

CEPF REPORT OF GLOBAL IMPACT

Through 30 June 2017



CRITICAL | ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

About CEPF

Biodiversity—the rich array of life on Earth—is fundamental to human survival, but under tremendous and growing threat.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was founded in 2000 to address this challenge by empowering civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems.

WHAT MAKES CEPF UNIQUE

By supporting development of conservation strategies that are driven by local input, and providing grants to civil society—nongovernmental, communities, indigenous groups, the private sector and academic institutions—to implement those strategies, CEPF seeks to protect biodiversity, build long-term local conservation leadership and nurture sustainable development.

These strategies also are designed to be valuable to other entities working to conserve the hotspots, and often lead to collaboration and coordination with other organizations and governments.

CEPF's investments are especially important because the biodiversity hotspots are home to more than 1 billion people, millions of whom are impoverished and highly dependent on nature for survival.

OUR GRANTS:

- Are guided by [ecosystem profiles](#)—analyses of the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions in hotspots—that are produced by, and in consultation with, local stakeholders and serve as regional conservation strategies.
- Directly benefit civil society groups in the biodiversity hotspots to build this vital constituency for conservation alongside governmental partners.
- Are awarded on a competitive basis.
- Complement governments' efforts to meet targets related to [the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity \(the Aichi Targets\)](#), [Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), and [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
- Create working alliances among diverse groups, combining unique capacities and eliminating duplication of efforts.
- Achieve long-term results through an ever-expanding network of partners working together toward shared goals and enduring conservation leadership.

OUR DONOR PARTNERS

CEPF is a joint program 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.

For more information, please visit www.cepf.net.

2000 to 2018

24

Hotspot Strategies Implemented

2,178

Grantees Supported

US\$220M

Grants Committed

US\$371M

Amount Leveraged by Those Grants

14.7M

Hectares Protected Areas Created

Preamble



Tjujuh Belas Pulau National Park, Indonesia. © Conservation International/ photo by Aulia Erlangga

CEPF's Monitoring and Evaluation program has grown by leaps and bounds over the years. When CEPF started grant-making in 2001, monitoring was project-based, with data gathered for a few headline themes and no systematic methodology to gather or compile data. As one of CEPF's first grant directors, I experienced the challenge of gathering information from grantee reports that contained summaries of project results, but lacked specific detail, as no such questions were posed to grantees. As CEPF gained experience, and stature, and its grants yielded valuable contributions to conservation around the globe, it became clear that we needed to work harder at collecting data and at communicating our results. In 2006, an external evaluation confirmed this point, recommending that CEPF develop and adopt measures and indicators that would allow the Fund to understand and communicate its progress towards achieving the conservation outcomes, or targets, identified for each biodiversity hotspot. CEPF's global donors were in full agreement and supported our efforts to upgrade our monitoring.

CEPF then moved to improve grantee reporting, and to develop better processes for compiling and storing information. But we did not yet have a system to monitor global impact; we had not devoted adequate time to thinking about what we should report on, or why. In 2012, in consultation with experts and our global donors, we developed a monitoring framework with a suite of indicators addressing the most important objectives of the Fund. In 2015 I took on the challenge of starting CEPF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach Unit, and for the first time CEPF dedicated staff time to specifically focus on this topic. Putting the new framework into practice proved challenging however, and we soon

realized that our indicators needed to be revised, reworded, or even rethought entirely in some cases. We had indicators for which we could not collect adequate data, and we had ones that sought to measure changes that were unrelated to the actions of our grantees. Further, global priorities were broadening, with socio-economic issues gaining importance. It was clear that our monitoring framework needed to be re-examined and revised to better address the reporting needs of CEPF and its global donors.

Now, after much review, discussion, and guidance and consultation with our global donors, we have a new monitoring framework, with 16 targeted and tested indicators that aim to measure our impact in four areas of our work: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being and enabling conditions. We know where we need to be to collect, store, analyze and communicate our results, and are working on our systems to move them from development into operation. The 2017 report on global impact marks the first reporting on the new indicators, based on a new electronic grants management system that now houses all of CEPF's grant records. The systems are not without glitches as we blend historic with new data, communicate our new reporting needs to grantees in multiple languages using new reporting templates, and identify and rectify problems associated with transitioning CEPF's database of over 2,000 grant records to a new, completely different operating system. Despite these challenges, CEPF is well on its way to being able to report on its results accurately, regularly and comprehensively. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are making excellent progress.

- Nina Marshall, CEPF senior director for monitoring, evaluation and outreach

Background

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was established in 2000 to empower civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, which are some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems. The Fund 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. Since its inception, CEPF has awarded grants to 2,178 civil society organizations. These grants have been implemented in 24 biodiversity hotspots, covering 92 countries and territories, and amount to more than US\$220 million.

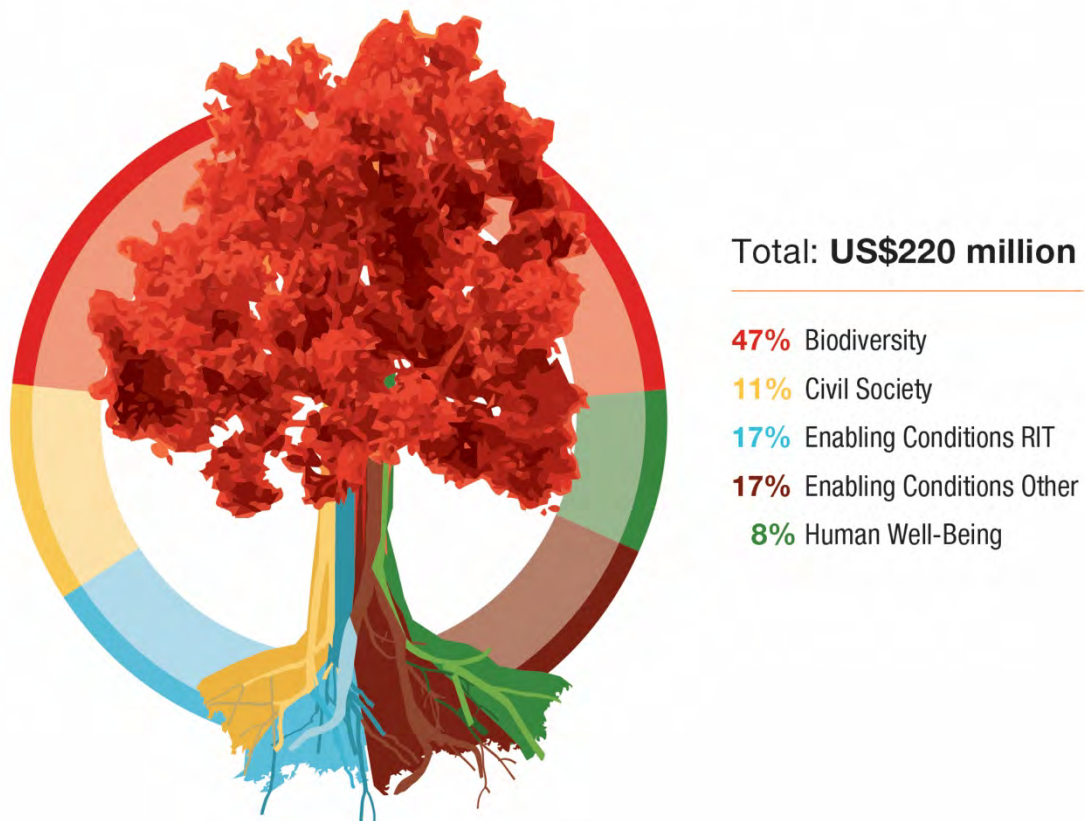
The CEPF program contributes to four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being and enabling conditions. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF, and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. An empowered and capacitated civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. Human well-being is directly

linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. CEPF aims to measure progress in all four of these interlinked pillars to gain a holistic understanding of the impact of the fund.

Each CEPF grant is assigned to one of the four pillars, determined by identifying the major focus of the grant. In this way, CEPF can determine, broadly, the number of grants and amount allocated for each of the pillars for the program as a whole. Additionally, CEPF can see the allocation for each hotspot to understand the focus of the program on a portfolio level. Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of funds for each pillar, as well as by hotspot.

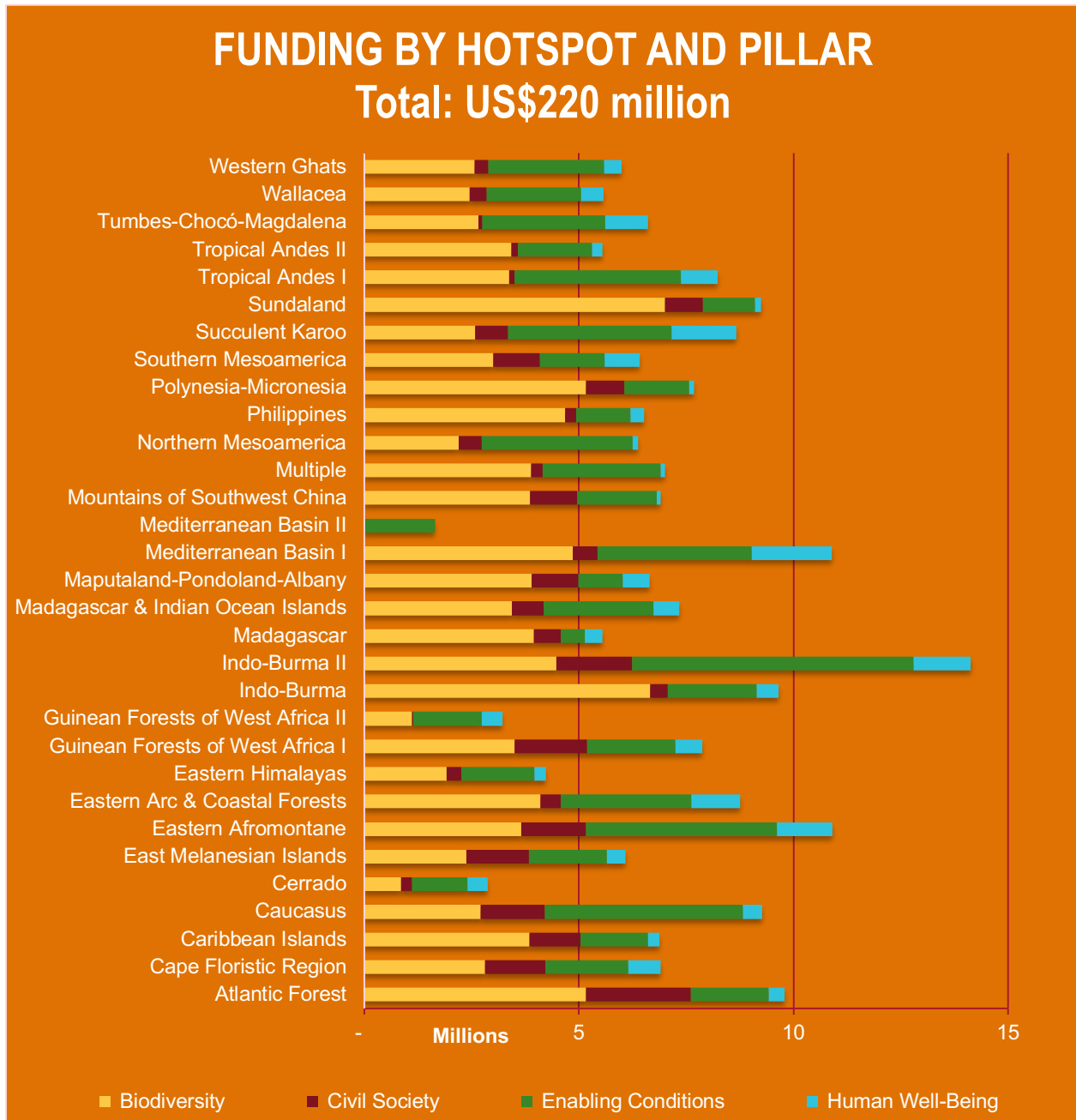
Figure 1

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY PILLAR



**RIT = regional implementation team.*

Figure 2



What one can see from these charts is that CEPF maintains a steady focus on biodiversity, with just under 50 percent of grant funds allocated in this category. Enabling conditions receives a significant allocation as well, noting that this amount includes funds to support the Regional Implementation Teams (RITs), CEPF’s on-the-ground institutions dedicated to rolling out CEPF’s strategy and grant-making in the hotspots. At present, allocations to RITs stand at 17 percent, a figure that is slated to reduce with the new investment portfolios in Cerrado and Guinean Forests of West Africa.

Data collection past and present

Each of CEPF's grantees makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. CEPF's efforts and capacity to capture the results of its grants have improved steadily over the past 16 years. CEPF's monitoring system has evolved from a simplistic effort focused on rudimentary data collection and an emphasis on stories, to a complex framework applicable to grants of all sizes and scope, capable of articulating global impact and contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and CBD Aichi Biodiversity targets, in quantitative and qualitative ways.

CEPF's new monitoring framework, approved by CEPF's donors in 2017, contains 16 global indicators, all designed to report on impact resulting from CEPF investment. The framework is supported by comprehensive reporting tools and templates, available in multiple languages. Data collection by grantees is facilitated by the RITs and Secretariat staff. Data are collected in both online and offline formats, depending on whether grantees receive a large grant or a small grant, as determined by hotspot-specific grant amount thresholds. For small grants, US\$50,000 is the upper limit.

In 2016/2017, CEPF transitioned to a new electronic grants management system, *ConservationGrants*. This new system is a full spectrum electronic grants management system, covering every facet of grant making from applications to grant implementation to project close out. Key for CEPF's monitoring efforts is that this system allows for electronic report submission, and automated storage and aggregation of impact data submitted via each grantee report. Although still under development for the reporting part of the equation, the system already includes numerous elements and tools, with completion of the reporting part of the system expected in mid-2018. Once completed, *ConservationGrants* will allow CEPF to report on its impact accurately and regularly.

At the time of report preparation, CEPF had just commenced reporting on its new monitoring framework. Therefore, while there is some continuity of indicators, there are other aspects of the framework that are new. For example, sex-disaggregated data has only been collected routinely since mid-2017, but now is requested for all beneficiaries of cash and non-cash benefits. New reporting templates have been rolled out, but are only used at the close of a grant, whereas in the past CEPF collected impact data on an annual basis. In this way, CEPF avoids the possibility of duplication of results, but also recognizes that there will be a lag between projects that might have reported results in 2017, but now will not report until their project comes to a close.

CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators, adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. Data collection has been feasible for some of the indicators, as processes were already in place to capture the data. For others, where systems were not yet in place, data

capture is in its infancy. Each indicator is listed below, by pillar. Of importance to note is that global impact data is collected once for each grant, at the end of the project.

Biodiversity

- Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.
- Number of hectares of KBAs with improved management.
- Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.
- Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).
- Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.

Civil Society

- Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).
- Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).
- Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.

Human Well-Being

- Number of people receiving structured training.
- Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.
- Number of people receiving cash benefits.

Enabling Conditions

- Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.
- Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.

CEPF's results are compiled for the program as a whole as well as by hotspot. For some indicators, where relevant, CEPF has categorized the results by region. Several hotspots span regions. For example, Mediterranean Basin projects occur in either Africa, Europe or the Middle East; and Eastern Afrotropical projects in Yemen are counted in the Middle East. These regions are:

- Africa
- Asia (including Caucasus)
- Caribbean
- Central America
- Europe
- Middle East
- Pacific Islands
- South America

This report covers CEPF impact from fund inception in January 2001 through June 30, 2017.

CEPF Pillar 1: Biodiversity

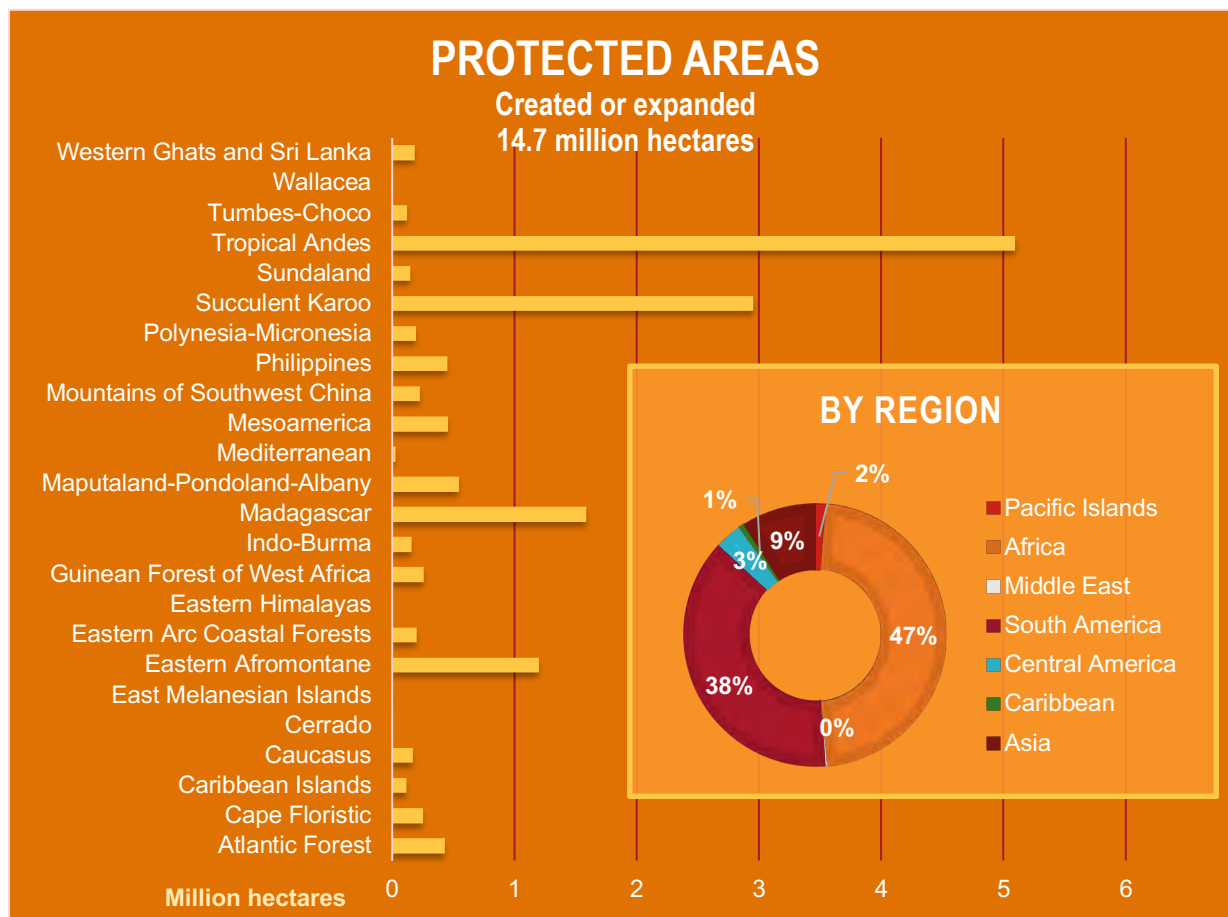


Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania. © Conservation International/photo by Russell A. Mittermeier

Indicator: Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.

Protected areas creation has been a priority for CEPF since the Fund's establishment in 2000. To date, CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,783,708 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots (Figure 3), an increase of about 250,000 hectares reported over the previous year. Notable is that this increase is not only from 2016 to 2017, as grantee final reports record accomplishments at the end of their project, rather than on an annual basis. Therefore, protected areas reported for 2017 may have been afforded legal protection prior to 2017. To be included, protected areas must demonstrate formal legal declaration, and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. Stewardship and community agreements, insofar as they are legally binding, are also included in this amount. The charts below show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot, and by region.

Figure 3



CEPF’s new protected areas vary in size and type. Below are some examples of new areas not previously recorded.

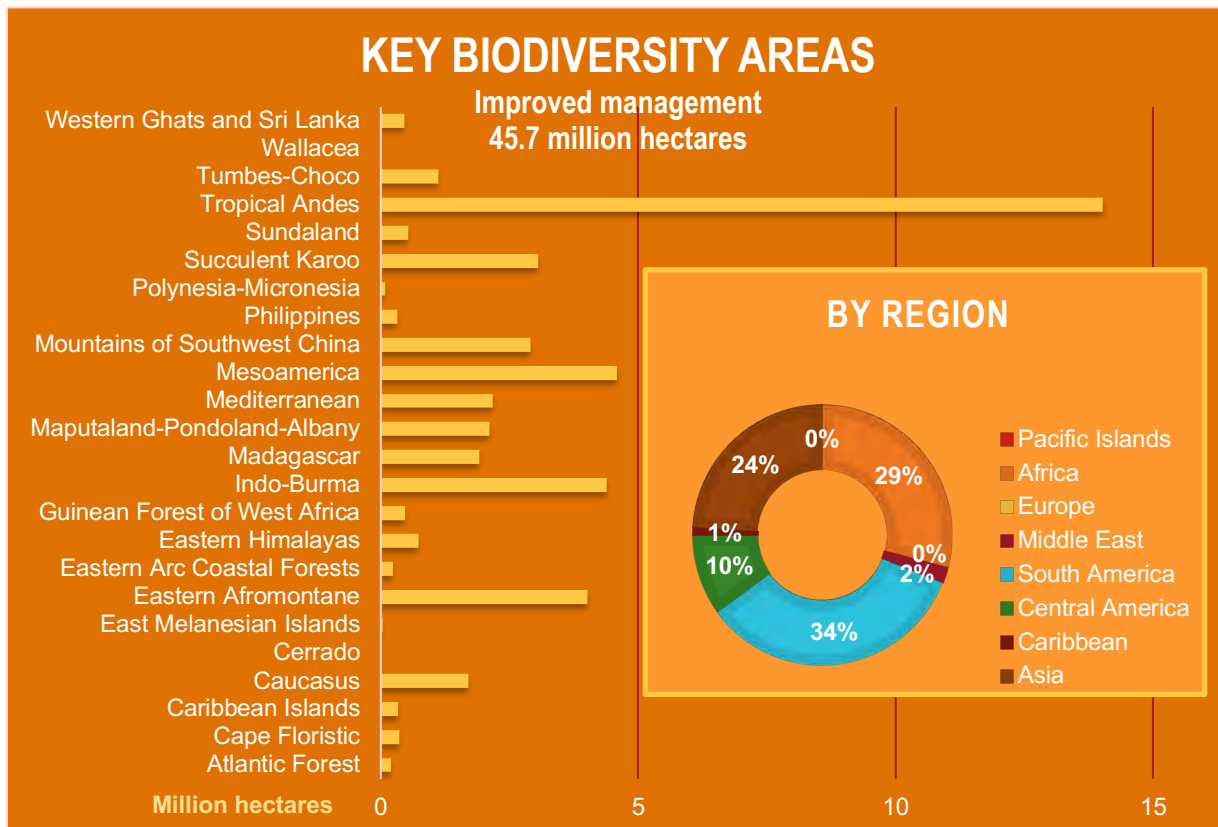
Protected Area	Description
Nong Kure Khao, Thailand Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot	In 2016, through the work of the Mekong Community Institute Association, 192 hectares were declared as a Fish Conservation Zone, and protected via community agreement.
Greater Mahale Landscape, Tanzania Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot	Through a grant to Fauna and Flora International, the Ntakata Forest, in the Greater Mahale landscape in Tanzania, has been expanded from 18,300 hectares to 48,550 hectares. This expansion comprises 37,468 hectares in Lugonesi Village and 11,082 hectares in Mgambazi Village with a status as Village Land Forest Reserve. The reserve is managed under a community agreement, with distinct management plans for each village, signed in 2014.
Anjar Responsible Hunting Area, Lebanon Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot	The Lebanese Environment Forum has worked to design and promote responsible hunting areas (RHA) in Lebanon, and in 2015 created a 40-hectare responsible hunting area in Anjar. This area has a management plan, as well as a business and monitoring plan.

As one can see from above and from Figure 3, significant hectare gains have been made in South America and in Africa. Gains in other hotspots are not as great in terms of size, however, they are still extremely important where opportunities to increase the protected area estate are few, such as in the Mediterranean, or where the land area is small, as in the East Melanesian Islands and the Caribbean Islands.

Indicator: Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management.

Improving the management and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) is a fundamental objective of CEPF. To be counted, an area must be a KBA, must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the KBA. There must be a plausible attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management, such as increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, or introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. To date, CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 45,752,076 hectares in 22 hotspots (Figure 4). Number of hectares strengthened by region is also presented.

Figure 4





Focus on Djebel Babor, Algeria

In Algeria, the Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement prepared for the creation of the protected area of Babor and Tababort, by updating technical information, undertaking an analysis of the socio-economic context of the region, updating the status of the site's fauna and flora, preparing a cartographic atlas of the proposed site, and organizing consultation meetings to establish Djebel Babor and Tababort as a protected area.

Photos, from top: Babor Forest, and Algerian nuthatch. Both images © AREA-ED

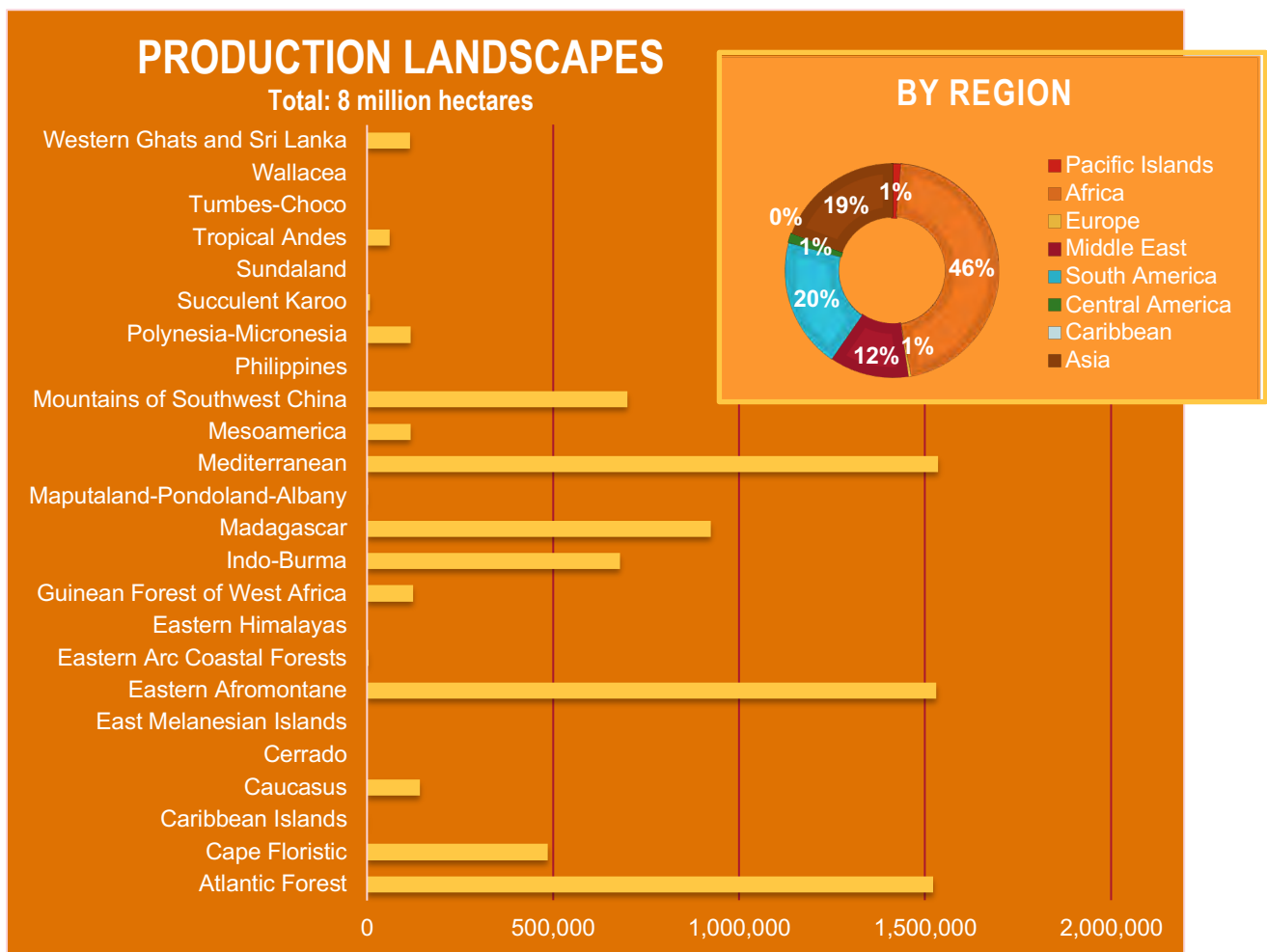


Indicator: Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.

Many CEPF projects take place in production landscapes, areas where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occur. For an area to be considered as "strengthened," it can benefit from a wide range of actions that contribute to improved management. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Since 2001, CEPF has contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 8,067,020 hectares (Figure 5). Most gains have taken place since 2008, when CEPF systematically started to document achievements in production landscapes. Most recent increases have taken place in the recently completed investment phase in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, as well as the ongoing investment in Eastern Afromontane Hotspot. Notably, Figure 5 shows that hectares counted in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot accrue to the regions of Africa and the Middle East.

Figure 5





Ecotourist photographing sea turtles on Boa Vista. © Conservation International/ photo by Pierre Carret

Focus on Beaches of Boa Vista, Cape Verde

Grantee BIOS.CV – Association for the Conservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development worked to enhance ecofriendly tourism on 37,936 hectares of Boa Vista Island by producing information about the site, developing environmental awareness activities and scheduling outdoor tourist events in the region. The project targeted fishermen, visitors, tourists, tourist agents and local stakeholders. In particular, the grantee stimulated a solid understanding of green tourism and the development of an official “environmentally friendly” logo for companies and organizations that adhere to eco-friendly tourism practices.

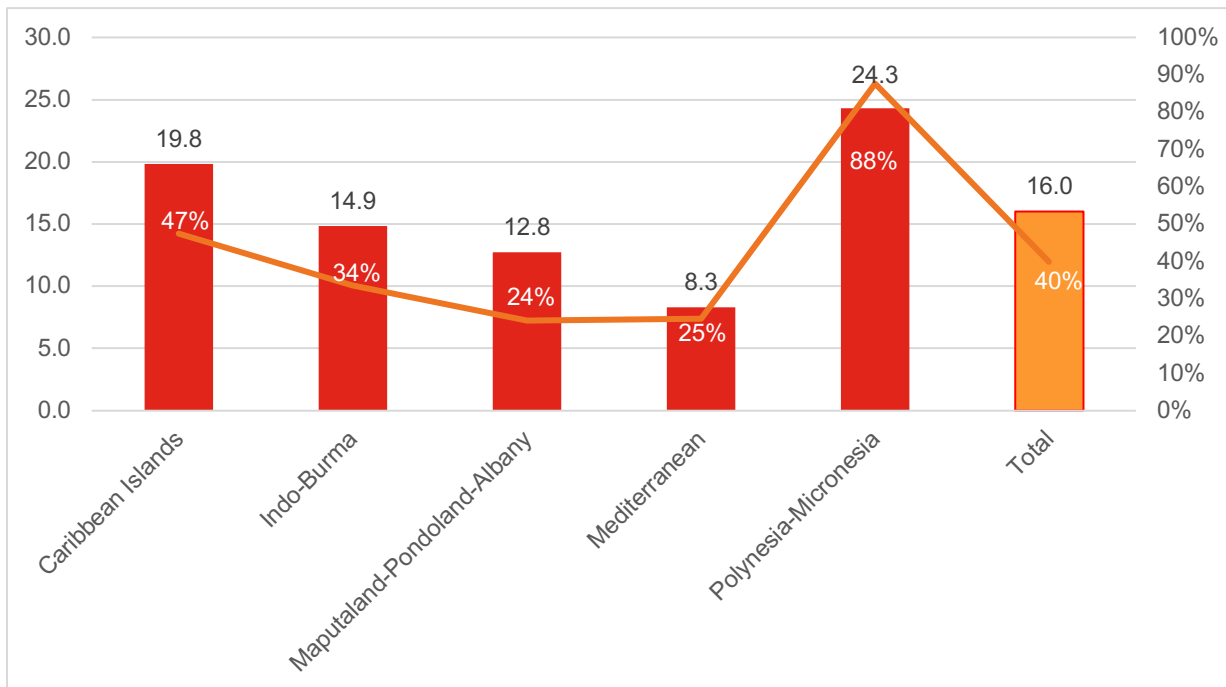
Indicator: Number of protected areas with improved management.

CEPF strives to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Changes in score are determined by comparing a baseline scorecard to a final scorecard completed at the end of investment in a targeted protected area. To date, CEPF has recorded improved management in 66 protected areas, as measured by a completed cycle of the METT scorecard.

To put this figure in context, to date, CEPF has received 245 METT scorecards from 14 biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia,

Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes and Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena). As of June 2017, 79 of the 245 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 79 protected areas, 66 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness. For five hotspots with newly completed METT scorecards this year, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 16 points on average (+40 percent) (Figure 6). As such, CEPF has been contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in helping countries increase the percentage coverage of protected area that has been assessed, as well as increasing their management effectiveness over time.

Figure 6: Average and percentage change in METT score for five hotspots.





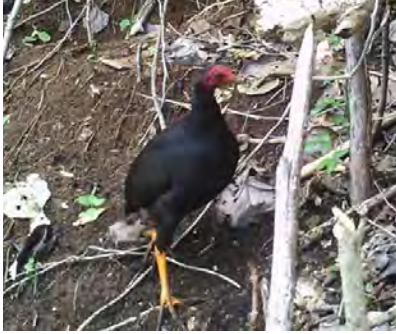
Indicator: Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.

CEPF has supported a total of 224 projects with a specific focus on species conservation, valued at US\$20,157,103. These projects have resulted in more than 1,250 species benefiting from conservation action. Further, with a new indicator approved in 2017 specifically aimed at identifying the species that each project focuses on, in the future CEPF will be able to provide more detailed information about the species that benefit from CEPF projects, and what actions have been taken to improve their status.

1,250

GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES BENEFITING

The following table lists some of the species CEPF grantees in the East Melanesian Islands are focusing on.

<p>Vangunu giant rat</p>  <p><i>Illustration by Velizar Simeonovski/The Field Museum</i></p>	<p>In the Solomon Islands, CEPF supported a team from the University of Queensland in their efforts to research the status and conservation of the Solomon Islands' most threatened endemic terrestrial vertebrates, leading to the discovery of a new species, the Vangunu giant rat, the first new mammal to be discovered in the country in 80 years. The project entailed outreach and awareness activities with local communities and customary landowners to support conservation and management of this species and others identified during the surveys.</p>
<p>Temotu flying fox</p>  <p>© Ray Pierce</p>	<p>OceansWatch, through their project, "Empowering the People of Temotu to Protect Their Significant Biodiversity," worked with local communities to map ecosystems and inventory mammal and bird diversity at Vanikoro and Nendo Key Biodiversity Areas in the Solomon Islands' Temotu Province. The group raised awareness about conservation issues, supported creation of conservation committees in three communities to sustainably manage marine and terrestrial resources, and established a women's sustainable livelihoods cooperative to increase income in Vanikoro's Buma Village.</p>
<p>Vanuatu scrubfowl</p>  <p>© Mark O'Brien</p>	<p>In Vanuatu, BirdLife International and local partner Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network, through their project "Preparing and Implementing a Management Plan for Megapodes on Tongoa, Vanuatu," are working to assist the Kurumambe community at Tongoa/Laika Key Biodiversity Area with establishing a resource management system for sustainable wild harvest of Vanuatu megapode eggs. The system is based on traditional ecological knowledge and is informed by an improved understanding of the ecology and population dynamics of the species.</p>

CEPF Pillar 2: Civil society



MIHARI, a Madagascar-based organization, conducts community leader training. © MIHARI Network/Dina Ramarozatovo

Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity.

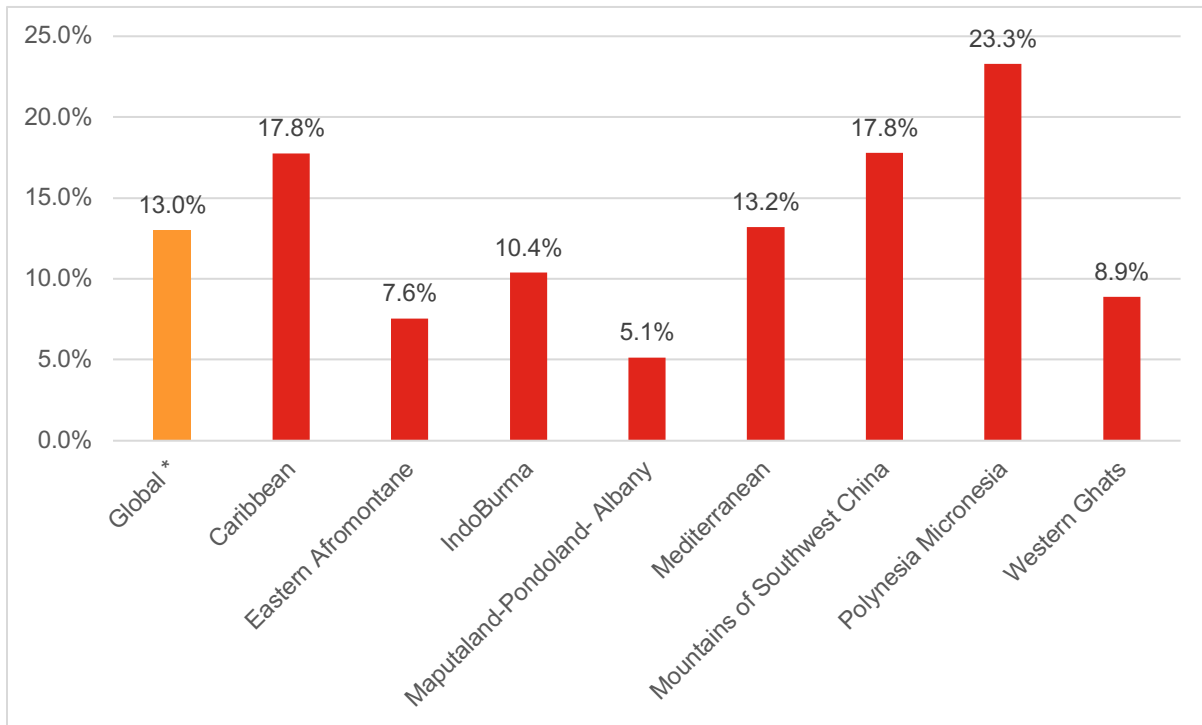
Since 2010, CEPF has used the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), a self-assessment tool developed by CEPF, to measure change in civil society organizational capacity.

Assessments are completed at the start and end of a project, and as of June 2017, CEPF had received 198 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from large grantees, small grantees and subgrantees, which is an increase of 81 over the previous year. These assessments come from 12 hotspots: Caribbean Islands, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and the Western Ghats. Review of these assessments reveals that of the 198 organizations that have completed their reporting cycles, 152 have recorded an increase in organizational capacity.

Further, eight biodiversity hotspots (Caribbean Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia and Western Ghats) had a significant number of organizations that submitted at least two CSTT scorecards. Within those eight hotspots, there was an overall

increase of 8.2 points (+13 percent) in the capacities of civil society organizations. This is an increase of 0.4 points compared to last year. Figure 7 shows this percent change in civil society capacity globally and by region during CEPF investment.

Figure 7. Average percentage of change in civil society capacities with support from CEPF, FY2010-FY2017.



Focus on Notre Grand Bleu

The case of Notre Grand Bleu, a Tunisian nongovernmental organization created in 2012, is of particular interest to illustrate the impact that CEPF can have on a nascent local organization often considered of high financial risk by the majority of donors. When it received its first grant from CEPF in 2015, which was its first grant ever, Notre Grand Bleu had an all-volunteer



Notre Grand Bleu team members meet to discuss activities.
© Conservation International/ photo by Pierre Carret

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Focus on Notre Grand Bleu

Continued from page 16

staff and no accounting system. Its baseline CSTT score was a low 21 out of 100. This organization is now the first to co-manage a protected area in Tunisia. While CEPF accounted for 95 percent of Notre Grand Bleu's budget in 2015, other donors have gradually taken over, and NGB has secured for 2018 (its first year without CEPF support) a budget of US\$110,000 from seven donors (including two national ones), such as the Association for the Sustainable Financing of Mediterranean MPA, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) under the Barcelona Convention, and the French Conservatoire du Littoral.

The organization now has six permanent staff, seven civil service staff (a national program for young professional) and 20 volunteers. The association works with fishermen and tourism professionals, and has developed an education program, in addition to the protected area management activities. It has a defined organizational structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility. Its administrative procedures, as well as its financial management and reporting, are now monitored, audited and reported on regularly, and under the responsibility of a chief accountant. Its final CSTT score rose to 72 points. The initial CEPF grant of US\$160,000 for 118 months was extended three times, to reach US\$185,000 over 2.5 years, and had a component dedicated to strengthening the capacities of the association and its partners with one deliverable specifically focused on its operational capacities (management of the association, finances, human resources, fundraising, etc.).

Indicator: Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues.

Gender refers to the social and cultural attributes of being a man or a woman. Gender can influence natural resource use, needs, knowledge and priorities. It can also influence power, access, control and ownership over natural resources. Consideration of gender can affect the quality of stakeholder engagement and participation, the quality of social outcomes, and the delivery of benefits to project participants. Additionally, it can affect the sustainability of conservation outcomes.

In 2016, CEPF developed its gender policy which stipulates that staff of the CEPF Secretariat, Regional Implementation Teams and grantees should understand and take into account the different roles of men and women in CEPF-related activities at all scales and that gender issues and considerations will be actively incorporated throughout the grant-making process while progress on gender-related outcomes will be monitored.

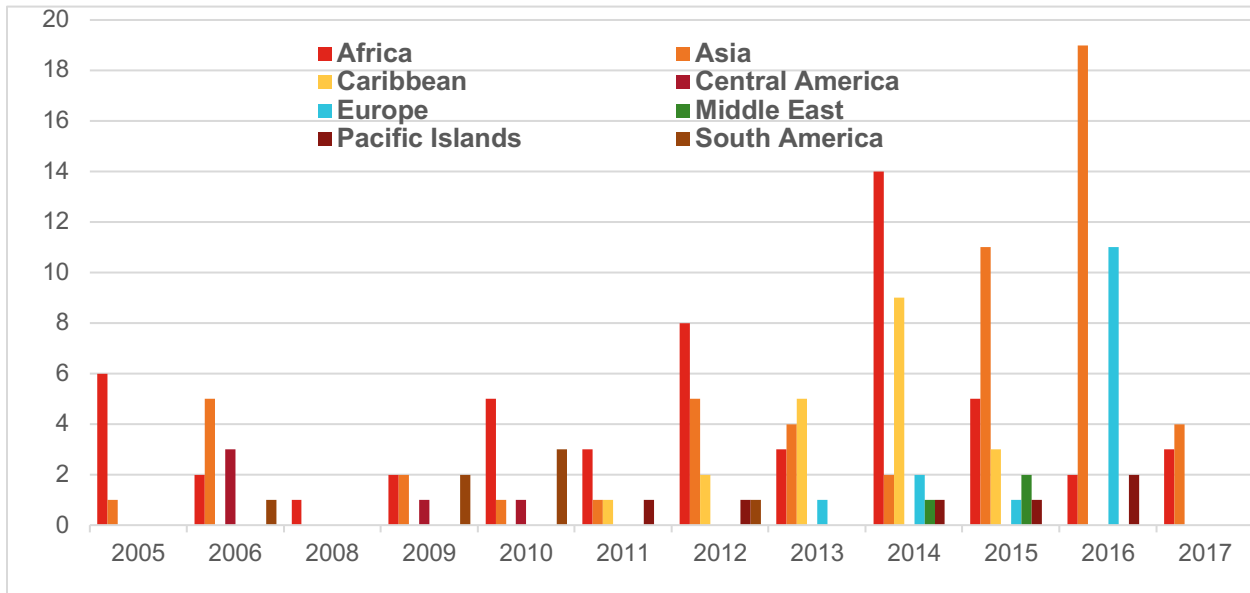
The Gender Tracking Tool (GTT) was developed shortly after to help determine if there is a change in the grantees' understanding and the integration of gender. Based on the same principle as the Civil Society Tracking Tool, the GTT is a self-assessment tool that can be used by an organization to understand if and to what extent gender considerations have been integrated into its program and operations. The tool consists of eight questions for a total possible score of 20 with the last question being a yes-no-maybe choice. It should be completed twice, at the start of a project (within the first three months) and at the end of the project (together with the project's final completion report). All grantees and sub-grantees should complete the Gender Tracking Tool. The tool started being used in 2017.

As of June 2017, CEPF received 63 assessments from large grantees, small grantees and subgrantees across four hotspots: Cerrado, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, and Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands. The latter two hotspots have the highest number of GTTs (28 and 30 respectively) as CEPF investments only just started in the Cerrado and the Guinean Forests of West Africa. The overall average score was 7.6 points (38 percent). Indo-Burma shows a slightly higher average score (nine) than Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands (five). All the questions received an average of one point out of a highest possible score of three. While 57 percent of the 63 respondents did not respond to the last question about whether or not they would be interested in learning more or receiving training about gender issues, 23 of the respondents (36 percent) requested additional training from the Secretariat on gender issues. Acting upon this request will be a top priority in 2018.

Indicator: Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.

Partnerships are key to CEPF's work. Sound partnerships and strong networks can help to assure sustainability of conservation outcomes, by promoting support and inclusion in efforts and activities on a broad range of themes. CEPF has supported 209 partnerships since inception and has been involved in the creation of 161 of them. The emphasis on partnerships has increased since the early years of the Fund, and for the years 2016 and 2017, a total of 42 partnerships received CEPF support. These partnerships have diverse objectives, ranging from species protection, to strengthening the role of women in conservation, to giving a voice to indigenous peoples.

Figure 8. Number of networks and partnerships supported by CEPF, by region and year. Total: 209 supported.



Africa, Asia and Europe show large increases in the number of partnerships supported during the reporting period, due to the close of the first phase of investment in the Mediterranean Basin, and grant-making well underway in Indo-Burma and Eastern Afromontane. Two networks are highlighted below.

Focus on Two Networks

In Cambodia, Highlanders Association, through their grant “Mobilization of Indigenous Communities for Resource Protection and Indigenous Peoples Rights,” worked with seven indigenous peoples associations to provide training in leadership, organizational management, governance and transparency, with the goal of assisting these marginalized



Indigenous peoples in Cambodia take action to protect their forest. © Dam Chanthy

groups to exercise their rights to protect their forest and land. The project merged the seven associations into the Ratanakiri Indigenous Peoples Alliance, and through this partnership, Ratanakiri Indigenous Peoples have been able to make their voices heard in the international arena on issues affecting their culture and tradition, as well as their environment. Through these efforts, multiple collaborative actions have taken place, including adoption of collective farming and saving groups, and trainings on market access and education for indigenous peoples and the impacts of private companies in the agriculture and mining sectors on access to land and resources.

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Focus on Two Networks

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In Eastern Afromontane, women in leadership positions in conservation from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia have come together to form a dynamic group that will support them in their roles as leaders in conservation. The group has met to share experiences, identify gender gaps in conservation activities and discuss ways to promote gender equality in the conservation sector. They have come up with over 50 practical ways to actively support women to overcome the multiple barriers they face to equal participation in conservation activities. These included mentoring and coaching young women interested in conservation, ensuring thoughtful participation of women and girls from the local communities where conservation activities take place, improving facilities for women at workplaces (including field sites), building supportive personal networks for encouragement and confidence building. The group communicates via the WhatsApp texting service.



The Women in Conservation Leadership Group shares experiences and tools to bridge the gender gap. © Anthony Ochieng/BirdLife/RIT

CEPF Pillar 3: Human well-being



Woman weaving, Flores Island, Indonesia. © Conservation International/ photo by Aulia Erlangga

Indicator: Number of people receiving structured training.

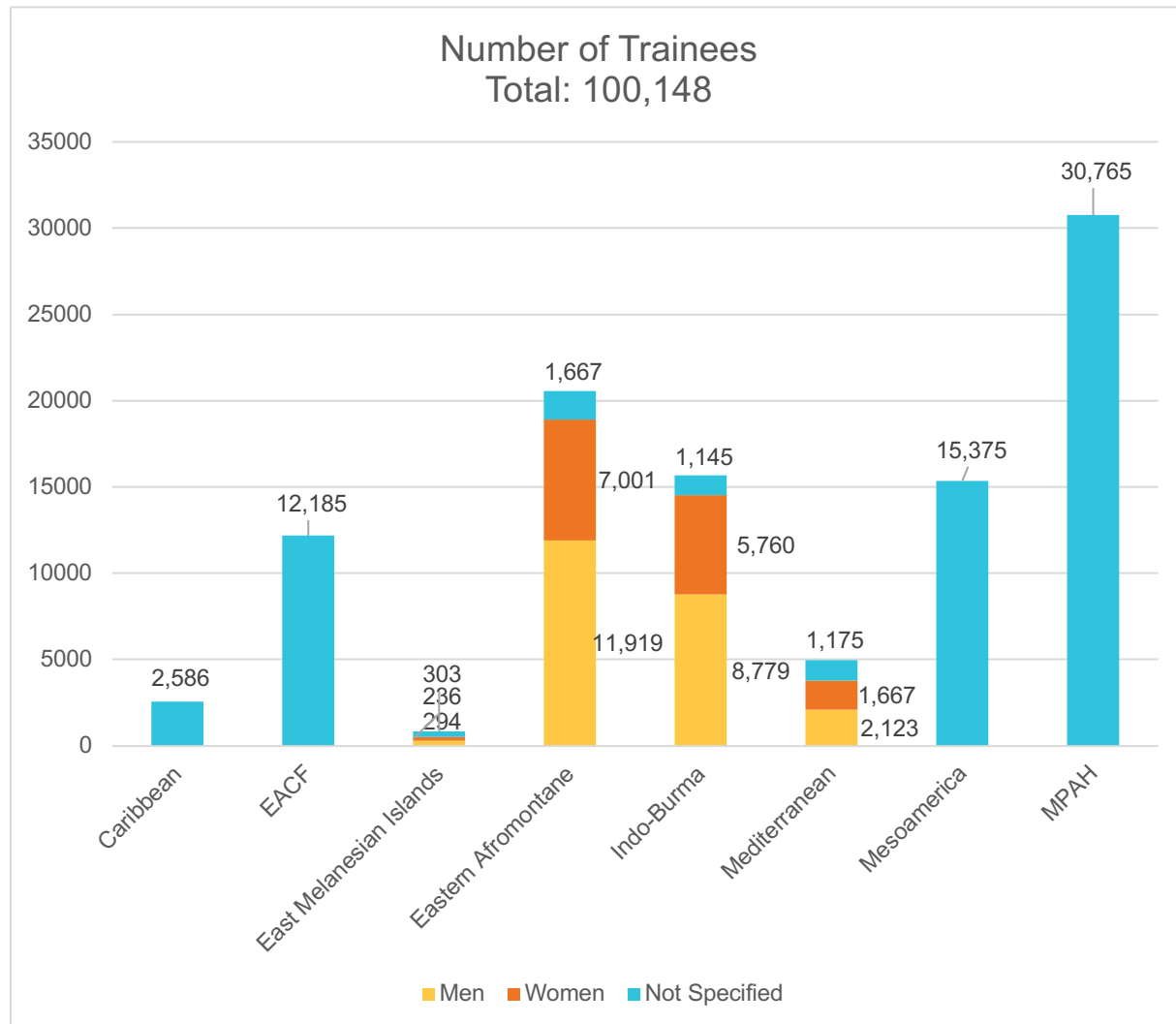
In 2017, CEPF adopted a firm indicator pertaining to training, a key element of CEPF's work. Grantees are now requested to provide information about the number of men and women receiving structured training. This could include any organized or formal training opportunity such as a workshop, classroom activity, university program, formal site visit or exchange program.

Although CEPF is just starting to compile these data in a systematic manner, data from previous reporting periods does exist. Nevertheless, it is clear from Figure 9 that data are improving in quality, as demonstrated by four hotspots providing sex-disaggregated data: Indo-Burma, Eastern Afrotropical, East Melanesian Islands and Mediterranean Basin. To date, over 100,000 people have received structured training because of CEPF.

Training topics have been diverse, such as taxonomy, ecology, plant collection, botany, resource management, GPS, ranger training, fundraising, coconut oil production, community leadership, Ridge to Reef, field survey techniques, nursery establishment, financial management, giant clam management, bookkeeping, accounting, resource

surveys, invasive species management, turtle monitoring, and sustainable tourism, just to name a few.

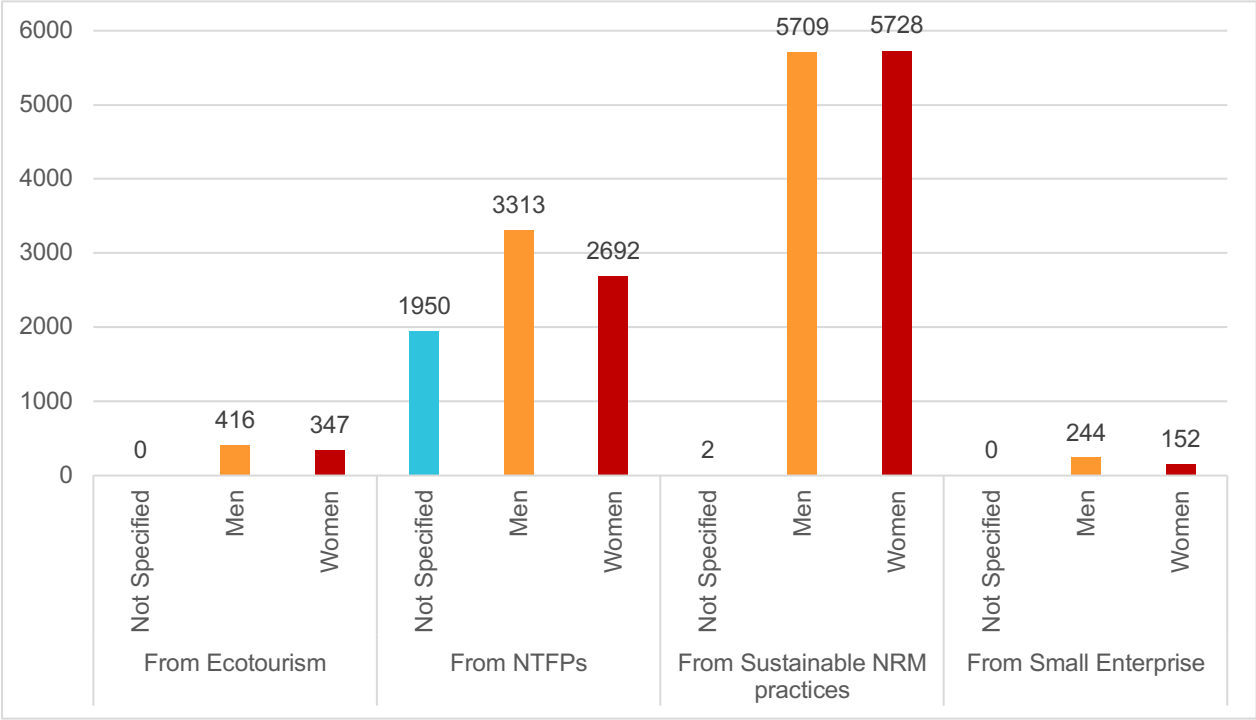
Figure 9: Number of people receiving structured training, by hotspot.



Indicator: Number of people receiving cash benefits.

Also in 2017, CEPF started to systematically collect data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits, such as increased income from employment, or increased income from livelihood activities. To date, many records do not mention sex of the person receiving cash benefits, but this is set to change as awareness increases about the need for accurate data recording. Even within this short reporting period, CEPF grantees have recorded a total of 42,992 people receiving cash benefits. Figure 10 provides sex-disaggregated data for four hotspots for number of beneficiaries, by type of income.

Figure 10: Number of beneficiaries per type of income in East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Indo-Burma and Mediterranean Basin hotspots.



Indicator: Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.

CEPF’s efforts to measure non-cash benefits have evolved significantly over the years. Initial data pertained simply to number of communities benefiting, while as of 2017, efforts are underway to record number of communities, characteristics of each communities, the types of non-cash benefits received, and estimated number of males and females in each community receiving these benefits. Non-cash benefits include increased access to clean water, increased food security, increased access to energy, increased access to public services, increased resilience to climate change, improved land tenure, improved recognition of traditional knowledge, improved representation and decision-making in governance forums, and improved delivery of ecosystem services.

Specifically, since inception 2,804 communities have benefited from CEPF projects. Since data collection commenced in 2017 to calculate the number people in these communities, a total of 56,265 people have been recorded as receiving benefits, 27,745 of whom are women and girls. Figure 11 shows the distribution of the 2,804 communities that have benefited from CEPF projects, and Figure 12 demonstrates that the majority of these communities are subsistence economy, small landowner and/or indigenous peoples. Types of benefits are presented in Figure 13, showing that communities have increased

representation in governance, and increased recognition of traditional knowledge, in over 20% of the communities receiving benefits.

Figure 11: Number of communities benefiting from CEPF projects, by region, FY01-FY17.

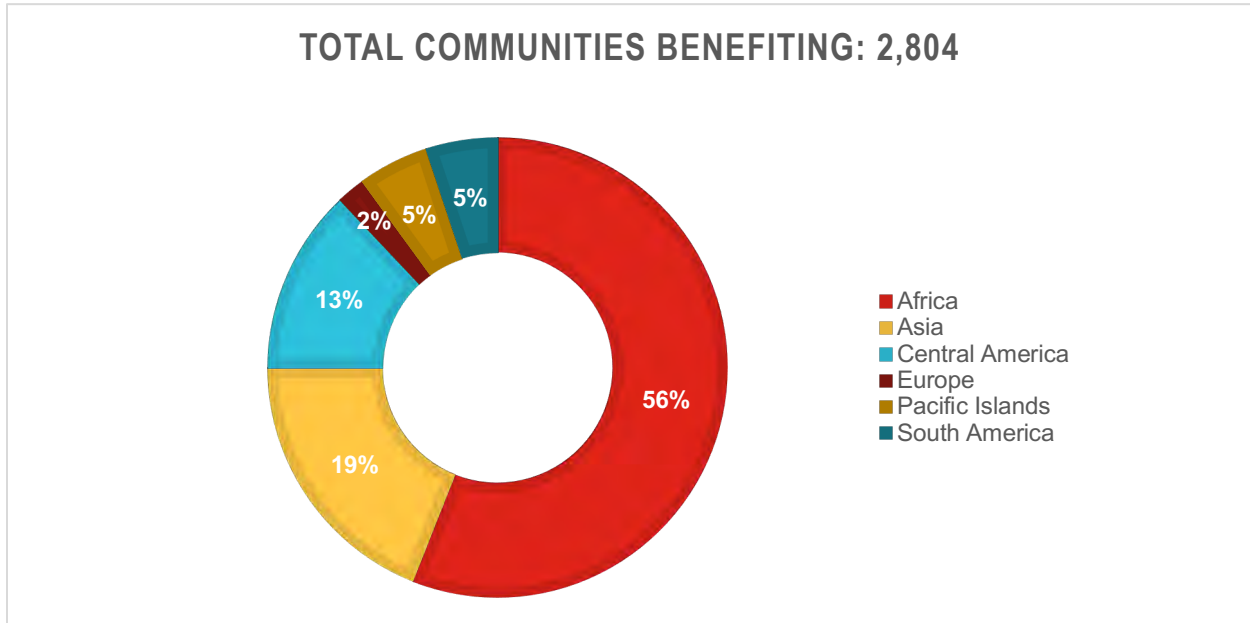


Figure 12: Characteristics of the communities benefiting from CEPF projects, FY01-FY17.

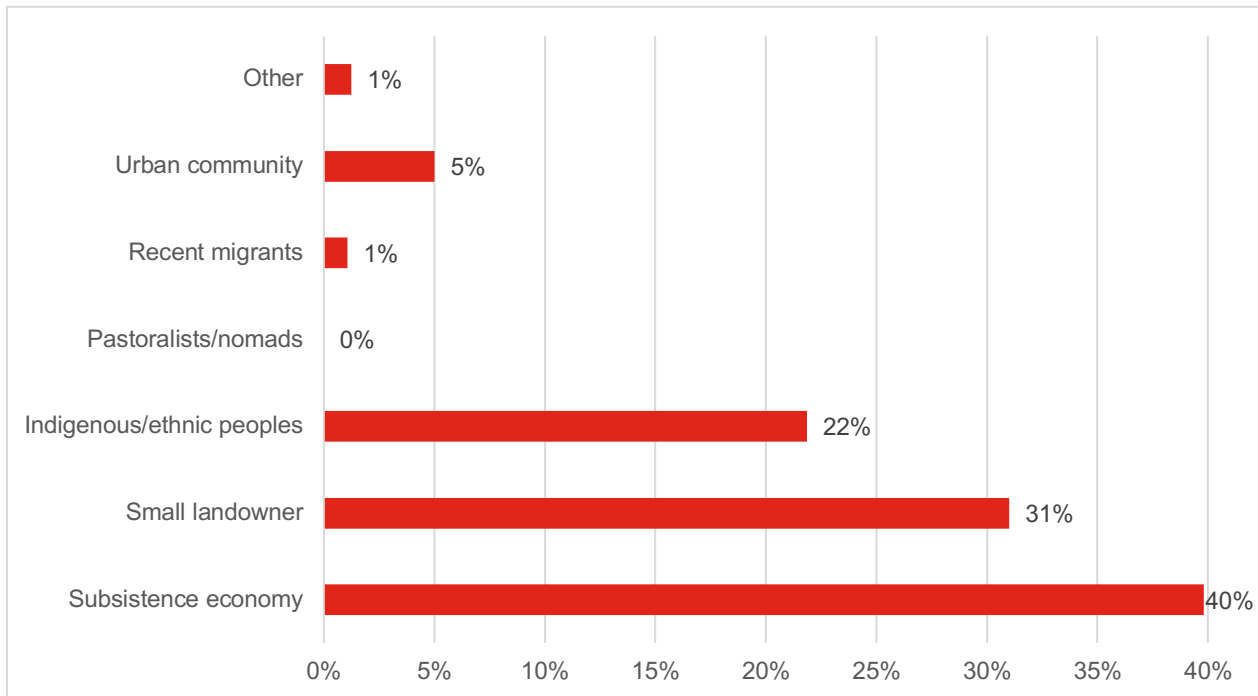
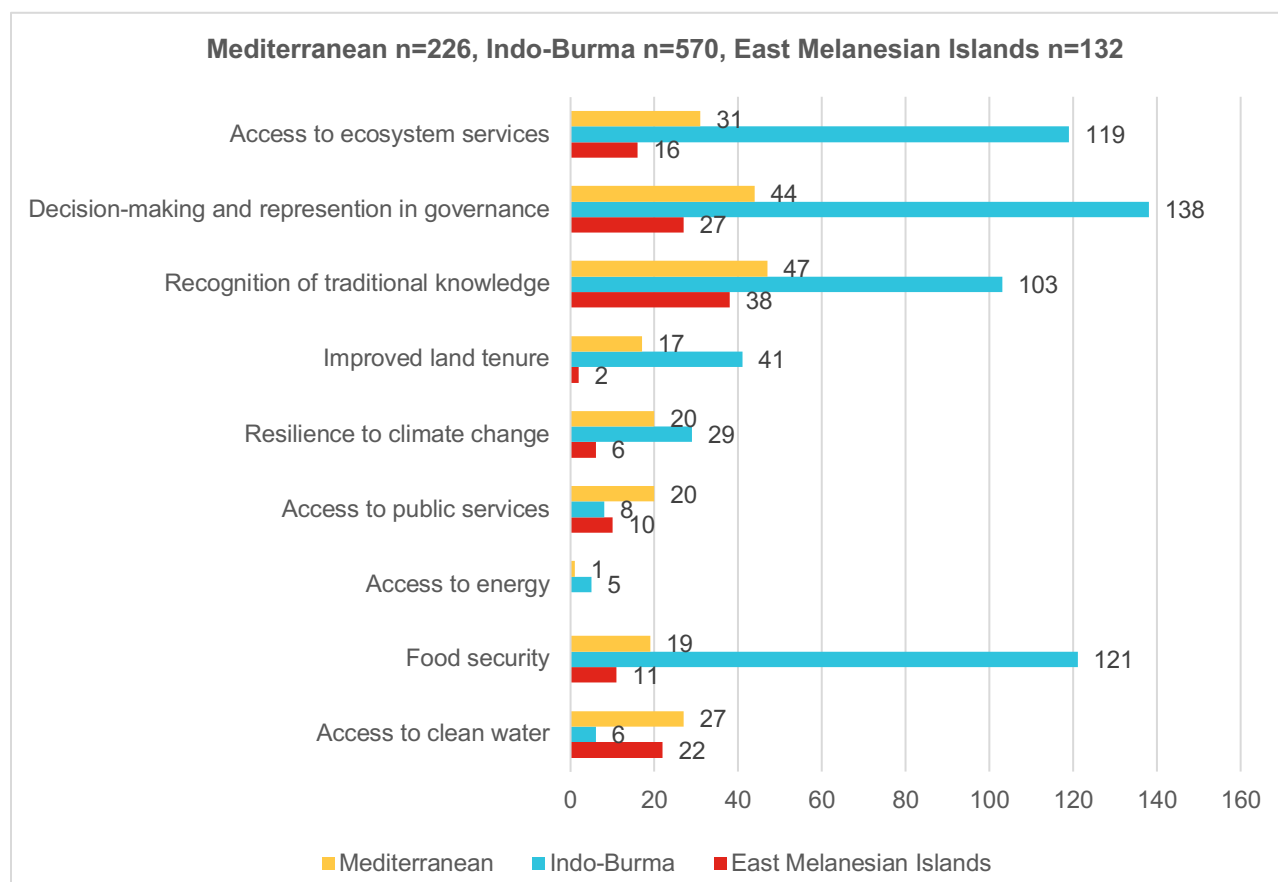


Figure 13: Types of benefits received by number of communities in three hotspots.



Indicator: Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

Natural ecosystems are essential to help people adapt to changes in climate, and CEPF’s grantees are working hard to secure these areas. CEPF supports grantees to undertake a range of actions including sustainable land and water management, efforts to reduce deforestation, mangrove restoration, and diversifying nature-based livelihoods. These nature-based solutions to combat climate change are effective approaches that help people, particularly the poor in rural and urban areas, adapt to changes in climate, and to alleviate the negative impacts of climate change. CEPF has calculated the number of projects promoting nature-based solutions by compiling figures for the broad categories of projects strengthening protection and management of areas within and outside of protected areas. Therefore, to date, CEPF has supported a total 317 projects that promote nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

317

PROJECTS PROMOTING NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Amount of CO₂e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats

Adopted in 2017, this is a new indicator for which methodology is under development. Impact data will not be available until next year.

CEPF Pillar 4: Enabling conditions for conservation

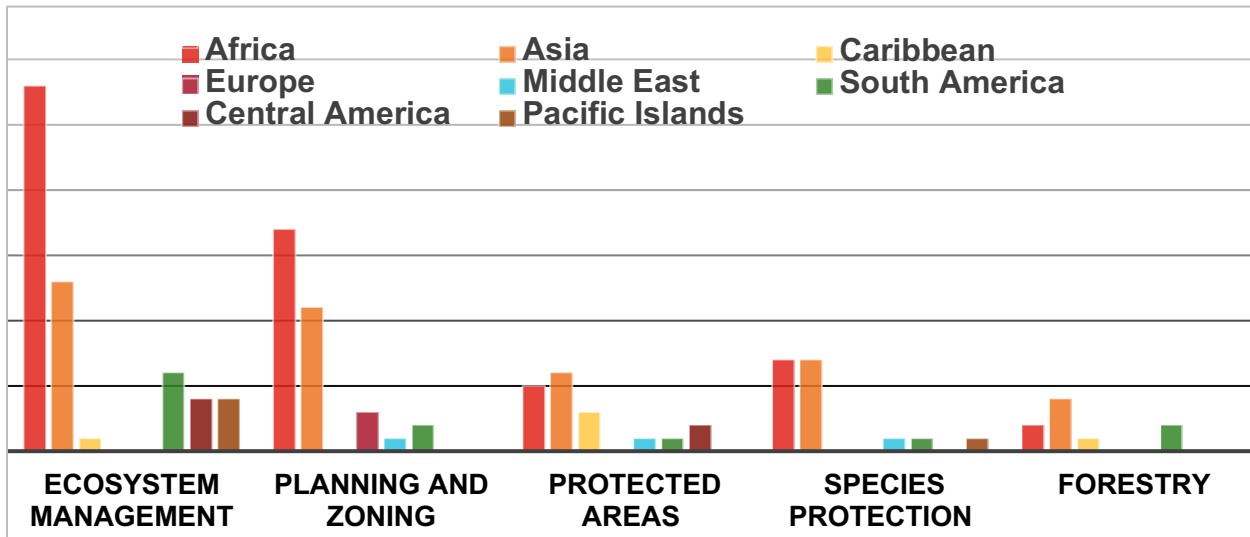


Reserva Privada el Zorzal, Dominican Republic. © Olivier Langrand

Indicator: Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.

An effective policy environment is critical to sustain and strengthen conservation action. To date CEPF has supported 140 projects with an explicit focus on biodiversity mainstreaming/policy work, valued at US\$13.9 million. These projects have resulted in the enactment or amendment of 175 laws, policies or regulations, categorized into 15 themes: agriculture, climate, ecosystem management, education, energy, fisheries, forestry, mining/quarrying, planning/zoning, pollution, protected areas, species protection, tourism, transportation and wildlife trade. Some categories are more prevalent than others, with 56 policies falling under the ecosystem management theme, 34 under planning/zoning, 18 under protected areas, 17 under species protection, and nine under forestry. Figure 14 shows the five themes that are most prevalent in CEPF's work, by region. This chart does highlight a few regional priorities, such as Europe's emphasis on planning and zoning.

Figure 14. Number of laws, policies and regulations enacted or amended, by theme and region.



Some themes have not recorded high numbers of policies, as these may be more relevant on a national or regional scale, although these are no less important. The following example pertains to mining/quarrying, and shows that grantees have made an important contribution to biodiversity conservation via these policy interventions.

Focus on Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia

A grant to Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Cambodia led to enactment of a new regulation, MME SARACHOR: 235 dated 10 July 2017, pertaining to “management of sand mining industry in Sre Ambel, Tatai, Trapaing Rong, and Koh Por River Systems in Koh Kong Province.” The expected results of a ban on sand mining are restoration of sand beaches and return of prawns, an important food source for local people and the threatened Southern River terrapin.



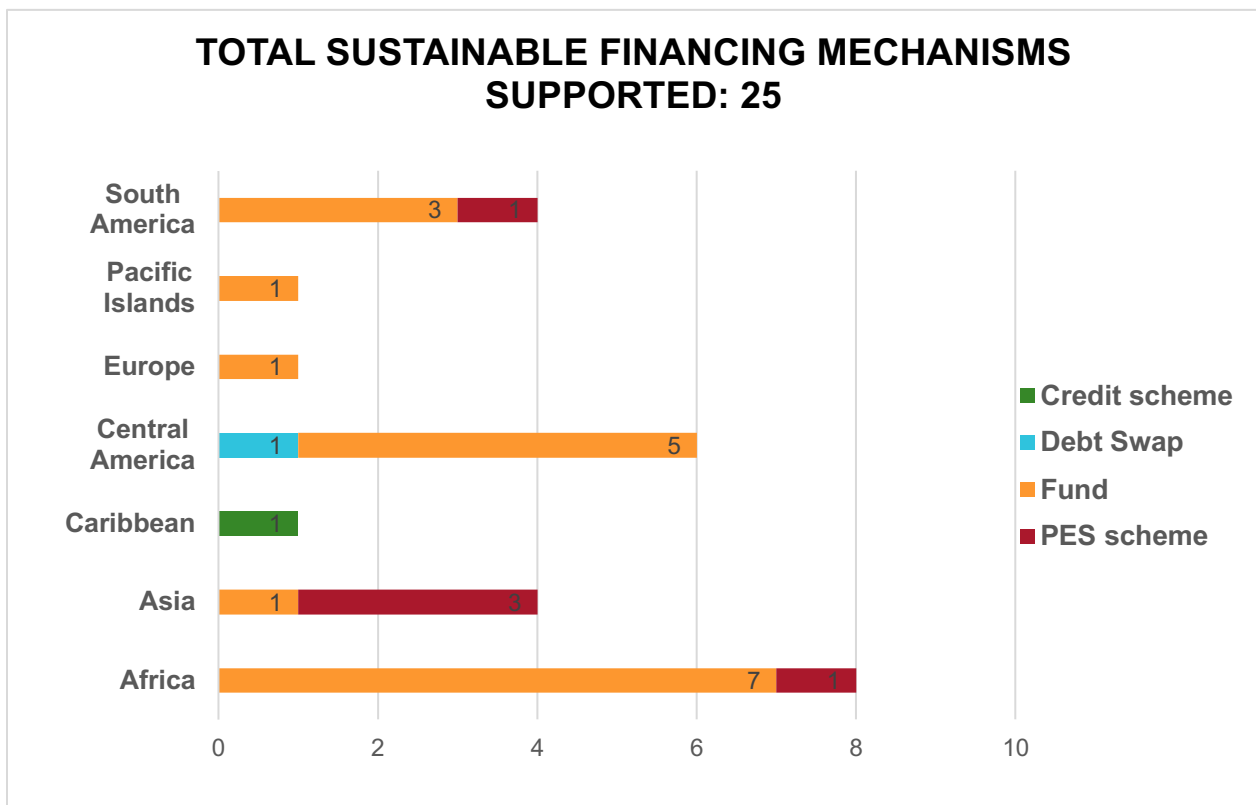
Dredging boat, Sre Ambel River, early 2017; WCS, Cambodian Fisheries Administration and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, discussing sand mining regulations.
© Sitha Som/WCS



Indicator: Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.

CEPF strives to promote sustainability in its projects. Not only does CEPF support the creation and strengthening of conservation trust funds, but it also supports other means of delivering funds for conservation, such as credit or payment for ecosystem service schemes. In 2017, CEPF refined its indicator aimed at quantifying impact of sustainable financing mechanisms, to cover number of mechanisms, and amount of money delivered for conservation during the course of the grant. To date, no information is yet available on funds delivered; this data will be available in subsequent years. Nevertheless, we are able to report support for creation and/or strengthening of 25 different sustainable funding mechanisms. One of the most recent mechanisms is highlighted below.

Figure 15. Number of sustainable financing mechanisms by region and type.



Focus on Vietnam

Over the last decade, Vietnam has made great progress in developing payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanisms at the sub-national (provincial) level. With the large number of hydropower projects and other corporate users of ecosystem services, generating revenue has proven relatively straightforward. The challenge for many schemes has been in making efficient use of PES funds to conserve the ecosystems delivering services paid for. With a grant from CEPF, WWF worked with authorities in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces to develop a roadmap for using PES funds to support community forest guards engaged in law enforcement in two nature reserves established for saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), a flagship species of the Indo-Burma Hotspot. The arguments put forth by WWF were well received and provincial authorities agreed to earmark a portion of annual PES receipts to support the forest guard model and other law enforcement activities in the reserves. Monitoring data and independent evaluation suggest that this model is reducing threats to biodiversity, leading to increased densities of some species. To diversify funding sources, WWF organized a “Save the Saola” campaign, and secured a three-year commitment of US\$150,000 from HSBC Vietnam to support the forest guards. This is one of the first big commitments to nature conservation made by a Vietnamese company.













Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*).
© William Robichaud

Indicator: Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.





In 2017 CEPF adopted a new indicator designed to measure efforts to change behavior within the private sector. This indicator specifically measures progress in getting companies to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices. Working with the private sector is not new to CEPF, but this indicator demands more substantial evidence that changes are being made. It goes beyond identifying best practices that may or may not be put into practice. While data collection for this indicator is just starting, some good examples already exist for positive progress with private sector entities.

Myanmar	Best practices for quarrying in limestone karst landscapes were developed with Apache Cement, a Burmese cement company.
Dominican Republic	Local businessmen purchased land to establish and manage El Zorzal Private Reserve, the first private protected area in the Dominican Republic, which is designed as a demonstration project to show the private sector that sustainable development and biodiversity conservation can be profitable. Resulted in the Caribbean's first carbon trading scheme.
Antigua and Barbuda	Tour operators have adopted best practice regarding invasive species control by educating their guests on conservation, enforcing environmental protections, and monitoring invasive species.
India	Best practices for agriculture (Sustainable Agriculture Network standard) were adopted for 12,598 hectares of coffee plantations (26 single estates or groups) and 6,732 hectares of tea plantations (8 single estates or groups) in the Western Ghats.
Cambodia	Best practices for rice cultivation (Sustainable Rice Platform standard) were adopted by Brico, a Cambodian rice miller that sells internationally to companies such as Mars.
Cambodia	Best practices for organic and eco-friendly rice production were adopted by SRAC, a Cambodian agricultural cooperative. SRAC sells rice to Signatures of Asia, a Cambodian rice miller and exporter.
Indonesia	Promotion of improved practices by a mining company, PT Vale, operating within KBAs in Sulawesi, and promulgation of better practices to other members of the Indonesian Mining Association.
Cape Verde	Sustainable ecotourism practices, and best practice for sea turtle nesting beaches, adopted by RIU hotel chain in Boa Vista, Cape Verde.


Contributions to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity

Aichi Biodiversity Target	Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
	Target 1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	At least 100,148 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.
	Target 2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has supported a total of 438 projects with a primary emphasis education and awareness, and capacity building, valued at US\$30,577,777.
	Target 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has supported 139 projects in 24 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at US\$13,904,439.
	Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,067,020 hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots.
	Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported 243 projects with a primary emphasis on strengthening management outside protected areas, totaling US\$23,391,684.
	Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	CEPF has supported 66 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive species, totaling US\$8,975,131, in six biodiversity hotspots.
	Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011--2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14,783,708 hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 45,752,076 hectares in 22 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8,067,020 hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots.
	Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	CEPF has supported 223 projects with a primary emphasis on species conservation, totaling US\$20,142,041.
	Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011--2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 25 sustainable finance mechanisms that remain active, including five functioning PES schemes.
	Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011--2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 62 projects with a primary emphasis on conservation finance, totaling US\$7,454,916.

Contributions to U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goal	Contribution to Impact	Operational Contribution
 <p>Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>2,804 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved access to water, and improved food security.</p> <p>Over 100,000 people benefiting from structured training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. Topics include coconut oil production, beekeeping, gardening, horticulture, organic practices, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable harvest of medicinal plants.</p> <p>8.06 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 208 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US\$18,135,615.</p> <p>39 projects totaling US\$2,992,935 located in agricultural / artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.</p>
 <p>Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Over 100,000 people receiving structured training. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, 14,665 women reported to have received training. Training topics were diverse such as beekeeping, tourism, medicinal plant production, environmental education, leadership, financial management, etc.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 198 projects with an explicit focus on capacity building, valued at US\$15,918,919.</p> <p>CEPF has supported 246 projects with a primary focus on education and awareness, valued at US\$14,745,254.</p>
 <p>Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p>Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 27,745 women and girls reported to have received non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.</p>	<p>Introduction of collection of sex-disaggregated data from grantees.</p> <p>Introduction of new monitoring tool to measure change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues.</p>
 <p>Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>6 percent of communities receiving non-cash benefits, report increased access to clean water as a benefit.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 243 projects associated with wetland habitats, valued at US\$16,233,505. These projects will help to ensure sustainable management of natural resources, including water.</p> <p>36 projects valued at US\$2,375,562 focusing on freshwater research and assessment, including biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management.</p>

	<p>Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p>	<p>Since start of collection of number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, over 42,000 people reported to have received cash benefits.</p>	<p>Human well-being projects have taken place in 58 countries and territories.</p>
	<p>Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>8.06 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.</p> <p>Enactment or amendment of 175 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.</p>	<p>39 projects totaling US\$2,992,935 located in agricultural / artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.</p>
	<p>Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree planting ▪ Training in forest carbon technical work ▪ Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments ▪ Mangrove management ▪ Coastal zone management ▪ Sustainable coastal tourism ▪ Climate change modeling ▪ Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. 	<p>CEPF has supported 317 projects promoting nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects aimed at improving the management and protection of forest habitats, valued at US\$38,340,713.</p> <p>6 percent of communities benefiting from CEPF projects record increased resilience to climate change.</p>
	<p>Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>More than 40 coastal protected areas benefiting from increased protection and management.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 136 projects associated with marine and coastal habitat, valued at US\$10,285,448.</p>
	<p>Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p>CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 14.7 million hectares of new protected areas in 21 biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 45.7 million hectares in 22 hotspots.</p> <p>CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 8.06 million hectares of production landscapes in 18 hotspots.</p> <p>At least 1,250 IUCN Red List species listed as CR, EN, and VU have</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 527 projects with primary emphases on protected area creation and improved management, totaling US\$59,675,128.</p> <p>CEPF has supported 66 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive species, totaling US\$8,975,131, in six biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>CEPF has supported 317 projects aimed at improving the management and protection of forest habitats, valued at US\$38,340,173.</p>

		<p>benefited from CEPF support.</p> <p>More than 50 projects totaling more than US\$5 million focused on reducing wildlife trafficking, with targeted efforts to reduce demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolins, turtles and tortoises and a range of other species.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 223 projects with a primary emphasis on species conservation, totaling US\$20,142,041.</p>
	<p>Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>208 networks/partnerships supported, 161 of which CEPF helped to create.</p> <p>152 civil society organizations out of 198 in 8 biodiversity hotspots, for which two Civil Society Organizational Capacity Assessments have been completed, report an increase in their organizational capacity.</p>	<p>CEPF has supported 202 projects with an explicit focus on civil society capacity building and networking, valued at US\$24,359,262.</p> <p>All CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity since 2009</p>

Conclusion

CEPF has made major contributions to biodiversity conservation, to the well-being of people living in the biodiversity hotspots, to the policy environment that is so crucial to sustaining conservation achievements, and to building civil society capacity so that local organizations can reach their goals. With a new monitoring framework in place, and systems to ensure data capture and storage nearly fully functional, the stage is set for regular and accurate reporting CEPF’s impact.

Looking ahead, CEPF will continue to improve data collection and analysis, and will strive to link results to the global conservation arena by improving the quality of information gathered to articulate CEPF’s contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity targets. CEPF’s ability to report on impacts at hotspot and global levels, and the role of civil society in generating results, is essential for maintaining interest, support and funds for conservation in the hotspots. With the appropriate systems in place, in the future efforts can be directed toward making CEPF’s results work to advance the conservation agenda across the globe.



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The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (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.

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