CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Impact 2001–2023 & 2023 *Annual Reports*

"Local civil society organizations do things that no other actors can do."

Gilles Kleitz,
conservation expert formerly with
L'Agence Française de Développement
and CEPF's Donor Council.
See "Grassroots to Global," pages 3–4.

Final assessment workshop for the 2015–2022 CEPF investment in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands. © Fondation Tany Meva

Front cover: Tube-lipped tailless bat (*Anoura fistulata*), Ecuador. © Art Wolfe

Grassroots to Global

Gilles Kleitz, Mount Roraima, Venezuela. © Gilles Kleitz

Gilles Kleitz

AFD's Gilles Kleitz has brought hands-on conservation experience to national and global decision-making

CEPF has been honored to have Gilles Kleitz as a partner and guiding force for more than 14 years. Most recently, through his role as executive director of sustainable development solutions for L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Gilles has been a highly valued voice on CEPF's Donor Council, contributing his experience and insights to decisions about the fund's actions.

With degrees in agricultural engineering and political science, Gilles has had a varied career that has included working for nongovernmental organizations and conducting research in Africa, leading management of Parc Amazonien de Guyane, and working for France's Environment Ministry and AFD on national and global policies and strategies that link conservation and sustainable development.

It is with deep gratitude that CEPF offers Gilles best wishes as he moves on to his next challenge, as deputy director of science in charge of sustainability sciences for Institut de Recherche pour le Développement.

CEPF staff members took the opportunity to tap his expertise once again through a parting question-and-answer session.

Q & A

JACK TORDOFF ● CEPF MANAGING DIRECTOR:

In your experience, how can civil society make an effective contribution to conservation of the biodiversity hotspots?

G K

● Local civil society organizations do things that no other actors can do:

- Reaching out to remote rural and natural places where public conservation services are absent.
- Uniting committed individuals for just and important local livelihood issues.
- Valuing local knowledge of nature, species, ecology and the skilled care for the immediate environment.
- Contributing in unique ways to finding and implementing the best options for local conservation issues.
- Standing with strong voices to protect and advocate for nature.

These organizations, however, often need technical training and exchanges through networks, as well as financial resources. Supporting them with tools and approaches adapted to their needs, capacities and scales is a major element of conservation success. Their efforts must be complemented by other approaches, such as public structures and policies and engagement of the private sector and local authorities. Looking at the whole picture, one can safely say that local civil society plays a fundamental role in conservation solutions for the future of our planet.

PIERRE CARRET ● CEPF GRANT DIRECTOR FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT:

At one point in your career you were the director of Parc Amazonien de Guyane. How do you see the role of civil society organizations, and CEPF, in supporting protected-areas management?

● Protected areas are one of the most important tools for biodiversity conservation. However, they should always be conceived, implemented and respected as tightly bound to their territories, cultures and communities. Their political and institutional integration is absolutely paramount to achieving conservation goals in the long run. There are many ways that civil society, whether local, national or international, can play a role in ensuring that fine balance that constitutes an effective and durable protected area. Some examples include outreach and training to local communities, alignment of local activities with a conservation plan, specific conservation actions around species or habitats, antipoaching efforts, income-generating activities, cultural and technical mediation between the protected-area staff and local communities, and technical and scientific support. At a larger scale, an instrument such as CEPF—bringing technical and financial resources and peer networks to local civil society—can provide a fundamental contribution to the effectiveness of protected areas and their networks in a region.

OLIVIER LANGRAND ● CEPF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

In a time of change for public and philanthropic funding, and with the new Global Biodiversity Framework in place, what recommendations do you have for engaging the private sector and other donors?

● One of the rarest resources at this pivotal moment for conservation funding and finance is not so much money but collaboration. Sound, long-lasting trust and joint capacities can bring talent and resources together to achieve a unified, science-based set of goals that will change the devastating trend of biodiversity loss. The CEPF community is thus not only strong because of its successful resource mobilization and disbursement at the local level, but more so because it has, over the last 20 years, managed to build a common, trusted language for conservation action. It unites global conservation organizations, philanthropies, public donors, development banks, multilateral organizations, and local and regional civil society organizations. My advice would be to ensure that the key elements for this unique global collaboration are both well identified and constantly nurtured and strengthened.

NINA MARSHALL ● CEPF SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MONITORING, EVALUATION AND OUTREACH:

How important is impact measurement for conservation donors?

● In the shared language and trust that binds the CEPF community, I have always emphasized the importance of measuring our results and impacts: number of species that have had their conservation status improved, natural habitats that have been conserved or restored, protected areas and conservation communities that have been strengthened and so on. It is what enables CEPF to work as an effective conservation resources transmission line from the global to the very local.

"From the EU perspective, working with our Member States is key to contribute to the global goals we are jointly committed to, in particular those linked to biodiversity. Thanks to Gilles, we have been working hand in hand with the AFD in a genuine Team Europe format. This has been instrumental in the success of the support we are giving to the civil society in several biodiversity hotspots by the channel of CEPF. The impacts described in this report speak for themselves!"

CHANTAL MARIJNISSEN,
HEAD OF UNIT, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS EUROPEAN COMMISSION

"CEPF is much more than a great partnership of conservation and development organizations. It is the sum of communities, conservationists, scientists, decision-makers and philanthropists who recognize that nature underpins human well-being. Most importantly, we all share the same passion for biodiversity conservation. One very special member of the CEPF family is Gilles Kleitz. His expertise and field experience has helped CEPF to make strategic investments with local stakeholders in biodiversity hotspots. His contribution to the success of CEPF is highly recognized by donors, staff and local partners."

CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ,
CEO AND CHAIRPERSON
THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

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ANNUAL

Report authors: Nina Marshall, CEPF senior director of monitoring, evaluation and outreach; and Julie Shaw, CEPF communications director. Data analysis for civil society capacity and gender: Céline Desbrosses, CEPF executive/learning outreach senior manager. Assistant editor/photo acquisition: Erika Ali, CEPF communications senior coordinator. Graphic design: Todd Kiraly.

Son-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan. © Vlad Ushakov

About CEPF

THE GOAL

Supporting locally led conservation of biodiversity hotspots—some of the world's most biologically rich yet threatened ecosystems

US $294 MILLION
In Grants

US $422 MILLION
Leveraged By Those Grants

2,735 GRANTEES
Supported

112 COUNTRIES
And Territories Benefited

Common wanderer butterfly (*Pareronia anais*), Thailand. © O. Langrand

THE APPROACH

LOCAL MANAGEMENT
CEPF partners with a regional implementation team in the hotspot to build local conservation leadership and capacity and shepherd CEPF's investment in the hotspot.

DONOR PARTNERSHIP
Since 2000, CEPF has been bringing together donors to conserve biodiversity, strengthen civil society and support sustainable development.

FOCUSED INVESTMENT
On the basis of an assessment of opportunities and threats, CEPF donor partners choose which biodiversity hotspots to invest in as funding becomes available.

PARTICIPATORY PRIORITY SETTING
Grant-making is guided by ecosystem profiles—analyses of the biodiversity and socioeconomic conditions in each hotspot. Profiles are produced by, and in consultation with, local and national stakeholders.

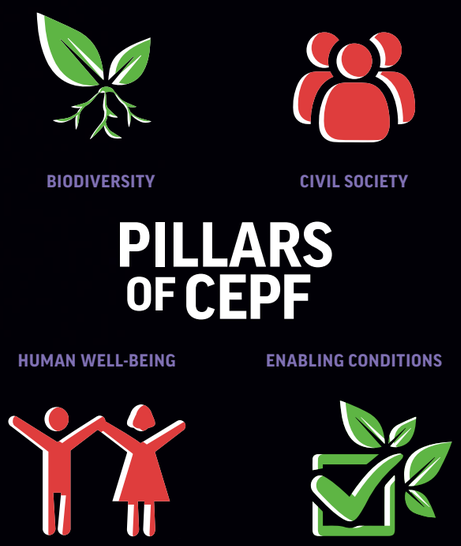
GRANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY
Civil society entities—including nongovernmental organizations, Indigenous and local communities, academic institutions and local businesses—apply for grants that are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that contribute to CEPF's conservation strategy.

ENDURING CONSERVATION
Projects funded by CEPF add up to a portfolio of complementary conservation actions addressing critical priorities while also building local conservation communities that will continue to lead protection of the hotspots after CEPF funding is completed.

ACHIEVING GLOBAL GOALS
The results achieved by CEPF grantees complement governments' efforts to meet targets related to the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity (the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework), the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

Executive Summary

CEPF grantees contribute to four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF:



This report presents 22 years of results achieved by 2,735 partners that have implemented 2,918 grants. All CEPF grants contribute to one of four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. Civil society organizations that are supported to increase and apply their knowledge and skills are essential to sustainable biodiversity conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are necessary for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. CEPF measures progress in all four of these interlinked pillars.

Juvenile *Gastrotheca excubitor*, a frog species listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, posing on a *Gentianella sp.*, Paucartambo, Peru. © Jean Pier Nicolas Zolorzano Aitara

55 MILLION
HECTARES OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

PEOPLE RECEIVING CASH BENEFITS	112,560
NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS CREATED AND/OR SUPPORTED	998
HECTARES OF PROTECTED AREAS CREATED OR EXPANDED	17.1 MILLION
HECTARES OF PRODUCTION LANDSCAPE WITH STRENGTHENED MANAGEMENT	12.4 MILLION
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE MECHANISMS	73
SPECIES BENEFITING FROM CONSERVATION ACTION	1,259
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The Partnership

L'AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

www.afd.fr

L'Agence Française de Développement (the French Development Agency) is a financial institution that is at the heart of France's Development Assistance Policy. It supports a wide range of economic, social and environmental projects in the French overseas territories and in 115 countries.

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

www.conservation.org

For 35 years, Conservation International has worked to spotlight and secure the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity. Combining fieldwork with innovations in science, policy and finance, we've helped protect more than 6 million square kilometers (2.3 million square miles) of land and sea across more than 70 countries. Today, with offices in more than two dozen countries and a worldwide network of thousands of partners, our reach is truly global.

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/home

Comprising 27 member countries, the European Union is the largest single provider of development aid in the world. The EU development policy recognizes biodiversity as a crucial element for human well-being through the production of food, fish, fuel, fiber and medicines; the regulation of water, air and climate; and the maintenance of land fertility. Through EU International Cooperation and Development, the EU invests in biodiversity and development projects in more than 100 countries.

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

www.thegef.org

The Global Environment Facility is the world's largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. The GEF unites 183 member governments together with leading international development institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector in support of a common global environmental agenda.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

www.env.go.jp/en

The Government of Japan is one of the largest providers of development assistance for the environment. Japan seeks constructive measures and concrete programs to preserve unique ecosystems that provide people with important benefits and help reduce poverty.

THE WORLD BANK

www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are

With 189 member countries, staff from more than 170 countries, and offices in over 130 locations, the World Bank Group is a unique global partnership: five institutions working for sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries.

Sarus cranes (*Grus antigone*), Boeung Prek Lapouv Protected Landscape, Cambodia. © Chhoeurn Socheat

CEPF AND THE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

As of 30 June 2023

Current

CEPF Investment

1 Caribbean Islands
US $11.8M
2021–2026
(Cumulative investment: US$18.7 million)

2 Tropical Andes
US $14M
2021–2027
(Cumulative investment: US$32.2 million)

TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF CEPF IMPACT

3 Mediterranean Basin
US $14M
2017–2024
(Cumulative investment: US$25 million)

4 Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
US $14.1M
2022–2027
(Cumulative investment: US$32 million)

5 Mountains of Central Asia
US $8M
2019–2024

6 Indo-Burma
US $11.9M
2020–2025
(Cumulative investment: US$35.7 million)

7 Wallacea
US $2.6M
2020–2024
(Cumulative investment: US$9.5 million)

Past

CEPF Investment

8 Mesoamerica
US $14.5M
2002–2011

9 Tumbes–Chocó–Magdalena
US $6.95M
2002–2013

10 Cerrado
US $8M
2016–2022

11 Atlantic Forest
US $10.4M
2002–2011

12 Guinean Forests of West Africa
US $12M
2016–2022

13 Succulent Karoo
US $9.3M
2003–2012

14 Cape Floristic Region
US $7.65M
2001–2011

15 Maputaland–Pondoland–Albany
US $6.65M
2010–2015

16 Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa
US $8.75M
2004–2014

17 Eastern Afromontane
US $12M
2012–2019

18 Caucasus
US $9.5M
2003–2013

19 Himalaya
US $5M
2005–2010

20 Western Ghats and Sri Lanka
US $6M
2008–2015

21 Mountains of Southwest China
US $7.9M
2002–2013

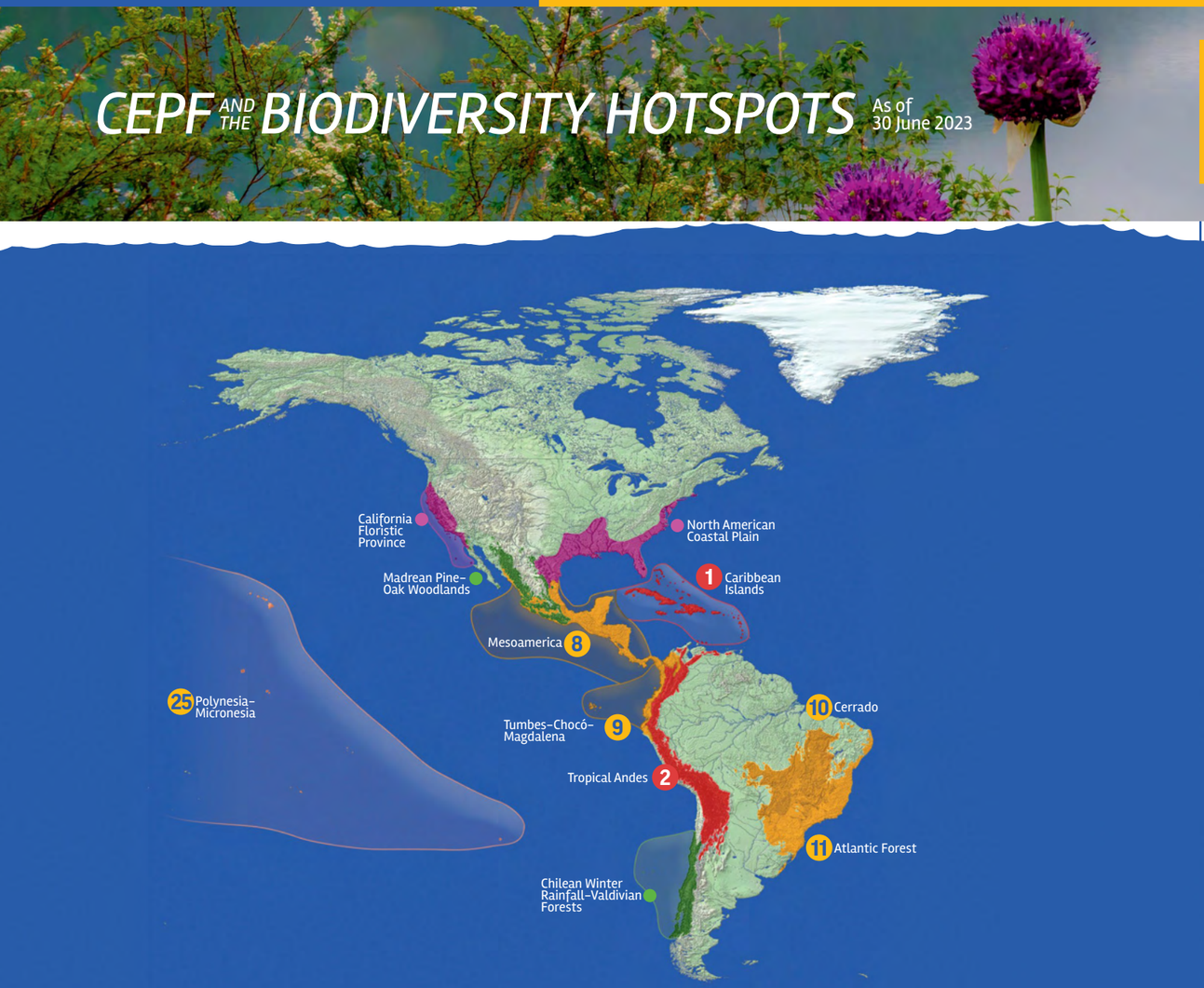
22 Sundaland
US $10M
2001–2006

23 Philippines
US $7M
2002–2007

24 East Melanesian Islands
US $9M
2013–2021

25 Polynesia–Micronesia
US $5M
2008–2013

M=Million



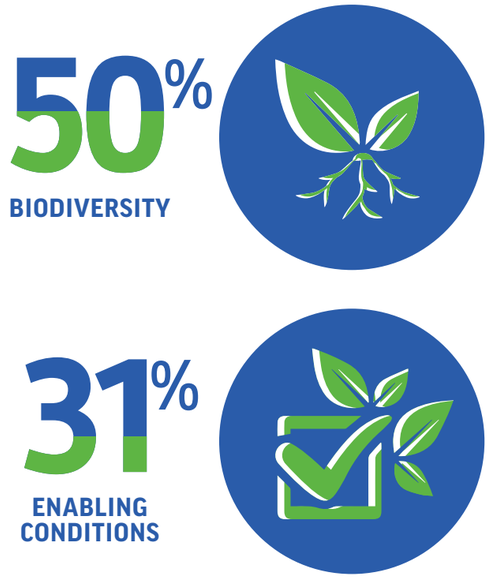
Eligible for CEPF investment Not eligible for CEPF investment

Sary-Chelek Biosphere Reserve, Kyrgyzstan. © Elena Kreuzberg

TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF CEPF IMPACT

Figure 1

Distribution of Funds by Pillar



Since 2000, the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** has worked to support civil society in developing countries and transitional economies in protecting the world's biodiversity hotspots, some of the Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems. To date, CEPF has awarded more than US$294 million in grants to 2,735 civil society organizations. These grants have been implemented in 25 biodiversity hotspots, covering 112 countries and territories.

CEPF's first grants closed in 2001, and every year since then our civil society partners have achieved conservation results despite increasing threats to biodiversity and the growing challenge of climate change. With dedication and passion, CEPF grantees are protecting critical ecosystems and the species and ecosystem services they support. They also are improving the lives of the people who depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods. This report presents the results of their work from 2001 through 30 June 2023.

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. The indicators are designed to yield clear and valuable data that articulate CEPF's impact and demonstrate the efficacy of the CEPF partnership. Each indicator corresponds to one of CEPF's four pillars: 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. A strong, diverse 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 have diminished biodiversity often cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Further details on CEPF's monitoring framework can be found in the Annex.

Awá Indigenous Reservation of Alto Albi, Colombia.
© Gran Familia Awá Binacional–GFAB,
UNIPA and Nicolas Becerra (both photos)

During fiscal year 2023—1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023—grant-making took place in seven biodiversity hotspots: Caribbean Islands, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. Several of these hotspot investments were nearing their final year. By 30 June 2023, CEPF had awarded 50% of its grants since inception—just over US$145 million—under the biodiversity pillar, demonstrating the priority that CEPF gives to this theme. The enabling conditions pillar, encompassing projects dedicated to awareness, mainstreaming, policy, conservation finance and support to regional implementation teams (RITs), had received 31% of the total allocation. RITs, the on-the-ground partners dedicated to rolling out CEPF's strategy and grant-making in each hotspot, received 16.6% of the total allocation (or around half of the amount awarded under the enabling conditions pillar) to fund the essential role these organizations play in helping to manage grant-making, monitor impacts and provide direct support to grantees. The civil society pillar, focused on capacity building and support for networks, received 11% of the total allocation, while human well-being received 8% (**Figure 1**).

16 INDICATORS IN CEPF'S GLOBAL MONITORING FRAMEWORK

The 16 indicators in CEPF's global monitoring framework contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework (**Table 1**). See CEPF grantee contributions to these goals and targets on pages 73–76. A description of CEPF's monitoring framework and definitions for each indicator are included in the Annex.

PILLAR AND INDICATORS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGET
Biodiversity		
Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.		**3:** Area-based conservation
Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management.		**3:** Area-based conservation
Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.		**10:** Productive systems
Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).		**3:** Area-based conservation
Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.		**4:** Species recovery and conservation **5:** Harvesting, trade and use of wild species **6:** Invasive alien species
Civil Society		
Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).		**20:** Non-monetary resource mobilization
Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).		**23:** Gender equality
Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.		**20:** Non-monetary resource mobilization
Human Well-being		
Number of people receiving structured training.		**11:** Ecosystem services
Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.		**11:** Ecosystem services
Number of people receiving cash benefits.		**11:** Ecosystem services
Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.		**8:** Climate change **11:** Ecosystem services
Amount of CO_2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.		**8:** Climate change
Enabling Conditions		
Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.		**14:** Mainstreaming
Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.		**14:** Mainstreaming
Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.		**14:** Mainstreaming

Contribution toward these global indicators is measured only once for each grant, at the end of the project. CEPF's results are compiled annually for the program. For some indicators, where relevant, CEPF has reported on results by region. Several hotspots span regions; results from these hotspots are apportioned among regions. Each region and the hotspots it includes are listed in **Table 2**.

Africa

Cape Floristic Region; Eastern Afromontane (excluding Yemen); Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya; Guinean Forests of West Africa; Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany; Mediterranean Basin (North Africa); Succulent Karoo.

Asia

Caucasus; Himalaya; Indo-Burma; Philippines; Mountains of Central Asia; Mountains of Southwest China; Sundaland; Wallacea; Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.

Caribbean Islands

Caribbean Islands.

Central America

Mesoamerica.

Europe

Mediterranean Basin (excluding North Africa, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine).

Middle East

Eastern Afromontane (Yemen); Mediterranean Basin (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine).

Pacific Islands

East Melanesian Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia.

South America

Atlantic Forest; Cerrado; Tropical Andes; Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena.

A fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*), Kirindy Mitea National Park, Madagascar. © Jonathan Irish

CEPF PILLAR 1

BIODIVERSITY

INDICATOR — Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.

As of June 2023, CEPF grantees recorded the creation and/or expansion of 598,725 hectares of new protected areas, bringing the overall total since inception to 17,186,070 hectares in 25 biodiversity hotspots. Government involvement in this achievement was instrumental. Gains were significant in the Wallacea and the Tropical Andes hotspots, both of which are nearing the end of their investment periods. Several hotspots recorded no new hectares due to the CEPF investments in these hotspots being either closed or in early stages. The charts that follow show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot and by region since inception of the fund.

Figure 1.1

Protected Areas Created or Expanded by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023

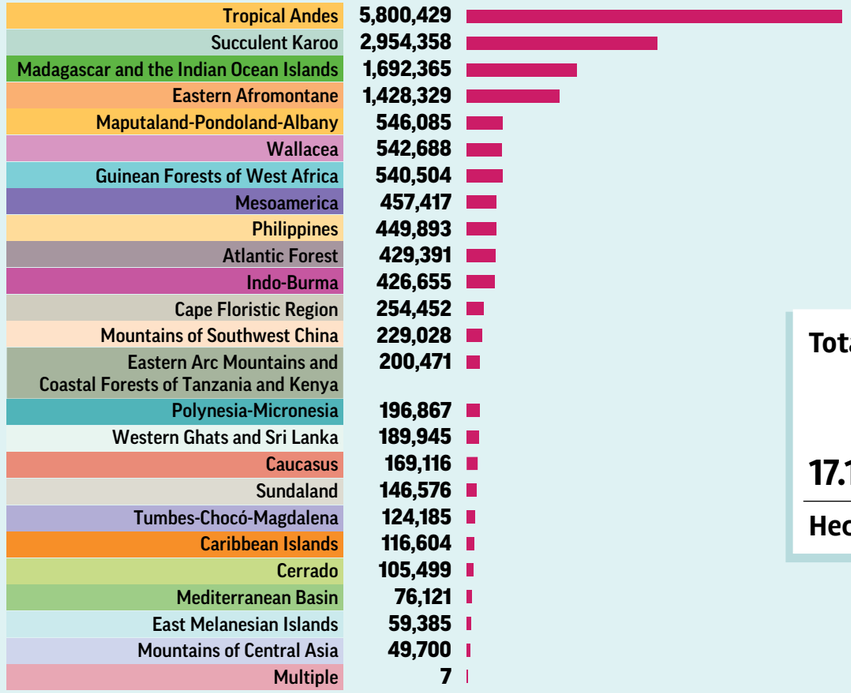
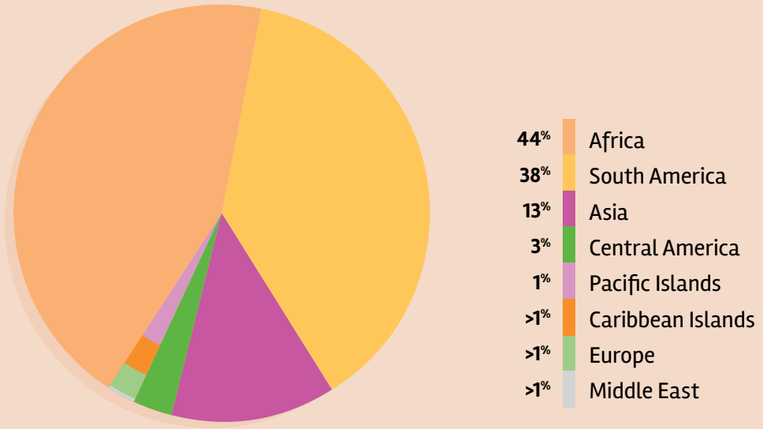


Figure 1.2

Protected Areas Created or Expanded by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Marine Area Gets New Protection and Improved Management in South Sulawesi

Weighing fish, Sailus Village. © REKAM

The Indonesian government has designated more than 24 million hectares of marine conservation areas to achieve the global target of 32.5 million hectares protected by 2030. CEPF grantees have been instrumental partners in pursuing this goal and have contributed to the effective management and implementation of designated marine conservation areas in the Solor-Alor Marine Corridor, the waters in the Togean-Banggai Sea Corridor and the Pangkajene Archipelago Marine Corridor in South Sulawesi Province.

In the Pangkajene Archipelago corridor, grantee Yayasan Rekam Jejak Alam Nusantara (REKAM) has worked to reduce unsustainable fishing practices, support small-scale fisheries management, promote environmentally friendly fishing practices and secure protected status for the area.

Along with five other organizations, REKAM worked with the Government of Indonesia Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) to support the creation of the 505,862-hectares Liukang Tangaya marine protected area. REKAM conducted community outreach and fostered the relationship between the MMAF and communities. The Sulawesi Community Foundation conducted a socioeconomic assessment of the area, and Yayasan Romang Celebes promoted sea cucumber harvesting. Yayasan Ekonomi Keanekaragaman Hayati Laut Indonesia promoted the use of sustainable fishing methods, and Burung Indonesia ensured the process moved forward at the MMAF central offices in Jakarta.

REKAM focused their work in three villages–Sailus, Kapoposang Bali and Satanger. The project started with a scoping exercise to determine the best locations for monitoring fisheries catch data and to identify fisheries issues. The survey yielded data on the exploitation status of key species, destructive fishing practices including use of explosives, and an overall lack of protection status for the area. Through focus group discussions, REKAM gathered additional information on unsustainable fishing, discussed solutions and designed community management and monitoring plans.

Sailus Village. © REKAM

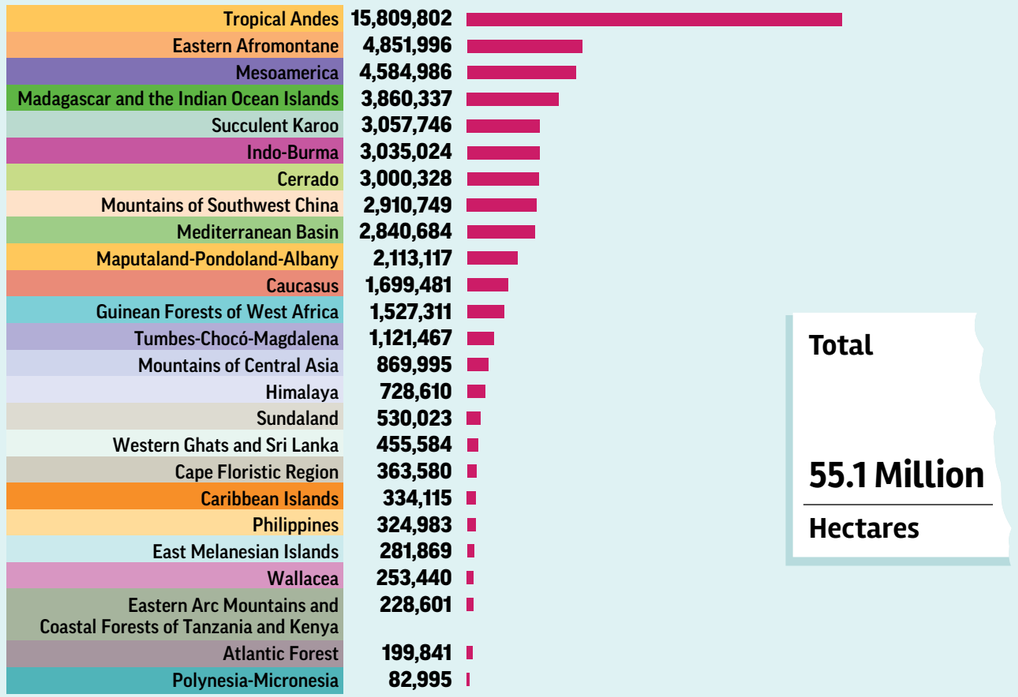
INDICATOR — Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management.

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats, and improving their management and protection is a fundamental objective of CEPF. Key Biodiversity Areas are sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity, geographically restricted biodiversity, ecological integrity, biological processes, and irreplaceability.

As of June 2023, CEPF had strengthened the management and protection of 55,066,664 hectares in 25 of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots. This marks an increase of 1,810,308 hectares over the previous year, with significant contributions coming from the Mountains of Central Asia (817,351 hectares), Tropical Andes (462,603 hectares), Guinean Forests of West Africa (340,067 hectares) and Mediterranean Basin (124,323 hectares). **Figures 1.3** and **1.4** show the number of hectares of KBAs with improved management by hotspot and by region since inception of the fund.

Figure 1.3

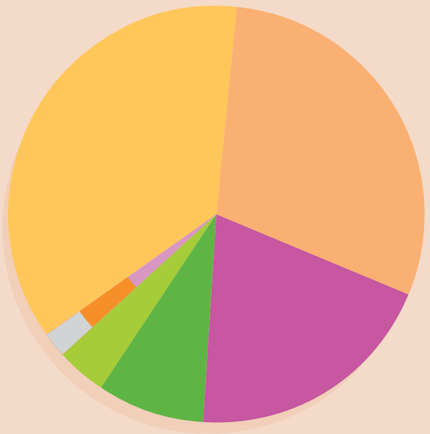
Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Ophryophryne hansi, Lao PDR. © Souksamlan Laladeth / Saola Foundation 2022

Figure 1.4

Key Bioidversity Areas with Improved Management by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



36%	South America
30%	Africa
20%	Asia
8%	Central America
4%	Europe
>1%	Pacific Islands
>1%	Caribbean Islands
>1%	Middle East

Total

55.1 Million

Hectares

Lotus, Thailand. © O. Langrand

Building Financial Sustainability for Community–Based Fisheries Management in Cambodia

Fishing is of paramount importance to the people and economy of Cambodia. This is particularly true for the rural communities of the Tonle Sap Lake, an area that transforms into the largest freshwater expanse in Southeast Asia during the rainy season.

Life on and around Tonle Sap is completely dominated by fishing and seasonal fluctuations in water levels, with many people living in floating villages and about 90% of residents directly and exclusively dependent on the exploitation of fish stocks. Those fish stocks also are an important part of a diverse ecosystem whose health is essential to humans, fish and many other species. Part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, the Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone hosts 10 Key Biodiversity Areas, including three that were the focus of a grant to the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT): Dei Roneat, Lower Stung Sen and Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray.

Meeting to review the project's progress, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. © Noor Ali, IUCN

FACT is piloting local government funding of community fisheries organizations, setting the stage for scaling up to the national level.

Scenes from the Phat Sanday community fishery. From left,© Alex McWilliam, IUCN and © Noor Ali, IUCN.

FACT was established in 2003 to address fisheries issues and raise the voices of Cambodian fishers—both men and women. The organization works to build and support networks, and to develop the capacities of community fisheries organizations (CFis) to advocate on fisheries and related issues affecting their livelihoods. Under Cambodian law, CFis are responsible for implementing management plans for the protected areas under their jurisdiction, yet this can be challenging if financial resources are scarce.

New Conservation Zones

During the project, FACT worked to improve the management of the three KBAs, which total 10,955 hectares. Their efforts entailed improving management of fish conservation zones, advancing fish catch monitoring and evaluation, and increasing the institutional capacities of four CFis. FACT also sought to mobilize funds to support CFis and their efforts to protect natural resources under their management.

The project resulted in the creation of six new fish conservation zones, totaling 1,323 hectares. The sites may not be large, but in the most populated biodiversity hotspot in the world, where space and resources are at a premium, the new conservation zones mark a significant accomplishment. The achievement is even greater because the project was able to help generate financing to support conservation zone management.

Working With Government to Source Funding

FACT's efforts included the pursuit of policies that would facilitate the funding of conservation activities. To this end, FACT worked to reach an agreement with the Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Home Affairs to allocate part of the budget of communes—administrative subdivisions of districts—to CFis. Dei Roneat received particularly strong support, with the commune councilor agreeing to participate in the community fisheries development, and with the commitment of US$100 annually for the CFi and support of around US$10,000 for restoration of the conservation area.

FACT is piloting commune funding of CFis in 10 communities, setting the stage for scaling up to national level. If successful, this will enhance the financial sustainability of community-based fisheries management in Cambodia, which to date has depended heavily on grant funding. Ensuring that the CFis have the necessary funds to do their work is what will keep these Key Biodiversity Areas and the protected areas they contain safeguarded well into the future.

Some of the day's catch, Phat Sanday community fishery. © Alex McWilliam, IUCN

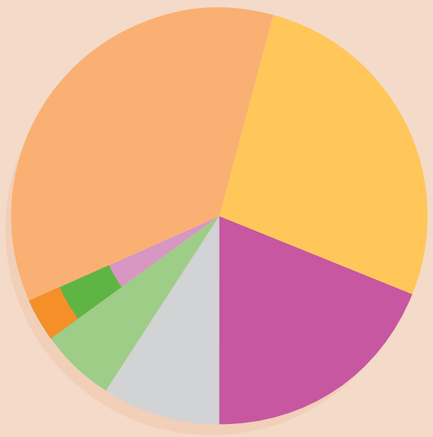
INDICATOR — Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.

Production landscapes–areas where agriculture, forestry or natural-product exploitation occur–can be important for biodiversity. CEPF supports grantees to integrate management of biodiversity into these landscapes, and since 2001 grantees have contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 12,395,611 hectares. This is an increase of 581,527 hectares over the previous year, with the largest contribution being 471,600 hectares from the Mountains of Central Asia. CEPF only began to systematically record achievements in production landscapes in 2008, and therefore hotspots receiving investment prior to this date are underrepresented in global figures.

Woman peeling tamarind, Cambodia.
© International Rivers

Figure 1.5

Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management of Biodiversity by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



36%	Africa
27%	South America
19%	Asia
9%	Middle East
6%	Europe
2%	Pacific Islands
1%	Central America
>1%	Caribbean Islands

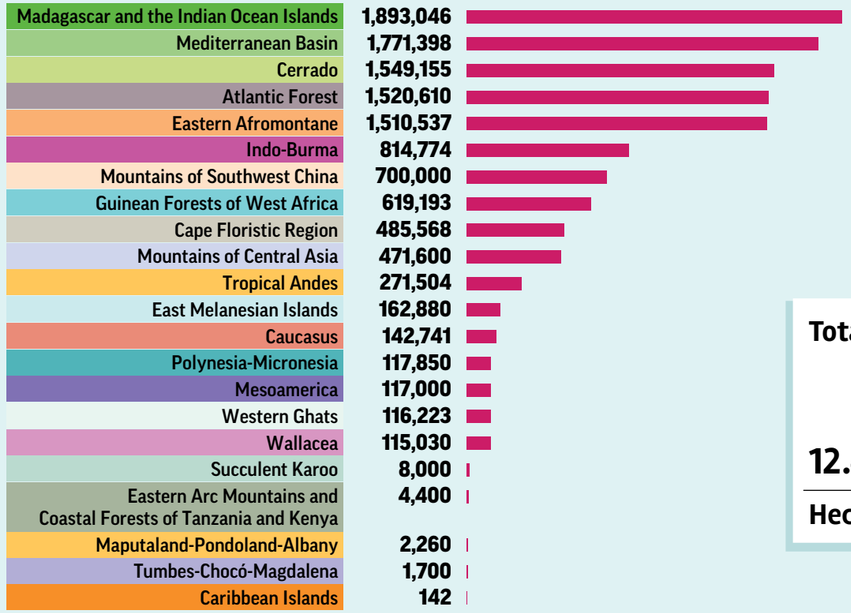
Total

12.4 Million

Hectares

Figure 1.6

Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management of Biodiversity by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	1,893,046
Mediterranean Basin	1,771,398
Cerrado	1,549,155
Atlantic Forest	1,520,610
Eastern Afromontane	1,510,537
Indo-Burma	814,774
Mountains of Southwest China	700,000
Guinean Forests of West Africa	619,193
Cape Floristic Region	485,568
Mountains of Central Asia	471,600
Tropical Andes	271,504
East Melanesian Islands	162,880
Caucasus	142,741
Polynesia-Micronesia	117,850
Mesoamerica	117,000
Western Ghats	116,223
Wallacea	115,030
Succulent Karoo	8,000
Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya	4,400
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	2,260
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	1,700
Caribbean Islands	142

Total

12.4 Million

Hectares

Farming area, Bonto Masunggu Village, bordering Bantimurung-Bulusaraung National Park, Indonesia.
© Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation

Protecting livestock, leopards and livelihoods

Project team members get local advice regarding village surveys and snow leopards.
© Azamat Mamatali Uluu/Panthera

Female snow leopard, Kyrgyzstan.
© Vlad Ushakov

The Turkestan-Alai Mountains of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are home to about 10% of the global population of snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). These charismatic predators require large stretches of habitat, spanning protected areas and landscapes that are home to local communities and their livestock.

In collaboration with local partners, Panthera Corporation worked to conserve the snow leopard, which is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, as well as other carnivores in this landscape. The partnership generated scientific data on the needs of and threats to wildlife, as well as interactions with humans. This data informed the project's support to local communities and other stakeholders as they collaborate for solutions that conserve species while elevating human livelihoods and well-being.

Two production landscapes—natural areas used for human livelihoods—were the focus of this recent CEPF-funded project in the Turkestan-Alai Mountains: the 100,000-hectare Bek Tosot Conservancy in Chong-Alai Kyrgyzstan; and Zighar, a 20,000-hectare area in Tajikistan.

At both sites, the project team worked extensively with a range of natural resource users—hunters, rangers, herders and farmers. Workshops, meetings and interviews generated baseline data for monitoring carnivores and understanding human wildlife conflict. The information allowed the team to better comprehend the distribution and status of not only snow leopards, but also the entire community of large- and medium-sized mammals in the area, which includes bears, wolves, dholes, ibexes and markhors. The species are spread across 33,000 square kilometers of habitat, including important corridors across the Turkestan and Pamir-Alay Mountains.

Additional workshops were conducted to increase awareness about wildlife conservation, train rangers in camera trapping, and develop plans for human-centered conservation.

In Zighar, Panthera collaborated with a hunting concessionaire to monitor snow leopards and address human-wildlife conflict. Abundant markhor and ibex have boosted the numbers of snow leopards, who prey on those species. Unfortunately, the population growth also led to some predation of insufficiently protected livestock, in turn resulting in retaliatory killing of snow leopards. To disrupt this dynamic, and to boost the number of snow leopards the area can sustain, the people of Zighar were engaged to construct a communal predator-proof corral on the village's traditional spring and autumn pastures, with enough capacity to shelter all the community's sheep and goats. Bringing the community to a consensus on where to build and how many corrals to build required sustained stakeholder engagement and multiple revisions to plans.

The project partners' efforts have led to a total of 120,000 hectares of production landscape with strengthened management of biodiversity. Not only are livestock better managed and protected from predators, but natural resource managers have much more information about wildlife numbers, status and distribution. This is essential knowledge and practice for maintaining a landscape that benefits both people and the wildlife.

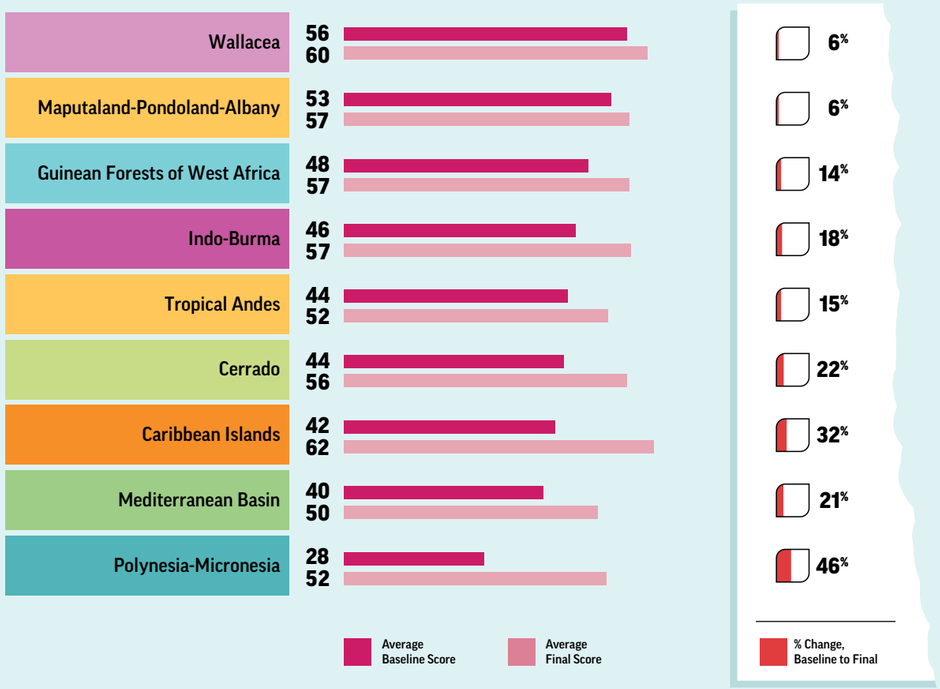
INDICATOR — Number of protected areas with improved management.

CEPF uses the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), developed[9] to reflect the IUCN World Database on Protected Areas Framework, to track the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment.

To date, CEPF has received 494 METT scorecards from 264 protected areas in 18 biodiversity hotspots. As of June 2023, 163 of the 264 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 163 protected areas, 147 showed an improvement in their management effectiveness. For nine hotspots with a significant number of completed METT scorecards through 30 June 2023, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 11.4 points on average (+20%). As such, CEPF is contributing to Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework in helping 32 countries increase the percent of protected areas that have been assessed and managed more effectively.

Figure 1.7

Protected Areas Management 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Collaboration with Municipality Improves Management of Dojran Lake in North Macedonia

Scenes from Dojran Lake. From left, © Vedran Lucić and © Borut Rubinič

A CEPF-funded project implemented by Milieukontakt Macedonia (MKM) brought significant improvements to North Macedonia's portion of Dojran Lake—a shallow freshwater protected area on the border of North Macedonia and Greece.

The lake is an important site for fish species such as the Critically Endangered *Alburnus macedonicus* as well as endemic and migratory bird species, and it is a key source of water for communities and agriculture. But the lake has been compromised by pollution, overuse, development and climate change. MKM's project focused on the capacity of local authorities to protect and manage the lake as central to addressing the site's challenges. The Municipality of Dojran played a crucial role, providing technical documentation and overseeing various environmental assessments. They also collaborated with MKM to establish key stakeholder groups and plans to guide the sustainable management of the lake.

The project identified deficiencies limiting good management, including insufficient data on the lake's biodiversity, inadequate management planning and a lack of infrastructure needed to combat pollution. Additionally, local stakeholders lacked awareness of the lake's ecological significance, and pollution from wastewater threatened its health.

Project participants collected comprehensive data on the lake's biodiversity and water quality, providing insights into its ecological condition. The project team also facilitated the development of critical management documents like a "Revalorization Study and Management Plan," which set out objectives and measures for sustainable lake management.

This collaborative effort led to the implementation of nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment and pollution prevention, directly improving the lake's environmental health. The project also prevented a plan for potentially harmful sediment extraction, protecting the lake's delicate ecosystem.

Assessments conducted using CEPF's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) recorded the success of MKM's efforts. From the project's start in 2019 and to its completion in 2024, the site's score jumped from 14 to 24 points.

Samples from first assessment of the fish population of Dojran Lake. © Spase Shumka

The METT revealed improved scores in areas such as planning for land and water use, staff training and local community engagement—all of which sets the stage for strengthening the lake ecosystem and its ability to support people and biodiversity.

INDICATOR — Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.

Since inception, 1,259 globally threatened species have benefited from conservation action by CEPF grantees. Conservation actions have been diverse and range from population surveys to site monitoring to captive breeding. During the past year, 93 species have been added to the list.

Figure 1.8

Number of Globally Threatened Species Benefiting from Conservation Action 2001–30 JUNE 2023

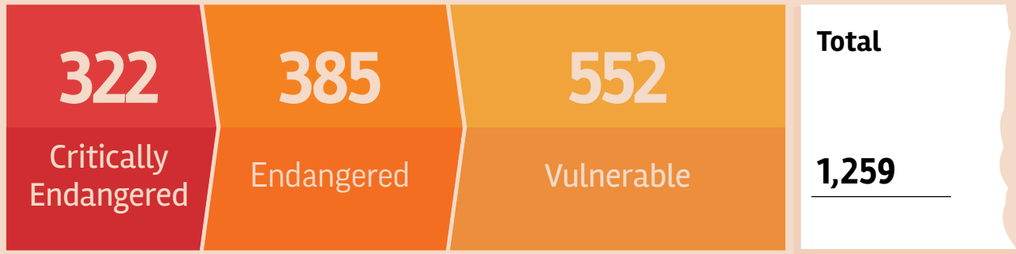
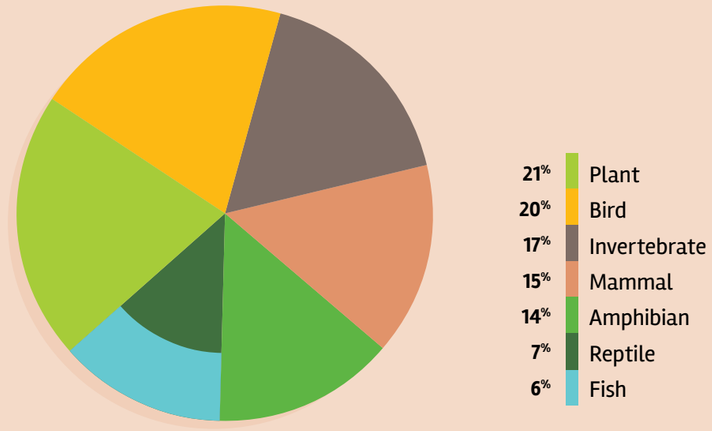


Figure 1.9

Taxa Benefiting from CEPF Conservation Action 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Vultures Bring Good News for Cambodia's Nature

White-rumped and slender-billed vultures at buffalo carcass. © Conservation International/ photo by Jack Tordoff

In Cambodia, one sign of hope for nature arrived on the wings of vultures.

In June 2023, a census of three Critically Endangered vulture species delivered exciting news: the highest count of these vultures since 2016.

Vultures were once abundant in Cambodia and other Asian countries, where they performed the essential job of cleaning up animal carcasses across the landscape. In the 1980s and '90s, populations of the now Critically Endangered red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) and white-rumped vulture (*G. bengalensis*) suffered drastic declines due to a reduction in a primary food source—wild ungulates—and poisoning by Diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat domestic livestock. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the red-headed vulture has experienced a global population decline of greater than 80–99%, while the other two species have declined by more than 99%.

Red-headed vulture. © Conservation International/ photo by Jack Tordoff

The situation is dire, but dedicated vulture enthusiasts are making a clear difference. Among them are members of the Cambodia Vulture Working Group (CVWG), which includes two governmental entities—the Ministry of Environment and the Forestry Administration—as well as five conservation organizations: Ankor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity, NatureLife Cambodia, Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd., Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Using the Cambodia Vulture Action Plan as a guide, CEPF grantees Rising Phoenix and NatureLife Cambodia and other CVWG members implemented essential conservation measures. The establishment of five supplementary feeding stations, also known as "vulture restaurants," increased the food supply and reduced exposure to tainted carcasses. Conservationists also implemented protections and monitoring for nests and habitat, and worked with stakeholders to monitor for the use of Diclofenac.

Following these steps, the June 2023 census found 133 individuals, comprised of 16 red-headed vultures, 40 slender-billed vultures and 76 white-rumped vultures.

"These Critically Endangered birds are on the brink of extinction, but for the first time in recent years, we have hope that our efforts will make the difference," said Bou Vorsak, chief executive officer of NatureLife Cambodia.

Brown capuchin monkey (*Sapajus apella*) chews on bamboo, Peru. © Trond Larsen

Species Highlights

Bringing the Egyptian Tortoise Back from the Brink

Mediterranean Basin The Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) lives in the driest conditions tolerated by any tortoise in the world. Previously common in the northern coastal deserts of Egypt and Libya, this Critically Endangered species is in serious decline due to habitat loss, agricultural expansion, quarrying, development, invasive species (crows, rats, dogs), and other human activities such as illegal trade. To secure the survival of the species, Hemaya Environmental Consultancy is implementing the Egyptian Tortoise Conservation Program. Activities include identifying suitable "conservation islands" in Egypt that can act as biodiversity refuges as well as sites for reintroduction of the tortoise from captive bred stock. Reintroduction is no easy task. The habitat must have sufficient vegetation to offer essential shade and be free of current and future human-induced threats. For these reasons, Hemaya works closely with local government and communities to increase awareness about the importance of the species. The Egyptian tortoise is a key indicator of ecosystem health, and if the habitat is subject to pressures and threats, they are usually the first to disappear. The conservation of tortoise habitats will also benefit many other declining, threatened and endemic species that share this fragile ecosystem.

Left to right: Moving tortoises to a new enclosure. Egyptian tortoises. Both photos © Watter AlBahry

Greater adjutant.
© Purnima Devi Barman

Twenty Years of Effort Revives Rare Stork Species

Indo–Burma The greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*) is the second rarest stork species in the world, found only in northeastern India and Cambodia. Conservation efforts over the last 20 years have brought the species back from the brink of extinction, countering threats posed by destruction of breeding and feeding sites and the hunting and collection of eggs and chicks. In Cambodia this work has centered on the Prek Toal bird colony on Tonle Sap Lake, where CEPF has supported Wildlife Conservation Society and other partners to protect critical habitat and reduce hunting pressure. Here, the population has increased from only 50 breeding pairs in the early 2000s to 200 pairs today. In northeastern India, conservation efforts have involved an army of women activists led by Purnima Devi Barman, the founder of the Hargila Army, an all-female conservation initiative. Thanks to these grassroots conservation initiatives, the IUCN Red List status of the greater adjutant was downlisted from Endangered to Near Threatened in 2023.

Supporting the Most Threatened Cat in South America

Tropical Andes Teko Kavi Foundation, working in the Apolobamba protected area in Bolivia, confirmed the presence of one of the world's most endangered felines—the Andean cat (*Leopardus jacobita*)—through camera traps and direct encounters.

The Andean cat's distribution is highly restricted, limited to sites in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia, as well as northern Chile and Argentina. Mining and hunting are among its main threats.

The project involved four Indigenous communities, the Andean Cat Alliance and park rangers from Apolobamba, which is a CEPF-priority Key Biodiversity Area. Camera traps recorded 11 photos of the Critically Endangered cat and captured images of other species as well as feral dogs and cats, which present additional threats. A potential distribution map of the feline was generated, complemented with information from historical records.

The project included educational and awareness-raising activities as well as community engagement in the development of an action plan for the cat's conservation. The aim is to replicate the plan in other areas to ensure the Andean cat's survival and conservation of its habitat.

Andean cat. © Fundación Teko Kavi

First National Conservation Action Plan Set for Semirechensk Salamander

Mountains of Central Asia Kazakhstan is home to the Endangered Semirechensk salamander (*Ranodon sibiricus*), a species facing threats from all sides. These include habitat degradation, trampling by livestock and climate change, which is contributing to stream desiccation and a lowered water table. The invasive American mink (*Neovison vison*) is also a fearsome predator that is expanding its range. It poses a direct threat to the hibernating salamander. The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan is working in the Koksu State Nature Sanctuary and nearby national nature parks and hunting concessions to conduct research on the salamander and the mink, and to promote improved pasture management practices by nearby communities. During the project, the team conducted five seasonal trips to 60 localities within the Dzungarian ecological corridor to monitor the species, document the habitat conditions and assess anthropogenic impact. The research contributed to the first National Conservation Action Plan for the species, an additional assessment of IUCN Red List status, and recommendations for community livestock management. It also informed action taken by Kazonkol Ltd., a company responsible for the three hunting estates/concessions located in the corridor, and Altyn-Emel State National Nature Park. Kazonkol worked to reduce disturbance to mammal breeding areas by grazing and hunting, and encouraged removal of the American mink by hunters in their area of operation. The same actions are being mapped out for Altyn-Emel park via proposed additions to its management plan.

Semirechensk salamander. © Dmitry Stupin/ACBK

Managing Threats Facing the Antiguan Racer

Caribbean Islands The Critically Endangered Antiguan racer (*Alsophis antiguae*) once existed throughout Antigua and Barbuda. However, it suffered from relentless predation by invasive rats and mongooses, which were introduced to the country during colonial times. By 1995, all that remained were a mere 50 individuals discovered by locals on the 8.4-hectare Great Bird Island. After major efforts to remove the invasive predators and reintroduce racers to three other offshore islands, the racer population increased. The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) and partners are now conducting regular wildlife monitoring and biosecurity checks on the four islands where racers are present. Unfortunately, a 2023 field survey showed racer populations plummeting by two-thirds, from roughly 1,200 individuals found in 2016 to only 400 individuals in 2023. EAG believes the key reason for this dramatic decline is climate change—particularly increasing temperatures and a lack of stable water source—along with development on vital racer habitat. EAG recently completed a conservation action plan that includes climate considerations and is engaging with a range of stakeholders including communities, island owners and the government of Antigua and Barbuda to save this iconic snake.

Antiguan racer. © Jenny Daltry/EAG/FFI

Seagrass Management Improved in North Sulawesi

Wallacea The east coast of Sangihe Island in Indonesia's North Sulawesi Province supports a thriving seagrass ecosystem that is home to a diversity of marine creatures including rabbit fishes, trevallies, sea cucumbers and dugongs. Local communities depend on fishing, often leading to overharvest of the Endangered sea cucumber golden sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) and bycatch of the Vulnerable dugong (*Dugong dugon*).

CEPF grantee Perkumpulan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat dan Pendidikan Konservasi Alam (YAPEKA) targeted four villages to improve the management of this ecosystem to ensure its ability to support thriving, sustainable, small-scale fisheries and a healthy dugong population.

The project site is a group of six community-based marine protected areas, comprising 60,000 hectares. Sea cucumbers are central to the fishery, with several species in demand, including the highly sought-after golden sandfish. A focus on this species has been central to YAPEKA's work, with the goal of promoting sustainable sea cucumber harvesting to increase income for communities and reduce dugong bycatch.

The project achieved successes on many levels. The focus on sea cucumbers led to establishment of a learning center to train local people in sustainable seagrass fisheries management and creation of a sea cucumber aquaculture demonstration plot with regular monitoring. The project also trained fishermen in sustainable harvest. In October 2022, the Bahari Bulo Lestari Cooperative in Bulo sold their first harvest of 15 kilograms of sea cucumber to a buyer in Jakarta. Shortly afterwards, in January 2023, Bulo Village and Bukide Timur Village were acknowledged as sea cucumber tourism villages by the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy of the Republic of Indonesia, increasing the likelihood that tourists might visit these remote locations.

A seagrass bed in Bulo, Indonesia. © YAPEKA

Team from CEPF grantee REACT conducting field work in Tunisia. © Majdi Calboussi

CEPF PILLAR 2

CIVIL SOCIETY

INDICATOR — Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity.

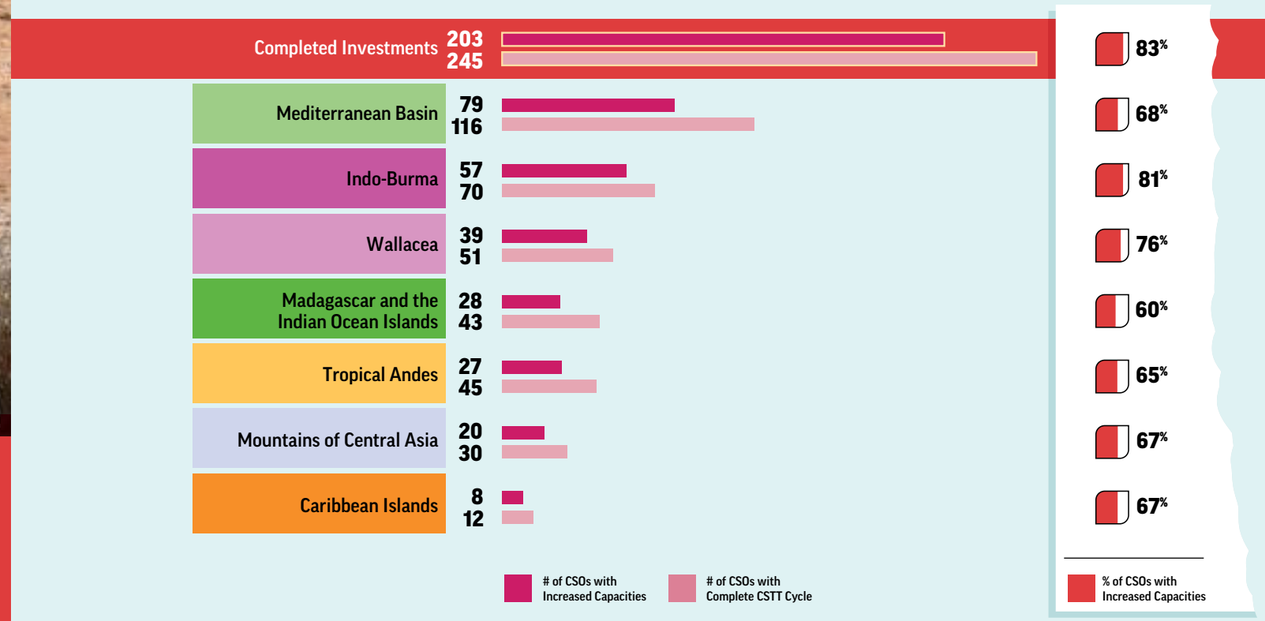
The Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) was launched 2009 in two pilot hotspots and was extended to all active hotspots in 2013. The tool was administered to both local and international organizations. In January 2023, the CEPF Secretariat revised its guidelines pertaining to the completion of tracking tools, exempting international organizations from this requirement due to CEPF's emphasis on capacity building of local civil society organizations. Therefore, from July 2022 going forward, all data for CSTTs will represent local entities only. As such, at the close of fiscal year 2023, CEPF had received 612 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from local recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants. The 612 local organizations that submitted a complete assessment are from 17 biodiversity hotspots:

Completed investments:
Cerrado, Eastern Afromontane, East Melanesian Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, and Western Ghats.

Ongoing investments:
Caribbean Islands, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mountains of Central Asia, Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes and Wallacea.

Figure 2.1

Number and Percentage of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with Increased Capacities for Completed and Active Investments 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Training on beekeeping conducted by CEPF grantee Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT). © ANCOT

Out of the 612 local organizations that completed their reporting cycles, 461 recorded an increase in organizational capacity (75.3%). **Figure 2.1** presents the results per hotspot with an ongoing investment and the average for the hotspots with a completed investment. It is important to note the impact of CEPF completed investments: from a total of 245 civil society organizations with a complete CSTT cycle, in 10 biodiversity hotspots, 82.8% of those organizations have reported an increase in capacity, with an average increase of 11 points.

Student intern collects seagrass data in Batuwingkung, Indonesia.
© YAPEKA

As per **Figure 2.2**, which presents the average baseline and final scores for completed investments and each hotspot with an ongoing investment, there is an overall weighted average increase of 7 points (+11.8%) in the capacities of civil society organizations. This weighted average is obtained by multiplying the average of each hotspot by the number of civil society organizations with a complete cycle for this hotspot.

Figure 2.2

Average Change in Capacity of Civil Society Organizations 2001–30 JUNE 2023

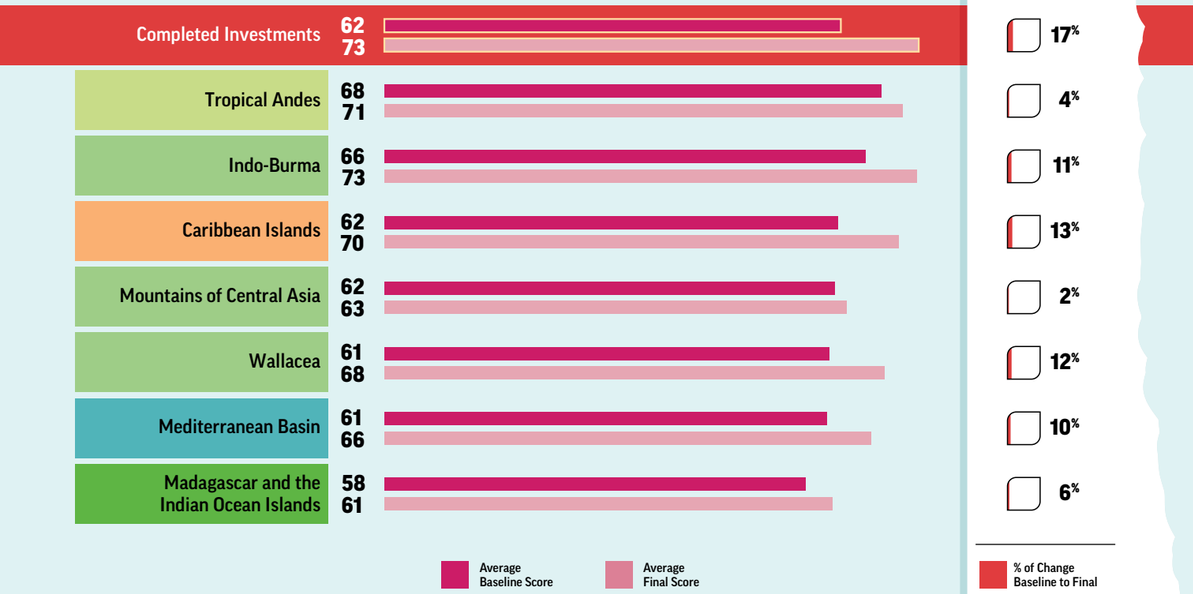
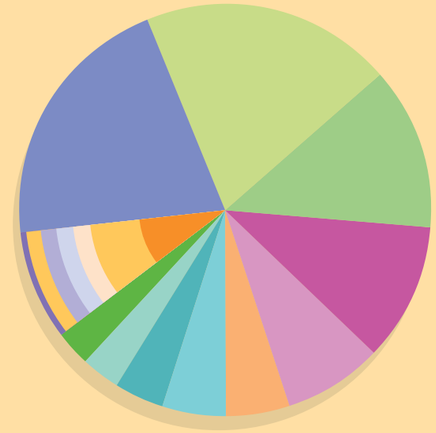


Figure 2.3

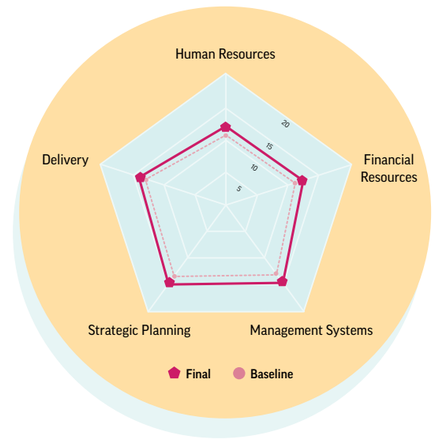
Contribution of Each Hotspot to CEPF Global Impact on Civil Society Organizations' Capacities 2001–30 JUNE 2023



- 21% East Melanesian Islands
- 20% Cerrado
- 13% Mediterranean Basin
- 11% Indo-Burma
- 8% Wallacea
- 5% Eastern Afromontane
- 5% Guinean Forests of West Africa
- 4% Polynesia–Micronesia
- 3% Western Ghats and Sri Lanka
- 3% Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
- 2% Caribbean Islands
- 2% Tropical Andes
- 1% Mountains of Southwest China
- 1% Mountains of Central Asia
- 1% Tumbes–Chocó–Magdalena
- 1% Maputaland–Pondoland–Albany
- >1% Mesoamerica

Figure 2.4

Change in Average CSTT Scores 2001–30 JUNE 2023



In **Figure 2.3**, one can see that East Melanesian Islands and Cerrado–two hotspots from CEPF's completed investments–made the largest contributions to CEPF's impact on civil society capacity building globally. These figures are determined by considering the number of civil society organizations with a complete CSTT assessment in each hotspot and the change in percentage of their CSTT scores, then relating this change to the total number of organizations with a complete CSTT assessment. For example, because 89% of participating grantees from the Cerrado showed an increase in capacity, and the number of participating grantees is 72, this represents a higher contribution than a hotspot such as the Mediterranean Basin, where 116 grantees participated and 68% of them increased their capacities.

Finally, as per **Figure 2.4**, organizations benefiting from CEPF grants have seen the highest improvements in their management systems, showing an average increase of 1.6 points. Strengthened management systems allow available resources to be translated into effective actions.

Indigenous Peruvian Communities Strengthen Protected-Area Management

Graduates of a training course on designing and managing conservation projects. © Cynthia Garland

Awajún Indigenous communities that live in and around the Chayu Nain Communal Reserve in northeast Peru used CEPF grant funding to strengthen the comanagement of the reserve and improve livelihoods.

The grant was awarded to an organization that represents 11 communities, the Executor of the Administration Contract of the Chayu Nain Communal Reserve, or ECA Chayu Nain. The project supported updates to three management documents: ECA Chayu Nain's statute; its operating system; and regulations on the protection and conservation of the natural resources of 11 Indigenous communities neighboring the Chayu Nain Communal Reserve comanaged with the National Service of Protected Areas by the State (SERNANP).

Crafts workshop. © María Albornoz/Yunkawasi

Training provided to 1,151 community members—43% women and 57% men—focused on conservation and the importance of the ecosystem services provided by the reserve. With the support of partner organization Yunkawasi, five young men and women from the communities of Pakui, Wawas and Shushug were trained in designing and managing conservation projects. They secured a donation of US$8,000 from the New England Biolabs Foundation for the implementation of a project promoting the breeding of Amazonian fish in the Chiriaco Basin in northeastern Peru, in an Awajún community allied with the Chayu Nain Reserve.

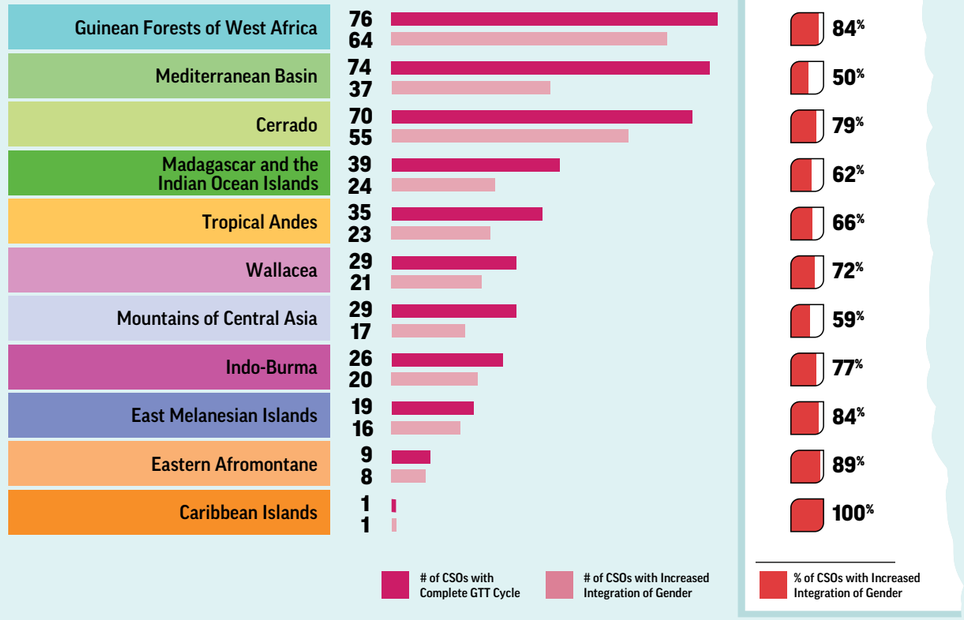
The ECA Chayu Nain also created a craft committee with 34 members (29% men and 71% women). The committee is responsible not only for preserving the craft traditions of the Awajún communities, but also for raising the quality and value of their products. By the time of the project's completion, a commercial agreement had been established to sell handcrafted goods in a coffee shop in the city of Chachapoyas.

INDICATOR — Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues.

The Gender Tracking Tool (GTT) was launched in 2017 and was administered to both local and international entities. In January 2023, the CEPF Secretariat revised its guidelines pertaining to the completion of tracking tools, requiring only local entities to complete a tracking tool. Starting July 2022, all figures for GTTs represent local entities only. As such, since 2017, CEPF has approved 1,081 assessments from local recipients of large grants, small grants (US$50,000 or less) and subgrants across 11 biodiversity hotspots: Caribbean Islands, Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. In total, there are 407 local organizations with a baseline and a final assessment from all 11 biodiversity hotspots.

Figure 2.5

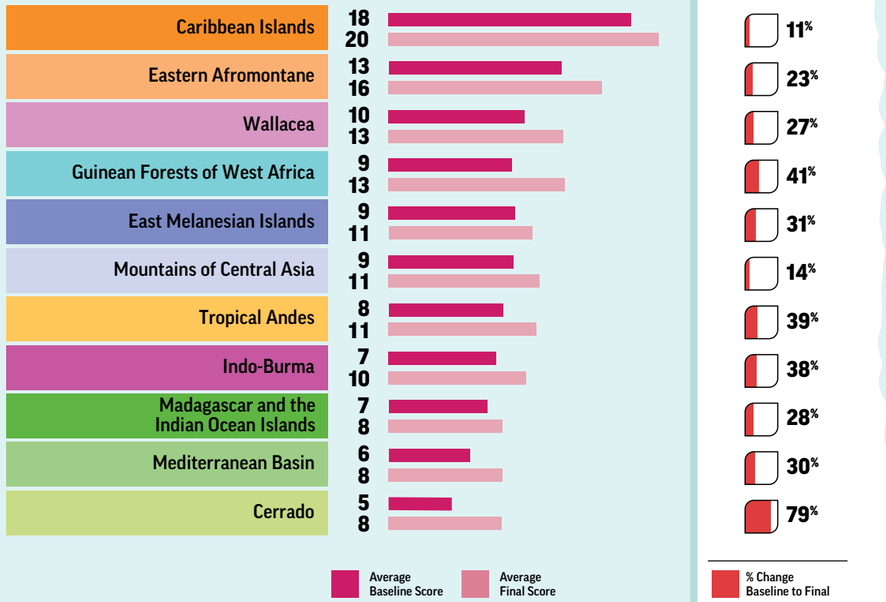
Number and Percentage of Civil Society Organizations with Increased Integration of Gender by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023



The CEPF impact on civil society organizations' understanding of and commitment to gender issues is based on the analysis of the baseline and final assessments of these 407 local organizations. Of these, 287 recorded an increase in understanding of and commitment to gender issues (70.5 %). **Figures 2.5** and **2.6** present the results by hotspot.

Figure 2.6

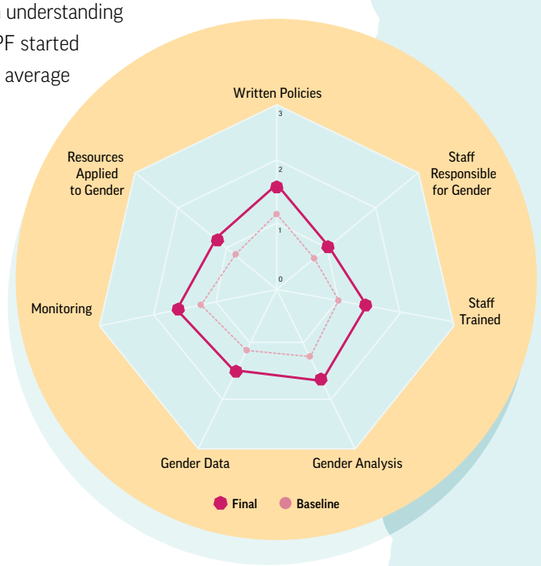
Average Change in Gender Integration by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023



For the 407 organizations, out of a maximum score of 20 points, the overall average baseline score was 7.6 points, and the average final score was 10.4. This represents a global increase in understanding of and commitment to gender issues of 37% since CEPF started promoting gender integration. **Figure 2.7** presents the average evolution of scores.

Figure 2.7

Average Evolution of Gender Integration Among Civil Society Organizations 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Small Gains Add Up for Women-Led Effort to Conserve Kyrgyzstan Habitats

Students conduct research in the Zhuuku micro-reserve (left) and record their observations. Both © Chyngyz Namazaliev

The LEADER Center for Civic Initiatives in Kyrgyzstan is a women-led nongovernmental organization which, since the early 2000s, has encouraged women, youth and local communities to assume civic responsibility in areas of education, small enterprise and natural resource management. The members of LEADER are women who head households, own small plots of land or livestock, run their own small enterprises, or are teachers and even local politicians.

With the support of a CEPF small grant, they have stitched together plots of land to create formal protected areas. Even though the plots are as small as a hectare in size, they are in critical locations, protecting precise habitats.

Those habitats are part of the floodplains and stream valleys to the east of Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul Lake, which host populations of wild apricot tree (*Prunus armeniaca*) and the Critically Endangered plant *Sibiraea tianschanica*. These species have nearly disappeared from the area due to pressure from cattle grazing, tree harvesting, agriculture and recreation activities, with concurrent destruction of riverbanks, flooding and degradation of habitat.

Raising Awareness

To address the threat, LEADER prepared informational materials and conducted educational activities about the importance of biodiversity, conservation and micro-reserves. They held information sessions with local government representatives and teachers and presented the micro-reserve concept at a women's investment forum attended by more than 100 businesswomen from Issyk-Kul and other regions of Kyrgyzstan.

Creation of the First Micro-Reserve

In Saruu village, LEADER helped organize a public committee for the establishment of a micro-reserve, including delineation of its boundaries and management objectives. Next, they worked to encourage the involvement of young people from Saruu schools to create a plant nursery for seedlings of wild apricot tree to restore depleted ecosystems.

Enthusiasm for a micro-reserve on the territory of Saruu gained steam as stakeholders recognized the importance of conserving the habitat and restoring the wild apricot population. Women led the effort, and succeeded in:

- Creating a 1-hectare micro-reserve on the bank of the river Dzhuku.
- Designing and building a billboard.
- Planting wild apricot tree seedlings in the micro-reserve with additional shrubs and grasses to provide a tiered terrain.
- Organizing a further six eco-educational activities in the micro-reserve for both youth and adults.

Scaling Up

Building on their success, LEADER then promoted the concept with a "festival of micro-reserves" that invited other communities to Saruu. People from neighboring areas took up the challenge to create their own reserves with guidance from LEADER on mapping and zoning. These communities now support one another and others in the country promoting micro-reserves.

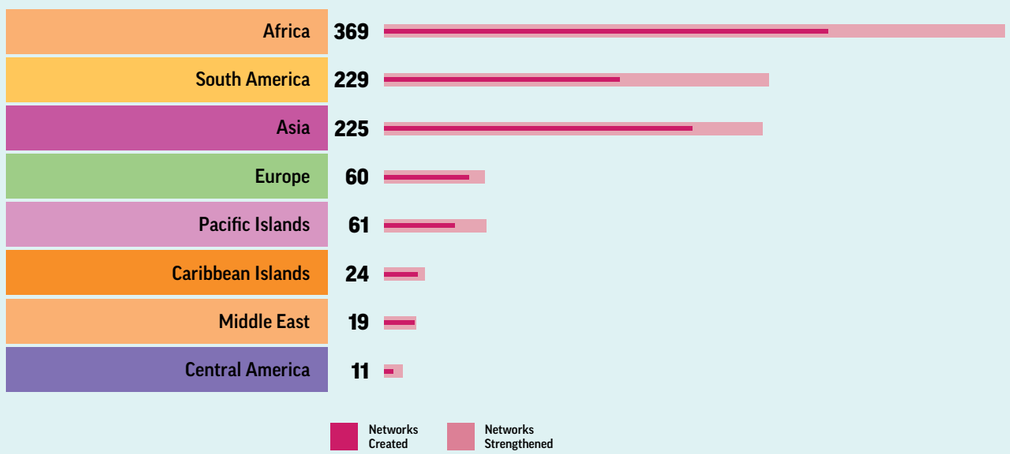
INDICATOR — Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.

CEPF encourages grantees to create and support partnerships and networks. These alliances are especially important as these can make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. They can secure broad support for conservation actions, promote inclusion among diverse stakeholders and increase the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be sustainable. Since fund inception, CEPF has recorded a total of 998 networks/partnerships strengthened through CEPF-funded projects, 722 of which were also created by grantees. The networks/partnerships strengthened figure marks an increase of 276 since 30 June 2022 (the close of fiscal year 2022).

Baru nut workshop at the IX Cerrado Peoples Meeting, Brasília, Brazil. © Fernando Pires

Figure 2.8

Networks and Partnerships Created and/or Strengthened by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Mekong River at Sangkhom, Thailand. © O. Langrand

Mediterranean Organizations Come Together to Support Sea Turtles

The Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot is home to many marine species, including the ancient mariners of the ocean—sea turtles. Their presence serves as a vital link in marine ecosystems, contributing to balanced food webs and the health of coral reefs and seagrass beds.

Sea turtles are sensitive to alterations within the ecosystem, and they are under severe threat from pollution, overfishing, bycatch, habitat loss, coastal development and climate change. While efforts to conserve sea turtles have been ongoing for years in the Mediterranean Basin and elsewhere, the need for a comprehensive approach in the Mediterranean has never been more urgent.

Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) released from care center, Monastir, Tunisia. © Louis-Marie Preau

Check out a NASTNet video on sea turtle nesting.

"One hand will not clap .... Without the cooperation between all the sea turtle conservation networks and stakeholders in the five countries, we could not achieve anything."

Workshop organized by WWF North Africa and the NASTNet network in Monastir, Tunisia. © Wassim Amdrous/WWF North Africa

Cabo Verde Finds Nesting Success

CEPF, in collaboration with various conservation donors, supported sea turtle conservation efforts in Cabo Verde since 2012 via grants to members of TAOLA, a local network aimed at protecting the Vulnerable loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*). Their hard work and collaboration over a decade paid off—Cabo Verde has become one of the top three countries for loggerhead turtle nesting, with more than 200,000 nests per season in recent years. With only one in a thousand turtle hatchlings known to mature to adulthood, Cabo Verde conservation organizations adopted new patrolling and scientific monitoring technologies to improve nesting success, giving hatchlings the best possible chance of making it to the ocean.

A New Network in North Africa

In another part of the hotspot, fruitful collaboration inspired conservation organizations in North Africa to seek funds from CEPF to establish the North African Sea Turtle Protection Network, or NASTNet. The network includes groups in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Through CEPF's grant to WWF-North Africa, NASTNet aims to coordinate sea turtle conservation efforts, share experiences and build capacity to develop a network strategy to support partners in the areas of conservation, awareness and scientific research. The network also is supporting the pursuit of funding for sea turtle conservation and coordination with other initiatives active in marine conservation. NASTNet became an officially recognized nongovernmental organization under Tunisian law in 2023.

From the start, NASTNet sought to tackle sea turtle threats and challenges in an integrated way. They linked with other turtle networks, and in 2022 in Benin, they participated in the first African congress on sea turtles to share knowledge and learn from other conservation networks' experiences and methods. Information exchange included data collection, protocols, agreements and sea turtle monitoring technologies. Within North Africa, NASTNet has facilitated the standardization of monitoring protocols for marine turtle conservation across the five countries, thereby ensuring reliable comparison of country-specific results. They also worked to create solid relationships with schools, local communities, fishermen, experts and governments to strengthen their commitment to conserve sea turtles and facilitate monitoring.

"One hand will not clap .... Without the cooperation between all the sea turtle conservation networks and stakeholders in the five countries, we could not achieve anything," said Mehdi Aissi, marine program manager for WWF Tunisia. Thanks to the collective long-term conservation efforts of all conservation organizations around the Mediterranean Sea, the Mediterranean subpopulation of the loggerhead turtle is slated to be downlisted from Vulnerable to Least Concern under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species criteria—a conservation success worth celebrating even though the global population remains Vulnerable.

Basket weaving, local women's association, Ambodivoasry Reserve, Madagascar.
© Rindra Andriamahefasoa, ACT (Acting for Communities and Trees)

CEPF PILLAR 3

HUMAN WELL-BEING

INDICATOR — Number of people receiving structured training.

This indicator captures the number of men and women who have participated in a training opportunity, which could include a formal training course, a structured exchange visit or a technical training workshop. As with other indicators, sex-disaggregated data is only available since collection started in 2017. To date, 228,445 people have received structured training, including 64,817 women. During the past year, training topics have included fire management, wildlife monitoring, processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries products, soap production, reef management and restoration, horticulture, pasture management, leadership skills, gender mainstreaming and several other topics that support local civil society organizations to improve their capacity to deliver on the objectives of the projects and succeed.

Figure 3.1

Number of Trainees by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023

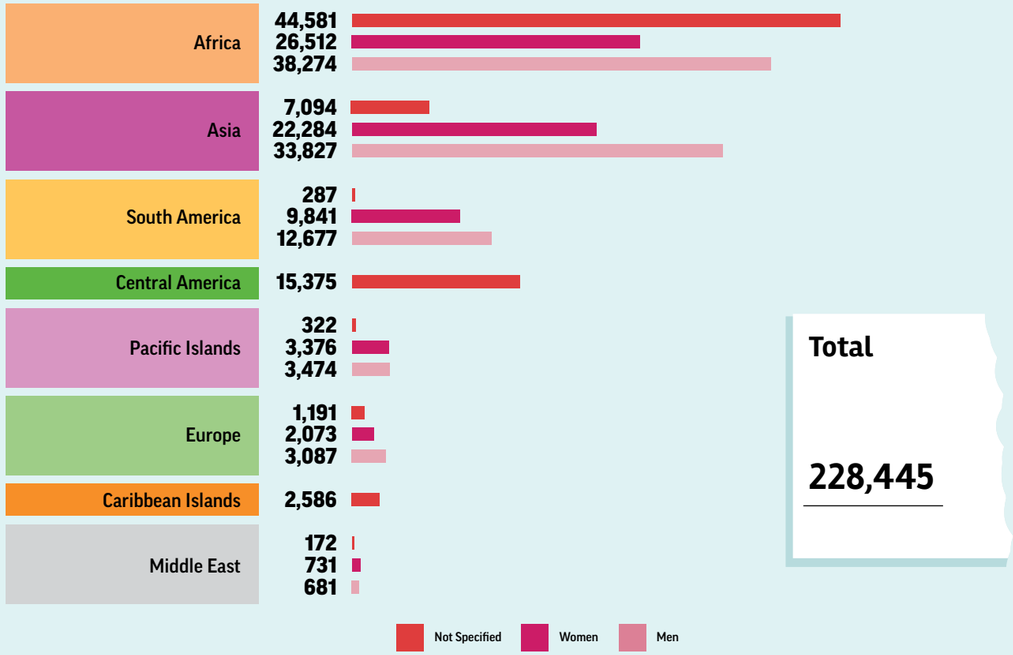
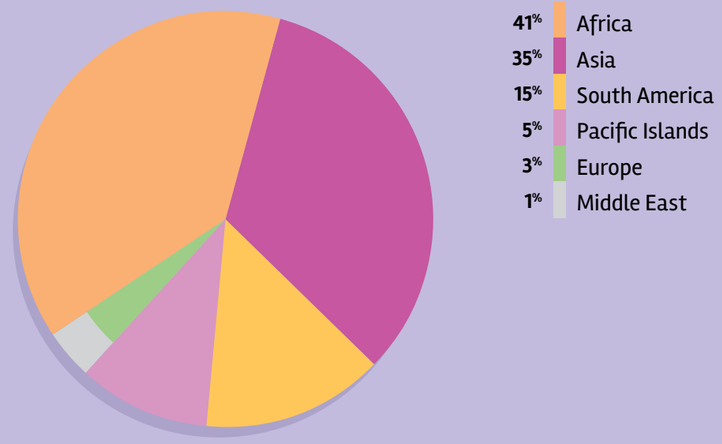


Figure 3.2

Number of Women Trainees by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Training in Mangrove and Mud Crab Management Means Increased Income

Fisherman poses with mud crabs.
© Kukuh Tohari/Burung Indonesia

On Peleng Island, part of Indonesia's Central Sulawesi Province, the mud crabs (*Scylla serrata*) that thrive in mangroves feed people and fuel the local economy. So growing threats to the mangroves—from land conversion, development and the harvest of wood for construction and energy—are imperiling both the crabs and the way of life for local communities.

With a grant from CEPF, the Salanggar Association worked with fishermen from the three villages—Saiyong, Ambelang and Manngalai—to manage the mangrove ecosystem, ensure sustainability of the crab harvest, introduce a governance system to regulate fishing areas and size/sex of harvested crabs, and strengthen marketing strategies.

The villages lie along a bay on the northern part of the island, an area of extremely high significance for biodiversity. The bay is part of the larger Peleng-Banggai marine Key Biodiversity Area, which encompasses the Banggai Dalaka marine protected area. That protected area, in turn, includes part of one the most threatened coral reef zones in the world.

Training was an important part of the project, with 132 people (including 17 women) from the three villages trained in many aspects of mangrove and mud crab management. Trainees learned how to map a mangrove ecosystem and monitor the density and the dominance of the 10 tree species composing the mangrove ecosystem. Training was also conducted on monitoring crab capture and selective harvesting to increase the size of individuals harvested and avoid the harvest of spawning females.

The result has been that the people living on the edge of the Peleng-Banggai Key Biodiversity Area are better equipped to not only protect this unique area, but also to benefit from it.

Peleng Island community. © Kukuh Tohari/Burung Indonesia

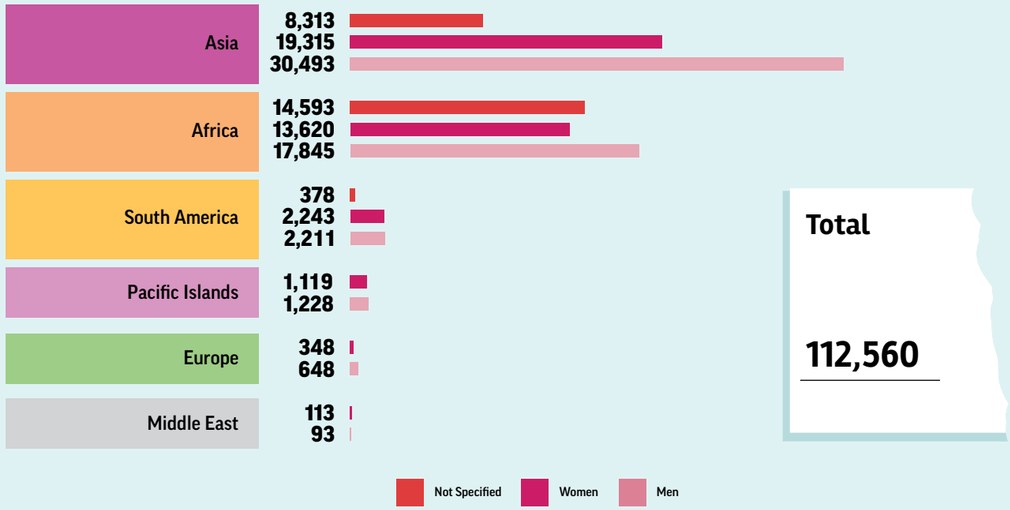
Fisher off the coast of Sailus Village, Indonesia. © REKAM

INDICATOR — Number of people receiving cash benefits.

Since 2017, CEPF has systematically collected data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits in the context of the projects funded by CEPF. These benefits are derived from employment opportunities, for example in projects where grantees hire people to work in plant nurseries or work as eco-guides, or from small-scale alternative livelihood projects where beneficiaries can generate income. Examples of activities yielding cash benefits include collection of wild nuts and fruits; production of silk, honey and soap; and processing and sale of sustainably harvested crabs, fish and sea cucumbers. To date, CEPF has recorded 112,560 people receiving cash benefits, 36,758 of which are women.

Figure 3.3

Number of People Receiving Cash Benefits 2001–30 JUNE 2023



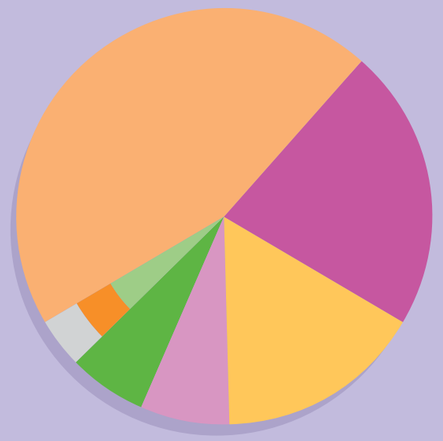
INDICATOR — Number of people receiving non–cash benefits other than structured training.

CEPF has collected data on the number of communities benefiting from CEPF-funded projects since 2001, but not until 2017 did monitoring expand to include collection of information about community characteristics, types of benefits received, and number of males and females in each community. Since inception of the fund in 2001, a total of 5,709 communities have been recorded as benefiting and a total of 1,713,354 people (870,901 males and 842,453 females) have been recorded as benefiting from the 4,722 communities counted since 2017. The **figures 3.5** and **3.6** illustrate the characteristics of the communities CEPF has supported and the types of benefits received.

Farmer sowing rice paddy bordering Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetland system, Madagascar. © Ruben Foquet/BINCO

Figure 3.4

Communities Benefiting from CEPF Projects by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



45%	Africa
22%	Asia
16%	South America
7%	Pacific Islands
6%	Central America
2%	Europe
1%	Caribbean Islands
1%	Middle East

Total

5,709

Indigenous Youth Strengthen Community Ties and Livelihoods in Cambodia

Agriculture youth group at work. © CIYA

Northern Cambodia is home to the Kui people, the largest Indigenous peoples group in the country. The Kui live throughout the Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom provinces, where many depend heavily on tapping dipterocarp resin trees for their livelihoods. The resin is sold for uses such as varnish, torches and waterproofing. Pressure from logging, mining and agribusiness, is, however, reducing the number of dipterocarp trees and, therefore, the economic prospects of many Kui people.

The Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) stepped in to work with three local communities to help them to protect their natural resources. All three villages—Slengtoul, Srei and Bongkorn—are typical in that the number of individuals under the age of 35 is often nearly double that of older residents. This affects the community's view of protecting their resources. Youth, particularly Indigenous youth, are caught in a fight between traditional values that prioritize community benefits and natural resource conservation, and modern values that focus more on individual gain. CIYA's work entailed rebuilding traditional values and engaging youth in all aspects of community life, including livelihood projects.

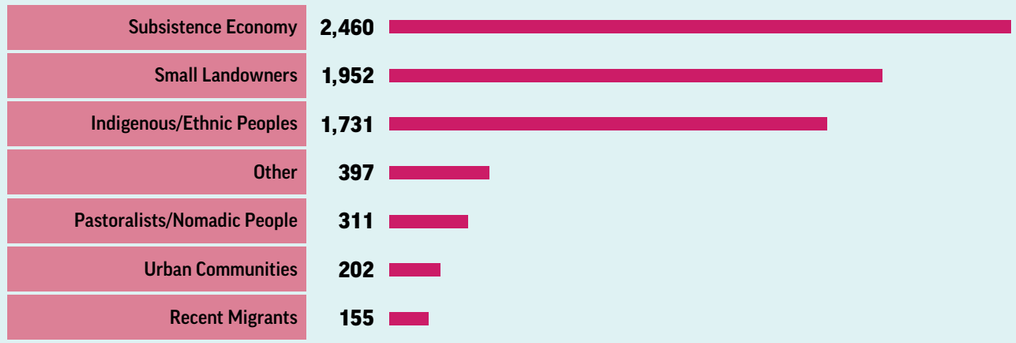
By the end of the project, three youth groups were created: a savings group, an agricultural group and a patrol group. The formation of these groups contributed to youth mobilization, improved livelihoods and reduced reliance on natural resource extraction. The savings group amassed US$4,000 in capital to be used to support their initiatives, and the agricultural group promoted shared farming, in which youth and elders collaborate. The patrol group brought youth and elders together for regular patrolling to share traditional knowledge of natural resources and protect the community's forest. A total of 59 men and 17 women received cash benefits, chiefly from community livelihood projects such as pig farming.

Young people became active community members by helping to demarcate land, clean up rubbish, support vaccination programs and work on community projects. They participated in committees and learned about governance by collaborating on actions and decisions. The project also strengthened cultural ties by increasing young community members' engagement with elders in traditional ceremonies and through a youth forum.

Older people reported that they did not fully appreciate the value of younger generations until their youth got more engaged. Meanwhile young participants in the project reported that they previously did not realize the role they could play in the community and now felt proud of their contributions.

Figure 3.5

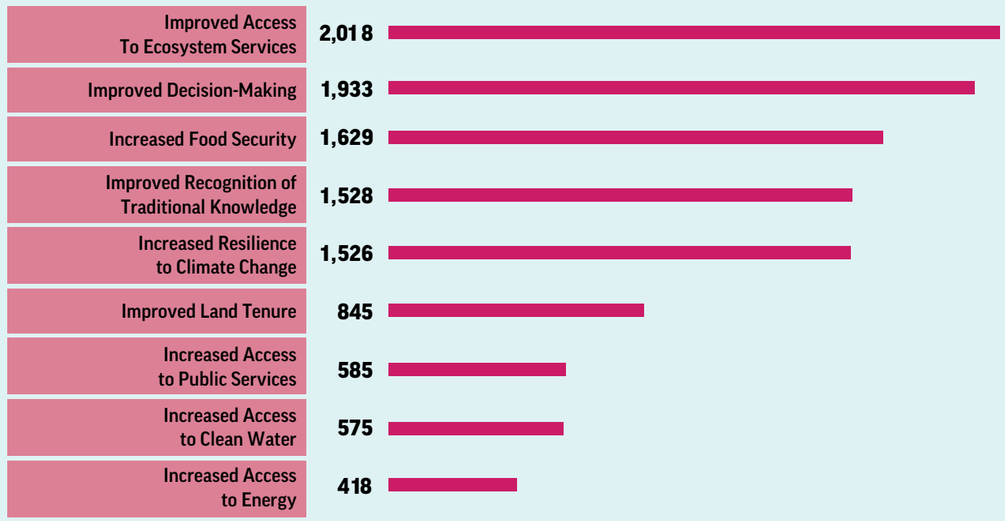
Characteristics of Communities Benefiting in 11 Hotspots 2017–30 JUNE 2023



Workshop on potential new conservation areas, Awá Indigenous Reservation of Alto Albi, Colombia. © Gran Familia Awá Binacional–GFAB, UNIPA and Nicolas Becerra

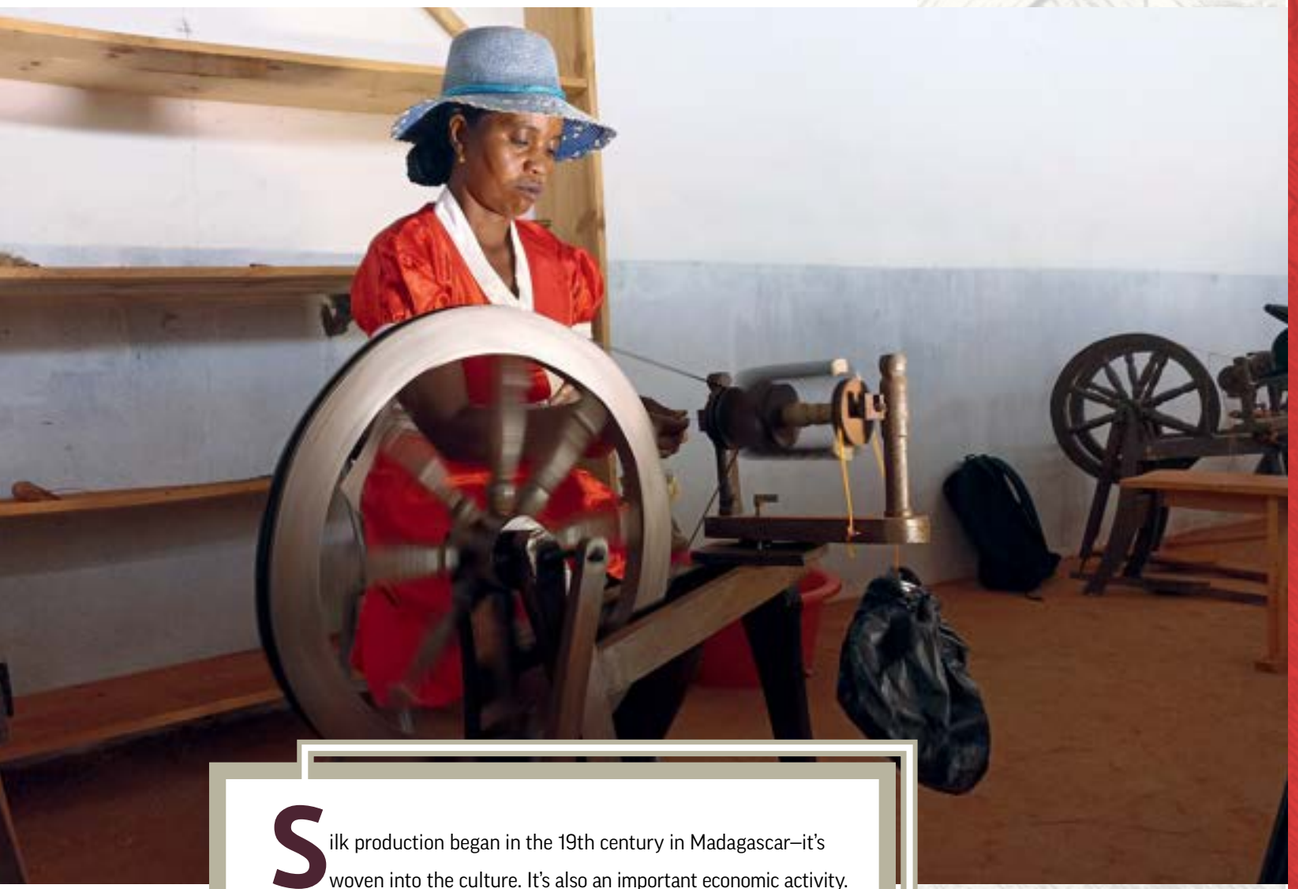
Figure 3.6

Types of Benefits Received by Communities in 11 Hotspots 2017–30 JUNE 2023



A ranger looks up at a large forest tree within Sirebe protected area, Solomon Islands. © Douglas Pikacha Jr.

Weaving Stronger Ties: Silkworms, Trees and Madagascar Communities



Silk production began in the 19th century in Madagascar—it's woven into the culture. It's also an important economic activity. And key to silk production are not only skilled local weavers, but also wild silkworms and the tapia trees (*Uapaca bojeri*) that feed them.

The silkworms and tapia tree forests are endemic to Madagascar, but the tapia forests are in decline due to clearing for agricultural production and charcoal.

Weaver in Ambatofinandrahana, threading silk with spinning wheel. © Sandra Randrianjatovo/Ny Tanintsika

Learn more about Ny Tanintsika's work.

"I believed that this was an opportunity and I could change my life. I borrowed 50,000 ariary to open my little grocery in my village and, after three months, I managed to pay back my loan."

Community tree planting in Ambatofinandrahana. © Sandra Randrianjatovo/Ny Tanintsika

Fortifying the Forest

Malagasy organization Ny Tanintsika and the Natural Sciences Department of the University of Antananarivo conducted research on repopulating wild silkworms in tapia tree forests and collaborated with local communities to improve livelihoods.

"The tapia forest is important both ecologically and economically," said Eugénie Raharisoa, the national coordinator of Ny Tanintsika, noting that the forest not only supports silk production, but also prevents soil erosion, and by extension, protects the livelihoods of people who collect mushrooms, medicinal plants and plants for dyeing.

Working with the Union Amafi, a group of grassroots communities managing the tapia forest in the district of Ambatofinandrahana in Central Madagascar, the project supported the production of tapia seedlings and other tree species, for replanting in the forest. The project team also established patrols to monitor pressures in the forest and assist researchers. By the end of the project, the density of silkworms in the targeted forest had increased by 60 times compared to the baseline density recorded in 2020. This jump was attributed in part to the involvement of the community through two newly installed silkworm nursery centers, where silkworm eggs are produced.

Income, Food Security and Training

In total, 200 men and 150 women recorded increased income as a result of the project. Ten communities totaling 4,026 people (including 822 women) benefited via increased food security due to receipt of seeds to support agricultural activities. Additional community benefits included the training of 30 women in dyeing and weaving silk, and the creation of a "self-help" village credit and savings system that boosted sources of income for local communities and benefited 580 persons.

"After the awareness raising concerning this self-help group I immediately signed up to be a member," said Ravao, a mother of two from the village of Mahavanona. "I believed that this was an opportunity and I could change my life. I borrowed 50,000 ariary (US$11) to open my little grocery in my village and, after three months, I managed to pay back my loan."

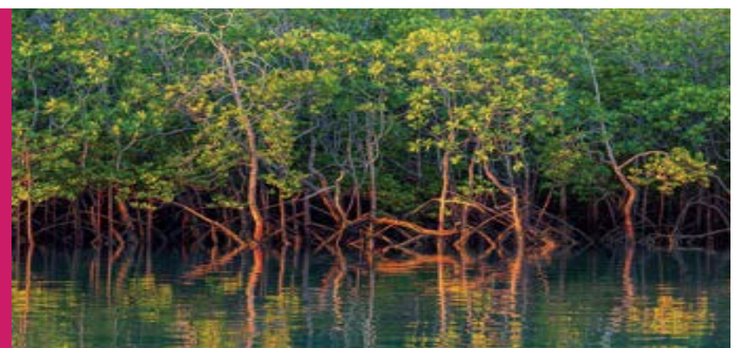
The project also set up a silk house for the transformation of cocoons into yarn, and at project completion, 793 kilograms of raw cocoons and silk threads were stored in the silk house, with an additional 1,500 kilograms of cocoons available in neighboring villages.

Researchers from Department of Science in University of Antananarivo working in a silkworm nursery center in Ambatomenaloha Village. © Sitraka Andriamampianina/Ny Tanintsika

INDICATOR — Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to climate change.

All biodiversity hotspots are experiencing changes in climate. Species, ecosystems and the people that depend on the hotspots are feeling the impacts. CEPF's grantees are addressing the threat by promoting nature-based solutions such as ecosystem resilience, protected-areas creation, reforestation, restoration, soil conservation and watershed management.

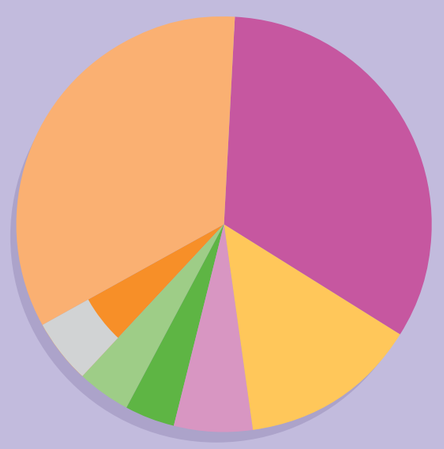
From inception through 30 June 2023, CEPF has supported a total of 1,735 projects implementing nature-based solutions to climate change, with grants totaling US$163,421,901.



Red mangroves, Madagascar.
© Jonathan Irish

Figure 3.7

Number of Projects Promoting Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



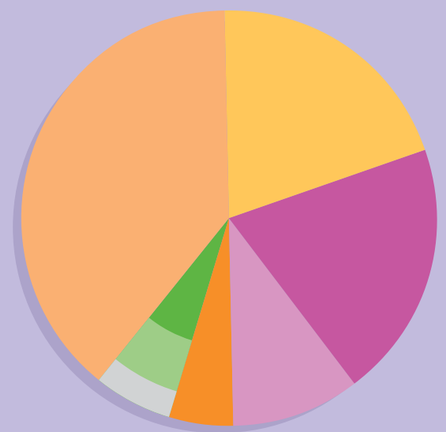
34%	Africa
33%	Asia
14%	South America
6%	Pacific Islands
4%	Central America
4%	Europe
3%	Caribbean Islands
2%	Middle East

Total

1,727

Figure 3.8

Restoration and Reforestation Projects by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



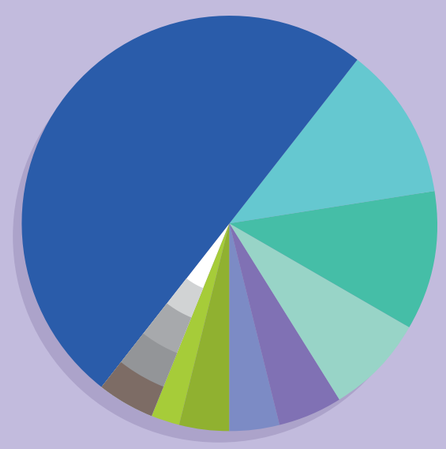
39%	Africa
20%	South America
20%	Asia
10%	Pacific Islands
5%	Caribbean Islands
3%	Central America
2%	Europe
1%	Middle East

Total

172

Figure 3.9

Restoration and Reforestation Projects by Habitat 2001–30 JUNE 2023



51%	Forest
12%	Wetlands (inland)
11%	Marine Coastal/Supratidal
8%	Savanna
5%	Grassland
4%	Shrubland
4%	Artificial Terrestrial
2%	No Specific Habitat
>1%	Other
>1%	Desert
>1%	Artificial Aquatic
>1%	Rocky Areas
>1%	Marine Neritic

Reinvigorating an Arid Region's Wetlands in Central Asia

Like many waterways, the Sry Darya River doesn't have much regard for borders. Including its headwaters, the river flows from the Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan into Uzbekistan, briefly through Tajikistan, back into Uzbekistan, into Kazakhstan, and ultimately toward the now almost disappeared Aral Sea.

As it crosses the border from Uzbekistan to Tajikistan, the river flows westward through a natural wetland and delta floodplain before collecting in the Kayrakkum Reservoir. The reservoir is a crucial source of fish and livelihoods for people in the adjacent Khujand, Tajikistan's second largest city. The flow of the river itself is similarly critical for Tajikistan to meet its water supply commitments to downstream neighbors. And the key to both the river's flow and the services provided by the reservoir: the wetland.

This area represents one of the last remaining spots along the Syr Darya River that supports arid-climate tugay forest ecosystems, which rely on floods and ground water rather than rainfall. The wetland filters water, prevents land erosion and stores carbon. It is a wintering site for migratory waterfowl, a spawning spot for the fish of the river and reservoir, and is home to several rare and endangered local endemic species, including the pike asp fish (*Aspiolucius esocinus*), which is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.

However, this valuable habitat has been shrinking. Climate change, siltation of river channels, livestock overgrazing, poaching and illegal fishing with electric equipment are just some of the factors undermining the ecosystem.

Tajikistan organization Youth Group on Protection of Environment (YGPE) recognized the peril posed by the multitude of threats to the wetlands, and in response, conducted a comprehensive environmental assessment. Based on scientific data and consultations with local stakeholders, YGPE developed and began implementation of a plan for restoration and sustainable management.

RESTORING AND MONITORING THE HABITAT

YGPE restored more than 8 kilometers of riparian channels reconnecting the central lake with the river and aiding the survival of fish spawn during the summertime's low water levels. The result: an estimated 5 million fish fingerlings saved annually.

The project team established a plant nursery to support reforestation. About 20,000 trees were planted in the nursery and around the wetlands, improving the feed base for local fauna. And local stakeholders received tools to ensure proper monitoring of the area, aided by a pilot video surveillance system.

RAISING AWARENESS

"Restoration efforts would be pointless without local communities," said Mamadov Ikromjon, director of YGPE. The project engaged with communities through multiple activities, including:

- A youth nature festival involving more than 300 schoolchildren from nearby villages.
- Multiple community meetings, consultancies and roundtables.
- Excursion and eco-activities with university students.
- A two-day birdwatching workshop.
- An online awareness campaign through social media, local TV channels and networking that reached about 1 million online users.

"The community activities have laid a firm basis for restoration of this critically important site, and YGPE will keep working to protect and restore the wetlands in collaboration with local and international partners," said Khurshed Alimov, community mobilizer for the project.

Based on the results of the scientific research, YGPE has initiated the process of obtaining status of a natural protected area for the wetlands. The initial documents have been prepared and filed with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Chairman of the Sughd Region of Tajikistan. YGPE expects the process to be completed in 2025.

Wetlands of the Kayrakkum Reservoir, North of Tajikistan.
© Ikrom Mamadov, Youth Group on Protection of Environment – YGPE

Native Species Benefit from Restoration of Abandoned Terraces

Nestled in the Orontes Valley and Levantine Mountains corridor, the Shouf Biosphere Reserve and the Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve are considered models in Lebanon and in the Middle East for the activities undertaken to conserve and protect their rich biodiversity. Yet, much remains to be done to secure the future of the reserves and economic and environmental sustainability for rural communities that live there.

Grantee Istituto Oikos, in collaboration with the Lebanese civil society organizations Al-Shouf Cedar Society (ACS) and the Association for the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM), has been working to improve the conservation of two sites. To counter the key threats to biodiversity in the area—conversion of habitat to agricultural land, adverse intensive agricultural practices and unsustainable collection of wild edible species—the project aimed to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development for the rural communities. The project team focused on promotion of traditional, biodiversity-friendly land use and agricultural practices, particularly the restoration of abandoned agricultural terraces and the cultivation of local native species.

By project close, achievements included:

- Training of more than 300 villagers, including 153 women, in techniques for terrace restoration, soil conservation and biodiversity monitoring. Sustainable farming practices were also taught, such as mulching, composting, minimum and no tillage, intercropping, polyculture, agroforestry, integrated pest management, water harvesting and storage, and use of drought-resistant species.
- Restoration of abandoned terraces and planting of native species on 15 hectares.
- Signing of conservation agreements with 29 farmers to guarantee their commitment to traditional, eco-friendly practices beyond the life of the project.
- Presentation of six workshops that trained 64 women in traditional uses of native plant species, recipes, hygiene and production of goods, such as spice blends.
- Creation of a tree nursery in Shouf Biosphere Reserve for the production of native fruit tree varieties and aromatic plants, and addition of a seed storage facility at the Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve nursery.
- Distribution to farmers of 11,000 seedlings for native plants such as Syrian oregano (*Origanum syriacum*) and Lebanese wild apple (*Malus trilobata*), as well as local varieties of grape, figs, pomegranate, red date (*Ziziphus jujube*) and Damask rose (*Rosa x damacena*).
- Strengthening of farmers markets via the installation of information panels and new stands, and through awareness events about the importance of sustainable use of local varieties.
- Development of sustainable use guidelines for both biosphere reserves. The guidelines have been included in the Shouf Biosphere Reserve's management plan, and they will be used as a basis for a future management plan for Jabal Mousa Biosphere Reserve.

The actions and results will help protect these unique biosphere reserves while delivering economic benefits to the people who depend on them.

Shouf Reserve, Lebanon. © O. Langrand

Community, Youth Group and Coconuts Enlisted to Restore Reefs

Coral reef restoration site.
© Karsa Institute / Burung Indonesia

Historically, the waters around the Togean Islands in Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, have nurtured a multitude of marine life thanks in no small part to extensive coral reefs. And this bounty has supported local communities with food and economic opportunity.

But the reefs are ailing. Approximately 8,000 of a total 13,000 hectares of coral reef are damaged. Unsustainable practices such as the use of explosives and cyanide for fishing have contributed to a decline in average live coral cover from nearly 42% in 1998 to 32% in 2018.

To address the threat to life and livelihoods, the Sulawesi-based KARSA Institute worked with the Togean Islands village of Kabalutan to assess the fishery and develop and implement a participatory village-level fisheries governance system. KARSA's efforts included building the community's fisheries management capacity, assessing coral reef conditions and training villagers in reef rehabilitation.

One hectare of reef was rehabilitated by the end of the project through a method called Bioreeftek, which is based on the life cycle of individual corals. The project team used coconut shell—an abundant resource around the village—as a substrate for coral larvae to attach to, then moved the larva-bearing shells to damaged areas of reef. During the project, 15 youth group members were trained in reef rehabilitation and monitoring, setting the stage for a better future for the coral reefs and fish resources in the area.

Fish from the Chindwin River on sale at Kalewa market, Myanmar. © Wichai Juntavaro/SEI

CEPF PILLAR 4

ENABLING CONDITIONS

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

Effective laws, policies and regulations are an essential underpinning for conservation achievements as they contribute to their sustainability. For this reason, CEPF has prioritized the mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy, and since inception has supported the enactment or amendment of 511 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. Protected areas is the most prevalent theme with 243 policies addressing this issue, followed closely by ecosystem management with 229, species protection with 202 and planning/zoning with 151. Some policies address more than one theme.

Figure 4.1

Laws, Policies, Regulations, by Scope 2001–30 JUNE 2023

Figure 4.2

Number of Laws, Policies and Regulations by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023

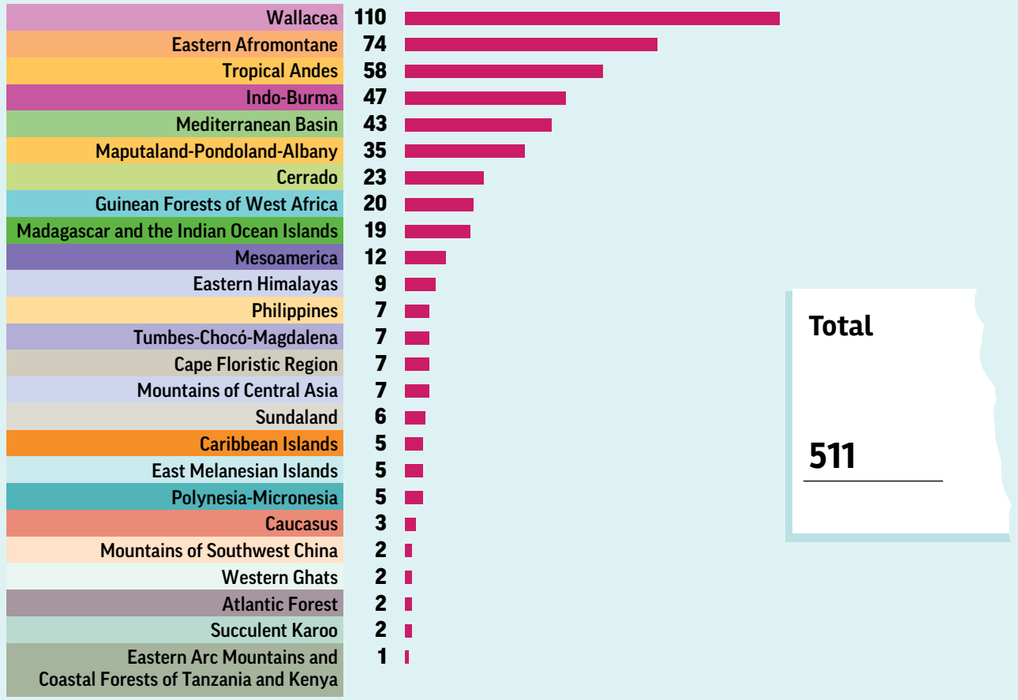
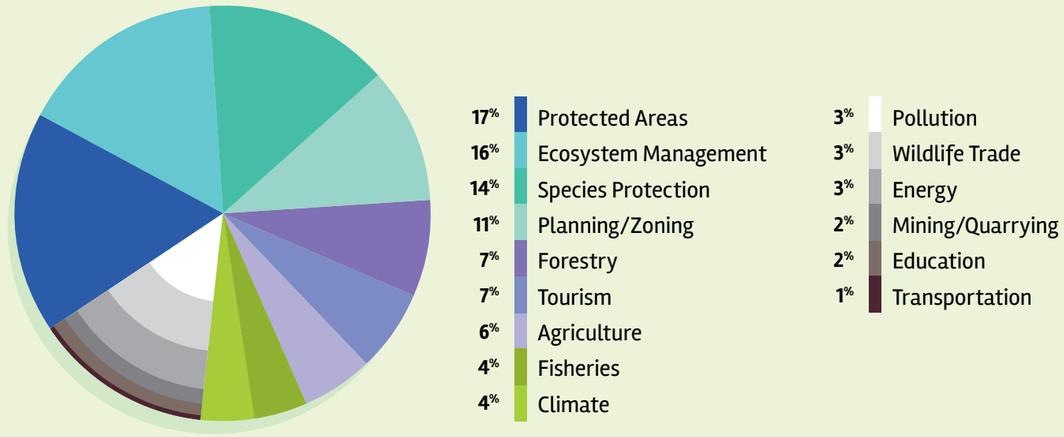
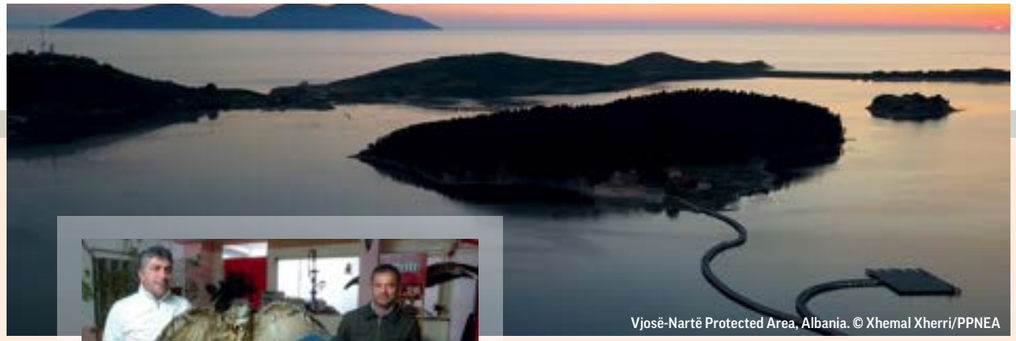


Figure 4.3

Percentage of Laws, Policies and Regulations Addressing Specific Themes 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Policy Achievements Key to a Sustainable Future for Albanian Natural Areas



Vjosë-Nartë Protected Area, Albania. © Xhemal Xherri/PPNEA

Replacing taxidermy with a painting at a local establishment. © Mirjan Topi

Albania is rich in biodiversity and home to significant numbers of globally threatened species. The Center for Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA) has taken on the challenge of preserving the sites species most rely on by addressing unsustainable use of natural resources.

PPNEA's work is focused on several Key Biodiversity Areas, most recently Vjosë-Nartë and Saranda Bay-Butrint National Park. The Vjosë-Nartë wetland is among the most important wetlands and stopover sites along the entire Adriatic Flyway, a key bird migration route from Europe to Africa. And Butrinti is among the sites in Albania with the highest number of species of amphibians, reptiles and birds.

PPNEA tackles a wide range of threats that include illegal logging, poaching, human disturbance, habitat fragmentation, wildlife poisoning and abandoned fishing gear. Albania's natural environment also faces challenges such as pollution, lack of environmental awareness, insufficient alternative livelihood opportunities and inappropriate large-scale infrastructure projects within protected areas and along the important ecological corridors.

Not surprisingly, PPNEA has a diverse program that aims to address these threats and promote solutions that also benefit local communities. Given the size and potential impact of some threats, PPNEA has strived to strengthen and support enactment of biodiversity-related laws and policies. Successes have been numerous and include:

- Amendment of Law No. 46/2019: Changes and additions to law No. 10 006 for the preservation of the wild fauna, to include strengthened protected-area management, an increase in wetland protection and improved administration of natural resources.
- Amendment of Law No. 81/2017 of Protected Areas in 2020 to include an increase in the number of protected areas, improved management and status of protected areas, and creation of ecological corridors.
- Amendment of the Albanian penal code in 2021 to increase protection of wetlands and wetland species and strengthen regulations pertaining to illegal killing of birds and illegal trade of protected wildlife species.

The amendment to the Albanian penal code will also affect awareness of biodiversity. The harshness of the law is expected to help decrease illegal activities such as poaching and stuffing of wildlife species for decoration in bars, restaurants and hotels.

PPNEA also worked with restaurants to replace taxidermy specimens with photos of wildlife as a way to raise environmental awareness and promote conservation and appreciation of the beauty of nature.

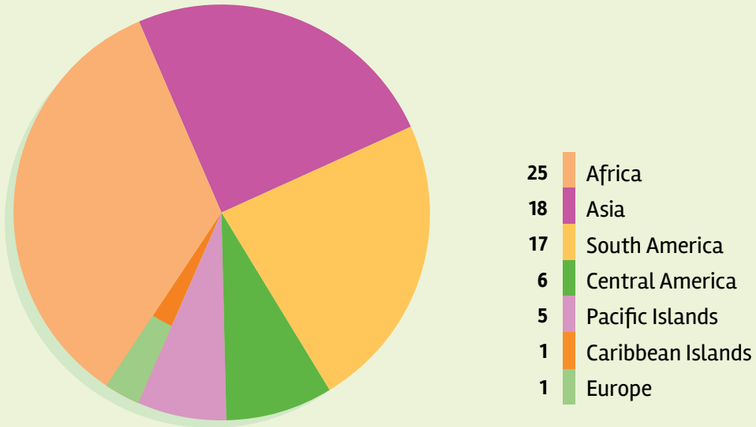
Migrating cranes at high-altitude lake in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. © Vlad Ushakov

INDICATOR — Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.

Since 2001, CEPF has created and/or supported 73 sustainable financing mechanisms that vary in size, scope and type, and include conservation trust funds, revolving funds, debt swaps, and tax, credit or payment for ecosystem services mechanisms. All mechanisms that are counted are functional and delivering funds for conservation. It is not sufficient to simply set up a mechanism without assuring its ability to operate. For some mechanisms, this entails working with potential donors to secure capital, providing funds to define the administrative and governance arrangements, and supporting staff to operate the mechanism. CEPF does not provide the financial capital to create or support any of these mechanisms.

Figure 4.4

Sustainable Finance Mechanisms Supported by Region 2001–30 JUNE 2023



Loans Finance Women's Well–Being and Support Community Forest Management in Liberia

The Greater Gola Landscape is the largest single block of remaining Upper Guinea Forest, and it is a key focus of the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL). The area hosts more than 60 globally threatened species and is also a critical wildlife corridor linking Liberia's Gola Forest National Park and the proposed Foya Nature Reserve with Sierra Leone's Gola Rainforest National Park.

Although population density is relatively low, human activities commonly conducted in the area–such as pit sawing, mining and bushmeat hunting–can severely affect the forest and are likely to become serious threats as the population grows.

Members of the Kongbor Village literacy program, Liberia.
© Conservation International/photo by Peggy Poncelet

The participants reported that the loans had a significant impact on their lives, allowing them to cover costs such as sending a child to school, paying for food when their husbands could not, and increasing the size of their farms to generate more income.

To prevent damage to this valuable natural asset, SCNL established a loan program designed to particularly help women develop livelihoods that do no harm to the forest while also generating funding for community-managed forests.

The organization and its partners have been working on the designation and operationalization of community forests via the EU-funded GolaMA Project for several years. Grant funding from CEPF was used to ensure that communities receive direct social benefits from conservation of the forest.

Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods

The CEPF-supported project provided loans for rainforest-friendly and climate-smart livelihood programs in Kongba District. Following the establishment of community forests in the Normon and Tonglay communities, and creation of their Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs), SCNL promoted seven livelihood activities: rainforest-friendly cocoa production, lowland "swamp" rice production, intensive groundnut production, beekeeping, adult literacy loan programs and artisanal small-scale mining. Loans totaling nearly US$40,000 were distributed among 320 women to enable their participation in these livelihoods. In return, the women agreed not to carry out any activities harmful to the forest.

By project close in 2022, 130 of the women completed four rounds of loans and were awaiting the fifth round of revolving disbursement. Loan size increased in each round, and these participants had an impressive 98% repayment rate. The remaining women in the program were completing their third-round repayment by the end of the project and achieved a 75% repayment rate. The participants reported that the loans had a significant impact on their lives, allowing them to cover costs such as sending a child to school, paying for food when their husbands could not, and increasing the size of their farms to generate more income. This led to a reduction in threats to forest and biodiversity.

Interest Used to Expand Program

The interest paid by the women was used by the CFMBs to cover costs for management of the community forests. The repaid capital was rolled over to increase the loan size and provide more loans to more people.

Activities undertaken by the women included rice production, with 110 families establishing lowland rice plots in 11 communal sites. Harvests yielded 100–133 kilograms per site, roughly two to five times the typical harvest of upland rice and a 30% increase over lowland rice planted traditionally. The installation of three rice mills also considerably reduced women's work in rice preparation.

Lofa River, Liberia. © Conservation International/photo by Peggy Poncelet

About 180 women participated in developing intensive groundnut plantations, and despite rodent problems, over half plan to continue this cash crop. The project also supported beekeepers–116 male and 26 female–by training and providing them with beehives and harvesting equipment. This led to the formation of a beekeepers association/cooperative, through which they were able to link to markets. To date, the association has harvested and sold about 50 gallons of honey, and though the project period has elapsed, the association is still harvesting and selling natural honey.

The CEPF project also supported 300 small-scale artisanal miners who agreed to use forest-friendly mining techniques. The miners in the program signed a memorandum of understanding with four CFMBs–in the communities of Normon, Tonglay, Upper Sokpo and Lower Sokpo–commiting to mercury-free mining, as well as backfilling and reclamation where possible to protect the forest and biodiversity.

About 320 cocoa farmers–261 male, 59 female–also were trained to produce forest-friendly cocoa. These farmers have increased the cocoa quality and production since the training.

While there were many clear successes in this project, it was not without challenges. Subsistence farmers can be reluctant to make changes in their livelihood activities because of risk, and lack of access to markets and poor road quality can be a hindrance to sale of produce. Procedures for management of funds must be clear and understood by all involved. SCNL focused on the challenges, applied the lessons they learned, and then expanded the loan program in Lofa County, reaching about 105 additional women. SCNL also plans to establish an impact investment fund that would capitalize a larger scale-up across the whole Gola landscape.

INDICATOR — Number of companies that adopt biodiversity–friendly practices.

While CEPF has worked with the private sector throughout much of its existence, only in 2017 did CEPF develop an indicator to measure what we are trying to achieve through our engagement with this group of stakeholders. CEPF's indicator seeks to measure the change in behavior of private sector entities by documenting the specific biodiversity-friendly practice(s) that they adopt and the countries in which they implement these practices. A frequently asked question is whether individual farmers are included, as they may aim to make a profit. The general guidance is to omit individual farmers, fishers or similar producers because the goal is to record larger-scale change that will have an impact beyond the household. To date, CEPF has documented 235 companies in 10 hotspots that have adopted practices favorable to biodiversity.

Biodiversity-friendly coffee, Pattaneteang Village, Sulawesi, Indonesia. © Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation

Figure 4.5

Number of Companies Adopting Biodiversity Friendly Practices by Hotspot 2001–30 JUNE 2023

38	Tropical Andes
37	Eastern Afromontane
36	Mediterranean Basin
27	Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
22	Mountains of Central Asia
21	Guinean Forests of West Africa
20	Cerrado
16	Indo–Burma
11	Wallacea
7	East Melanesian Islands

Total

235

Good Practices Conserve Biodiversity While Boosting Business in Colombia

Review of maps to determine where conservation agreements could be best placed to ensure ecological connectivity. © Fundación Con Vida

Monitoring magnolias for the project. © Fundación Con Vida

In the Andes Mountains of Central Colombia, activities such as coffee production and nature tourism are important elements of the local economy. Making sure that such businesses follow best practices to protect the region's astounding biodiversity has been a focus of CEPF grantee Fundación Con Vida.

The organization worked with enterprises based in the Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia Key Biodiversity Area to integrate biodiversity-friendly practices.

In collaboration with provincial and municipal authorities, Fundación Con Vida identified alternative solutions to problems such as habitat degradation, pollution and poor land management, and developed a program to promote sound environmental and agricultural practices. Key solutions promoted were agrochemical-free organic production, protection of water sources and biological corridors, management of pests and diseases with nontoxic products, crop diversification for food security, proper management of solid and liquid waste and conservation of pollinators.

The project entailed training 19 men and 27 women in biodiversity-friendly practices, community engagement and project management. They conducted 45 technical support visits and provided enterprises with supplies such as signage, fences, tools and gear for beekeeping.

Trainings also addressed the need for habitat protection and conservation of three globally threatened species resident in the area: the Critically Endangered magnolio de jardin (*Magnolia jardinensis*), with an estimated population of fewer than 50 mature individuals, the Endangered molinillo del rio Cauca (*Magnolia hernandezii*), and the black-and-chestnut eagle (*Spizaetus isidori*), which is also Endangered and numbering less than 1,000 individuals.

By the end of the project, 13 voluntary conservation agreements were signed to ensure 469 hectares of land would be dedicated to ecological connectivity. Economic benefits of US$1,600 in income were earned by the entrepreneurs and their families through sale of agricultural products, and a total of 15 enterprises (67% led by women) adopted good agricultural and environmental practices.

THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted on 19 December 2022, at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (COP15). The GBF has 23 action-oriented global targets. Sixteen of the targets are relevant to the work of CEPF. The table below presents the contributions of CEPF's grantees to GBF impact and operations for the first six months of the existence of the framework. For each contribution, CEPF has included results from projects that ended during the period of 1 January to 30 June 2023, noting that these projects would have been active prior to the adoption of the framework. The operational contribution pertains to projects awarded on or after 1 January 2023. For more information on the Global Biodiversity Framework, visit cbd.int/gbf.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGET	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT ENDED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2023	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION ENDED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2023
Target 1. Land and sea use change	285,800 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas have benefited from promotion and adoption of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.	10 projects awarded with a component focusing on conservation planning, totaling US$1,218,167.
Target 2. Restoration	More than 6.5 kilometers of canals and ponds have been cleaned and/or restored in the State Natural Reserve Tigrovaya Balka, Tajikistan.	2 projects awarded with a component focusing on restoration, totaling US$129,372.
Target 3. Area-based conservation	836,972 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management. 49,700 hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded. 18 protected areas with improved management (for the period 1 July 2022–30 June 2023).	29 projects awarded with a primary focus on protected-areas creation or improved management, totaling US$3,315,700.
Target 4. Species recovery and conservation	10 globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.	22 projects awarded with a primary focus on species conservation, totaling US$2,073,607.
Target 5. Harvesting, trade and use of wild species	10 globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.	4 projects awarded with a component on hunting and/or wildlife trade, totaling US$479,667.

Trichodes sp., Sarada plant micro-reserve, Lebanon.
© Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat/ Université Saint-Joseph

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGET	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT ENDED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2023	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION ENDED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2023
Target 6. Invasive alien species	1 project in Kazakhstan addressed the threat posed by American mink (*Neovison vison*) to the Endangered Semirechensk salamander (*Ranodon sibiricus*).	3 projects awarded with a component on invasive alien species totaling US$685,165.
Target 8. Climate change	20 projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change closed during this period.	65 projects awarded that promote nature-based solutions to combat climate change totaling US$5,590,996.
Target 9. Use of wild species	1 project in Kazakhstan focused on conservation and research of wild fruits.	1 project awarded with a component on non-timber forest products totaling US$144,452.
Target 10. Productive systems	492,370 hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.	3 projects awarded that are located in agricultural/artificial landscapes totaling US$51,165.
Target 11. Ecosystem services	20 projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change closed during this period. 1,462 people receiving structured training. 30,580 people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training. 1,035 people receiving cash benefits.	• 65 projects awarded that promote nature-based solutions to combat climate change totaling US$5,590,996. • 13 projects awarded with a primary focus on capacity building, totaling US$951,470. • 15 projects awarded with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US$1,026,145.
Target 14. Mainstreaming	6 laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended. 11 companies that adopted biodiversity-friendly practices.	7 projects awarded under the enabling conditions pillar, totaling US$580,003.
Target 19. Resource Mobilization	25 projects closed during this period, recording US$1,028,536 in leveraged funds.	N/A
Target 20. Non-monetary resource mobilization	29 local grantees with improved organizational capacity (for the period 1 July 2022–30 June 2023). 6 networks and partnerships created and/or strengthened.	17 projects awarded under the civil society pillar, totaling US$1,349,155.
Target 21. Access to data, information and knowledge	Current portfolios do not have clear indicators to monitor progress toward this target.	N/A
Target 22. Representation and participation	Current portfolios do not have clear indicators to monitor progress toward this target.	N/A
Target 23. Gender equality	58 local grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (for the period 1 July 2022–30 June 2023).	17 projects awarded under the civil society pillar, totaling US$1,349,155.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
Goal 2. **End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**	5,709 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved food security, access to water, improved land tenure and increased representation in decision-making and governance. Since collection of data start in 2017 for types of benefits communities received, 1,629 communities have reported increased food security. 228,445 people benefited from structured training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. These include financial management, marketing, organic farming, climate smart agriculture, sustainable fisheries, poultry farming, salt production, sustainable harvest of non-timber forest products, and beekeeping. 12.4 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as improved pasture and livestock management, organic agriculture, and adoption of sustainable harvesting practices.	CEPF has supported 278 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US$23,002,563. 230 projects totaling US$22,074,951 have specific components on agroforestry and agriculture.
Goal 4. **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**	228,445 people receiving structured training. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, 64,817 women reported to have received training. Training topics were diverse such as fire management, biodiversity monitoring, use of GPS and camera traps, sustainable tourism, post-harvest processing, beekeeping, hygiene, environmental education, leadership, financial management, climate-smart agriculture, soap production and gender mainstreaming.	CEPF has supported 1,039 projects with a component/emphasis on capacity building, valued at US$120,519,669. CEPF has supported 835 projects with a component/emphasis on education and awareness, valued at US$70,752,260.
Goal 5. **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**	Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 842,453 women and girls were recorded as receiving non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.	CEPF has collected sex-disaggregated data from grantees since 2017. The fund has monitored change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues since 2017. CEPF prepared and disseminated a gender toolkit and a training kit on empowering women in conservation.
Goal 6. **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**	Since 2017, 575 communities receiving non-cash benefits report increased access to clean water as a benefit.	CEPF has supported 338 projects associated with inland wetland habitats, valued at US$24,337,150, covering a range of topics such as research and assessment, biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management. 90 projects had an emphasis on water management, located in various habitats, valued at US$9,142,717.
Goal 8. **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**	Since the start of collection of number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, 112,560 people have been reported as receiving cash benefits.	Human well-being projects have taken place in 63 countries and territories.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
Goal 12. **Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**	12.4 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices. Enactment or amendment of 511 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.	CEPF has supported 58 projects located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, valued at US$4,574,051, including activities such as such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.
Goal 13. **Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**	Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving: • Restoration of mangroves and reefs • Reforestation • Preparation of land use plans containing a climate change risk assessment • Watershed management and restoration • Coastal zone management • Sustainable coastal tourism • Climate change modeling • Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	CEPF has supported at least 1,735 projects that promote nature-based solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change. These projects are valued at US$163,421,901. Since 2017, 1,526 communities have been reported as receiving the non-cash benefit resilience to climate change.
Goal 14. **Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**	31 Small Island Developing States receiving CEPF funds.	CEPF has supported 252 projects associated with marine and coastal habitats, valued at US$18,088,102.
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**	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 17.1 million hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 55.1 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 25 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 12.4 million hectares of production landscapes in 22 hotspots. At least 1,259 IUCN Red List species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 784 projects with primary emphasis on protected area creation and improved management, totaling $83,990,748. 104 projects had a component dedicated to addressing invasive alien species, totaling US$9,402,834, in 14 biodiversity hotspots. 624 projects totaling US$63,515,669 aimed at strengthening protection and management of areas within and outside of protected areas. CEPF has supported 688 projects with a component focusing on species conservation, totaling US$57,514,468. 73 projects totaling US$7,728,995 had components focusing 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, and to address social media and internet sales.
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**	998 networks/partnerships have been supported, 722 of which CEPF helped to create. 461 local civil society organizations out of 612 (75%), for which two civil society organizational capacity assessments have been completed, report an increase in their organizational capacity.	CEPF has supported 423 projects with an explicit focus on civil society capacity building and networking, valued at US$31,899,645. All local CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity.

During the fiscal year, 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, CEPF grantees made impressive gains in conserving biodiversity, helping communities thrive and building civil society's capacity to lead conservation in the biodiversity hotspots.

Results Summary Fiscal Year 2023

Protected areas created and/or expanded	**598,725** HECTARES
Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management	**1,810,308** HECTARES
Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity	**581,527** HECTARES
Protected areas with improved management	**18**
Species benefiting from conservation action	**93**
Grantees with improved organizational capacity	**29**
Grantees with improved understanding of gender	**58**
Networks/partnerships created and/or supported	**134**
People receiving structured training	**11,981**
People receiving cash benefits	**5,328**
Communities benefiting	**191**
People receiving non-cash benefits (excluding training)	**146,131**
Projects promoting nature-based solutions to climate change	**116**
Laws, policies and regulations enacted or amended	**20**
Sustainable financing mechanisms delivering funds	**3**
Companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices	**24**

Traditional wheat harvest by hand, Morocco. © Louis-Marie Preau

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Aigul-Tash Nature Reserve, Kyrgyzstan. © Vlad Ushakov

Snow lotus (*Saussurea involucrata*), Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan. © Vlad Ushakov

Nymphalis urticae on wild apricot, Chui Province. © Vlad Ushakov

Pallas's cat (*Otocolobus manul*) on the high-mountain ridges of Ala-Belia, Issyk-Kul Region. © Vlad Ushakov

Local forest guardian examines *Crataegus knorringiana*, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan. © Vlad Ushakov

Cape May warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) in Sierre de Bahoruco National Park, Dominican Republic. © Jorge Brocca

YEAR *in* REVIEW

JULY 2022

Project Promotes Shade–Grown Coffee and Ecotourism in the Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, SOH Conservation began implementing a CEPF-funded project focused on strengthening the management of, and improving the connectivity between, the Key Biodiversity Areas Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and Padre Miguel Domingo Fuerte Natural Monument.

SOH promotes a two-pronged approach supporting shade-grown coffee and ecotourism as sustainable livelihoods for underserved campesino communities that conserve globally threatened flora and fauna and their habitats.

To date, 56 coffee growers have been trained in organic agriculture production, agroforestry and the REDD+ and Smithsonian Bird Friendly® programs. The plan is to obtain certification as organic, bird-friendly coffee and market it as a specialty "Bahoruco" coffee, allowing the farmers to charge a premium price in new markets in the U.S., Japan and other countries. As part of this effort, local coffee growers have already planted 34,725 tree seedlings on more than 30 hectares and have adopted several best practices on their coffee groves since the project started in July 2022.

A view of Bahoruco Oriental. © SOH Conservación

SOH Conservation is also working on plans with the Agricultural Bank of the Dominican Republic to facilitate access to credit for at least 100 small coffee farming families by negotiating favorable loan terms to support their sustainable practices. Simultaneously, SOH is working with coffee producers to catalog bird species in and around their coffee plantations as a crucial step in the transition to certification. The data will allow the presence and distribution of birds to be used as indicators of environmental health and conservation success.

Since the project started in July 2022, SOH has registered a 10% increase in visitations to project sites, due in part to promotional efforts made through the project. These efforts include the development of an ecotourism business and promotion plan, upgrading hiking trails and campgrounds, and repairing an observation post for bird tourism. In addition, 12 young adults from local communities (including four women) are being trained to be certified as official tour guides.

DECEMBER 2022

New Global Biodiversity Framework Sets 2030 Targets

During the 15th meeting of the signatories to the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also known as COP 15, nearly 200 nations agreed to an ambitious new set of global biodiversity goals and targets, a monitoring framework to measure progress, and strategies for funding and implementation.

Known as the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework," the agreement sets the global agenda for conservation, restoration and associated funding through the end of this decade, with the aim of halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and living in harmony with nature by 2050. The framework includes four long-term goals to be met by 2050 and 23 urgent targets to be met by 2030.

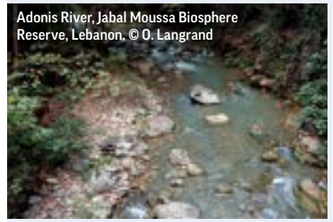
Targets include conserving 30% of natural terrestrial, coastal and marine habitats; restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems; and promoting the management of land by Indigenous peoples—lending new momentum to the type of conservation CEPF and its grantees have pursued since the fund's inception in 2000. CEPF reviewed its global monitoring framework, which guides how CEPF measures its results, to ensure alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The new framework picks up where the Aichi Biodiversity Targets left off—global targets that saw some progress but ultimately went unmet. Signatories to the new framework hope its specific targets, monitoring plan and focus on funding will guide the participating nations to success.

A key element of the funding will be the Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF Fund), to be established by the Global Environment Facility. The fund will complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure the timely implementation of the framework. Learn more at https://www.cbd.int/gbf.

DECEMBER 2022

Panceva Oka marshes, Skadar Lake, Montenegro. © Jaime Rojo



Adonis River, Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve, Lebanon. © O. Langrand

Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and pygmy cormorant (*Microcarbo pygmaeus*), Prespa National Park at Zaroshke, Albania. © O. Langrand

New Funding Supports Mediterranean Basin Conservation

CEPF welcomed a new regional donor for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot. The Fondation Audemars-Watkins (FAW) became a CEPF donor after participating in the initial meetings of a Mediterranean Donors' Roundtable in July 2022 in Tunisia.

Created in 2017, FAW is a nonprofit Swiss private law foundation established with the goal of engaging proactively in environmental conservation. With a contribution of 400,000 Swiss francs (US$435,000) for two years, FAW's support will allow CEPF to pursue freshwater biodiversity conservation in this water-scarce region.

The Donors Initiative for Mediterranean Ecosystems also provided 250,000 euros (US$270,000) in May 2023 for implementing CEPF's strategy in the hotspot.

Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties, December 2022. © O. Langrand

FEBRUARY 2023

The EU Commits US$10 Million for Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

CEPF received confirmation of a commitment from the European Commission to add US$10 million to the current investment in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, where CEPF is working on a 10-year project to reduce the vulnerability of island populations to climate change. Funding is expected to be available starting in 2024.

The new funds will expand on the current US$38 million, 10-year investment funded by the Green Climate Fund through AFD as the accredited entity. Supporting civil society organizations to promote ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change is the focus of the investment, and activities are taking place in the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. The additional funding from the European Union will be deployed in these countries plus the Zanzibar archipelago of Tanzania. The first projects in the investment received grants in June 2023.

Women stroll through baobab trees. © Jonathan Irish

© Vlad Ushakov

APRIL 2023

Striking Images Raise Awareness of Kyrgyzstan's Key Biodiversity Areas

Kyrgyzstan-based Union of Photojournalists used new photography to raise public awareness about the country's Key Biodiversity Areas. Group members took stunning photos of each Key Biodiversity Area and put them on an interactive website—map.kg—which provides further information about each location and promotes responsible tourism to the sites. The idea is that people will support conservation in their country if they can see, and take pride in, the stunning geography that is their national heritage.

In addition to sharing the beauty of these sites, the Union of Photojournalists also conducted business planning seminars focused on ecotourism for communities in and around the Key Biodiversity Areas, helping women and men in the communities to prepare accommodations, the sale of eco-friendly products and trails for visitors.

MAY 2023

Grantees Report Results in Conserving Indonesian Marine and Coastal Areas

From 2 to 4 May 2023, the regional implementation team for the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot held meetings with grantees, donors, government partners and other stakeholders to assess progress toward the goals of CEPF's US$2.7 million investment at its midpoint and determine priorities for the remainder of the investment period, which concludes in late 2024.

This second phase of CEPF investment in Wallacea is funded by five private foundations: the Bloomberg Philanthropies Vibrant Oceans Initiative (VOI); Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies; the Walton Family Foundation; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; and the Nimick Forbesway Foundation. The investment focuses on marine areas in the Indonesian portion of the hotspot.

The majority of people living in the hotspot reside in coastal areas, earning their living from farms, forests, wetlands and the sea. The chief causes of biodiversity loss include overexploitation of natural resources; degradation, fragmentation and conversion of habitat; and pressure from human population growth and economic development.

To address these issues, grantees have achieved several key results during the current CEPF investment, including:

- Training 100 fishermen in two villages on Alor to minimize bycatch of pelagic thresher shark (*Alopias pelagicus*). Bycatch was reduced from 233 individual sharks in 2021 to 55 in 2022.
- Ending the bycatch of dugong (*Dugong dugon*) in a community-based marine protected area along Sangihe Island, North Sulawesi, with two village governments contributing a combined US$7,300 in coastal monitoring equipment and supplies for fishery management.
- On Sapuka Island, teaching communities to shift their harvest away from vulnerable species of sea cucumber to nonthreatened species.

Pelagic thresher shark. © Irwan Hermawan/ Thresher Shark Indonesia

Tangkoko National Park, Indonesia. © O. Langrand

Sea cucumbers. © YAPEKA

JUNE 2023

Indo–Burma Achievements Assessed at Investment Midpoint

More than 100 participants from 78 CEPF grantee organizations based in 13 countries met in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, from 27 to 29 June to discuss the results of their efforts to conserve biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. Marking the halfway point of CEPF's five-year, US$10.9 million investment in the region, the event was organized by CEPF and its regional implementation team, IUCN, and featured the progress made through more than 80 projects supported by the fund.

Around 90% of grantee organizations reported an increase in capacity to conserve biodiversity over the period of CEPF and IUCN's support. Preliminary conservation results of the investment, which will be completed in 2025, include:

- Long-term conservation programs sustained for core populations of 13 priority species.
- A wild population of Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) re-established in Cambodia.
- Community fisheries and/or protected areas piloted or made more sustainable at six priority sites.
- Strengthened protection and management of 144,645 hectares in five Key Biodiversity Areas.
- Biodiversity conservation strengthened within 37,752 hectares of production landscape, including areas managed for agriculture and fishing.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services impacts analyzed for hydropower development plans and alternative development scenarios proposed.

Biodiversity-friendly Ibis Rice in Cambodia. © Conservation International/photo by Jack Tordoff

- An approach for ecological restoration through deepening of seasonal wetlands demonstrated in the Mekong River and Major Tributaries Corridor.
- Public debate and awareness of the implications of hydropower dam development in Cambodia increased through media coverage.
- Biodiversity-friendly production of organic rice piloted at several sites in Cambodia.
- Eight civil society networks strengthened, enabling collective responses to priority and emerging threats.
- Direct socioeconomic benefits received by 14,293 women and 14,504 men, in terms of increased income, food security, resource rights or other measures of human well-being.

These results are building on the conservation achievements of two previous investments in the hotspot, which totaled US$25.2 million in grants to civil society organizations.

JUNE 2023

Project Inspires Action Against Illegal Mining in Bolivia

A CEPF-funded project looking at the consequences of illegal gold mining on communities in northwestern Bolivia's Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata conservation corridor turned concerning evidence of negative health impacts into positive action.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Bolivia led the project, working with three other Bolivian groups dedicated to mitigating the impacts of uncontrolled illegal gold mining in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot—Fundación Construir, Cumbre del Sajama and Reacción Climática.

Central de Pueblos Indígenas de La Paz (CPILAP), which represents the Indigenous peoples of the Department of La Paz, led the gathering of information on community impacts of gold mining activities in the Beni River Basin and its tributaries, where illegal gold mining has grown explosively in recent years. An analysis of hair samples collected in 36 Indigenous communities revealed worrisome results. More than 75% of the samples taken exceeded the World Health Organization's maximum threshold for mercury at 1 part per million (ppm). The average mercury concentration of the samples was 3.93 ppm, with the highest being 17.52 ppm.

Mercury hair sampling. © WCS

Pilón Lajas, Bolivia. © Conservation International/photo by John Martin

WCS also worked closely with the Tsimane-Mosetene Indigenous Authority (CRTM), a longstanding CEPF partner that has comanagement responsibilities for the Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve.

The results:

- Using the findings, CPILAP launched a successful outreach campaign that called on local and national government authorities to take action to stop the illegal activities.
- Following the campaign, the municipality of Rurrenabaque, which has jurisdiction over the lower watershed of many rivers where the illegal mining takes place, ordered a halt to the illegal mining.
- A judge also ordered the installation of control posts to allow the Bolivian police and armed forces to patrol the waterways at risk.
- The campaign led to proposals by national authorities to reform the country's outdated mining laws, including controls on the importation of mercury to Bolivia.
- A major conference held in September 2023 focused on how to deal with the widespread pollution caused by gold mining in the Bolivian portion of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.

Exploring plants in Algeria.
© Amir Boulemfates, GGS

CEPF

APPROVED GRANTS

Grants are reported on the basis of the effective date of the agreement. **1 July 2022–30 June 2023**

Caribbean Islands

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
Improve the protection and management of 33 priority sites for long-term sustainability.

Environmental Awareness Group Inc.
US$393,385
Accelerating Locally Led Conservation Action at Key Biodiversity Areas in Antigua and Barbuda

Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc.
US$215,224
Management Planning and Implementation in Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora, Dominican Republic

Jamaica Environment Trust
US$47,135
Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Cockpit Country, Jamaica

Fundación para el Mejoramiento Humano
US$49,473
Management Planning and Implementation in the Portland Bight Protected Area, Jamaica

International Iguana Foundation (IIF)
US$49,946
Protecting the Jamaican Rock Iguana from Threats Posed by Invasive Species, Hellshire Hills, Portland Bight Protected Area, Jamaica

Saint Lucia National Trust
US$50,000
Establishing the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Management of the Point Sable Environmental Protected Area, Saint Lucia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in seven priority corridors.

Fondazione AVSI
US$70,695
Promoting Conservation Through Beekeeping in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, Dominican Republic

Northern Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society
US$47,022
Maintaining Biodiversity Through Sustainable Livelihoods and Environmental Awareness in Northern Cockpit Country, Jamaica

Saint Lucia National Trust
US$50,000
Establishing the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Management of the Point Sable Environmental Protected Area, Saint Lucia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3
Safeguard priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.

BirdsCaribbean
US$49,986
Developing a Conservation Action Plan for the Endangered Whistling Warbler in the Cumberland Forest Reserve and the Central Mountain Range, St. Vincent

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
US$241,834
Conserving the Saint Lucia Racer and Strengthening Regional Capacity for Racer Conservation

International Union for Conservation of Nature
US$112,626
Conservation Action Plans for Threatened Conifers and Palms in the Dominican Republic

Caribbean Islands

International Union for Conservation of Nature
US$147,106
Preparing Conservation Action Plans for Jamaica's Threatened Plants

Re:wild
US$336,614
Call to Action: Conservation Action Plans for Endangered Caribbean Species

The Peregrine Fund
US$166,668
Conservation Action Planning and Implementation for Ridgway's Hawk, Dominican Republic

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4
Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with priority sites.

Fitches Creek Residents Association
US$48,940
Building a Community Constituency for Conservation of Fitches Creek Bay and the Northeast Marine Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda

Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency
US$50,000
Using Nature-Based Tourism to Strengthen Biodiversity Conservation in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5
Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration.

Fauna & Flora International
US$249,987
Building Sustainable Financial Capacity for Caribbean Civil Society Organizations

Guinean Forests of West Africa

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4
Build the capacity of local civil society organizations, including Indigenous Peoples',women's and youth groups, to conserve and manage globally important biodiversity.

Global Initiative For Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation
US$12,861
Celebrating Six Years of CEPF Investment in the Guinea Forests of West Africa Hotspot—A Documentary

Indo-Burma

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
Mitigate zoonotic disease risks by reducing illegal trade and consumption of and threats to wildlife.

China Exploration & Research Society Limited
US$26,240
Changing Attitudes and Behaviors to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trade Around Namha National Protected Area, Lao PDR

Blue moustached bee eater (*Merops mentalis*).
© David Monticelli

Natalia Magradze of the World Bank at Indo-Burma Midterm Assessment. © O. Langrand

Indo–Burma

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas.

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association
US$34,936
Supporting Community Conservation of Phayartan Limestone Karst in Tanintharyi, Myanmar

Culture and Environment Preservation Association
US$150,000
Enhancing Sustainability of Mekong Stung Treng Ramsar Site Fisheries Management, Cambodia

Fisheries Action Coalition Team
US$150,000
Empower Local Communities Toward Fisheries Resources Sustainability in Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia

Mekong Community Institute Association
US$23,000
Strengthening Community Fisheries Conservation in the Lower Mun River, Thailand

NatureLife Cambodia
US$80,000
Empowering Local Communities to Comanage Conservation of Stung Sen Ramsar Site, Cambodia

Oxfam America
US$150,000
Strengthened Community-Based Conservation for Fishery Management in Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

Wildlife Conservation Society
US$220,000
Guardian Villages: Empowered Communities to Manage Wetlands in Lao People's Democratic Republic

World Wide Fund for Nature
US$150,000
Promoting Participatory Freshwater Species Management along the Phou Xieng Thong-Pha Taem Mekong in Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand

Baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*), Thailand. © O. Langrand

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6

Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors.

Center for People and Nature Reconciliation
US$179,930
Strengthening Capacity for Reporting Biodiversity Impacts and Mainstreaming Conservation Policies in Vietnam

Conservation International
US$157,000
Restoring the Flooded Forest in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake

International Rivers Network
US$149,996
Strengthening Public Participation and Biodiversity in Mekong Hydropower Planning and Development

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
US$178,000
Securing a Self-Sustaining Population of Siamese Crocodile in Cambodia

Sansom Mlup Prey
US$180,000
Increasing Inclusivity, Diversity and Effectiveness of the Ibis Rice Model in Cambodia

Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten GmbH
US$40,000
Elongated Tortoise Population Recovery Contributing to Ecosystem Restoration in Cambodia

Indo–Burma

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 8

Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.

Cambodian Indigenous Youth Association
US$60,090
Strengthening Indigenous Youth Participation in Sustainable Development and Ecosystem Protection in Cambodia

Cambodian Rural Development Team
US$149,613
Strengthening the Capacity of Grassroots Community-Based Organizations in Cambodia

Conservation International
US$200,000
Citizen Science and Social Media for Community Fisheries in Cambodia

CRDT Tours Private Limited Company
US$19,470
Strengthening Institutional Capacity of CRDT Tours, a Social Enterprise Supporting Conservation in Cambodia

Global Environmental Institute
US$99,992
Enhancing the Influence of a Mekong Basin Civil Society Network

Indo Myanmar Conservation
US$19,600
Creating Local Capacity for Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Conservation in Laos

My Village
US$40,000
Strengthening Cambodian Indigenous Youth and Women's Networks for Fishery Conservation

NatureLife Cambodia
US$49,999
Networking to Address the Decline of Sarus Crane in Cambodia

Non–Timber Forest Products
US$108,000
Connecting Community Protected Areas Networks in the Northeastern Cambodia

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden
US$19,910
Strengthening Capacity and Building Partnerships for Plant Conservation in Laos

Thai Sea Watch Association
US$19,577
Enhancing the Capacity of Community Networks to Conserve Irrawaddy Dolphins in Songkhla Lake, Thailand

Sea fan, Comoros Archipelago. © Comores, WILDOCEANS and ACEP Expedition

Madagascar and The Indian Ocean Islands

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Empower communities and civil society to implement actions to improve the resilience of species, ecosystems, and human populations to climate change in priority KBAs.

Association pour le Développement de l'Energie Solaire Suisse–Madagascar
US$271,545
Communities Restoring Watershed Forest Ecosystems in Southwestern Madagascar

Dahari
US$499,885
A Climate-Resilient Community-Based Reef Conservation Model for the Comoros

Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group
US$441,933
Building Community Capacity for Climate Resilience Around Betampona Reserve, Madagascar

Mediterranean Basin

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the conservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.

Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services
US$40,000
Restoration of the Egyptian Tortoise and its Habitats in the North Coast of Egypt

Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo (Terrimar)
US$19,809
Conservation of Endangered Sea Turtles and Vultures on Santo Antão Island, Cabo Verde

Reseau Enfant de la Terre
US$20,000
Promoting Wetland Conservation Through Educational Programs, Tunisia

Sasko Lake, an important seasonal habitat for migratory birds, in Ulcinj, Montenegro. © Azra Vuković, NGO Green Home

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity.

Associação Lantuna
US$50,000
Saving the Last Santiago Purple Herons of Cabo Verde

Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage
US$17,540
Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity of Oued Maden, Tunisia

NVO Program Za Zivotnu Sredinu
US$19,630
Building Resilience in the Lower Bojana River Basin and Ulcinj Ecosystem Complex, Montenegro

Association for Ecology and Tourism ECOTOURISM–2016, Ohrid
US$16,850
Assessment of Ecosystem Services in the Belchista Wetland, North Macedonia

Centar za Zivotnu Sredinu
US$19,990
Actions Toward Long-term Protection and Sustainable Management of Buna and Trebižat Rivers, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo (Terrimar)
US$44,408
Conservation of the Critically Endangered Endemic Plants in Cova Key Biodiversity Area, Santo Antão, Cabo Verde

Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature
US$19,985
Wetlands Conservation in the Atlas Cedar Biosphere Reserve, Morocco

Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa
US$19,873
Protection of Priority Areas for the Coastal Zone Management of the Catchment Surrounding Nikšić, Montenegro

T.E.R.R.E. Liban
US$35,000
Enhance Conservation of the Unique Biodiversity in the Bisri River Basin, Lebanon

Traditional boats used by fishermen with sails made of reused old corn and rice sacks, Cabo Verde. © Biosfera

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3
Promote the maintenance of traditional land–use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value.

Mediterranean Basin

Albanian Ornithological Society
US$19,950
Maintaining the Ecological Integrity and Biodiversity of Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, Albania

Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie
US$19,923
Ecological Restoration of Heritage Species in Kerkennah Archipelago, Tunisia

Fondation d'Entreprise BIOTOPE pour la Biodiversité
US$73,080
Establishing an Ecolabel for Pastoralists in Toubkal National Park, Morocco

Association Sidi Bouzitoun for Nature and Ecotourism
US$19,920
Conserving Biodiversity in Kroumirie by Involving Women in Traditional Shepherding Practices, Tunisia

Biosfera I Association for Environment Protection
US$20,000
Certification Model to Promote Sustainable Fishing Practices Inside a Marine Protected Area, Cabo Verde

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4
Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.

Association for Development, Education and Ecological Ethics–Polymath13
US$16,630
Local Stakeholder Management Capacity for the Important Plant Area Bogdanci, North Macedonia

Instituti i Politikave Mjedisore
US$7,995
Conservation and Propagation of the Albanian Tulip, Phase 2, Albania

Nature Palestine Society
US$19,980
Plant Conservation in the North Eastern Slopes Region Key Biodiversity Area, Palestine

Biflores–Conservação da Biodiversidade
US$19,994
Improving Knowledge and Numbers of Brava's Threatened Endemic Plants, Cabo Verde

Jouzour Loubnan Association
US$9,900
Strengthening the Protection of Iris Species in the Micro-Reserves of Lebanon

The Friends of Nature
US$20,000
Strengthen Community Participation in Conservation of Lebanon Endemic Flora, Lebanon

Mountains Of Central Asia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1
Address threats to priority species.

Agroecology Zarzamin
US$19,672

Preservating Genetic Diversity of Rare Flora Species in Vanj District, Tajikistan

Akmena
US$20,000

Bioremediation of Former Gold Mines in the Floodplain of the Kasan-Say River, Kyrgyzstan

Association of Ecological Organizations of Kazakhstan
US$49,950

Empower Local Residents to Organize Sustainable Tourism in Kazakhstan's Almaty Region

Biodiversity Research and Conservation Center Community Trust
US$49,954

Promoting the Conservation of Birds of Prey in Kazakhstan

Ganji Tabiat
US$144,452

Rare and Endemic Plant Species Conservation in Southern Tajikistan

Green Energy
US$20,000

Biodiversity Restoration in the Territory of the Sumsar Ayil Community in the Chatkal District of the Jalal-Abad Region of the Kyrgyz Republic

Harmony Plus
US$19,996

Community Engagement in Establishing a Sustainably Managed Reserve in Kyrgyzstan

Fergana toad-headed agama (*Phrynocephalus helioscopus saidalievi*), Uzbekistan. © Timur Abduraupov

Jabagly–Manas Mountain Club
US$19,961

Building Public Knowledge About Biodiversity and Its Practical Application in Zhambyl Oblast, Kazakhstan

Kolsay
US$20,000

Preserving Biodiversity and Strengthening the Capacity of the Kolsai Lakes National Park in Kazakhstan

Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan
US$20,000

Provide Water to Turkmenistan's Koytendag Reserve for Improved Conservation of Flora and Fauna

Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU)
US$149,926

Transboundary Conservation of the Great Bustard in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Noosfera
US$19,967

Restoring the Ecological Balance of Mountain Forest Ecosystems in the Sangvor Preserve, Tajikistan

Nurmuhamed
US$20,000

Income Generation for Women's Groups Through Wild Apple Cultivation in Kyrgyzstan

Obadeskahyzmat
US$49,763

Conservation and Propagation of Pistachio Woodlands in the Koytendag State Nature Reserve, Turkmenistan

Orchun
US$19,995

Community Engagement in Pasture Preservation and Restoration and Pollution Prevention in Tar River and Lake Kulun-Ata, in Kara-Kulja District, Osh Province, Kyrgyzstan

Zhassyl Azyk
US$19,995

Green Approaches to Preserve Mountain Biodiversity in the Forests of Kakpak, in Narynkol, Almaty Region, Kazakhstan

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2
Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status.

Center for Large Landscape Conservation
US$148,131

Improving Capacity and Connectivity Between Reserves in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Jabagly–Manas Mountain Club
US$19,997

Public Awareness and Involvement in Conservation and Biodiversity Management, Kazakhstan

Youth Ecological Centre
US$125,000

Sustainable Energy Use to Reduce Threats to Tigrovaya Balka Reserve, Tajikistan

Leader
US$151,100

Expanding the Micro-Reserve Concept in Kyrgyzstan and the Region

Plateau Perspectives
US$172,326

Strengthening Comanagement in Yagnob National Park, Tajikistan

Dunyoi Mukhabbat
US$19,893

Agrobiodiversity and Local Genetic Resource Conservation in Khojamumin Key Biodiversity Area, Tajikistan

Wildlife Conservation Society
US$155,370

Upscaling Use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in Kyrgyzstan

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3
Support sustainable management and biodiversity conservation within priority corridors.

Global and Local Information Partnership
US$104,000

Improving Public Protected Area Management and Strengthening Community Based Micro-Reserves in Kyrgyzstan

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5
Enhance civil society capacity for effective conservation action.

ACTED
US$150,000

Capacity Building of Civil Society Organizations for Better Conservation in Uzbekistan

Stichting BirdLife Europe
US$99,596

Building Grassroots Capacity for Conservation at Scale in Uzbekistan

Rivers Without Boundaries Coalition
US$168,450

Incorporating Biodiversity Safeguards in Water Infrastructure Development in Central Asia

Zoi Environment Network
US$149,880

Enhance Civil Society Contributions to Priority Setting in the Mountains of Central Asia

Multiple Biodiversity Hotspots

Indian Institute for Human Settlements
US$49,999

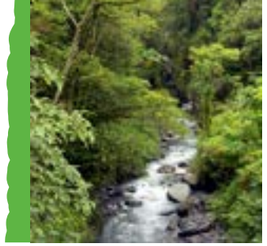
Replicating Community-Managed Fish Conservation Zones in Free-Flowing Rivers in India

Ibex (*Capra sibirica*), Kyrgyzstan. © Elena Kreuzberg

Tropical Andes

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Strengthen protection and management of 52 priority KBAs to foster participatory governance, green recovery from COVID–19, climate change resilience, species conservation, and financial sustainability.



Cotapata National Park, Bolivia.
© MarzePhoto

Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
US$126,150
Strengthen Management and Governance of Cordillera de Colán Key Biodiversity Area, Peru

Ayuda para la Vida Silvestre Amenazada Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú
US$40,000
Kosñipata-Carabaya Key Biodiversity Area Post-Pandemic Recovery Through Ecotourism, Peru

Caritas Coroico
US$75,450
Promoting Sustainable and Climate-Smart Livelihoods in Cotapata National Park, Bolivia

Corporación Ambiental y Forestal del Pacífico
US$88,201
Expansion and Strengthened Protection of Enclave Seco del Río Dagua, Colombia

Corporación Para La Gestión Ambiental Biodiversa
US$114,200
Strengthening Local Policies and Stakeholder Coordination to Conserve San Antonio Key Biodiversity Area, Colombia

Corporedes
US$25,000
Create Conservation Areas and Strengthen Bioenterprises in the Bosque San Antonio/Km 18 Key Biodiversity Area, Colombia

ECA Chayu Nain
US$40,000
Strengthening the Effective Comanagement of the Chayu Nain Communal Reserve Protected Natural Area, Peru

Fundación CODESPA
US$93,979
Polylepis Forest Conservation Through Ecotourism in Takesi and Totorapata, Bolivia

Fundación Con Vida
US$78,589
Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Strategies to Conserve Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia, Colombia

Fundación Ecológica Fenicia Defensa Natural
US$50,000
Strengthen Reserve Management and Legal Protection in Colombia's Páramo del Duende Regional National Park

Fundación Ecotonos
US$25,000
Establish a 53-Hectare Private Protected Area in the Bosque de San Antonio/Km 18 Key Biodiversity Area of Colombia

Fundación Para el Desarrollo de la Ecología
US$49,990
New Approaches to Strengthening Biodiversity Monitoring in Cotapata Key Biodiversity Area, Bolivia

Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
US$169,485
Participatory Management Planning for Q'eros-Kosñipata Regional Conservation Area in Peru

Fundación Trópico
US$45,000
Strengthen Ecotourism and Agrotourism Bioenterprises in the corridor between the Alto Calima Key Biodiversity Area and Páramo del Duende, Colombia

HERPIRO Sociedad Anónima Cerrada
US$40,000
Accelerate Toward Sustainability in the Soqtapata, Quincemil Key Biodiversity Area, Cusco, Peru

Impulso Verde
US$48,790
Forest Restoration and Ecological Community Rehabilitation in the Farallones de Cali National Park Key Biodiversity Area, Colombia

Resguardo Pialapí Pueblo Viejo
US$96,815
Improved Management and Protection of La Planada Nature Reserve, Colombia

Yunkawasi
US$108,797
Participatory Conservation Planning and Action in Cordillera de Colán, Perú

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

In the seven priority corridors, collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders to enable biodiversity conservation, a green recovery from COVID–19, and environmental, financial, and social sustainability, in benefit of the priority KBAs.

Asociación para el Estudio y Conservación de las Aves Acuáticas en Colombia
US$77,126
Supporting Carbon Financing for Conservation in the Paraguas-Munchique, Colombia

Aves Bolivianas
US$40,000
Avitourism for the Conservation of the Cotapata National Park, Bolivia

Corporación Serraniagua
US$49,850
Consolidating the Protected Areas Municipal System in El Cairo, Key Biodiversity Area Serranía de los Paraguas, in Colombia

Fundación Natura Bolivia
US$131,251
Financing Conservation in Cotapata and Pilon Lajas Key Biodiversity Areas through Water Reciprocal Agreements, Bolivia

Fundación Para el Desarrollo de la Ecología
US$49,990
Sharing Biodiversity Information to Guide Planning and Management for Bolivia's Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata Corridor

PROMETA
US$49,999
Trails for Connectivity in the Cotapata Park and Integrated Management Natural Area, Bolivia

RED AMA
US$50,000
Ecotourism in the Amazonian Andes of the Amazonas Voluntary Conservation Network in the Northeastern Corridor of Peru

Wildlife Conservation Society
US$100,000
Reducing the Impacts of Gold Mining on Indigenous People and Biodiversity in Bolivia

Peruvian night monkeys (*Aotus miconax*), Corosha, Peru.
© Michael Tweddle

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Safeguard priority globally threatened species.

Asociación de Conservación Oso Dorado Hierba Buena Allpayacu
US$45,250
Implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Yellow-Tailed Woolly Monkey and Andean Night Monkey in the Northeast Corridor of Peru

Polylepis forest in Turupata-Puina, Madidi National Park, La Paz, Bolivia.
© Garcia-Soliz Victor Hugo

Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazonica
US$41,960
Protecting Critically Endangered Amphibians Through Participatory Monitoring and Conservation Planning in Kosñipata Carabaya Key Biodiversity Area, Peru

CORBIDI
US$50,000
Diversity and Conservation Status of the Herpetofauna in Cordillera de Colán, Peru

Fundación Calima
US$114,674
Conserving 13 Endangered Amphibian Species of the Serranía de los Paraguas in Colombia

Fundación EcoHabitats
US$49,030
Zamarrito del Pinche Conservation Through Environmental Education and Information and Communication Technologies in the Key Biodiversity Area Serranía del Pinche

Fundación Ecovivero
US$49,811
Endemic Magnolia Plant Management in San Antonia Key Biodiversity Area, Colombia

Fundación Teko Kavi
US$49,811
Andean Cat Conservation in the Apolobamba Integrated Management and Natural Protected Area, Bolivia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4
Cultivate a highly trained, well-coordinated and resilient civil society sector at the local, corridor, and hotspot levels to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes.

Asociación Amazónicos por la Amazonía
US$83,593
Strengthening Local Civil Society Capacity to Manage Community Conservation Areas in Peru

Fundación Trópico
US$50,000
Strengthen Communication and Gender Capacities of Partner Organizations in the Paraguas Munchique, Bosques Montanos and Cotacachi-Awá Corridors of Colombia

Conservation Strategy Fund
US$68,890
Sustainable Financial Knowledge and Capacity for Civil Society Organizations in the Tropical Andes Hotspot

Prodena
US$47,887
Strengthening Communication and Journalism Capacities for Biodiversity Conservation of Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata Corridor in Bolivia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5
Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.

Fundación Internacional para la Promoción del Desarrollo Sustentable Futuro Latinoamericano
US$700,000
Regional Implementation Team for the Tropical Andes Hotspot in Ecuador, Phase III

Marine area of Lamatokan Village, Indonesia.
© Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation

Wallacea

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3
Support sustainable natural resource management by communities in priority sites and corridors.

IMUNITAS–Perkumpulan Inovasi Komunitas
US$20,228
Building Capacity for Small-Scale Demersal Fisheries Governance in Lembanato Village, Indonesia

SIKAP Institute
US$18,600
Local Fisheries Governance to Support Coral Reef Conservation in Indonesia

Yayasan Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Sosial
US$23,586
Strengthening Ocean Surveillance and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in Indonesia

Nypah Indonesia
US$19,987
Sustainable Management of Small-Scale Crab Fisheries and Mangroves in Lampata, Indonesia

Yayasan Banua Biru Indonesia
US$19,995
Improved Mangrove and Crab Fishery Management in Laoni, Bone, Indonesia

Yayasan Tana Ile Boleng
US$19,987
Using Local Wisdom for Marine Conservation in Solor, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia

Perkumpulan Destructive Fishing Watch Indonesia
US$44,638
Indigenous People-Based Small-Scale Fisheries Management in the Wabula Key Biodiversity Area (Wabula Phase II Program), Indonesia

Yayasan Bina Sejahtera Baru
US$12,080
Building Community Capacity for Marine Conservation in Waienga Bay, Lembata, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia

Yayasan Toloka Togean
US$25,075
Strengthening Local Economies Through Small-Scale Fisheries in Togean Islands Corridor, Indonesia

Women with hand mill, Issyk Kul Province, Kyrgyzstan.
© Vlad Ushakov

GRANTEE PARTNERS

A

A Rocha Ghana
A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute
ACTED
ActionAid Brasil
African Research Association Limited by Guarantee
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat SA in the Republic of Tajikistan
Agency for Sustainable Development Altus Mostar
Agroecology Zarzamin
Agzybir Hereket
Ajemalebu Self Help
AKMENA
Al-Shouf Cedar Society
Albanian Ornithological Society
Albanian Society for Protection of Birds and Mammals
Alhayat Society for Wildlife and Marine Biology
Alisei
Ambiental 44 Informação e Projetos em Biodiversidade
American University of Beirut
American University of Central Asia
Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company
An-Najah National University
Archipelagos - Ambiente e Sviluppo
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
Asian Arks
Asociación Amazónicos por la Amazonía
Asociación Boliviana para la conservación de las aves
Asociación Civil Armonía
Asociación de Campesinos Agroecologicos de la Zona de Amortiguamiento del Parque Natural Regional del Duende
Asociación de Conservación Oso Dorado Hierba Buena Allpayacu
Asociación de Productores Agroecologicos del Municipio de San José del Palmar
Asociación Ejecutor del Contrato de Administración de la Reserva Comunal Chayu Nain
Asociación para el Estudio y Conservación de las Aves Acuáticas en Colombia
Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica
Asociacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza
Asociación pro defensa de la naturaleza
Associação dos Pequenos Produtores Rurais Quilombolas de Onça e Adjacências
Associação Instituto Araguaia de Proteção Ambiental
Associação Lantuna
Associação Mineira de Defesa do Ambiente
Associação para a Gestão Socioambiental do Triângulo Mineiro
Associação Programa Tatô
Associação Projecto Vitô
Associação Projetos Biodiversidade
Associação Xavante de Etenhiritipá
Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources
Association de la Continuité des Générations
Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnment et le Développement
Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre - Section Khémisset
Association des Enseignants des Sciences de la Vie et de la Terre Maroc
Association des Volontaires pour la Transmission vers le Développement Durable
Association Femmes Entrepreneurs Environnement Mahajanga
Association for Active Tourism Explorer
Association for Ecology and Tourism ECOTOURISM-2016 Ohrid

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan
Association Forêt Modèle Ifrane
Association Jlij pour l'Environnement Marin
Association les Amis de Capte en Tunisie
Association Les Amis des Oiseaux
Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature
Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage
Association Naturalistes, Environnement et Patrimoine de Mayotte
Association of Ecological Organizations of Kazakhstan
Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan
Association pour le Développement de l'Energie Solaire Suisse-Madagascar
Association Sidi Bouzitoun
Association TOSIKA (Tontolo Sy Kajy)
Association Tsimoka
Association Tunisienne de Développement Durable - la Recherche en Action
Association Tunisienne de la Vie Sauvage
Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie
Australian Volunteers International
Ayuda para la Vida Silvestre Amenazada Sociedad Zoológica de Francfort Perú

B

Babaomby Nature Conservation
BADO Association for Environment
Balang Institute
Balkan Foundation for Sustainable Development
Barbary Maccaque Conservation in the Rif
Baru Conservation Alliance
Beihai Citizen Volunteer Association
Beijing Normal University
Bethlehem University
Biakwan Light
Biflores
Biodiversité, Environnement et Développement Durable
Biodiversity and Environment Research Centre
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association
Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
Biodiversity Research and Conservation Center Community Trust
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Biosfera
BirdLife International
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Blue Ventures Conservation
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C

CALIMA, Fundación para la Investigación de la Biodiversidad y Conservación en el Trópico
Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association
Cambodian Rural Development Team
Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Cedars for Care
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Centar za Životnu Sredinu
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Centre for Environment and Community Assets Development
Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights
Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies
Centro Awá Pambilar
Centro de Agricultura Alternativa do Norte de Minas
Centro de Ornitología y Biodiversidad
Centro de Trabalho Indigenista
Centro Jambatu de Investigación y Conservación de Anfibios
China Exploration & Research Society Limited
China Volunteers Service Foundation
China Wild Plant Conservation Association
Ciltad Coastal TV
Climate Conservation DBA Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Community Assistance In Development
Community Observers Association
Community Wildlife Conservation
Company for Applied Research and Permanent Education in Agriculture
Consejo Regional T'simane Mosetenes Pilon Lajas
Conservation Centrée sur la Communauté
Conservation des Espèces Marines
Conservation International
Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
Conservation Strategy Fund
Conservation Through Public Health
Cooperación al Desarrollo y Promoción de Actividades Asistenciales
Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
Cooperativa Central do Cerrado Ltda
Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão
Coral Triangle Center
Corporación Ambiental y Forestal del Pacífico
Corporación Microempresarial Yunguilla CMY
Corporación para la Gestión Ambiental Biodiversa
Corporación Redes
Corporación Serraniagua
Cranes Conservation Volunteers
CRDT Tours Private Limited Company
Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa – Montenegrin Ecologists Society
Cross River State Environment and Carbon Emission Board
Culture and Environment Preservation Association

D

Dahari
Dali Biodiversity Conservation and Research Centre
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Development Concern
Développement Pour Tous
Difaf
Dunyoi Mukhabbat
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

E

Earth Island Institute
Ebony Forest Ltd.
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Eco Values for Sustainable Development
Eco-Lifelihood Development Association
Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan
Ecological Resource Center "EKOMAKTAB"
Ecovolis
Edenhope Foundation
Edukimi Social dhe Mbrojtja e Mjedisit
Enviromatics
Environment for Life
Environmental Awareness Group Inc.
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F

Fakultas Kehutanan Universitas Hasanuddin
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FISHBIO
Fisheries Action Coalition Team
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Fondation d'Entreprise Biotope pour la Biodiversité
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FORCERT – Forests for Certain; Forests for Life!
Forêts et Développement Rural
Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning
Friends of Ecosystem and the Environment
Friends of Nature
Friends of Wildlife
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Fundação Coordenação de Projetos, Pesquisas e Estudos Tecnológicos
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Fundação de Empreendimentos Científicos e Tecnológicos
Fundação Escola Politécnica da Bahia
Fundação Maio Biodiversidade
Fundacao MICAIA
Fundação Príncipe Trust
Fundação Pró Natureza – Funatura
Fundação Uniselva
Fundación Con Vida
Fundación EcoCiencia
Fundación Ecohabitats
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Fundación Ecológica los Colibríes de Altaquer
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Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza
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Fundación Tropico

G

Ganji Tabiat
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GO2 Organizatë për Planifikim të Qëndrueshëm Urban
Green Community Alliance
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Green Ground Seraïdi-Annaba
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H

Habituasi Kebaikan Indonesia
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I

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J

Jamaica Environment Trust
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K

Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation
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Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre KMCC
Kigezi Initiative for Women and Children Empowerment and Development-Uganda
Kolsay
Korup Rainforest Forest Conservation Society
Kuhhoi Pomir
Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users

L

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M

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Mongabay.org
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Mountain Club Jabagly-Manas
Muloma Womens' Development Association
Muztor
My Village Organization

N

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Natural Resources Development Foundation
Nature and Culture International
Nature Palestine Society
Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan
Nature Protection Team
Nature Solutions
Nature Tanzania
NatureLife Cambodia Organization
NatureMetrics Limited
Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU) e.V.
New Guinea Binatang Research Center
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Non-Governmental Organization Coalition for Environment
Non-Timber Forest Products
Noosfera
Northeast Community Network in 7 Provinces of MeKhong River Basin
Northern Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society
Notre Grand Bleu
Nurmuhamed
Ny Tanintsika

O

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Oikos – Cooperação e Desenvolvimento
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Organization for Positive Sustainability Culture in Nigeria
Oxfam America
Oxygen Association for Environmental Protection

P

Palestine Wildlife Society
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Protección del Medio Ambiente Tarija

Q

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Qendra per Menaxhimin Agro-Mjedisore dhe Ekonomik
Qendra për Ruajtjen dhe Mbrojtjen e Mjedisit Natyror në Shqipëri
Qendra për Ruajtjen e Ekosistemeve Natyrore në Shqipëri

R

Re:wild
Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia - Local Branch Ohrid
Red de Conservación Voluntaria de Amazonas
Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres
Regionalni Resursni Centar
Réseau des acteurs de la sauvegarde des tortues marines en Afrique Centrale
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Rivers Without Boundaries
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Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
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Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Rural Development Agency
Rural Development Fund
Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

S

Saint Lucia National Trust
Sansom Mlup Prey Organization
Santo Sunset Environment Network
Saola Foundation
Sekretariat Nasional Forum Indonesia Untuk Transparansi Anggaran
Servicios Educativos Promoción y Apoyo Rural
SeubNakhasathian Foundation
Shan Shui Conservation Center
Shk Khantagy
Shoqata AlbNatyra
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Riacho dos Machados
Skills and Agricultural Development Services
SOAMANEVA
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Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental
Société Khaled ben Othmen
Société Ras Adar pour Divertissements Touristiques
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Society for the Protection of Birds of Uzbekistan
Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
Society of Soldiers-Internationalists and Invalids of Tyulkubas Region
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Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership
Solomon Islands Environmental Lawyers Association
Solomon Islands Rangers Association
Soluciones Ambientales BYOS Cía. Ltda
SOS-Forêts
Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency
Station d'Observation des Tortues et de leurs Milieux
Stitching BirdLife Europe
Strand Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd.
Sulawesi Community Foundation
Sustainable Natural Resources Management Association (SUNARMA)

T

T.E.R.R.E. Liban
Tabigat Republican Association of Hunting Communities and Farms
Taotsara
Taoyuanxiaozhu Farm of Yingjiang County
Tebigy Kuwwat
Tengchong Rare Flora and Fauna Protection Association
Ter Mer Rodriguez Association
Terrimar
Thai Sea Watch Association
The Peregrine Fund
The Pga K'Nyau Association for Social and Environmental Development
Thétis Conseil
Tölgy Természetvédelmi Egyesület
TRAFFIC International
Treweek Environmental Consultants
Tropical Biology Association
Turtle Survival Alliance

U

Udruga Dinarica
Udruženje za Unapređenje Životne Sredine
Ugam
Une Gruaja
Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá
Union of Pasture Users of Ak-Dobe Village District
Union of Photojournalists
United Agro-Environmental Association Agri-En
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Université Saint-Joseph
University of Central Asia
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.
University of Ljubljana
University of Mostar Džemal Bijedić
University of Queensland
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V

Van Vat Integrated Environmental Consultants
Vanuatu Environmental Law Association
Vanuatu Environmental Science Society
Vertigo Lab
Viet Nature Conservation Centre
Vietnam National Park and Protected Area Association
Volunteers for Sustainable Development in Africa
Vsemirnyi Fond Prirody

W

WADI NGO
Wai-Hau Conservation Foundation
West Africa Civil Society Institute
Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten GmbH
Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Wildlife Alliance
Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia
Wildlife at Risk
Wildlife Conservation Society
Wildlife Conservation Society – Kyrgyz
Wildlife Without Borders
Working – Associação de Integração Profissional
World Parrot Trust
World Wide Fund for Nature

Y

Yayasan Ayu Tani Mandiri
Yayasan Baileo Maluku
Yayasan Banua Biru Indonesia
Yayasan Bina Sejahtera Baru
Yayasan Ekonomi Keanekaragaman Hayati Laut Indonesia
Yayasan Khatulistiwa Alam Lestari
Yayasan Komodo Survival Program
Yayasan Kompas Peduli Hutan
Yayasan Konservasi Laut Indonesia
Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia
Yayasan Mitra Masyarakat Sehat Indonesia
Yayasan Panorama Alam Lestari Poso
Yayasan Pengelolaan Lokal Kawasan Laut Indonesia
Yayasan Pengembangan dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Maluku
Yayasan Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Sosial
Yayasan Penyu Indonesia
Yayasan Perguruan Kristen Halmahera
Yayasan Pusat Informasi Lingkungan Indonesia
Yayasan Rekam Jejak Alam Nusantara
Yayasan Romang Celebes Indonesia
Yayasan Sauwa Sejahtera
Yayasan Studi Etnologi Masyarakat Nelayan Kecil
Yayasan Tana Ile Boleng
Yayasan Teman laut Indonesia
Yayasan Toloka Togean
Ynanch-Vepa
Young Progress Association
Youth Ecological Centre
Youth Group on Protection of Environment
Yunkawasi

Z

ZESMAN Consultancy
Zhassyl Azyk
Zoi Environment Network
Zoological Society of London
Župa u Srcu

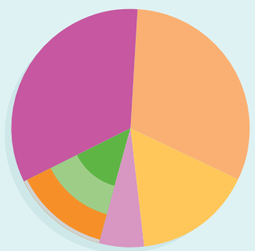
Scan this to see the full list of CEPF's grantees since the fund's inception.

https://www.cepf.net/about/our-team/grantee-partners

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

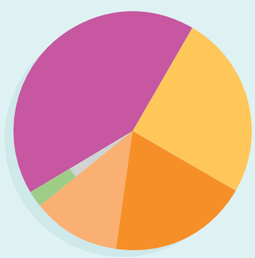
GRANTS

Inception Through 30 June 2023



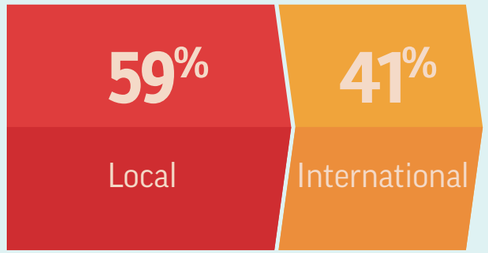
33%	Asia
31%	Africa
16%	South America
6%	Pacific Islands
4%	Central America
4%	Europe
4%	Caribbean Islands
1%	Middle East

Awarded in Fiscal Year 2023



42%	Asia
25%	South America
19%	Caribbean Islands
12%	Africa
1%	Middle East
1%	Europe

Awarded in Fiscal Year 2023



CEPF awarded US$12.7 million in new grants during the 2023 fiscal year of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, bringing the amount it has invested in conserving critical ecosystems since 2000 to US$294 million.

CEPF received nearly US$5.3 million in new grants and contributions during the fiscal year. Included in that total were funds from new grant agreements with Margaret A. Cargill Foundation for US$3,010,000 to support the reinvestment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot; Bezos Earth Fund, through Conservation International, for US$1 million to support the Tropical Andes Hotspot; and new agreements in support of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot from MAVA Foundation for US$567,000, Fondation Audemars-Watkins for US$433,540 and the Donors Initiative for Mediterranean Ecosystems, via Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, for US$267,955.

Grant-making activities during the fiscal year included the first grants issued through new investment in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, supported through the US$38 million, 10-year agreement with l'Agence Française de Développement as the Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund for the project titled "Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean." Investments in the Indo-Burma and Wallacea hotspots reached their halfway points. And grant-making continued in the Caribbean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia, Tropical Andes and Wallacea hotspots. The investments in the Cerrado and the Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspots were completed during the fiscal year.

Divjaka-Karavasta National Park, Albania. © Louis-Marie Preau

Revenue	FY23	CUMULATIVE
Grants and contributions	5,273,940	421,020,318
Gain (loss) in foreign exchange	(251,663)	(2,610,622)
Interest earned	103,359	3,554,513
TOTAL REVENUE	**5,125,636**	**421,964,209**
EXPENSES AND GRANTS AWARDED*		
Atlantic Forest		10,010,403
Cape Floristic Region		7,551,147
Caribbean Islands		6,873,205
Caribbean Islands II	2,376,112	5,659,113
Caucasus		9,288,219
Cerrado		8,043,370
East Melanesian Islands		8,701,319
Eastern Afromontane		11,974,727
Eastern Arc Mountains & Coastal Forests		8,789,550
Eastern Himalayas		4,882,859
Guinean Forests of West Africa		8,072,696
Guinean Forests of West Africa II	12,861	9,866,433
Indo-Burma		9,656,797
Indo-Burma II		15,436,022
Indo-Burma III	2,765,599	10,927,973
Madagascar		5,555,602
Madagascar & the Indian Ocean Islands		12,278,655
Madagascar & the Indian Ocean Islands II	1,213,363	3,513,190
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany		6,646,749
Mediterranean Basin		10,600,744
Mediterranean Basin II	589,099	12,830,881
Mountains of Central Asia	2,152,913	7,541,612
Mountains of Southwest China		7,886,147
Multiple Hotspots	49,998	508,700
Northern Mesoamerica		7,079,430
Philippines		6,970,399
Polynesia-Micronesia		6,828,576
Southern Mesoamerica		7,046,928
Succulent Karoo		9,220,999
Sundaland		9,901,465
Tropical Andes		8,287,386
Tropical Andes II		9,404,673
Tropical Andes III	3,197,588	4,641,457
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena		6,797,978
Wallacea		6,689,843
Wallacea II	349,015	2,280,739
Western Ghats & Sri Lanka		6,055,069
TOTAL GRANTS	**12,706,548**	**294,301,055**
Ecosystem profile preparation	13,106	12,099,616
Use of interest: External evaluations, audit and special projects	58,209	3,399,434
Operations	3,529,021	61,067,153
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	**3,600,336**	**76,566,203**
TOTAL EXPENSES AND GRANTS AWARDED	**16,306,884**	**370,867,258**
Revenue less expenses	(11,181,247)	51,096,951
Fund balance at beginning of period	60,533,936	
Fund balance at end of period	49,352,689	
FUND BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD CONSISTED OF:		
Cash and interest accrued, net of amount due to/from Conservation International		11,191,399
Accounts receivable		56,971,120
Grants payable		(18,817,908)
Fund balance at end of period (fully earmarked for investments)		49,352,689

*Grant expenses include new grant awards in the current fiscal year. Negative amounts represent deobligations. Adjustment may be included in current fiscal year from prior-year cumulative.

DONOR COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Julia Marton-Lefèvre

DONOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

Valerie Hickey
Global Director–Environment,
Natural Resources and Blue Economy
The World Bank

Tsuyoshi Hyokai
Director for Climate Change
and Environmental Issues,
International Bureau
Ministry of Finance
Government of Japan

Gilles Kleitz
Executive Director
Sustainable Development
Agence Française de Développement

Chantal Marijnissen
Head of Unit, Environment,
Sustainable Natural Resources
Directorate-General for
International Partnerships
European Commission

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez
CEO and Chairperson
The Global Environment Facility

Astrid Schomaker
Director, Green Diplomacy
and Multilateralism,
Directorate-General for Environment
European Commission

Sebastian Troëng
Executive Vice President,
Conservation Partnerships
Conservation International

WORKING GROUP

Kelvin Alie
Senior Vice President for Strategy,
Delivery and Field Partnerships
Global Field Programs
Conservation International

Naïg Cozannet
Project Manager–Biodiversity
& Natural Resources,
Agence Française de Développement

Nadia Deckert
International Aid/Cooperation,
Policy Officer–Biodiversity/Ocean
Environment, Sustainable
Natural Resources
Directorate General for
International Partnerships
European Commission

Thierry Dudermel
Team Leader for Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Services
Directorate General for
International Partnerships
European Commission

Natalia Magradze
Environmental Specialist
Environment, Natural Resources
and Blue Economy
The World Bank

Anne Theo Seinen
Policy Officer,
Biodiversity Integration
Directorate-General
for Environment
European Commission

Ichiro Hama
Deputy Director,
Biodiversity Strategy Office,
Ministry of the Environment
Government of Japan

Sarah Wyatt
Biodiversity Specialist,
The Global Environment Facility

CEPF SECRETARIAT

Olivier Langrand
Executive Director

Erika Ali
Senior Communications
Coordinator

Fiker Befekadu
Finance Manager

Caroline Borek
Grants Manager

Pierre Carret
Grant Director

Antonia Cermak-Terzian
Senior Director of
Grants Management

Céline Desbrosses
Executive/Learning Outreach
Senior Manager

Annie Kaufmann
Grants Manager

Nina Marshall
Senior Director, Monitoring,
Evaluation and Outreach

Walid Mediouni
Senior Director,
Finance and Operations

Priscila Oliveira
Grants Manager

Peggy Poncelet
Grant Director

Florencia Renedo
Senior Grants Manager

Daniel Rothberg
Grant Director

Julie Shaw
Communications Director

Jack Tordoff
Managing Director

Michele Zador
Grant Director

Sirebe Protected Area, Solomon Islands.
© Douglas Pikacha Jr.

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Nicole Brown
Caribbean Natural
Resources Institute (CANARI)
Kingston, Jamaica

INDO-BURMA

Alex McWilliam
IUCN Asia Regional Office
Bangkok, Thailand

MADAGASCAR AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Monique Randriatsivery
IUCN NL
Antananarivo, Madagascar

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

Maaike Manten
BirdLife International
Cambridge, England, UK

MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL ASIA

Yelizaveta (Lizza) Protas
Fund for the Conservation of
Rare Species of Animals and Plants
Almaty, Kazakhstan

TROPICAL ANDES

Bolivia
Jorge Mariaca
Asociación Boliviana para la
Investigación y Conservación
de Ecosistemas Andino
Amazónicos (ACEAA)
La Paz, Bolivia

Colombia
Martha Liliana Silva Velasco
Fondo Patrimonio Natural
Cali, Colombia

Ecuador
Carlos Cabrera
Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano
(FFLA)
Quito, Ecuador

Peru
Cynthia Garland
Fondo de Promoción
de las Áreas Naturales
Protegidas (PROFONANPE)
Lima, Peru

WALLACEA

Wahyu Teguh Prawira
Burung Indonesia
Bogor, Indonesia

Annex: CEPF's Global Monitoring Framework

CEPF measures results on three levels: project, hotspot portfolio and global.

On the project level, grantees report on project-specific targets and deliverables. Grantees provide periodic updates via progress reports, followed by a final report on overall project accomplishments at the end of the project. All grantee reports are reviewed thoroughly by CEPF and/or regional implementation team staff to ensure accurate and valid reporting of achievements. When feasible, grantees receive site visits during their projects.

The second level is the hotspot portfolio level. Each hotspot investment has a logframe and targets associated with the hotspot's specific investment strategy. At the end of their projects, grantees are requested to record their contributions to portfolio targets. Progress toward achievement of portfolio targets is assessed annually, with aggregated results reported on in an annual portfolio overview. Assessment workshops are held at the midterm and final stages of each hotspot investment, and at these points a thorough review of progress in implementing the investment strategy is undertaken.

The third level at which CEPF measures results is the global level. Contributions to the global indicators are recorded by grantees in their final reports at the end of their project as well as by regional implementation teams who report on collective portfolio achievements that go beyond individual project accomplishments. Progress toward CEPF global indicators is assessed annually, with aggregated results reported on in the CEPF Impact/Annual Report.

Definitions for CEPF's 16 global indicators

1 NUMBER OF HECTARES OF PROTECTED AREAS CREATED AND/OR EXPANDED

To be counted, a new protected area must demonstrate formal legal declaration and biodiversity conservation must be an official management goal. If a protected area is expanded due to CEPF grantee efforts, the area of expansion may be counted, but must also demonstrate formal legal declaration. New protected areas include national or local parks and reserves, private protected areas, marine parks and reserves, community protected areas such as fish conservation zones and lands protected under stewardship and community agreements. Areas that do not have an official formal declaration may be included insofar as their protected status is legally binding.

2 NUMBER OF HECTARES OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

To be counted, an area must be a Key Biodiversity Area (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 reasonable attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA. For an area to be considered as having "improved management," it can benefit from a wide range of actions. Examples include increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.

3 NUMBER OF HECTARES OF PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES WITH STRENGTHENED MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial and/or community-based agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

- For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.
- Areas that are protected are not included under this indicator because their hectares are counted elsewhere.
- A production landscape can include part or all of an unprotected KBA.

4 NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

CEPF strives to track the improved management of protected areas that have received CEPF investment. The tool that CEPF uses to collect this information is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The METT is a scorecard that provides an assessment of protected area management effectiveness. Changes in score are determined by comparing a baseline scorecard to a final scorecard completed at the end of the project. To be counted under this global indicator, a protected area must demonstrate an increase in score from baseline to final.

5 NUMBER OF GLOBALLY THREATENED SPECIES BENEFITING FROM CONSERVATION ACTION

To be counted, a species must benefit from an intervention that has direct conservation action. Examples include preparation or implementation of a conservation action plan; captive breeding programs; habitat protection; species monitoring; patrolling to halt wildlife trafficking; and removal of invasive species.

6 NUMBER OF CEPF GRANTEES WITH IMPROVED ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

CEPF measures change in organizational capacity with a self-assessment tool, the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT), that aims to monitor a civil society organization's capacity to effectively plan, implement and evaluate actions for biodiversity conservation. This is determined by five major factors: (i) its available human resources; (ii) its financial resources; (iii) its management systems, which ensure that available resources are translated into effective actions; (iv) its strategic planning, which ensures that these actions target conservation priorities; and (v) its delivery, which ensures that these actions effect change. The tool has a total possible score of 100. It should be completed twice: at the start and at the end of the project. Local and national grantees are required to complete the CSTT.

Yaghnob Valley, Tajikistan. © Marc Foggin

7 NUMBER OF CEPF GRANTEES WITH IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF AND COMMITMENT TO GENDER ISSUES

CEPF measures change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues with the Gender Tracking Tool (GTT). It 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. It consists of seven questions for a total possible score of 20. The tool should be completed twice: at the start and at the end of the project. Local and national grantees are required to complete the GTT.

8 NUMBER OF NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED AND/OR STRENGTHENED

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices; a network of environmental journalists; a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands; and a working group focusing on reptile conservation.

9 NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING STRUCTURED TRAINING

Structured training is defined as any organized or formal training opportunity such as a workshop, classroom activity, university program, formal site visit or exchange program. Data is sex-disaggregated. This number is not to be combined with the indicator recording beneficiaries receiving non-cash benefits; this indicator is specific to training, a key element of CEPF's work.

10 NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING CASH BENEFITS

Cash benefits include those derived from employment and increased income due to livelihood programs. Project employees are excluded. Data is sex-disaggregated.

11 NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING NON-CASH BENEFITS OTHER THAN STRUCTURED TRAINING

Non-cash benefits are: 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 decision-making and governance; improved access to ecosystem services. Data is sex-disaggregated.

12 NUMBER OF PROJECTS PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Projects included have been tagged with one or more of the following keywords: buffer zones, carbon offsets, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, community-based conservation, conservation planning, ecosystem resilience, habitat conservation and management, land use planning, payment for ecosystem services, private reserves, protected areas, reforestation, restoration, soil conservation and water management.

13 AMOUNT OF CO2E SEQUESTERED IN CEPF-SUPPORTED NATURAL HABITATS

The methodology for measuring this indicator is under development and no definition is yet available for it.

14 NUMBER OF LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES WITH CONSERVATION PROVISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ENACTED OR AMENDED

"Laws and regulations" pertain to official rules or orders prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order with conservation provisions that has been enacted or amended as a result of CEPF investment is eligible to be included. "Policies" that are adopted or pursued by a government—including a sector or faction of government—and provide for biodiversity conservation thanks to CEPF investment are eligible.

15 NUMBER OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS THAT ARE DELIVERING FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION

The purpose of this indicator is to track the number of functioning financing mechanisms created by or receiving support from CEPF and delivering funds for conservation. Sustainable financing mechanisms are secured to help ensure long-term financing for project or program conservation objectives beyond the project's or program's lifespan. They aim to generate sustaining financial resources over five or more years. Sustainable finance goes beyond traditional government or donor funding by introducing innovative market-based approaches such as debt-for-nature swaps, environmental funds and payment for ecosystem services.

16 NUMBER OF COMPANIES THAT ADOPT BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY PRACTICES

A company is a legal entity made up of an association of people—be they natural, legal, or a mixture of both—for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise. Company members share a common purpose and unite in order to focus their various talents and organize their collectively available skills or resources to achieve specific, declared goals. While companies take various forms, for the purposes of CEPF, a company is defined as a for-profit business entity. For a company to be counted, it must have adopted biodiversity-friendly practices as a result of CEPF investment. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Data collection and reporting processes

Each of CEPF's grantees makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. 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 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and to the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework targets in quantitative and qualitative ways. CEPF's reporting system is fully electronic, allowing for aggregation of results and production of reports that can present portfolio and global results for all projects.

CEPF's monitoring framework allows for reporting on the fund's operational contribution as well as on impact. During the application process, prior to project approval, each grant is assigned to one of CEPF's four pillars (biodiversity, civil society, human well-being or enabling conditions); a project category (a subset of the pillar); a habitat; one or more taxa if relevant; and applicable keywords. These assignments allow the fund to ascertain the amount of funds spent in certain categories and for various themes and facilitate analysis of data by hotspot and region. The ability to quantify how much money has been spent on selected themes helps to frame results in terms of what CEPF grantees have been able to do with the funds that have been allocated.

Impact reporting is undertaken via comprehensive reporting tools and templates, available in multiple languages. Each grantee is responsible for completing selected monitoring tools, including regular programmatic progress reports and a final report, as well as tracking tools pertaining to gender, capacity and protected area management. Upon submission of monitoring reports and tracking tools, data are reviewed and validated by the respective regional implementation team and/or CEPF grant director responsible for that grant.

While CEPF has established procedures for data collection and compilation, it is not without its challenges. Below are some of the main issues encountered in preparing CEPF's impact numbers.

Interpretation

- Misunderstanding about what an indicator means: Despite translation of CEPF's reporting formats into multiple languages, cultural differences can lead to varying interpretations of the indictors.
- Different interpretations of what an indicator means, irrespective of language: Each indicator has a definition, but even so, people's understanding and experiences can lead to different interpretations.

Overreporting

- Over-ambitious reporting: This can occur when a grantee may have only partially achieved a result but reports it as achieved. For example, a new protected area must be officially declared to be counted. A grantee may report that an area has been declared because official declaration is imminent. However, such an accomplishment should not be counted until it actually occurs.

Creative reporting

- Grantees are proud of their accomplishments, as is CEPF. However, sometimes a grantee will alter or expand the results reported for a specific indicator such that it is not possible to aggregate the results with those from other projects.

Lack of focus on reporting during implementation

- Although grantees receive training at the start of their project about reporting requirements and content, this focus can be sidelined in the enthusiasm to implement the project. If attention to monitoring is not a priority during the project, grantees may not be able to report accurately. For example, CEPF requires sex-disaggregated data for some indicators. If grantees do not record such data during the project, they may not be able to supply the required information in their final report.

Validation of grantee results

- All grantee reports are thoroughly reviewed by a CEPF grant director or the regional implementation team, or both when relevant. These efforts are supplemented by reviews of supporting documentation, correspondence with grantees, or site visits. If it is not possible to visit a grantee during or at the end of their project because some are in remote areas, other methods may be considered, including third party observation, photo/video evidence or frequent electronic contact during the project.
- CEPF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach Unit (MEOU) also reviews grantee reports when compiling overall results, thereby providing an additional avenue of communication with the grantee to verify and clarify results, as well as to gather qualitative information to better present grantee results in CEPF's various communications products.

Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting

- CEPF's grants are often awarded for initiatives that may require a significant amount of time to see a result, such as creation of a protected area. A grant may come to an end before a result is achieved. In such instances, CEPF strives to maintain contact with grantees post-project so that when the result is achieved, it can be recorded as part of CEPF's impact. Grantees are usually so enthusiastic about a result eventually being achieved that they communicate with CEPF. However, they are under no obligation to do so, and therefore CEPF may be underreporting for some indicators.

These challenges are a constant focus for CEPF MEOU, and its staff are dedicated to addressing these so that reporting procedures are better understood and implemented, with the overall aim of ensuring that CEPF's results are as accurate and relevant as possible.

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 World Bank

www.cepf.net

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Supporting Biodiversity by Empowering People

Offices located at: Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202 USA