

**Final Assessment**  
**July 2016 - March 2022**  
**CEPF Investment in the**  
**Cerrado Biodiversity hotspot**

November 2022

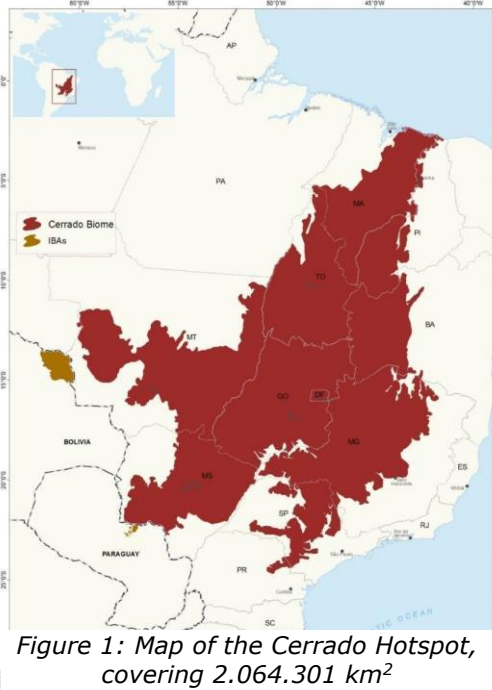
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# 1 Introduction

Covering over 2 million square kilometers, the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot (Figure 1) is one of the world's largest hotspots and biologically richest savanna regions. The hotspot lies mainly within Brazil and extends marginally (1 percent) into neighboring parts of Bolivia and Paraguay.



The Cerrado consists of vast plateaus between 300 and 1,600 meters in elevation. These structures primarily support savanna formations, separated by a network of lower-lying plains. They, in turn, support 15 different vegetation types, including various kinds of woodland, scrubland and grassland. The diverse ecosystems of the Cerrado are home to a great variety of species, including many found nowhere else in the world. Although more extensive surveys are required to catalog the enormous variety of species in the Cerrado, the hotspot is estimated to contain over 12,000 plant species, with over one-third of these endemic to the area. The region also has at least 2,373 vertebrate species, approximately one-fifth of which are endemic. The Cerrado is home to a few iconic large mammals, including South America's largest canid and felid, maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) and jaguar (*Panthera onca*), respectively. The Cerrado is also home to giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*), the most impressive member of the

Cerrado armadillo fauna. Among the endemic species in the Cerrado are *Caryocar brasiliense*, a culturally and economically important fruit tree known as *pequi*, and *Syngonanthus nitens*, called "golden grass," which is widespread in the Cerrado and is used to make regional handicrafts.

In addition to its high biodiversity, the Cerrado supports human populations within and outside the hotspot's boundaries. Locally, its biodiversity resources support the livelihoods of millions of family farmers, traditional communities, and Indigenous People. The ecosystem services delivered by the hotspot are even more far-reaching. The Cerrado is one of the world's largest producers of livestock and agricultural products and accounts for 30 percent of Brazil's gross domestic product. From a hydrological perspective, the ecology of the Pantanal, the largest wetland in the world, depends on water flowing from the Cerrado. At the same time, most of the Amazon River's southern tributaries originate in the hotspot. The Cerrado also provides much of southern Brazil's water for human and agricultural use, through surface flow, groundwater recharge, and atmospheric flows. The Cerrado also has vast amounts of carbon stored in its forests, including forest trees' deep roots for surviving the long dry season.

The economic development of the Cerrado is putting pressure on both local communities and natural ecosystems through continued conversion of land for crops and ranching. By some accounts, deforestation in the Cerrado is now responsible for more significant emissions of greenhouse gases than forest loss in the Amazon.

By 2010, 47 percent of the hotspot's land had already been converted for human land uses. This problem is exacerbated because the Cerrado has one of the lowest levels of protection of any hotspot, with only 8 percent of the land area protected.

The extreme biological richness of the hotspot combined with the alarming rate of land conversion in the area means urgent action must be taken to ensure environmental sustainability and the well-being of human societies.

This is what led, in 2013, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Donor Council to select the Cerrado as one of the hotspots in which future funds will be invested in. The CEPF indeed enables civil society to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots—biologically rich ecosystems that are essential to humanity, yet highly threatened. The fund is a joint program of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

## **2 CEPF Niche and Strategy**

In contrast to the size of the Cerrado and the scale of the threats facing the hotspot, funding opportunities for civil society organizations (CSOs) wishing to engage in conservation are currently limited. The CEPF investment was meant to leverage, enhance, and amplify opportunities for financial support and technical cooperation. The highest priority conservation objectives for the Cerrado during the CEPF investment included avoiding or minimizing the amount of new land clearing, restoring degraded lands to recreate ecological connectivity, and expanding the network of protected areas. In addition to the civil society groups, CEPF investment targeted local communities of family farmers, indigenous and traditional peoples, and civil society networks in great need of capacity building. Private sector and government engagements were also essential for the successful conservation of the Cerrado. By investing in one of the most critical regions for agricultural commodities globally, CEPF helped increase agribusinesses' effectiveness and scale of sustainable practices.

CEPF used conservation outcomes, or biological targets, to determine its geographic and taxonomic focus for investment and then measure those investments' success.

During the ecosystem profiling process, existing lists of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within Brazil, as well as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) within Bolivia and Paraguay, were built upon and updated using the newest available data. This process resulted in a map that included 761 KBAs in Brazil, one IBA in Bolivia and three IBAs in Paraguay. These 765 sites account for roughly 60 percent of Cerrado's area. Brazil's 761 KBAs were also evaluated for their contribution to hydrological services. Using this evaluation metric, 152 of Brazil's KBAs were considered very important for hydrological services, all located by agricultural or urban centers or regions. Based on examining clusters of KBAs with high relative biological importance, 13 conservation corridors were identified, covering about one-third of the hotspot's area. Priority was given to four landscape-scale conservation corridors in the hotspot: Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas; Central de MATOPIBA; Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu; and Mirador-Mesas. These four priority corridors contain 62 KBAs with "Very High" relative importance for conservation. The total area encompassed by the four priority corridors is 32.2 million hectares, representing approximately 16 percent of the entire Cerrado Hotspot

Identifying conservation outcomes provides a medium-term, overarching agenda for protecting the Cerrado's unique and valuable biodiversity. Realistically, only a fraction of these priorities could effectively be tackled by CSOs with CEPF investment. Therefore, the CEPF investment strategy focused on 17 investment priorities which have been grouped into seven strategic directions with a total investment of US\$ 8 million from July 2016 to June 2021 (subsequently extended to March 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic):

**Strategic Direction 1.** To promote the adoption of best agricultural practices (*Investment Priority 1.1*) and support the cooperation and social dialogue to influence policies and propose incentives for these best practices (*Investment Priority 1.2*) in the four priority corridors.

**Strategic Direction 2.** To support, in the four priority corridors, the creation/expansion and effective management of protected areas (*Investment Priority 2.1*), of areas managed by traditional communities and Indigenous People (*Investment Priority 2.2*) or of private lands with the creation of Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs) (*Investment Priority 2.3*).

**Strategic Direction 3.** To promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources (*Investment Priority 3.1*) and ecological restoration based on upscaled native seed collection and seedling production (*Investment Priority 3.2*) and on strategic partnerships to restore Permanent Preservation Areas and Legal Reserves (*Investment Priority 3.3*).

**Strategic Direction 4.** To support the protection of seven highly globally threatened species in the hotspot via the implementation of priority actions set out in the National Action Plans (PANs) (*Investment Priority 4.1*).

**Strategic Direction 5.** To support the creation of an online platform storing and disseminating data produced by monitoring programs to inform decision-makers better (*Investment Priority 5.1*) and enhance the understanding and awareness of good water resources among the general public and the agricultural sector in particular (*Investment Priority 5.2*).

**Strategic Direction 6.** To strengthen the capacity of CSOs to promote better management of territories and natural resources in forums (*Investment Priority 6.1*). To implement an institutional strengthening program defined by/with local organizations (*Investment Priority 6.2*). To enhance multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) to leverage institutional, political, and financial support to conserve the Cerrado (*Investment Priority 6.3*). To support promotional publications, broadcasting spots, public campaigns, and others that contribute to disseminating information on the Cerrado (*Investment Priority 6.4*).

**Strategic Direction 7.** To coordinate the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy in the hotspot via a Regional Implementation Team through procedures to use resources effectively and achieve expected results (*Investment Priority 7.1*), and to support and strategically guide the network of institutions responsible for the implementation of projects funded by CEPF, promoting coordination, integration, cooperation and exchange of experiences and lessons learned (*Investment Priority 7.2*).

### 3 Regional Implementation Team

CEPF selected a lead local organization, Instituto Internacional de Educação do Brasil (IEB), as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) to oversee the strategic development of the grant portfolio and ensure delivery of the CEPF program in the Cerrado. The purpose of the RIT was to convert the investment strategy in the ecosystem profile into a cohesive portfolio of grants.

IEB is a Brazilian non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Brasilia, dedicated to capacity building and training of people and strengthening organizations in the areas of natural resource management, environmental and territorial with more than 18 years of experience.

Michael Becker provided overall coordination of the RIT as the RIT Leader since 2016. The full-time Grants Manager, Camila Pinheiro de Castro, was the second staff member of the RIT until late 2018, and was substituted by Claudia Sachetto in early 2019. Aryanne Amaral, the third full time staff, reinforced the team in 2017 as a Project Assistant and was responsible for communications. Michael Jackson of Oliveira Alves, a GIS specialist in charge of monitoring, first joined the team as an intern, and then became the fourth full-time employee in 2019. This core team was additionally supported by Magdalena Lambert, IEB's Financial Officer, by Wladia Alves da Silva, IEB's Financial Assistant, by Ailton Dias, IEB's office coordinator in charge of the capacity building/public policy aspects for the RIT, and by Maria-Jose Gontijo, founder and General Coordinator of IEB.

To accompany the program's execution, the RIT created an advisory committee formed by representatives of CEPF donors, researchers of the Cerrado, and other more prominent NGOs (See Annex 14.1). Over the time of the program, there were seven meetings with approximately 10 participants out of the 21 invited specialists. The advisory committee oversaw and reviewed the results, identifying new cooperation opportunities in the Cerrado.

Throughout the selection process, the RIT worked alternately with 103 external reviewers (see Annex 14.2). This was to ensure that most of the Letters of Inquiry were reviewed by more than one reviewer, so as to guarantee the most appropriate and fair process possible. To facilitate the involvement of the reviewers, a commercial platform for grantmaking called Prosas<sup>1</sup> was used.

## 4 Impact Summary

The logical framework from the ecosystem portfolio is presented in Annex 14.3 together with a summary of progress toward the targets, as of June 2022.

### Biodiversity Conservation

- Conservation of six populations of globally threatened species was strengthened through the implementation of PANs, increased knowledge, monitoring of individuals, reintroduction of individuals, creation of public policies (e.g., designating Brazilian merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*) as ambassador for water in the Cerrado) and protected areas (e.g., Botumirim State Park for protection of blue-eyed ground-dove (*Columbina cyanopsis*)).
- Twenty studies and analyses to justify the creation or expansion of public protected areas were conducted.
- Two Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) were created ([Historical Site and Cultural Heritage Kalunga](#) and [Territory of the Rio Urucuia Grande Sertao](#)) and another 10 territories had all documents for the designation process ready for submission.
- 1,652,180 hectares of traditional and Indigenous communities' lands were included in regional conservation and sustainable use plans.
- 17 indigenous lands representing 1,671,050 hectares were monitored and benefited from strengthened community management.
- 31 RPPNs (5,782 hectares), one State Park (35,682 hectares) and one ecological station (1,155 hectares) were created, and another 19 RPPNs were registered at ICMBio and are waiting to be processed and instituted.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://prosas.com.br/home?locale=en>

- 2,244,764 hectares of protected areas were strengthened as a result of preparation of management plans, expansion of their areas, implementation of endangered species action plans or implementation of plans for the extraction of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
- 92 hectares were restored with native vegetation.
- 23 supply chains for Cerrado fruits were supported, promoting biodiversity conservation, and generating income for traditional peoples and communities.
- 100 KBAs and more than 4 million hectares strengthened in biodiversity management and conservation.

### **Strengthening Civil Society**

- More than 185 organizations were strengthened to influence local decision-making processes and act as champions on environmental issues.
- More than 250 courses, workshops and seminars were offered to increase people's knowledge and capacity in conserving the Cerrado.
- 105 networks (municipal environmental councils, women producers, traditional peoples, CSO engagement, rural producers, etc.) were strengthened and/or created to catalyze actions and influence public policies for conservation of the Cerrado.
- At least nine cooperatives (family farming, extractivism, native seeds for restoration, etc.) were strengthened in administration, monitoring, and management of natural resources together with affiliated communities.
- More than 500 communication pieces (publications, posts, videos, websites, social media) were published on biodiversity, and strategies, studies, and actions for increased conservation and connectivity in the Cerrado.

### **Human Well-Being**

- 1,731 marginalized communities were mapped, enabling them possibly to access public policies guaranteeing their land rights.
- 246 local and indigenous communities benefited from conservation actions and increased income from extractivism.
- More than R\$400,000 (about US\$87,000) in increased income for communities was generated from extractivism and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- 77 markets and supply chains for sustainably harvested non-timber forest products developed or enabled with new products derived from extractivism, which are allowing communities and traditional peoples to gain a greater increase in income.
- 1,623 men and 1,731 women received financial benefits through CEPF projects.
- 54,151 men and 53,628 women from traditional communities received indirect benefits through the projects.
- 5,507 men and 5,234 women received structured training through the projects.

### **Enabling Conditions**

- 23 public policies were created and/or adjusted to promote biodiversity conservation.
- 28 management plans and public policies were created or influenced to accommodate biodiversity.
- One strategic document was published by a consortium of CSOs for the presidential candidates in 2018 to list key priorities for the hotspot and to highlight the most pressing issue in the Cerrado.
- 33 CEPF beneficiaries, including the RIT, leveraged a combined amount of US\$8,338,219.00, in addition to the US\$5,887,582.20 received from CEPF (see Annex 14.6).



- Five platforms and applications were created to disseminate knowledge about the Cerrado, water resource management, restoration on rural properties, mapping of marginalized traditional communities, and analysis of forest fires in the biome.
- One financial mechanism is under development to influence coffee agriculture with the adoption of good practices in production aimed at biodiversity conservation.
- One campaign was implemented to draw attention to the scarcity of water and the deforestation in the MATOPIBA region of the Cerrado.
- One manifesto of the women of the Cerrado was launched in 2020 to break away from racism, ethnocentrism, and patriarchy, which devastate the lives of women despite their key role in the Cerrado and its conservation.
- 20 private companies, out of which five cooperatives, have incorporated biodiversity-friendly practices.

## 5 Implementing Strategy

### 5.1 Collaboration with CEPF's Donors and other Funders

The CEPF investment in the Cerrado was partly funded by the project entitled *"Effectively mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into government policy and private sector practice: piloting sustainability models to take the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to scale,"* funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through Conservation International (CI) as the GEF Implementing Agency. The project's objective was to demonstrate innovative tools, methodologies and investments, and build related capacities, through which civil society in three pilot biodiversity hotspots (among which the Cerrado), in partnership with public and private sector actors, can cost effectively conserve biodiversity and progress toward long-term institutional sustainability, and to replicate demonstrated approaches in nine additional hotspots.

During March and April 2018, a field trip with a staff member of the CI-GEF Project Agency was organized together with the RIT and CEPF to meet four grantees of CEPF in the Cerrado (two small grants and two large grants), and discuss and analyze progress with them. The trip evidenced different elements of the CEPF strategy in the Cerrado Hotspot, such as strengthening land-use planning and environmental policies and governance at the municipal level, improving the meat supply chain, and community/smallholder-level activities (e.g., agroforestry, land restoration, ecotourism).

During October and November 2018, the Midterm Review of the GEF project took place, with the objectives of supporting the ongoing implementation in the three target hotspots, and drawing lessons learned to inform the ongoing and future CEPF activities in other hotspots. A consultant hired by the CI-GEF Project Agency carried out a field visit to the Cerrado in October 2018 together with the RIT and CEPF. Two large grants were visited, and 17 key informants were interviewed.

A Terminal Evaluation of the GEF project, including the CEPF investment in the Cerrado, took place from April to June 2022. The objective was to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of the performance of the project by assessing its design, implementation, and achievement of objectives. Based on a consultative and participatory approach combining qualitative and quantitative data (including from the Cerrado), the project was found to be highly relevant to the various goals and needs of key stakeholders at the institutional, local, national, and global levels through its alignment with key global and national priorities and action plans.

Regarding other CEPF donors, during November and December 2016, at the start of the investment in the Cerrado Hotspot, the first CEPF supervision mission took place with a visit to two CEPF global donors: the European Union; and l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD). Both agencies were very interested in CEPF's strategies in the hotspot. However, because AFD had a very different local agenda to CEPF's, it was agreed that little practical cooperation would be anticipated. For the European Union, the local agenda was much closer to CEPF's goals in the hotspot. However, heavy workload and restricted dedicated human resources led to limited involvement, such as being part of the RIT advisory board only, and not of the proposal review committee.

In 2019, a dialogue began between IEB (involving members of the RIT) and CI-Brasil to execute a project within the Good Growth Partnership initiative, which was launched at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York in 2017 and was funded by the GEF, through the UN Development Programme, and executed in collaboration with Conservation International, the International Finance Corporation, UN Environment and the World Wildlife Fund. This dialogue resulted in the execution of the project called *Municipal Protected Areas in MATOPIBA*, which aimed to create protected areas, foster capacity building on the subject, and strengthen the governance of management councils in protected areas within the MATOPIBA region. The project identified that the region only had seven integral protection units within the municipal protected areas, which represented only 1.4% of the total municipal protected areas in the region. It concluded that there was a great need for creation of additional protection units at the municipal level for social, environmental and economic benefits, and that the potential for the creation of such conservation units existed. The final report can be read [here](#).

That same year, a conversation started with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the World Bank on their Forest Investment Program, which was also being implemented in the Cerrado. A joint field visit was organized with a representative of the Japanese embassy together with the RIT. A large grantee, Rede Bartô, was visited in Planaltina. Specifically focused on generating benefits to communities of family farmers that are located in Jardim Botânico Ecological Station, a Key Biodiversity Area of great importance, mainly for its hydrological services, the project aimed at conserving and restoring Areas of Permanent Preservation (APPs) and Legal Reserves (LRs). The project also sought to reduce deforestation by improving soil quality and increasing agriculture and agroforestry productivity. The representative was very impressed with the complementarity of the proposed actions and appreciated the opportunity to know how this project was concretely implemented in the field.

In terms of collaboration and better alignment with other funds in the Cerrado, the RIT also presented the CEPF investment to international donors, such as the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA), and regional initiatives funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) or other big organizations like The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Wildlife Fund in Brazil (WWF-Brazil) and CI.

Of particular importance, in 2018, the RIT Leader co-organized with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF) a high-level meeting in Washington D.C. with the GEF, CLUA, IADB, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Partnerships for Forests and CEPF. The meeting led to the identification, by the participating donors, of areas of specific interest, as follow:

1. Accelerating the implementation of the Forest Code
2. Decoupling commodities agricultural demand and production for deforestation
3. Recognizing community rights for land resources
4. Fostering agro-forestry and NTFP supply chains
5. Developing strategic communications and raising awareness

6. Creating mapping and monitoring infrastructure to track progress on production and protection metrics
7. Supporting ecosystem service-based and species-based conservation
8. Tackling increasing land investment and land speculation
9. Improving land use planning and management
10. Supporting restoration and reforestation efforts and re-investing in degraded land
11. Promoting bio-energy.

A series of recommendations were proposed. While most of the donors' interests were quite the same, implementation of their programs was well advanced, so the donors decided to continue developing their respective understanding of areas for collaboration independently from one another.

During the CEPF supervision mission of September 2019, a virtual meeting was organized, with the [ISA Jaguar Program](#), with a view to leveraging additional support for some projects in the CEPF portfolio. While there was clear interest from ISA in identifying potential new projects to support, no concrete steps to provide support to the RIT were discussed at that time. At the end of the discussion, the two teams agreed to review projects in the CEPF portfolio to assess their eligibility for ISA. The RIT Leader used the Kalunga project as an example.

The RIT Leader and CEPF also met with the Center for Alternative Technologies (CTA) in Montes Claros. This institution was implementing the Dedicated Grants Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM) of the Climate Investment Funds. They discussed the many projects in the Cerrado (with traditional people, agro-extractivism, etc.) and the lack of networking and collaborative communication between actors to really make their voices heard. The RIT Leader highlighted this issue with the example of baru (*Dipteryx alata*) and an upcoming workshop, which was supported by CEPF via COPABASE. DGM was at that time working with 60 projects in the Cerrado. For them, there was a need to form a "base" of leadership, political and territorial awareness. When asked what the expectations of the traditional people who were about to participate in the Cerrado Encontro of the Indigenous People of the Cerrado (also funded by CEPF) were, CTA replied that they were expecting, logically, more networking among themselves and more visibility.

From 2019 onwards, the RIT concentrated on building local alliances. This strategy resulted in the creation of the Cerrado Alliance, which brought together IEB, CEPF, Humanize Institute, Fundação Grupo Boticário de Proteção à Natureza and Instituto Nova Era in the north of the state of Goiás, within the Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunga priority corridor. This initiative resulted in a very specific collaboration, with co-funding for the capacity building of the CSOs in the Cerrado through the Acelera Cerrado Program (see Section 7.1). The Cerrado Alliance is still attracting new donors, active in the Cerrado, such as the mining giant Anglo American. Having this alliance has helped and is still helping to leverage additional funds, like a multiyear project on the baru supply chain with GEF funds, which is in the preparation phase of a full-sized project to deploy nearly US\$1.9 million for the sustainable and fair valorization of this native species of the Cerrado.

## 5.2 Resource Allocation

The ecosystem profile was endorsed by the GEF Operational Focal Point for Brazil at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Management, in July 2016. For about two more years, efforts continued to obtain the endorsements of the GEF Focal Points for Bolivia and Paraguay respectively. These were never obtained. Because the Cerrado areas in Bolivia and Paraguay already benefit from some form of environmental protection and

represent less than 1% of the total Cerrado hotspot, the RIT and the CEPF Secretariat decided that not including Bolivia and Paraguay would have little to no impact on the overall strategic results.

A first call for proposals was opened during August and September 2016, in English and Portuguese, for both small (up to US\$20,000) and large grants (more than \$20,000). All relevant documents, including the letter of inquiry (LOI) template, were prepared in both languages. The call was open to applications under the first six strategic directions, so that the CEPF Secretariat and the RIT could gain a better overview of the demand in the different regions and strategic directions of the investment.

Under the call, 144 LOIs were received. These LOIs were entered into the Prosas online system for the first review and ranking. After this first selection, external reviewers were invited to make their selection. The funneling process ended with the CEPF Secretariat and the RIT having 30 selected large and small grants. This first call represented 52 percent of the investment made.

The second call, opened from September to November 2017, was more selective to fill in gaps in the grant portfolio after the first call. It targeted only Strategic Direction 3 and Investment Priorities 4.1, 5.2 and 6.1. In geographic terms, less LOIs had been received from the MATOPIBA region during the first call: an expected situation since the density of CSOs in that region is quite low. Therefore, the RIT intensified its outreach efforts and announced the second call in Caxias and Imperatriz in the state of Maranhão, and Barreiras in Bahia state, in October 2017. For the financial limit for small grants was raised from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000 to attract more applicants, taking account of the higher costs of implementing projects in the Cerrado relative to certain other hotspots where CEPF operates.

The third call, open during November and December 2018, focused even more on the priority corridors and on Investment Priority 2.1 related to protected areas, because the creation of new protected areas in the Cerrado is very challenging. The RIT repeated its outreach efforts for the third call and visited even more cities: Arinos and Belo Horizonte in the state of Minas Gerais; Campo Grande in Mato Grosso do Sul state; Campinas in the state of São Paulo; Teresina in Piauí state; and Brasília in the federal district. Two objectives were pursued by the team during these outreach efforts: first, to make CEPF known and advertise for the upcoming/ongoing calls; and second to train applicants in each step of the LOI process.

After the third call, almost all the targets in the portfolio logical framework were expected to be reached with the selected projects, except for Investment Priority 6.2 on capacity building for CSOs in the hotspot. This led to a special call, opened during September and October 2020, in collaboration with the members of the Cerrado Alliance whom provided co-financing and participated in the selection process and project design. Not many LOIs were received. Coordination with members of the Cerrado Alliance was key.

Finally, a fifth call was opened from November 2020 to January 2021, aimed at communicating the results of the partner organizations and the impacts of their projects, funded by CEPF.

Figure 2 presents a visual representation of the number of LOIs received per call and the proportion that was selected for funding in each case.

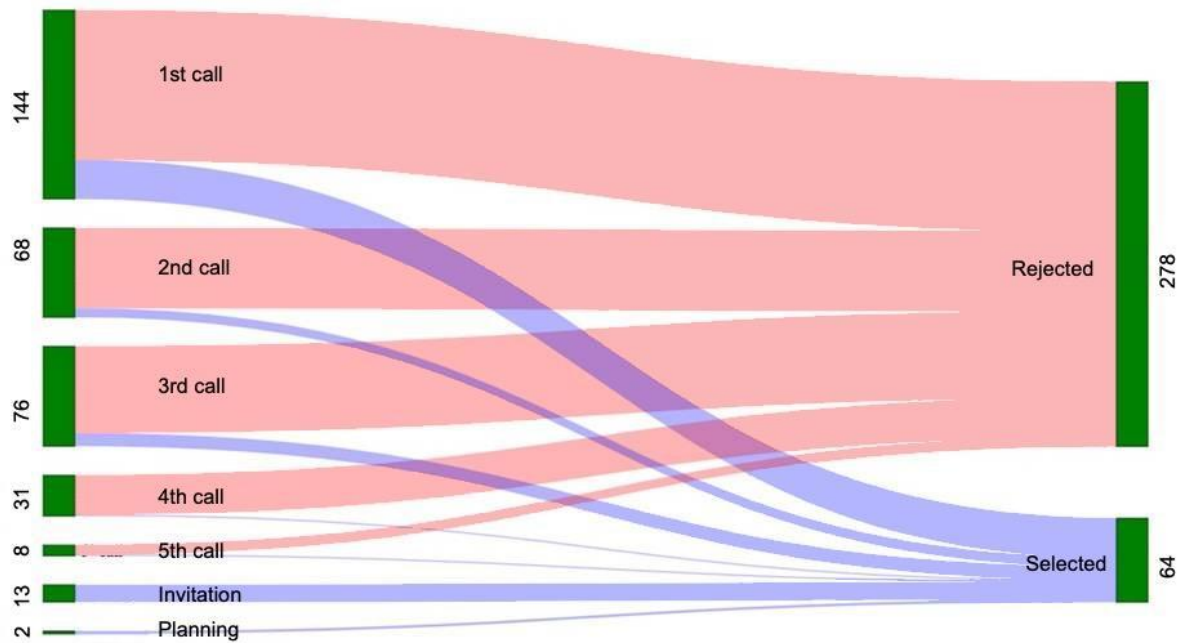


Figure 2: Number of rejected and selected projects per call

Even though 83 percent of the investment was committed over the course of the five calls, in some circumstances the RIT and CEPF relied on the grant-by-invitation modality to fill in gaps in the portfolio with respect to the targets in the logical framework. This process allowed for the selection of particular organizations that can help due to their particular skills. The support of the protection of threatened species, for instance, required specific, specialized skills. The RIT also developed a project for the creation of private reserves together with a partner resulting in several new protected areas. A total of 13 grants by invitation were awarded (five large and eight small), with duly completed and approved justifications.

Almost all (99.7 percent) of the allocated resources for grants were awarded (Table 1), with the first call leading to almost 52 percent of the funds being allocated.

Table 1: Number of projects and amount of funding per call as of November 2022

Call	Number of projects		Investment	
1st call	30	46%	\$4,148,477.90	52.0%
2nd call	7	11%	\$704,888.10	8.8%
3rd call	10	15%	\$762,410.30	9.6%
4th call	1	2%	\$99,657.72	1.2%
5th call	1	2%	\$47,427.30	0.6%
Grants by invitation	13	20%	\$1,147,617.96	14.4%
Planning grants	2	3%	\$5,239.67	0.1%
RIT	1	2%	1,059,758.36	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$7,975,477.31</b>	<b>100%</b>

The financial allocation under each strategic direction was laid out quite broadly in the ecosystem profile, based on a preliminary assessment of the financial needs for each strategic direction. Demand for funding from CSOs did not always match these initial allocations, resulting in some strategic directions receiving more resources and others less than initially earmarked (Table 2). Thanks to gains in exchange rate on various large grants throughout the investment phase, there were subsequent deobligations, which, together with unallocated funds, made it possible to extend the RIT grant by

almost \$60,000 in March 2022. This helped to keep the Cerrado team of IEB afloat until November 2022, during which time additional funding was secured to remain active, including as a grant maker, in the Cerrado.

The lower commitment of funds compared to the available budget under Strategic Direction 1 is a result of two factors. First, CEPF focused much more on support to and cooperation with smaller CSOs than those battling the major agribusiness companies that are transforming the Cerrado landscapes. Second, direct investment in agricultural supply chains need long-standing relationships to bring results and CEPF and the RIT had no long-standing relationships with investors, banks, or private sector partners in the Cerrado. Nonetheless, CEPF was able to support an important initiative linked to a major global commodity and important sector of the Brazilian agriculture: coffee. In this case, it is important to note that sustainable water management for production and consumption was a strong and important argument that reinforced the need for the investment.

Table 2: Grant-making status by strategic direction as of November 2022

Strategic Direction	Original Allocation	Contracted Grants			Balance	% Committed	
		Total Amount	No. of Large Grants	No. of Small Grants			
<b>SD1</b>	<b>Promote the adoption of best practices in agriculture in the priority corridors</b>	\$800,000	\$523,256	2	2	\$276,744	65%
<b>SD2</b>	<b>Support the creation/expansion and effective management of protected areas in the priority corridors</b>	\$1,200,000	\$1,707,470	7	8	-\$507,470	142%
<b>SD3</b>	<b>Promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot</b>	\$1,800,000	\$1,836,981	8	7	-\$36,981	102%
<b>SD4</b>	<b>Support the protection of threatened species in the hotspot</b>	\$700,000	\$558,658	3	4	\$141,342	80%
<b>SD5</b>	<b>Support the implementation of tools to integrate and to share data on monitoring to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot</b>	\$500,000	\$401,994	2	3	\$98,006	80%
<b>SD6</b>	<b>Strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to promote better management of territories and of natural resources and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot</b>	\$2,000,000	\$1,887,361	11	7	\$112,639	94%
<b>SD7</b>	<b>Coordinate the implementation of the investment strategy of the CEPF in the hotspot through a Regional Implementation Team</b>	\$1,000,000	\$1,059,758	1	0	\$59,758	106%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$7,975,477</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$24,523</b>	<b>99.7%</b>

On the other hand, Strategic Direction 2 received stronger attention due to a desired commitment to support traditional and Quilombola<sup>2</sup> communities in the Cerrado. Two projects on these issues accounted for more than a third of the investment. In addition to that, some of these investments ended up including COVID-19 relief actions benefiting

<sup>2</sup> Descendants of escaped Afro-Brazilian slaves.

the traditional populations. Fostering the creation of private reserves was also another major drive under Strategic Direction 2.

The smaller deviations under Strategic Directions 4 and 5 can be explained through the lack of cost-effective projects and the reallocation of funds to other strategic directions. Also under SD4, one species of the priority list, hooded seedeater (*Sporophila melanops*), did not receive support from CEPF. This is because the species was no longer recognized, since 2016, as a separate species according to the IUCN Red List. It is a synonym of yellow-bellied seedeater (*S. nigricollis*). Therefore, this species was officially removed from the list of priority species for CEPF investment.

It is worth mentioning that, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many grants needed to be amended, mainly due to many trips and actions which were paralyzed because of the large number of COVID-19 cases that occurred in Brazil and the lockdowns / social distancing, and due to the need to carry out humanitarian actions, such as the donation of basic food baskets, hygiene materials and personal protective equipment materials to the most affected and/or isolated communities. There were also substantial exchange gains during the investment phase for practically all grants. This not only helped to continue supporting organizations' staff during the pandemic, while many activities were on standby, but it allowed for the extension of projects' durations past the height of the pandemic to resume activities, as well as for the adaptation of some of the projects' scopes to include the humanitarian help. The need for this flexibility with the projects, based on CEPF's understanding of the local reality, was reflected in the processing of 87 amendments between April 2020 and October 2021 for a total of 23 grants.

There were three grants that were terminated during the investment due to: (1) weak management of resources for which there was no internal dialogue within the organization; (2) timing of community engagement, which did not allow them to dedicate their time to the project's actions; and (3) basic-needs issues, such as hunger, sanitation and health within the community, which made it impossible to execute the project. Annex 14.4 presents the list of grants awarded throughout the investment period with organization name, project title, period of performance and awarded amount for each grant. Annex 14.5 presents charts with a visual summary of CEPF investment in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot.

## **5.3 Portfolio Investment Description by Strategic Direction**

### ***Strategic Direction 1***

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to promote the adoption of best practices in agriculture in the four priority corridors identified in the Cerrado during the ecosystem profiling. There were two large and two small grants under this strategic direction. Of particular interest, one large grant was awarded to Fundacao de Desenvolvimento do Cerrado Mineiro (FUNDACCER) under this strategic direction in June 2019. This grant took an intensive approach to the region's water crisis by implementing a reward program for conscious producers via the Cerrado Water Consortium, which aimed at restoring ecosystem services in the Feio Watershed Basin by encouraging an effective engagement of producers and actors. Using a multi-pronged approach to fit the wide variety of actors, the project brought the provision of expertise for restoration, climate-smart farming practices and the monitoring of water resources, and paved the way for the creation of a sustainable financial mechanism involving coffee roasters and the public sector.

## **Strategic Direction 2**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to support the creation/expansion and effective management of protected areas in the four priority corridors. There were seven large grants and eight small grants awarded under this strategic direction. Fundação Pró Natureza (Funatura) received two grants, one of which was for the creation of RPPNs, where there was an effort on the ground to register landowners interested in turning part of their property into a private reserve. Given this willingness of landowners to dedicate part of their areas into RPPNs, it was decided to open the entire hotspot in order to meet the goal of 50. By the end of the grant, 29 RPPNs had been created, protecting 3,774 hectares. By November 2022, two more RPPNs had been officially recognized, totalizing an additional 2,008 hectares. Other potential RPPN requests were at the competent bodies waiting for the publication of the normative act of creation. The other Funatura project was in the Mosaico Grande Sertão Veredas region, which encompasses several protected areas in the northwest of the state of Minas Gerais and is managed by a regional management council, composed of traditional peoples and communities, environmental public bodies, and CSOs. The project supported the governance and management of the territory, starting with the updating of a Conservation-based Territorial Development Plan, which included the creation of several working groups to work on issues such as agriculture, extractivism, territorial management, tourism, and strengthening of peoples and communities, among others. Another project, which was coordinated by the Associação Quilombo Kalunga, worked also on territorial management. The association mapped the whole territory, more than 260,000 hectares, in an attempt to identify arable areas, tourist attractions and environmental preservation areas, and to curb invasions and deforestation of the territory. The team created a system to monitor the territory using geoprocessing programs and also unmanned aerial tools. This project also led to the first designation in the Cerrado of an ICCA, which recognizes traditional ways of life and local culture, giving prominence in an international portal and visibility to these peoples.

## **Strategic Direction 3**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot. There were eight large grants and seven small grants awarded under this strategic direction. One of the large grants was to the Cerrado Seed Network (Rede de Sementes), which supported and strengthened the Cerrado native seed chain to meet restoration requirements. This was a key support, especially for the Associação Cerrado de Pé, which aggregates several families that collect and derive supplementary income and their own livelihood from wild plant seeds collected and sold to companies and organizations that promote restoration in the Cerrado. Through this project, it was possible to demonstrate that strengthening seed collection at the community level and promoting restoration with direct seeding, can not only conserve natural areas from where the seeds are sourced but also generate income for the custodians on these areas, supporting a way of life that does not deforest or suppress the natural vegetation, while helping important restoration efforts for deforested areas.

## **Strategic Direction 4**

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to support the protection of seven threatened species in the hotspot through three large and four small grants. Though limited in number and amount, the grants awarded under this strategic direction were very impactful. The Instituto Araguaia was able to implement conservation strategies for reticulated leaf frog (*Pithecopus ayeaye*) and related species, as set out in the National Action Plan (NAP). The grantee's work also included the generation of climate suitability maps to indicate potential new populations of "specialist's species" requiring very unique resources found in mountain streams, which are rare and sensitive ecosystems in the



Cerrado Hotspot. The Associação para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil (SAVE) secured the long-term conservation of blue-eyed ground-dove and its unique Cerrado habitat by carrying out research on the species and its habitat use, raising awareness to gain local community engagement, promoting ecological tourism, and creating a new protected area for the species. Another large grant, to the Instituto Amada Terra (IAT), helped to carry out key research and monitoring, raise public awareness, disseminate good practices, per the NAP for the conservation of Brazilian merganser in the Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas Corridor. This duck was adopted as an official ambassador of the Cerrado waters.

### ***Strategic Direction 5***

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to support the implementation of tools to integrate and share data to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot. There were two large and three small grants awarded in total. Of particular importance was the outcome of the large grant awarded to Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa da Universidade Federal de Goiás (LAPIG) for the creation of a unique go-to platform for decision-makers and conservation actors: the Cerrado Knowledge Platform. With its various modules and data sub-platforms, fed with images, vectors and texts related to the Cerrado hotspot, the platform is accessible, free of charge at <https://cepf.lapig.iesa.ufg.br/#/>. It provides tools for spatial analysis and report generation at the hotspot, state and municipal levels. The database itself consists of information about land use, socioeconomics, biodiversity, physical aspects, as well as political/natural boundaries. The Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document, made available, ensures that it can be maintained and updated at no additional cost, since its development is based on open-source software, encompassing the newest technologies for web platforms. The training and capacity building which were promoted via streaming on the [Platform's YouTube channel](#), have allowed users to know how to navigate through the platform and to see the benefits of using it, as well as, the usefulness of continuing feeding it with data from any collaborator, be it a governmental or private entity, including NGOs operating in the country.

### ***Strategic Direction 6***

CEPF investment in this strategic direction aimed to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to promote better management of territories and natural resources and support other investment priorities in the hotspot. Among the 11 large and seven small grants awarded under this strategic direction, the work of Impact Hub should be highlighted. It promoted a large acceleration of local CSOs' capacities by strengthening organizations in areas such as fundraising, communication, regularization, legal, people management and financial management, among other topics (see Section 7.1 for further details). With this strengthening, organizations are expected to play a leading role in the conservation and protection of the Cerrado, whether in forums and local networks or in public spaces influencing public policies that protect the hotspot. Another grant was awarded to the Neotropica Foundation of Brazil, which strengthened environmental public spaces, more specifically the municipal environmental councils (COMDEMAS), which are advisory and deliberative bodies, formed by representatives of the city hall secretariats, supporting environmental actions, helping make the best decisions (see Section 6.2 for further details).

### ***Strategic Direction 7***

CEPF investment under this strategic direction aimed to coordinate the implementation of the investment strategy of the CEPF in the hotspot through an RIT. As previously described, IEB served as the RIT. The dedicated team provided sound leadership during the CEPF investment.

## 6 Biodiversity Conservation Results

### 6.1 Globally Threatened Species

#### MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE FAVEIRO-DE-WILSON TREE:

- Conservation status improved with prospect of change from CR (Critically Endangered) to EN (Endangered) on the IUCN Red List.
- One network of local actors created through three fire brigades, one of which created by the project, with the establishment of a maintenance and firefighting corridor in the area of incidence of Faveiro-de-Wilson (*Dimorphandra wilsonii*).
- 992 hectares in a KBA with improved management with a focus on the tree.
- State decree 47.749-19 promulgated, which regulates environmental compensation for threatened species in Minas Gerais state.
- Nine of the 33 actions that make up the National Action Plan (NAP) of the species fully implemented.
- One educational booklet distributed in 34 municipalities, in addition to the online version that can reach an even larger audience.
- 16 people trained to make up the fire brigade team implemented by the project.

#### REINTRODUCING THE BICUDO IN KEY AREAS FOR CONSERVATION IN THE CERRADO

- Four bird nurseries created and equipped for monitoring and the reintroduction of great-billed seedfinch (*Sporophila maximiliani*).
- 62 individuals reintroduced and still monitored in their habitat, being the only population currently observed in the wild in Brazil.
- Two scientific articles published and one documentary film produced and used in several national and international festivals.
- Increased scientific knowledge about the species, thus meeting a specific objective of the NAP for this species.
- Rural properties visited in eight states, where seven landowners have been identified as interested in creating RPPNs.
- One proposal elaborated and initiated to implement birdwatching and nature contemplation tourism in Porto Cajueiro RPPN.
- One company adopted practices favorable to biodiversity with protection against hunters, strengthening of fire brigades, construction of a great-billed seed finch breeding and conservation facility, and implementation of ecotourism.
- 12 people strengthened with training in first aid, monitoring and fighting fires, and basic management of captive birds.
- 110 people from the Cajueiro community benefited from the project.

#### ECOLOGY AND RECOVERY OF MICRO-ENDEMIC CACTUS IN BRAZIL

- One descriptive report of the structure and dynamics of the *Uebelmannia buiningii* population produced.
- One recovery plan for the species prepared.
- One children's book elaborated and used in ecological literacy in schools of Itamarandiba, Minas Gerais state.
- Six rural communities benefited from the project's actions through environmental education in schools and learning about good practices for the conservation of the species in the state of Minas Gerais.
- Three networks created to implement actions for the conservation of the species focusing on environmental education, seed production, and the creation of

strategies by local actors to control *Melinis minutiflora*, an invasive exotic plant, in the cactus's habitats.

- Populations of *U. buiningii* protected in the Serra Negra State Park region with all five habitats under surveillance.
- 67 hectares in KBAs with improved management with a focus on the species.

#### SAVING THE BLUE-EYED GROUND-DOVE AND ITS UNIQUE CERRADO HABITAT

- Known population grew from 12 individuals to 25, which is a great result given that the species (*Columbina cyanopis*) is still one of the rarest and most threatened birds in the world.
- One protected area of over 35,000 hectares created in the species's range.
- Two action plans built for the long-term conservation of the species.
- 9,694 hectares of KBA with improved management in the conservation zone of the species.
- Three networks created for the protection of the species and its habitats.
- Eight members of the community, all of them working as environmental conductors in the region, trained to act as birdwatching guides and encouraged to monitor the avifauna in Botumirim municipality, Minas Gerais.
- 315 students from five schools participated directly in environmental education activities, representing 22 percent of students in Botumirim.
- About 40 teachers participated in the education activities.

#### CONSERVATION OF RETICULATE LEAF FROG, RELATED SPECIES AND THEIR ECOSYSTEMS IN BRAZIL

- 1,700 hectares of KBA managed with a focus on the species.
- Increased knowledge of the species' geographic distribution and distribution models for current and future populations.
- Network established with the community to protect the Serra do Boqueirão, the species's range.
- Research on population status, distribution, water quality revealed that the species *Pithecopus ayeaye* is LC (Least Concern) rather than CR (Critically Endangered), while the species *Pithecopus centralis*, previously considered Data Deficient (DD), had its classification updated to Vulnerable (VU).
- 42 information kits sent to managers of protected areas with each kit containing a poster, a folder, a sticker, a booklet of Good Agricultural Practices for the protection of springs, an Executive Summary of the Project, and a presentation letter and explanations.

#### AVOID EXTINCTION OF BRAZILIAN MERGANSER WITHIN THE VEADEIROS POUSO ALTO KALUNGA CORRIDOR, BRAZIL

- Increased knowledge about the biology and ecology of Brazilian merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*) throughout its annual cycle, especially with the discovery of a new nest in the region, as well as new breeding areas essential to the survival of the species.
- Two public policies created to designate the species as an ambassador of Brazilian continental waters and to support the creation of a conservation unit within the range of the species.
- One good practices manual developed to decrease disturbance and improve conservation status of the species.
- Two protected areas and two companies implemented, through the Good Practices Manual, improved management and conservation of the Brazilian Merganser in their areas.

In addition to these six species which were directly targeted by species conservation projects, an additional two endangered species (*Amburana cearensis* and *Dipteryx alata*)

benefited from habitat protection and one species (*Dimorphandra exaltata*) was included in a National Action Plan (PAN Faveiros).

## 6.2 Contribution to Conservation Planning at Corridor and Production Landscape Scales

There is a growing trend of administrative decentralization in Brazil. Municipal environmental councils (COMDEMAS) can provide influential opinions and advice to local government on environmental issues, including on conservation planning. Fundação Neotrópica do Brasil (Neotrópica) led a regional effort to mobilize actors in the Miranda-Bodoquena corridor to support local decisions that contribute to the conservation of the Cerrado. Neotrópica held capacity-building workshops on the ecology of the Cerrado, land use planning laws, and the municipalities' fiscal advantages in creating reserves in their territory. It benefited 320 council members (181 men and 139 women) in 38 municipalities of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul. It led to the enactment of three municipal laws for the establishment of COMDEMAS in Rochedo and in Miranda, and for improvement to the environmental licensing and inspection of enterprises that have a local environmental impact. A fourth municipal law is pending enactment for the protection of water resources in the municipality of Bodoquena. It also led to the creation of three RPPNs with a total area of 2,217 hectares and of the Aruanda Ecological Station with 1,155 hectares. Neotrópica also developed a practical guide for the creation of COMDEMAS, thus paving the way for replication in other states of Brazil.

In the largest Quilombo territory of the Cerrado, the Historic Site and Kalunga Cultural Heritage, encompassing 262,000 hectares and 1,479 families, the Associação Quilombo Kalunga (AQK) built a georeferenced database for territorial planning, promoted meetings with the communities and constructed four communication antennas during COVID to strengthen the territory's cohesion, and facilitate internal communication and the process of environmental and territorial management. A total of 137,831 hectares were regularized, giving land rights back to the communities. This corresponds to around half of the total area. The topographic, notarial and legal statuses of the remaining lands are ready for the leadership to file actions. AQK also protected 34 hectares to reconstitute native vegetation in the now so-called Kalunga Reserve of Córrego Santo Antônio. There are no more reports of illegal logging and predatory fishing in key rivers, thanks to inspections, increased awareness, the development of five tourism routes, the strengthening of AQK and, lately, the effects of the pandemic. In total, 143,294 hectares of community lands in the priority corridor of Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunga were integrated into macro-scale conservation planning. AKQ also led the Kalunga Quilombo community to become the first in Brazil to self-recognize its land (262,000 hectares) as an ICCA, which was [internationally recognized](#) as being in IUCN protected area category VI. AQK's achievements, with support from the RIT, has opened the way for other communities in Brazil to self-recognize their lands as ICCAs.

An even larger territory, in the center of the priority corridor Sertão Veredas Peruaçu this time, also benefited from the work of Funatura and WWF-Brazil on reinforcing conservation planning through the revision, with local stakeholders, of the plan of the Mosaic of Protected Areas of Grande Sertão Veredas Peruaçu, established by federal decree in 2009. For a territory of 1.5 million hectares, the revised plan sets major goals on tourism, management of NTFPs, water, protected areas, agroforestry, and sustainable agribusiness, with socio-environmental zoning for the next 10 years. This plan was validated by all 48 council members of the mosaic. In the same priority corridor, the Centro de Agricultura Alternativa do Norte de Minas (CAA NM) produced five conservation and management plans on indigenous territories, benefitting 858 families in a region of 95,825 hectares. The CAA NM also helped establish a municipal law defining an area of 61,784 hectares of conservation, cultural, and environmental

importance. This approach aligns with the ICCA concept which is why the CAA NM promoted the creation of six ICCAs. A similar approach, but in another region, was chosen by the Associação Mineira de Defesa do Ambiente (AMDA), who suggested the creation of four additional ICCAs, establishing a biodiversity corridor of 144,000 hectares, and creating a municipal park of 187 hectares in Brejo do Amparo.

From a production landscape point of view, in Minas Gerais, FUNDACCER, linked to the coffee sector, piloted the promotion of climate-smart practices to save water for human consumption and coffee production. In the selected watershed of the Corrego Feio creek, located in the municipality of Patrocínio, the Cerrado Water Consortium started with four institutions, two companies in the production chain, Nespresso (coffee roaster) and Cooxupé (cooperative) and two associations, the Federation of Coffee Growers of the Cerrado Mineiro Region and the local NGO CerVivo. In the same year, it attracted two more roasters, Nescafé and Lavazza, and the coffee cooperative, Expocaccer. The Consortium kept growing and attracted other industry stakeholders: the three traders, Cofco International, Volcafé and NKG Stockler; a large farm belonging to the D'Paschoal group; Daterra Coffee; and two key government partners (Serra do Salitre City Hall and Coromandel City Hall). FUNDACCER supported the Cerrado Water Consortium to implement the Investment Program in the Conscious Producer. In all, 114 Individual Property Plans were prepared, of which 27 were for climate-smart agriculture, with 22 strategies, and 87 were for landscape restoration, with 15 strategies. The techniques developed by the consortium on 447 hectares are now being implemented in three additional municipalities, which asked for help after a severe drought in the region. The consortium is currently overseeing 880 hectares, either restoring native vegetation or implementing water-saving techniques in coffee production.

The three other projects working with the concept of productive landscapes use NTFPs as the basis of production. The Cerrado is rich in nuts and fruits barely known by the average consumer in Brazil and abroad. Strengthening these emerging supply chains is an effective way to conserve the Cerrado, while cooperatives, small farmers and traditional people develop their products and sell to local and sometimes international markets.

With the project "Sustainable Agro-extractivist Production Practices as Incentive for Biodiversity Conservation in the Uruçuaia River Basin," the cooperative COPABASE was able to foster good management practices in 10 municipalities involving 52 communities. A total of 5,400 seedlings of native fruit trees were planted, and the sales income for the cooperative almost doubled between 2017 and 2019, reaching R\$ 1,075,893 in 2019 (about US\$ 250,000). In another project, "Taking Care of the Cerrado and Promoting Life," the local cooperative, Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Riacho dos Machados, mobilized 144 families in six communities in Tamanduá/Poções Sustainable Development Reserve, which encompasses an area of 54,000 hectares. Another good example of strengthening the management of biodiversity within productive landscapes was the project on the babaçu nut developed by Central do Cerrado in the state of Maranhão. It focused on a combination of lands such as Extractivism Reserves, smallholder settlements, and territories of traditional people, forming a 149,000-hectare mosaic of productive landscapes around the babaçu production for consumption and the cosmetic industry. There are 12 organizations focused on NTFP supply chains which are part of this regional arrangement that is gaining momentum, influencing local land use definitions. In some municipalities, it is not allowed to cut down the babaçu palm forests without consulting the local organizations, mostly led by women.

Other projects of the portfolio focused more on the conservation side of production landscapes. In total, the projects supported by CEPF have improved the management of 1,549,155 hectares of production landscapes throughout the hotspot.

### 6.3 Creation or Expansion and Improved Management of Protected Areas

Some support to local organizations for the strengthened management of protected areas can be illustrated by the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) that measured these impacts (see Table 3). It should be noted that the column "Change" highlights the increases in the management effectiveness of the protected areas listed under the column "Site". The 12 areas listed in the table were supported in the Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu Mosaic region, with the updating of the Conservation-Based Territorial Development Plan, in which several working groups were set up covering different segments of the plan, including agriculture, tourism, agroecology, water, and mosaic background. Actions were carried out throughout the mosaic seeking the protection and conversation of the livelihoods of communities, species while protecting the areas. Covering an area of 1,291,032 hectares, these protected areas saw an average increase of their management effectiveness from 46 points to 63 points (36 percent increase over the baseline).

Table 3: Change in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool scores for protected areas

Site	Hectares	Baseline		Final Assessment		Change
		Year	Score	Year	Score	
Área De Proteção Ambiental Bacia Do Rio Pandeiros	393,863	2018	36	2020	54	18
Área De Proteção Ambiental Cochá E Gibão	285,323	2018	33	2020	55	22
Área De Proteção Ambiental Das Nascentes Do Rio Vermelho	176,159	2018	26	2019	29	3
Área De Proteção Ambiental Serra Do Sabonetal	82,500	2018	52	2020	68	16
Parque Estadual De Sagarana	2,340	2018	48	2020	95	47
Parque Estadual Lagoa Do Cajueiro	20,726	2018	52	2020	61	9
Parque Estadual Mata Seca	15,360	2018	42	2020	47	5
Parque Estadual Serra Das Araras	13,543	2018	68	2020	76	8
Parque Estadual Verde Grande	25,551	2018	34	2020	57	23
Parque Estadual Veredas Do Peruaçu	31,226	2018	57	2020	68	11
Parque Nacional Da Chapada Dos Veadeiros	240,600	2018	60	2021	73	13
Reserva Biológica Serra Azul	3,841	2018	46	2020	68	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,291,032</b>					

There were also other protected areas that were created during the CEPF investment period, but have not yet had a METT assessment applied. These new protected areas are: Botumirim State Park and the Aruanda Ecological Station that together add up to 36,837 hectares that were created for greater protection of the blue-eyed ground-dove and water resources. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, 31 RPPNs were created within rural properties seeking to conserve remnants of native vegetation. These private reserves, totaling 5,782 hectares and listed in Table 4, were created entirely on a voluntary basis by the private owners of these lands.

Table 4: Newly created RPPNs and their number of hectares

Protected Area Official Name	Number of Hectares Newly Protected	Area / Municipality	State
RPPN Arival Antônio Zardo	211	Chapadão	MS
RPPN Ava Canoeiro	1,018	Cavalcante	GO
RPPN Bacupari	37	Cavalcante	GO
RPPN Bioregional	3	Alto Paraíso de Goiás	GO
RPPN Campos Úmidos Vochysias	18	Alto Paraíso de Goiás	GO
RPPN Canto de Oxum	10	Alto Paraíso de Goiás	GO
RPPN Fazenda Chapadões	1,750	Alto Parnaíba	MA
RPPN Jaguatirica	29	Montezuma	MG
RPPN Lavrinhas	2	Pirenópolis	GO
RPPN Limoeiro	47	Feira da Mata	BA
RPPN Mimosa	2	Pirenópolis	GO
RPPN Monsenhor Domingos Evangelista	59	Caeté	MG
RPPN Morro do Segredo	32	Lajeado	TO
RPPN Murundu	41	Alto Paraíso de Goiás	GO
RPPN Pau Terra	6	Pirenópolis	GO
RPPN Recanto Olho D'Água	11	Botucatu	SP
RPPN Renascer	10	Alto Paraíso de Goiás	GO
RPPN Reserva Flor das Águas	29	Cavalcante	GO
RPPN Reserva Maria Helena I	63	Cerqueira César	SP
RPPN Reserva São Lourenço	10	Avaré	SP
RPPN Rio Almas	62	Cavalcante	GO
RPPN Santo Onofre	1,890	Guia Lopes da Laguna	MS
RPPN Santuário	116		MS
RPPN Santuario Ecológico Mãe Terra	2	Sobradinho	DF
RPPN Serra da Piedade	72	Caeté	MG
RPPN Simplicidade	4	Pirenópolis	GO
RPPN Sol e Luz	49	Cavalcante	GO
RPPN Terra de Maria	11	Pirenópolis	GO
RPPN Terra do Sol	172	Serro	MG
RPPN Trilhas do Cerrado (Sítio Eucaliptos)	5	Monte Alto	SP
RPPN Vale das Copaíbas	11	Pirenópolis	GO
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,782</b>		

All these public and private protected areas protect great natural attributes, such as springs, large areas of native Cerrado, core populations of threatened species and important water resources.

## **7 Strengthening Civil Society Results**

### **7.1 Type of Organizations Supported**

All the 55 organizations that received a grant were local, apart from two international organizations. Six organizations were cooperatives working on the sustainable harvesting and promotion of Cerrado fruits and on the organization of the local traditional people to enable these supply chains. Twelve organizations focused much more on advocacy, continuing and expanding their work on legislation and the participation in public fora, which were very restricted during the implementation of the CEPF investment in the Cerrado. Together with these initiatives, six universities provided their support by generating knowledge for landscape management. Furthermore, eight Indigenous and local organizations were able to access CEPF funds through projects.

As the Cerrado Hotspot receives little international and national funding, these organizations were grateful to receive resources from CEPF to promote conservation and overcome the difficulties, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **7.2 Trainings Given**

Between 2017 and 2018, the RIT visited the cities of Arinos (Minas Gerais), Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais), Campo Grande (Mato Grosso do Sul), Imperatriz (Maranhão), Campinas (São Paulo), and Teresina (Piauí), in order to train beneficiaries of the first and second calls. In 2019, the RIT went to Montes Claros (Minas Gerais) and offered training to the grantees of the third call, which would operate in the state. The remaining grantees of this call were trained in Brasília.

The trainings were focused on the following topics:

- Who is the RIT?
- CEPF's Main Policies
- Project Management
- Reporting and Monitoring
- Communication

With the arrival of the pandemic, in 2020, all new grantees, from the fourth and fifth calls and grants by invitation, were trained online. The RIT also continued to provide online support to all grantees, reinforcing training topics when necessary.

From a general perspective, based on the applications received during the successive calls or the lack of propositions from certain regions of the Cerrado, the need to reinforce various organizational aspects of the institutions of the Cerrado was perceived. Thus, following the dedicated call for proposals in September and October 2020, Impact Hub Brasília was selected to carry out a large program of "acceleration of Cerrado organizations". This program supported 35 institutions, having an average baseline capacity level (score of 37) considerably lower than the average for the hotspot (52), and seeking to increase their skills and expertise in 14 aspects, such as project design, fundraising, legal requirements, governance, communication, gender and others.

Between June 2021 and February 2022, the Acelera Cerrado Program held 67 workshops, which totaled 239 hours of training, in addition to 244 hours of mentoring. Based on a survey carried out at the beginning and end of the program, the participating community-based organizations indicated a 14.3 percent increase in conviction of their ability to increase the area of the Cerrado protected by their actions. One additional good result was the elaboration of four projects, with synergies created between the



participating organizations, which were presented at a “Demoday” event, where feasibility and funding sources for execution were discussed. Much remains to be done to reinforce the organizations in the Cerrado so that they can access environmental funds and can positively and sustainably transform the local reality of traditional peoples and communities, species and vegetation in which they are inserted.

### 7.3 Analysis of Collective CSTT and/or Individual CSTT

A total of 72 CSOs completed baseline and final CSTT assessments. This includes the 33 organizations that benefited from the Acelera Cerrado capacity building program of Impact Hub Brasília, described above. On average, at hotspot level, CEPF investment contributed significantly to the increased capacity of organizations, with an average improvement of their CSTT score of 9 points (or 18 percent increase over the baseline).

Figure 3 shows the average change per dimension of the CSTT. The biggest increase was with the Management Systems of these organizations, with an increase of 22 percent compared to where they started from. Within this dimension, 35 of the 72 organizations (49 percent) improved their accounting and financial reporting systems. Procurement policies were also improved, bringing more financial and legal security to the organizations. Within the dimension of Strategic Planning, 34 organizations (47 percent) now have a new or consolidated strategic plan and 21 (29 percent) have an adequate mission statement. Both documents are key in guiding these organizations’ personnel for fundraising, communication and project development.

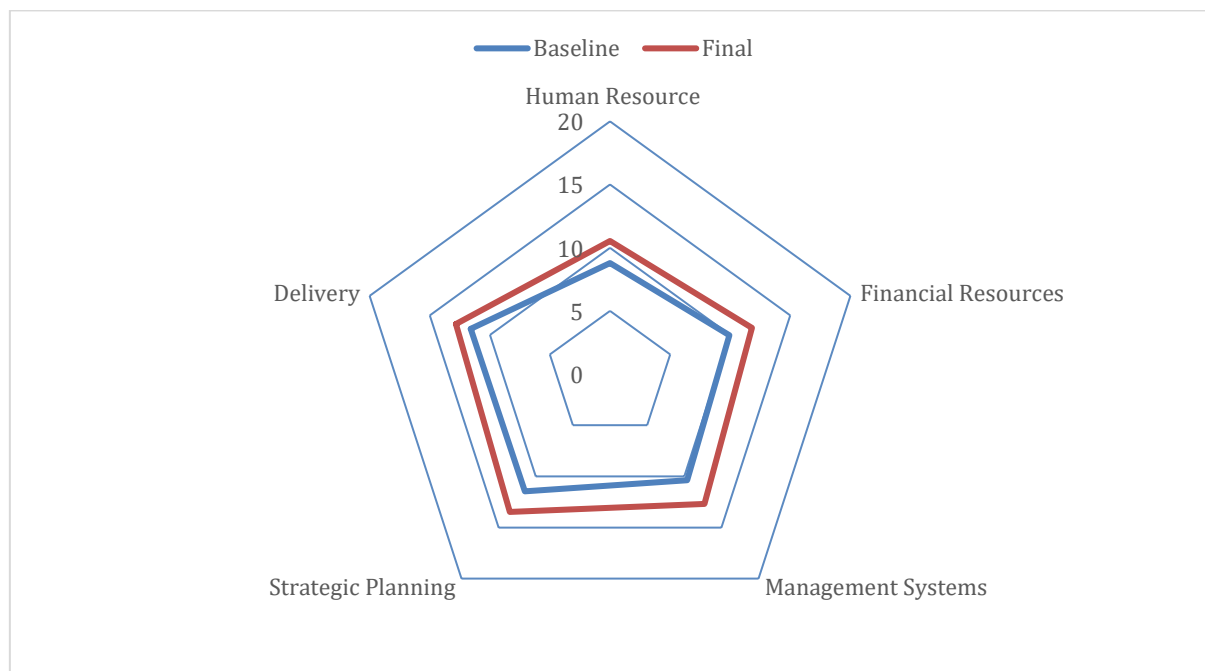


Figure 3: Civil Society Capacity Tracking Tool average scores variations for 72 organizations having benefited from CEPF funding.

For the 33 organizations which provided both baseline and final assessments and specifically benefited from the Acelera Cerrado program of Impact Hub Brasília, co-financed by CEPF and the Cerrado Alliance, their capacities have increased on average by 12.3 points (increase of 35 percent compared to the baseline). The highest changes were with respect to Financial Resources (increase of 50 percent), Management Systems (increase of 40 percent) and Human Resources (increase of 37 percent). Figure 4 shows the average change within the dimension of financial resources. The diversity of funding sources is where the lowest improvement was, which coincides with the extremely low

starting point. With an even lower starting point, the sustainability strategy score of these organizations doubled.

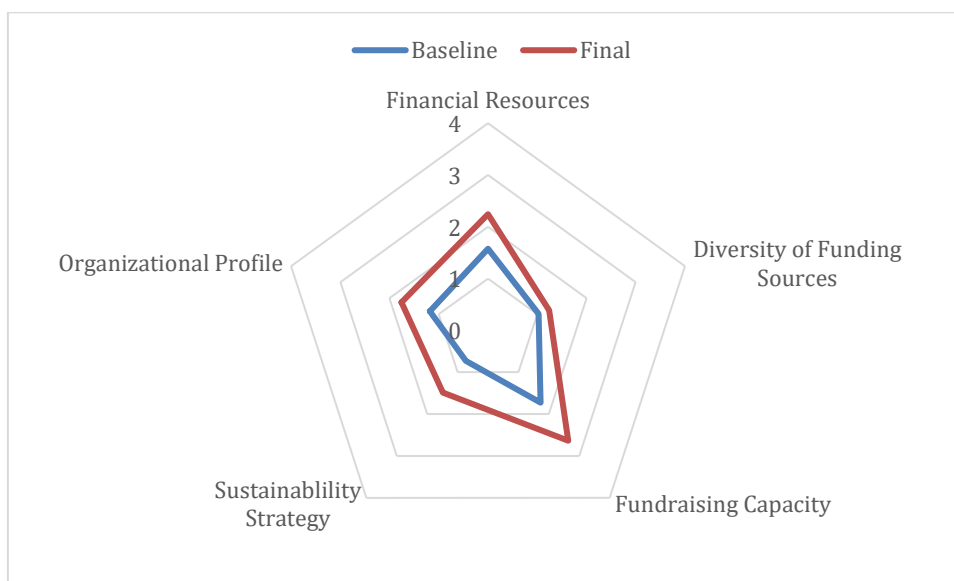


Figure 4: Financial Resources average score variations for 33 organizations that benefited from the capacity building program of Impact Hub Brasília.

It is, however, too early to tell whether these improvements will have a long-lasting impact on these organizations, since the Impact Hub Brasília project ended at the same time as the CEPF investment phase. As a matter of fact, the lowest average improvement, 9.3 percent, was observed for the Delivery dimension of the CSTT, which brings together indicators measuring how effective organizations are in fulfilling their missions. This result seems coherent, considering that evolutions in capabilities and management need to be properly implemented so that an organization’s results can then follow suit.

## 8 Human Wellbeing Results

### 8.1 Communities Benefiting

With CEPF’s investments in the Cerrado, it is possible to affirm that many communities were strengthened and/or benefited either through direct economic benefits or by maintaining the native vegetation from which they generate income.

A total of 1,731 marginalized communities were mapped, helping them start accessing public policies and being recognized in terms of land tenure. There are also 160 communities which benefited directly from the projects’ actions, particularly considering NTFP activities, which improved their income by more than R\$ 400,000 (about US\$ 84,000).

In terms of benefits to individuals, 5,507 men and 5,234 women received structured training, while 1,623 men and 1,731 women received financial benefits and 54,151 men and 53,628 women received non-financial benefits (others than structured training). The type of benefits varied greatly. Some benefits related to increased land management and cultural exchanges recognizing their knowledge, while some others consisted in training, as tourism agents or firefighters, for example, or in the delivery of products to cooperatives. Another benefit worth mentioning is the creation of two ICCAs, which give

visibility to the territories and attract more investments to strengthen these communities for conservation and income generation. With a range of technical support, it was possible to implement community land management strategies in at least 160 territories.

In the northern regions of Minas Gerais, where the Grande Sertão Cooperative project supported 24 communities, the communities learned to apply good practices in buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*) extractivism. It started with harvesting and production of buriti fruit and continued with the reuse of wastes for handicrafts and the diversification of end products like buriti oil and liquor, juices, and sweets. The production of seedlings accompanied the work on the buriti supply chain to restore the typical wetlands on the Cerrado: the veredas. Between 2016 and 2018, the cooperative received more than 25 tons of buriti fruits from the communities, involving more than 378 families whom all received a direct income from the sale, in 5 municipalities of Minas Gerais where the cooperative has been working closely with the communities.

While communities benefited from the extractivism of Cerrado fruits, the supply chain of Cerrado native seeds was also promoted for restoration initiatives and as a new/growing market generating new financial incomes. The Rede de Sementes, a CEPF grantee, was instrumental in stimulating this market that had received little attention so far. The involvement of the traditional populations was pivotal, as they are aware of the production cycle of the different trees and grasses of the Cerrado, know their locations, and can participate in the harvesting process as an additional income source. This initiative brought together collectors and restorers from 11 communities. A total of 313 women and 347 men were trained in seed production and restoration. More than 118 families received additional income from the commercialization of native seeds. With further implementation of the Brazilian Forest Code and the Restoration Projects of Degraded and Altered Areas of each property, required by law, this market will likely grow over the years. The Rede de Sementes sold 29 tons of seeds during the project period.

While several communities received direct benefits, as mentioned above, others also benefited indirectly from other conservation actions, such as restoring degraded riparian forests, creating protected area management plans, resolving public land tenure issues, and modifying municipal guidelines for inspecting products from family farming agriculture.

Finally, the various courses, lectures, workshops that the projects carried out helped several leaders within these communities to improve their impact on public policies reinforcing the argument for conservation with decision-makers. A good example is the training given by Instituto Sociedade População e Natureza (ISPN) to strengthen regional articulation in western Bahia state. With the training of 20 leaders from the most diverse community-based organizations in the area, the project led to the creation of a project management council allowing networking and strengthening of the role of communities with project writing and fundraising.

The organizations that received CEPF grants consistently articulated their projects with local populations. They tried to be as inclusive as possible, supporting the narrative of more sustainable alternatives for the territories where they worked. This commitment toward local communities increased the possibility of lasting positive results and replication to other communities.

## **8.2 Gender**

Being a woman in a society historically dominated by men requires strength and endurance. Being a woman in the countryside, in the Cerrado, presents even more challenges. CEPF has had opportunities to support women from various groups

(quilombola, family farmers, agro-extractivists and leaders of traditional peoples and communities) through their struggles and to increase their impact within their communities. Doing so, a lot was learned from their relations with the Cerrado.

There were 76 organizations (including the 33 organizations from the Acelera Cerrado Program) that completed baseline and final assessments using the Gender Tracking Tool (GTT). The analysis revealed a considerable increase of 76 percent (3.6 points) in the assimilation and understanding of gender issues and the importance of having a diverse gender-balanced environment that influences the maturity of the organization.

Figure 5 shows a comparison between the average baseline and final scores and the significant increase in all seven dimensions of the GTT. The biggest increase was concentrated in the allocation of financial resources to incorporate gender in the activities promoted by the organizations, with an increase of 113 percent (+0.8 points). It is also worth noting that there was a 102 percent (+0.9 points) increase in the training and qualification on gender-related issues of staff members within the institutions. One of the goals of CEPF is to use the GTT assessment as a catalyst to allow these organizations to formulate gender policies and manuals that reduce differences and promote an environment of gender equality and inclusion. As a demonstration, out of the 76 organizations which completed the baseline and final assessments, only 13 (17 percent) reported at the onset of their grants having a gender policy being implemented. By the end of the CEPF investment, 18 additional organizations (+24 percent) had developed and implemented a gender policy, bringing the total number of organizations having an implemented gender policy to 31 (41 percent).

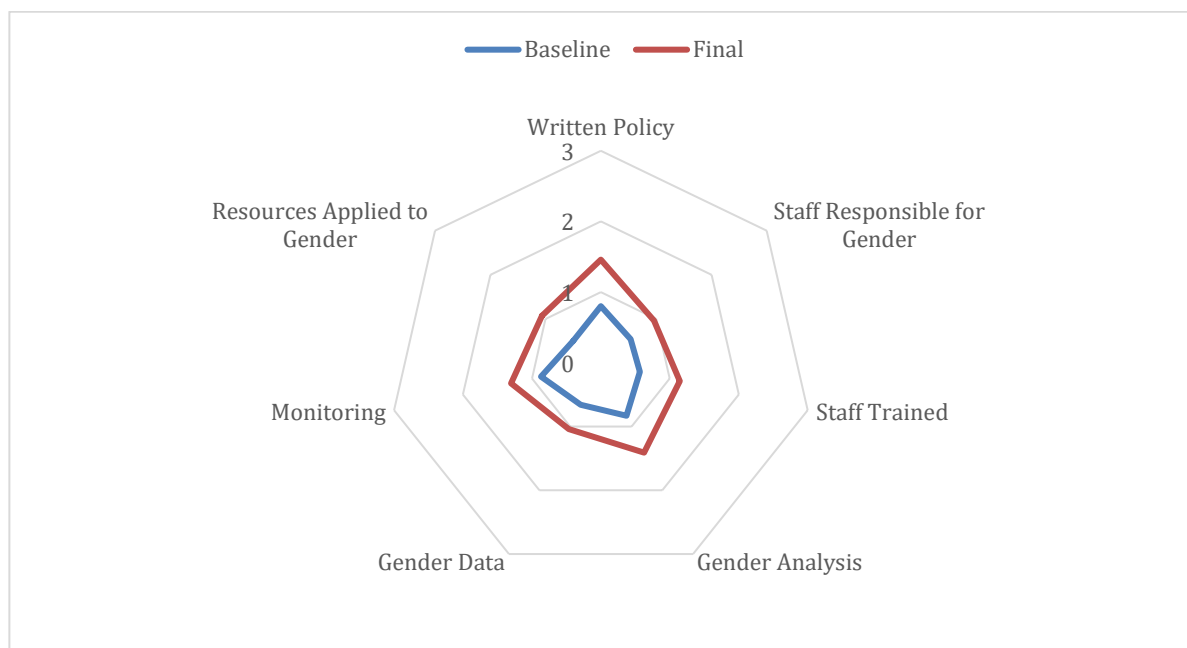


Figure 5: Gender Tracking Tool average score increases for 76 local grantees

Action Aid and ECOA specifically worked to empower local communities, Indigenous people, and traditional populations of the Cerrado. The regional scope of these two projects was very different, with Action Aid channeling its actions through the Cerrado Network in the north, and ECOA working with the communities in the south of the hotspot. Nonetheless, both organized groups of women in associations, cooperatives, and networks. The objectives were to value their knowledge and conservation practices, and to strengthen their recognition as primary agents for a sustainable environment. They demonstrated that the practical knowledge women apply in these communities generate income and protect the environment.

In 2019, with support from CEPF, Action Aid and ECOA fostered three critical meetings in the Cerrado to discuss environmental conservation, climate change, gender, and social relations and action strategies of women in their territories:

- Meeting of the Women of the Cerrado, in Luziânia, Goiás, led by the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado;
- Meeting of the Cerrado and Pantanal Women's Network - CerraPan, in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul; and
- The "Dona Dijé" tent at the IX Meeting and Fair of the People of the Cerrado, in Brasília, Federal District, for the articulation of women from the Cerrado and the strengthening of resilience, the weaving of knowledge, and the sharing of experiences.

Two hundred and thirty women participated during these meetings from different regions of Brazil, and two guiding national documents were produced: the letter of the first women's meeting of the Cerrado; and the manifesto for resistance of the women in the Cerrado and the Pantanal. In both documents, women from the Cerrado articulated the need to preserve their territory and their way of life. They condemned the destruction of the water sources of the Cerrado, the indiscriminate advances of the agribusiness, and the social impact these developments are inducing. Sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy, and violence are other factors also disrupting their communities.

In addition to ECOA and Action Aid's actions, Rede de Sementes trained approximately 300 women in native seed production and ecological restoration of the Cerrado. The organization strengthened community engagement, and the activities of women seed collectors to generate income in the seed market. The Quilombo Kalunga Association and Tiradentes Educational Institute initiatives promoted a diversified agro-extractivist economy in Kalunga territory among 16 young people, 50 percent of whom were women.

The Acelera Cerrado program conducted by Impact Hub Brasília, already mentioned, also had as one of its selection criteria, organizations with female representation in leadership positions and had an exclusive module to address the gender issue in CSOs. A specialist was responsible for the gender module, with two meetings and 36 hours of mentoring. The specialist took on the challenge of tackling a topic that many CSOs deemed unnecessary in their context. She managed to score 87.5 on the Net Promoter Score (NPS), a scoring system applied by Impact Hub Brasília to each module of the program. This was the second highest score among all the modules covered by the program. Mentoring also obtained an excellent NPS, with 76.5. The very practical approach and easy-to-use language brought into light this often challenging topic, leading many organizations to consider this topic from an institutional point of view for the first time. At the end of the program, of the 37 organizations that responded to the program's survey form, 78 percent stated that their organization had developed new actions related to gender equity. The overall average improvement in Gender Tracking Tool score was 24.8 percent. Community-based organizations showed an even higher improvement, with 32.9 percent on average.

The RIT gender focal point also contributed to some initiatives coordinated by CEPF, such as monthly participation in the RIT's gender group, and the review of materials aimed at grantees to empower women in conservation, such as the Gender Toolkit.

Finally, in November 2021, an article was published in National Geographic magazine portraying conservation initiatives led by women in the Cerrado. This raised the awareness of women's role in conserving the hotspot. The women featured were: Renata Libonati, leader of the project "Research and Development for Generation of Daily Alert System of Burned Areas for the Cerrado"; Camila Motta, leader of the project "Seed

Market and Restoration: Providing Environmental Services and Biodiversity", and Gislaïne Disconzi, leader of the project "Avoid extinction of Brazilian merganser at Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunga Corridor". Figure 6 presents a graphical representation of the outcomes that came out of the meeting focused on women from the Cerrado of the Cerrado Encontro of the Indigenous People of the Cerrado (funded by CEPF). It synthesizes the conservatory and guidelines that circulated during this meeting.



Figure 6: Graphical representation of outcomes of the Indigenous People of the Cerrado meeting

### 8.3 Livelihood Improvement

Most of the CEPF project portfolio in Brazil improved the communities' livelihoods. Many of them were linked to cooperatives handling Cerrado products for instance, which led to increased sales as one of the benefits directly impacting the targeted communities. Other benefits, such as the introduction of new techniques to communities through agroforestry, apiculture, or improved agricultural species, will leave long-lasting impacts beyond the time of the project.

The project led by Associação Quilombo Kalunga with the community of the quilombola people supported the implementation of agroforestry projects and training of young people in beekeeping. It increased the income of 262 men and 124 women, and the nutrition of the households involved, bringing more benefits beyond the project's time.

Considering these improvements in people's livelihood beyond the project implementation period, the cooperative COPABASE calculated the social return on investment (SROI) for the lifetime of the cooperative. To calculate the SROI, all funds raised by COPABASE were considered as inputs, through more than 35 projects, in 13 years of work, totaling R\$ 9,629,488 (about US\$ 2 million). The socio-environmental return value, linked to the calculation of six benefits to communities, was R\$ 37,634,960 (about US\$ 7.9 million). These six benefits were:

- Increased schooling rates of cooperative members,
- Income of cooperative producers,
- Productive inclusion of women,
- Number of recovered natural springs,
- Number of hectares of Cerrado vegetation restored,
- Carbon sequestration.

As a result of this exercise, the SROI ratio was equivalent to 2.35, meaning that for every one Real invested in COPABASE, there was a generation of 2.35 Reais in social and environmental returns for the business's stakeholders. Considering that the premises used to assess COPABASE's social and environmental impacts did not exhaust all the

results achieved by the organization, the SROI 2.35 is quite impressive. While it was not possible to do similar calculations for other cooperatives because these SROI calculations require a good monitoring process ahead of implementing CEPF's grants, this example gives a good perception of how the investment in cooperatives and associations of traditional people working and living from the Cerrado can bring a good return, socially, environmentally, and financially.

## 9 Enabling Conditions Results

### 9.1 Policy Improvement and Implementation

With a total of 23 policies enacted or amended, despite the unfavorable scenario for this type of articulation during most part of the CEPF investment period, this result is quite significant for the conservation of the Cerrado. A few examples are:

- Decree No. 117/2018 regulates Law No. 1.329/12 that institutes the SIM - Municipal Inspection Service for products of vegetable and animal origin in the municipality of Niquelândia. The regulation of the municipal law for the quality inspection seal for family farming products in the municipality was a significant step for small farms and cooperatives located in Niquelândia. As a direct result of this policy, products of animal and vegetable origin from small producers started to be included in the sanitation control of the municipality, making it possible for the producers to sell their products legally and with fiscal returns beyond the limits of the city. The law takes family agriculture out of informality and guarantees production and sustainability. The implementation of this new regulation offers more information about the production chain, such as the origins, quality, traceability, production licenses, and sanitary conditions. It is a much more accessible system than state or federal control.
- The creation of the Environmental Reserve Quotas program for the state of Maranhão (proposed, not yet implemented) will be a significant contribution toward the regularization of rural properties in light of the Brazilian Forest Code. The program assumes that landowners who lack the required environmental reserve in their properties can compensate for this by acquiring areas in other rural properties to reach their mandatory quota. Discussions at the state level regarding the adoption of this program are still ongoing.
- Minas Gerais State Decree number 47.749-19, of November 2019. This decree disposes of the authorization of different forest management processes ranging from production to restoration in the state. The decree maintains legal protection of the tree species faveiro-de-Wilson and creates new regulations for environmental compensation related to endangered species.
- Two other policies connected to Municipal Environment Councils (CONDEMAS) were implemented. A municipal law created a CONDEMA in Rochedo municipality, Mato Grosso do Sul state, which did not exist before. A second decree improved the council's governance regulating the appointment of the members and the need for significant environmental issues to be discussed by the council. This work was an outcome of the project implemented by Neotrópica, which sought to strengthen municipal councils in several other municipalities (which led to three other similar policies) and created a CONDEMA network.
- Brazilian National Center for Plant Conservation / Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute (CNCFlora/JBRJ) included the *Dimorphandra exaltata* and *D. wilsonii*, both Endangered species, in the National Action Plan for the protection of faveiro-de-Wilson. The Technical Advisory Group to monitor and implement the action plans were established considering gender equality. Both steps were essential for protecting faveiro-de-Wilson in the Cerrado.

- Rede de Sementes do Cerrado improved and included biodiversity issues in one law and regulation. The law concerns the National Seeds and Seedlings System (Decree no. 10,586 of December 18, 2020, and Normative Instruction no. 17/2017 - Ministry of Agriculture), where the partner included three tree species. The normative instruction refers to an essential step for the protection of the Cerrado. Here the grassland and savannas were included in the vegetation types considered for natural restoration (Normative Instruction no. 33 of October 2, 2020 - Brasília Environmental Institute; Native Vegetation Monitoring Protocol of the Federal District).

Along policies, CEPF grantees also tried to advocate for the conservation of the Cerrado at the scale of the biome. As previously mentioned:

- Thirty organizations and members of the Cerrado Network proposed a [strategy for conservation, recovery, and sustainable use of natural resources in the Cerrado Biome](#) for the pre-candidates of the Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil 2018 elections. The strategy focused on three pillars:
  - a) Conservation and protection of the biome to control deforestation;
  - b) Guarantee of the rights in socio-environmental territories;
  - c) Sustainable rural, agroecological, and agroforestry development.
- In the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado, the [manifesto of the women of the Cerrado](#) was launched in 2020, seeking to transform the reality motivated by racism, ethnocentrism, and patriarchy, showing that these systems devastate the lives of women. An attempt to enable reflection and show that women are still as alive as ever and contribute to the conservation and knowledge of the Cerrado.

## 9.2 Partnerships, Linkages and Hotspot-wide Initiatives

The mobilization of the organizations supported by CEPF, around common objectives, and the fostering of the exchange of results and lessons among them was an essential objective for the RIT. Implementing each project separately and monitoring its results would ignore possible synergies and a more significant impact.

The RIT pursued this effort by assuming the role of a network weaver, trying to build strategic connections where there were potentials for mutual benefit, catalyzing future cooperation or self-organizing groups among the different actors and projects within the Cerrado network of 54 organizations. Sometimes, the RIT stimulated exchange of information by establishing regional hubs where smaller organizations sharing the same landscape or region could connect and learn from each other or even implement some of the projects' objectives together.

A graphical representation of the interactions which existed during the implementation of the CEPF investment in the Cerrado is shown in figure 7. This is the collection of all organizations involved in protecting the hotspot, from donor organizations to those linked to direct beneficiaries.

The entire CEPF portfolio in the Cerrado and interactions within it resulted in the mobilization of 567 entities during the execution of the projects. There was a real exchange of knowledge and experiences in some cases beyond what was planned.

Three grantees interacted more closely in Mato Grosso do Sul state, as the RIT established a regional hub in Campo Grande city. The mapping that the Neotrópica Foundation promoted in the area of the indigenous community supported by AHY identified the degraded areas in the Brejão indigenous land and stimulated the indigenous community to work on seed collection and restoration efforts. The



organization ECOA promoted training courses for voluntary fire brigades and offered the indigenous AHY association the possibility of participating free of charge.

In the Grande Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu Mosaic, a similar positive interaction occurred among three grantees supported by CEPF: WWF; AMDA; and FUNATURA. All projects worked to foster the territorial management of the protected areas structuring the mosaic, either through creating a management plan or by strengthening the council, with communication and action strategies in the territory, or by studying the possibilities for the creation of additional protected areas within the mosaic. There was a very close dialogue among the grantees, the members of the council, and public and private actors.

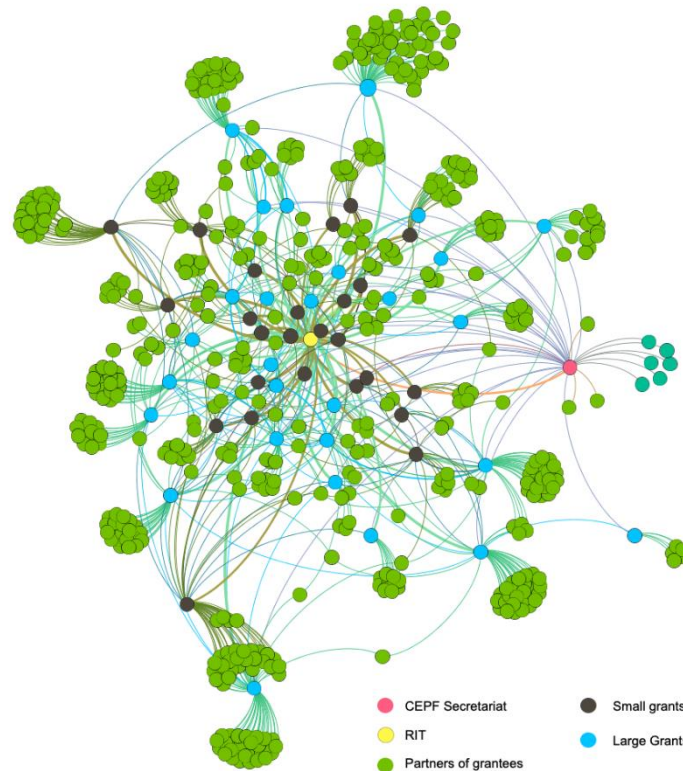


Figure 7: Network interaction between CEPF projects and partners, as of October 2021

The project for the reintroduction of great-billed seed finch, one of seven CEPF priority species, was implemented by the Ariramba Association. During the implementation of the project, Ariramba received technical support from ANGÁ and co-financing from IDESE, both CEPF grantees.

In the Chapada dos Veadeiros region, two organizations were working in partnership. IAT and AQK got together to carry out environmental education actions in Cavalcante, Alto Paraíso, and the Kalunga territory. There were rounds of presentations in these municipalities, talking about the importance of different species for biodiversity. The work focused on Brazilian merganser, considered a critically endangered species.

IPAM and ISPN worked together to consolidate a spatial database on traditional communities, mapping traditional “marginalized” communities in priority regions, and map critical areas of potential deforestation that will affect traditional communities within MATOPIBA Central Corridor.

Projects that work on water-related issues, like the Federal University of Mato Grosso and the Cerrado Water Consortium, were invited to exchange expertise on monitoring water quality and restoration processes by developing an online application. In this case, the cooperation did not flourish, but it helped create a more mature product for the Cerrado Water Consortium project, also supported by CEPF.

### 9.3 Leveraging Additional Resources

In recent years, little investment has been devoted to the conservation and protection of biodiversity in Brazil. Thanks to the support of CEPF, beneficiary organizations were able to demonstrate counterpart funding to other funders who required it. Of the total number of grantees, 33, including the RIT, received a combined figure of US\$5,887,582 from CEPF and leveraged an additional US\$ 8,338,219. See Annex 14.6 for the breakdown.

While these grantees represent about 50 percent of the total number of grantees, they have received 74 percent of the overall CEPF investment. Therefore, considering the US\$7,975,477 awarded by CEPF in the hotspot, for every US\$1.00 of CEPF, US\$1.05 was leveraged from other sources.

## 10 Other Impacts

During the implementation of the CEPF investment in the Cerrado, a new voluntary and self-declaratory way to protect communities' territories emerged, giving more visibility to the territories of traditional peoples and communities. The international concept of ICCA, territories, and areas conserved by Indigenous People and communities, also called 'Territories of Life,' was introduced. The designation of ICCAs in the Cerrado is an exciting strategy since the process brings various advantages:

- It gives the traditional territories international visibility.
- It is a self-declaratory process.
- Peers do the recognition.
- The territories can be recognized as "other effective area-based conservation measures" or OECMs<sup>3</sup>.
- The territories are registered on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

In the Cerrado, the creation of ICCAs is a good alternative for conservation, considering the lack of new initiatives to create new protected areas in the last decade and the land grabbing threat to communities and indigenous people lands.

The RIT had meaningful participation in this process, mobilizing and encouraging at least 10 organizations from the portfolio to act on this front with the communities of the portfolio. Several meetings were held with the organizations and the communities to present and answer questions about the registration process. The RIT also actively translated some of the WDPA material into Portuguese to facilitate registration and worked directly with the WDPA colleagues to facilitate the registration process.

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<sup>3</sup> A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area that is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values (CBD, 2018).

The first ICCA in Brazil was the [Kalunga Historic Site and Cultural Heritage](#), designated with the support of AQK. The challenge was greater than expected due to the size of the territory: 39 communities spread over 262,000 hectares. The RIT participated in the support and mobilization of this action. AQK successfully concluded a [case study for the ICCA Consortium Website](#) and the WDPA database. The territory gained visibility and investment to further strengthen the communities and forest conservation in the Historic Site as was demonstrated during [tentative land grabbing](#), which took place in 2020.

With the positive repercussions of this first registration in Brazil, communities and the traditional people of the Cerrado, as well as grantees, gained interest. The creation of another ICCA, the [Urucua Grande Sertão River Territory](#), this time with the support of COPABASE, was the second ICCA created in Brazil and in direct collaboration with the RIT. COPABASE is still studying a way to link the ICCAs registry to the communities that deliver the native Cerrado fruits and other non-timber forest products to the cooperative to add additional value to the products they sell internationally.

Beyond the CEPF investment phase, IEB plans to integrate the ICCA concept more into its strategy. One must consider that this designation is not recognized officially by Brazilian law. Most conservation organizations or organizations working on indigenous rights are not aware of this additional tool to advocate for the protection of indigenous or traditional people's territories. The registration of ICCAs is an additional tool, not the ultimate answer to land tenure problems in the Cerrado.

Another great impact was the construction of a baru network that brought together various actors in the supply chain to discuss the structuring of a fair baru supply chain. CEPF's investments in the strengthening of extractivism and applying good practices allowed some cooperatives to obtain quality seals and reach a large supermarket chain in Brazil and several companies abroad, thus increasing sales. This supply chain shows great restlessness, since the baru was promoted internationally as a "superfood". Many parts of the supply chain are looking to access a premium market. The work on the baru supply chain was the first step to guarantee that, despite the attractiveness of extra gains in exclusive international health markets, the revenues flow back to those responsible for the youngest surge of the baru nut: the traditional and Indigenous People harvesting baru nuts in conserved landscapes.

Another impact came from Instituto Claravis, which achieved a crucial result for species conservation by facilitating more rapid, transparent, and repayable information transfer on the national species status to IUCN Red List. This project was implemented as a partnership among the Brazilian National Center for Plant Conservation / Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute (CNCFlora/JBRJ), the National Center for Biodiversity Assessment and Research and Conservation of the Cerrado / Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC/ICMBio) and the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival Brazil (CSS Brazil), which is one of the centers of Instituto Claravis, the contracted institution. The partners worked on different tools to facilitate translation and data transfer between ICMBio's national and IUCN's international databases:

- A tool for translation from Portuguese to English of animal species datasheets.
- A tool to implement specific functions in the Brazilian SALVE registration system to allow the automatic translation and storage of translated data and information.
- A tool to enable the revision of the automatic translation of species sheets that were implemented in SALVE.

These tools allowed export of data from SALVE to be on a compatible format for import into IUCN's Species Information Service. Claravis and its partners also revised 100 sheets of species of fauna that occur in the Cerrado. Even though the partners had little time left, they did tremendous work to facilitate the transfer of data and the integration of Brazilian observation of endangered species into the IUCN Red List.

## **11 Progress Toward Long-term Conservation Goals**

The Collective Civil Society Assessment Tool (see Annex 14.7) was filled in by a group of stakeholders at the start of the investment and at the end, allowing for an assessment of the evolution of the collective capacities of the CSOs acting within the hotspot.

### **11.1 Human Resources**

Although there was no change in the score, grantees demonstrated a significant increase in their technical level of advocacy, and territorial management, involving climate change and gender issues, as well as increased awareness about conservation through extractive practices implemented by traditional peoples and communities. Several partnerships were established with and among grantees, such as strengthening the seed supply chain, knowledge exchange in the baru supply chain, assistance in land management plans for indigenous lands, as well as in the communication of the projects' actions and in environmental awareness raising about water, deforestation, fire, and species protection throughout the Cerrado. It is believed that there has been growth within the organizations that accessed CEPF funding and that they are better prepared for partnerships, fundraising, and thus for becoming local agents of transformation with inter-institutional dialogues, whether with NGOs and the private sector, or with the public authorities, city halls, governments, and public environmental agencies.

### **11.2 Management Systems and Strategic Planning**

This goal was considered as having been met. More than 90 percent of the priority KBAs identified in the ecosystem profile had the participation of some organization. Many traditional peoples and communities at these sites were mapped and involved in strategic actions promoted by CEPF grantees. This promoted the inclusion of these communities in the official realm to assist and defend their rights and access to public policies, while recognizing their role in the conservation of the Cerrado. Several organizations, as far as RIT is aware, have continued the work started with CEPF grants with other sources of funding and with new results, such as: advocacy for the cancellation of a large farming project in the state of Minas Gerais that would deforest 10,000 hectares of native forest; agroforestry systems as an alternative to mining and entering as a source of income in the municipality of Niquelândia; and strengthening of the implementation of the National Policy on Environmental and Territorial Management of Indigenous Lands of the Timbiras people in the state of Maranhão.

### **11.3 Partnerships**

This long-term goal was also considered to have been met. According to the portfolio of indicators, there were at least 20 partnerships with donors, governments, and private entities in the search for conservation and protection strategies for the biome, with the promotion of public policies and territorial development with income generation. There were also at least 17 networks and alliances, out of the 105 networks strengthened during the investment, which influenced decision making spaces and forums that are relevant for the protection of the Cerrado. A great partnership to mention was the one among several CONDEMAS in Mato Grosso do Sul state, with support from Neotrópica, which facilitate discussions about public policies for licensing, territorial management, and management of protected areas, and also conversations about the natural attributes of the region, as well as the strengthening of tourism.

## 11.4 Financial Resources

This goal was rated as not being met despite the 8.3 million dollars leveraged in return of the CEPF funding. Stakeholders believed that there were more funds leveraged but they could not be captured because they are part of the internal strategies of the organizations. Although this highlights that the competencies of the organizations were strengthened, stakeholders felt that organizations were still struggling to fully secure the continuity of their actions. This underlined the reality that the Cerrado still struggles to access international donor funding, compared with the Amazon.

During the final assessment event of the CEPF investment phase in November 2021, there was a debate on the directions that future investments in the Cerrado should take. The themes that most needed attention, according to the participants, were: acting and taking care of the environmental and land regularization processes in the Cerrado; bringing market technologies for the conservation of the Cerrado; strengthening socio-biodiversity; strengthening social organizations and community representatives (for political sphere and management); integration between the UN conventions on climate change and biodiversity; and enhancement of environmental education and research for better training of people and better use of natural resources. Regarding the territories, participants wanted to include the whole territory covered by the Cerrado biome in Brazil, with a special focus on the protection of waters: territories with veredas, springs, more relevant recharge areas.

## 11.5 Transboundary Cooperation

Almost none of the CEPF grantees work in a transboundary matter. Therefore, this long-term goal was also not met. The language barrier was felt as being a major issue in transboundary cooperation, as well as the very limited geographic spread of the Cerrado Hotspot into other countries (Bolivia and Paraguay).

## 11.6 Long-term Vision

Of importance to highlight as well for the long-term goals, are the outcomes of the long-term vision exercise. The [Long-Term Strategic Vision for Graduating Civil Society from CEPF Support in the Cerrado Hotspot](#) was approved in 2021 by the CEPF Donor Council. The long-term vision is a response to the fact that CEPF is not intended to be a permanent presence in each hotspot but, rather, works toward an end point at which local civil society “graduates” from its support with sufficient capacity, access to resources, and credibility to respond to future conservation challenges. The content of the long-term vision reflects the idea that “graduation” can be determined when the following conditions are met:

- Condition 1 - Conservation Priorities and Best Practices:

For the conservation of species, the National Action Plans have only been partially implemented, largely due to the lack of funding for this type of activity. However they have gained momentum in the third sector that has sought to perform some activities, such as environmental education and public mobilization with communication. For KBAs, the concept of KBAs itself was being incorporated slowly by donors and other institutions in the Cerrado, largely due to the diverse prioritization areas that already exist in the territory. Lately, it has been gaining slightly more space in the environmental agenda, but more work is needed to disseminate this concept, especially among local communities. For natural capital, in particular connected to cities, growing concerns about the heat wave that has arrived have highlighted the need for greater actions to contain this increase, such as adopting the planting of seedlings, promoting

environmental education about fire and deforestation. There is still a need for scaling up the actions, especially at the municipal level. For land management and spatial planning, the concept of ICCAs has just arrived, with great enthusiasm, in Brazil with support from CEPF. There is a need for greater articulation at the municipal level and also greater communication, as well as support institutions when it comes to registering communities' territories.

- Condition 2 – Civil Society Capacity

Despite the work done through the Acelera Cerrado Program for 33 organizations, CSOs could still be further strengthened in monitoring, fundraising, communication (in particular, in English), advocacy and other institutional technical areas. This would enable them to gain a greater maturity to deal with the environmental agenda that has been and will likely keep going through difficult times. While CEPF helped with networking, the existing networks still lack connection to local initiatives (capillarity) and team structuring, communication and political influence. Few funds have been opened for climate issues in the Cerrado, except some for restoration. While some organizations have accessed these funds, it is still difficult to find available areas for such actions. Regarding mainstreaming, there is still a low interlocution of CSOs with the private sector producing commodities.

- Condition 3 - Sustainable Financing

CSOs have insufficient resources in light of the immense need for conservation funding. This is in parallel with a decline in international investment in recent years in Brazil, resulting in less investment for conservation. International NGOs attract most of the limited international funding and serve as a hub, but not as a multiplier, for resources. Some companies have made some contributions more linked to restoration because of the climate agenda that is a pressing issue internationally, but these contributions are still very specific and restricted. On the other hand, some business plans have been developed and carried out, in the seed chain with community associations, with cooperatives with the processing of socio-biodiversity products. Some companies have turned their eyes to these community businesses.

- Condition 4 - Enabling Policy and Institutional Environment

Investment for the implementation of the Forest Code in the MATOPIBA region is still needed and the states' knowledge of the economic incentives generated by the Forest Code needs to be strengthened. There is still much to be done under the Rural Environmental Cadaster for a successful implementation of the Forest Code and thus to have a bigger impact on conservation. This agenda of public policy implementation has demanded a greater engagement and articulation of CSOs for a quality advocacy with parliaments and city halls, to avoid a dismantling of environmental public policies. The CSOs are very aware of this and have prepared themselves with a strong legal body despite the extreme vulnerability of socio-environmental leaders and the discontinuation of formal spaces for social participation over the past few years.

- Condition 5 - Responsiveness to Emerging Issues

The Cerrado Knowledge Platform, supported by CEPF, is now a central point where the accumulated knowledge about the Cerrado, with reliable information on land use, biodiversity and socioeconomics, in the form of maps, graphs and texts, in addition to online tools, is made freely available to support public policies and conservation programs. More information needs to be available, accessible, and disseminated though to support data-driven decisions and adaptive management. It is very important to raise awareness on ecosystem services and their importance in the urban context, especially

with regard to water provision. The fake-news phenomenon is working directly against well-informed decision-making processes.

The long-term strategic vision provides more details on the current situation, as well as projections for scenarios at horizons 2025 and 2030. To achieve these scenarios, the strategy has six components for future investments in the Cerrado.

## **12 Lessons Learned**

### **12.1 Entry Strategy**

For any CEPF investment phase, it is essential to have an entry strategy. This entry strategy would encompass some critical steps to accelerate the dissemination and diffusion of possible calls, the execution of the subsequent grants, and the fulfillment of the overall objectives of the investment in the hotspot.

- At the beginning of the investment, more time should have been invested in preparing the grant selection and contracting process. The different steps of the process, the human resources needed, and the evaluation and the selection criteria indispensable for CEPF were not sufficiently discussed to guarantee a smooth process. More training would have been helpful before the first call was issued. The RIT would then have been better prepared to assume its role.
- The first call for proposals should have been more targeted to avoid receiving an overwhelmingly high number of LOIs.
- These challenges were overcome during the first year of the investment, and the RIT and the Secretariat successfully passed the steep learning curve. By the end of the first year, the RIT was better trained and more aware of CEPF's financial and administrative procedures, and had gained useful insights for possible future other investments of other donors.
- The second part of the preparation of the entry strategy relates to the execution phase, which encompasses the monitoring process. Here the RIT and the Secretariat had to cope with the roll-out of the new ConservationGrants system, which needed to be explained to applicants and grantees. Additionally, procurement processes, reporting, and clarifications consumed a lot of time, despite the investment in the online system, derailing the attention from conservation objectives. Most of the grantees were grateful to the Secretariat and the RIT for the time invested in training and clarification of occasional misunderstandings. This availability consumed resources that should have been better anticipated in the original RIT proposal.
- It is regrettable that access to ConservationGrants is restricted to the period of performance for RITs, as it leaves them with no legacy. The RIT had to prepare its own management systems as it ought to collect strategic information about the significant investment of the CEPF in the region. It would be great if the CEPF could foster the implementation of management systems in the RITs to leave them more mature to act in their hotspots.
- A third step in the entry strategy for CEPF would be a better analysis of the audiences related to each strategic direction and a systematic process to approach them before starting its operations. One example of this is Investment Priority 1.2 (promote the development and adoption of public policies and economic incentives for improved agricultural and livestock production practices, promoting sustainable agricultural landscapes). The team that formulated the ecosystem profile identified this investment priority as an essential element of a conservation strategy for the Cerrado. Unfortunately, the banking sector and the agriculture and livestock business sector were underrepresented during the profile discussions. Following its

finalization, no active approach toward this sector was planned before the first call for proposals. Therefore, CEPF remained unknown to many actors operating in this arena, who turned out to be unwilling to access the fund.

## **12.2 International Donor Community**

Similarly, a more pro-active approach toward other Foundations that work on similar themes (The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, CLUA, Climate Works, etc.) could have catalyzed more impactful investments and implemented financial mechanisms. Since this process is a long-term approach, CEPF should perhaps have looked at fostering high-level discussions to streamline investments within the international donor community, permitting operations to be aligned. This would be a novelty, considering the *modus operandi* of most of the international funds working in Brazil. However, this investment process is perhaps changing, with the announcement of the Amazon Investor Coalition, a global learning and investment platform that unites philanthropies and private investors with governments, non-profit organizations, and allies to increase forest-friendly economic development and the rule of law across the Amazon region. A similar coalition would be helpful for conservation of the Cerrado but has not been initiated yet.

## **12.3 Exit Strategy**

Likewise, the RIT and the CEPF Secretariat should also work on an explicit *exit strategy* from the Cerrado, increasing fundraising and capacity building activities soon after the mid-term assessment to further increase the maturity of the organizations in the hotspot.

## **12.4 Communication**

Regarding the aspect of fundraising, an essential element is communication. Communication can also boost conservation results and is much needed to emphasize Cerrado's ecosystem services and the threats facing them. Therefore, more emphasis should be given to communication on operational matters for the long-term vision. A specific budget should be invested for this activity within the budget of the long-term structure responsible for the coordination of any future investments. The accountable communication staff within the long-term structure should know about each grantee, its relation to CEPF or other donors, and potential stories that could highlight conservation results. This should not be delegated to a consultant. This issue was raised during the mid-term assessment meeting with stakeholders, who emphasized the need for proactive communication to promote a positive narrative about the role of the Cerrado in terms of ecosystem services provision and the wider contributions of CSOs to sustainable development. Stakeholders also highlighted that audiences outside Brazil should be targeted for conservation aspects in the Cerrado, and the material to satisfy this audience needs to be prepared. Strong communication could reinforce some messages and highlight what grantees are achieving, including as a network.

## **12.5 Grant Making**

Furthermore, the RIT should consider providing grants to CSOs for a longer period and working with fewer organizations overall. This would mean increasing the maximum value of a small grant to around US\$100,000. This would increase the interest of CSOs in developing competitive proposals and enhance the ability of the RIT to guide the grantees through the process. More importantly, working with longer implementation periods facilitates adaptation, which projects need to reach their desired outcomes (e.g., enacted policies versus feasibility surveys and policy briefs to help enact those policies).



## 12.6 Indigenous People

The RIT also realized that the team was not well equipped to have Indigenous People associations and groups as grantees. The cultural differences and peculiar circumstances demand specific skills and adaptation. A recommendation would be to integrate a part-time anthropologist to assist the team.

## 12.7 Feedbacks from Final Assessment Event

Other specific observations were made by the stakeholders during the final assessment included the following:

- 50 percent of the participants were related to the thousands of hectares of Cerrado directly conserved by the improved management and creation of protected areas or the improved management of landscapes. This represents the real impacts on conservation. More impressive was that these results came through communities and several institutions involved in complementary actions.
- An impressive number of projects were supported and number of areas benefited. Since it was impossible to meet in person after the mid-term assessment due to the pandemic, most CEPF grantees were not aware of the size of the portfolio and its network until the final assessment.
- 73 percent of the participants highlighted positive aspects of the RIT and CEPF Secretariat being easily accessible and having straightforward and good communication with all stakeholders. A very open channel of communication with the RIT, giving feedback, and following up in an organized and efficient way was perceived as being a testimony of IEB's and CEPF's commitment to implementing the investment program.

During the final assessment, the institutions were also asked about the challenges they faced during the project's execution:

- 73 percent requested the expansion of the teams, both in the Secretariat and in the RIT, to avoid overload and provide quicker responses to the organizations. They also requested an increase in the frequency of monitoring of institutions' activities and financial management. They endorsed the need for more knowledge exchange events and specific meetings with the organizations.
- 63 percent of the participants asked for a more straightforward and user-friendly grant management platform than ConservationGrants, briefer progress reports, and a reduced number of mandatory documents, such as gender and civil society assessments and plans in general. Another point about the grant management platform was its rigidity. For instance, some grantees found it difficult to upload photos or videos.
- Another issue that was brought up was the transfer of financial resources. The clearance time with the national bank should be considered for execution and reporting.
- 54 percent pointed out the need for longer-term investments, including the timeframe of CEPF in the Cerrado, which could be at least 10 years. The first phase of the CEPF was good to develop territorial and environmental management plans; more time is needed to implement them.

The beneficiaries were also questioned about their adherence to the long-term vision for the Cerrado which was developed during the CEPF investment:

- 63 percent of the participants brought the theme of strengthening water resources, water conservation, and biodiversity as the central themes that will contribute to the conservation of the Cerrado, which is entirely in line with the long-term vision. The

groups argued that one of the focal areas that should be a priority for conservation is the humid areas (veredas) due to their environmental fragility. The preservation of water springs was also mentioned as one crucial topic considering the advanced desertification processes in various Cerrado regions, even more so with climate change forecasts of the new IPCC reports showing some of the hotspot's fragility in water issues.

- 54 percent of the beneficiaries emphasized the importance of the bioeconomy linked to community engagement and strengthening. The recognition and autonomy of local groups in managing their territories and the natural resources in these territories are crucial to guarantee the protection of the Cerrado. Strengthening the governance of traditional communities, which today are being oppressed, showing to the Brazilian society that there are traditional communities in the Cerrado, is very important for the recognition and preservation through the traditional people.
- Another point is the improvement of environmental education in higher education aiming at the better training of human resources: to shape more aware professionals, better qualified to deal with land use and environmental protection issues.
- One of the groups pointed out that the Cerrado is all connected, so no themes nor regions should be prioritized. The Cerrado is one biome, and prioritization also creates exclusion.
- Any Cerrado conservation project should be designed for different regions because of their various biophysical aspects. Issues of agriculture, for instance, could be very place and crop specific. The conservation of the Cerrado occurs in the communities, but it happens in large farms and companies as well. In all these areas, there are management options for all these diverse stakeholders. A fund should also support all these stakeholders and reinforce possible connections. For instance, the traditional communities and family farmers supply seeds to restore areas of large farms and collect Cerrado fruits and nuts like baru on the areas of large farms. These different stakeholders are also interconnected, and large farms doing better conventional agriculture would positively impact the conservation of the Cerrado.

Additional findings were gathered from the participants during the final assessment event. They are presented in Annex 14.8.

## 13 Conclusion

Throughout the implementation of the CEPF investment which amounted to US\$7,975,477.31 over the period of July 2016 to March 2022, the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, and the CSOs and other stakeholders in the hotspot helped to achieve tremendous results. Annex 14.9 reports these major achievements against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These achievements are especially remarkable, considering the relatively short execution time of each grant (1.9 years on average), the unprecedented reduction of representation of civil society in the socio-environmental decision-making bodies and policies at federal level since the beginning of 2019, and the unique circumstances of the pandemic created during the last two years of the investment phase. A few examples which were highlighted are:

- At least 41 municipalities in the headwaters of the Pantanal improved their environmental governance by strengthening their environmental councils and by training council members.
- Two territories of life, territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities were created: one being bigger than Luxemburg.
- Twenty-nine private reserves were created across the hotspot.
- 92 hectares were restored using cost-effective and fair approaches.

- 1,731 communities were pulled out of invisibility by having their territory mapped.
- 160 communities benefitted from increased income from NTFPs from the Cerrado.

More challenges for the hotspot remain as climate change imposes more robust adaptation strategies for the agriculture sector, for the people living from the Cerrado resources and for the cities that are part of this very diverse Brazilian hotspot. Promoting the best management of water resources, the maintenance of freshwater ecosystems, and the establishment of climate change adaptation strategies for water will, therefore, be fundamental to maintaining functioning ecosystems and the services they provide. The adaptation strategies will necessarily encompass the creation, expansion or better management of protected areas or other forms of adequate landscape protection. However, this protection must also be inclusive in terms of income generation for the people that are part of the Cerrado landscape and helped, over decades, to protect its original landcover. They will also be the ones supporting restoration initiatives and will help to drive changes in city halls and national assemblies.

These changes will only occur, however, with long-term commitments. It would be unrealistic to expect all this to happen only in one CEPF investment phase of five years in the hotspot.

In summary, the greatest value of all the work done during this investment phase was the 105 networks strengthened, the 567 entities mobilized, and the partnerships achieved with local producers and international corporations in one specific pilot project focused on a major commodity, coffee. The mapping of 1.7 million hectares of indigenous and traditional peoples' lands in the Cerrado and the conservation of many endangered species through the 2.2 million hectares of protected areas better managed were two other great achievements.

As points for attention and improvement for future investments, stakeholders recommended that: (1) the fund should promote the long-term vision for the Cerrado developed during the investment, and either (2) the size of the team of the Secretariat and the RIT should increase to reduce individual workload and allow for increased assistance and support to grantees, or (3) the total number of grantees should decrease to improve the frequency of the follow-up and monitoring of the grantees' development.

The Cerrado and the organizations that operate in this region still have much room for absorption of funds and respond very well to opportunities. As financial resources for the Brazilian Cerrado are scarce, CEPF has allowed the continuity of the organizations' actions and provided technical, financial, and visibility support for conserving this neglected hotspot.

As highlighted in the long-term vision, future investments should focus on:

- (1) Promoting the best management of water resources, with adaptation of agricultural practices, maintenance of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems critical for water stability, improvement of governance over water, establishment of climate change adaptation strategies for water and promotion of new financial models to promote nature-based solutions.
- (2) Supporting the creation/expansion of other protected area management concepts, such as private reserves and territories preserved by Indigenous and local communities, and for the effective management of protected areas and sustainable landscapes.
- (3) Supporting investment in sustainable small and medium enterprises and supply chains to give traditional people and Indigenous populations income generation opportunities linked to conservation.

- (4) Supporting the restoration of ecosystems delivering services and water to the urban centers of the Cerrado as a mean to reconnect urban populations with the hotspot, and for the production of native seeds for restoration.
- (5) Supporting the implementation of National Action Plans for priority threatened species, with a focus on habitat management and protection.
- (6) Strengthening the capacity of CSOs to promote better management of territories and of natural resources and to support other investment priorities in the hotspot.

To have a meaningful impact within the constraints imposed by limited financial resources and timeframe, a more restricted geographic scope is recommended. By concentrating efforts on the central-northern part of the hotspot, spreading across 98 million hectares and encompassing the four priority corridors of the first CEPF investment plus the Araguaia and RIDE DF – Paranaíba – Abaeté corridors, the future investment would focus on areas where: the agricultural frontier is expanding; there are limited investments considering best management practices or responsible landscape management practices; one can find the most pristine areas of the hotspot; and the states are in need of more assistance to implement the Forest Code or other pieces of legislation enforcing good landscape management. Work on species conservation and management of their habitats should remain at hotspot level, however, due to the lack of other dedicated funds for species conservation in the Cerrado.

## **14 ANNEXES**

### **14.1 Member of the Advisory Committee**

List of the 21 specialists invited to the Advisory Committee:

Adriana G. Moreira (World Bank)  
Dr. Arnaldo Carneiro Filho (IPAM)  
Dra. Cristina Carvalho (Delegation of the European Union in Brazil)  
Thierry Durdemel (Delegation of the European Union in Brazil)  
Tsuyoshi Kitamoto (The embassy of Japan)  
Ana Lobato (The embassy of Japan)  
Aldicir Osni Scariot (Embrapa)  
Maria José Gontijo (IEB)  
Isabel Figueiredo (ISPN)  
Marcio Dionísio (IUCN)  
Marcos Rugnitz Tito (IUCN)  
Miguel Moraes (IUCN)  
Adriana Baima (MMA)  
Ana Paula Prates (MMA)  
Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza (MMA)  
Denise Hamu (UN-Environment)  
Regina Cavini (UN-Environment)  
Ana Cristina Barros (TNC)  
Mario Barroso (TNC)  
Mercedes Bustamante (UnB/Department of Ecology)  
Jean-François Timmers (WWF-Brasil).

### **14.2 External reviewers**

List of the 103 external evaluators (including some IEB staff members but excluding the four full time RIT members):

Adriana Ramos (ISA)  
Ailton Dias (IEB)  
Alexandre Lorenzetto (SACIS)  
Alexandre Resende Tofeti (ANA)  
Alexandre Sampaio (ICMBio)  
Aliny Pires (FBDS/UFRJ)  
Ana Karina Moreyra Salcedo (UEPA)  
Analuze Freitas  
André Costa Nahur  
André Segura Tomasi (IEB)  
Andreia BavareCSO (IEB)  
Ane A Alencar  
Antônio César di Giorgio Peres  
Arthur Brand

Artur Orelli Paiva  
César Victor do Espírito Santo (FUNATURA)  
Christianne Maroun  
Clarice Casa Nova  
Cláudia Maria Calório (DGM)  
Cláudia Zulmira (FBB)  
Cloude Correia (IEB)  
Dan Pasca (IEB)  
Daniel Luís Mascia Vieira (Embrapa Cenargen)  
Daniela Cristina  
Daniela de Paula (ISA)  
Daniela Pirozzi David (Estúdio de Projetos e Consultoria Ambiental Ltda.)  
Diogo Loretto (Bicho do Mato Meio Ambiente)  
Edson Martins (Embrapa Agrobiologia)  
Elke Urbanavicius Costanti (UnB)  
Emilia de Vasconcelos (Instituto Nova Era)  
Felipe Lenti (IPAM)  
Fernanda Nunes (Funai/CGGAM)  
Francivane Fernandes (IEB)  
Gabriel Mhereb (Instituto Nova Era)  
Galiana Lindoso (SACIS)  
Georgia Moutella Jordão  
Geraldo Mosimann da Silva  
Irene Maria  
Irene Santos (IBRACE)  
Isabel Figueiredo (ISPN)  
Ivan Salzo  
Jane Cavalcante Rodrigues  
Joice Garcia (Instituto Humanize)  
Jorge Bohrer Marques  
Josinaldo Aleixo  
Juana Andrade de Lucini  
Julia Otero (Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas-UFPA)  
Julia Zanin Shimbo (IPAM)  
Juliana Carvalho Frota Mattos  
Juliana Noletto (CTI)  
Kátia Torres (ICMBio)  
Laura Benitez BoCSO (Fauna & Flora International)  
Leonardo Hasenclever Borges  
Lidiane Melo (MCTIC)  
Lidiane Rocha de Oliveira (MCTIC)  
Luciene Pohl  
Lucio Flavio  
Luis Carrazza (Central do Cerrado)  
Luiz Carlos Pinajé de Lima (FUNATURA)  
Magaly Gonzales de Oliveira  
Maíra Padgurschi (BPBES/Unicamp)  
Márcia Muchagata

Maria Rita Manzano Borga  
Mariana Antunes Valente  
Marina Crespo P. Pimentel Landeiro (SNRJB/JBRJ)  
Mário Barroso (TNC)  
Marion Letícia (Fundação Grupo Boticário)  
Marisete Inês Santin Catapan  
Mauro Pires  
Michele Rocha (Instituto Humanize)  
Monica Nogueira  
Mônika Roper  
Nathália Eberhardt Ziolkowski (ECOA)  
Ney Maciel (IEB)  
Nurit Bensusan (Biolúdica)  
Olympio Barbanti Junior (UFABC)  
Omar Silveira  
Pablo Galeão  
Paula Felício Drummond de Castro (Unicamp)  
Paula Ferreira  
Priscila Oliveira Rosa (JBB)  
Rachel Freitas ONU/Sibbr  
Raquel Trevizam (INPE)  
Regina Coelli (UnB)  
Reinaldo FranciCSO Ferreira Lourival (Natureza e Cultura)  
Reuber Brandão (UnB)  
Roberta Chacon  
Rodrigo Almeida Noletto (ISPN)  
Romier Sousa (IFPA)  
Sandra Afonso (SFB)  
Sara Gaia  
Sarah Martins N. Frota  
Sueli Matiko Sano (EMBRAPA Cerrados)  
Tamiris de Assis Marques  
Thaís Pacheco Kasecker (UFRJ)  
Ticiane Imbroisi  
Ulisses Lacava Bigaton (UNFPA)  
Veronica de Novaes e Silva (ICMBio)  
Viviane Dib  
Viviane Junqueira  
Wilson Cabral Sousa Júnior  
Yuri Botelho Salmona (Instituto Cerrados e Greenpeace)

## 14.3 Logical Framework

Objective	Targets	Progress as of June 2022
<p>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments that maintain ecosystem functions and human well-being</p> <p><b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b> <b>US\$ 8,000,000</b></p>	<p>At least 40 local CSOs with increased capacities actively participate in conservation actions and management of territories guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least eight partnerships and networks formed among public, private and civil society actors to facilitate synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies for the conservation and sustainable development of the Cerrado in support of the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 500,000 hectares of protected areas targeted by CEPF grants with new or strengthened protection and management.</p> <p>At least five land-use planning or public policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.</p> <p>At least 500 000 hectares of production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use within four corridors targeted by CEPF grants.</p> <p>At least five globally threatened species targeted by CEPF grants have stable or improved conservation status.</p> <p>At least 60 local and indigenous communities are empowered and directly benefit for sustainable use of resources and/or restoration of ecological connectivity at the landscape scale.</p>	<p>116 CSOs with strengthened capacities to participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>Out of the 105 networks strengthened, 20 were formed among public, private and civil society actors to facilitate synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies for the conservation and sustainable development of the Cerrado in support of the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>2,224,764 hectares of protected areas with new or strengthened biodiversity management and protection.</p> <p>32 land use plans and public policies influenced to accommodate biodiversity.</p> <p>719,867 hectares of production landscape scales with improved management to conserve biodiversity in priority corridors.</p> <p>6 critically endangered species targeted by conservation actions to improve their conservation status.</p> <p>246 organizations with direct benefits from sustainable use of biodiversity and/or ecological restoration at landscape scale.</p>



Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress as of June 2022
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Best practices in agriculture adopted in the priority corridors.</p> <p>US\$ 800,000</p>	<p>At least six sustainable technologies and production best practices in the agriculture sector identified and disseminated to ensure protection of biodiversity, maintenance of ecosystem services and food security.</p> <p>At least four financial incentives for sustainable land-sparing agricultural and livestock practices promoted among commodity chains in priority corridors.</p> <p>At least two consistent public policies (legislation, policies, programs, public-private partnerships, etc.) created or adjusted to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<p>44 technologies and best practices implemented in agriculture focused on biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services.</p> <p>1 financial mechanism to promote good practices in agriculture (coffee) within priority corridors.</p> <p>15 public policies created and adjusted to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Protected areas in the priority corridors expanded and the effectiveness of their management strengthened.</p> <p>US\$ 1,200,000</p>	<p>At least ten studies and analyses carried out to justify the creation or expansion of public protected areas in priority corridors and/or to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while valuing local and traditional culture within management plans of protected areas.</p> <p>Five protected areas located in the CEPF Priority KBAs with an integrated management plan designed and implemented.</p> <p>At least 10% of indigenous, <i>quilombola</i> and traditional community lands, located in the priority corridors, integrated in the planning and strategies for conservation and sustainable development at macro scale, respecting traditional knowledge and culture, as an alternative form of protection and management of lands outside of the official national system (SNUC).</p> <p>At least 50 new Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPN) established in priority KBAs.</p>	<p>20 studies and analyses to justify creation and/or expansion of protected areas.</p> <p>20 protected areas located in priority KBAs integrated into land management plans.</p> <p>75% (1,652,180 hectares) of indigenous lands, quilombolas, and traditional communities, located in the priority corridors, integrated into conservation planning and strategies.</p> <p>31 RPPNs were established throughout the Cerrado (Given the voluntary nature of the creation of these areas, it was agreed that it could be for the entire Cerrado).</p>

<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot promoted and strengthened.</p> <p>US\$ 1,800,000</p>	<p>At least ten markets and supply chains for sustainably harvested non-timber forest products developed or enabled with direct benefit for networks or groups of women and youth in particular.</p> <p>Innovations regarding seeds, seedlings and planting that result in greater efficiency and lower cost in ecological restoration activities demonstrated in at least ten sites, especially in Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves (LRs).</p> <p>Production capacity and management skills of 20 community-based businesses working with ecological restoration productive chain enhanced.</p> <p>One pilot network made of CSOs, academic institutions, businesses and governments supported to create synergies and provide socio-environmental benefits as incentives for ecosystem restoration and compliance with the Forest Law.</p> <p>At least two public policies (legislation, regional strategic plans, etc.) created or adjusted to promote ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<p>77 markets for non-timber forest products strengthened in management and management, with benefits for young people and women.</p> <p>26 areas with demonstration of innovations in restoration in APP and legal reserve areas.</p> <p>32 grassroots community-based businesses strengthened to work in the restoration chain.</p> <p>6 networks to create synergies and promote restoration benefits, as a function of the Forest Code.</p> <p>9 public policies created and adjusted for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 4:</b> Protection of priority threatened species and their habitats increased.</p> <p>US\$ 700,000</p>	<p>Priority actions identified in National Action Plans, especially on habitat management and protection, implemented for at least five priority threatened species.</p>	<p>8 NAP actions implemented to improve conservation status.</p>

<p><b>Outcome 5:</b> Decision-making processes in the hotspot improved thanks to better access to monitoring data.</p> <p>US\$ 500,000</p>	<p>At least one partnership successfully leverages resources for the implementation of a joint long-term dissemination program on native vegetation cover and dynamics of land uses in the hotspot in order to support different stakeholders for planning and decision making.</p> <p>At least four action plans based on shared data and experiences for better water quantity and quality developed and made available to relevant stakeholders to improve watershed management.</p>	<p>25 long-term partnerships to leverage resources and disseminate data on native vegetation cover to guide decision makers.</p> <p>115 action plans for assessment of water resources to support water resources discussion forums.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 6:</b> Strengthened capacity of civil society organizations to influence better management of territories and of natural resources and support other investment priorities in the hotspot.</p> <p>US\$ 2,000,000</p>	<p>At least five networks and/or alliances of CSOs strengthened, with enhanced skills to participate in relevant forums.</p> <p>At least 100 members of governance bodies and councils (national councils, watershed committees, protected areas management boards, Citizenship Territories, state/municipal councils, etc.) with strengthened capacity to participate in and influence forums related to the conservation and sustainable use of the Cerrado.</p> <p>At least 40 CSOs with developed and strengthened institutional and technical skills (environment, conservation strategy and planning, management, policy advocacy, fundraising and reporting, regulatory frameworks, etc.) to function effectively and participate in relevant conservation and management actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least two multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) that involve the private sector (global commodity chains), small farmers, traditional communities, governments and donors promoted to identify synergies and to catalyze integrated actions and policies for the conservation and sustainable development of the Cerrado.</p> <p>At least 20 publications (books, manuals, technical reports, websites, etc.) or awareness raising actions (broadcasting spots, public campaigns and media outreach) on the Cerrado biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas, restoration, sustainable practices and climate resilience and civil society participation published.</p> <p>At least one tri-national initiatives to raise awareness for protection and management of Cerrado KBAs in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay launched</p>	<p>Out of 105 networks strengthened, 17 networks and alliances of CSOs were strengthened to influence and participate in forums.</p> <p>895 members of governance bodies and councils strengthened in their ability to participate and influence forums related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>260 CSOs strengthened in technical and institutional skills to participate in discussion spaces regarding conservation and management of the Cerrado guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>4 MSI promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of participatory GIS in basin committees in the state of Mato Grosso;</li> <li>- Free Babassu Consortium in the state of Maranhão;</li> <li>- Implementation of the "Social Participation" application in the Sepotuba river basin committee – Mato Grosso;</li> <li>- Use of equipment and knowledge in the context of SWAT modeling for the development of the Cuiabá River Basin Plan – Mato Grosso.</li> </ul> <p>503 publications on the Cerrado biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas, restoration, sustainable practices and climate resilience and civil society participation published.</p> <p>0 tri-national initiatives to raise awareness for protection and management of Cerrado KBAs in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay were launched.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 7:</b> A Regional Implementation Team (RIT) provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Cerrado Hotspot.</p> <p>US\$ 1,000,000</p>	<p>At least 60 CSOs, including at least 40 local and indigenous organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>At least 85 percent of local CSOs receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity in managing the resources according to CEPF and government rules, in achieving goals and objectives and in learning to mobilize further resources.</p> <p>Funding leveraged from other donors toward the priorities set in the ecosystem profile bring an additional investment in the Cerrado Hotspot of at least US\$2 million.</p> <p>At least two participatory assessments are undertaken and lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot are documented.</p>	<p>55 CSOs, out of which 53 local and eight from indigenous groups, actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>56 percent of local CSOs receiving grants demonstrate more effective capacity in managing resources according to CEPF and government rules, in achieving goals and objectives, and in learning how to mobilize more resources.</p> <p>US\$2,757,385 leveraged by the RIT from other donors for the priorities set out in the ecosystem profile.</p> <p>2 participatory evaluations conducted, with lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot documented.</p>
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## 14.4 List of Contracted Grants

No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Amount	Start Date	End Date
1	ActionAid	<a href="#">Networking and Social Participation for Conservation of the Cerrado</a>	\$152,003	02/01/2019	7/31/2021
2	Ambiental 44 Informação e Projetos em Biodiversidade Ltda	<a href="#">Evaluating and Strengthening Municipal Conservation Units in the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$44,966	8/13/2018	12/20/2019
3	Associação dos Pequenos Produtores Rurais Quilombolas de Onça e Adjacências	Strengthening of the Extractive Chain of fruits in the Cerrado and dissemination of good agricultural practices in the Peruaçu basin	\$0 <sup>4</sup>	3/26/2019	5/28/2019
4	Associação Hanaiti Yomomo – AHY	<a href="#">Nursery for Agroforestry Production at Brejão Indigenous Land, Brazil</a>	\$18,081	12/12/2017	08/11/2020
5	Associação Mineira de Defesa do Ambiente	<a href="#">Study of Expansion of Protected Areas in the Mosaic Sertão Veredas Peruaçu, Brazil</a>	\$100,427	06/01/2020	9/30/2021
6	Associação para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil	<a href="#">Saving the Blue-Eyed Ground-Dove and its Unique Cerrado Habitat</a>	\$122,133	10/01/2017	3/31/2020
7	Associação para a Gestão Socioambiental do Triângulo Mineiro	<a href="#">Proposal for the Creation of a Conservation Unit in Uberaba, Brazil</a>	\$40,832	5/28/2019	08/02/2021
8	Associação Quilombo Kalunga	<a href="#">Use Geoprocessing in the Management of the Kalunga Historic and Cultural Heritage Site</a>	\$355,195	06/01/2018	11/30/2021
9	Associação Rede Rio São Bartolomeu de Mútua Cooperação	<a href="#">Agroforestry Providing Ecosystem Services in Jardim Botânico Ecological Station, Brazil</a>	\$293,389	11/01/2017	11/30/2021
10	Associação Xavante de Etenhiritipá	<a href="#">Cerrado Island in Central Brazil: Xavante Governance for Conservation</a>	\$8,403	6/24/2019	11/20/2020
11	Centro de Agricultura Alternativa do Norte de Minas	<a href="#">Preserving the Cerrado of North Minas Gerais State in Brazil Through Sustainable Management of Traditional Territories</a>	\$149,250	04/01/2020	9/30/2021
12	Centro de desenvolvimento agroecológico do Cerrado	<a href="#">Strengthen Socio-Bioproduction Chains in Network Based on the Sustainable Use of the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$167,250	07/01/2018	7/31/2021

<sup>4</sup> This project was not implemented and got terminated before starting because there were problems related to the internal management of resources in which there was no internal dialogue within the organization.

No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Amount	Start Date	End Date
13	Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	<a href="#">Poke'ixa ũti: Gestating and Protecting our Territory for the Autonomy of the Terena People</a>	\$46,789	7/25/2019	06/01/2021
14	Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	<a href="#">Articulation of Timbira People for the Implementation of the National Policy on Environmental and Territorial Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI) in Brazil</a>	\$193,376	01/01/2019	7/31/2021
15	Conservação Estratégica	<a href="#">Environmental Reserve Quotas (Portuguese acronym: CRA) implementation in Maranhão and opportunities in Goiás and Tocantins states</a>	\$104,103	08/01/2017	9/30/2018
16	Cooperativa Agropecuária dos Produtores Familiares de Niquelândia	<a href="#">Food Products from the Forests in the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$78,950	02/01/2018	5/31/2021
17	Cooperativa Central do Cerrado	<a href="#">Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Babassu Palm, Maranhão and Tocantins States, Brazil</a>	\$97,731	03/01/2021	1/31/2022
18	Cooperativa de Agricultura Familiar Sustentável com Base na Economia Solidária	<a href="#">Sustainable Agroextractivist Production Practices as Incentive for Biodiversity Conservation in the Uruçuaia River Basin, Brazil</a>	\$257,456	04/01/2018	9/30/2021
19	Cooperativa de Trabalho e Serviços Técnicos – COOSERT	<a href="#">Strengthen the Cerrado Biodiversity in Land Reform Settlement Areas, Brazil</a>	\$19,056	03/08/2018	1/31/2020
20	Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão Ltda. – CGS	<a href="#">Buriti, a Palm Tree to Generate Income for Youth and Women as Incentive to Conserve Cerrado</a>	\$20,156	2/28/2018	9/30/2018
21	Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão Ltda. – CGS	<a href="#">Grande Sertão – Extractivism, Conservation and Income Generation in the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$49,729	5/22/2020	10/11/2021
22	ECOIA – Ecologia e Ação	<a href="#">Miranda-Bodoquena Corridor: Filling Socioenvironmental Gaps in Brazil</a>	\$35,695	11/07/2017	12/04/2020
23	Fato Relevante	<a href="#">CEPF Cerrado Communication, Brazil</a>	\$47,427	02/10/2021	9/30/2021
24	Finatec	<a href="#">Interactive Technologies Applied to Environmental Restoration in Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$62,738	01/01/2020	8/31/2021
25	Fundação Arthur Bernardes – FUNARBE	<a href="#">Mapping Isolated Trees and the Potential of Natural Regeneration in Cultivated Pastures of the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$48,905	10/05/2018	09/02/2021

No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Amount	Start Date	End Date
26	Fundação Coordenação de Projetos, Pesquisas e Estudos Tecnológicos – COPPETEC	<a href="#">Research and Develop a Daily Alert System of Burned Areas for the Cerrado</a>	\$38,571	04/06/2021	9/20/2021
27	Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa da Universidade Federal de Goiás	<a href="#">Cerrado Knowledge Platform, Brazil</a>	\$132,090	06/01/2018	5/31/2021
28	Fundação de Apoio e Desenvolvimento da Universidade de Mato Grosso – Fundação Uniselva	<a href="#">Mapping Water Resources in the Chapada dos Guimarães Corridor, Brazil</a>	\$43,298	11/26/2018	7/21/2021
29	Fundação de Apoio e Desenvolvimento da Universidade de Mato Grosso – Fundação Uniselva	<a href="#">Multiscale Water Quality Monitoring in the São Lourenço River Basin, Brazil</a>	\$183,002	07/01/2019	8/31/2021
30	Fundação de Desenvolvimento do Cerrado Mineiro – FUNDACCER	<a href="#">Reward Program for Conscious Producers – Restoring Ecosystem Services in the Cerrado</a>	\$410,032	05/01/2019	11/30/2021
31	Fundação de Empreendimentos Científicos e Tecnológicos – FINATEC	<a href="#">Agricultural Frontier and Nature: Visions and Conflicts in the Nascentes do Rio Parnaíba National Park, Brazil</a>	\$15,858	9/20/2018	1/13/2020
32	Fundação Escola Politécnica da Bahia – FEP	<a href="#">Productive Backyards, Agroecology and Food Security in the Guará River Valley, Brazil</a>	\$34,274	8/16/2018	06/08/2021
33	Fundação Neotrópica Do Brasil	<a href="#">Union of the Municipal Councils of the Environment (COMDEMAS): Mobilize Actors in Miranda-Bodoquena Corridor, Brazil</a>	\$165,877	01/01/2018	7/31/2021
34	Fundação Pró Natureza – Funatura	<a href="#">Mosaic of Conservation Units in Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu</a>	\$199,820	07/01/2017	9/30/2019
35	Fundação Pró Natureza – Funatura	<a href="#">Private Reserves in the Cerrado</a>	\$262,980	09/01/2019	11/30/2021
36	Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	<a href="#">Innovate in Cerrado Supply-Chain through Municipal-scale Planning, Policy and Capacity Building, Brazil</a>	\$281,870	07/01/2017	3/31/2020
37	Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	<a href="#">Strengthening the Integrated Territorial Management for Protected Areas of the Mosaic Sertão Veredas Peruaçu, Brazil</a>	\$185,702	07/01/2017	2/28/2021
38	Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	<a href="#">Establishing a Network to Safeguard Brazilian Cerrado Protected Areas</a>	\$117,939	02/01/2020	9/30/2021



No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Amount	Start Date	End Date
39	Greentec Consultoria e Planejamento Agroflorestal e do Meio Ambiente S/S	<a href="#">Technical Support to Conduct a Participatory Process to Formulate the Proposal to Increase the Limits of the Cerrado Biosphere Reserve, Brazil</a>	\$10,783	08/01/2018	10/15/2018
40	IMAFLOA – Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola	<a href="#">Cerrado Waters Consortium: A Network for Ecosystem Services Provisioning and Agricultural Sustainability</a>	\$187,563	07/01/2017	12/31/2019
41	Impact Hub Brasilia	<a href="#">Accelerate the Conservation of the Cerrado: Program for Strengthening Civil Society Organizations</a>	\$99,658	03/01/2021	2/28/2022
42	Instituto Amada Terra de Inclusão Social – IAT	<a href="#">Avoid Extinction of Brazilian Merganser within the Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunqa Corridor, Brazil</a>	\$206,832	01/01/2018	6/30/2020
43	Instituto Araguaia	<a href="#">Conservation of Reticulate Leaf Frog, Related Species and Their Ecosystems in Brazil</a>	\$46,296	6/13/2019	5/21/2021
44	Instituto Ariramba de Conservação da Natureza – ARIRAMBA	<a href="#">Reintroducing the Bicudo in Key Areas for Conservation in the Cerrado, Brazil</a>	\$27,061	12/12/2017	06/01/2021
45	Instituto Cerrados	<a href="#">Cerrado Links</a>	\$32,010	07/03/2020	12/01/2020
46	Instituto Claravis	<a href="#">An Integrative Approach for Advancing Conservation of Threatened Species of the Brazilian Cerrado</a>	\$100,908	07/01/2021	1/31/2022
47	Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia – IPAM	<a href="#">Developing a Working Plan to Integrate Spatial Information and Monitoring Tools for the Cerrado Sociobiodiversity to Promote Stakeholder Engagement in the Landscape Management Process</a>	\$5,032	07/03/2017	2/23/2018
48	Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia – IPAM	<a href="#">Mapping Marginalized Traditional Communities to Support Cerrado Conservation in Brazil</a>	\$296,239	07/01/2018	4/30/2021
49	Instituto Ekos Brasil	<a href="#">Accelerating Sustainable Tourism in the Environmental Protection Area and Peruacu Caves National Park, Brazil</a>	\$121,079	04/01/2020	8/31/2021
50	Instituto Jurumi para Conservação da Natureza – IJCN	<a href="#">Ecology and Recovery of Microendemic Cactus in Brazil</a>	\$36,793	01/09/2019	10/11/2021
51	Instituto Oca Brasil	<a href="#">Coordinate and Elaborate the Integrated Working Plan Between Oca Institute and CI-Brazil</a>	\$208	6/27/2017	7/31/2017

No.	Grantee	Project Title and Link to CEPF Website	Amount	Start Date	End Date
52	Instituto Oca Brasil	<a href="#">Creation and Integrated Implementation of Federal Private Reserves in the Chapada dos Veadeiros Region, Brazil</a>	\$110,784	09/01/2018	7/31/2021
53	Instituto para o Desenvolvimento Social e Ecológico - IDESE	<a href="#">Integrating the Traditional Cajueiro Community in the Conservation of Protected Areas in Januária, Brazil</a>	\$34,939	6/13/2019	11/16/2021
54	INSTITUTO SOCIEDADE POPULAÇÃO E NATUREZA ISPN	<a href="#">Activism to Enhance Conservation of the Cerrado in Western Bahia, Brazil</a>	\$259,686	09/01/2018	8/31/2021
55	Instituto Terra em Desenvolvimento - ITD	<a href="#">Strategic Communication for the Seminar "Strategy to Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Cerrado Biome Natural Resources"</a>	\$4,792	05/01/2018	10/16/2018
56	Mongabay Org Corporation	<a href="#">Disseminating Information About Cerrado Hotspot Conservation Models and Threats</a>	\$71,290	02/01/2020	3/31/2021
57	Pesquisa e Conservação do Cerrado - PEQUI	<a href="#">Knowledge Dialogue About Fire Management in Jalapão</a>	\$1,949	11/14/2017	11/10/2019
58	Rede Cerrado	<a href="#">A Strengthened Network for the Conservation of Cerrado</a>	\$224,578	07/01/2017	1/31/2020
59	Rede de Sementes do Cerrado - RSC	<a href="#">Capacity Building in Ecological Restoration in the Cerrado: Diagnosis, Methodologies and Monitoring, Brazil</a>	\$20,171	12/12/2017	10/30/2019
60	Rede de Sementes do Cerrado - RSC	<a href="#">Seed and Restoration Market: Providing Environmental Services and Biodiversity, Brazil</a>	\$283,232	01/01/2018	8/31/2021
61	Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres - RENCITAS	<a href="#">I FENACO: First Forum of Environmental Organizations of West-Central Brazil</a>	\$47,511	7/26/2018	1/16/2019
62	Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Riacho dos Machados	<a href="#">Taking Care of the Cerrado and Promoting Life</a>	\$45,023	07/09/2019	7/26/2021
63	Sociedade de Amigos da Fundação Zoo-Botânica de Belo Horizonte - SAFZB-BH	<a href="#">Management and Protection of the Faveiro-de-Wilson Tree</a>	\$18,633	11/22/2017	3/31/2021
64	Working	<a href="#">Study of Collaborative Networks: Strengthening the Baru Sustainable Productive Chain in Brazil</a>	\$37,316	09/08/2020	7/15/2021

## 14.5 CEPF Investment in the Cerrado Hotspot, 2016-2022

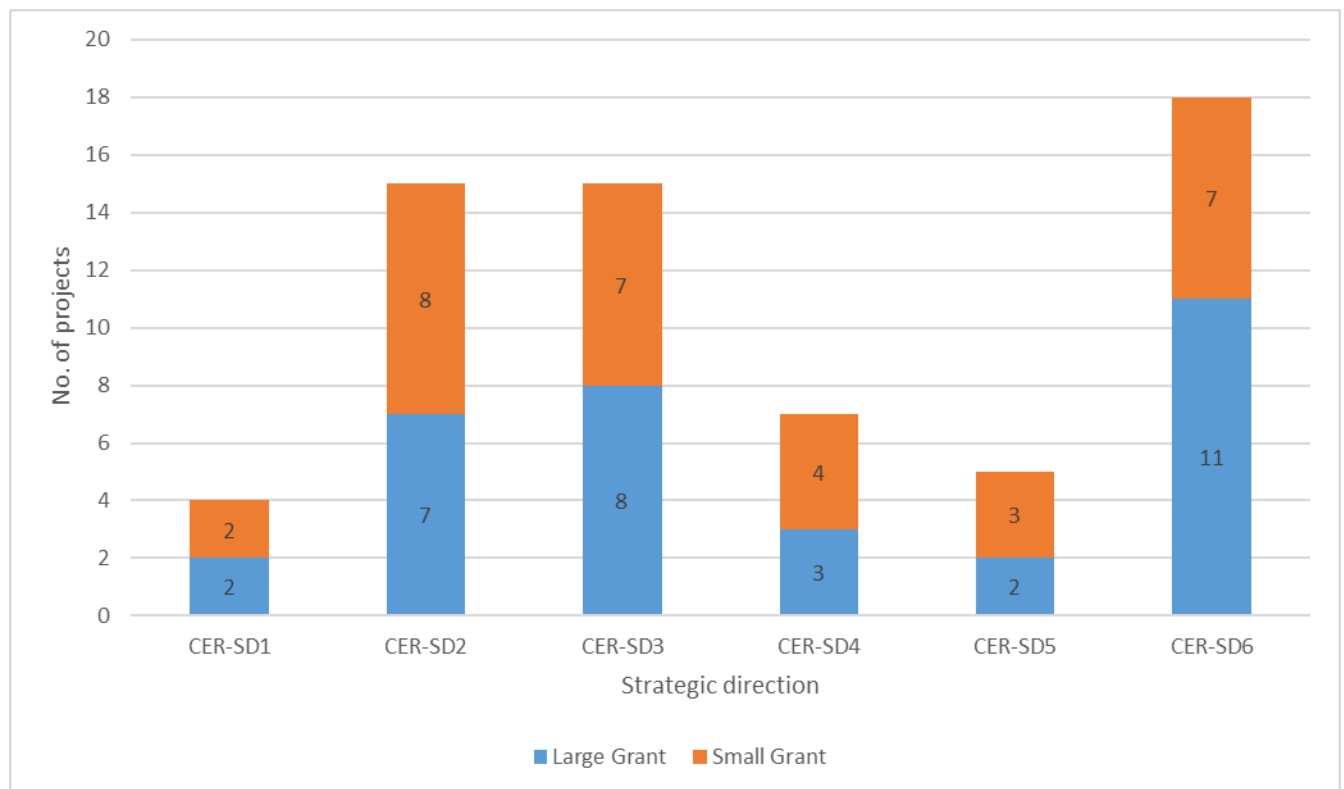


Figure 7: Distribution of small versus large grant projects per strategic direction.

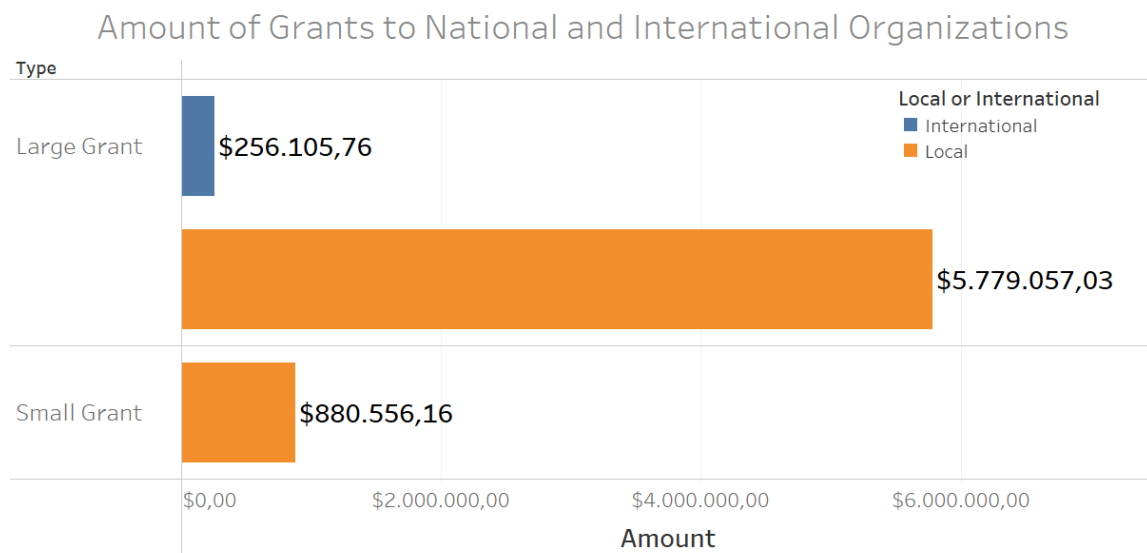


Figure 8: Amount of small and large grants to national versus international organizations.

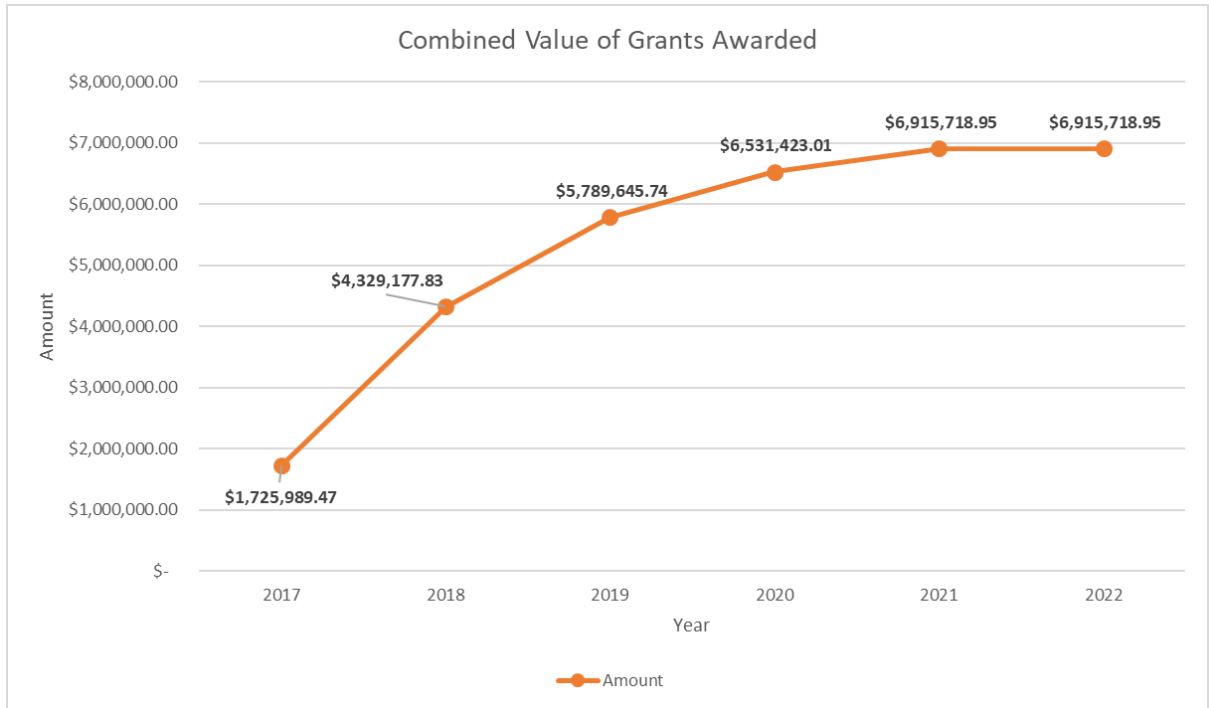


Figure 9: Combined value of grants awarded over time.

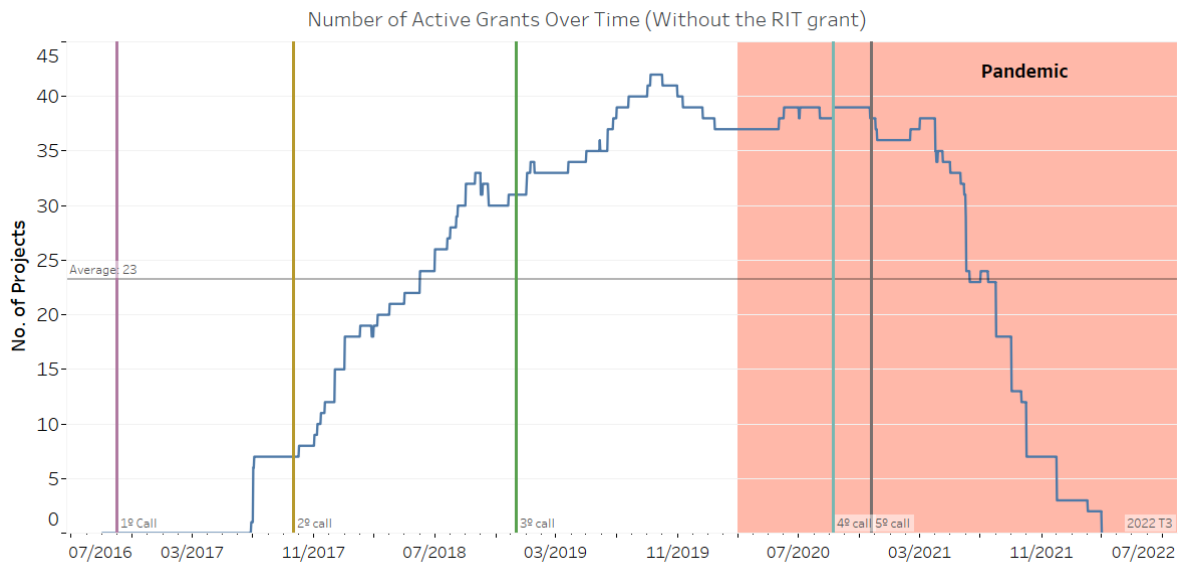


Figure 10: Number of active grants over time.

## 14.6 Leveraging Data for the Hotspot

Grantee	Project Title	CEPF Funds Awarded (US\$)	Leveraged and Co-Financing Funds (US\$)
Cooperativa Agropecuária dos Produtores Familiares de Niquelândia	Food Products from the Forests in the Cerrado, Brazil	78,950.00	18,000.00
Associação para a Conservação das Aves do Brasil	Saving the Blue-eyed Ground-dove and its Unique Cerrado Habitat	122,133.38	419,255.00
Instituto Amada Terra de Inclusão Social – IAT	Avoid extinction of Brazilian merganser at Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunga Corridor, Brasil	206,832.18	15,300.00
IMAFLOTA – Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola	Cerrado Waters Consortium: A Network for Ecosystem Services Provisioning and Agricultural Sustainability	187,562.77	380,000.00
Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	Fortalecimento da Gestão Territorial Integral Nas Áreas Especialmente Protegidas do Mosaico Sertão Veredas Peruaçu	185,702.36	1,109,310.00
Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	Cerrado Supply-Chain Innovation through Municipal-scale Planning, Policy and Capacity Building	281,870.49	21,641.00
Rede Cerrado	Rede fortalecida, Cerrado conservado (REFORCE)	224,577.68	50,520.00
Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa da Universidade Federal de Goiás	Cerrado Knowledge Platform	132,089.96	96,500.00
INSTITUTO SOCIEDADE POPULAÇÃO E NATUREZA ISPN	Activism to enhance conservation of the Cerrado in western Bahia, Brazil	259,685.53	280,792.00
Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia – IPAM	Mapping Marginalized Traditional Communities to support Cerrado Conservation in Brazil	296,238.67	470,000.00
Instituto Cerrados	Elos do Cerrado	32,010.15	7,000.00
Cooperativa dos Agricultores Familiares e Agroextrativistas Grande Sertão Ltda. – CGS	Grande Sertão Extrativismo, Conservação e Renda	49,729.24	10,000.00
Sindicato dos Trabalhadores Rurais de Riacho dos Machados	Cuidando do Cerrado e Promover a Vida	45,023.07	2,000.00

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>CEPF Funds Awarded (US\$)</b>	<b>Leveraged and Co-Financing Funds (US\$)</b>
Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	Timbira peoples' articulation for the implementation of PNGATI – Brazil	193,376.17	13,500.00
Associação para a Gestão Socioambiental do Triângulo Mineiro	Proposta de Criação de Unidade de Conservação no município de Uberaba (MG)	40,831.59	405.00
Instituto Jurumi para Conservação da Natureza – IJCN	Ecologia e recuperação de Uebelmannia buiningii Donald (Cactaceae)	36,793.03	42,738.00
Fundação de Apoio e Desenvolvimento da Universidade de Mato Grosso – Fundação Uniselva	Mapping Water Resources in the Chapada dos Guimarães Corridor	43,298.30	15,000.00
Fundação Arthur Bernardes – FUNARBE	Mapping isolated trees and the potential of natural regeneration in cultivated pastures of the Cerrado.	48,904.69	266,000.00
Instituto Ariramba de Conservação da Natureza – ARIRAMBA	Reintrodução do Bicudo em Áreas-Chave para a Conservação do Cerrado	27,061.25	37,205.00
Sociedade de Amigos da Fundação Zoo-Botânica de Belo Horizonte – SAFZB-BH	Manejo e Proteção do faveiro-de-Wilson ( <i>Dimorphandra wilsonii</i> )	18,633.30	25,256.00
ECOIA – Ecologia e Ação	Corredor Miranda-Bodoquena: preenchendo lacunas socioambientais	35,695.29	35,341.00
Cooperativa de Agricultura Familiar Sustentável com Base na Economia Solidária	Sustainable Agroextractivist Production Practices as Incentive for Biodiversity Conservation in the Uruçuaia River Basin, Brazil	257,455.85	185,000
Fundo Mundial para a Natureza	Establishing a Network to Safeguard Brazilian Cerrado Protected Areas	117,938.78	220,000
Rede de Sementes do Cerrado – RSC	Mercado de Sementes e Restauração: Provendo Serviços Ambientais e Biodiversidade	283,231.69	84,313
Associação Rede Rio São Bartolomeu de Mútua Cooperação	Agroflorestas Prestadoras de Serviços Ecossistêmicos	293,389.38	33,000
Associação Quilombo Kalunga	Use Geoprocessing in the Management of the Historic Site and Kalunga Cultural Heritage	355,195.35	615,075

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>CEPF Funds Awarded (US\$)</b>	<b>Leveraged and Co-Financing Funds (US\$)</b>
ActionAid	Networking and Social Participation for Conservation of the Cerrado	152,002.73	199,284
Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	Poke?exa ũti: gestando e protegendo nosso territ3rio para autonomia do povo Terena	46,788.59	449,203
Fundacao de Desenvolvimento do Cerrado Mineiro – FUNDACCER	Reward Program for Conscious Producers – Restoring Ecosystem Services in the Cerrado	410,035.39	301,000
Cooperativa Central do Cerrado	Cons3rcio de Conserva3o e Uso Sustent3vel Babaçu Livre – Free Babaçu	97,731.00	86,500
Impact Hub Brasilia	Acelera Cerrado: Programa de fortalecimento de OSC para conserva3o	99,657.72	52,696
Centro de Desenvolvimento Agroecol3gico do Cerrado	Fortalecer Cadeias Sociobioprodutivas em Rede Baseadas no uso Sustentavel do Cerrado	167,398.26	39,000
IEB – Instituto Internacional de Educa3o do Brasil – RIT Cerrado		1,059,758.36	2,757,385
Other 32 grantees combined		2,087,895.11	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7,975,477.31</b>	<b>8,338,219.00</b>

## 14.7 Progress toward Long-term Goals for CEPF in the Hotspot (Goal 1 - 5)

Collective Civil Society Assessment Tool Worksheet							
Criterion	Scores			Notes			
	Baseline 2017	Mid-term (2019)	Final (2022)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final	
<b>i. Human Resources</b> Local and national civil society groups collectively possess technical competencies of critical importance to conservation.	Not met = 0	Not met = 0	Not met = 0	The diversity of the CS in a region of 2MM km <sup>2</sup> is just too big for this tool to capture some of the challenges in working in areas so different like the Mirador-Mesas Corridor and the Cerrado in the São Paulo and the south of the Minas Gerais State. This is why the baseline is scored as “partially met” in criterion I,II, III. We will find different institutions with different levels of maturity, considering the human resources, strategic planning and partnerships.		Out of a total of 46 organizations, 31 (67%) have had their human resources stable or improved, as well as team skills strengthened, be it in staffing, administration, analysis capabilities, influence in decision making spaces.	Criterion (i) will be considered to have been partially met if knowledge and capacity within local CSOs is rated as satisfactory or above in at least 50% of the technical competencies considered as priorities in the hotspot.
	Partially met = 1	Partially met = 1	Partially met = 1				1
	Fully met = 2	Fully met = 2	Fully met = 2				



<p><b>ii. Management Systems and Strategic Planning</b> Local and national civil society groups collectively possess sufficient institutional and operational capacity and structures to raise funds for conservation and to ensure the efficient management of conservation projects and strategies.</p>	Not met = 0	1	Not met = 0	1	Not met = 0	2	<p>More than 90% of the priority KBAs had the participation of some organization, either in species management, mapping of peoples and communities, studies for the creation and management of protected areas, or strengthening the sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Criterion (ii) will be considered to have been partially met if at least 50% of CEPF priority KBAs have at least one local, national, or international CSO dedicated to their conservation with at least satisfactory institutional and operational capacity, as determined by the CEPF civil society tracking tool.</p>
	Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1			Fully met = 2

<p><b>iii. Partnerships</b> Effective mechanisms exist for conservation-focused civil society groups to work in partnership with one another, and through networks with local communities, governments, the private sector, donors, and other important stakeholders, in pursuit of common objectives.</p>	Not met = 0		Not met = 0		Not met = 0		<p>In almost all the KBAs, there were organizations with solid partnerships to implement conservation actions in the territory. There were government and private sector partnerships for environmental education in schools, protection and safety of traditional peoples and communities, management of protected areas via councils, and species protection.</p>	<p>Criterion (iii) will be considered to have been partially met if fully institutionalized and sustainable partnerships are dedicated to coordinating conservation and development actions among key stakeholder groups in at least 50% of CEPF priority KBAs.</p>
	Partially met = 1	1	Partially met = 1	1	Partially met = 1	2		<p>Criterion (iii) will be considered to have been fully met if fully institutionalized and sustainable partnerships are dedicated to coordinating conservation and development actions among key stakeholder groups in at least 90% of CEPF priority KBAs.</p>
	Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2			

<b>iv. Financial Resources</b> Local civil society organizations have access to long-term funding sources to maintain the conservation results achieved via CEPF grants and/or other initiatives, through access to new donor funds, conservation enterprises, memberships, endowments, and/or other funding mechanisms.	Not met = 0	0	Not met = 0	0	Not met = 0	0	Considering the criteria financial resources the reviewers agreed that none of the organizations have long terms funding secured.	There is a difficulty in measuring this indicator because it enters the realm of resources and projects approved by the organizations that worked in the priority KBAs.	Criterion (iv) will be considered to have been partially met if 50% of CEPF priority KBAs have access to stable and diversified long-term funding sources for conservation through support to local CSOs.
	Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1				Criterion (iv) will be considered to have been fully met if 90% of CEPF priority KBAs have access to stable and diversified long-term funding sources for conservation through support to local CSOs.
	Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2				
<b>v. Transboundary Cooperation</b> In multi-country hotspots, mechanisms exist for collaboration across political boundaries at site, corridor and/or national scales.	Not met = 0	0	Not met = 0	0	Not met = 0	0	Almost all the organizations don't work in a transboundary matter. Therefore, the criteria is also not met.	Almost all the organizations don't work in a transboundary matter. Therefore, the criteria is also not met.	Criterion (v) will be considered to have been partially met if effective mechanisms for transboundary collaboration exist in at least 50% of the countries in the hotspot.
	Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1		Partially met = 1				Criterion (v) will be considered to have been fully met if effective mechanisms for transboundary collaboration exist in at least 90% of the countries in the hotspot.
	Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2		Fully met = 2				
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>			

## 14.8 Final Assessment Additional Findings

**Potential Collaboration Opportunities:** Taking into consideration the current and near-term work of donors, the following opportunities for collaboration were highlighted by the participants.

- Consider criteria for strategically determining priority areas for restoration, reforestation and legal reserves. Then, foster alignment of companies to act in those areas.
- Identify priority geographies (perhaps based on ecosystem services), building on the work already done by CEPF in determining priority areas: find case studies that locate farms that are part of the supply chains and design specific corridors with them.
- Coordinate on “zero deforestation” approach (could be tied to priority geographies)
- Consider investments that can accelerate implementation of the Environmental Reserve Quotas (Portuguese acronym: CRA) market: Partnership4Forests (P4F) or other donors could play an incubator role.
- Opportunities for local communities to develop businesses and markets for local products: possible coordination between CEPF and P4F.
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF)’s and GEF both support work on streams, which is also complemented by GEF work with producers in MATOPIBA. This is an opportunity for increased discussion and coordination.
- P4F could serve as a catalyzer by funding innovative business models for sustainable NTFP productions to scale up. Possible connection to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as well.
- The World Bank and KfW are already working on the Rural Environmental Cadaster (CAR). Other donors working on this topic should coordinate with them.
- Collaboration with CLUA on mapping efforts focused on invisible communities should also be building on the work supported by CEPF.
- Coordinate and leverage existing on-the-ground resources: IFC does not have a physical presence or office in Brazil and could potentially benefit from collaboration with CLUA.
- Strengthen information sharing and exchange:
  - The GMBF will share information about the Collaboration for Forests and Agriculture (CFA) meetings and discussions;
  - Consider creating a knowledge-sharing hub. This could either leverage an existing platform, such as the GEF website, GBMF microsite, or the Cerrado Knowledge Platform of LAPIG supported by CEPF;
- Consider opportunities for complementary investments and avoiding duplication:
  - GBFM and IFC goals could be aligned (e.g., how do they both consider “zero deforestation” in their work?)
  - CEPF seems to have flexibility in decision-making within its strategy. It could consider opportunities for assuring its investments complement others.
- Opportunity to engage on production activities: look at examples from the Amazon with work supporting community groups in advancing sustainable enterprises to understand what it takes to invest and find financial vehicles.
- CEPF could be working on bridging the gap between small grants approach and the commercial markets.
- Explore how priority landscapes are linked to Protected Areas (PAs): map where it makes sense to test pilots strategically in collaboration with Dedicated Grants Mechanism (DGM) for Indigenous People and Local Communities.

- Knowledge sharing, including integrating lessons learned from the Amazon.
- Explore aggregation models similar to those being explored by Claire Mondial (Swiss-based firm) and CDC.

**Highlights of CEPF's approach:** Taking into consideration the investment of CEPF, the following highlights were flagged by the participants.

- Systematic follow-up with prompt support on eventual relocations and route changes. Openness to changes and adaptations.
- Gave increasing visibility to actions in the Cerrado with support to large organizations and also to small ones.
- Good communication with grassroot organizations.
- Synergy between the projects. Establishment of partnerships.
- Digital tools.
- Positive image as a fund supporting critical biomes, well accepted by the academic community and the targeted social groups.
- Engagement of traditional peoples and communities.
- Restoration of degraded environments.
- Conservation Units and protected areas.
- Gender.
- Income generation.
- Empowerment of people and capacity building of entities.

**Suggested improvements for CEPF:** Taking into consideration the investment of CEPF, the following recommendations were flagged by the participants.

- Maintenance, continuity and consolidation of the work in Brazil.
- Longer investment time for transformation of reality (restoration). Longer-term projects, including the timeframe of CEPF in the Cerrado, which could be at least 10 years.
- Increase the RIT/CEPF team size.
- Simplification of administrative processes – bureaucracy.
- Important investment in the construction of the territorial and environmental management plans, but the need to invest in the actual implementation remains.
- Promotion of events to follow up on the work.
- A simpler and more user-friendly registration platform.
- Clearer initial training on operational and financial processes, especially for the receipt of resources, accountability with exchange rate variations.
- New calls for proposals focused on biodiversity and the creation of protected areas.

**Which themes and/or territories of the Cerrado need more attention?**

- Environmental and land regularization processes in the Cerrado.
- Bringing market technologies to the conservation of the Cerrado.
- Strengthening the socio-biodiversity economy.
- Territory: MATOPIBA.
- Climate change.
- Pesticide use by traditional communities.
- Strengthening of Social Organizations and Community Representatives of Communities (political and management).

- Integration between UN conventions on climate change and biodiversity. Include the entire territory of the Cerrado.
- Advance of deforestation/land grabbing over territories under the domain of the Traditional Peoples and Communities and Family Farmers (PCTAF).
- Instruments for strengthening the rights of the PCTAF – social protection networks.
- Keeping Cerrado peoples and communities alive.
- Inclusive restoration.
- Protection of waters: Territories with more relevant Veredas, springs, recharge areas.
- Strengthening sustainable extractive cooperatives.
- Protection of the most significant remnants of native vegetation.
- Enhancement of environmental education and research for better training of people and better use of natural resources, respectively.
- Territories: Urucuia Grande Sertão, Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba.

#### **Future plans of the participating organizations:**

- Continue with ongoing networks, work for the restoration and protection of the Cerrado.
- Work on engaging society in its participation in the decision-making process for conservation.
- Continue studies and training of actors for the conservation of key areas in the Cerrado involving various areas of knowledge.
- Provide sustainability in the long term.
- Work on biodiversity in an integrated way.
- Advance in regulatory frameworks that establish a network of protection to Traditional Peoples and Communities and Family Farmers and their territories.
- Valorize native seed.
- Strengthen strategies for the creation of protected natural areas (PNAs) and strategies to stimulate the maintenance of PNAs.
- Decade of Restoration and Climate Change (COP-26).
- Continue synergies for the creation and management of public and private Conservation Units (UCs).
- Improve monitoring and governance methodologies; expand projects focused on ecological and forest restoration, especially with efficient techniques to measure these gains.
- Continue planting and working to secure the territories and their populations.
- Maintain transparent management and governance in the Urucuia Grande Sertão region to promote sustainable productive chains.
- Restore watersheds in the Cerrado Mineiro region.
- Search for ways to encourage farmers to implement resilient agriculture strategies.
- Protect endangered species of the Cerrado.
- Take the products of the socio-biodiversity from the Sertão Mineiro to national and international markets.

## 14.9 Reporting against Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The following table shows the contributions of the CEPF grant portfolio in the Cerrado Hotspot towards the targets of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, also known as the Aichi Targets.

Goal / Target	Contribution
<b>Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</b>	
<p><b>Target 1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably</p>	<p>More than 500 communication pieces were published on biodiversity, and strategies, studies, and actions for increased conservation and connectivity in the Cerrado. Twenty studies and analyses were conducted to justify the creation or expansion of public protected areas. Several trainings were offered seeking to raise awareness about endangered species through environmental education, with presentations in schools for children using play materials for the Brazilian merganser and also the micro-endemic cactus (<i>U. buiningii</i>). In other traditional communities, including the Quilomba Kalunga, other endemic and / or rare species were put under the spotlight to highlight the issue of hunting and predation, seeking to preserve them in their natural habitat, and exploring observation tourism.</p>
<p><b>Target 2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems</p>	<p>Biodiversity considerations were integrated into 28 management plans and public policies.</p>
<p><b>Target 3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions</p>	<p>The coffee production supply chain has been strengthened through the implementation of good practices that take into consideration the conservation of biodiversity and water resources. With the implementation of the Investment Program in the Conscious Producer, 114 Individual Property Plans were prepared, of which 27 were for climate-smart agriculture, with 22 strategies, and 87 were for landscape restoration, with 15 strategies. The incentive directly supported these producers, through restoration, implementation of approaches in the field, technical support in production and technical innovations to increase productivity always taking into consideration environmental aspects such as water resources so important for irrigation and human supply. The techniques developed on 447 hectares are now being implemented in three additional municipalities (about 433 hectares).</p>

<p><b>Target 4.</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits</p>	<p>At least three pilot models for biodiversity-friendly production were established by CEPF grantees, comprising one model for climate-smart coffee production, one for good management practices of the babaçu nut production, and one for the fair and sustainable supply of baru nuts. These latter two supply chains were supported, along with 21 others for Cerrado fruits, to promote biodiversity conservation, and generating income for traditional peoples and communities. 20 private companies, out of which five cooperatives, have incorporated biodiversity-friendly practices.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</b></p>	
<p><b>Target 5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced</p>	<p>Management of biodiversity in 4,104,781 hectares within KBAs was strengthened.</p>
<p><b>Target 6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits</p>	<p>The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.</p>
<p><b>Target 7.</b> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity</p>	<p>Management of biodiversity was strengthened within 1,549,155 hectares of production landscapes, including from biodiversity management in extractivism, coffee production with innovations and low-cost technologies and recovery of deforested areas, mapping and monitoring of areas for integrated fire management, and also landscape monitoring systems to track soil dynamics and combat illegal deforestation.</p>
<p><b>Target 8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity</p>	<p>The CEPF grant portfolio did not measure directly to this target.</p>
<p><b>Target 9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment</p>	<p>The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.</p>



<p><b>Target 10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning</p>	<p>The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</b></p>	
<p><b>Target 11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes</p>	<p>104,590 hectares of terrestrial habitats were afforded protection through the creation of 35 new protected areas, including Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs), as well as conventional, government-managed protected areas (at municipal and state levels).</p>
<p><b>Target 12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained</p>	<p>A total of six globally endangered species were supported (three birds, two plants and one reptile). The birds' populations were supported with the ex-situ reproduction and adaptation of individuals in captivity for reintroduction in the wild to increase the population in locations where the species occur. A protected area was created to protect the natural habitat of one of them which was thought to be extinct in the wild, but for which 25 individuals were found and monitored. The plants had their occurrences mapped and monitored, and environmental education was promoted in schools and traditional communities for their protection and conservation. This led to the prospective improvement of the conservation status of one of them from CR (Critically Endangered) to EN (Endangered) on the IUCN Red List. The reptile population was supported with the identification of occurrences, seeking to promote modeling and implementation of the National Action Plan for the species.</p>
<p><b>Target 13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.</p>

<b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>	
<b>Target 14.</b> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable	Restoration and protection actions have been promoted in Permanent Protection Areas bordering water bodies to ensure quality, quantity and natural course. 92 hectares were restored with native vegetation. By supporting and strengthening the Cerrado native seed supply chain to meet restoration requirements, at least 11 communities were brought together as seed collectors, representing a total of 313 women and 347 men More than 118 families received additional income from the commercialization of native seeds.
<b>Target 15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification	A total of 100 KBAs (4,104,781 hectares) had their management improved through the creation of protected areas, restoration, climate-smart coffee production, and monitoring of fires. However, the contribution of these projects to avoided greenhouse gas emissions was not systematically assessed.
<b>Target 16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation	The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.
<b>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building</b>	
<b>Target 17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan	The CEPF grant portfolio did not contribute directly to this target.
<b>Target 18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels	More than 1.5 million hectares of indigenous and local peoples and traditional communities were included in strategies to value their habits and traditions. The ICCAS (UNDP), which are territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by custodian indigenous peoples and local communities, were encouraged in the hotspot and two were created. There was mapping of communities for the inclusion of data in government databases for the implementation of public social and environmental policies in these territories.

<p><b>Target 19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied</p>	<p>The Cerrado Knowledge Platform was created, which gathers environmental data and information on the Cerrado, to give visibility and transparency to the information generated by the projects in the portfolio, as well as other stakeholders. It aggregates all the environmental data of the hotspot in a single place, in order to favor informed and conscious decision-making by environmental managers, civil society organizations, government and private sectors representatives alike,</p>
<p><b>Target 20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties</p>	<p>65 grants were awarded to civil society organizations, for a total investment of \$7.9 million. These grants leveraged a further \$8.3 million in co-financing, including in-kind support.</p>