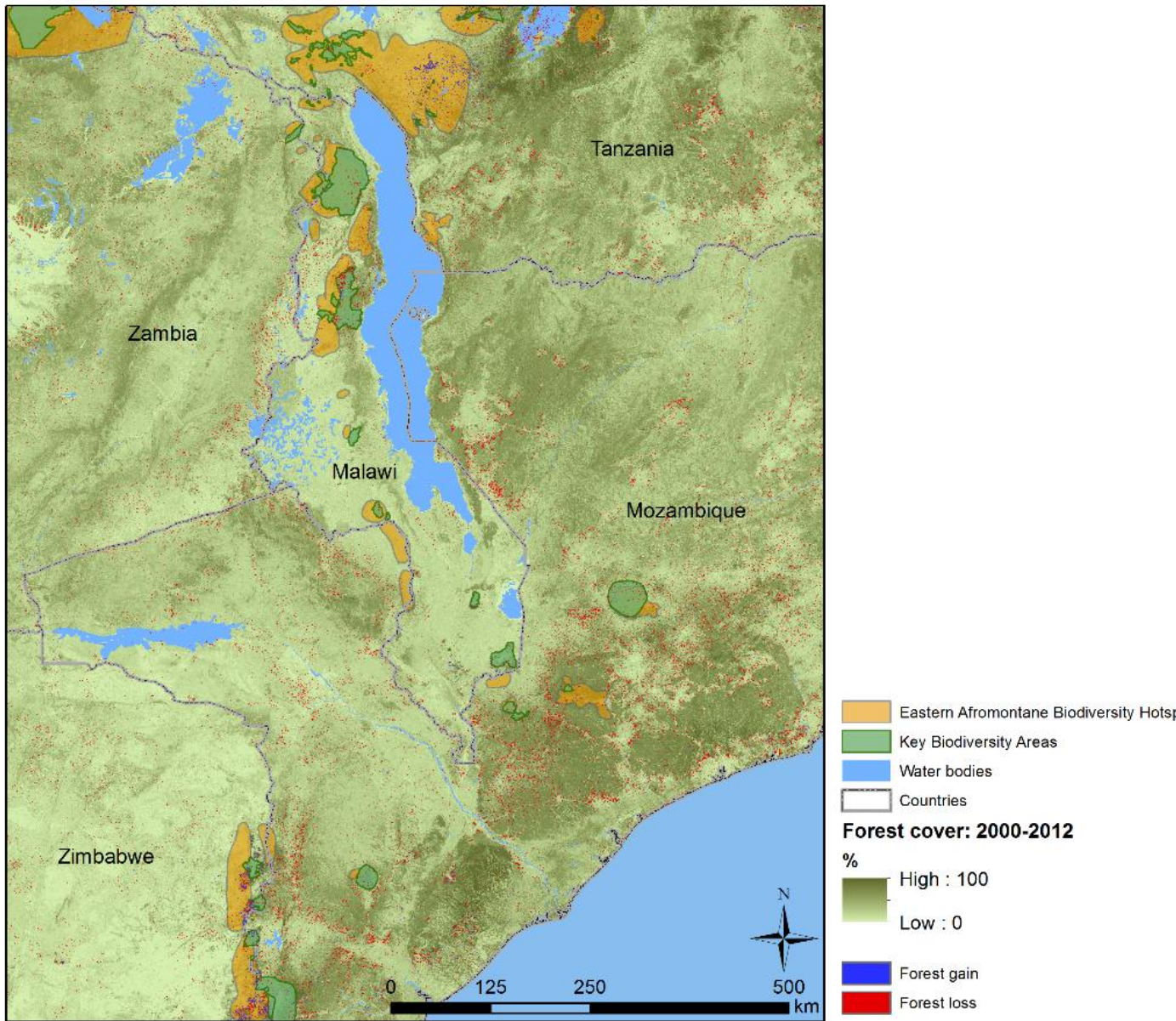
METT Assessed sites where CEPF is working

For the KBA sites where CEPF is working only 8 have METT assessments. These are 2 in Burundi, 2 in Rwanda, 1 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 3 in Zimbabwe. This was too small a number to perform any analysis, but the data are available in Annex 1.

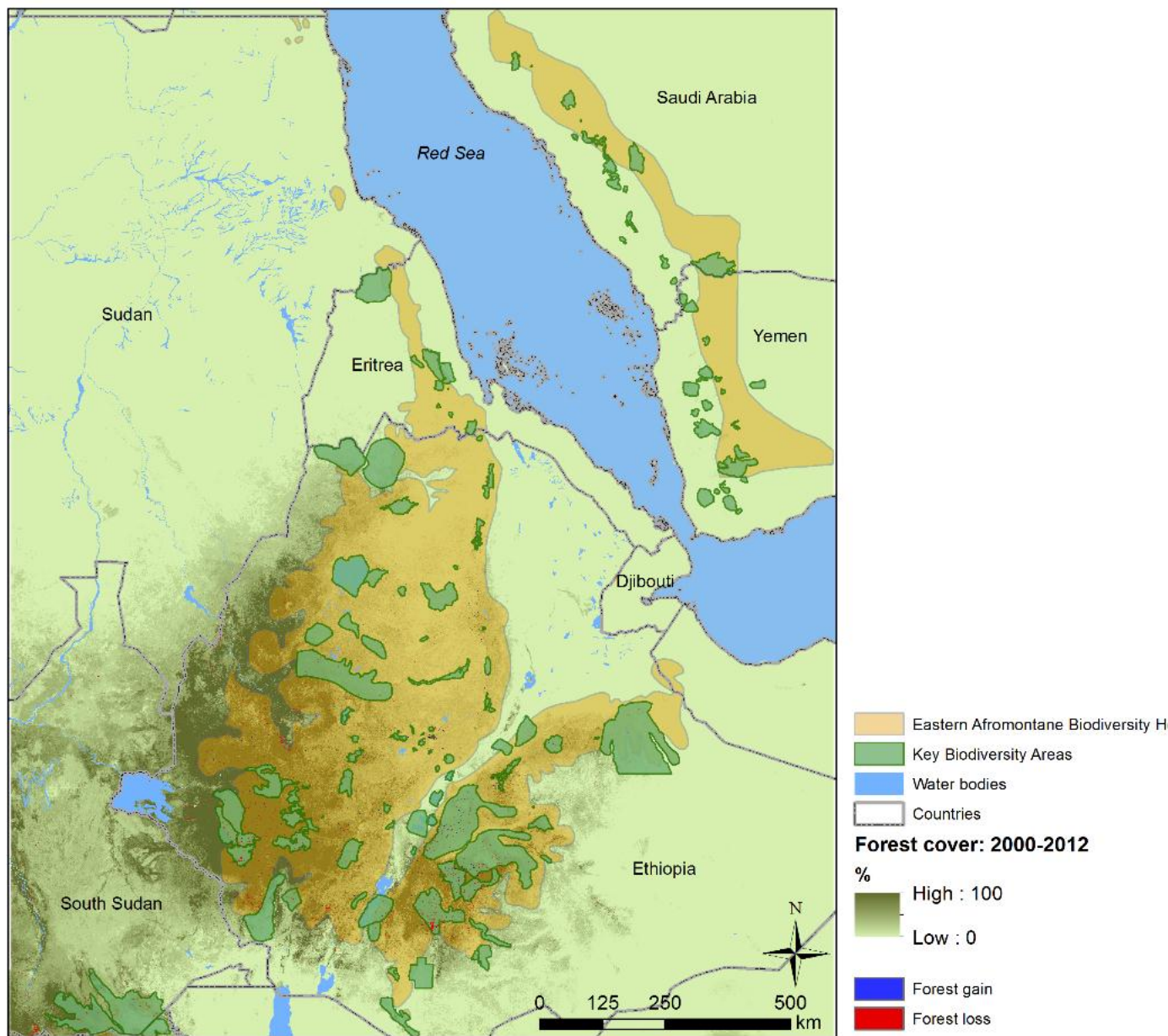
Forest change analysis

We have generated a baseline of forest status and changes in the Eastern Afromontane region (Figure 11). This is available at 30m resolution and to show the potential for assessing change in CEPF funded sites we show the detail for the Eastern Arc region and one of the regions within that where CEPF has been investing (Figure 11).

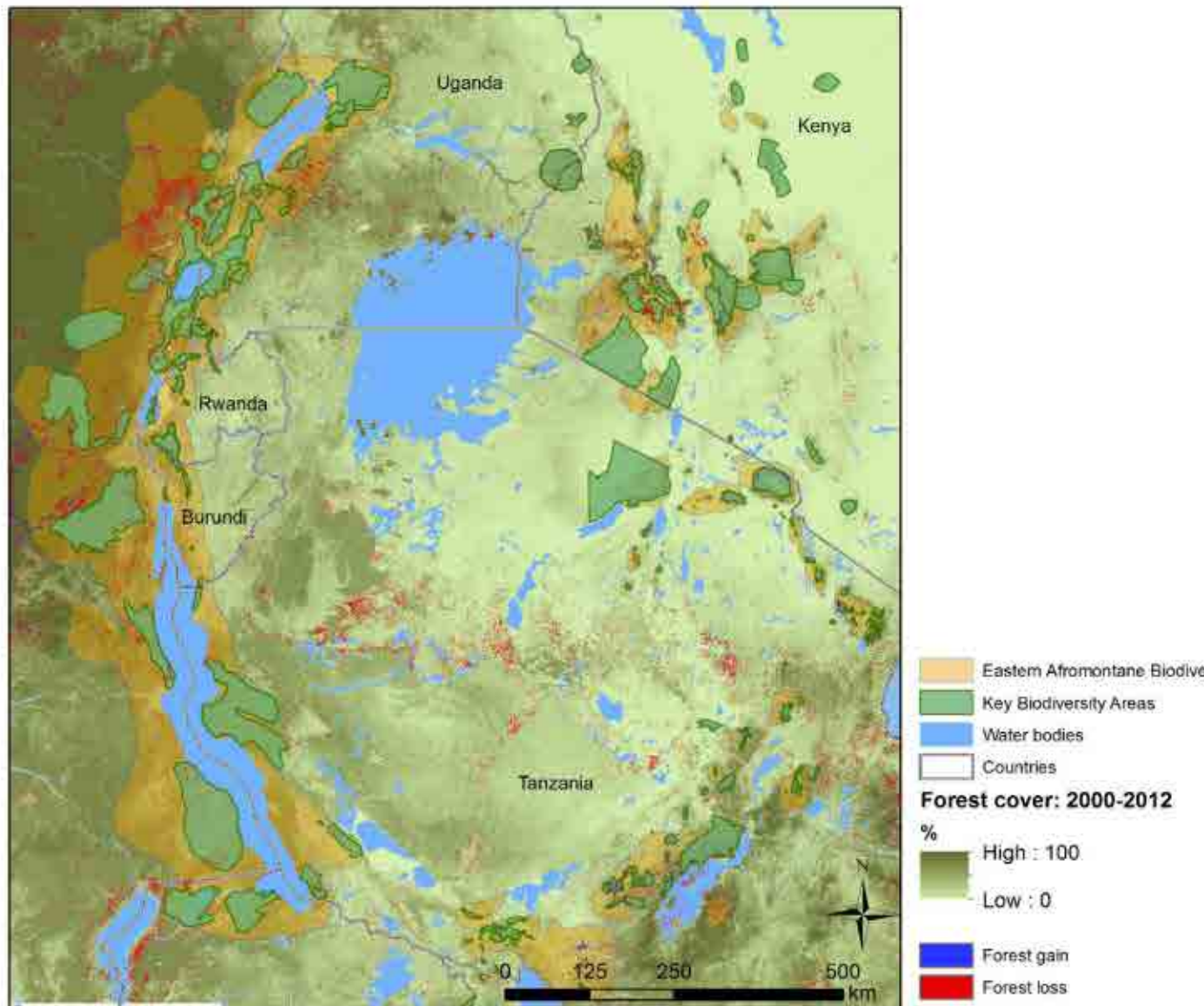




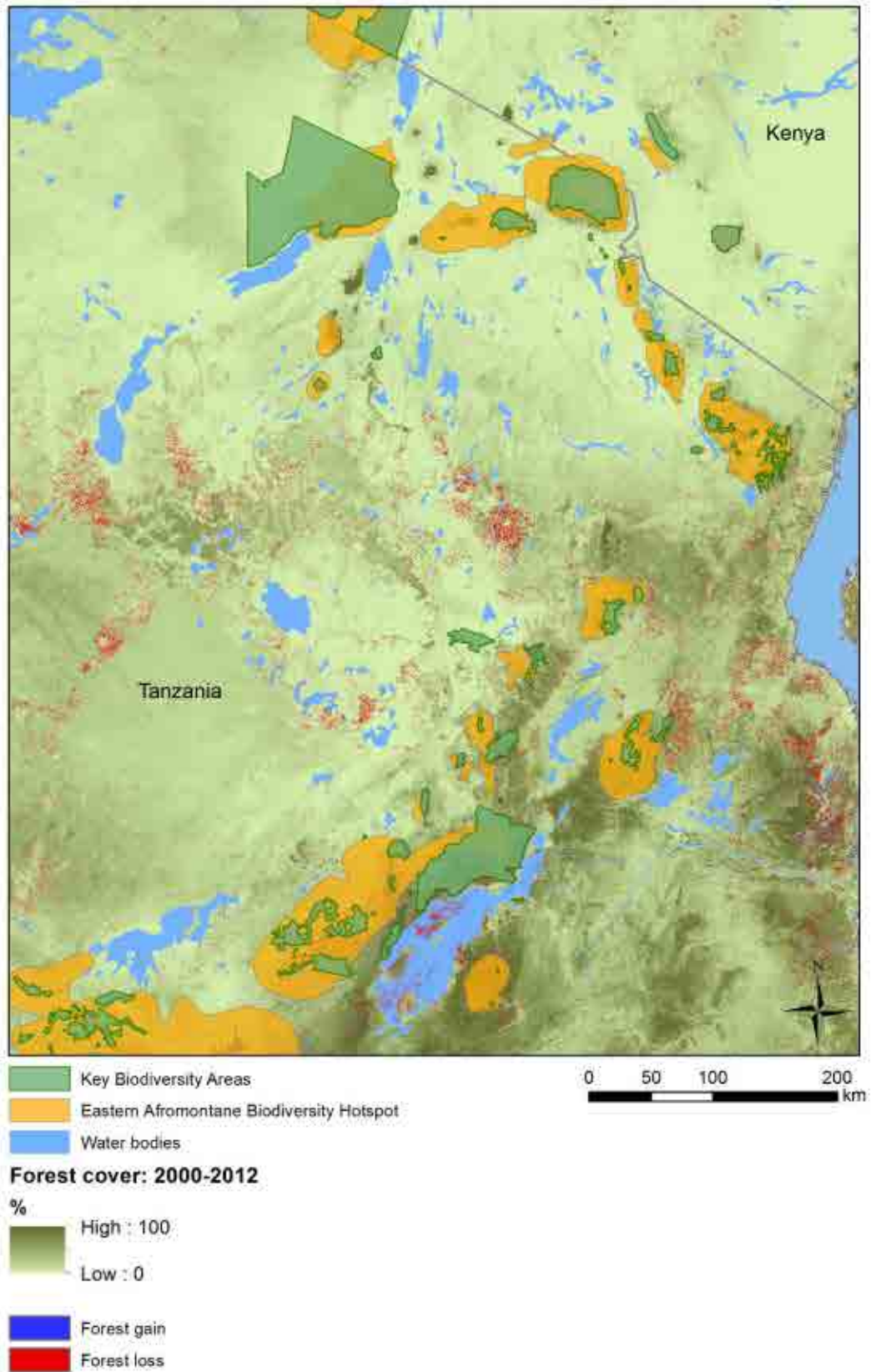
**Figure 11a:** Forest cover map in the southern portion of the Eastern Afromontane region



**Figure 11b:** Forest cover map in the northern portion of the Eastern Afromontane region



**Figure 11c:** Forest cover map in central portion of the Eastern Afrotropics region



**Figure11d:** Focus of forest change in the Eastern Arc region in Tanzania

## 4. Discussion

The Eastern Afromontane region contains a large number of countries, protected areas, and KBA sites. Our compilation of data on METT from a global database and from CEFF field assessments shows that only a selection of these sites have adequate baseline data on management effectiveness.

Due to this, it has only been possible to evaluate baseline KBA effectiveness, and trends in effectiveness in Tanzania. Because Tanzania only contains 25% of the area of the hotspot no general conclusions can be reached on the management of the KBAs in the entire hotspot.

It would be ideal to have several assessments of each KBA to evaluate the situation in any specific KBA, but these data are not available for most countries. Indeed, for a number of the countries there are no METT assessments at all.

### *Recommendations*

These preliminary analyses and overview show that the METT tool has been widely applied in the Eastern Afromontane hotspot and has good potential to allow CEPF to track its progress in terms of improving Protected Area management quality. However, some further effort will be required to ensure that the impacts of CEPF investment can be measured.

We have the following recommendations:

- a) CEPF should complete METT assessments for all KBA sites where it is working. These do not need to be Protected Areas as gathering data from non-protected sites might also be useful. This will form a baseline against which future changes can be measured.
- b) CEPF should ensure that these METT data are entered into the GD-PAME database maintained by UNEP-WCMC. This would allow future analysis to be facilitated.

- c) CEPF should support some further analysis to assess how the results of scores derived from the METT tool can be linked to conservation outcomes, such as species trends, habitat trends and socio-economic outcomes.
- d) Ideally – further analysis should be undertaken using the results of the various CEPF tracking tools, and IBA monitoring tools where available.

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ANNEX 1: METT DATA FROM ALL SITES IN THE EASTERN AFROMONTANE HOTSPOT  
(ELECTRONIC FILE)