

## Annual Portfolio Overview

### Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

July 2016 – June 2017

#### 1. Introduction

The Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA) Biodiversity Hotspot extends across the southern part of West Africa and into Central Africa north of the Congo Wilderness Area (as in Figure 1). The hotspot covers 621,705 km<sup>2</sup> and can be divided into two subregions. The first subregion, referred to as the 'Upper Guinean Forests', stretches from Guinea in the west, through Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and, marginally, into Benin. The second subregion, the 'Lower Guinean Forests', covers much of southern Nigeria, extends into southwestern Cameroon, and also includes São Tomé and Príncipe and the offshore islands of Equatorial Guinea.

**Figure 1: Boundaries of the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot**



The Guinean Forests support impressive levels of biodiversity, having high levels of species richness and endemism. Approximately 9,000 species of vascular plant are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 known endemic species. The hotspot also supports an

exceptional diversity of other terrestrial species. There are 416 mammal (representing nearly a quarter of the mammals native to continental Africa), 917 bird, 107 reptile and 269 amphibian species within the hotspot boundary, of which 65 mammals, 48 birds, 20 reptiles and 118 amphibians are thought to be endemic to the hotspot. The hotspot is among the world's top priorities for primate conservation, with five Critically Endangered and 21 Endangered species.

In addition to its biological richness, a number of ongoing threats to biodiversity in the hotspot have resulted in the loss of more than 85 percent of the native vegetation cover. These include agricultural expansion to provide for the needs of an expanding population in rural and urban areas, unsustainable logging and fishing, hunting and trade of bushmeat, industrial and artisanal mining, industrial development, climate change and pollution, among numerous others. Many of the threats to biodiversity occurring in the region are linked, either directly or indirectly, to a high incidence of poverty, political instability and/or civil conflict.

This report aims to assess progress towards the goals set out in the ecosystem profile (which outlines CEPF's investment strategy through "Strategic Directions"), evaluate gaps on the CEPF grant portfolio and set priorities for the remainder of the 5-year investment period. It draws on experience and lessons learned thus far.

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

### **2.1. Overview**

The CEPF investment niche in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot is to provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at grassroots, national and international levels the tools, capacity and resources to establish and sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships that demonstrate models for sustainable, pro-poor growth and achieve priority conservation outcomes in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot. The resulting investment strategy includes actions appropriate for civil society to lead at local, national and regional levels, as summarily presented on Table 1. At the local level, the focus is on demonstrating practical solutions to conservation and development threats and problems that have the potential for wider replication. At the national level, the focus is on empowering civil society to influence conservation policies and private sector business practices in ways that positively affect biodiversity conservation, through partnerships and dialogue.

To ensure that CEPF investments are not spread too thinly, and are thus able to deliver significant, sustained impacts, it was necessary to select a set of priority sites, from among the full list of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the hotspot, to receive targeted investment. A list of 40 sites was prioritized for the implementation of Strategic Direction 1, aiming to engage local actors in conservation action (the prioritization exercise and list of sites, as well of all the participatory process, is described in the ecosystem profile). These priorities allow investments by CEPF to focus on sites of high global biodiversity value that present good opportunities to engage civil society in conservation, without duplicating investments by national governments or international donors.

Since some priority KBAs and conservation corridors are transboundary in nature, for the investment at the landscape scale, a set of nine 'conservation corridors' were defined, providing for conservation actions related to development and land-use planning and policy. To balance the exigencies of development and the need to conserve biodiversity, Strategic

Direction 2 focuses on the need to mainstream biodiversity conservation into government development policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks, as well as the business practices of private sector companies (focusing on the sectors of agriculture, forestry and mining).

Strategic Direction 3 funds actions taken for the most highly threatened species across the hotspot and guided by available species conservation action plans. In parallel, it also supports analysis of newly available data, complemented by targeted research to fill critical gaps. The KBA analysis and consultations with partners have shown that much remains to be understood regarding biodiversity in the GFWA Hotspot. IUCN Red List assessments are lacking for many species, with plants, butterflies and reptiles (particularly in parts of the Lower Guinean Forests subregion), but also freshwater species, notably incomplete. The conservation needs of many globally threatened species would be adequately addressed through habitat protection and controls on unsustainable exploitation at the KBAs where they occur; this calls for site-based conservation actions.

In addition, there is a strong focus on capacity building that runs through the investment strategy and across the hotspot, which aims at enabling local CSOs to play an increasingly important role in conceiving, implementing and monitoring conservation projects. Strategic Direction 4 aims to promote capacity building activities which will be closely coordinated with the overall development of the grant portfolio, with the RIT playing the key coordinating role. Grants should be awarded to a mixture of CSOs in need of capacity building and local and international service providers, able to provide training, mentoring and/or networking for groups of CSOs with common capacity needs.

**Table 1: CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot**

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale	1.1 Strengthen the elaboration and/or implementation of land-use planning, land tenure and forestry reforms to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves and concessions
	1.2 Promote preparation and implementation of participatory management plans that support stakeholder collaboration in protected area management
	1.3 Demonstrate sustainable livelihood/job creation activities for local communities that will act as incentives for the conservation of priority sites (e.g. domestication of wildlife species, sustainable logging from locally controlled forests, harvesting of NTFPs, sustainable agriculture, etc.)
2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels	2.1 Conduct policy-relevant research, analysis and outreach that informs and influences the development of national government conservation policies, including on protected area management, payment for ecosystem services, REDD+ and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change
	2.2 Generate locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems (e.g., economic valuations of ecosystem services) to influence political and economic decision-making in favour of their conservation

	2.3 Facilitate partnerships among local communities, private sector and government to demonstrate models for best practice mining, sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture by private companies
3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by identifying and addressing major threats and information gaps	3.1 Support the implementation of Conservation Action Plans for Critically Endangered and Endangered species on the IUCN Red List
	3.2 Update the KBA analysis by incorporating recently available data, including on Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and global Red List assessments and by conducting targeted research to fill critical knowledge gaps
4. Build the capacity of local civil society organizations, including Indigenous people's, women's and youth groups, to conserve and manage globally important biodiversity	4.1 Strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations in financial, institutional and project management, organizational governance, and fundraising
	4.2 Establish and strengthen women-led conservation and development organizations, associations and networks to foster gender equality in natural resource management and benefit sharing
	4.3 Strengthen the communication capacity of local civil society organizations in support of their mission and to build public awareness on the importance of conservation outcomes
5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team	5.1 Operationalize and coordinate CEPF's grant-making processes and procedures to ensure effective implementation of the investment strategy throughout the hotspot
	5.2 Build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries to achieve common conservation objectives

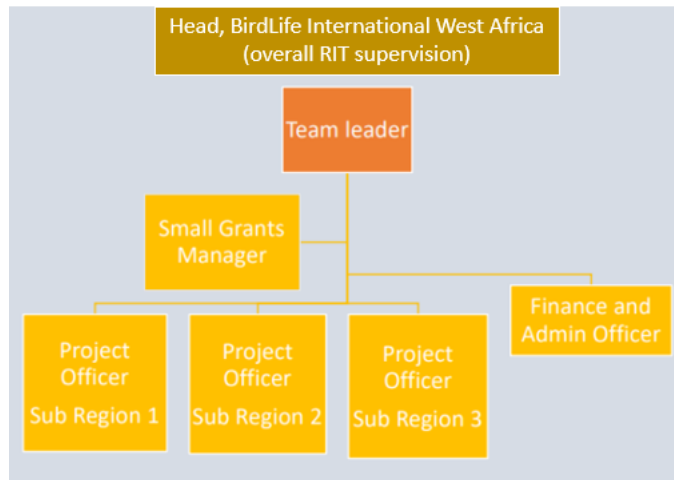
The implementation of the CEPF investment strategy started in July 2016 with the contracting of the funds of Strategic Direction 5 to BirdLife International, to act as the regional implementation team (RIT) and to coordinate a small grants (under US\$50,000) mechanism with a dedicated US\$1 million budget.

## 2.2. Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

Through an open and competitive procurement process launched on 11 November, 2015, and concluded on 29 April, 2016, CEPF selected BirdLife International as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) to oversee the strategic development of the grant portfolio and ensure delivery of the CEPF program in the GFWA.

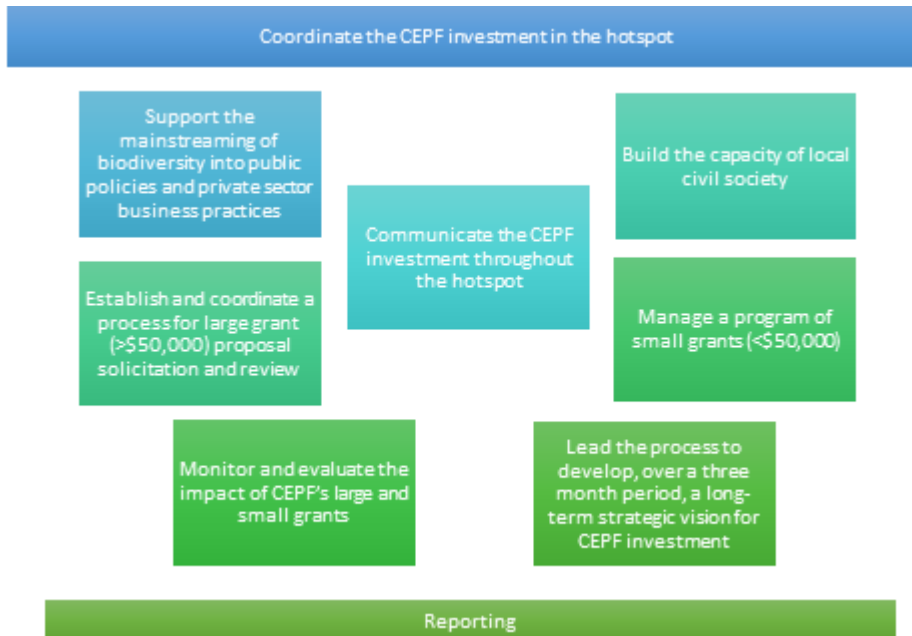
BirdLife International has set up a dedicated RIT in the BirdLife West Africa Sub-Regional Office (WASRO) in Accra, Ghana to operate under the supervision of BirdLife Secretariat structures. The structure of the RIT is detailed in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Structure of the Regional Implementation Team**



The role of the RIT is overarched by Strategic Direction 5 as a means of supporting the delivery of the full suite of Strategic Directions for this granting period in the hotspot. The RIT operationalizes and co-ordinates CEPF’s grant-making processes and procedures whilst building a broad constituency of civil society groups working across international and political boundaries – all towards achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile. To deliver on these general objectives, the RIT work plan is structured in 9 components as summarily presented in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: The GFWA RIT’s Work Plan Components**



### **3. Portfolio Status to Date**

All 11 endorsement letters from the various ministries hosting the GEF Operational Focal Points were received by February 2017. These GEF Operational Focal Point endorsements of the ecosystem profile allowed CEPF to disburse funds in the 11 countries. Efforts to secure these endorsements were especially important for Equatorial Guinea, Togo and Cameroon, which had not yet been received by the time of the issuance of the first call for proposals in September 2016.

That first call for proposals was launched in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese for both small (up to US\$50,000) and large grants on 16 September, 2016. The deadline for sending Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) was 21 October, 2016. All relevant documents, including the LOI template were in all four languages. The strategic directions 1, 3 and 4 were eligible for both small and large grants, while strategic direction 2 was also eligible but for large grants only. Applications were accepted in all four languages for both small and large grants.

A total of 99 LOIs were received by email (no online application was yet available at the time), consisting in 63 for small grants and 36 for large grants.

Out of the 63 LOIs received for the small grants, 18 were non-eligible. All 45 eligible LOIs were reviewed by three RIT members (three LOIs submitted by NGO partners of BirdLife International were reviewed by external reviewers, not the RIT, to mitigate conflict of interest). Following the reviews, 17 LOIs were pre-shortlisted. The applicants of all rejected LOIs were provided individual feedback and were invited to the future training sessions to be organized by the RIT in their respective regions. Additional information was requested in relation to the pre-shortlisted LOIs to clarify activities or budget details, and/or to ensure the endorsement from protected areas authorities for projects planning to work in protected areas, etc. This led to a final shortlist of eight small grant applications.

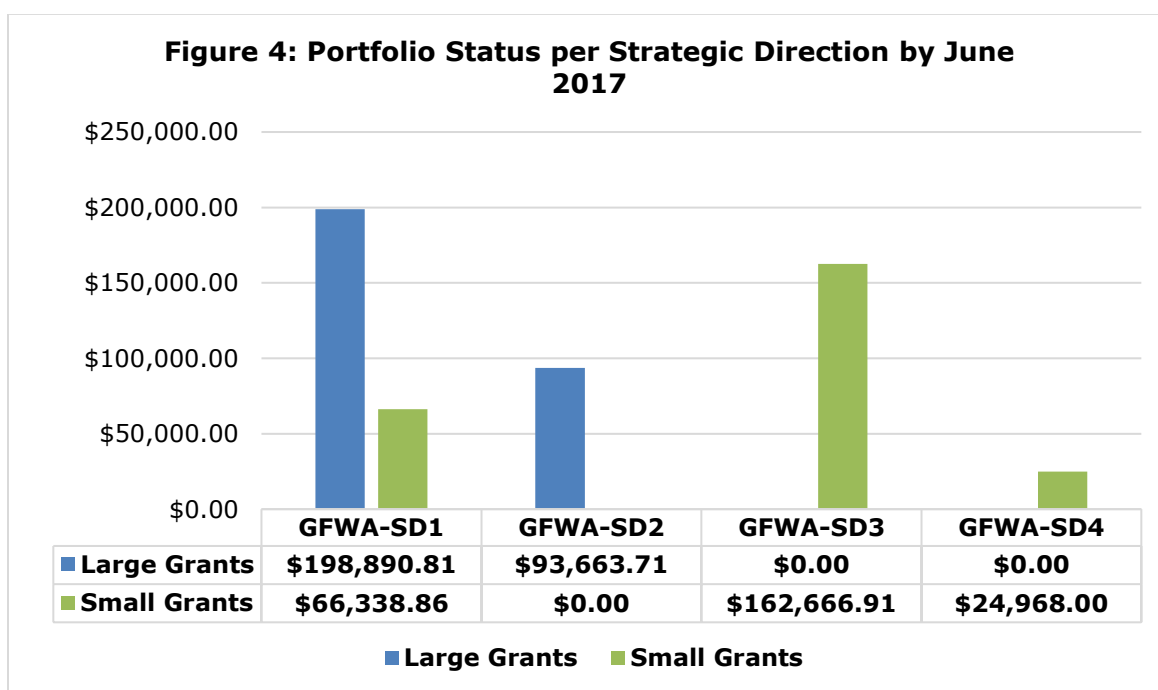
Out of the 36 LOIs received for large grants, three were not eligible. In addition to these, one LOI was withdrawn by the applicant due to perceived potential conflict of interest with an ongoing consultancy with BirdLife. Each LOI was reviewed by two RIT members, chosen based on project location and LOI language, and the Grant Director. Following the reviews, seven LOIs were shortlisted and invited to the full proposal stage. All seven LOIs were then migrated in CEPF's new grant making online system: ConservationGrants. This allowed applicants to continue their application process on the new platform.

Table 2 presents the grant-making status by end of June 2017, per strategic direction, small versus large grant applications, with budget allocation and budget balance.

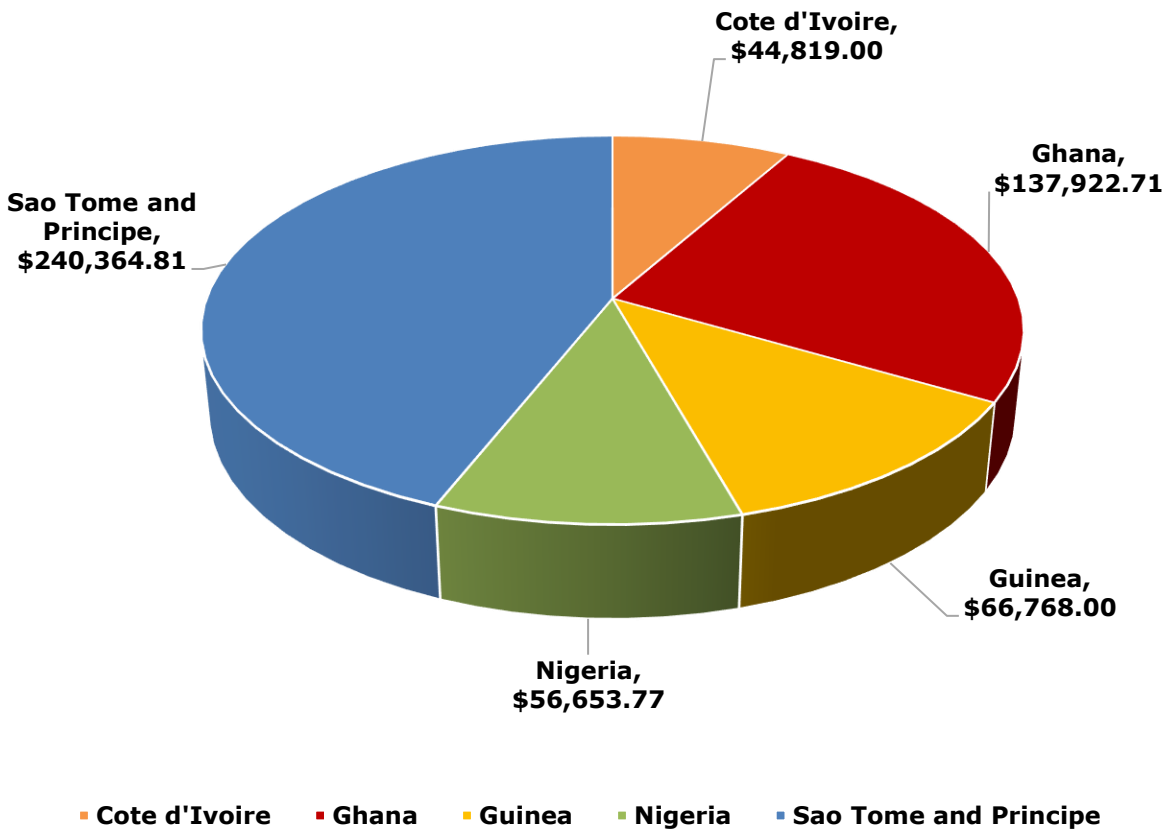
**Table 2: Grant-making Status by Strategic Direction, June 2017**

Strategic Direction	Budget Allocation (US\$)	Contracted Grants			Budget Balance (US\$)	% Awarded
		Total Amount (US\$)	No. of Large Grants	No. of Small Grants		
<b>SD1 – Sustainable Management</b>	3,000,000	265,230	1	2	2,734,770	9
<b>SD2 – Mainstreaming Biodiversity</b>	2,000,000	93,664	1	0	1,906,336	5
<b>SD3 – Species Protection</b>	1,200,000	162,667	0	4	1,037,333	14
<b>SD4 – Civil Society</b>	1,300,000	24,968	0	1	1,275,032	2
<b>SD5 - RIT</b>	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0	-	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>2,046,529</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6,953,471</b>	23

By June 2017, US\$2,046,529 had been awarded, including the RIT grant. This amount represents 23 percent of the investment. There are still six applications from the first call (five large and one small grant applications) which are being considered for a grant, representing an additional US\$1.8 million. Figure 4 presents the breakdown of the nine active grants per grant type and strategic direction. Figure 5 presents the amounts committed per country, with so far no grants awarded in Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo, all of which were eligible as part of the first call.



**Figure 5: Amount Committed per Country**



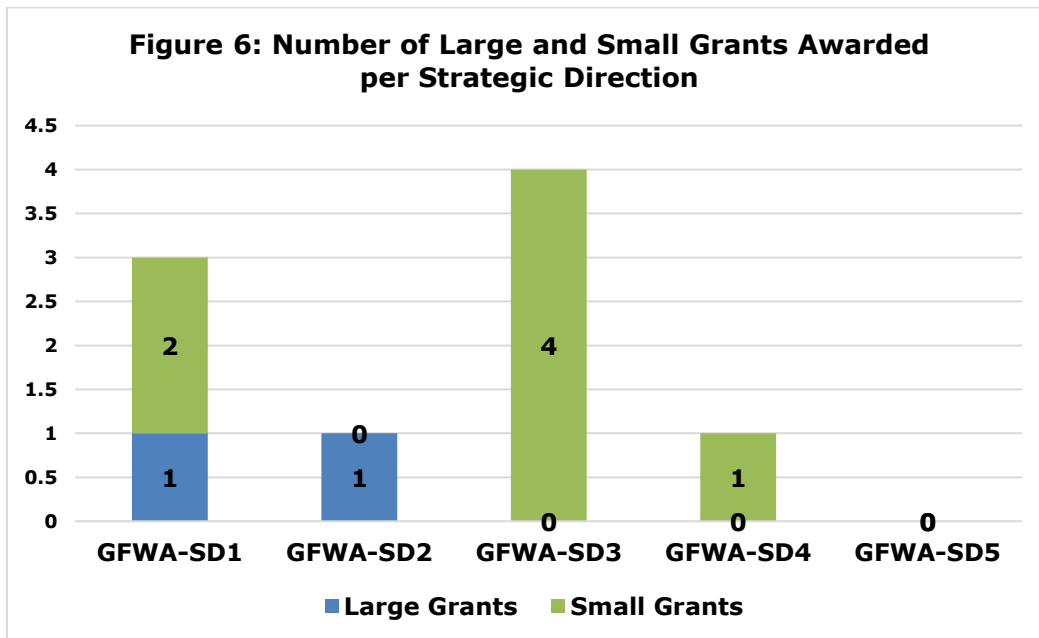
## 4. Performance of CEPF Investment

### 4.1. Assessment

The CEPF investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa has been under implementation since June 2016. Of the grants contracted at this point, all but one (the one of the RIT) have been under implementation for no more than two months. Consequently, the following assessment and the results summarized in the next section should be viewed as preliminary and partial, compared with the final results expected by the end of the CEPF investment period (Annex 1).

For the first call for proposals announced in September of 2016, seven out of nine grants were awarded to local organizations, ranging from long-established national organizations like Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), to grassroots groups like Society for Women and Vulnerable Group Empowerment. Comparing the portfolios under the first four strategic directions, it appears that the opportunities to engage smaller civil society groups are ample, with the strongest interest in species protection and sustainable management of natural resources (Figure 6).





## 5. Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Between July 2016 and June 2017, two large grants and seven small grants were contracted. While these nine projects have just started at the end of fiscal year 2017, there are calls planned for both large and small grants in the coming months. This section provides succinctly a few examples of the performance of CEPF’s investment at grant level, by giving 1 to 2 case studies when possible.

### Strategic Direction 1

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale. There were one large grant and two small grants awarded under this strategic direction in June 2017. The one large grant awarded to Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is working to establish beekeeping and agroforestry as sustainable livelihood options on Príncipe in and around the Obô National Park (Parque Natural Obô do Príncipe) to incentivize better management of forest habitat, threat reduction to western honeybee and restoration of degraded areas. Of note among the two small grants is Guinée Ecologie’s project on the island of Touguissoury in Guinea, which is under serious threat owing to excessive deforestation activities in the mangrove forests, weak enforcement of existing national laws relating to biodiversity preservation and the lack of awareness on the importance of the site to people and nature. Guinée Ecologie’s project will be implemented with full participation of local communities in Touguissoury to carry out socio-economic studies, and identify and build on best practices to conserve the mangroves. The goal is to develop a participatory land use management plan for the Touguissoury and empower biodiversity-friendly income generating activities.

## **Strategic Direction 2**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to support biodiversity mainstreaming into public policy and private sector practice in nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels. In the first call for proposals there was only one large grant awarded under this strategic direction to GWS, which seeks to assess ecosystem values of Cape Three Points Forest Reserve and Tano-Offin Forest Reserve in Ghana through the use of the Toolkit for Ecosystem Site Ecosystem Services Assessment (TESSA). With this, GWS will make a case for mainstreaming biodiversity into District Assembly planning and private sector business practices for these two sites and Atewa Range Forest Reserve (for which the TESSA is already available), all priority KBAs.

## **Strategic Direction 3**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to safeguard priority globally threatened species by identifying and addressing major threats and information gaps. Four small grants have been awarded to date under this strategic direction. Biodiversity Preservation Centre (BPC) of Nigeria has begun a project to analyze the impact of forest habitat loss, fragmentation and hunting on threatened species of tortoises, including Home's hinge-back tortoise (*Kinixys homeana*) and forest hinge-backed tortoise (*K. erosa*). The aim is to provide useful data for prioritizing and recommending effective conservation and livelihood actions for its range. Conservation action plans for the target tortoise species in southeastern Nigeria shall be implemented and their population size and connectivity evaluated. In the Upper Guinean Forests sub-region, Conservation des Espèces Marines (CEM) of Côte d'Ivoire will work closely with local and national stakeholders to create a Marine Protected Area in the zone near Tai National Park and Forêt classée de la Haut Dodo, which will be the first to exist in the country. It will target mainly villages located on the riverside, and is expected to lead to an increased population of marine turtles and other water species. Regarding globally threatened plant species, the University of Coimbra has begun a project to establish a national herbarium on São Tomé and Príncipe for reference study and conservation of endemic plants species to the two islands.

## **Strategic Direction 4**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims to build the capacity of local civil society organizations, including Indigenous People's, women's and youth groups to conserve and manage globally important biodiversity. In fiscal year 2017, one small grant was awarded under Strategic Direction 4. Initiative de Base pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (IBGRN) in Guinea aims to build a more effective network of community-based and women-led organizations that works to conserve natural resources. In addition, the project aims at directly supporting the creation and registration of seven local organizations to work around Mount Nimba, an important world heritage site which spans Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. IBGRN will also conduct a series of trainings in communication, marketing, advocacy, financial management and project management, as well as in market gardening and livestock farming.

## **Strategic Direction 5**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction is to coordinate the implementation of the investment strategy of CEPF in the hotspot through an RIT. As previously discussed, and described, BirdLife International has been selected as the RIT. No additional grant is expected under this strategic direction for the remainder of the investment phase.

## **6. Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders**

In January 2017, CEPF and the RIT promoted a 2-day stakeholders and donor-roundtable meeting addressing financing, managing and implementing biodiversity conservation programs in the GFWA Hotspot and the wider West Africa region. The meeting was attended by representatives of key donors and their executing agencies, private sector and civil society actors, currently supporting and / or implementing biodiversity conservation programmes in the region. The discussions were guided by the following key objectives:

1. Sourcing relevant information from key stakeholders to enable 'mapping' of the various donors and other actors financing / supporting biodiversity conservation work in the region, to determine their thematic and geographic areas of focus.
2. Discussing and agreeing on some practical steps for coordination among those stakeholders, to guide on how to use the 'map' for more effective and efficient grant-making.
3. Identifying the main challenges / obstacles to building / strengthening and / or sustaining the institutional and operational capacities of civil society organisations working in the region.
4. Discussing and prioritizing practical steps to address the identified capacity needs, including agreeing on the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

The participants agreed on a set of practical and implementable actions / solutions to the challenges / problems identified in four key areas: Human Resources; Private Sector; Capacity to Influence Public Policy; Coordination among Stakeholders. This meeting also paved the way for further discussions for a potential alliance around the Programme des Petites Initiatives (PPI), which are scheduled for later in 2017.

## **7. Conclusion**

The general impression of the RIT and the Secretariat was that relatively good applications were received under the first call. Several were too ambitious (e.g., building capacities in the whole hotspot while applicant lacked local presence in some of the proposed areas) or too costly (e.g., several organisations asked for over US\$800,000 without adequate justifications). There were also several duplications among proposed projects and approaches with little innovation and consultations among stakeholders. For those thematic duplications, the selection was made based on those that added more value. For the one geographic duplication, the selection resulted in the discussion for a planning grant to allow applicants to plan a workshop for which the deliverable will be the submission of a joint LOI or proposal clearly reflecting the inclusion of the other initiatives.

Regarding the applications received for Strategic Direction 4 (capacity building), they lacked innovation by mainly proposing training on the regional basis, and their different approaches did not make a convincing case for the projected impacts on CSOs' capacities. CEPF agrees with the recurring observations on limited and fragile capacities among grassroots and local civil society organizations, despite diverse capacity building approaches supported over at least the past 15-20 years by various stakeholders. CEPF also took note of the conclusions of the two-day donor roundtable, which invited for more effective collaboration and more flexibility as well as less conventional methods to capacity building and grant making. With this in mind, CEPF has decided to take the time to reflect on these points in order to elaborate a more targeted strategy for the fourth Strategic Direction of its investment in the region and to postpone any further call on this thematic until then.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Results against Objective and Outcomes in the Portfolio Logframe

Objective	Targets	Results
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Local communities are empowered to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.</p>	<p>At least 15 local land use plans elaborated and implemented to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves.</p> <p>At Least 10 local and indigenous communities are trained to initiate and advocate for land tenure and forestry reforms in relation to management of community and private reserves and concessions.</p> <p>At least 10 participatory management plans that support stakeholder collaboration in protected area management are prepared and implemented.</p> <p>At least 30 local communities targeted by sustainable livelihood/job creation activities or benefit-sharing mechanisms show tangible well-being benefits.</p>	<p>None of the projects contributing to this intermediate indicator had closed by the time of the 2017 APO.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into public policy and private sector practice in 9 conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels.</p>	<p>At least 5 conservation-related policies of national governments are informed or influenced by research, analysis and outreach supported by CEPF grants.</p> <p>Locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems is generated for at least 20 Key Biodiversity Areas and used to influence political and economic decision making in favor of their conservation.</p> <p>At least 20 partnerships are formed or strengthened among civil society, government, private sector, and communities to promote best practices in mining, sustainable forestry and agriculture by private companies.</p> <p>At least 5 private companies adopt new management practices consistent with biodiversity conservation at operations in the conservation corridors.</p>	<p>None of the projects contributing to this intermediate indicator had closed by the time of the 2017 APO.</p>

<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Priority globally threatened species are safeguarded by identifying and addressing major threats and information gaps.</p>	<p>Priority actions identified in Conservation Action Plans are implemented for at least 15 Critically Endangered and Endangered species.</p> <p>The inventory of Key Biodiversity Areas in the hotspot is updated to fill critical information gaps, particularly with regard to the lower Guinean Forests sub-region, and freshwater ecosystems.</p> <p>The global conservation status of at least 100 species from poorly assessed taxonomic groups is updated or assessed for the first time on the IUCN Red List.</p>	<p>None of the projects contributing to this intermediate indicator had closed by the time of the 2017 APO.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Capacity of local civil society organizations, including Indigenous People's, women's and youth groups built to conserve and manage globally important biodiversity.</p>	<p>At least 50 Local civil society organizations, including at least 10 Indigenous People's organizations, demonstrate strengthened capacity with regard to financial, institutional and project management, organizational governance, and fundraising.</p> <p>At least 20 women-led conservation and development organizations, associations and networks are established and strengthened to foster gender equality in natural resource management and benefit sharing.</p> <p>At least 20 local civil society organizations demonstrate increased communication capacity in ways that support the delivery of their mission.</p>	<p>None of the projects contributing to this intermediate indicator had closed by the time of the 2017 APO.</p>

## Annex 2: Grants Awarded to Date

No.	Organization	Country	Awarded Amount (US\$)	Project Title	Start Date	End Date
<b>Strategic Direction 1</b>						
1	Fauna & Flora International	Sao Tome and Principe	\$198,891	From Bee-burners to Beekeepers: Supporting Community Beekeeping Organization in Principe	7/1/2017	11/30/2019
2	Guinée Ecologie	Guinea	\$41,800	Mobilization of Local Communities for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Touguissoury	6/1/2017	11/30/2018
3	Society for Women and Vulnerable Group Empowerment	Nigeria	\$24,539	Ukpom-Okom Community Mangrove Restoration and Tree Planting Project, Nigeria	6/1/2017	3/31/2020
<b>Strategic Direction 2</b>						
4	Ghana Wildlife Society	Ghana	\$93,664	Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana	8/1/2017	1/31/2019
<b>Strategic Direction 3</b>						
5	Biodiversity Preservation Centre	Nigeria	\$32,115	Determining Distribution, Density and Connectivity of Threatened Tortoises in Nigeria	6/1/2017	1/31/2020
6	Conservation des Espèces Marines	Côte d'Ivoire	\$44,819	Creation of First Marine Protected Area in Côte d'Ivoire	6/1/2017	10/30/2020
7	Presbyterian University College Ghana	Ghana	\$44,259	Promoting Endangered Primate Conservation in Three Forest Reserves in Ghana	6/1/2017	10/31/2018

8	University of Coimbra	Sao Tome and Principe	\$41,474	National Herbarium of São Tomé: Establishing a Reference for the Study and Conservation of Plants of São Tomé and Principe	9/1/2017	6/30/2019
<b>Strategic Direction 4</b>						
9	Initiative de Base pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles	Guinea	\$24,968	Strengthening Capacity of Local Communities to Sustainably Manage Mount Nimba's Natural Resources	6/1/2017	1/28/2018
<b>Strategic Direction 5</b>						
10	BirdLife International	Hotspot-Wide	\$1,500,000	Regional Implementation Team for Guinean Forests II Hotspot	7/1/2016	7/31/2020