

Annual Portfolio Overview

Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

July 2017 – June 2018

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 km² 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

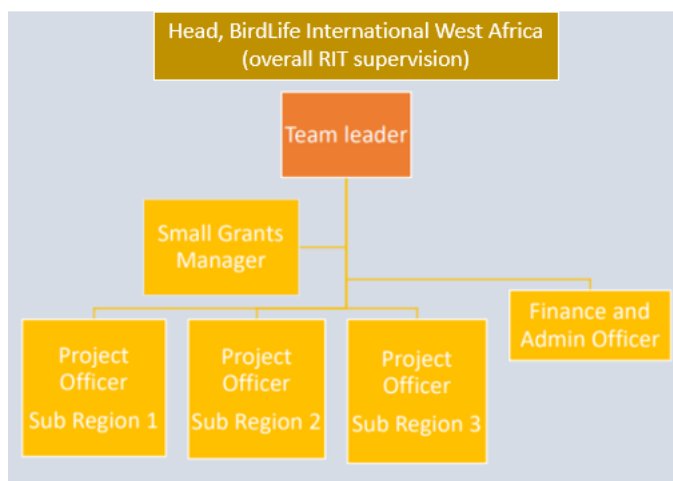
	2.2 Generate locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems (e.g., economic valuations of ecosystem services) to influence political and economic decision-making in favour of their conservation
	2.3 Facilitate partnerships among local communities, private sector and government to demonstrate models 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

BirdLife International as the implementing partner has set up a dedicated regional implementation team (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



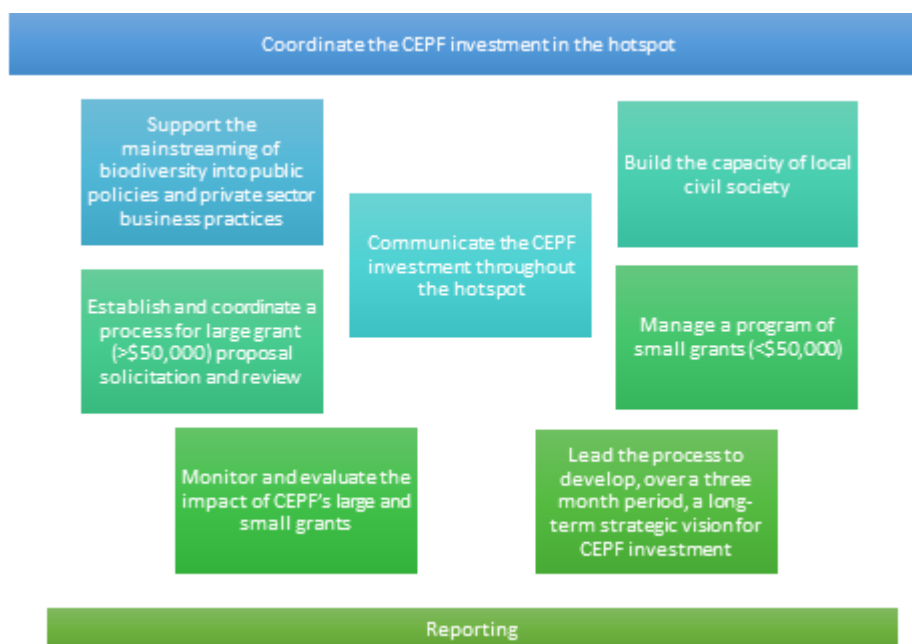
The RIT has undertaken several changes since the beginning of the implementation, as described in the table 2 below.

Table 2: Setup of the Regional Implementation Team in 2016 and Changes Made up until June 2018

Position	Changes
Head, BirdLife International West Africa (overall RIT supervision)	No changes
Team Leader	Left in April 2018, replaced by SRPO Gulf of Guinea Islands
Small Grant Manager	Left in January 2018, replaced by SRPO Nigeria
Senior Communication Officer	No changes
RIT Sub-regional Project Officer (SRPO) Gulf of Guinea Islands	Positions combined since May 2018
RIT Sub-regional Project Officer Nigeria	Positions combined since May 2018
RIT Sub-regional Project Officer Upper Guinea	No changes
Finance Officer	No changes

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, while 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’s workplan is structured in 9 components as summarily presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: The GFWA RIT's Workplan Components



3. Portfolio Status to Date

CEPF grant making in the GWFA Biodiversity Hotspot continued to develop well during the reporting period with two new calls for proposals: one for small grants issued between July and August 2017; and one for large grants issued between September and October 2017. Both calls were published in four languages (English, French, Portuguese and Spanish) and applications were welcomed in any one of them. While applications for small grants were still expected by email, the applications for large grants had to be submitted via CEPF's grant management system, ConservationGrants. The calls were opened to all 11 countries and to Strategic Directions 1, 2 and 3.

The success of these new calls, in terms of number of applications received (148 for large grants and 144 for small grants), shows that the stakeholder engagement workshops organized by the RIT in various countries and the communication have borne fruits. Moving forward, now that all 11 countries have had the chance to apply for all Strategic Directions (apart from Strategic Direction 4 which will be reopened in late 2018), the RIT and the Grant Director agreed that future calls would be much more targeted.

Out of the 144 small grant applications, 15 were shortlisted, but none were contracted this fiscal year due to changes in the RIT structure and the introduction of an internal online review process using GoogleDrive. This process was developed, tested and subsequently recommended by the RIT in the Tropical Andes Hotspot during the RIT exchange visit organized by CEPF in May 2018. The one small grant that was contracted during this fiscal year was a planning grant, which resulted from the first call. For the small grant LOIs received as part of the second call, each was reviewed by two SRPOs and the Team Leader.

Out of the 148 large grant applications received, 110 were considered eligible by looking at the budget (US\$50,000 < eligible < US\$300,000), duration (eligible < 30 months) and location

(sites eligible under particular Strategic Directions); 10 of these were shortlisted. During the fiscal year, four of them were contracted as well as five from the first call and one grant by invitation, which resulted from a risk mitigation measure of another grant under the first call.

With the first call for proposals, by end of June 2018, 20 grants had been contracted with 8 small projects and 12 large projects for a total of US\$3,186,155.30 (excluding the grant to the RIT). Table 3 below presents the grant-making status by end of June 2018, per strategic direction, small versus large grant applications, with budget allocation and budget balance.

Table 3: Grant-making Status by Strategic Direction, June 2018

Strategic Direction	Budget Allocations (US\$)	Contracted Grants			Budget Balance (US\$)	% Awarded
		Total Amount (US\$)	No. of Large Grants	No. of Small Grants		
SD1 – Sustainable Management of Natural Resources	3,000,000	1,184,728	4	2	1,815,272	40
SD2 – Mainstreaming Biodiversity	2,000,000	880,373	4	0	1,119,627	44
SD3 – Species Protection	1,200,000	1,091,586	4	4	443,784	71
SD4 – Civil Society	1,300,000	29,468	0	2	1,717,692	2
SD5 - RIT	1,500,000	1,500,000	1	0	-	100
Total	9,000,000	4,686,155	13	8	5,096,375	48

By June 2018, US\$4,686,155.30 has been awarded, including the RIT grant. This amount represents 48 percent of the available budget for the hotspot. There are still 21 applications from the first call (six large and 15 small grant applications) that are being considered for grants, representing an additional US\$1.8 million. Figure 4 below presents the breakdown of the 20 active grants (excluding the RIT grant) per grant type and strategic direction.

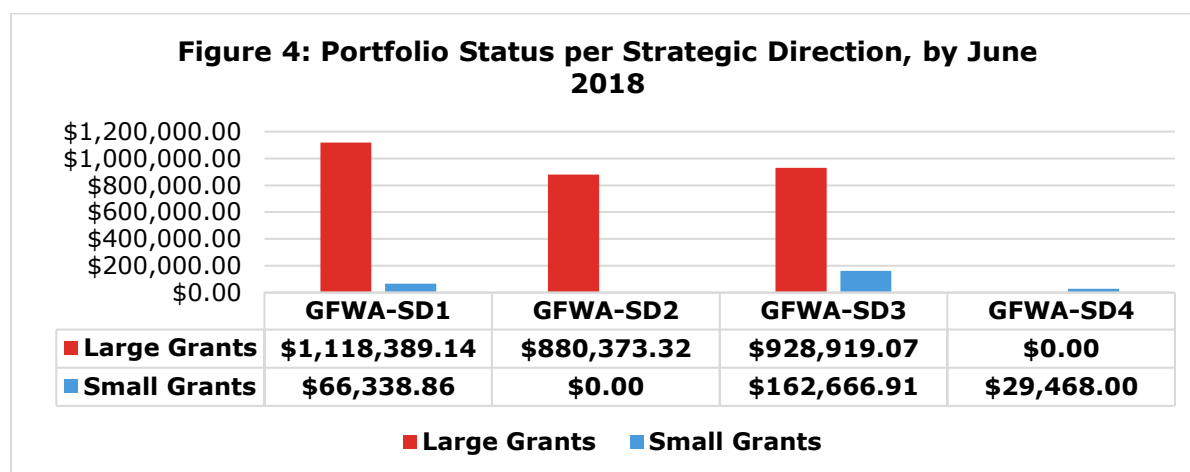
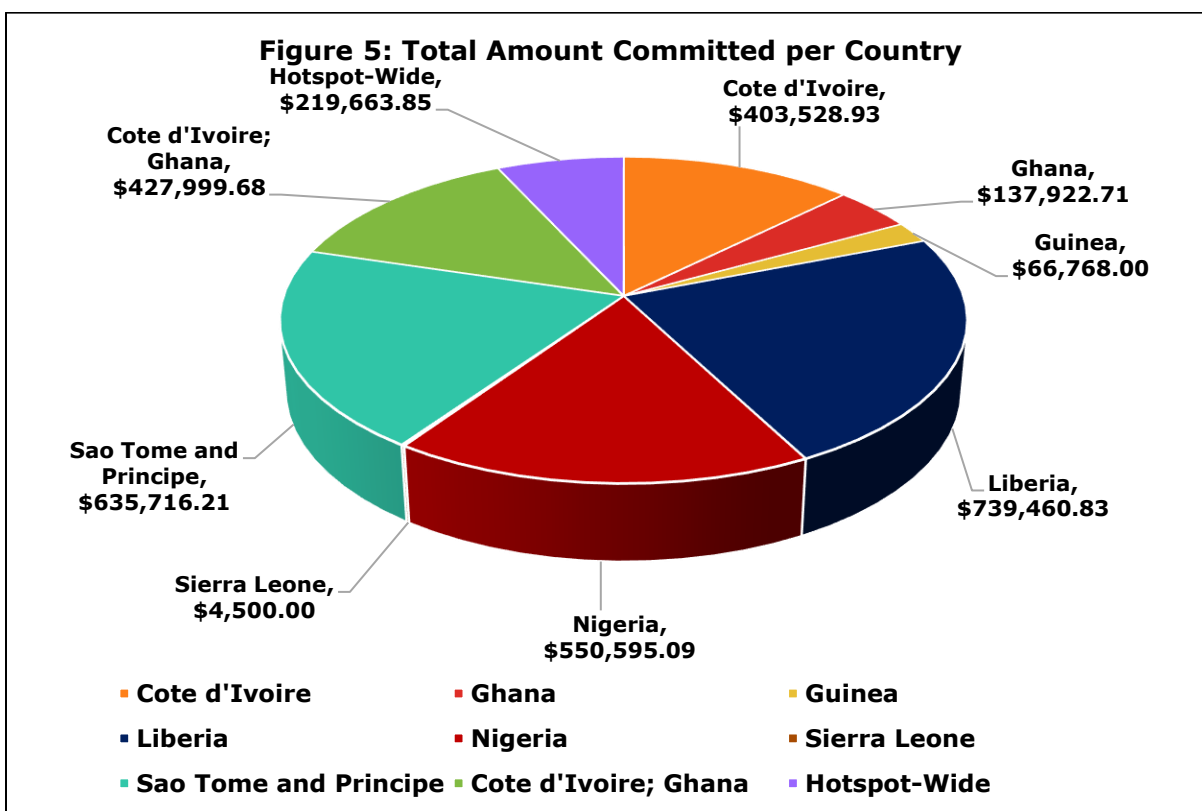


Figure 5 presents the amounts committed per country, with so far no grants awarded in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Togo, all of which were eligible as part of the first three calls.



4. Performance of CEPF Investment

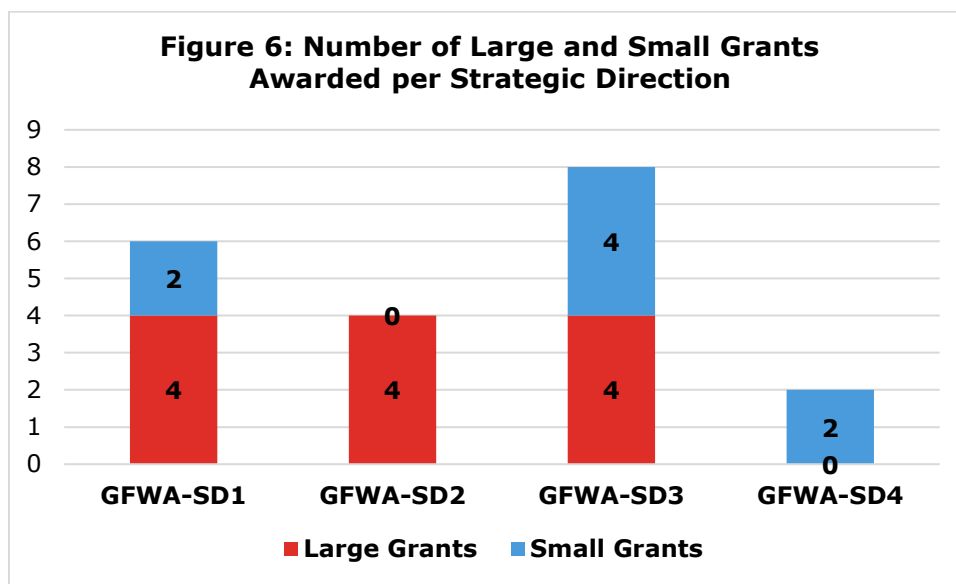
4.1 Assessment

The CEPF investment in the GFWA hotspot has been under implementation since June 2016. Of the grants contracted so far, none are closed at this stage. 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).

Out of the 20 grants awarded, 11 were provided to local organizations, including four large grants, while nine were provided to international organizations. In terms of budget, this distribution is almost equal with 44 percent awarded to local organizations versus 56 percent to international ones.

Apart for Strategic Direction 4 (capacity building), for which the RIT and the Grant Director have decided to develop a dedicated approach and have not released any new call as a consequence just yet, the portfolio is relatively evenly spread across the first three Strategic Directions. However, with fewer projects submitted, no small grant awarded, and the target indicators far from being reached so far, Strategic Direction 2 (mainstreaming) has been identified as a potential gap. Most of the civil society across the hotspot does not yet have

the capacity and/or tools to engage with the public and/or the private sector. Nevertheless, mainstreaming of biodiversity into public policies and private sector practices is essential for grantees' work to ensure the sustainability of the conservation goals in the region. Therefore, by analyzing the constraints and challenges, the RIT and the Grant Director decided to focus the upcoming Mid-Term Assessment on mainstreaming biodiversity. This approach is hoped to pave the way for an open call specifically on Strategic Direction 2 in 2019.



5. Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Between July 2017 and June 2018, ten large grants and one small grant were contracted. 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 three large grants and no small grants awarded under this strategic direction in fiscal year 2018, but it remains the recipient of the largest amount of funds awarded. Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL) has begun a project to support fifteen communities in the Gola Forest area in Liberia to become active stewards of their natural resources through well-managed community forests, with strong governance structures, sustainable financing and rainforest-friendly and climate-smart income generating activities. In Nigeria, United Purpose has begun a project to support fifteen communities to carry out sustainable mangrove management by increasing awareness on mangrove, supporting sustainable community forest management plans, building the capacity of a Community-Based Organization dedicated to mangrove conservation, increasing profitability and sustainability of agricultural livelihood activities as viable alternatives to ecosystem depletion, regenerating depleted forests, and establishing woodlots for sustainable firewood harvesting.

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. Since the last annual portfolio overview, three large grants have been contracted. A particularly representative project under this Strategic Direction, is the one of Noé, a French organization, which will demonstrate the efficiency of the community-based conservation model and illustrate that synergies can be, and need to be, created between conservation and economic development of communities in the Tanoé and Kwabre swamp forests of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Additionally, Noé will develop green value chains that adapt global best practices to the local context in partnership with private companies, local communities, and government bodies.

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. There were four small grants already awarded in 2017, and four large grants have now been added under this strategic direction in fiscal year 2018, making it the most diverse Strategic Direction to date. Of note amongst the four large grants is the Wildlife Conservation Society's project saving the critically endangered Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) from extinction in Nigeria. This project aims to reduce immediate threats to key species at three Cross River gorilla sites in Nigeria by enabling rangers to sustain longer and more frequent patrols and generate data for strategic decisions on future patrols. The organization will also support an outreach program to change local attitudes and practices for the conservation of the forest and the sustainability of non-timber forest products important for local women. Another important project which will be implemented, across the hotspot, by IUCN, aims to improve the conservation of freshwater biodiversity by updating existing freshwater species Red List assessments, upgrading existing freshwater KBAs to meet the new Global Standard and by identifying and validating additional freshwater KBAs. This particular project should fill in one of the identified gaps identified in the ecosystem profile.

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 2018, the one small grant awarded came as an outcome of the first call and consisted in a planning grant to Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. It began in September 2017 and was completed by November. The purpose of the planning grant was to help develop a joint plan and consolidate partnerships for biodiversity conservation in the Western Area Peninsula Non-hunting Forest National Park. By working toward planning activities with various stakeholders and actors currently active in the region, while clearly considering current roles, impacts and sources of funding, it was hoped that this grant would yield clearly identified gaps and new initiatives that could then be implemented as part of a subsequent grant to add value to ongoing interventions. However, this planning grant didn't reach its goal and no proposal was subsequently received.

Strategic Direction 5

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aims 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

- ***Alliance with PPI, FFEM, IUCN Fr, IUCN PACO, IUCN-NL and MAVA Foundation***

Following the 2-day stakeholders and donor-roundtable meeting of January 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by CEPF with PPI (consisting of the Agence Française de Développement, acting in the framework of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), the French Committee of IUCN (IUCN-Fr), and the Program for Central and West Africa of IUCN (IUCN PACO) and two other donors acting in the region that focus on capacity building of civil society being the MAVA Foundation and IUCN Netherlands (IUCN-NL). There is a geographic and thematic overlap among CEPF and PPI, which resulted in the co-funding of three projects so far; in advice and review support from the PPI team for CEPF's capacity development implementation; and external review support from CEPF to applications received by PPI. The CEPF Grant Director participated in a 2017 partners' meeting organized by the alliance, which was an opportunity to discuss about NGO Organizational Development approaches and how to best accompany smaller organizations. The RIT Team Leader also participated with members of the alliance, in 2018, in a workshop on good governance promoted by the MAVA Foundation. The MAVA Foundation also provided advice and external review support for the ongoing development of CEPF's strategy to implement its capacity building approach under Strategic Direction 4.

- ***Program ECOFAC in Sao Tome and Principe, BirdLife International***

BirdLife International has secured in 2018 an ECOFAC grant from the European Union to support the management of the Natural Parks of Sao Tome and Principe. Since the inception of this program, the coordination between the two investments has been promoted and ensured. All CEPF funded projects are contributing towards the current and upcoming implementation of the ECOFAC program, in particular for underfunded priorities like the revision of mangrove management plans, the increase knowledge, protection and education on threatened and endemic species, and the investigation of potential sustainable financing mechanisms from forest resources. This close collaboration reached a milestone with the ECOFAC program about to fund, with additional resources from UNDP-GEF, the position of a part time RIT focal point in Sao Tome until the end of the CEPF investment. This person will support close monitoring of projects and ensure coordination among local stakeholders. He/she will take over part of the responsibilities of the current RIT's Sub-Regional Project Officer for the islands.

- ***Other contacts and collaborations***

Portfolio and other relevant updates have been communicated regularly to the GEF focal points across the region. The team has also been engaging with AFD local representatives whenever possible, including visits/meetings during country missions in Ghana and Liberia.

7. Conclusion

In terms of grant making, the RIT has now fully taken ownership of the review process for both small and large grants. With the second and third calls for proposals, the RIT and the Grant Director have witnessed the success of the RIT's Stakeholder Engagement campaign with 292 LOIs received and a higher quality of LOIs in some cases. A more cautious approach had been taken for the selection of projects during the first call for proposals (eight small grants and seven large grants out of about 99 received) due to the novelty of the team, the process and the investment. With the second and third calls, significant progress has been made towards the construction of a coherent portfolio with the selection of 25 new LOIs (15 small grants and 10 large grants), bringing the total portfolio to 40 grants and an expected total award of US\$6.5 million out of the US\$9 million available (including the RIT grant).

In terms of countries, very few applications were received from Benin and Equatorial Guinea (as per table 4 below). For Benin, this is explained by the fact that this country has a low geographic overlap with the hotspot boundaries thus provides very little opportunities for CSOs to engage with CEPF. For Equatorial Guinea, no LOIs for large grants were received to date and only two LOIs for small grants have been received (both for Bioko, with none for Annobon). The Gulf of Guinea Islands SRPO will attempt to reach out to specific CSOs in this country in the coming months. Countries with large absorptive capacities and strong presence of active donors are Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe and to some extent Cameroon. For these countries, the operating context for CEPF is encouraging.

Table 4: Number of LOIs Received per Country under the Second Call

Countries	Large Grant LOIs	Small Grant LOIs	Total
Benin	2	1	3
Cameroon	34	29	63
Cote d'Ivoire	10	4	14
Ghana	13	12	25
Guinea	8	12	20
Liberia	10	20	30
Nigeria	33	40	73
Sao Tome and Principe	6	4	10
Sierra Leone	8	9	17
Togo	8	10	18
Equatorial Guinea	0	2	2
Multi-country	16	1	17
Total	148	144	292

Looking at the active grants (so excluding those in the pipeline so far) and their respective anticipated contributions to each of the portfolio targets, the following was noted:

1. Targets for Investment Priorities (IPs) 1.2 and 1.4 are already on course to be met. However, about half of the anticipated contribution towards IP1.2 and two-thirds of

that towards IP1.4 come from a single grant. The risk of this grant failing should be mitigated. Also land use plans (IP1.1) and management plans (IP1.3) are not so well covered by projects so far.

2. Targets for IP 2.1 and 2.4 are on course to be met. One hundred percent of the anticipated result for IP2.4 comes from a single grant. So, again, there is a risk that should be mitigated. There is also a need to target projects that could generate relevant information (IP2.2) and partnerships (IP2.3) to influence political decisions.
3. None of the targets of Strategic Direction 3 are on course to be met but the targets of this Strategic Direction are the easiest ones to meet in terms of number of applications.
4. For Strategic Direction 4, the target for IP4.2 could be exceeded but all in one country, which is not ideal. For the institutional capacities (IP4.1) and communication capacities (IP4.3) the upcoming strategy of the RIT/CEPF should address them.

Overall, few CSOs have applied for funds under Strategic Direction 2, related to public and private sectors engagement. While this is not a surprise, taking into account the complexity of creating efficient and lasting relationships with these two sectors, to help meet CEPF's investment targets, the RIT and the Grant Director decided to use the upcoming Mid-Term Assessment to propose a capacity building training for CSOs on mainstreaming biodiversity into public and private sectors affairs, convene stakeholders like government officials and private sectors together with CSOs to engage discussions and help CSOs design projects in consultation with these stakeholders.

Annexes

Annex 1: Results Against Objective and Outcomes in the Portfolio Logframe

Objective	Targets	Results
<p>Outcome 1: 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 2018 APO.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: 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 2018 APO.</p>

<p>Outcome 3: 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 2018 APO.</p>
<p>Outcome 4: 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 2018 APO, except one planning grant, which didn't yield the expected outcome of generating a joint LOI or proposal from the stakeholders involved.</p>

Annex 2: Grants Awarded to Date

No.	Organization	Country	Amount Awarded (US\$)	Project Title	Start Date	End Date
Strategic Direction 1						
1	Fauna & Flora International - HQ	São Tomé and Príncipe	\$198,891	From Bee-burners to Beekeepers: Supporting Community Beekeeping Organization in Príncipe	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	RSET - Associação Técnico-Científica para o Desenvolvimento	São Tomé and Príncipe	\$296,000	Participatory Management for Community-based Avoided Deforestation in São Tomé Obô Natural Park	7/1/2018	12/31/2021
4	Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia	Liberia	\$479,554	Communities as Environmental Stewards of the Largest Guinea Rainforest Block, Liberia	11/1/2017	6/30/2022
5	Society for Women and Vulnerable Group Empowerment	Nigeria	\$24,538	Ukpom-Okom Community Mangrove Restoration and Tree Planting Project, Nigeria	6/1/2017	3/31/2021
6	United Purpose	Nigeria	\$143,944	Integrated Mangrove Forest Management and Livelihoods in Nigeria	7/1/2018	6/30/2021

Strategic Direction 2						
7	Centre d 'Etudes, Formation, Conseils et Audits	Côte d'Ivoire	\$303,705	Strengthen Ivorian Cocoa Stakeholder Landscape Management Capacity to Foster Conservation	7/1/2018	12/31/2021
8	Ghana Wildlife Society	Ghana	\$93,664	Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana	8/1/2017	1/31/2019
9	Noé – Man&Nature	Côte d'Ivoire; Ghana	\$428,000	Demonstrate How Economic Development Can Boost Community-Based Trans-Border Conservation in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana	8/1/2017	12/31/2021
10	Rainforest Alliance, Inc.	Côte d'Ivoire	\$55,005	Provide Technical Assistance to Strengthen Ivorian Cocoa Stakeholder Landscape Management Capacity to Foster Conservation	7/1/2018	8/31/2020
Strategic Direction 3						
11	Biodiversity Preservation Centre	Nigeria	\$32,115	Determining Distribution, Density and Connectivity of Threatened Turtles in Nigeria	6/1/2017	1/31/2020
12	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

13	Fauna & Flora International	Liberia	\$259,907	Developing Liberia's Capacity for Effective Conservation of the Pygmy Hippopotamus	8/1/2017	3/31/2021
14	Fauna & Flora International	São Tomé and Príncipe	\$99,351	Implementing the Action Plan for the Critically Endangered Principe Thrush, São Tomé and Príncipe	7/1/2018	3/31/2021
15	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Hotspot-Wide	\$219,664	Identification and Validation of West African Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas	7/1/2018	9/30/2021
16	Presbyterian University College Ghana	Ghana	\$44,259	Promoting Endangered Primate Conservation in Three Forest Reserves in Ghana	7/1/2018	9/30/2021
17	University of Coimbra	São Tomé and Príncipe	\$41,474	National Herbarium of São Tomé: Establishing a Reference for the Study and Conservation of Plants of São Tomé and Príncipe	6/1/2017	10/31/2018
18	Wildlife Conservation Society	Nigeria	\$349,997	Saving Cross River Gorillas from Extinction in Nigeria	9/1/2017	6/30/2019
Strategic Direction 4						
19	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	\$4,500	Planning and Partnership Consolidation for Biodiversity Conservation in the WAPNP	9/1/2017	11/30/2017

20	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
Strategic Direction 5						
21	Birdlife International	Hotspot-Wide	\$1,500,000	Regional Implementation Team for Guinean Forests II Hotspot	7/1/2016	7/31/2022