

Annual Portfolio Overview
Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
July 2015 – June 2016

Introduction

While the different islands of the hotspot share specific biogeographical features, they form a single unit characterized by a wide disparity in scale in terms of both land mass and human population.

Madagascar, an island-continent, makes up about 95 percent of the hotspot's land area and is home to about 98 percent of the population, overwhelming the three island groups of Comoros, Seychelles, the Mascarene Islands (comprising La Réunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues) and other scattered islands in the Western Indian Ocean in those respects.

The hotspot has often been considered a priority among hotspots, because of its extreme diversity—with about 15,000 plant species, of which more than 12,000 are endemic—and because of the high-level taxonomic endemism, which demonstrates distinct evolutionary mechanisms related to the isolation of the hotspot. The area also qualifies as a hotspot due to a very high level of degraded natural ecosystems. While human well-being and economic development rely heavily on ecosystems, the environment of the hotspot is under immense threat. Humans have deeply disturbed ecosystems and biodiversity across the hotspot for centuries, but today enhanced anthropogenic pressures due to population growth and exacerbated by climate change seriously threaten the already degraded and often fragmented ecosystems. Deforestation and habitat loss continue at an alarming rate in Madagascar and the Comoros, mostly as a response to the need for farmland and energy for the growing local communities. Wild species are overexploited for local consumption or international markets—a situation that is especially a concern in regard to coastal resources, which provide a majority of the protein for the hotspot's people. In Madagascar, the mining industry, while in a position to provide economic benefits to the country, also threatens sites of high biodiversity value.

Focusing on 38 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (among the 369 identified in the region), CEPF intends to enable a stronger voice, influence and action by civil society in the region, to tackle the immense environmental challenges of the hotspot. CEPF considers strengthening the conservation community, at local, national and regional level, as an important element for safeguarding the natural wealth of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot.

Annual Portfolio Overviews (APOs) aim at providing an update on progress of CEPF's investment strategy. This particular APO covers progress in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot from July 2015 to June 2016.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot benefits from an additional contribution from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Figure 1. General Map of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot



I- Niche for CEPF Investment

1. Overview

The CEPF niche for investment has been formulated through an inclusive participatory process involving the national, subregional and expert consultations during the Ecosystem Profiling process which took place in 2013-2014. The niche is also based on a geographical prioritization process to reduce the number of KBAs and corridors to a level commensurate with the funding that is likely to be available. This process has involved the interplay of several criteria, namely biodiversity priority, past and current donor investment levels, protection status, significant threats and provision of ecosystem services.

The CEPF niche in the hotspot has been defined to take advantage of CEPF's ability to provide variable levels of funding, in particular with its small grants mechanism. In this context, the niche would enable CEPF to support the emergence and strengthening of local organizations that could work toward the implementation of site-based conservation actions, maximizing the chances of local ownership, and work hand in hand with other economic sectors and government to support mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in development policies and business practices. CEPF is also ideally positioned to support concrete regional collaborations among the civil society organizations of the hotspot, maximizing the wealth and diversity of experiences developed—so far in isolation—within the hotspot and using the heterogeneity of the regions to their benefit, fostering the emergence of a regional conservation community.

In terms of geographical focus, the consultations resulted in a plan to primarily focus on seven priority corridors or clusters in Madagascar, plus three other sites, totaling 38 priority KBAs in Madagascar, and 19, 9 and 12 priority KBAs for the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles, respectively. Most of these sites focus on ecosystems that have extraordinary biodiversity but so far have been underfunded relative to other ecosystems: the wetlands and freshwater bodies, the dry forests, and coastal and near-shore marine areas.

The following four strategic directions and 10 investment priorities will guide CEPF's five-year investment in the region. The national workshops made initial suggestions for strategic directions that were reconsidered and prioritized during the subregional workshops and finalized through discussions based on the other considerations described above and detailed in the profile.

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas.	1.1 Support local communities to design and implement locally relevant conservation and sustainable management actions that respond to major threats at priority sites. 1.2 Support the development of economic models to improve both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. 1.3 Build the technical, administrative and financial capacity of local organizations and their partners.
2. Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices.	2.1 Support local research institutions to improve basic knowledge of biodiversity of priority ecosystems. 2.2 Support civil society to disseminate biodiversity information and influence political and economic decision-makers in favor of biodiversity and conservation priorities. 2.3 Explore partnerships with private sector stakeholders to promote sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation.

3. Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.	3.1 Foster the emergence of a new generation of conservation professionals and organizations through small grants for technical and practical training. 3.2 Encourage exchanges and partnerships between civil society organizations to strengthen conservation knowledge, organizational capacity, management and fundraising skills.
4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.	4.1 Make operational and coordinate the allocation and monitoring process of the CEPF grants to ensure effective implementation of the strategy. 4.2 Foster the emergence of a conservation community beyond institutional and political boundaries to achieve conservation objectives.

The Implementation of CEPF Strategy started in February 2015, when the Regional Implementation Team was recruited. The overall budget available for the Hotspot is \$8.265 million, comprising an allocation from the CEPF global donors supplemented by additional funds from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

II- Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

Fondation Tany Meva wa recruited in 2015 as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, following a competitive selection process. Tany Meva is a Malagasy foundation created in 1996 with the objective to support civil society organizations in Madagascar to develop community-based management and sustainable use of natural resources. Since inception, Tany Meva has supported over 1,700 projects for a total amount of more than \$14.4 million, on issues covering reforestation, renewable energy, alternative livelihood activities, biodiversity conservation or environmental education.

During the fiscal year 2016, CEPF led two supervision missions of the RIT, one in July 2015, with visit to Mauritius and Rodrigues, the second one in January-February 2016 in Madagascar, including site visits on the Extreme North and Central Highlands corridors. The supervision missions allowed for monitoring the RIT performance, providing continuous training on CEPF procedures and mentorship on grant management.

The Regional Team has seen some evolutions in its structure, as a reflection of the continuous discussions with CEPF Secretariat to increase the efficiency of the organization in its role of Regional Implementation Team. The evolution is towards the setting up of a "core team" entirely dedicated to CEPF implementation, and composed of one Team Leader, two Project Managers and one Finance and Administration Assistant, supported for a number of tasks by other Tany Meva staff – in particular for communication, accounting and finances, and monitoring. A focal person for the Comoros (working 50 percent time) has also been hired to support for reaching-out and capacity building with local CSOs as well as communication with donors and governmental authorities.

Table 1. Composition of the CEPF Core Team, as of June 2016.

Ravaka Ranaivoson	RIT Lead	Overall coordination of the RIT, preparation of calls for proposals, supervision of the Project Officers, piloting of the communication and outreach, supervision of monitoring and evaluation, coordination with partners
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Aina (Rakotoniaina) Hantavololona	Project Manager	Main contact and day-to-day management, projects in Comoros, Madagascar Far North corridor
Miara Rajaobelina	Project Manager	Main contact and day-to-day management, projects in Mauritius, Madagascar's Western corridor, Southern corridor
Manitra (Herimanitra Abigaile) Randrianarijaona	Project Manager	Main contact and day-to-day management, projects in the Seychelles, Madagascar Eastern corridor, Highlands cluster and other sites
Yahaya Ibrahim	Comoros Focal Person	Reaching-out and capacity building with local CSOs as well as communication with donors and governmental authorities
Patricia Otonia	Finance and Administration Officer	Day-to-day administrative support, organization of event, project database management and coordination of information.
Elodie Randrianarijaona	Communication Officer	Preparation of communication material and events, preparation of newsletters.

1. Advisory Committee

The first session of CEPF MADIO Advisory Committee was organized in January. The Advisory Committee is composed of 15 members, plus two representatives of the Donors. The members, coming from civil society organization, research, private sector, governmental and inter-governmental organizations, are members *intuitu personna*. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide strategic advice for the implementation of the CEPF investment in the region. They do not play any role in terms of selection of proposal or review.

Adrian SKERRET	Président, Island Conservation Society	Seychelles	Civil Society
Claude-Anne GAUTHIER	Directeur Océan indien, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	Madagascar, Regional	Scientific cooperation
Edmée RALALAHARISOA	Directrice, Point Focal CBD	Madagascar	National authorities
Gérard RAMBELOARISOA	Directeur, FAPBM	Madagascar	Foundation, Civil Society
Gina BONNE	Chargée de mission « Environnement Durable et Changement Climatique »	Seychelles, Régional	Inter-governmental organization
Guy RAMANGASON	Directeur, Madagascar National Park	Madagascar	Civil Society
Ismaël BACHIROU	Directeur Général Environnement et Forêts	Comores	National authorities
Lily Arison Rene DE ROLLAND	Directeur, The Peregrin Fund	Madagascar	Civil Society
Lisa GAYLORD	Conseiller Environnement, Rio Tinto Madagascar	Madagascar	Private Sector
Manikchand PUTTOO	Directeur, National Park and Conservation Service	Maurice	National authorities
Roger EDMOND	Botaniste, Université de Madagascar	Madagascar	Research
Ronley FANCHETTE	Wildlife Director, Ministry of the Environment	Seychelles	National authorities

Sherin RENAUD	Director, Tourism Board Seychelles	Seychelles	Private sector
Steeve GOODMAN	Expert Biodiversité, Vahatra, Field Museum	Madagascar	Civil Society, Research
Vikash TATAYAH	Conservation Director, Mauritian Wildlife Society	Maurice	Civil Society
Jimmy RAMIANDRISON	President, any Meva	Madagascar	Fondation, RIT.
Léon RAJAOBELINA	<i>Executive Vice-President, Conservation International - Madagascar</i>	<i>Madagascar</i>	<i>Civil Society, Donor representative</i>
Marie Ange BONNESCUELLE DE LESPINOIS	<i>Programme Officer, European Commission, Comoros office</i>	<i>Comores</i>	<i>Donor representative</i>
Giovanni RUTA	<i>Program Officer, Environment and Natural Resources, World Bank</i>	<i>Madagascar</i>	<i>Donor representative</i>

2. External Reviewers

CEPF team often asks external reviewers to provide technical or expert opinion on project proposal, either at Letter of Inquiry or Full Proposal stage. During the fiscal year 16, the RIT and Secretariat have gradually build a "college" of 26 volunteer reviewers, who have provided high quality assessment and guidance to improve project proposals. The list of members of this "college of reviewers" is provided in annex.

3. Communication

The RIT, supported by the Secretariat, has developed over the year a Communication Strategy, which first objectives have been achieved this year, with:

- The creation of a dedicated [CEPF website at regional level](#), managed by Tany Meva, which complements the [MADIO pages](#) of the CEPF website
- The production of three newsletters, one [special edition for 2015](#), one for [first quarter 2016](#) and one for [second quarter 2016](#). The newsletters are now produced on a quarterly basis.
- The production of the [Ecosystem Profile Brochure](#) (in French, translation in English to come)
- The Bilingual [Map of the Key Biodiversity Areas](#) of the MADIO Hotspot

III- Portfolio Status to date

The CEPF portfolio in the MAD-IO hotspot has taken off during fiscal year 2016, with 26 grants signed for an amount of M\$ 2.787 committed for civil society organizations in the four countries of the country.

1. Calls for Proposals

Four calls for proposals have been launched since January 2015, details of which are presented in the table below.

The first call has been launched prior to the recruitment of the RIT, with limited reach-out, and has been responded generally by the larger organizations.

The second call, for Small Grants, has raised an unexpected and somehow unprecedented interest in the region, with more than 200 Letters of Inquiry submitted. This influx of proposals, combined with the necessary learning curve for the RIT, has led to delays in processing and a low rate of success. This first

call has provided good lessons learned for improvement of the Small Grant mechanism and adaptation of the regional context and civil society dynamism.

The third call for proposal has seen a dramatic increase in terms of participation of national/local organizations. Several proposals were processed smoothly, in less than 4 months between selection and signature.

A fourth call for proposal has been launched in June 2016 with a deadline in September 2016.

Call	Deadline	Specifications	Letters of Inquiry	Grants awarded
CfP 1	January 2015	Large grants SD 2, SD 3 All countries	83 Lol	19 granted 3 approved but delayed 61 rejected
CfP 2	August 2015	Small Grants, All SD, All countries	245 Lol	7 granted 15 in pipeline 3 pending 220 rejected
CfP 3	January 2016	Large grants SD 1, SD 2. Madagascar, Comoros	49 Lol	4 granted 6 in pipeline 4 pending 35 rejected
CfP 4	September 2016	Large grants SD 1, SD 2, SD3 Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles	-	-

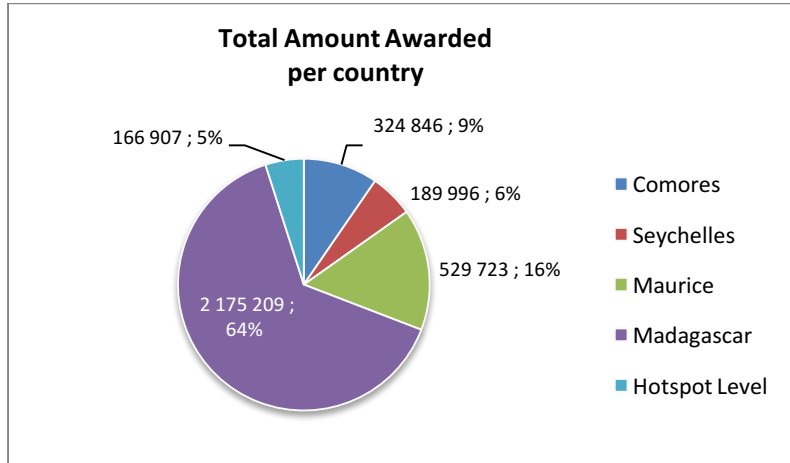
2. Grant-making Status

The grant making has made huge progress over FY16, with a M\$ 2.787 engagement. The portfolio now comprises 30 grants (23 large and 7 small), while about 13 large grants and 15 small grants are in the pipeline. With most of the budget for Strategic Direction 2 has now been allocated, the focus in coming years will be on Strategic Direction 1, working more at local level with smaller organizations.

Table: Grant-making Status by Strategic Direction, June 2015

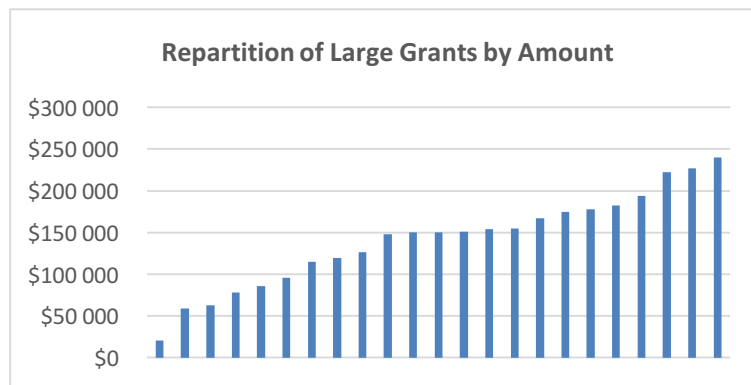
Strategic Direction		Budget Allocation	Contracted Grants			Budget balance	% Contracted
			Total Amount	No. of Large grants	No. of Small grants		
SD1	Empower local communities to protect biodiversity	\$ 3 100 000	\$ 716 000	4	3	\$ 2 384 000	23%
SD2	Maintream conservation into political and economic decision making	\$ 2 200 000	\$ 2 043 881	15	4	\$ 156 119	93%
SD3	Strengthen Civil Society at local and regional level	\$ 1 465 000	\$ 626 800	4	0	\$ 838 200	43%
SD4	Regional Implementation Team	\$ 1 500 000	\$ 1 425 000	1	0	\$ 75 000	95%
TOTAL		\$ 8 265 000	\$ 4 811 681	24	7	\$ 3 453 319	58%

In terms of **geographical distribution**, Madagascar represents about 64 percent of the total in financial terms, with 19 grants and a budget of M\$ 2,175. The geographical distribution so far respects the initial projection of CEPF, with the exception of the Comoros, for which the proportion of funding is still slightly below, at 9 percent. On-going efforts, with 3 large grants in the pipeline and one still pending for Comoros, should allow for balancing the situation during FY17.



The balance between **national and international organizations** is currently even, with 15 projects awarded in each category. Nevertheless, the international organizations have benefitted from 55 percent of the budget, as their projects tend to be larger. The proportion of national organizations in the small grant portfolio is, on the contrary, of 85 percent. With the expected increase of small grants in coming fiscal year, the proportion of national organizations is expected to raise, both in terms of number and total amount.

For Large Grants, the **amounts** are pretty well distributed between \$ 50,000 and \$ 200,000, with no grant above \$ 240,000. The distribution, with 40 percent of grants below \$ 130,000, while upper limits for first large grant calls had been initially set at \$ 200,000 and \$ 150,000, demonstrates the attention given to stick to the partners' needs.



IV- Performance of CEPF Investment

1. Assessment

The first year of implementation has allowed the RIT to gradually come to cruise speed and fulfil their functions and build their capacity for managing a programme of the scope of CEPF. The award process for Large Grants have improved significantly with an average process time reduced to six months for the third call, in comparison with the 11 months+ for the first call (launched when RIT was not in place). The financial targets set up internally have been fulfilled (106% for FY16), as well as the objectives in terms of reaching out to more local organizations.

The portfolio is developing well, with clear synergies between some of the projects. Overall, the structure for achieving the objectives of SD2 is in place, with exception of the investment priority on partnerships with private sector, which has developed more on the tourism sector in Mauritius and Seychelles, leaving little space for Madagascar. Specific calls might have to be developed to push for projects on mining, agriculture or fisheries project under this SD in Madagascar. The portfolio for Strategic Direction 1 (local management of natural resources) is pretty much under development, with only four large and three small grants active at present – but with about 10 large and five small grants in the pipeline, plus a call for proposal on-going. Regarding Strategic direction 3, CEPF and the RIT will certainly have to be more proactive in terms of identifying regional initiatives and pushing partners to develop capacity building and networking activities. Some interesting projects are nevertheless starting to work in that direction.

It's on Small Grant mechanism that expectations have not been met so far. The situation at the end of June 2016 is of 7 active grants for a commitment of \$ 133,000. The delays to process small grants has been long (seven months minimum, nine months on average), exceeding the one of large grants. The complexity of the small grant procedures has also been highlighted by applicants and grantees. This situation is the result of the conjunction of i) an unexpectedly large number of applications, ii) the Tany Meva granting structure, historically demanding due to other donors' requirements, and iii) the normal "learning curve" for Tany Meva staff in terms of adapting to CEPF requirements and "philosophy". These issues have been identified and discussed between CEPF Secretariat and RIT, and Tany Meva is developing a revised methodology to improve small grant management system.

The CEPF strategy insists on some important "orphan" sites in Madagascar, i.e. sites that have not attracted much donor attention so far – in particular wetlands such as Bongolava, Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny in the North-West, or Pangalane and Ambila-Lemaintso in the East. Calls for proposals have given, unsurprisingly, poor results for these areas, with mostly calls from capital-based organizations with limited knowledge of local situation. The RIT has already started to look proactively for partners in these areas, and certainly to develop specific calls and/or support to community-based organization to start activities.

2. Portfolio Investment Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1: Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas

This Strategic direction was not open for the first call for proposal, and therefore all the seven projects (four large and three small) have been signed recently. All projects have a strong focus on capacity development as well as development of alternative livelihood options – including activities in tourism (Antrema), fisheries (Barren Isles), or agriculture (Menabe), improving involvement of local communities

in the management of the areas through management transfer agreement, or improving management of production landscape in buffer zone of protected areas (green belt), for instance around Montagne des Français and Beza Mahafaly (the last three activities through small grants).

The Biodiversity Conservation Madagascar project in Beanka aims at developing with citizens and local associations an integrated fire management system in and around Beanka forest, including training of local fire management associations, creating alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forest, or replanting fire-resistant species in buffer zones of the protected area. The project also includes a pilot study to investigate whether the reintroduction of giant tortoises could restore ecological processes (grazing and seed dispersal) and reduce the frequency and intensity of grassland fires to achieve long-term, low maintenance and low cost approaches to landscape management. If successful, this pilot initiative could be scaled-up and replicated to address one of the most prominent issue for the long-term survival of Madagascar dry forests.

Strategic Direction 2: Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices.

A first group of project under this Strategic Direction addresses knowledge gaps identified in the Ecosystem Profile as bottlenecks for planning and implementation of consistent, strategic conservation strategy.

The Vahatra project gathers a number of scientific partners, including Field Museum of Natural History, Munchen Zoological Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, Geneva Botanical Garden, Madagascar National Park and many others to produce an updated book and associated databases on Madagascar protected areas. Up-to-date information (including species and habitats, legal aspects, threats and current management practices...) on each of the sites making up the protected area system is critical to advance a variety of activities, including conservation programs and management plans, national and regional prioritization of conservation actions and new protected areas, as well as ecotourism. The capacity building component is not forgotten as each chapter is co-authored by a team comprised of Malagasy and international experts.

The Ecosystem Profile also identified a major knowledge gap in terms of freshwater biodiversity: some taxonomic groups are still largely to be studied, the assessment of dragonflies, molluscs or even fish, for which latest assessment is out-of-date and largely incomplete – while this group is among the most threatened (about 75% of endangered species when data is available), and very important for livelihood. Finally, wetlands and water bodies are largely underrepresented in the protected area network. Two grants have started to tackle this issue: IUCN, in partnership with national organizations and research centers, is currently assessing freshwater KBAs, defining conservation priorities for wetlands and paving the way for future conservation strategy. Wildfowl and Wetland Trust is in parallel working with the national RAMSAR committee to develop guidance and pilot projects for wetland management.

The second group of projects within this Strategic direction is exploring partnerships with private sector for introduction or mainstreaming of better management practices in favor of biodiversity. This SD has been approached differently depending on the countries. In the Seychelles, projects are being developed with tourism operators, tourism being the major economic sector of the archipelago. The activities range from ecosystem restoration, biosafety plans to avoid invasive species, or development of ecotourism. In Mauritius, work is on-going to incentivize private landowners to manage their lands for biodiversity, develop ecotourism activities in formerly abandoned lands dominated by invasive species, or to delegate

management to partners NGOs. Finally, in Madagascar the projects focus more on developing new products or improve the value-chain of nature-based products, in partnership with private sector entities, including in the ecotourism, agriculture or fisheries sectors.

Strategic Direction 3: Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.

CEPF is supporting the creation of the first network of insect specialist in the region, IPSIO (Insects and People of the Southern Indian Ocean), an initiative launched by Dr. Brian Fisher from the California Academy of Science. Insects are a key element of the biodiversity of the hotspot, being for the number of species, the level of endemism but also their fundamental role in the functioning of the ecosystems. Nevertheless, insects are still poorly known and rarely taken into account in conservation planning. This is the reason why a core group of a dozen entomologists from the hotspot have decided to join forces and build a network to serve the conservation community of the Indian Ocean. Listening to the needs of protected area managers, policy-makers or civil society organizations, they will set up working groups on various themes, from biosafety and invasive species to insect ecotourism and entomophagy, and expect to cast a new light on the importance of insects for human and nature.

V- Collaboration with CEPF's donors and other funders

The CEPF Secretariat has paid a specific attention to contacting and informing the local representatives of the CEPF Donors in the region during the current fiscal year, paving the way for future collaboration during investment phase. This include meetings with:

- Several exchanges took place with Giovanni Ruta, in charge of Environment projects at the **World Bank** Office in Madagascar, who also participated to the Advisory Committee meeting in February in Antananarivo. Mr. Ruta was accompanied by Mr. Michael Carroll, consultant working on environment programmes for the World Bank.
- The RIT met with Marie-Ange Bonnescuelle de Lespinois, from the **European Commission** office in the Comoros, who also participated actively in the review of some proposals for the Comoros. In Mauritius, the team met Karina Dzialowska, head of Comoros and Mayotte section, and Eric Vanhalewy, in charge of Mauritius and regional programmes at the EU Delegation. Regular exchanges occurred with the managers of the Biodiversity programme of the Indian Ocean Commission, supported by the European Union, in particular Chantal Nicole Andrianarivo.
- The team met with Mrs. De Toma Cadinouche, manager of the **French Global Environment Facility** (FFEM) marine protected areas programme, based at the Indian Ocean Commission in Mauritius, and exchanged information on possible collaboration with CEPF investment in coastal areas.
- The CEPF grant director met on several occasions with **Conservation International's** Vice President, director of Madagascar Office, Leon Rajaobelina, and the CI team in Madagascar.
- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** focal points in all four countries have been regularly informed by the Secretariat and the RIT. They are also member of the advisory committee. The Grant Director and RIT met in July 2015 with Pamela Bapoo-Dundoo, manager of the GEF Small Grant Programme manager in Mauritius.
- The CEPF Secretariat has been in contact with Mrs. Renu Saini and Mrs. Lilian Cheng from the **Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust**, including during the preparation of the special annual report to the HCT in January 2016.

- The Grant director and RIT Lead met with Mr. Daniel Whyner from the USAID office in Antananarivo, discussing possible collaboration in the context of biodiversity programme currently being developed.

Three donors' representative are also members of the CEPF MAD-IO Advisory Committee: Giani Ruta (World Bank), Marie-Ange Lespinois de Bonnescuelle (EU) and Leon Rajaobelina (CI).

Conclusion

After almost a year and half of implementation, the CEPF programme is now up and running in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Island Hotspot. Thirty-one grants have been awarded to international and national civil society organizations, covering all four eligible countries and all strategic directions. In the year to come, additional focus will be put on strengthening the Small Grant mechanism, and reinforcing the portfolio under strategic direction 1, working more with local and community-based organizations. A highlight of the next fiscal year will be the organization of the first CEPF-grantee workshop, a great opportunity for enhancing networking and collaboration among the CEPF community of the Indian Ocean.

Annex I – Progress Against the Logical Framework

Objective	Targets	Progress to date (June 2015)
<p>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities.</p> <p>Total amount: \$ 8,265,000</p>	<p>40 Key Biodiversity Areas, covering 2.8 million hectares, have new or strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>At least 10 Key Biodiversity Areas that were unprotected or under temporary protection gain officially declared permanent protected status, covering 1 million hectares.</p> <p>At least 10 partnerships and networks formed among civil society, government and communities to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 local organizations, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p>	<p>Projects awarded with specific conservation objectives on 18 KBAs.</p> <p>No progress to date. One project with objective to secure permanent protection status (Barren Isles, 430,000 ha)</p> <p>Four projects initiated to strengthen or forge networks / partnerships.</p> <p>28 organizations, including 15 local organizations, have been granted projects to actively participate in conservation activities guided by the ecosystem profile</p>
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Local communities empowered to protect and manage biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas.</p>	<p>Threat levels to at least 25 priority sites reduced through locally relevant conservation actions implemented by local communities.</p> <p>Awareness of the values of biodiversity and the nature of threats and drivers raised among local communities in at least 25 priority sites.</p>	<p>15 projects awarded with specific objectives to work closely with communities to reduce threats and raise awareness on the value of biodiversity on 15 priority sites.</p>

<p>\$ 3,100,000</p>	<p>Effective participation of local communities in the management of at least 10 new protected areas at priority sites.</p> <p>Mechanisms for effective participation of private landowners in improved biodiversity management on private lands for at least four priority sites.</p> <p>Economic tools and models improving livelihoods while preserving natural capital and biodiversity (ecotourism, payments for ecosystem services, conservation agreements, etc). piloted and implemented in at least eight priority sites.</p> <p>At least 75 percent of local communities targeted by site-based projects show tangible well-being benefits.</p> <p>Capacities of local community organizations in charge of conservation and local development improved in at least 20 sites, allowing for increased sustainability and efficiency of these organizations.</p>	<p><i>Projects to foster private engagement in conservation have been awarded for three sites in Mauritius and one in the Seychelles.</i></p> <p>5 projects work on economic models, on 5 priority sites, with no demonstrated results yet.</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i></p> <p><i>Not yet assessable.</i></p>
<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Civil society organizations have enhanced the knowledge base for biodiversity conservation and influence decision-makers for improved mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>\$ 2,200,000</p>	<p>Baseline studies, inventories and mapping of important biodiversity areas completed for at least six sites—with at least three sites in the Comoros.</p> <p>At least three platforms or dialogues positively engaging stakeholders from development agencies, government and local authorities and private sector, in place and delivering results for mainstreaming biodiversity in decision-making.</p>	<p>One project on-going on four sites: one in Seychelles (Grand Police wetland), one in Mauritius (baseline for St Brandon), two in Comoros (Moya forest, and coastal zone of Anjouan).</p> <p>Three projects working on strengthening existing platform or creating new platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MIHARI network for Locally manages protected areas, Madagascar – improvement noted; - Astiria project for data management and protection of rare & endemic plants in

	<p>Civil society actively participating in and influencing at least five local development strategies, environmental impact assessments or other appropriate decision process.</p> <p>At least 12 national organizations improve their skills in advocacy and engagement with authorities and/or private sector.</p> <p>At least five partnerships between civil society organizations and private sector companies or professional organizations lead to concrete actions benefitting biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Mauritius (creation of platform expected)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group created on wetland management in Madagascar (reinforcement of existing RAMSAR Committee) <p>Note: none yet include private sector.</p> <p>Active participation on 2 national policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WCS and MIHARI (Blue Ventures) projects are actively participating to the development of the Malagasy policy on Marine protected areas. - Two other projects expected to have national impacts on conservation strategic planning in Madagascar (IUCN project on Freshwater biodiversity and KBAs, Vahatra project on protected areas assessment). <p>Active participation of civil society in local land-use plans in Menabe region. One organization in Seychelles working on influencing development plans on one KBAs and revision of EIAs.</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i></p> <p>Current projects working on setting up five partnerships: one in Madagascar, three in Mauritius, one in Seychelles.</p>
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<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Regional and national capacity to conserve biodiversity increased through civil society partnerships, within the conservation community and with other stakeholders.</p> <p>\$ 1,465,000</p>	<p>At least 40 community leaders and/or development professionals with improved capacities and engagement to preserve biodiversity.</p> <p>At least 15 students—including at least six from the Comoros—successfully achieve a degree in a field related to conservation.</p> <p>At least 12 organizations engaged in a lasting mentoring or partnering relationship at the regional level.</p> <p>At least one regional network is created or reinforced allowing exchange of experience and mutual support at the regional level, enabling collective responses to priority and emerging threats.</p> <p>At least 20 local civil society organizations demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity, project development and institutional fundraising.</p>	<p>Not yet assessable; several projects includes objectives relating to this outcome.</p> <p>Two projects (DAHARI, IUCN/Vahatra) has included support to students to get Master Degree in their projects.</p> <p><i>No progress to date. One organization engaged in mentorship (Durrell-VIF)</i></p> <p>One network under creation (IPSIO, Insects & People of the Southern Indian Ocean). Three informal networks created at national level (Madagascar: Amphibians and LMMAs, Mauritius: plants database)</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable.</i></p>
<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>A regional implementation team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot.</p>	<p>At least 40 civil society organizations, including at least 30 local organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 80 percent of local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity to design and implement conservation actions.</p>	<p>28 organizations, including 15 local organizations, have been granted projects to actively participate in conservation activities guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p><i>Not yet assessable</i></p>

<p>\$ 1,500,000</p>	<p>At least 20 civil society organizations supported by CEPF secure follow-up funding from other donors.</p> <p>At least two participatory assessments are undertaken and lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot are documented.</p>	<p><i>Not assessable at this stage.</i></p> <p><i>Planned for 2017.</i></p>
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Annex 2: Contracted Grants to date

Country	Strategic Direction	Applicant/ Grantee	Title	Total	Start
Madagascar	SD1	Biodiversity Conservation Madagascar	Long-term Fire Management to Protect Beanka Protected Area	\$119 633	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD1	Blue Ventures	Strengthening Community Management of the Indian Ocean's Largest LMMA	\$147 658	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD1	Fanamby	Renforcement de la Coordination et des Capacités des Associations Co-Questionnaires du Développement Local et de Conservation Durable des Ecosystèmes de l'Aire Protégée du Menabe Antimena	\$154 825	01 March 201
Madagascar	SD1	Identi'terre	Strengthening Capacities and Payment for Ecosystem Services, towards inovating financing of New Protected Areas - pilot case of Antrema (FINAP)	\$240 090	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD1	Madagascar National Parks	Conservation du complexe de Sakamena : ceinture verte de l'AP de Bezà Mahafaly	\$16 244	04 April 201
Madagascar	SD1	Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement SAGE	Appuyer les communautés locales de base pour conserver et protéger la biodiversité en répondant aux principales menaces au niveau de la Nouvelle Aire Protégée de la Montagne des Français	\$18 034	06 June 201
Madagascar	SD1	VOI LOVA Ampanotoamaizina	Evaluation du transfert de gestion du VOI Lova et création d'activités génératrices de revenu dans le Fokontany d'Ampanotoamaizina	\$19 516	17 July 201
Comores	SD2	Blue Ventures	Towards a Blueprint for Locally-Managed Marine Conservation in the Comoros: Building the Knowledge Base and Capacity for Monitoring and Management	\$149 846	01 October 201
Comores	SD2	Dahari	Identifying and Monitoring Terrestrial Conservation Priorities in the Comoro Islands, and Building Results into Policy and Practice	\$175 000	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD2	NGO Arboretum d'Antosokay	Promotion of Private Sector Engagement in Ecotourism in Tsinjoriake Community Managed New Protected Area, Southwest Madagascar	\$95 900	01 January 201
Madagascar	SD2	Conservation International Madagascar	Promotion of Fisheries and Ecotourism with the Private Sector to Reinforce the Conservation and Management of Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area	\$153 899	01 April 201
Madagascar	SD2	IUCN	Mobilising Freshwater Biodiversity Information for Better Representation within Protected Areas in Madagascar	\$226 835	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD2	Missouri Botanical Garden	Promoting the Self Sufficiency of Reserves in the Ramena Complex, Antsiranana, by Conceiving, Developing, and Testing New Tourism Products	\$85 513	01 January 201

Madagascar	SD2	Missouri Botanical Garden	Compilation and Dissemination of Plant Information for Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Madagascar	\$126 000	01 June 201
Madagascar	SD2	Madagasikara Voakajy	Vers une gestion rationnelle, équitable et rentable des baobabs Malagasy – Cas de la Région Menabe	\$19 326	15 April 201
Madagascar	SD2	The Peregrine Fund	Conservation de l'Aigle Pêcheur à travers le renforcement de capacité et le développement de partenariat entre gestionnaires de site	\$19 853	26 April 201
Madagascar	SD2	Association Vahatra	Madagascar's Protected Areas: A Bilingual Book and Associated Database Reviewing their History, Biodiversity and Guiding the Future	\$182 633	01 October 201
Madagascar	SD2	WCS Madagascar	Fulfilling Madagascar's 'Sydney Promise' through a National Process of Marine Protected Area Planning	\$177 803	01 July 201
Madagascar	SD2	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Developing National Management Guidance for Madagascar's Freshwater Wetlands	\$62 575	01 November 201
Maurice	SD2	Ebony Forest, Ltd	Restoring Native Forest at Chamarel: Ecological Restoration, Species Reintroduction, and Reconnecting the Public with Nature	\$77 706	01 February 201
Maurice	SD2	Francois Leguat, Ltd	Expanding Rodrigues Dry Coastal Forest at Plaine Corail to Protect Threatened Biodiversity	\$58 954	01 April 201
Maurice	SD2	Mauritian Wildlife Foundation	Support to Private Sector to Engage in the Conservation of Mauritius' Threatened Endemic Birds	\$222 225	01 July 201
Maurice	SD2	Mauritian Wildlife Foundation	Developing the Vision for Conservation of Saint Brandon	\$19 817	01 March 201
Seychelles	SD2	BirdLife International	Seychelles Magpie Robin Project	\$20 000	01 June 201
Seychelles	SD2	Island Conservation Society	Integrated Management and Ecosystem Restoration Program for Silhouette Island, Seychelles	\$150 000	01 June 201
Seychelles	SD2	Marine Conservation Society of the Seychelles	Protection of KBA biodiversity in Grande Police wetland	\$19 996	01 May 201
Hotspot Level	SD3	California Academy of Sciences	Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean: A Network of Researchers for Insect-Focused Approach to Conservation	\$166 907	01 May 201
Madagascar	SD3	Global Wildlife Conservation-Amphibian Survival Alliance	Building a future for the Amphibians of Madagascar	\$194 200	01 November 201
Madagascar	SD3	Blue Ventures	Strengthening the MIHARI Network to Support Community Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in Madagascar	\$114 672	01 December 201
Maurice	SD3	Arche Aux Plantes	ASTIRIA - Cooperation Programme for the Conservation of Threatened Flora in Mauritius and Rodrigues Islands	\$151 021	01 April 201

Annex 3: Summary of Contracted Grants to date

Projects in Madagascar

Building a Future for the Amphibians of Madagascar

Grantee: Amphibian Survival Alliance

Support the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan, the Malagasy national action plan for amphibian conservation, in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Facilitate networking, engage private sector and national authorities, and develop long-term sustainable financing tools to support amphibian conservation. Build the capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampandrosoana, a local association mandated by the Madagascar government to create the new protected area on the Ankaratra Massif, a site of great importance for amphibian conservation.

Amount \$194,200

Grant Term 11/15 - 12/18

Strengthening Coordination and Capacity of Communities, Local Authorities and Private Sector Actors, Co- Managers for Local Development and Sustainable Conservation of the Menabe Antimena Protected Area Ecosystem

Grantee: Association Fanamby

Work closely with each municipality in Madagascar's Menabe-Antinema region, which was declared a new protected area in 2015 under IUCN category VI. Develop participatory territorial planning exercises, including zoning plans, that are aligned with the protected area management plan. Support local farmers to adopt more intensive agricultural productions (e.g., peanuts, corn) to increase income while reducing the need for new land. Approach private sector actors in the region to set up voluntary agreements to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and support local economic development.

Amount \$154,825

Grant Term 03/16 - 02/18

Long-term Fire Management to Protect Beanka Protected Area in Madagascar

Grantee: Biodiversity Conservation Madagascar

Main threat on Beanka forest is unmanaged fires, mostly lit for agricultural and grazing purposes. BCM project addresses this threat through an integrated approach, including training of local fire management associations, creating alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forest, or replanting fire-resistant species in buffer zones of the protected area. The project also include a pilot study to investigate whether the reintroduction of giant tortoises could restore ecological processes (grazing and seed dispersal) and reduce the frequency and intensity of grassland fires to achieve long-term, low maintenance and low cost approaches to landscape management.

Amount \$119,633

Grant Term 07/16 - 07/19

Strengthening Community Management of the Indian Ocean's Largest Locally Managed Marine Area, the Barren Isles

Grantee: Blue Ventures Conservation

Build the capacity of Vezo Miray Nosy Barren (VMNB) association through bespoke training and mentoring in practical skills needed to manage the association and fisheries. Obtain definitive protected status for the LMMA by commissioning the formal evaluation of the protected area dossier and additional impact assessment studies, and convening community consultations. Support the implementation of the Melaky regional fisheries management plan and develop the Barren Isles Marine Protected Area as a pilot site for management measures through community consultations.

Amount \$147,658

Grant Term 07/16 - 06/19

Related News and Information [Safeguard document](#) (PDF - 47 KB)

Strengthening the MIHARI Network to Support Community Management of Marine and Coastal Resources in Madagascar

Grantee: Blue Ventures Conservation

Support the strengthening of the MIHARI network of locally managed marine protected areas in Madagascar by developing a clear governance structure, strategic action plan and business plan to ensure MIHARI's long-term sustainability and increase its role in supporting local managers of marine areas and advocating for local management of marine areas.

Amount \$114,672

Grant Term 12/15 - 11/18

Madagascar's Protected Areas: A Bilingual Book and Associated Database Reviewing their History, Biodiversity and Guiding the Future

Grantee: Field Museum of Natural History

Produce a bi-lingual (French and English) book gathering information on all protected areas in Madagascar, including latest species inventories, protection status, current management and ecotourism information. The book will provide a basis for decision-making for biodiversity conservation by all stakeholders, from government and local authorities to civil society and tourism operations, and comes with an online database accessible to a wide audience.

Amount \$182,633

Grant Term 10/15 - 09/18

Strengthening Capacity of Local Communities and Establishing an Innovative Mechanism for Sustainable Funding for the Antrema Protected Area in Madagascar

Grantee: Identi'terre

Set up a sustainable financing mechanism for Antrema National Park, based on payment for ecosystem services and crowd-funding. Strengthen the capacities of local communities on ecotourism, natural resources management, administration and finance, ecological monitoring etc to enhance their role as co-managers of the protected areas. Develop alternative economic activities for local communities, based on sustainable natural resources management.

Amount \$240,090

Grant Term 07/16 - 01/20

Mobilizing Freshwater Biodiversity Information for Better Representation within Protected Areas in Madagascar

Grantee: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Global Species Programme; Freshwater Biodiversity Unit)

Mobilize the expertise of a large number of scientists to identify freshwater key biodiversity areas in Madagascar; red list freshwater species that have either never been redlisted or have outdated assessments; and identify the most important sites for the conservation of freshwater biodiversity. Share the results with the Malagasy government and protected areas managers, as a tool for strengthening management of freshwater ecosystems, and to guide further expansion of the protected area network by including the most important freshwater ecosystems.

Amount \$226,835

Grant Term 07/15 - 08/17

Fulfilling Madagascar's 'Sydney Promise' Through a National Process of Marine Protected Area Planning

Grantee: Madagascar Wildlife Conservation Society

Work closely with Madagascar's Ministry of Environment to design a road map for the creation of the "Sydney Promise," a future network of marine protected areas, which will include guidance on technical, legal and sustainable financing issues.

Amount \$177,803

Grant Term 07/15 - 12/16

Promoting the Self Sufficiency of Reserves in the Ramena Complex, Antsiranana, by Conceiving, Developing, and Testing New Tourism Products

Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden

Increase the self-sufficiency of three reserves in the Ramena Complex, northern Madagascar. Conceive, develop and test new "participative tourism" products, which will offer tourists an opportunity to participate in conservation activities with local communities. Assess the expectations of potential tourists, then develop —

together with communities — the tourism products. Advertise the products to the target audience, helping to generate a sustainable source of income for the communities.

Amount \$85,513
Grant Term 01/16 - 12/17

Compilation and Dissemination of Plant Information for Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Madagascar

Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden.

Compile and disseminate reliable flora information on 31 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in Madagascar, to enhance conservation planning and site management, and identify major gaps in knowledge. Establish for each KBA a dedicated, site-specific, on-line database. Catalyze effective use of information by KBA stakeholders in conservation and sustainable management.

Amount \$123,390
Grant Term 06/16 - 05/18

Promotion of Private Sector Engagement in Ecotourism in Tsinjoriake Community Managed New Protected Area, Southwest Madagascar

Grantee: NGO Arboretum d'Antsokay

The project aims to support local economy in the vicinity of the Tsinjoriake protected area, by fostering private sector investment on ecotourism and promoting partnership between private operators and communities. The project include training and development of ecotourism products at community level, together with communication and influence activities to engage private operators from the tourism sector in Toliara in ecotourism activities.

Amount \$95,900
Grant Term 01/16 - 12/17

Developing National Management Guidance for Madagascar's Freshwater Wetlands

Grantee: Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Prepare a national wetland management guidance in close cooperation with the National RAMSAR Committee, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Asity and the Organisation de Soutien pour le Développement Rural à Madagascar (OSDRM), drawing on lessons and experiences from a vast array of stakeholders. The guidance document will be widely communicated to wetland managers and policy makers, and tested at a minimum of three sites: Lake Kinkony, Lake Alaotra and Lake Sofia.

Amount \$62,575
Grant Term 11/15 - 10/18

Support Local Communities to Conserve and Protect Biodiversity by Tackling the Main Threats at the New Protected Area of Montagne du Français, Diego II.

Grantee: Service d'Appui à la Gestion de l'Environnement

Improve the conservation of biodiversity of Montagne du Français in Madagascar by strengthening technical and organizational capacity of local communities, and evolving and promoting local communities' autonomy.

Amount \$18,034

Grant Term 06/16 -
09/17

Conservation of Sakamena Complex: Green Belt around Beza Mahafaly Protected Area

Grantee: Madagascar National Parks

Ensure connectivity of vegetation between the Beza Mahafaly Protected Area and the Mikea Landscape, as stated in the ecosystem profile of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot.

Amount \$16,244

Grant Term 04/16 -
10/17

Toward a Rational, Equitable and Profitable Management of "Malagasy Baobabs" - Case of Menabe Region

Grantee: Madagasiraka Voakajy

Ensure sustainable exploitation of three species of Malagasy baobab in Betainkilotsy, Bepeha Andoviana to improve household income and livelihoods while conserving biodiversity. The project will strengthen organizational and technical capacities of local communities; involve local communities in the sustainable management of Malagasy baobabs; and establish a collaboration between various stakeholders (i.e., operators, local communities, local authorities and ministry of environment) in the baobab exploitation industry.

Amount \$19,326

Grant Term 04/16 -
01/18

Conservation of Madagascar Fish Eagle through Capacity Building and Partnership Between Site Managers

Grantee: The Peregrin Fund

Establish a mechanism for exchange between site managers and for a common ecological monitoring related to the conservation of the Critically Endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*).

Amount \$19,853

Grant Term 04/16 - 04/17

Projects in Mauritius

ASTIRIA - Cooperation Programme for the Conservation of Threatened Flora in Mauritius and Rodrigues Islands

Grantee: Arche aux Plantes

Work in close relationship with Mauritius partners, including the National Parks and Conservation Service and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, to set up a knowledge management system on the Mauritian flora that could inform decision-makers from the government, private sector and civil society. Introduce partners to the model of multistakeholder institutions set up in France for plant conservation called "Conservatoires Botaniques." The project will include a field component: the reintroduction in the wild of rare and endangered plants that have been safeguarded by the Conservatoire Botanique de Brest since the 1970s.

Amount \$151,021

Grant Term 04/16 - 03/19

Restoring Native Forest at Chamarel: Ecological Restoration, Species Reintroduction, and Reconnecting the Public with Nature

Grantee: **Ebony Forest Ltd**

Restore forest cover over 6 hectares of degraded land in Chamarel, Mauritius, as part of activities to re-create a natural area that hosts a great diversity of flora and fauna in Black River Gorge National Park. Demonstrate the value of innovative ecosystem restoration practices and raise awareness of the importance of native biodiversity. Create a facility for the preservation and multiplication of native snails, and develop a forest education program.

Amount \$77,707

Grant Term 02/16 - 03/19

Related News and Information [Safeguard document](#) (PDF - 154 KB)

Expanding Rodrigues Dry Coastal Forest at Plaine Corail in Mauritius to Protect Threatened Biodiversity

Grantee: **Francois Leguat Ltd**

Rodrigues Island, once described as covered with forest, is now considered one of the most degraded tropical islands in the world. The objective of François Leguat reserve, a privately owned tourism and conservation area, is to revive the original environment. With CEPF support, François Leguat aims at expending the restoration of ecosystem of six hectares of degraded land, including planting of about 100,000 native plants, and to develop a program of international eco-volunteers on ecosystem restoration and environmental education.

Amount \$58,954

Grant Term 04/16 - 05/19

Developing the Vision for Conservation of Saint Brandon

Grantee: Mauritian Wildlife Foundation

Establish a dialogue between all stakeholders involved in the management of the natural resources of St Brandon, collect baseline data that will help in the formulation of an agreed 'Vision for St Brandon' that will highlight the need for the sustainable management of natural resources.

Amount \$19,817

Grant Term 03/16 - 02/18

Support to Private Sector to Engage in the Conservation of Mauritius' Threatened Endemic Birds

Grantee: Erreur ! La référence de lien hypertexte est incorrecte.

Re-establish or strengthen populations of three endangered Mauritian birds (Mauritius Kestrel, Echo Parakeet, Pink Pigeon) on private estates. Sign memorandum of understanding with private sector stakeholders to ensure long-term protection of native birds, and build capacity of their staff on bird monitoring and management. Communicate lessons learned to other private sector stakeholders in Mauritius to prepare scaling of the approach.

Amount \$222,225

Grant Term 07/16 - 06/19

Projects in the Comoros

Identifying and Monitoring Terrestrial Conservation Priorities in the Comoro Islands, and Building Results into Policy and Practice

Grantee: Dahari

Map the remaining forests of the Comoro Islands to study the drivers of deforestation and the possible alternatives to cultivation and extraction of ylang-ylang, an essential oil that is a key element in the local economy; and define conservation plans for two important endangered species relying on these forests, Livingstone's fruit bat (*Pteropus livingstonii*) and mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*).

Amount \$175,000

Grant Term 07/15 - 02/18

Towards a Blueprint for Locally-Managed Marine Conservation in the Comoros: Building the Knowledge Base and Capacity for Monitoring and Management

Grantee: Blue Ventures Conservation

Improve the knowledge base in biology and socio-economics for the Bimbini Key Biodiversity Area of Anjouan Island in the Comoros, an area threatened by fishing. Identify better management practices for the fishing communities, based on what has been tried and tested by Blue Ventures with coastal communities in Madagascar, and work towards establishing the first Locally Managed Marine Protected Area in the Comoros.

Amount \$149,846
Grant Term 10/15 - 09/17

Projects in the Seychelles

Seychelles Magpie-Robin Project

Grantee: BirdLife International

Undertake emergency actions to understand and document the causes of the population collapse of the Seychelles magpie-robin (*Copsychus sechellarum*), which went from 38 to 12 individuals on Aride Island in the Seychelles in 2014; and take immediate actions to prevent further transmission of the disease, which is likely caused by a protozoan parasite, to other islands.

Amount \$19,697
Grant Term 06/15 - 02/16
Project Documents - Final Report (PDF - 497 KB)

Integrated Management and Ecosystem Restoration Program for Silhouette Island, Seychelles

Grantee: Island Conservation Society

The project sets up the foundation for improving the management of Silhouette, an island hosting the largest population of the World's rarest bat, *Coleura seychellensis*. ICS associates with the Hotel and Resort operating on the island to develop a new management plan for the entire island, biosafety protocol to prevent introduction of invasive species and to introduce best environmental practices in tourism industry. Codes-of-conduct will be published and shared with government and private sector operators in the Seychelles.

Amount \$150,000
Grant Term 06/16 - 07/18

Protection of KBA Biodiversity in Grand Police Wetland

Grantee: Marine Conservation Society Seychelles

Produce updated information on the biodiversity in the Seychelles' Grand Police Wetland using Geographic Information Systems layers of distribution for the four most common habitat types and the abundance and distribution of endemic species. Provide guidance on appropriate measures to be undertaken to improve or rehabilitate the wetland; activities that should not be allowed during the development; and appropriate buffer zones to secure access of endemic wildlife to foraging and critical wetland areas.

Amount \$19,996
Grant Term 05/16 - 04/17

Regional Projects

Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean: A Network of Researchers for Insect-Focused Approach to Conservation

Grantee: California Academy of Sciences

Set up "Insects and People of the Southwest Indian Ocean (IPSIO)" as a network of interdisciplinary insect researchers and organizations in the hotspot. IPSIO will provide local conservation decision-makers with information, tools, and expert analysis to enable insect data to be used directly in local and regional conservation and restoration planning efforts. It will serve the varied roles of central information clearinghouse, source for technical expertise, and advocacy group.

Amount	\$166,907
Grant Term	05/16 - 12/19