



Impact Report 2001-2021
Annual Report 2021

CRITICAL | ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

Protecting Biodiversity by Empowering People

First Things First: Protect What Remains Intact



Julia Marton-Lefèvre ■
© Geoffrey Doucet

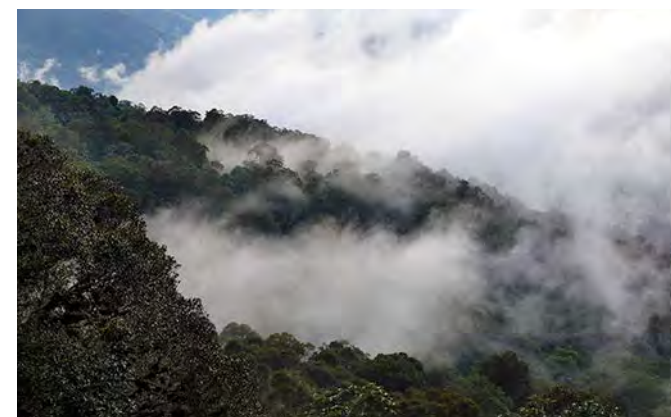
All paths out
of a crisis start
by securing
still-functioning
ecosystems

by
Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Chairperson, CEPF Donor Council

There is still a long way to go on the first and most obvious step in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises: secure what remains of biodiverse ecosystems.

We are very far from achieving this critical piece of the planetary rescue equation, and global leaders recognize the problem. In November of 2021, during the global climate talks in Glasgow, leaders of more than 100 countries emphasized the link between climate and nature and pledged to end deforestation by 2030. And a draft of the new Global Biodiversity Framework through the UN Convention on Biological Diversity calls for conservation of at least 30% of land and sea areas globally. Such agreements are important acknowledgments of the central role nature plays in supplying the needs of humanity.

Cover: Barskoon Valley, Kyrgyzstan ■ © Albert Dros
Above: *Gentiana punctata*, Pelister National Park, North Macedonia
■ © Prof. Silvana Manasievska Simikj



Clouds over the forest of Santa Marta, Colombia ■ © O. Langrand

But in the end, action is what matters. Among those already working to address these problems are civil society groups—including communities, organizations and academic institutions—collaborating with local and national governments to protect what remains of the world's most vital ecosystems. The Colombian organization Serraniagua, for example, was formed in 1996 by community members who banded together to safeguard the heart of the Serranía de los Paraguas, a Key Biodiversity Area in the Tropical Andes Hotspot. Serraniagua received its first grant from CEPF in 2003 to strengthen the network of local farmers, identify and promote sustainable development practices, and improve the connectivity between protected areas and watersheds. Serraniagua helped establish one of the most extensive networks of private reserves in Colombia. And nearly 20 years later, this organization continues to build on its remarkably successful model of community-based conservation. Under a recent CEPF grant, Serraniagua

- Worked with regional environmental authorities to establish a new 39,792-hectare protected area.
- Helped 14 landowners register or expand their land through Colombia's private nature reserves system, covering over 1,300 hectares.
- Sponsored field inventories that led to the discovery of 14 new plants and two new-to-science amphibian species.
- Supported community-based youth and women's groups for conservation and livelihoods generation.
- Conducted an environmental education campaign that resulted in the development of a regional radio program that discusses conservation and sustainable development.

“CEPF’s grantees are doing this work in some of the most important places for conservation—the world’s biodiversity hotspots. They are saving critical remnants of nature.”

Serraniagua is a unique organization representing what can be achieved by building on the capacity and the commitment of civil society. By the end of fiscal year 2021, after 20 years of empowering strategic biodiversity conservation, CEPF had supported more than 2,600 such organizations around the world. This report is a tribute to the results of their hard work: 16.1 million hectares of protected areas established; 51 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas better managed; 942 globally threatened species benefiting from their action—these are just a few examples of what they have been able to do with a tiny fraction of global conservation funding.

CEPF's grantees are doing this work in some of the most important places for conservation—the world's biodiversity hotspots. They are saving critical remnants of nature. With more support, these organizations could scale up their efforts and move the world much closer to completing that essential first step away from a planetary crisis by halting the degradation of our most biodiverse ecosystems and everything they provide, including food, water, medicines, carbon storage, and protection from the impacts of climate change.

Restoring Lost Ground



Protecting intact ecosystems will not be enough. We must also restore what has been degraded

by
M. Sanjayan
Chief Executive Officer,
Conservation International

It has been a tumultuous year. The urgency of the climate crisis has reached new heights, economies are teetering on the brink of recession, and it has become clear that we will be living with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. I know, it can be easy to become discouraged—but nevertheless, I remain optimistic. Why? Because we have an incredible ally in our corner, one that can address all of humanity's most pressing issues at once: nature.

Earth's living biosphere has sustained life on this planet for eons; it supplies the oxygen we breathe, provides food and water, and stores half of all human-caused greenhouse-gas emissions. By investing in our oceans, forests and other ecosystems, we can leave behind a healthy planet for future generations—and, in the process, build a more prosperous, equitable society.

How do we get there? First and foremost, we must protect the world's remaining intact ecosystems—but that alone will not be sufficient. Already, one-third of all land is degraded, and we must restore these areas, as well. Luckily, momentum is building. The United Nations has declared 2021 to 2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and countries have already pledged to restore at least 1 billion hectares—an area larger than China. Restoring just 35% of that land could remove 13 to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere while generating US\$9 trillion in economic and environmental benefits to humanity. According to a 2021 report from the UN Environment Programme, restoration supports

- **Economic Development:** Half of global GDP is nature-dependent—and every dollar invested in restoration creates up to US\$30 in economic benefits.
- **Human Well-being:** Ecosystem degradation is adversely affecting the well-being of 3.2 billion people, or 40% of the world's population.
- **Food Security:** Restoration through agroforestry alone could bolster food security for 1.3 billion people. Meanwhile, restoring marine habitats could increase fisheries production by 16.5 million metric tons, worth US\$32 billion annually.
- **Biodiversity:** By averting further habitat loss and restoring just 15% of converted lands, we could prevent 60% of predicted extinctions.



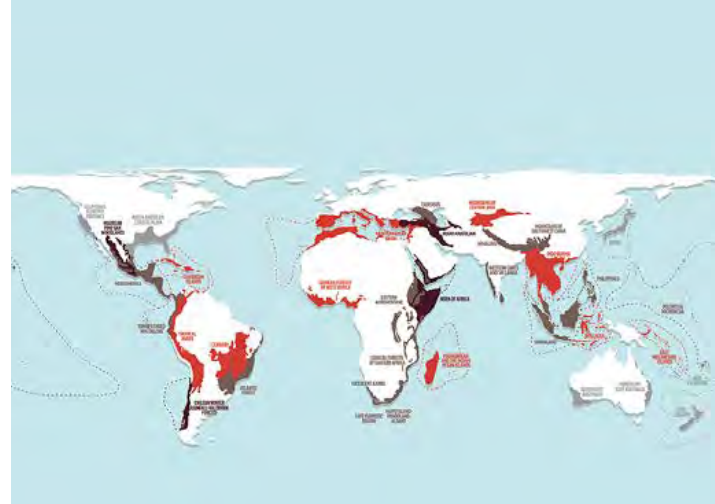
Restoration holds enormous promise, but it must be done the right way. This work cannot succeed without the participation of local people. Communities must be free to choose where restoration happens, how it happens and who makes it happen; these decisions cannot be made on their behalf. At the same time, outside partners must respect and support Indigenous land rights while incorporating traditional knowledge and resource management into their strategies. This is the only sustainable path forward.

Make no mistake: Meaningful progress will take decades of sustained attention, funding and political will. Regrettably, we've already seen ambitious restoration projects lose momentum as new political priorities come and go. The African-led Great Green Wall, originally meant to span the width of the continent by 2030, has advanced much slower than anticipated. But advocates refused to shrink their ambitions—and in January 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron breathed new life into the initiative by announcing a commitment from France and other partners to mobilize an additional US\$14 billion for the effort. That kind of dogged hope is also fueling grassroots efforts, such as the community-based restoration of Moya Forest in the Small Island Developing State of Comoros, led by CEPF grantee Dahari. The project is bringing nature back to its corner of this Least Developed Country and mapping a path toward resilience that nations of all sizes and economic situations can learn from. (See pages 73-74.)

For millennia, nature has given unconditionally to humankind. Now, millions of people around the world are joining together to repay that favor. To me, there is nothing more inspiring.

Aerial view of rainforest, Guyana ■ © Pete Oxford/iLCP
M. Sanjayan ■ © Georgina Goodwin
The Amazon River ■ © Johnny Lye

About CEPF



The GOAL

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

CEPF'S APPROACH

■ DONOR PARTNERSHIP

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

■ FOCUSED INVESTMENT

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

■ PARTICIPATORY PRIORITY-SETTING

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

■ LOCAL MANAGEMENT

CEPF partners with a regional implementation team in the hotspot to help shepherd the investment and build local conservation leadership.

■ GRANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil society entities including nongovernmental organizations, communities, Indigenous peoples groups, universities and small businesses—apply for grants that are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that contribute to CEPF's conservation strategy.

■ ENDURING CONSERVATION

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

■ ACHIEVING GLOBAL GOALS

The results achieved by CEPF grantees complement governments' efforts to meet targets related to the U.N.'s Convention on Biological Diversity (the Aichi Targets), Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Sustainable Development Goals.

U.S.
\$269
MILLION
IN GRANTS

U.S.
\$389
MILLION
LEVERAGED BY
THOSE GRANTS

109
COUNTRIES
AND
TERRITORIES
BENEFITED

2,602
GRANTEES
SUPPORTED

Erica numidica (Maire), a rare endemic plant species restricted to Eastern Numidia, Algeria. ■ © Amel MEDDAD, UBMA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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



This report presents 20 years of results achieved by 2,602 partners that have implemented 2,677 grants. All CEPF grants contribute to one of four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. Civil society organizations that are empowered to increase and apply their knowledge and skills are essential to sustainable biodiversity conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are necessary for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. CEPF measures progress in all four of these interlinked pillars.

Prespa Lake, Greece ■ © Thomais Vlachogianni



4,692		communities benefiting from CEPF-funded projects
187,461		people receiving structured training
95,344		people receiving cash benefits
434		laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended
942		species benefiting from conservation action
61		sustainable finance mechanisms
16.1 MILLION		hectares of protected areas created or expanded
51 MILLION		hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management
10 MILLION		hectares of production landscape with strengthened management
705		networks and partnerships created and/or supported
139		companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices
309		CEPF-funded organizations with improved capacity
109		CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues

IMPACT REPORT

- 1 MESSAGES
- 5 ABOUT CEPF
- 7 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 20 YEARS OF CEPF
- 11 THE PARTNERSHIP
- 13 CEPF AND THE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS
- 15 INTRODUCTION: 20 YEARS OF IMPACT
- 19 PILLAR 1: BIODIVERSITY
- 43 PILLAR 2: CIVIL SOCIETY
- 59 PILLAR 3: HUMAN WELL-BEING
- 75 PILLAR 4: ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR CONSERVATION
- 87 CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL TARGETS

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Dzhungaria Mountains, Tastau Range, Kazakhstan
 ■ © Andrey Kulagin (@kulagin)

- 89 FISCAL YEAR 2021
- 90 FISCAL YEAR RESULTS SUMMARY
- 91 YEAR IN REVIEW
- 97 CEPF APPROVED GRANTS
- 107 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
- 109 GRANTEE PARTNERS
- 115 CEPF DONOR COUNCIL/WORKING GROUP/
SECRETARIAT/RITS
- 117 ANNEX: CEPF'S MONITORING FRAMEWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

THE PARTNERSHIP



L'AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

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



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

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



THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

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



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

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



JAPAN GOV
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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



THE WORLD BANK

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

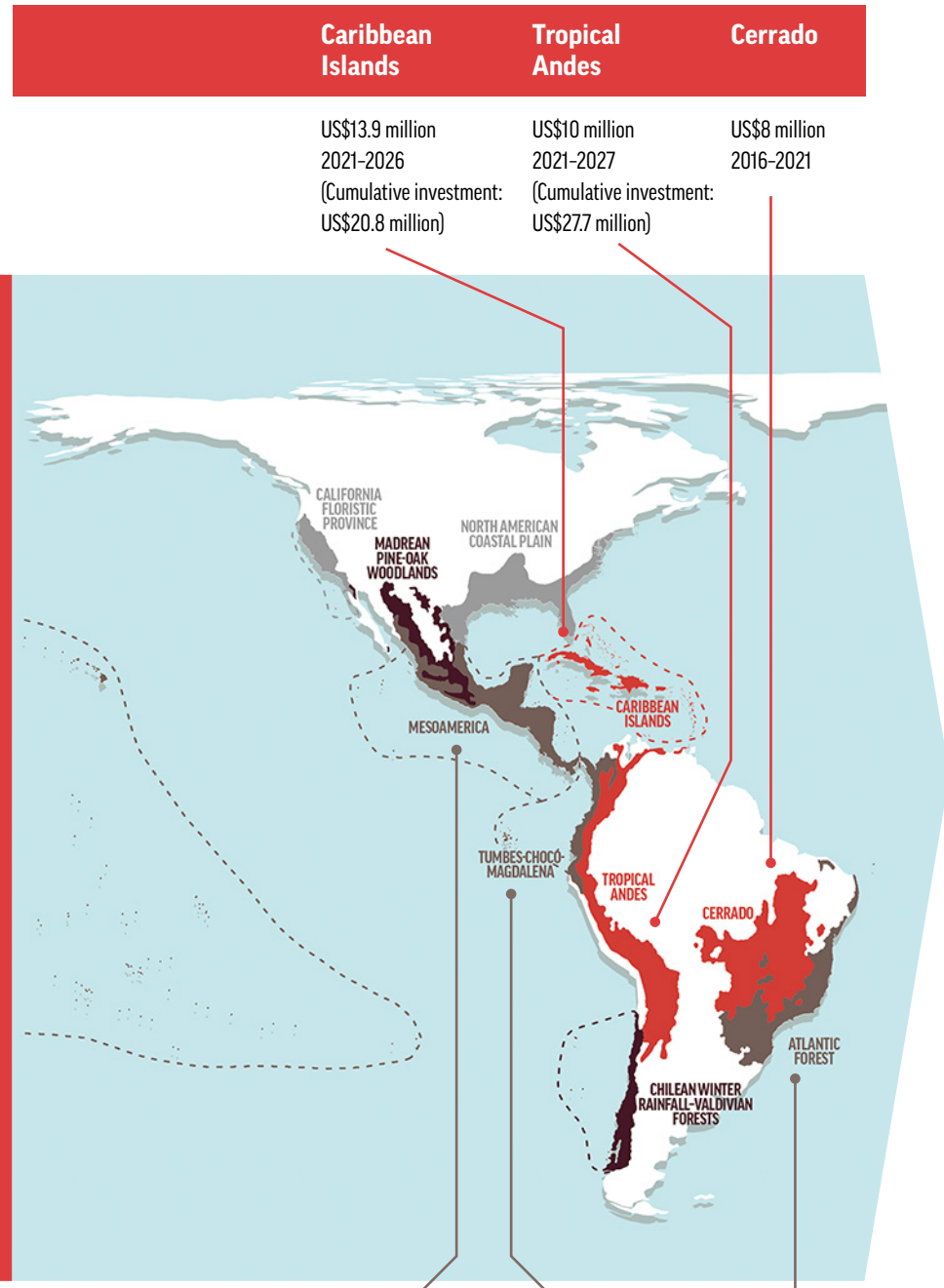
Talau pitta (*Erythropitta inspeculata*), Talau Islands, Indonesia ■ © Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation



CEPF AND THE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

As of 30 June 2021

Current CEPF Investment



Caribbean Islands	Tropical Andes	Cerrado
US\$13.9 million 2021-2026 (Cumulative investment: US\$20.8 million)	US\$10 million 2021-2027 (Cumulative investment: US\$27.7 million)	US\$8 million 2016-2021

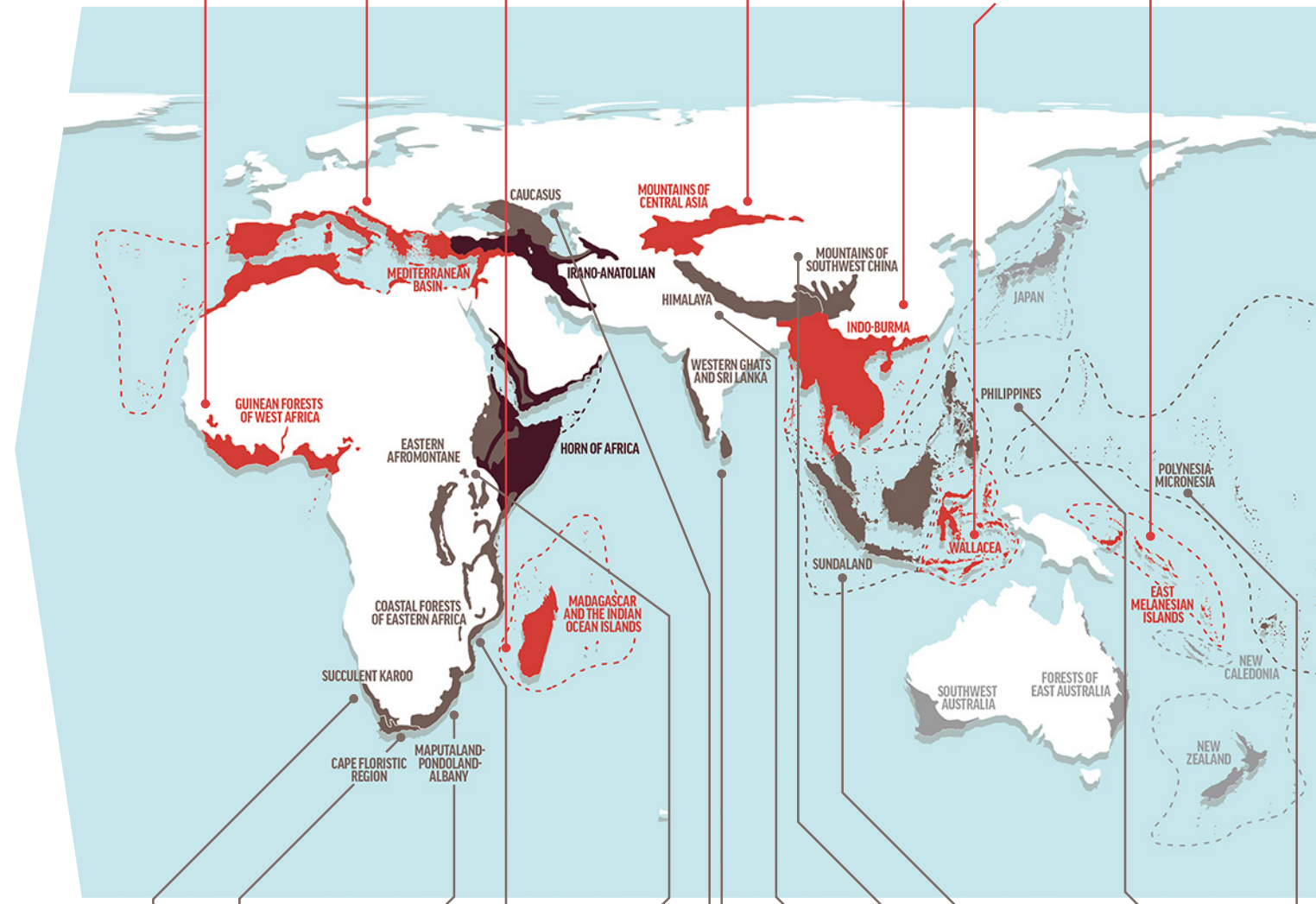
Past CEPF Investment

Mesoamerica	Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena	Atlantic Forest
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US\$14.13 million 2002-2011	US\$6.8 million 2002-2013	US\$10 million 2002-2011
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■ Current CEPF investment
 ■ Eligible for CEPF investment
■ Past CEPF investment
 ■ Not eligible for CEPF investment

Current CEPF Investment



Guinean Forests of West Africa	Mediterranean Basin	Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	Mountains of Central Asia	Indo-Burma	Wallacea	East Melanesian Islands
US\$10.2 million 2016-2022 (Cumulative investment: US\$18.3 million)	US\$12.5 million 2017-2022 (Cumulative investment: US\$23.2 million)	US\$12.28 million 2015-2022 (Cumulative investment: US\$17.8 million)	US\$8 million 2019-2024	US\$10 million 2020-2025 (Cumulative investment: US\$35.1 million)	US\$2.6 million 2020-2024 (Cumulative investment: US\$9.2 million)	US\$9 million 2013-2021

Succulent Karoo	Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany	Eastern Afromontane	Himalaya	Sundaland	Philippines
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US\$9.2 million 2003-2012	US\$6.65 million 2010-2015	US\$12 million 2012-2019	US\$5 million 2005-2010	US\$10 million 2001-2006	US\$7 million 2002-2007
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Cape Floristic Region	Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa	Caucasus	Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	Mountains of Southwest China	Polynesia-Micronesia
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US\$7.6 million 2001-2011	US\$8.75 million 2004-2014	US\$9.3 million 2003-2013	US\$6 million 2008-2015	US\$7.9 million 2002-2013	US\$7 million 2008-2013
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INTRODUCTION

20 YEARS OF IMPACT

Since 2000, CEPF has worked to empower civil society in developing countries and transitional economies to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots, some of Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened terrestrial ecosystems. To date, CEPF has awarded more than US\$269 million in grants to 2,602 civil society organizations. These grants have been implemented in 25 biodiversity hotspots, covering 109 countries and territories.

This year marks CEPF's 20th year of results. Our first grants closed in 2001, and every year since then our grantees have achieved significant conservation achievements despite increasing threats to biodiversity and humanity, including most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. With dedication, commitment and passion, CEPF grantees are protecting critical ecosystems and the species and ecological processes they support, as well as improving the lives of the people who depend on these ecosystems for their livelihoods. This report presents the results of CEPF grantees from 2000 through 30 June 2021.

CEPF measures its global impact with 16 indicators adopted by CEPF's Donor Council in June 2017. The indicators are designed to yield valuable data that articulate CEPF's impact and demonstrate to donors the efficacy of the CEPF partnership. Each indicator corresponds to one of CEPF's four pillars: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being and enabling conditions. The biodiversity pillar is the central focus of CEPF and is supported by and linked to the other pillars. An empowered and capacitated civil society is an essential foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation. Enabling conditions, such as sustainable financing and strong laws and policies, are critical for successful conservation. Human well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need. Further details on CEPF's monitoring framework can be found in the Annex.

Through the end of fiscal year 2021, CEPF awarded 56% of its grants—just over US\$132 million—under the biodiversity pillar, demonstrating the priority that CEPF gives to this theme. The enabling conditions pillar, encompassing projects dedicated to awareness, mainstreaming, policy, conservation finance and support to regional implementation teams (RITs), received 21% of the allocation. RITs, which are based in or near hotspots where CEPF is investing, received 15.8% of the enabling conditions allocation to fund the essential role these organizations play in helping to manage grant-making, implement CEPF's strategy and provide direct support to grantees.



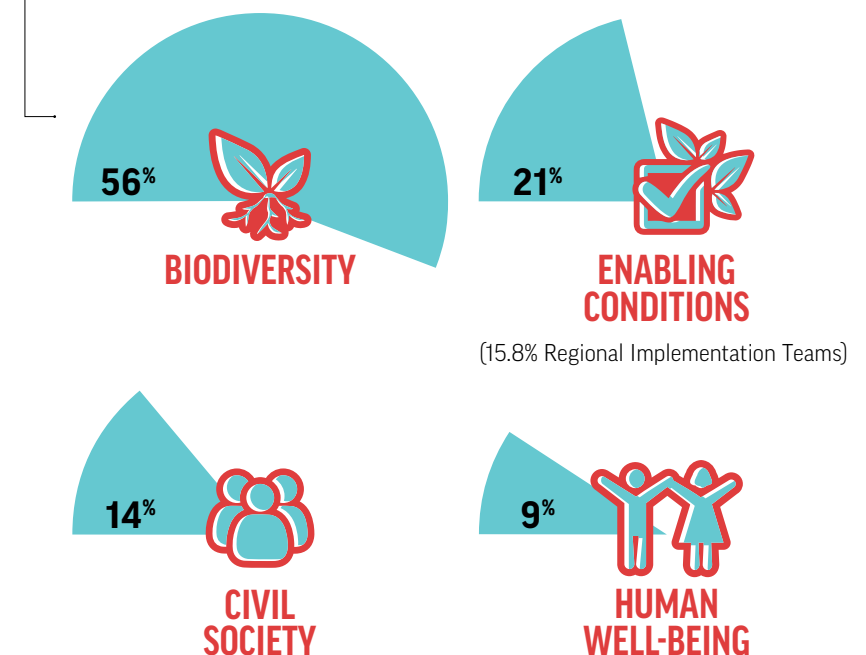
Shaar Mountains National Park, Kosovo ■ © O. Langrand

The civil society pillar, focused on capacity building and support for networks, received 14% of CEPF funding, while human well-being received 9% (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1

Distribution of Funds by Pillar

Total: US\$269 million



CEPF has linked all 16 indicators to relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Table 1).*

TABLE 1

PILLAR AND INDICATORS	TARGET/GOAL
BIODIVERSITY	
Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.	11, 13, 14
Number of hectares of KBAs with improved management.	11, 13, 14, 15
Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.	7, 11, 2, 12, 14, 15, 4
Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).	11, 14
Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.	9, 12, 14, 15
CIVIL SOCIETY	
Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).	16
Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).	5
Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.	16
HUMAN WELL-BEING	
Number of people receiving structured training	1, 2, 4
Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training.	2, 6
Number of people receiving cash benefits.	2, 8
Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.	13
Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.	13
ENABLING CONDITIONS	
Number of laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.	2, 12
Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices.	12, 14
Number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.	20, 3

* <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
The content of this publication has not been approved by the United Nations and does not reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States.



Hispaniolan common tree frog (*Osteopilus dominicensis*), Dominican Republic ■ © Michele Zador/Conservation International

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

TABLE 2

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS BY REGION

	AFRICA Cape Floristic Region; Eastern Afromontane (excluding Yemen); Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Kenya and Tanzania; Guinean Forests of West Africa; Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands; Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany; Mediterranean Basin (North Africa); Succulent Karoo.
	ASIA Caucasus; Himalaya; Indo-Burma; Philippines; Mountains of Central Asia; Mountains of Southwest China; Sundaland; Wallacea; Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.
	CARIBBEAN ISLANDS Caribbean Islands.
	CENTRAL AMERICA Mesoamerica.
	EUROPE Mediterranean Basin (excluding North Africa, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine).
	MIDDLE EAST Eastern Afromontane (Yemen); Mediterranean Basin (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine).
	PACIFIC ISLANDS East Melanesian Islands; Polynesia-Micronesia.
	SOUTH AMERICA Atlantic Forest; Cerrado; Tropical Andes; Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena.



CEPF PILLAR 1

BIODIVERSITY

Indicator:

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

In fiscal year 2021, CEPF grantees recorded the creation and/or expansion of 417,215 hectares of new protected areas, bringing the overall total since inception to 16,123,931 hectares in 25 biodiversity hotspots. Achievements were particularly noteworthy for several hotspots that either closed or entered their final year of the investment period: Indo-Burma, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. Figures 1.1 and 1.2 show the number of hectares newly protected by hotspot, and by region, since inception of the fund.

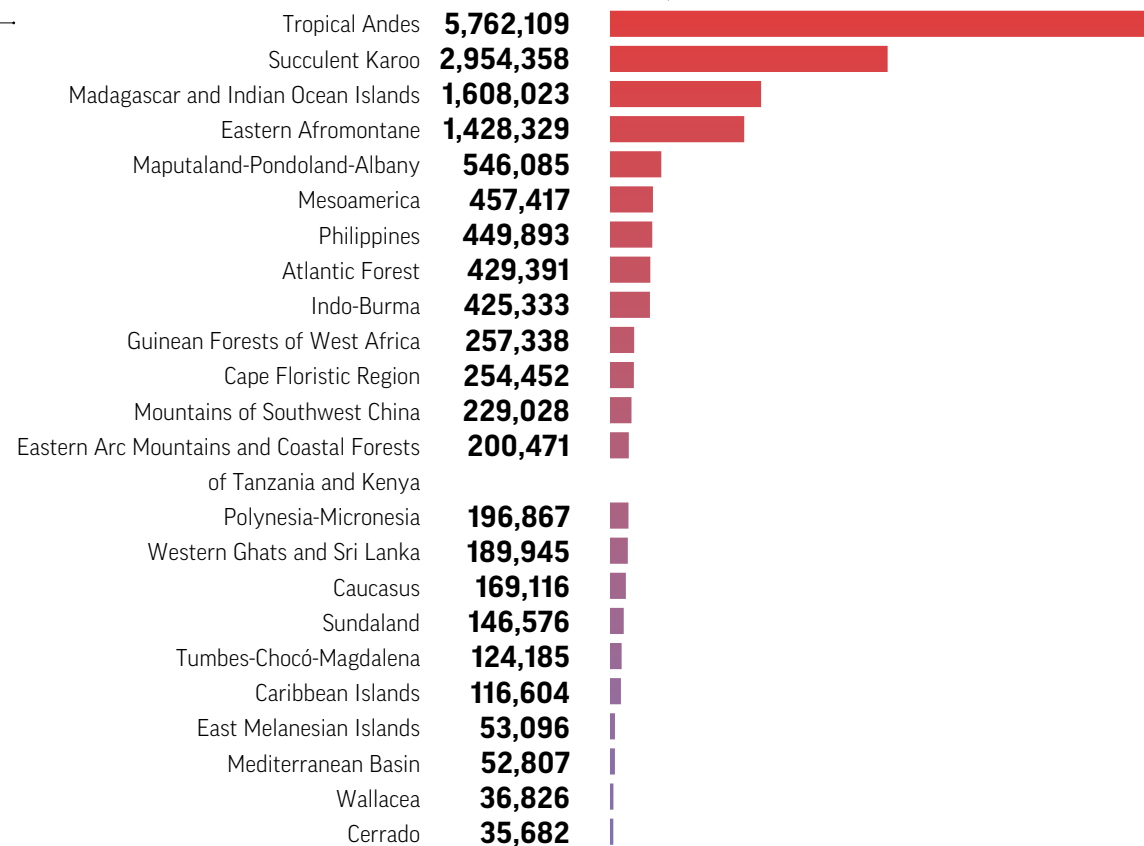
Fiscal Year 2021
+417,215
hectares

new
protected areas

FIGURE 1.1

Protected Areas Created or Expanded by Hotspot

Total: 16.1 million hectares

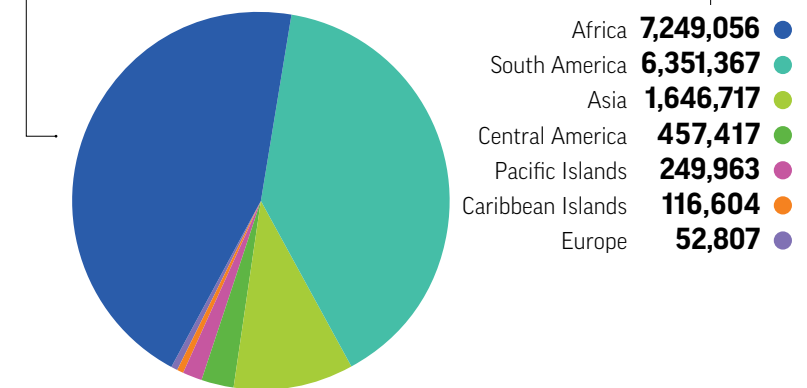


Military macaws (*Ara militaris*), Área de Conservación Regional Q'eros-Koshñipata, Peru ■ © Michelle León / Pronaturaleza

FIGURE 1.2

Protected Areas Created or Expanded by Region

Total: 16.1 million hectares





Peruvian organization plays vital role in successful protected-area campaign

When Pronaturaleza started working in Peru's Kosñipata Carabaya Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in 2017 with a grant from CEPF, the site was not well known. Yet Pronaturaleza recognized Kosñipata Carabaya's significance to indigenous communities and biodiversity and set its sights on protecting the critical conservation corridor.

The result: a protected area declaration based on scientific data and extensive engagement of local communities, government and other stakeholders.

Located in the districts of Paucartambo and Kosñipata in the Cusco region, the area is a key link between Manu National Park to the north and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve to the south. The area spans 96,429 hectares and hosts exceptional forests that are home to a variety of habitats, including humid puna grasslands, cloud forests and highland forests. The site's elevation spans from 950 to 4,418 meters above sea level, a key factor contributing to the number and diversity of its species. The KBA hosts 36 globally threatened species, including three that are Critically Endangered.

Kosñipata Carabaya KBA is also culturally diverse. The southwest and surrounding highlands are home to Quechua communities, locally known as the Q'ero Nation. In the northeastern part of the KBA, there are several communities, including Santa Rosa de Huacaria and Queros, home to indigenous people of the Harakmbut ethnic group.

To ensure the long-term survival of the communities and ecosystems of Kosñipata Carabaya, Pronaturaleza provided essential support for the creation of the Área de Conservación Regional Q'eros-Kosñipata. Working in collaboration with the regional government of Cusco, the district municipality of Kosñipata and the Peruvian Ministry of Environment, Pronaturaleza contributed to the creation of the 55,319-hectare protected area, which was declared on 24 July 2021. The four-year effort entailed much consultation and negotiation, undertaken with the added challenge of maintaining safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pronaturaleza played a significant role throughout the process. The project team consulted extensively with the local indigenous communities to understand their development priorities. The team also gathered input from a variety of other stakeholders, sectors and government officials. Pronaturaleza conducted comprehensive efforts to collect baseline data needed to inform conservation planning. They prepared maps and plans and embarked on numerous efforts to raise awareness about the area and its importance, promoting the initiative on social media, posting web notices and videos, and rolling out awareness campaigns in the region as well as in Lima.

Pronaturaleza also supported the realization of agreements with the Q'ero Nation, the municipalities and regional authorities for the creation of the protected area and the safeguarding of the traditional rights, uses and customs of the communities in the area. These efforts helped to bring the area to the attention of other conservation donors, resulting in successful fundraising to support the establishment and management of the new protected area.

The Área de Conservación Regional Q'eros-Kosñipata, a key link between Manu National Park to the north and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve to the south ■ © Michelle Léon / Pronaturaleza





Indicator:

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management.

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

At the close of fiscal year 2021, CEPF grantees had strengthened the management and protection of 51,003,386 hectares in 24 biodiversity hotspots. This is an increase of 631,417 hectares in the past year, with significant contributions from the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands and Tropical Andes hotspots.

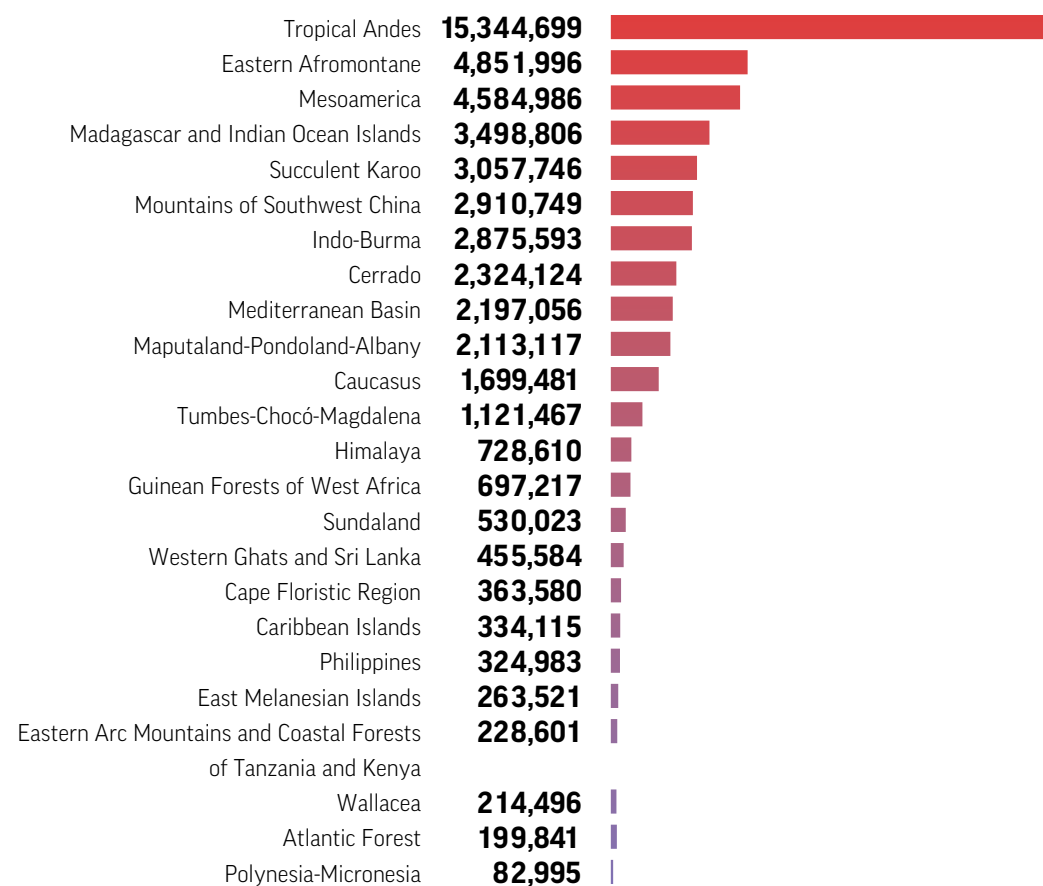
Fiscal Year 2021
+631,417
hectares of KBAs

with strengthened
management
and protection

FIGURE 1.3

Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management by Hotspot

Total: 51 million hectares

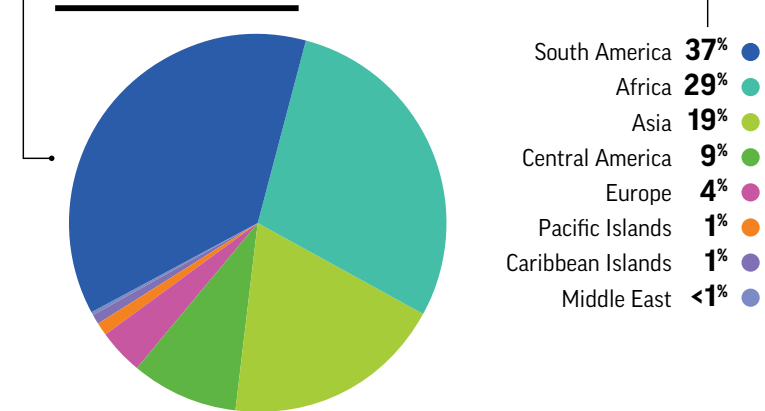


Vedran Lucić, Balkan program officer for the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Regional Implementation Team, views Gur i Topit Key Biodiversity Area, Albania ■ © O. Langrand

FIGURE 1.4

Key Biodiversity Areas with Improved Management by Region

Total: 51 million hectares





Empowering communities in western Madagascar to be stewards of vital ecosystems

After a successful campaign to gain protections for a complex of vital ecosystems in western Madagascar, CEPF grantee The Peregrine Fund (TPF) took on the critical next step of collaborating with local communities to ensure long-term stewardship.



The site, Complexe Tsimembo Manambolomaty, is a Key Biodiversity Area composed of marshes, lakes, savannas, mangroves and deciduous dry forest. At 62,745 hectares, the protected area includes a Ramsar site—a wetland designated to be of international importance. It also encompasses Tsimembo deciduous dry forest, the largest forest in the Melaky Region at 32,800 hectares.

Tsimembo Manambolomaty is home to 13 villages within the three communes of Masoarivo, Trangahy and Antsalova. Residents count on natural resources for food, fuel, shelter and income. The protected area's ecosystems also support globally threatened endemic species, including the Critically Endangered Madagascar fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*), the Critically Endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*) and at least nine lemur species.

In 2015, through the efforts of TPF, Tsimembo Manambolomaty received national protected area status. It was declared a Category V protected landscape area, a designation that emphasizes safeguarding nature and its value to humans through traditional management practices.

The Tsimembo-Manambolomaty Protected Area, a complex of marshes, lakes, savannas, mangroves and deciduous dry forest in western Madagascar
■ © Lily Arison Rene de Roland/The Peregrine Fund

With support from a CEPF grant, TPF empowered community-based organizations in the area to become the stewards of Tsimembo Manambolomaty via training in land management and sustainable agriculture and fisheries. This objective was ambitious given the heavy dependence of local communities on their natural resources for income-generating products such as timber, bush meat, honey and fish. Further, the area is threatened by wildfires, poverty and a high rate of illiteracy, and climate change is negatively affecting crop yields and water availability.

To encourage the communities' transition from unsustainable use to stewardship, the TPF team supported and trained local associations to manage the protected area, providing equipment and guidance and making links with regional authorities, including fishery and forest services, to raise awareness about protected-area boundaries and regulations. Residents also received training on forest and wetland monitoring, patrolling and many aspects of resource management. Project participants established tree nurseries and restored degraded areas.

Sustainable agricultural and fisheries practices enabled diversification of livelihoods in order to reduce human pressures. In tandem, the project team promoted environmentally friendly processing techniques for drying fish and explored marketing and pricing approaches to improve revenue and benefits to the communities.

After the three-year project, TPF has much to be proud of. A total of 388 people received training (including 126 women) and 773 people received cash benefits due to increased income. Nearly 13,000 people received non-cash benefits such as increased access to clean water and public services, education for children, improved food security, improved recognition of traditional knowledge and decision-making, and increased access to ecosystem services.

At the same time, the protected area benefited tremendously. More than 440 patrols were conducted, resulting in removal of lemur snares and traps and illegal fishing materials. Observations of illegal logging were referred to authorities. Eleven waterbird sites are now monitored regularly, with 43 species observed, of which six bird species are endemic and globally threatened. The populations of resident lemurs are also monitored on an annual basis. Fishing activities are now better regulated (threshold of 400 fishermen; fishing nets mesh size at least 6 centimeters), with annual seasons set and publicized and compliance much improved. Habitat restoration took place on 133 hectares, with a 72% survival rate of seedlings produced from the project nurseries.

Awareness-raising activities continue, such as distributing T-shirts, posters and leaflets; broadcasting radio programs; and holding awareness sessions at village meetings. Tourism is a potential revenue stream, and with the improvements in local livelihoods, park management and the attention given to lemurs and waterbirds by the local community, this park has much to offer. Local communities are promoting environmental awareness days and annual village celebrations on World Wetlands Day and World Environment Day (2 February and 5 June, respectively), and an annual lemur festival will be sure to generate enthusiasm and interest in this unique landscape.



Indicator:

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

Production landscapes—areas where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occur—can be very important for biodiversity. CEPF supports grantees to integrate management of biodiversity into these landscapes, and since 2001, grantees have contributed to the strengthened management of biodiversity in 10,049,280 hectares. This is an increase of 129,225 hectares in the past year.

CEPF only began to systematically record achievements in production landscapes in 2008, and therefore hotspots receiving investment prior to this date are underrepresented in global figures.

Fiscal year 2021
+129,225
hectares

integrated management of biodiversity



Aerial image of a coffee plantation in Pattaneteang Village, Indonesia ■ © Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation

FIGURE 1.5

Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management of Biodiversity by Region

Total: 10.04 million hectares

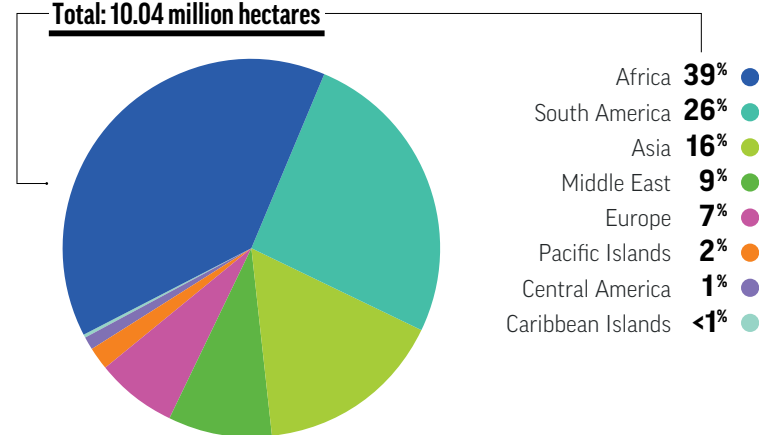
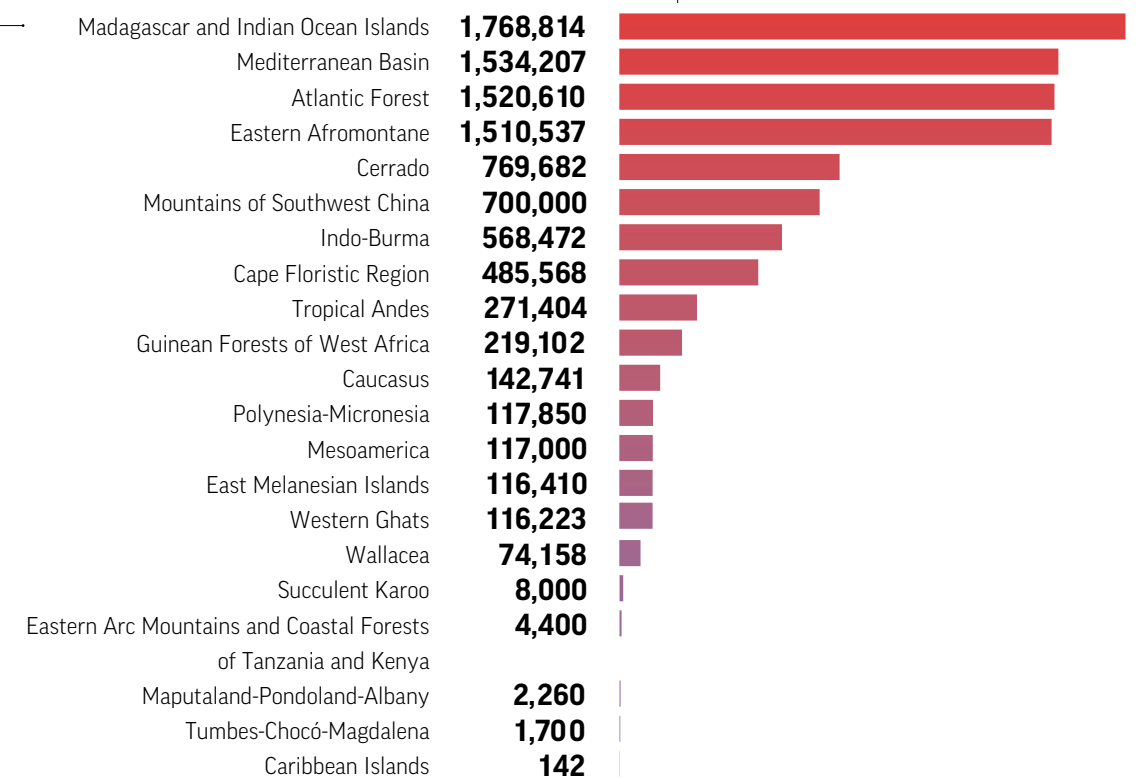


FIGURE 1.6

Production Landscapes with Strengthened Management of Biodiversity by Hotspot

Total: 10.04 million hectares





Transforming bee-burners into beekeepers in São Tomé and Príncipe

Príncipe Island's forests are among the most biodiverse in Africa. The number of its species found nowhere else is comparable to other oceanic islands, such as the Galápagos. But poverty and limited economic opportunities make Príncipe's forests a primary source of citizens' livelihoods via hunting, timber and foraging for nontimber forest products.

One key forest product, honey, has typically been collected from wild colonies of honeybees (*Apis mellifera adansonii*) by a destructive and dangerous method that includes burning the nest, killing most of the bees and risking uncontrolled fires. Honey collectors are known as "queimá vunvú," which literally means "bee-burners" in the local Forro dialect.

Flora & Fauna International (FFI), in partnership with the local organization Fundação Príncipe, received CEPF support to work with residents to develop sustainable livelihood options and incentivize better forest management. They developed and promoted an alternative model of honey production based on beekeeping in apiaries rather than bee-burning in the forest. The project team provided beekeeping equipment, facilitated the establishment of community apiaries, worked with the newly established Cooperativa dos Apicultores da Região Autónoma do Príncipe (COOPAPIP) to improve bottling facilities, and provided training for beekeepers on the techniques needed for swarm capture, hive and forage area management, and efficient honey extraction. The project also provided crucial marketing support by developing a marketing and business plan for COOPAPIP, facilitating discussions with tourism businesses, providing quality assurance guidance funding for market stalls and helping with the design of labels.

FFI and Fundação Príncipe promoted awareness of native plants preferred by pollinators and organized learning exchanges in which two COOPAPIP members and the project manager visited a beekeeping project in Mozambique and another COOPAPIP member attended a community producers networking and marketing event in São Tomé.

This project led to a dramatic reduction in incidences of the burning of bees in Príncipe. The benefits of this are expected to include a rise in wild bee populations and associated pollination services, both for forests and agricultural systems. A total of 2,484 hectares of production landscape now have strengthened management of biodiversity, primarily due to enforcement of the new bee protection law by local authorities.

COOPAPIP members and their households benefited from sustainable beekeeping. A total of 31 people received training in beekeeping and, by the end of the project, 80 people (including 13 women) reported receiving cash benefits from selling honey and wax. These sales are also helpful to the six large tourist hotels on São Tomé and Príncipe, whose chefs have typically used imported honey for the more than 12,000 tourists who visit the islands each year. As production and sales increase, longer-term benefits are expected to include increased food and income security for beekeepers and their wider communities.

The main tourism operator on Príncipe Island and major employer and landholder, Here Be Dragons, adopted a policy to only buy legal honey from COOPAPIP for its three hotels and is contributing to law enforcement by reporting attempts to sell illegal honey.



Beekeepers working on a hive on Praia Boi's apiary, São Tomé and Príncipe ■ © Maique Madureira



Indicator:

Number of protected areas with improved management.

CEPF tracks the management effectiveness of protected areas that have received CEPF investment by using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) developed to reflect the IUCN World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) Framework.

To date, CEPF has received 425 METT scorecards from 226 protected areas in 17 biodiversity hotspots: Cape Floristic Region, Caribbean Islands, Caucasus, Cerrado, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mediterranean Basin, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Succulent Karoo, Tropical Andes, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and Wallacea. As of June 2021, 140 of the 226 protected areas had a baseline and a subsequent METT scorecard. Out of these 140 protected areas, 116 showed an improvement in management effectiveness. For the nine hotspots with a significant number of completed METT scorecards in fiscal year 2021, there was an increase in management effectiveness of 12.7 points on average (+33 percent) (Figure 1.7). As such, CEPF has been contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in helping 32 countries increase the percentage of protected areas that have been assessed and managed more effectively.

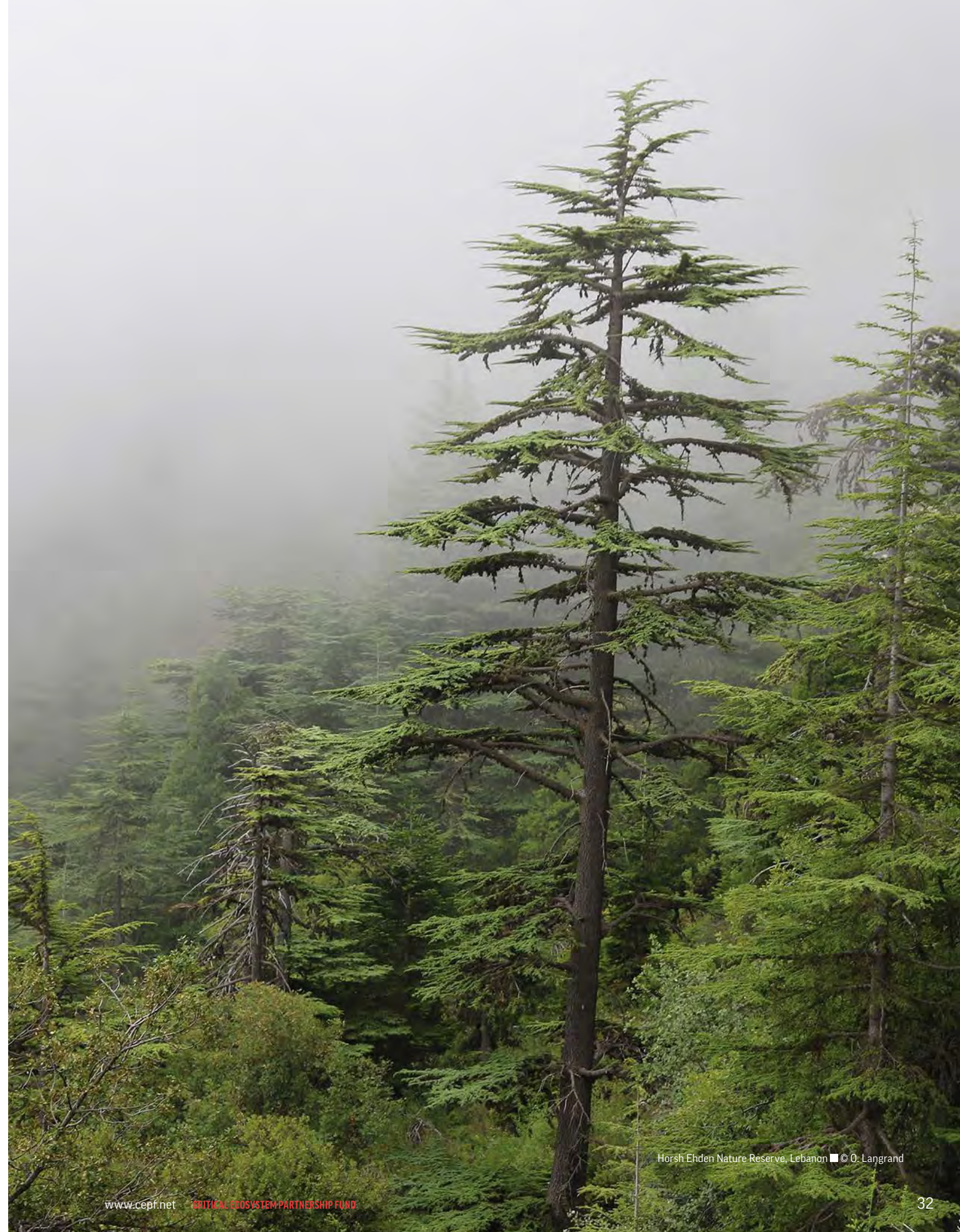
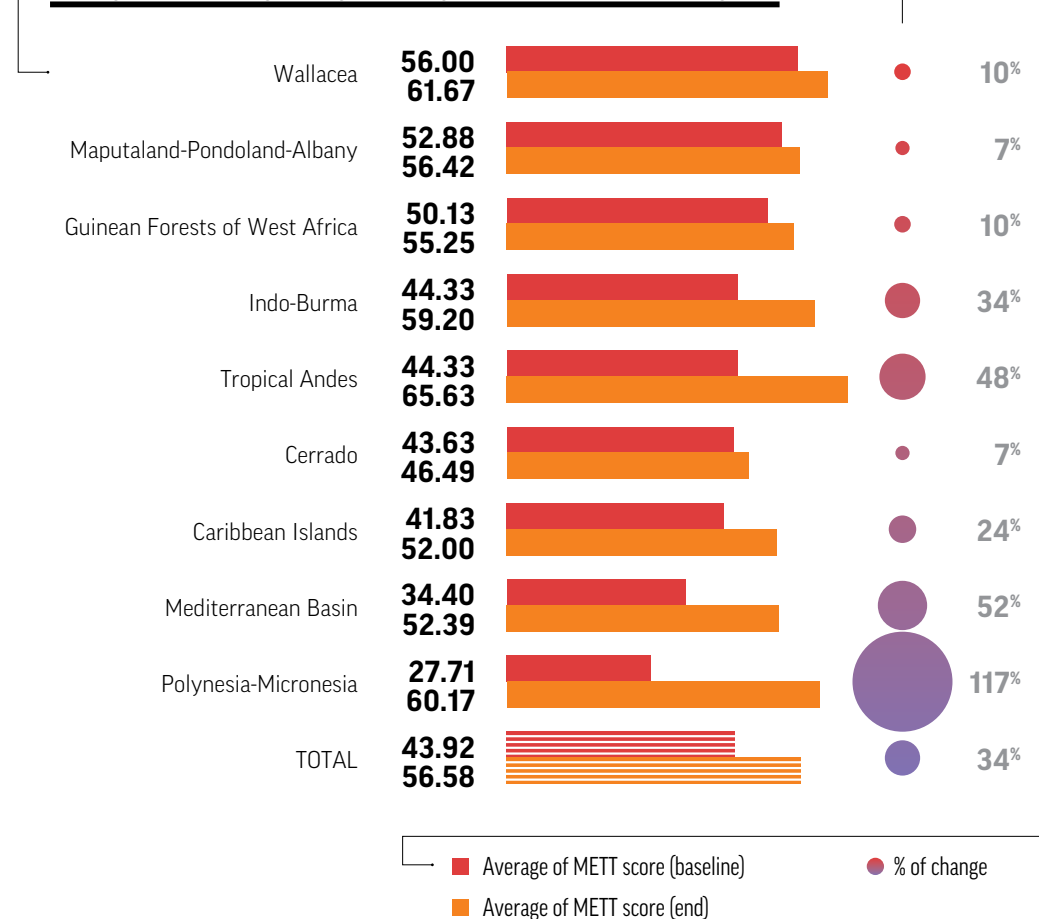
+140
protected areas with
full set of scorecards

+116
showed management
improvement

FIGURE 1.7

Protected Areas Management

Average and Percentage Change in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool



Horsh Ehdn Nature Reserve, Lebanon | © O. Langrand



Plan maps out better management for Equatorial Guinea park

The Pico Basilé National Park, created in 2000, is located in the northern part of Bioko Island. The park covers 32,256 hectares that include dense rainforest and unique species, four globally threatened primates among them. It is the main source of drinking water for the capital city of Malabo. It is also threatened by illegal hunting and indiscriminate and uncontrolled logging.

CEPF grantee Organización No Gubernamental Amigos de la Naturaleza y del Desarrollo de Guinea Ecuatorial (ONG ANDEGE) stepped in to help the park address these challenges, preparing a plan to safeguard threatened ecosystems and the services they provide to communities.

Managed under the jurisdiction of the National Institute of Forestry Development and Protected Areas Management (INDEFOR-AP), the park lacked a management plan, leaving park officials without the information or guidance they needed to tackle threats. The park's 2019 baseline score on CEPF's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) was 38 out of 100, and the results clearly indicated actions that could be taken to improve the management of the park.

Using a participatory approach and a multidisciplinary team, ONG ANDEGE gathered the data needed to develop the management plan by conducting desk and field research, holding numerous planning and consultation meetings with stakeholders, conducting a socioeconomic assessment, and mapping the park boundaries, all while raising awareness among stakeholders.

"The management plan defines the priority actions to be carried out against the challenges and threats that weigh on the area in order to guarantee the life of the flora and fauna that inhabit it and improve the quality of life of the people that live in its vicinity," said Domingo Mbomio Ngomo of ONG ANDEGE.

The biodiversity inventories documented the flora and fauna—including the Endangered Bioko Preuss's monkey (*Allochrocebus preussi insularis*) and Endangered Bioko drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus poensis*)—as well as the ecosystems where they are found and any apparent threats, which led to guidance on necessary conservation actions. The socioeconomic study focused on six local communities in the area, all of which rely on wild resources for medicine, food, fuel and shelter. The study gauged the communities' level of dependence on forest resources and provided the information needed to guide resource use and conservation.

Key achievements of the project included mapping and boundary definition as well as zoning plans within the park to clarify types of use permitted. Finally, the project ensured broad consultation with park authorities and stakeholders.

Further funding and action will be needed to protect Pico Basilé National Park, but ONG ANDEGE has helped the park's management take this first important step.



A new sign in the Pico de Basilé National Park, Equatorial Guinea ■ © Policarpo Ndong Obiang/ONG ANDEGE



Indicator:

Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.

Fiscal year 2021
+35

additional species
benefited from
grantee action

Since inception, 942 globally threatened species have benefited from conservation action by CEPF grantees. The actions taken are diverse and range from population surveys to site monitoring to captive breeding. During the past year, 35 species have been added to the list, although species already included have not been recounted. This would be the case if a species in a single hotspot benefited from multiple interventions from one or more grantees, or if the species occurs in more than one hotspot, such as one of the sea turtles.

FIGURE 1.8

Number of Globally Threatened Species Benefiting From Conservation Action 2001-2021

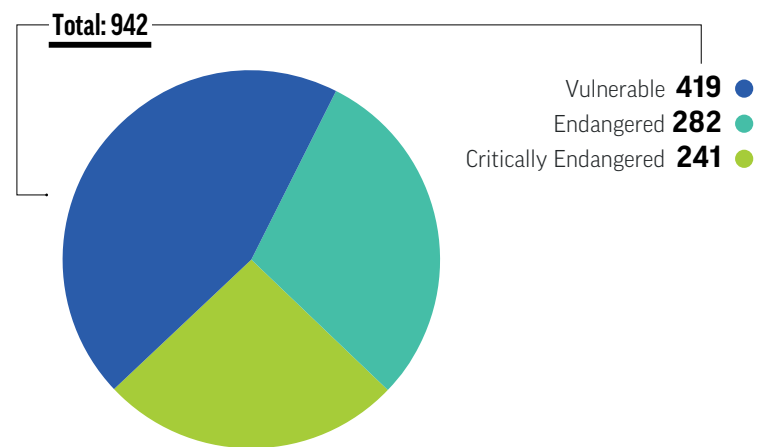
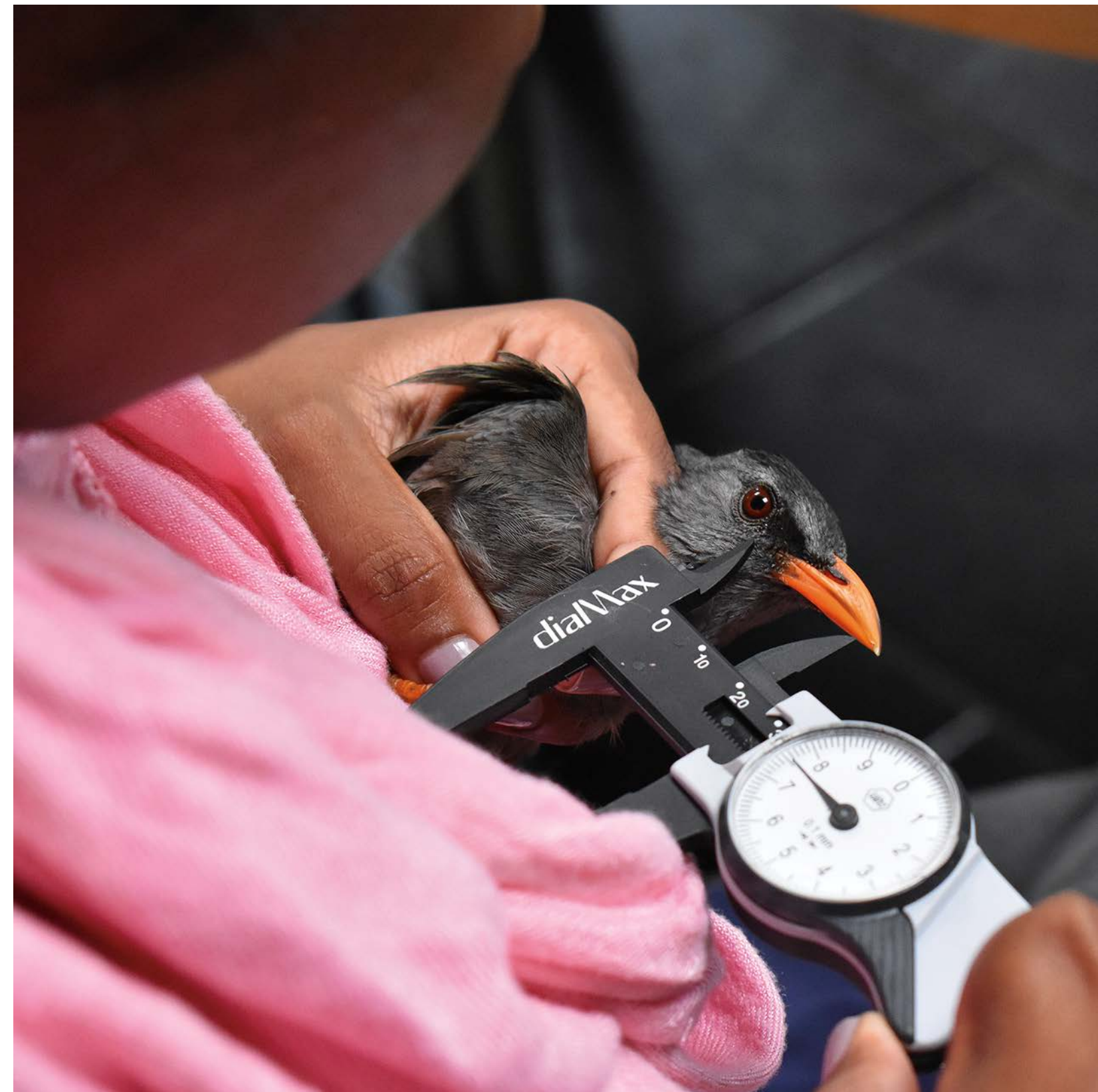
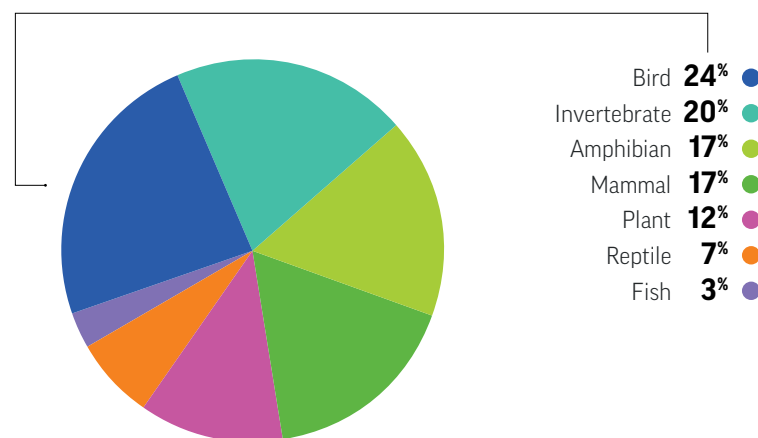


FIGURE 1.9

Taxa Benefiting From CEPF Conservation Action 2001-2021



A participant in a bird conservation project conducted by Ebony Forest Ltd. measures a Mauritius bulbul (*Hypsipetes olivaceus*), Mauritius. © Adisha Sewdyal



Saving the Cross River gorilla from extinction

The Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) is the most threatened ape species in Africa. In Nigeria, the species—classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species—is restricted to three contiguous sites in northern Cross River State: Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, the Mbe Mountains and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park. The forests of Afi-Mbe-Okwangwo are also home to approximately 100,000 people who rely on farming, hunting and nontimber forest products for their livelihoods. As a result of hunting, fewer than 100 Cross River gorillas survive in Nigeria today, and hunting remains a key threat.

With a grant from CEPF, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) worked to reduce the threat from hunting and trapping by supporting ranger patrols that use the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), as well as providing field equipment, food, camping allowances and training to enable rangers to sustain longer and more frequent patrols. By the end of the project, WCS had supported protected-area staff in conducting 784 anti-poaching patrols, removing 26,135 wire snares and dismantling 322 hunting camps. A total of 82,500 hectares in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, Mbe Mountains and the Cross River National Park benefited from these activities.

In parallel, WCS encouraged and supported the adoption of agricultural best practices by local farmers and discouraged the use of unsustainable farming methods such as using fire to clear land. Cocoa farmers were trained and provided with improved cocoa seedlings to replant unproductive farms, thereby increasing productivity and limiting expansion and consequent deforestation. The project also discouraged unsustainable bush mango harvesting methods that destroy and degrade the forest and promoted conservation contracts with 1,669 farmers and nine women's groups to ensure reduced deforestation. In total, the project trained 3,552 people (including 2,204 women); provided supplies to farmers and women's groups; and helped boost income from their farming activities. For example, women's groups supported by the project reported an increase of more than 20% in income from sales of bush mango by selling their product off-season at better prices.

The focus on gorilla conservation entailed a comprehensive conservation education and outreach program that included a radio program titled "My Gorilla My Community," film showings, community meetings, conservation clubs and field trips for schoolchildren. Among the results of this effort was a change in attitude documented through a survey that showed a 200% increase from baseline in the percentage of respondents supporting protection of gorillas and their habitat.

These efforts resulted in the strengthened management of 5,000 hectares of unprotected community forest in the Cross River landscape.

Cross River gorilla in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary ■ © WCS Nigeria Program

Production of bush mango and improved cocoa seedlings is an important part of WCS' conservation efforts in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, the Mbe Mountains and the Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park in Nigeria ■ © WCS Nigeria Program





The Burmese star tortoise: Back from the brink of extinction

In the early 2000s, the Burmese star tortoise (*Geochelone playnota*) was facing near-certain biological extinction due to hundreds of years of overexploitation for food as well as a growing trade to China for food and traditional medicine. More recently, the international pet trade has emerged as a threat to the species, too.

Poaching was rampant, even within protected areas, and scientists could not find any viable populations of the species. Listed as one of the 25 most endangered chelonians in the world, the Burmese star tortoise is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The dismal outlook for the tortoise led to the launch of an ambitious conservation breeding program in 2004 by the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Myanmar Forest Department, in collaboration with CEPF grantees Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Turtle Survival Alliance. Founded with 175-200 tortoises confiscated from wildlife traffickers, the program started slowly but soon took off. By 2020, the program had more than 10,000 tortoises and was producing more than 1,000 hatchlings each year.

While the captive breeding program has been a resounding success, the ultimate goal of the initiative is to re-establish viable populations of wild tortoises in their natural habitat. The National Star Tortoise Action Plan was prepared in 2014 with a goal of reintroducing the tortoise to three large wildlife sanctuaries—Minzontaung, Shwesettaw and Chatthin—thought to be within the historic range of the species. Although surrounded by villages and agricultural lands, Minzontaung has the added benefit of a local belief that the tortoises are under the protection of spirits and anyone who harms them risks divine retribution.

Program staff began implementing the action plan by conducting rigorous health assessments, identifying potential translocation sites, developing translocation protocols and training a cadre of community conservation volunteers. The team established temporary confinement pens to house tortoises prior to full release. Meanwhile, they conducted community education and reached out to village leaders and Buddhist monks to smooth the way for the soon-to-be-released tortoises. The involvement of the monks proved especially important, as tortoises are symbolically “donated” to the local monastery in a public ceremony and then marked with Buddhist iconography prior to release. The markings on the tortoises may deter poachers, who continue to be the greatest threat to successful restoration of wild populations.

To date, more than 2,000 tortoises have been released into the Minzontaung and Shwesettaw wildlife sanctuaries, and successful reproduction has been documented. “This is an important benchmark on the continuum towards ultimate success,” said Steven Platt, WCS herpetologist for Southeast Asia and China.

The program is also using other innovative methods to increase the tortoise population, such as egg translocation—unearthing eggs deposited in the captive breeding colonies and reburying them at carefully selected locations in the wild. The eggs incubate under natural conditions and, after being marked, the hatchlings are allowed to disperse into the surrounding forest. Mortality among the young tortoises is likely to be high, which necessitates translocating a fairly large number of eggs to have an impact. The advantage is that natural selection is acting on the hatchlings.

While threats such as poaching and natural predation persist, the outlook is now much brighter for this species.



Mealtime for the Burmese star tortoise ■ © Swann Htet Naing Aung



© Conservation International/Jack Tordoff

Wallacea
Protecting the silky shark



■ The silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, is one of several globally threatened species found on the reefs surrounding Lanyukang and Langkai islands in Indonesia. These two islands, about 40 kilometers off the west coast of South Sulawesi's capital of Makassar, are home to a highly productive octopus fishery that contributes to the livelihoods of several hundred families. The silky shark and other marine animals are the unfortunate bycatch of fishing activities. Yayasan Konservasi Laut Indonesia (YKLI) is working with the fishing communities to raise awareness about threatened species, institute a management plan that promotes sustainable fishing methods, and monitor reef health. Halfway through the grant, YKLI has helped establish a 200-hectare fishery zone and trained more than 30 boat owners on how to reduce shark bycatch. Data collection will continue through the end of the CEPF-funded project in October 2022 and will hopefully show a reduction in threats to the shark.



© YKLI Indonesia/Alief Fachrul Raazy

Tropical Andes
A 10-year action plan for the black-breasted puffleg



■ The black-breasted puffleg (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*) is a Critically Endangered hummingbird species that is restricted to two Key Biodiversity Areas in Ecuador: Mindo and the western foothills of Volcan Pichincha; and Intag-Toisán. These two areas are isolated from each other by the Guayllabamba River Valley. The global population of the black-breasted puffleg, estimated at fewer than 1,000 individuals, is threatened by habitat degradation. The organization Aves y Conservación started work to conserve the species in early 2007 with research and an action plan focused on Mindo. In 2018, Aves y Conservación received CEPF support to update the plan and expand its scope to include Intag-Toisán. The three-year effort has resulted in the preparation and implementation of the "Action Plan for the Black-Breasted Puffleg 2020-2030." The illustrated plan is a management document that includes an extensive, updated bibliographic review of the taxonomy of the species, distribution, elevational movements, reproductive biology, feeding and conservation status. It outlines the main threats to the species and presents an analysis of the community and governmental and nongovernmental actors who must be considered when designing new conservation and research projects. A legal section provides an extensive review of the legal framework applicable to the conservation of the species. The plan calls for 30 activities divided into four strategic areas: research and monitoring, institutional and community coordination, habitat management, and education and communication. The action plan has proven to be an excellent communications and outreach tool that helped mobilize strong community commitment to safeguard the puffleg's habitat.



© Luis Calapi

With CEPF support, Aves y Conservación helped create a women's group dedicated to restoring degraded lands suitable for the puffleg. The project developed propagation protocols for native plants, created a community nursery capable of producing 10,000 native plants, provided training in plant propagation, and engaged in extensive efforts to support local communities living in puffleg habitat. These efforts enhance local livelihoods as well since Mindo has a vibrant ecotourism industry whereby birders from around the world travel to see the region's magnificent wildlife, including the pufflegs.

Mountains of Central Asia
Saving the wild fruit trees of southern Kyrgyzstan



■ Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country rich in biodiversity and known for its fruit and nut forests. The western slopes of the Fergana Ridge and southern slopes of the Chatkal Range in the south are dominated by Persian walnut (*Juglans regia*) and are peppered with patches of the wild apple species *Malus sieversii* and *M. niedzwetzkyana* (Vulnerable and Endangered, respectively, on the IUCN Red List) as well as the Critically Endangered wild pear species *Pyrus korshinskyi*. With CEPF support, the University of Central Asia worked with communities and government to protect these species and encourage their sustainable use. Collection of walnuts and animal husbandry are among the few major income sources for local people. This has resulted in overgrazing and selective planting and cutting, contributing to the suppression of natural regeneration and loss of genetic diversity, especially of the wild apple and pear species. Collection of apples by local people also reduces regeneration, leading to a lack of young trees and major ecosystem change, loss of genetic diversity, and conversion of the forest into a monocultural orchard that is vulnerable to pests and diseases. The university conducted an awareness-raising campaign among the communities living around the Sary-Chelek, Padysha-Ata and Kara-Alma reserves, informing local residents about conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The project team conducted research and monitored threatened apple and pear species, built capacity of government forest agencies and developed management plans for natural resources and climate change adaptation. With these efforts, the University of Central Asia expects to improve livelihoods and secure a better future for people and for the wild species of apples and pears of Kyrgyzstan.



© UCA/Maksim Kulikov

The forest into a monocultural orchard that is vulnerable to pests and diseases. The university conducted an awareness-raising campaign among the communities living around the Sary-Chelek, Padysha-Ata and Kara-Alma reserves, informing local residents about conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The project team conducted research and monitored threatened apple and pear species, built capacity of government forest agencies and developed management plans for natural resources and climate change adaptation. With these efforts, the University of Central Asia expects to improve livelihoods and secure a better future for people and for the wild species of apples and pears of Kyrgyzstan.

Cerrado
Conservation of the Brazilian merganser



■ Participants in the Chapada Mergus Project (CMP), implemented through the Instituto Amada Terra de Inclusão Social from 2018 to 2020, have been working furiously to save the Brazilian merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*) from extinction. This gorgeous and agile waterbird is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, with the individuals remaining in the wild—estimated at fewer than 250—distributed in only three known isolated populations. Using the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brazilian Merganser as their guide, the project team worked in the Veadeiros Pouso Alto Kalunga Corridor to learn about the habitat use strategies adopted by the species, analyze the impacts of human interference, and establish education and communication actions for schools, the tourist trade and local communities. They also helped to pass legislation designating the Brazilian merganser as an "Ambassador of Brazilian Waters" due to the combination of its highly threatened status and strict ecological requirements. The team members produced technical reports for municipal, state and federal environmental agencies demonstrating the threats to the species. They are also working to secure protections for the areas where the mergansers occur and to understand and reduce the threats to the species, in particular from hydropower and mining enterprises. More information can be found at mergusforever.com.br.



© Andre Dib

Mediterranean Basin
Saving the national flower of Palestine



■ Found nowhere else in the world except the village of Faqaa in Palestine, the beautiful Faqou'a iris (*Iris haynei*) was declared the national flower of Palestine in 2015. Despite its fame, the species is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and persists in a patchwork of fragmented populations on rocky terrain. With help from CEPF funding, Palestine Wildlife Society (PWLS) has provided much-needed attention for this iconic plant through a concerted research program and an awareness campaign. PWLS conducted intensive field surveys during the flowering season to determine range, distribution and population trends and evaluated the main threats facing the species, which include habitat destruction and flower picking. They also conducted genetic analyses and research on seed germination with the assistance of researchers from the University of Saint Josef and Jouzour Loubnan Association, both of Lebanon. Four women and 12 men from PWLS have benefited from the exchange of experience using DNA protocol and improved knowledge on plant conservation. In tandem, 80 university students received training in botanical survey techniques and conducted the field inventories, and about 50 local students, ages 18-24, joined the activities to learn about the fieldwork. PWLS engaged with communities, farmers and the village council and generated interest and pride in the species. Key results of the project included a donation from the Faqou'a Village Council of 4,000 square meters of land for the establishment of a scientific garden for the iris and the planting of iris seedlings, resulting in a successful flowering season in March/April 2021. PWLS plans to reintroduce the seedlings and clones into the iris natural range and increase the ecotourism to the area to benefit the local communities.



© Imad Alatrach

Key results of the project included a donation from the Faqou'a Village Council of 4,000 square meters of land for the establishment of a scientific garden for the iris and the planting of iris seedlings, resulting in a successful flowering season in March/April 2021. PWLS plans to reintroduce the seedlings and clones into the iris natural range and increase the ecotourism to the area to benefit the local communities.

Guinean Forests of West Africa
Preparing for a national action plan for the grey parrot



■ The grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) occurs from Guinea-Bissau to Kenya and is listed as Endangered by IUCN. The species has a long history of overexploitation for the international pet trade, with populations in West Africa among the most heavily exploited. Local populations are collapsing, leading trappers and traders to move further east into Nigeria. CEPF grantee World Parrot Trust is addressing the overexploitation by gathering data, recommending actions and building local capacity needed to dismantle trade networks and address threats to key populations in Nigeria. Their work resulted in assessments of status and threats to grey parrot populations in 28 forest sites and a detailed study of the socioeconomic dimensions of trade in grey parrots. The project also built the capacity of three early career conservationists and seven national park staff to implement a conservation strategy for grey parrots in Nigeria. Of key importance is that recommendations for actions needed to protect grey parrots in Nigeria were agreed upon by key stakeholders from the Nigerian government and civil society organizations. These recommendations will form the basis of a national action plan that will be prepared through a participatory process involving stakeholders.



© Rowan Martin/World Parrot Trust

Of key importance is that recommendations for actions needed to protect grey parrots in Nigeria were agreed upon by key stakeholders from the Nigerian government and civil society organizations. These recommendations will form the basis of a national action plan that will be prepared through a participatory process involving stakeholders.

Indo-Burma
Threatened fish benefit from creation of FCZs



■ In the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, CEPF grantee FISHBIO has been working to conserve two priority species: the Critically Endangered Jullien's golden carp (*Probarbus jullieni*) and the Endangered thick-lipped barb (*P. labeamajor*). These large-bodied fish, found in the Mekong River and its tributaries, are threatened by overfishing and loss of habitat. FISHBIO's work entailed successfully expanding and strengthening a network of seven community co-managed fish conservation zones (FCZs) along the Mekong River between Vientiane and Luang Prabang in Lao PDR. The project established three new FCZs and strengthened four existing ones. The project also brought together nine communities that are co-managing FCZs along this section of the Mekong River to facilitate sharing of experiences and enable collective responses to overfishing and habitat loss. Although the communities encountered some difficulties with apprehending illegal fishers, they reported increased fish catches following FCZ establishment. This suggests that the model has the potential to protect threatened fish species while improving the food security of fishing communities and their resilience to environmental changes.

Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands
Livingstone's fruit bat roosting sites protected in Comoros



■ The Critically Endangered Livingstone's fruit bat (*Pteropus livingstonii*) is an endemic species restricted to the islands of Anjouan and Mohéli in the Comoro archipelago and has a population numbering fewer than 1,300. The species is threatened by habitat loss and destruction of roosting sites, which are cut down for timber used for building materials, charcoal and fuel. Since 2016, Dahari has monitored the fruit bat population on Anjouan Island. Through Dahari's current CEPF-funded project, the organization implemented a scheme for payment of ecosystem services around seven key roosting sites located in the Moya Forest Key Biodiversity Area. This led to co-management agreements that yield benefits to both local communities and bats.



© Dahari

East Melanesian Islands
Generating information and interest in giant rats



■ CEPF grantee Oceania Ecology Group worked in several remote areas of the Solomon Islands archipelago to generate information about three poorly known threatened endemic rodents: Bougainville giant rat (*Solomys salebrosus*), Vangunu giant rat (*Uromys vika*) and king rat (*Uromys rex*). Oceania Ecology Group conducted field studies to locate the species and collect data about diet and habitat preferences using camera traps, GPS and radio trackers. While the team was not able to find the king rat, they were very successful with the other two species. Information collected will help to identify appropriate conservation actions to protect these species, both of which frequent areas under significant threat from logging, particularly at Zaira on Vangunu Island. The project confirmed two conservation areas as critical sites for the Bougainville giant rat and Vangunu giant rat, which should provide justification for legislative protection of the Zaira Resource Management Area on Vangunu and the Kainake conservation area on Bougainville. The project was also instrumental in raising awareness with communities about the importance of conserving these species and in encouraging communities to act as champions for their protection.



© John Lamaris



CEPF PILLAR 2
CIVIL SOCIETY

Indicator:

Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity.

From the 2009 launch of the Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) through June 2021, CEPF received 441 complete assessment cycles (baseline plus final) from recipients of large grants, small grants (US\$50,000 or less) and subgrants. The 441 organizations that submitted a complete assessment come from 16 hotspots:

- **Completed investments:** Caribbean Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany, Mesoamerica, Mountains of Southwest China, Polynesia-Micronesia, Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena, and Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.
- **Ongoing investments:** Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Tropical Andes and Wallacea.

Out of the 441 organizations that completed their reporting cycles, 309 recorded an increase in organizational capacity (70%). Figure 2.1 presents the results per hotspot with an ongoing investment and the average for the hotspots with a completed investment.

As per Figure 2.2, which presents the average baseline and final scores for completed investments and each hotspot with an ongoing investment, there is an overall weighted average increase of 7.7 points (+9 %) in the capacities of civil society organizations. This weighted average is obtained by multiplying the average of each hotspot by the number of civil society organizations with a complete cycle for this hotspot.

Civil society organizations from East Melanesian Islands display the lowest baseline average capacities—an average score of 49 points, which is 16 points lower than the global average baseline score. However, the 26 organizations that have completed a baseline and a final assessment in this hotspot have seen so far an increase in their capacities of 13 points, representing the highest global increase (+26%). Yet these organizations remain on average 11 points below the global average final capacity level.

+441 organizations completed reporting

+309 increased organizational capacity



The organization Green Ground Seraidi-Annaba collects plant data, Edough Peninsula, Algeria ■ © Amir Boulemtafes, GGS

FIGURE 2.1

Number and Percentage of Civil Society Organizations With Increased Capacities for Completed and Active Investments

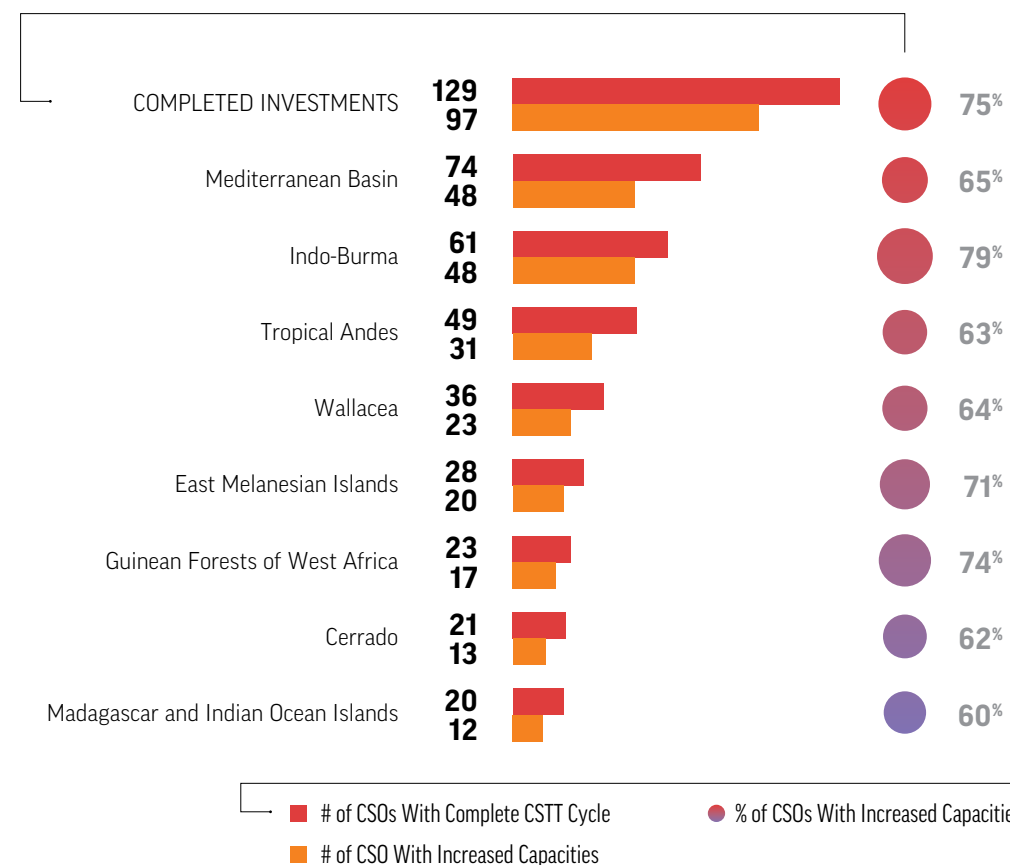
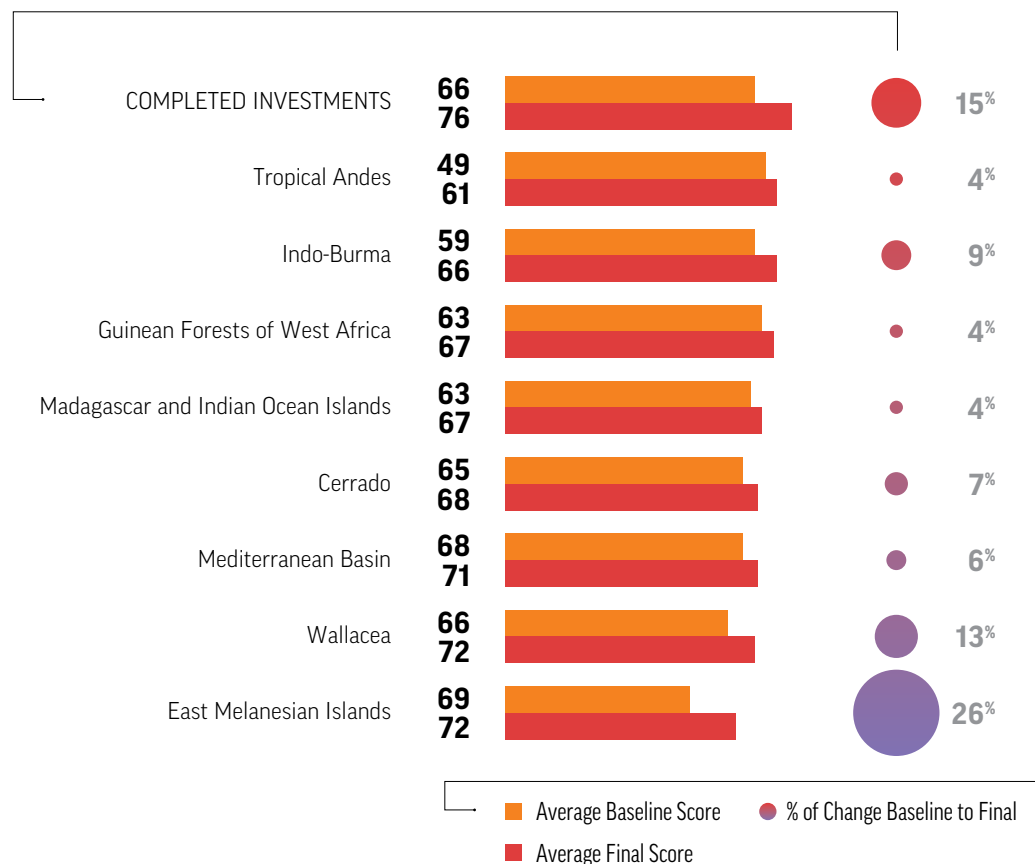




FIGURE 2.2

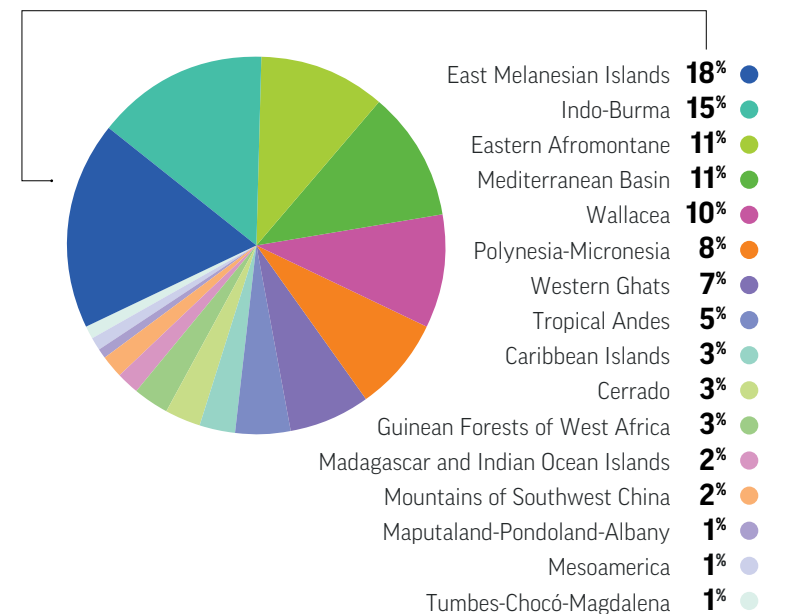
Average Change in Capacity of Civil Society Organizations



As per Figure 2.3, East Melanesian Islands is also making the biggest contribution to CEPF's impact on civil society capacity globally so far at 18%, ahead of Indo-Burma (15%) and Eastern Afromontane and the Mediterranean Basin (11%). These figures are determined by considering the number of civil society organizations with a baseline and a final assessment in each hotspot, by considering the percentage changes in their CSTT scores, and by relating this to the total number of organizations with a baseline and a final CSTT globally. For example, because 71% of East Melanesian Islands' participating grantees showed an increase in capacity, and the number of participating grantees is 28, this represents a higher contribution than a hotspot such as Tropical Andes, where 49 grantees participated and 63% of them increased their capacities.

FIGURE 2.3

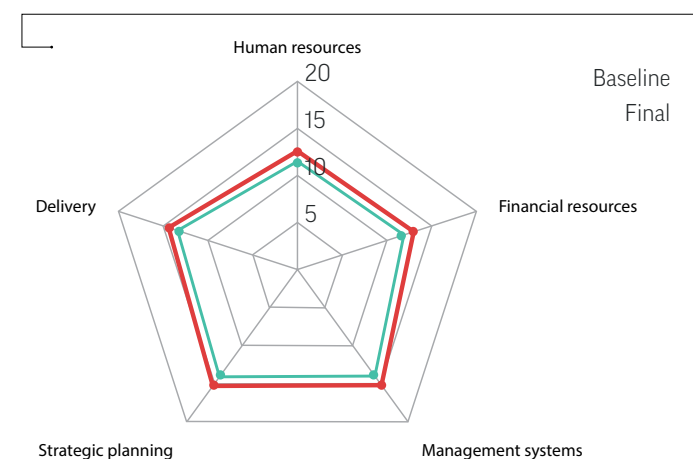
Contribution of Each Hotspot to CEPF Global Impact on Civil Society Organizations' Capacities



To date, as per Figure 2.4, organizations benefiting from CEPF grants have seen the highest improvements in their management systems (+1.2 points), which allows available resources to be translated into effective actions; and in their strategic planning (+1.3 points), which ensures that these actions target conservation priorities.

FIGURE 2.4

Change in Average CSTT Scores 2009-2021





Strengthened Solomon Islands organization now helping others

In the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, the young organization Mai-Maasina Green Belt (MMGB) is bringing together the conservationists of Malaita Island after strengthening its capacity with the help of a CEPF grant.

MMGB's founders—all of whom are active with other conservation organizations in the region—established the community-based nonprofit in 2017 after discussing common challenges at a CEPF grantee exchange meeting in Honiara in 2016.

“Our idea was to develop a network that could try and help each other to protect and manage our community lands and the island of Malaita as a whole,” said Edgar Pollard, director of MMGB.

After receiving CEPF funding during its first year of operations—a pivotal time for any nascent organization—MMGB implemented key capacity-building activities that led to a tremendous jump in its score on CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Tool: from a baseline score of 29.5 out of 100 to a score of 52.2.

“The funding provided for the development of our conservation strategies and policies has been a key intervention for us,” said Pollard.

Members of the organization came together and created governing and guiding documents, including a strategic action plan, organizational and financial policies, and a business feasibility study—all designed to ensure that MMGB continues conservation efforts across Malaita for years to come.



Mai-Maasina Green Belt team and colleagues on a cross-island trek to spread the message of conservation across Malaita, Solomon Islands ■ © Edgar Pollard

Establishing and strengthening governance structures is crucial for increasing an organization's capacity, and MMGB made significant improvements on this front. For example, MMGB convened its first annual meeting in AreAre, where 30 chiefs, men, women, youth and conservation leaders from 11 areas in Kwaio and AreAre gathered to discuss the vision and objectives of the organization.

Engaging with local community members and other Indigenous-led conservation groups in Malaita has been essential to the growth and success of MMGB. For example, major partners of MMGB include the Baru Conservation Alliance (BCA) and Wai Hau Conservation Foundation, both of which have received their own CEPF capacity-building grants.

In 2020, MMGB collaborated with BCA, Wai Hau and other members of the MMGB network to undertake a cross-island scoping trek to spread the message of conservation across Malaita and to better understand the needs of current and potential members of MMGB. The trip was a success, resulting in the MMGB membership base expanding from 10 to 30 members who represent communities, tribes and other interested groups across Malaita.

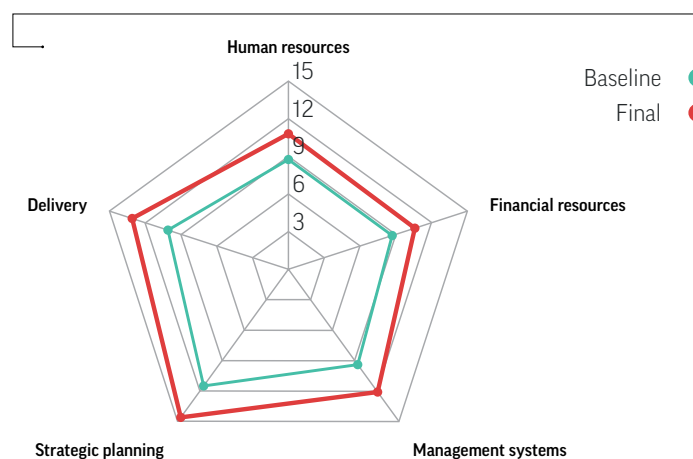
“Communities are beginning to realize the value and importance of conservation and sustainable development,” said Pollard. “Many communities are now engaged in conservation-related initiatives through the MMGB network. This has created an avenue for conservation communities to work together.”

MMGB also has already made an important contribution to Malaita's environmental policy. The organization helped convince the Malaita provincial government to pass an ordinance against logging in February 2021.

The organization is now planning to build from the organizational framework established with the help of the initial CEPF grant and is implementing a second CEPF-funded project to share with other Solomon Islands organizations techniques for protected-area management that have proven successful in other parts of the country.

FIGURE 2.5

Change in Average CSTT Scores in East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot 2013-2021





Indicator:

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

From 2017 (launch of the Gender Tracking Tool) through June 2021, CEPF approved 658 gender assessments from recipients of large grants, small grants (US\$50,000 or less) and subgrants across 10 hotspots: Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Eastern Afromontane, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, Mountains of Central Asia, Tropical Andes and Wallacea. The investment in Mountains of Central Asia started in 2019, therefore there were no final gender assessments by June 2021 for this hotspot. For the Mediterranean Basin, four final assessments have been received to date, which is too few for significant analysis to be carried out on gender integration. In total, there are 165 organizations with a baseline and a final gender assessment from the remaining eight hotspots. The CEPF impact on civil society organizations' understanding of and commitment to gender issues is based on the analysis of the baseline and final assessments of these 165 organizations.

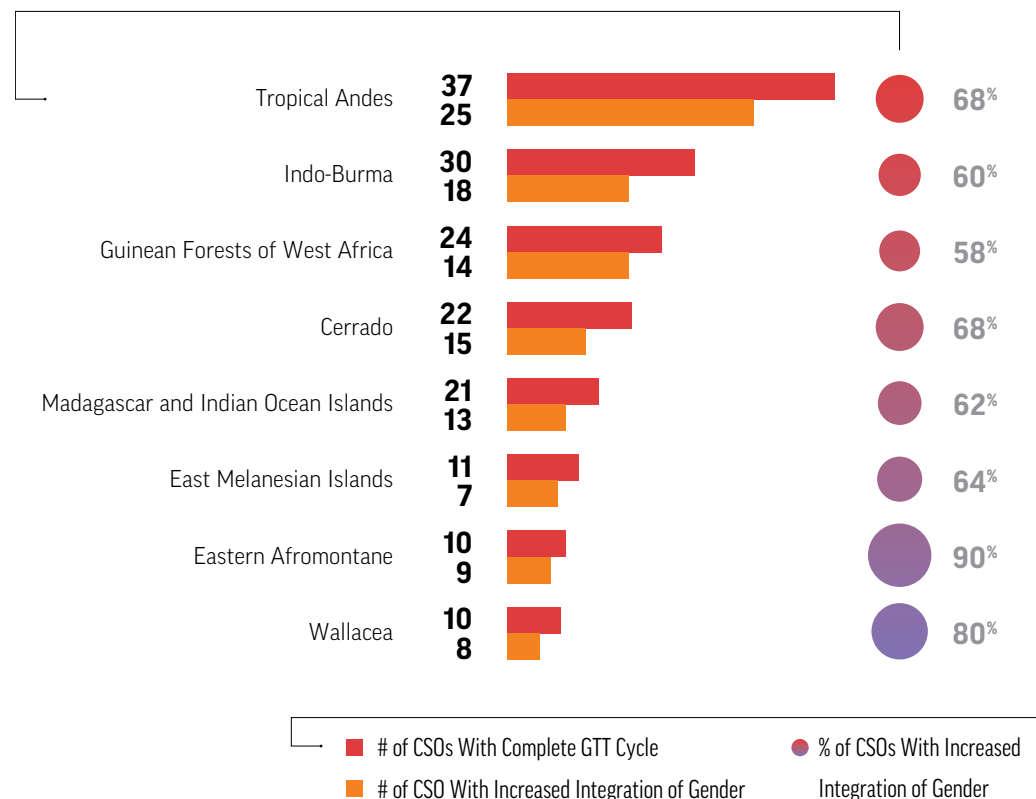
+165 organizations assessed

+109 increased understanding of gender

Out of these 165 organizations, 109 recorded an increase in understanding of and commitment to gender issues (66%). Figure 2.6 presents the results per hotspot.

FIGURE 2.6

Number and Percentage of Civil Society Organizations With Increased Integration of Gender Per Hotspot

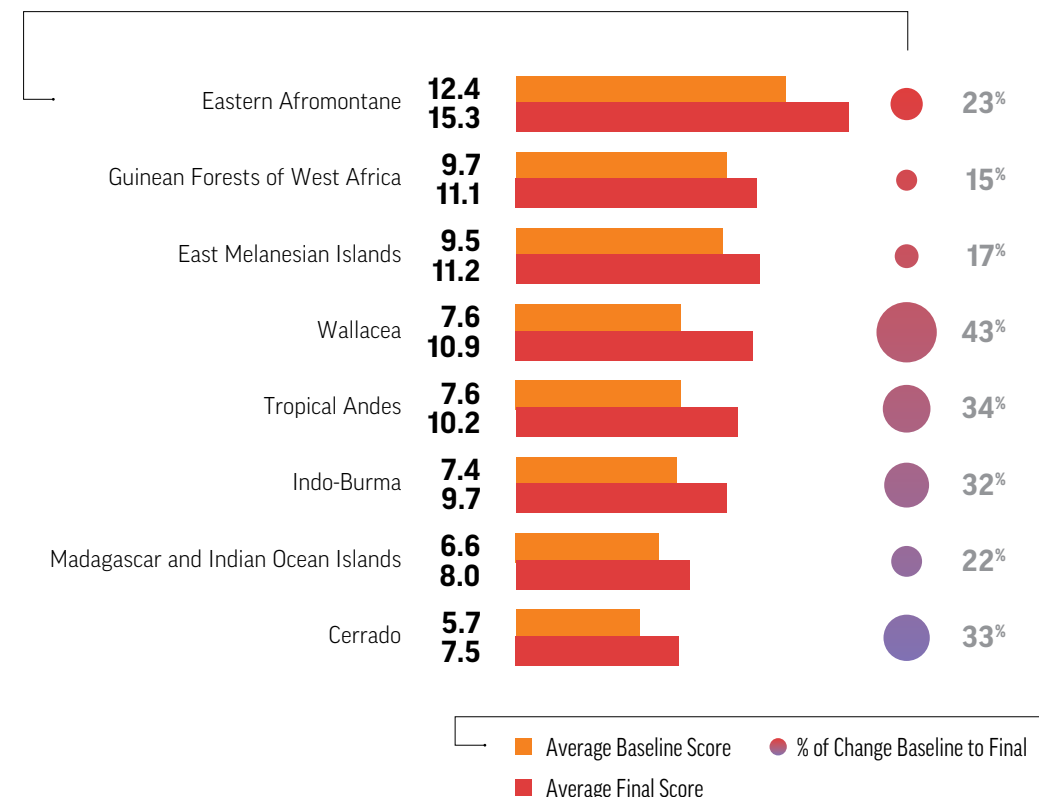


Mapping workshop for traditional communities in the municipality of Santa Filomena, Brazil. © Equipe IPAM e ISPN

For the 165 organizations, out of a maximum score of 20 points, the overall average baseline score was eight points (40%) and the average final score is 10 (50%). This represents a 26% global increase in understanding of and commitment to gender issues since CEPF started promoting gender integration in 2017. Figure 2.7 presents the average evolution of scores per hotspot.

FIGURE 2.7

Average Change in Gender Integration Per Hotspot





During 2021, the Gender Tracking Tool was fully integrated into CEPF grant management software, ConservationGrants. This integration now allows grantees to fill in and submit their assessment online directly into ConservationGrants. As part of this integration, the eighth question of the tracking tool, which asked grantees whether they would be interested in being contacted by the RIT to learn more or receive training about gender issues, was removed. Instead, each time a grantee submits a baseline assessment in ConservationGrants, an email is automatically sent with links to the CEPF Gender Toolkit and the CEPF Gender webpage. Also, the second question was slightly altered to improve its clarity. The seven questions are:

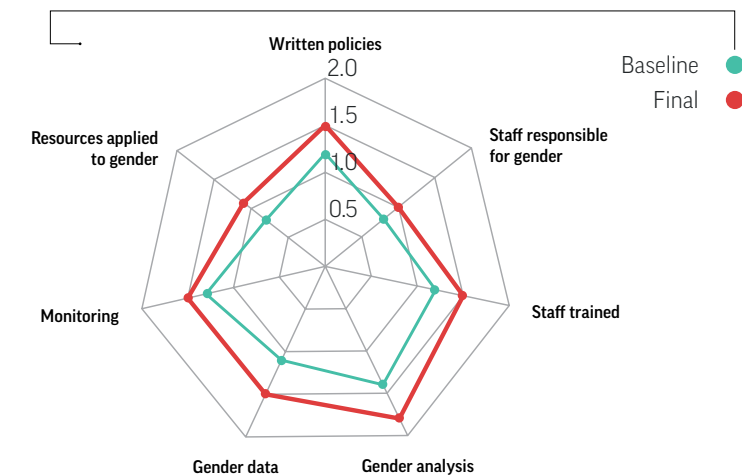
- 1** Does your organization have a written policy that affirms a commitment to gender equality?
- 2** Are there people in your organization, trained in gender, responsible for gender issues?
- 3** Have any staff in your organization ever received training on gender issues?
- 4** Is gender analysis built into your program planning procedures?
- 5** Do you collect sex-disaggregated data about the people impacted by your projects?
- 6** Does your organization monitor and evaluate how your projects and programs impact men and women differently?
- 7** Does your organization allocate financial resources to incorporate gender into its work?

Considering these seven questions, the 165 organizations that have submitted both baseline and final assessments have recorded an increase of score across all questions except for the question on having designated people within their organization trained in gender and responsible for gender issues (question #2). Grantees continue to indicate that filling in the baseline assessment via the Gender Tracking Tool triggered their interest in gender integration. CEPF's Gender Toolkit remains one of the most downloaded documents on the CEPF website. Applicants are also still requested to formulate sex-disaggregated project impacts at proposal stage, while grantees have to report back on the number of men and the number of women directly benefiting from their project at project end. The associated trend is highlighted in Figure 2.8.

FIGURE 2.8

Evolution of Gender Integration Among Civil Society Organizations

Fiscal Years 2017-2021



Preparing chili seeds in Ambela Village, Talaud Islands, Indonesia ■ © Rifky/Rekam Nusantara Foundation





Gender considerations welcomed into Colombian organization's program

Fundación Trópico, an accomplished conservation and sustainable development organization that has been conserving biodiversity and helping Colombian communities for 26 years, has shown how quickly organizations can integrate gender considerations into their program.

The organization, which has completed three projects with CEPF funding, had not focused much on integrating gender in its projects when it received its first CEPF grant in 2016 to establish a protected area in the Alto y Bajo Calima Key Biodiversity Area. In fact, CEPF at that time had only just begun including gender in its monitoring framework. But with the help of CEPF's Gender Toolkit and its Gender Tracking Tool, Fundación Trópico began factoring gender considerations into its projects and tracking its performance on this aspect.

The results have been impressive. While the organization scored 3 points out of 20 on the Gender Tracking Tool in 2017, it jumped to 13 points by 2020. Fundación Trópico achieved this improvement by weaving gender considerations into its projects, getting guidance and training from a consultant, and developing a monitoring system.

"Since the first CEPF project, when we filled out the Gender Tracking Tool, we began to include the gender issue in the activities we developed," said Ana Elvia Arana, director of Fundación Trópico. "We promoted equitable participation and we tried to show the importance of the issue with stakeholders."

In 2018, Fundación Trópico gathered the stories of women from the buffer area of Río Bravo—a protected area declared by the government with the support of Fundación Trópico—in association with Arana's receipt of the Award for the Creativity of Women in Rural Life from the World Women's Summit Foundation of Switzerland.

Fundación Trópico engaged a social worker with experience in gender issues to lead training for its staff, and worked with Asoribravo to conduct gender workshops with 25 local leaders between the ages of 18 and 70 in the Key Biodiversity Areas of Región de Alto Calima and Parque Natural Regional Páramo del Duende.

Recording gender and ethnic differentiation for all activities was also a key step. "We have continued seeking that the beneficiaries of the projects and the associated personnel be equitable from this perspective," said Arana.

The organization also began work on a gender policy. Efforts stalled with the onset of COVID, but Fundación Trópico intends to finish the policy this year. It also initiated development of a tool to evaluate the impact of gender interventions, which has already generated many lessons and reflections among the Fundación Trópico team members.

"Fundación Trópico is committed to acquiring a deeper commitment to the gender perspective, implementing actions that favor gender equality inside and outside the design, implementation and execution of projects," said Arana. "We seek to recognize the voices of women and men in the territory, their problems and proposals."



Woman prepares raw sugar in Colombia. © David Ramírez / Fundación Trópico



Indicator:

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

CEPF encourages grantees to create and support partnerships and networks. These alliances can make a huge difference in assuring the sustainability of conservation outcomes. They can secure broad support for conservation actions, promote inclusion among diverse stakeholders and increase the likelihood that conservation efforts and activities will be sustainable. Since fund inception, CEPF has recorded a total of 705 networks/partnerships strengthened by grantees, 515 of which were created by grantees. This is an increase of 135 since the close of fiscal year 2020.

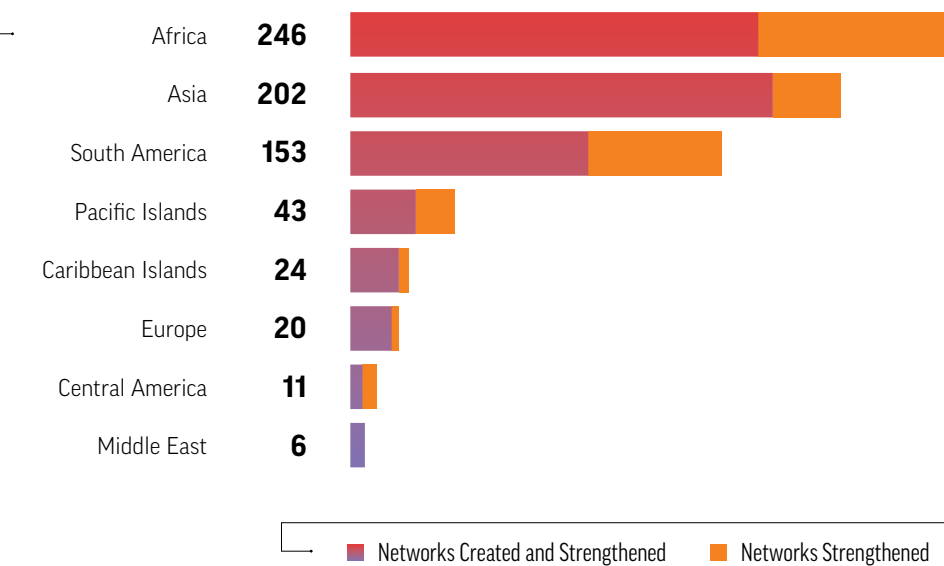
Fiscal year 2021
+135

networks/partnerships strengthened

FIGURE 2.9

Networks and Partnerships Created and/or Strengthened by Region

Total: 705 (515 Created)



Fergana toad-headed agama (*Phrynocephalus helioscopus*), Uzbekistan ■ © Timur Abdurapov



Alliance builds a regional strategy to improve mining practices in the Tropical Andes

Gold mining is a powerful economic force. In Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, illegal and informal gold mining serves as a major source of income for local and national governments and as a significant source of formal and informal employment for its citizens. It is also degrading forests and waterways, poisoning water and fish, and generating conflict and crime.

The enormity of the problem requires a regional approach to developing solutions, a challenge Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) took on by establishing a hotspot-wide alliance of conservation organizations to develop and implement strategies to improve mining practices.

The situation is dire. For example, the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve in Peru has some 50,000 illegal miners and support staff in an area known as La Pampa. Mercury poisoning, human trafficking, criminality, violence and habitat destruction are rife. In Ecuador, hundreds of mining concessions have been issued, many of them in areas of high environmental value and social sensitivity, generating conflict between miners and local communities. Colombian Key Biodiversity Areas are under threat from an increase in mining concessions as well, which has contributed to growing violence. And in Bolivia, hundreds of concessions have been legally granted inside the country's protected areas.

With a grant from CEPF issued in 2019, WCS brought together WCS Bolivia, WCS Ecuador, the Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenibles (FCDS) in Colombia, and the Peruvian NGO Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) in an alliance dedicated to addressing this complex and challenging issue. The alliance coordinated with other civil society organizations in the four countries to prepare a regional approach to reduce the threats posed by mining in environmentally and socially sensitive areas. The project also established national and regional working groups to exchange information and experiences in dealing with mining and its impacts on biodiversity and communities.

The alliance engaged 87 Andean institutions to generate and document baseline data on the presence, intensity and impacts of legal and illegal gold mining in eight corridors covering 19 Key Biodiversity Areas and 13 national protected areas and Indigenous territories. National and regional reports identified the key stakeholders and the policy frameworks and bottlenecks that underlie mining threats. Based on the assessments and stakeholder engagement, the alliance produced four national strategies and a regional strategy dedicated to mitigating the threats arising from mining. The strategies provided guidance on how governments, civil society, academia, grassroots groups and the mining sector can work together to address the immense challenges. Additionally, CEPF's support has allowed WCS to interest other donors, mobilizing additional financial resources to work on the issue.

Since the project closed in October 2020, participants have continued to advance the responsible mining agenda. Peru's national mining platform, called the KBA Mining Observatory, remains actively engaged as a network advocating for responsible mining in the country. In Bolivia, the Inter-Institutional Working Group on Responsible Gold grew to include 16 member organizations, which built upon the Bolivia mining strategy to craft a strategic plan for the working group and annual operational plans. In addition, WCS, FCDS and FZS continue to collaborate at a regional level. Modeled upon their work in the Andes, the group has added the Amazon to their agenda.



Miners in Apolobamba Integrated Management Nature Area of Bolivia are targeted for training and technical support to mitigate their environmental impacts ■
© Conservation International/Michele Zador



CEPF PILLAR 3
HUMAN WELL-BEING

Indicator:
Number of people receiving structured training.

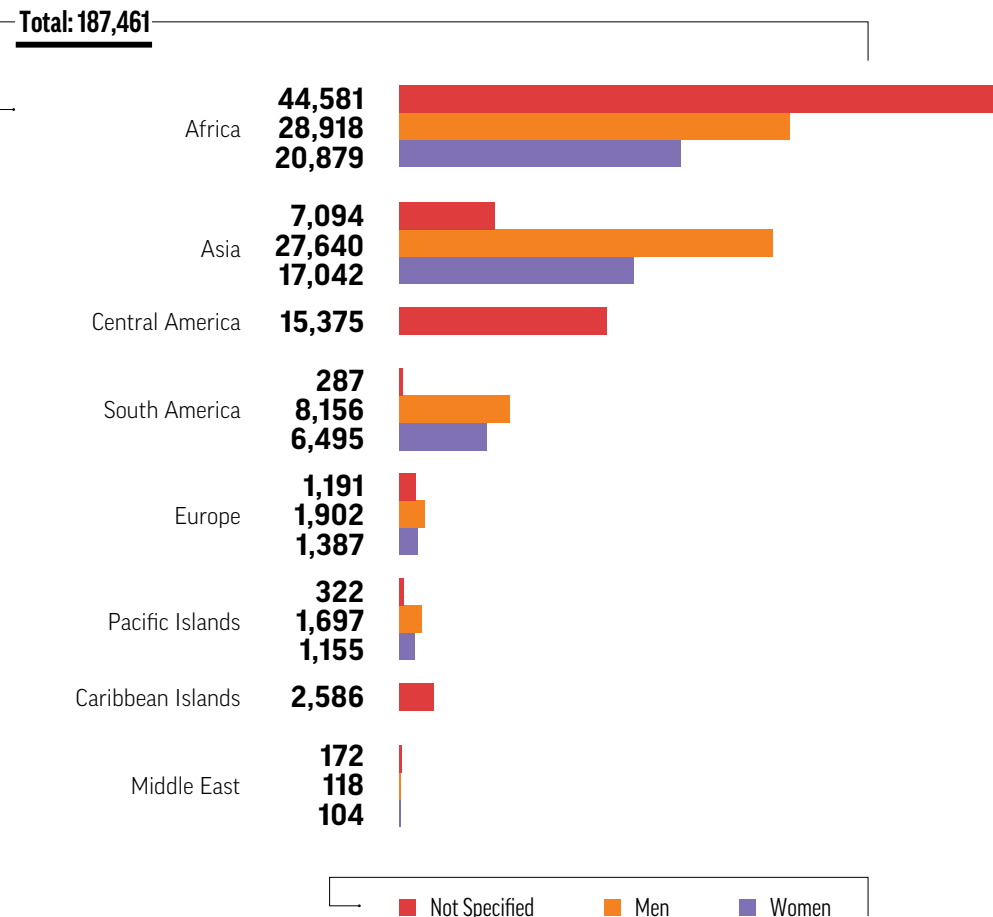
This indicator captures the number of men and women who have participated in a structured training opportunity. As with other indicators, sex-disaggregated data is only available since collection started in 2017. To date, 187,461 people have received structured training, including 47,422 women. During the past year, training topics have included coastal zone management, waste management, reef ecology, ecotourism, hospitality, waterbird monitoring, species monitoring, fire management, organic farming, financial management and a range of other topics and skillsets.

At least
+47,422
women

received
structured
training

FIGURE 3.1

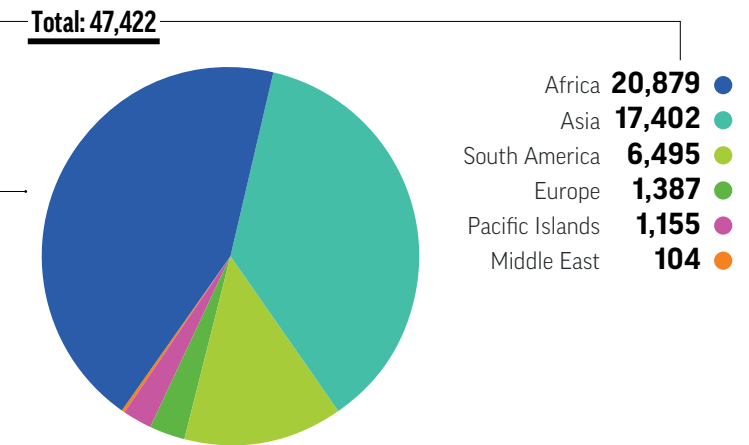
Number of Trainees by Region 2017-2021



Women learn to make fish "meatballs" to get more income from their fish catch, Malaita, North Sulawesi, Indonesia © Manengkel Solidaritas

FIGURE 3.2

Number of Women Trainees by Region 2017-2021





Fostering a new generation of botanists in the Mediterranean Region

The Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot is first and foremost a plant hotspot. With roughly 25,000 plant species, almost half of which are found nowhere else, the plant diversity exceeds that of African rainforests or the Indian subcontinent. The region is the center of diversity for many horticultural, medicinal and aromatic plants, and the flora is a key element of Mediterranean culture.

During CEPF's first investment in the hotspot from 2012-2017, however, projects with a focus on plants were few. One major issue identified as limiting plant conservation action: a generation gap in the botanist community. A number of eminent field botanists working in the region were trained in the 1950s and '60s, but subsequent generations saw declining numbers of recruits to the profession. This trend affects university departments, protected-area authorities and environmental organizations, where the number of botanists is much lower than ornithologists or mammalogists.

To address this gap, the grant-making strategy for CEPF's second five-year investment in the region made fostering the emergence of a new generation of plant conservation professionals a priority. The strategy set a goal of training 20 young professionals. Even before the completion of the investment, CEPF grantees had far exceeded this goal.

By 2021, a year before the end of the investment period, 105 young professionals had gained substantial experience in plant conservation, 59% of whom were women. With support from CEPF, many students had the opportunity to pursue master's degrees or doctorates in relation to plant conservation, while others were trained in field botany to assist in inventories and taxonomic work.

In Morocco, CEPF grantee Association Nature Solutions supported the training of 30 people—including 18 women—to carry out the identification and mapping of endangered species in Talassemtane National Park. Two of the participants obtained their master's degrees and are now writing their theses. In Tunisia, a project with WWF North Africa involved three women in doctoral programs who traveled for exchanges to the University of Cagliari in Sardinia, Italy. One of these botanists described a species new to science—*Limonium steppicum* from the shores of Djerba Island—and is studying this species as part of a project with CEPF grantee Association Tunisienne de Développement Durable: La Recherche en Action. In Algeria, the organization Green Ground Seraidi engaged three young researchers studying at the master's level—all women—to carry out the fieldwork necessary for an inventory and herbarium of rare and endemic flora.

Two staff members from Associação Projecto Vitó de Cabo Verde were mentored by the leading botanist of the small, isolated island of Brava, who passed on knowledge about rare and endemic plants. In the Balkans, EnvPro, an organization involved in the conservation of Orjen's iris (*Iris orjenii*), trained seven young professionals (two men and five women) from Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in taxonomy, ecology and practical conservation techniques such as translocation and use of geographic information systems. In Palestine, two master's students from Bethlehem University received training on plant conservation projects, fundraising and botanical garden management and published scientific papers on the endangered flora of the West Bank. In addition, they contributed to the training of six volunteers on maintenance of botanical collections.



Botanist in training in the Mediterranean Basin ■ © Amir Boulemtafes

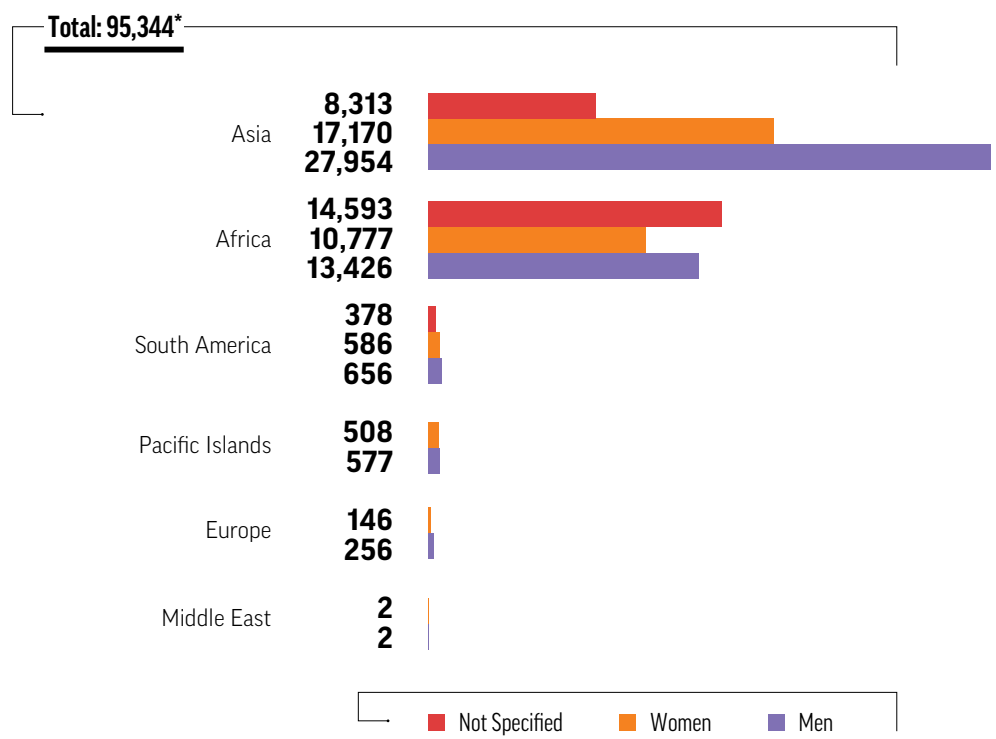


Indicator:
Number of people receiving cash benefits.

Since 2017, CEPF has systematically collected data from grantees on the number of men and women receiving cash benefits. These benefits are derived from employment opportunities, for example in projects where grantees hire people to work in plant nurseries or work as eco-guides, or from small-scale alternative livelihood projects where beneficiaries are able to generate income. Examples of activities yielding cash benefits include medicinal plant, handicraft, honey, coconut oil, coffee or cacao production, sustainable fisheries, and ecotourism. To date, CEPF has recorded 95,344 people receiving cash benefits, 29,189 of whom are women.

Fiscal year 2021
+8,927
people
received
cash benefits

FIGURE 3.3
Number of People Receiving Cash Benefits by Region 2017-2021



*Note: During data review it was discovered that 16,909 people recorded in FY20 did not meet the criteria for this indicator, and therefore they have been omitted from the total.



Handicraft training program at Sambinasi Village, Riung, Indonesia ■ © KSP/Ayu Wijayanti



Piloting a model for payment for ecosystem services in Lao PDR

In a high-biodiversity region of Lao PDR that is under tremendous pressure from hydropower development, CEPF grantee the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) seized an opportunity to guide national policy by demonstrating the power of payment for ecosystem services (PES) models.

The WCS project focused on the Lower Mekong Basin—one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet, and one of the most threatened. Overexploitation of natural resources for economic development has emerged as a critical driver of deforestation, and conservation gains are under threat. In Lao PDR, more than 54% of the country's wealth is estimated to come from its natural resources, of which 33% is calculated to come from hydropower development. This is driving an expansion of hydropower development at a seemingly unsustainable rate—90 projects planned over the next decade—with insufficient consideration given to social and environmental impacts or the long-term economic viability of the projects.

WCS saw a chance to encourage Lao PDR to go in a more sustainable direction when national authorities began drafting PES regulations. Such regulations would provide a basis for payments by hydropower companies to local governments and communities for forest protection. WCS moved on this opportunity by partnering with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to demonstrate proof of concept for a PES model with Theun Hinboun Power Company and inform the development of the draft national PES regulations.

The project covered key stretches of the main rivers and important catchments in the Nam Theun-Nam Kading and Nam Mouane-Nam Heung watersheds. WCS worked to develop a PES scheme that would deliver conservation results as well as economic gains for local communities in the hope that it could serve as model to be replicated elsewhere in the country.

The project gained steam in 2018, with two communities, Nacheng and Khamkhuna, agreeing to protect and restore 1,870 hectares of forest in exchange for payments into their village funds, which would be available for activities selected by the communities. During three years of implementation, WCS supported the communities to undertake forest management activities such as reforestation, fire prevention and reduction of unsustainable practices.

More than US\$50,000 has been transferred into the village funds. Local authorities and WCS have supported the communities to select suitable projects for the funds and to ensure that the projects benefit the entire community. To date, the payments have been used to develop and improve the village drinking water supply, develop small irrigation schemes, and set up revolving funds for women's groups. These revolving funds have been used to purchase livestock and fund handicraft activities. A total of 366 people reported receiving cash benefits during the project, including 183 women.

The model has proven to be well aligned with government policy aimed at integrating forest protection with rural development. As a testament of the pilot's success, the provincial authorities want to use this model as a gold standard to be implemented in other projects.



Villagers from Nacheng, Lao PDR, view the forest they will protect as part of a PES scheme ■ © David Lety/ Wildlife Conservation Society



Indicator:

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

CEPF has collected data on the number of communities benefiting from CEPF projects since 2001, but not until 2017 did monitoring expand to include collection of information about community characteristics, types of benefits received, and number of males and females in each community. Since inception of the fund, a total of 4,692 communities have benefited, and a total of 1,130,054 people (568,081 males and 561,973 females) have been recorded as benefiting from the 3,871 communities counted since 2017. Figures 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 below illustrate the characteristics of the communities CEPF has supported and the types of benefits received.

+1,306
Indigenous
and ethnic
communities
benefited from
CEPF-funded
projects

FIGURE 3.4

Communities Benefiting from CEPF Projects by Region 2001-2021

Total: 4,692

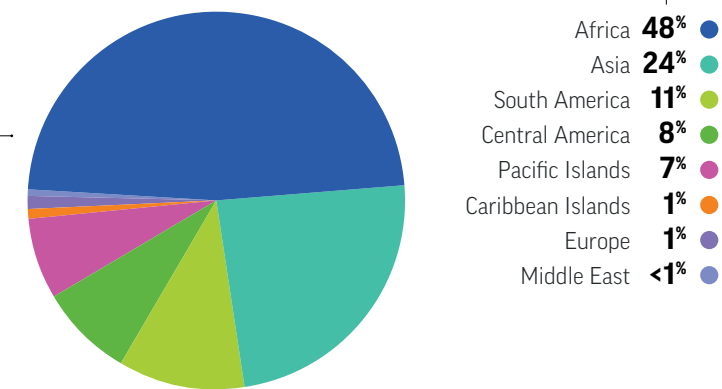
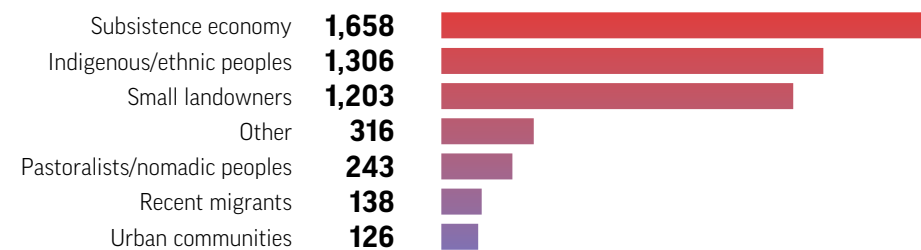


FIGURE 3.5

Characteristics of Communities Benefiting

Total Communities: 3,871 / Fiscal Years 2017-2021

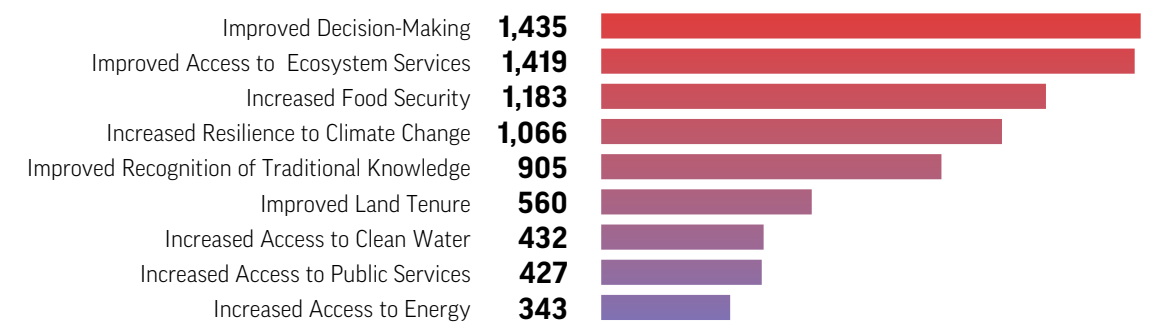


Consultations for establishing a community protected area, Cambodia © WCS-Cambodia/Phann Sithan

FIGURE 3.6

Types of Benefits Received by 3,871 Communities in 9 Hotspots

Fiscal Years 2017-2021





Communities benefit from new mapping technology

As industrial agriculture expands in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot in Brazil, traditional communities are at risk of losing their land. Often called “marginalized communities,” these groups are extremely vulnerable because their territories are not legally recognized, which threatens their rights to land and resources while limiting their access to health, education and other social services. The land grabbing, violence and expulsion of these traditional communities from their land is common and on the rise in Brazil’s agricultural frontier, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is with this backdrop that the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM) received CEPF support to provide these communities with urgently needed spatial data to map their lands and help ensure their rights.

The IPAM project included efforts in four CEPF priority corridors in the northern part of the Cerrado—Central de Matopiba, Veadeiros-Pouso Alto-Kalungas, Sertão Veredas-Peruaçu, and Mirador-Mesas—corresponding to an area of 32.9 million hectares and representing 16% of the hotspot. The region harbors important savannas, grasslands and forests that are critical to the climate, biodiversity, carbon storage and water cycles. It is inhabited by numerous Indigenous and traditional communities whose livelihoods are directly dependent on and adapted to the area.

According to IPAM, the battle to avoid deforestation, guarantee basic access to natural resources such as water, and support these vulnerable populations urgently requires basic spatial information. Even with recognized land rights, traditional communities are often stuck in their marginalized status if they lack a precise map of their territory. Putting these communities on the map represents an opportunity to sustain traditional cultures, maintain carbon stocks, and protect biodiversity, soil and water resources for future generations.

During the project, IPAM partnered with the Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza (ISPN) to:

- Map the traditional communities.
- Consolidate a spatial database on traditional communities.
- Identify and map critical ecosystems and potential areas of habitat loss.
- Develop a communication strategy to disseminate the results to traditional communities, governments and society at large.
- Engage traditional communities in using this information to strengthen their land rights, livelihoods and conservation in the Cerrado.

IPAM held numerous mapping workshops attended by community leaders. It also produced a range of maps (e.g., maps of community density, number of communities per municipality, vulnerability to future deforestation), videos, radio programs, T-shirts and posters and developed a unique mapping application called *Tô no mapa* (tonomapa.org.br). The project team held 18 workshops and conducted significant media outreach to disseminate results. Yet the most significant results of the project are that 2,398 communities in the corridors were mapped. With the mapping data in hand, the communities are in a good position to register their land.

At project close, with the assistance of IPAM, numerous communities have accessed the application for the registration process, and 53 have finalized their registration. *Tô no mapa* has been instrumental, and it is a tool that deserves wider recognition and use as a means to afford traditional communities rights to their land.



Participants gathered at the end of the traditional communities mapping workshop held in the municipality of Balsas-Maranhão ■ © Equipe IPAM e ISPN



Indicator:

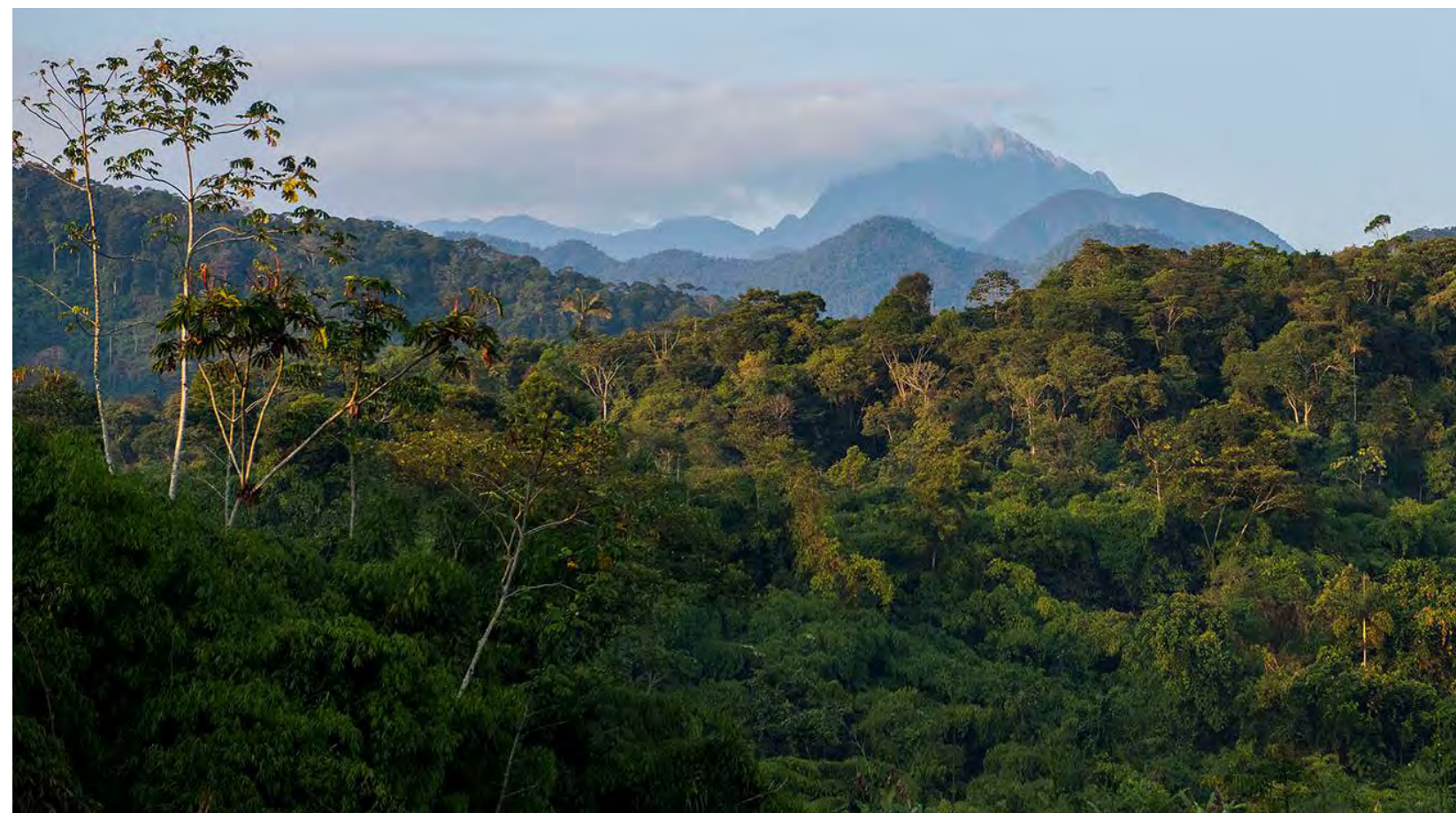
Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

All CEPF hotspots are experiencing changes in climate. Species, ecosystems and the people who depend on them are feeling the impacts. CEPF's grantees are addressing the threat by promoting nature-based solutions such as ecosystem resilience, protected areas creation, reforestation, restoration, soil conservation and watershed management to name just a few of the possible actions. From inception through fiscal year 2021, CEPF has supported a total of 1,536 projects—valued at US\$148,428,943—that are implementing nature-based solutions to climate change.

More than
+US\$148 million

CEPF funding for projects implementing nature-based solutions

Efut Ifako community members preparing for mangrove forest demarcation, Nigeria ■ © Obongha Oguni



Rainforest near Manu National Park, Peru ■ © Daniel Rosengren/FZS Perú

1,536

Projects Promoting Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change



Indicator:

Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.

The methodology to measure this indicator is under development, and as such, impact data are not yet available.



Pilot project restores forest and secures water supplies in Comoros

Island nation the Union of Comoros has suffered from one of the highest deforestation rates in the world since the 1980s due to a combination of extreme poverty, high and growing population pressure, and a dependence on agriculture for livelihoods linked to ill-adapted agricultural techniques.

At present, natural habitat continues to be under threat from agricultural expansion and charcoal production. The situation is particularly critical on the island of Anjouan, where a population density of over 550 people per square kilometer is one of the highest in the world for rural areas. Deforestation on Anjouan has led to the loss of around 40 of 50 previously permanent rivers, and heavy soil erosion has reduced soil fertility and caused siltation of marine environments, thereby affecting livelihoods.

To find a better way forward, CEPF grantee Dahari implemented a pilot project that has shown how participatory restoration activities can achieve forest conservation and management with local communities while protecting a significant population of a Critically Endangered endemic species, the Livingstone's fruit bat (*Pteropus livingstonii*).

The project targeted the protection and restoration of the Moya Forest Key Biodiversity Area, which provides water and other essential ecosystem services to more than 25,000 people. Dahari's work focused on tree planting, using a participatory methodology developed with experts from the World Agroforestry Centre. Over the course of the four-year project, 32,100 trees were planted by farmers who chose the species that they wanted to plant in their fields, thus improving survival rates. The trees were produced in nurseries managed by community groups who increased their production rate from 1,750 to 5,000 trees per nursery over the project duration. The survival rate of seedlings in nurseries increased from an average of 68% to 90% per nursery, and for seedlings planted out in fields the rate averaged 71%. This successful mechanism for reforesting the Moya Forest was a crucial result for the sustainability of the landscape and contributed to the restoration of 429 hectares of water catchment.

Looking ahead, project leaders sought to develop representative village management committees to take charge of this work in the future. However, work toward this goal in the test water catchment of Antenijou showed that, despite success with developing managed irrigation systems, bringing highland and lowland farmers together would be extremely complex given that people originated from many different villages and that there was a lack of social cohesion and reliable institutions at the community level.



Tree nursery in Anjouan ■ © Dahari

Meanwhile, Dahari has maintained a species focus, working hard to protect the Livingstone's fruit bat, the flagship species of the Comoros. Efforts have entailed habitat protection and restoration, with emphasis on roosting sites. A notable success is a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme implemented around seven roost sites located on private land, protecting around 23% of the global population of the species, estimated to total 1,100 individuals. All seven landholders of the roost sites located in the Moya Forest have signed co-management agreements supported by local mayors' offices. Bat populations, endemic tree numbers, and the benefits accrued by landholders are all being monitored and collected in a database.

Based on these results, Dahari decided to adopt a PES approach toward wider forest restoration and conservation on Anjouan as part of its new strategic plan, which was published at the start of 2022. A plan to expand the PES scheme to areas of high conservation value has been produced based on maps identifying priority areas for biodiversity and watershed conservation. Preliminary mapping activities have been conducted around two sites already under PES co-management to assess the feasibility of expanding the PES into buffer zones around roost sites to protect fruit bats.



CEPF PILLAR 4

ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Indicator:

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

Effective laws, policies and regulations are an essential underpinning for conservation achievements, contributing to their sustainability. For this reason, CEPF has prioritized the mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy. Since inception, CEPF has funded projects that supported the enactment or amendment of 434 laws, policies or regulations, categorized into 15 themes: agriculture, climate, ecosystem management, education, energy, fisheries, forestry, mining/quarrying, planning/zoning, pollution, protected areas, species protection, tourism, transportation and wildlife trade. Protected areas is the most prevalent theme with 195 policies addressing this issue, followed closely by ecosystem management with 180, species protection with 157, and planning/zoning with 123. Some policies address more than one theme.

+195 policies on protected areas

+180 policies on ecosystem management

Fisherman on Lake Prespa, Greece ■ © Jaime Rojo/The Living Med



FIGURE 4.1

Number of Laws, Policies and Regulations by Hotspot 2001-2021

Total: 434

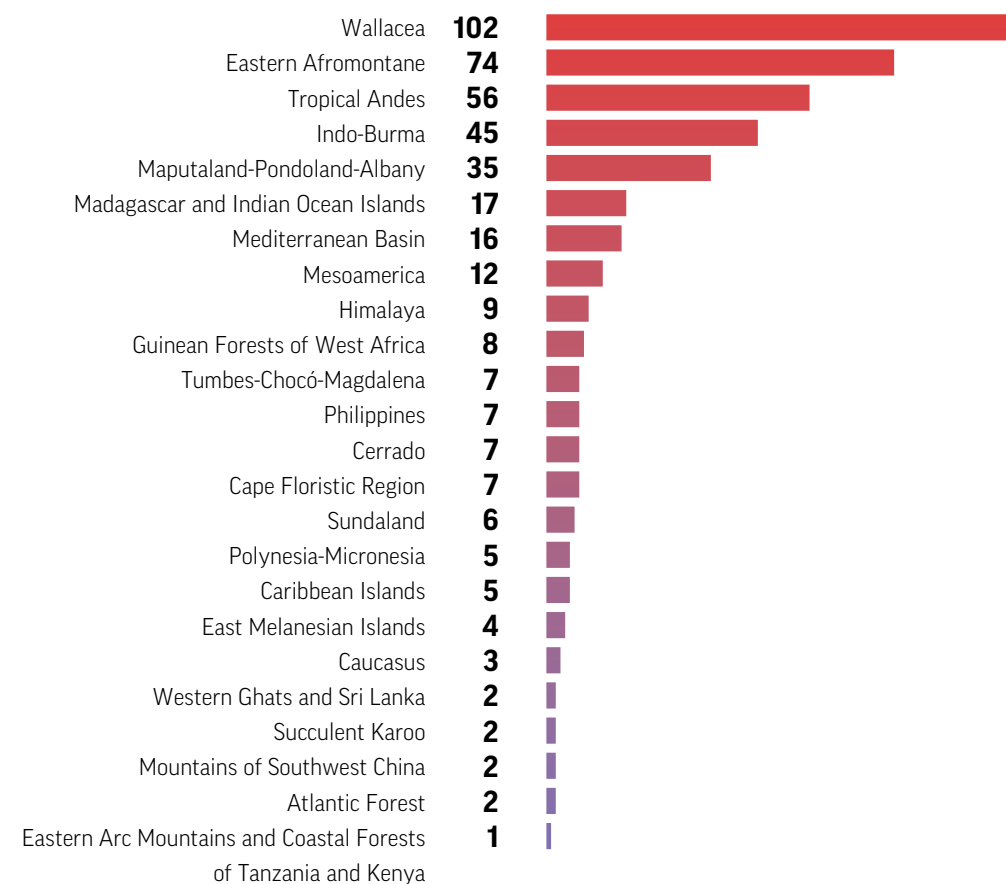


FIGURE 4.2

Percentage of Policies Addressing Specific Themes

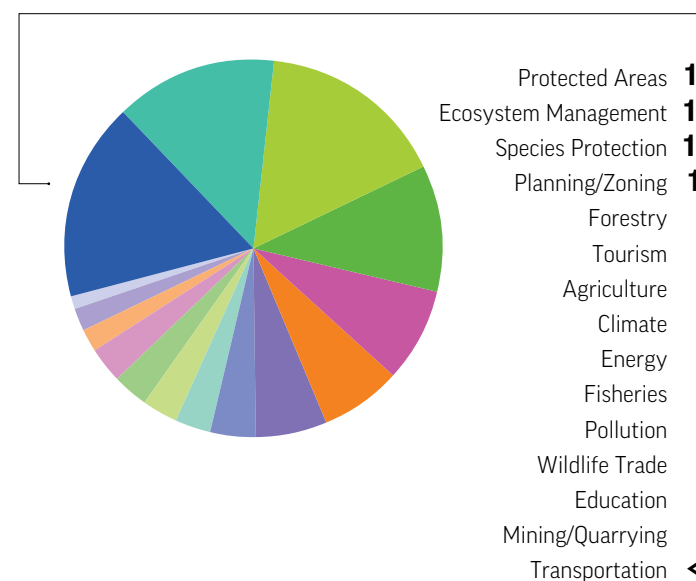
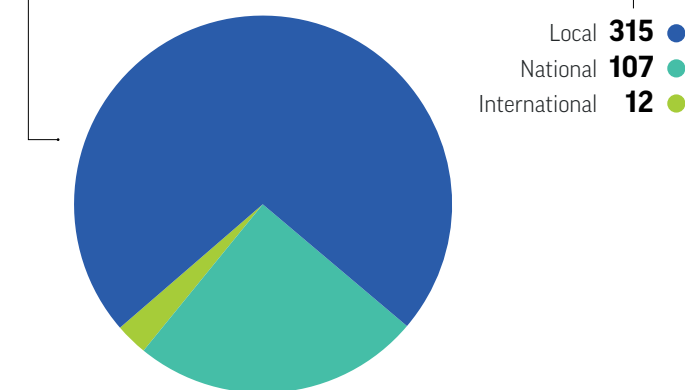


FIGURE 4.3

Laws, Policies and Regulations by Scope

Total: 434





Work with municipal councils yields policy gains in the Cerrado

In Brazil, municipal environment councils (COMDEMAs) are extremely important, providing influential opinions and advice to local government on issues related to the environment.

With support from CEPF, Fundação Neotrópica do Brasil (FNB) led a regional effort to strengthen COMDEMAs in order to support local decisions that contribute to the conservation of the Cerrado and the achievement of global biodiversity conservation goals.

With a growing trend of administrative decentralization, Brazilian municipalities have greater responsibility in managing the environment, which means that politicians, municipal staff and citizens need to know more about environmental issues and norms. COMDEMAs can serve as forums for debates and knowledge building about the local environment and as a mechanism to manage conflicts and propose agreements and solutions that meet local economic, social and environmental interests.

COMDEMAs also can:

- Propose the municipality's environmental policy and how it is monitored for compliance.
- Analyze and grant environmental licenses at the municipal level for activities that have the potential to pollute.
- Propose the creation of legal norms and provide input on the adequacy and enforcement of municipal, state and federal laws, standards and norms.
- Give an opinion on environmental aspects of state or federal policies that have an impact on the municipality.
- Investigate and suggest solutions regarding citizen complaints about environmental degradation.

FNB focused on the Miranda-Bodoquena Corridor, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, with an emphasis on capacity building of municipal staff and strengthening of local municipal councils and the COMDEMAs network. The group held capacity-building workshops benefiting 320 individuals and worked to mobilize municipal environmental councils to promote debate on issues of conservation and management of the Cerrado. FNB also supported land-use mapping in the corridor to help COMDEMAs identify areas of interest for the preservation of the hotspot and ecosystem services, and they developed a practical guide for the creation of COMDEMAs, thus paving the way for replicability in other states of Brazil.

The project results were especially important in the policy arena. In the town of Miranda, COMDEMA members who benefited from FNB's capacity building helped form and move forward two proposed municipal laws that were approved in 2021: One that established the Municipal Environment Council in Miranda as the legal entity to deal with environmental issues, and a second that improves environmental licensing and inspection of enterprises and activities that have a local environmental impact.

These laws set the stage for positive action in favor of the environment in Miranda municipality and stand as a replicable model for other municipalities and COMDEMAs.



Municipal council members meeting about key environmental issues ■ © FNB



Indicator:

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

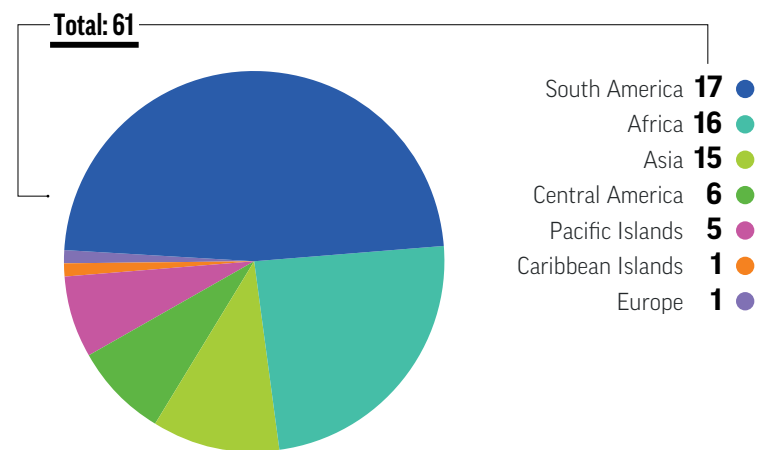
Since 2001, CEPF has created and/or supported 61 sustainable financing mechanisms, which vary in size, scope and type, and include conservation trust funds, revolving funds, debt swaps, and tax, credit or payment for ecosystem service schemes. All mechanisms that are counted are functional and delivering funds for conservation. It is not sufficient to simply set up a mechanism, without ensuring its ability to operate. For some mechanisms, this entails working with potential donors to secure capital, providing funds to define the administrative and governance arrangements, and supporting staff to operate the mechanism. CEPF does not provide the financial capital to create or support any of these mechanisms.

Fiscal year 2021
+20

sustainable financing mechanisms created and/or supported

FIGURE 4.4

Sustainable Finance Mechanisms Supported by Region 2001-2021



Gentiana lutea, Shebenik Park, Albania ■ © A.Roci





Financing Success: The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust

A conservation trust fund established in 2015 with the support of CEPF is not only thriving but also has become a valued partner in protecting the nature of the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot.

The Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT) was established to ensure the sustainable management of the Prespa-Ohrid Lake water catchment basin and surrounding environment in Albania, Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia. Prior to PONT, conservation goals in the region—a refuge for many rare and endemic species—were often out of reach due to the lack of sustainable financing. To remedy this, CEPF grantee WWF Greece worked with funders MAVA Foundation and the German development bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) to establish PONT using a model that emphasizes long-term commitment, transparency and collaboration.

PONT implements its mission through two main cofinancing programs that support operational costs of protected areas and the work of “environmental actors,” including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities, and scientific and academic institutions.

“Stable financing through PONT ensures the sustainability of the initiatives in the long term,” said Mirjam de Koning, PONT’s executive director.

Through 2021, PONT had disbursed more than US\$5.4 million via 24 grants; helped secure improved management of more than 151,000 hectares of protected areas; and supported 18 conservation partnerships.

In 2020, united by a shared focus on biodiversity as well as complementary organizational values and investment priorities, CEPF and PONT put out a joint call for proposals for small grants in the wider Prespa area.

The two partners awarded grants to three NGOs to support the conservation of the endemic Prespa trout (*Salmo peristericus*) as well as endemic plants. In May 2021, CEPF and PONT completed a mid-term review of the implementation of these projects, which revealed that progress toward objectives was on time and on budget. Highlights of current projects include:

- The discovery of two new plant species in Prespa: *Viola eximia tringiana* and *Acanthus greuterianus*.
- The contribution toward Red List assessments on endemic plant species.
- The establishment of a conservation action plan to protect the Prespa trout.

“Partnering with CEPF opened up opportunities for small, locally based nongovernmental organizations by allowing these groups to use CEPF’s funds to meet the PONT requirement for 25% cofinancing/matching funds,” said de Koning.

Due to the successful implementation of the three initial joint grants, PONT has offered each of the grantees an opportunity to apply for a three-year, follow-up grant. PONT and CEPF are also currently cofunding an additional six conservation projects in Albania and North Macedonia that will be completed by mid-2022 and are considering issuing additional calls for proposals in 2023.

Meanwhile PONT continues its growth. At the end of 2021, PONT received an additional contribution from the German government that will allow the trust to expand geographically to the Korab-Shara and Albanian Alps regions.



Lake Prespa, with borders in North Macedonia, Albania, and Greece ■ © Thomais Vlachogianni
● Ohrid Lake, North Macedonia/eastern Albania ■ © Thomais Vlachogianni



Indicator:

Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

While CEPF has worked with the private sector throughout much of its existence, only in 2017 did CEPF develop an indicator to measure what we are trying to achieve through engagement with companies. CEPF's indicator seeks to measure the change in behavior of private sector entities by documenting the specific biodiversity-friendly practice(s) that they adopt and the countries in which they implement these practices. A frequently asked question is whether or not individual farmers are included, as they may aim to make a profit. However, the general guidance is to omit individual farmers, fishers or similar producers because the goal is to record larger scale change that will have an impact beyond the household. To date, CEPF has documented 139 companies in eight hotspots that have adopted practices favorable to biodiversity.

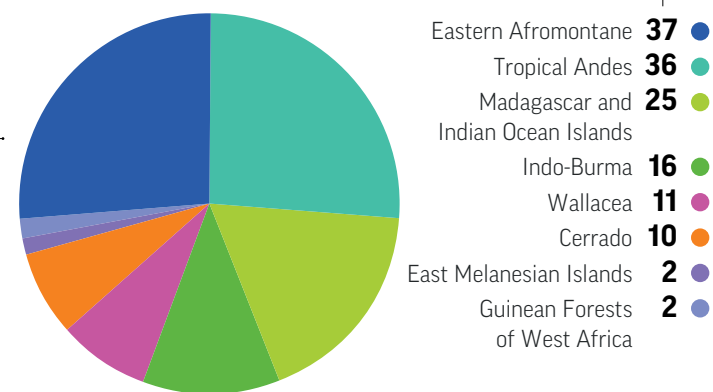
Fiscal year 2021
+43

companies that
adopted biodiversity-
friendly practices

FIGURE 4.5

Number of Companies Adopting Biodiversity-Friendly Practices by Hotspot 2001-2021

Total: 139



Mining in Munella Mountain, Albania. Mining operations must make biodiversity-friendly, respecting protected area boundaries and reducing mining impacts ■ © O. Langrand





Promoting ecotourism in Vanuatu

In the island nation of Vanuatu, communities want to establish community conservation areas (CCAs) that maintain biological and cultural diversity while also providing livelihood benefits. Through its investment in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, CEPF awarded a grant to Live & Learn Vanuatu (LLV) to pilot sustainable economic models in CCAs that reduce pressure on resources and build on traditional knowledge.

LLV worked in two CCAs: Tabuemasana on Santo Island and Nusumetu on Tanna Island, where economic pressures push people toward activities that undermine natural resources. Farmers in these rural communities generate income from coconuts, kava, cattle and logging—fast generators of cash that threaten endemic plants such as the Bangulu palm (*Carpoxydon macrospermum*) and birds such as the Endangered Santo Mountain starling (*Aplonis santovestris*). At the same time, the communities would like to promote ecotourism—which was supported through previous CEPF-funded work—without commodifying the environment or their culture.

LLV helped the communities register the CCAs to allow for local control. They then helped design ecotourism business plans, strengthened local governance, trained community members in business operations, and promoted ecotourism ventures through marketing and increased visibility. The LLV training sessions had special groupings for men, women and youth and covered everything from bungalow hosting to tour guiding to how to run a cooperative enterprise. LLV's goal was to build community capacity to run a tourism program that protects the environment and honors community connection to the place.

With LLV support, the communities Kerepua (within the Tabuemasana CCA) and Nusumetu (part of the Green Hill Key Biodiversity Area) have business plans, site maps and promotional material and have completed all legal and registration requirements. In Nusumetu, the Vanuatu Tourism Office and Millennium Cave Tours have agreements to market the region, while in Tabuemasana, Vanuatu Tourism Office, Millennium Cave, Wrecks to Rainforest and Turtle Bay Beach House have agreed to market hiking in the area. With these agreements in place, the prospects of these CCAs and the communities that manage them are promising.



Traditional dances are among the attractions for those visiting the communities supported by the Live & Learn Vanuatu project ■ © Live & Learn Vanuatu

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE U.N. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
 Target 1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	At least 187,461 people have benefited from training in biodiversity, conservation and related topics.	CEPF has supported a total of 540 projects with a primary emphasis on education and awareness and capacity building, valued at US\$35,990,916.
 Target 2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	CEPF has influenced 434 policies, laws or regulations in 25 biodiversity hotspots.	CEPF has supported a total of 175 projects in 25 hotspots with a primary focus on mainstreaming biodiversity, valued at US\$17,900,045.
 Target 3. 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 socioeconomic conditions.	CEPF has created and/or supported 21 positive incentive schemes, including payment for ecosystem service, tax and credit schemes.	CEPF has supported 17 projects valued at US\$3,937,567 for positive incentive schemes.
 Target 4. 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.	10.04 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices. Enactment or amendment of 434 laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions.	59 projects totaling US\$4,939,334 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production, and improved agricultural practices.
 Target 7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 10.04 million hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 311 projects with a primary emphasis on strengthening management outside protected areas, totaling US\$29,092,215.
 Target 9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Biosecurity plans prepared. Eradications undertaken. IAS training delivered. Restoration of critical habitat.	CEPF has supported 101 projects with a component dedicated to addressing invasive alien species, totaling US\$7,927,917, in 14 biodiversity hotspots.
 Target 11. By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 16,123,931 hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 51,003,386 hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 24 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 10,049,280 hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots.	CEPF has supported 710 projects with primary emphases on protected areas creation, and improved management, totaling US\$77,717,442.
 Target 12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	At least 942 species have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 599 projects with a component focusing on species conservation, totaling US\$47,523,337.
 Target 20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	CEPF has supported 61 sustainable finance mechanisms, ranging from trust funds, debt swaps, payments for ecosystem services, and tax and credit schemes.	CEPF has supported 91 projects with a component focusing on conservation finance, totaling US\$15,002,807.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	CONTRIBUTION TO IMPACT	OPERATIONAL CONTRIBUTION
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	4,692 communities receiving non-cash benefits such as improved food security, access to water, improved land tenure and increased representation in decision-making and governance. Since collection of data start in 2017 for types of benefits communities received, 1,183 communities have reported increased food security. 187,461 people benefiting from structured training, including in topics that lead to improved nutrition, increased income, and increased production. Topics include beekeeping, financial management, horticulture, medicinal plant production, organic farming, poultry farming, salt production, species monitoring, sustainable fishing practices, sustainable harvest of nontimber forest products and tourism. 10.04 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest, and improved land use practices.	CEPF has supported 249 projects with a primary focus on human well-being, totaling US\$21,714,380. 188 projects totaling US\$18,471,720 with specific components on agroforestry and agriculture.
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	187,461 people receiving structured training. Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, 47,422 women reported to have received training. Training topics were diverse, such as handicraft production, sustainable tourism, post-harvest processing, beekeeping, hygiene, environmental education, leadership, financial management and climate-smart agriculture.	CEPF has supported 877 projects with a component/emphasis on capacity building, valued at US\$106,172,616. CEPF has supported 736 projects with a component/emphasis on education and awareness, valued at US\$60,974,022.
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Since start of collection of sex-disaggregated data in 2017, a total of 591,045 women and girls were recorded as receiving non-cash benefits such as increased access to water, increased food security, and increased resilience to climate change.	Collection of sex-disaggregated data from grantees since 2017. Monitoring of change in grantee understanding of and commitment to gender issues since 2017. Preparation and dissemination of a gender toolkit. Preparation and dissemination of a training kit on empowering women in conservation.
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Since 2017, 432 communities receiving non-cash benefits report increased access to clean water as a benefit.	CEPF has supported 311 projects associated with inland wetland habitats, valued at US\$21,663,113, covering a range of topics such as research and assessment, biodiversity inventories and development of best practices for management. 85 projects with an emphasis on water management, located in various habitats, valued at US\$8,269,362.
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Since start of collection of number of people receiving cash benefits in 2017, 95,344 people have been reported as receiving cash benefits.	Human well-being projects have taken place in 61 countries and territories.
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	10.04 million hectares of production landscape with strengthened biodiversity management, through mechanisms such as organic agriculture, sustainable harvest and improved land use practices. Enactment or amendment of 434 laws, regulations and policies with conservation provisions.	188 projects totaling \$18,471,720 located in agricultural/artificial landscapes, focusing on topics such as agroforestry, sustainable production and improved agricultural practices.
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Multiple actions across hundreds of projects involving Restoration Tree planting Training in forest carbon technical work Preparation of land use plans containing climate change risk assessments Watershed management and restoration Mangrove/coastal zone management Sustainable coastal tourism Climate change modeling Development of strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	CEPF has supported 710 projects with primary emphases on protected areas creation, and improved management, totaling US\$77,717,442.
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	At least 942 species have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 599 projects with a component focusing on species conservation, totaling US\$47,523,337.
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	CEPF has supported the creation or expansion of 16.1 million hectares of new protected areas in 24 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF has strengthened the management and protection of 51 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas in 24 hotspots. CEPF has contributed to improved biodiversity management of 10.04 million hectares of production landscapes in 21 hotspots. At least 942 IUCN Red List species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable have benefited from CEPF support.	CEPF has supported 91 projects with a component focusing on conservation finance, totaling US\$15,002,807.
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	705 networks/partnerships supported, 515 of which CEPF helped to create. 309 civil society organizations out of 441 (70%), for which two civil society organizational capacity assessments have been completed, report an increase in their organizational capacity.	CEPF has supported 381 projects with an explicit focus on civil society capacity building and networking, valued at US\$29,795,054. All local CEPF grantees self-assess at start and end of grant to measure change in institutional capacity.

Annual Report

During the fiscal year, 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, CEPF grantees made impressive gains in conserving biodiversity, helping communities thrive and building civil society's capacity to lead conservation in the biodiversity hotspots.

FISCAL YEAR
2021

Protected areas created and/or expanded 417,215 hectares	Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management 631,417 hectares	Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity 129,225 hectares	Protected areas with improved management 19
Species benefiting from conservation action 35	Grantees with improved organizational capacity 11	Grantees with improved understanding of gender 26	Networks/partnerships created and/or supported 135
People receiving structured training 24,142	People receiving cash benefits 8,927	Communities benefiting 351	People receiving non-cash benefits (excluding training) 60,394
Projects promoting nature-based solutions 90	Laws, policies and regulations enacted or amended 47	Sustainable financing mechanisms delivering funds 20	Companies adopting biodiversity-friendly practices 43

RESULTS SUMMARY

A common squirrel monkey seen at the Lago Guacamayos, Tambopata Nature Reserve, Peru ■
© Daniel Rosengren/FZS Peru



YEAR IN REVIEW

1 July 2020–30 June 2021

August 2020

New investment begins in Indonesia

▶ A new investment focused on coastal resources management in the Indonesia portion of the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot began in late 2020 following funding commitments from private philanthropies. The US\$2.6 million investment is made possible through the support of the Walton Family Foundation; Vibrant Oceans Initiative, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies; Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; and the Nimick Forbesway Foundation.

A small team of experts updated the conservation outcomes and investment priorities of the ecosystem profile, and CEPF re-engaged Burung Indonesia, the organization that previously served as CEPF's Wallacea Regional Implementation Team. The first calls for proposals were issued in January 2021.

October 2020

Communications equipment aids threatened Indigenous community

▶ In Colombia, the installation of radio antennas and other communications equipment by the Resguardo Pialapí Pueblo Viejo, a community-based group of the Awá indigenous people in southern Colombia, has been a game changer for the conservation of a site with extremely high biodiversity as well as for the 5,800 Awá people who live there. Ten communities now receive radio programming and news four times a day about conservation, COVID-19 prevention and other topics of interest. New internet and cell phone service in La Planada Nature Reserve has converted the reserve's office into a communications hub for the Awá people.

The equipment is crucial in a community that has experienced extreme violence—several community members have been murdered in recent years, including three Awá environmentalists in 2019. In addition to enhancing security and information dissemination, the improved communications have saved lives via access to emergency medical services.



Marine biodiversity richness in Buano Island, Indonesia ■
© Wahyu Mulyono/Rekam Nusantara Foundation



La Planada Nature Reserve, Colombia ■
© Guillermo Cantillo Figueroa



Tian Shan Mountains, Kyrgyzstan ■ © Ninara, licensed under CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

December 2020

Countries work together to manage World Heritage Site

▶ The Western Tian Shan UNESCO World Heritage Site, which straddles a corner of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot, was formally created in 1998. However, one of the many challenges since then has been getting parties from different sides of the border to collaborate.

In December, the Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan (BCFK) used its status as a nationally recognized NGO to bring together government and non-government groups from the three countries to establish a regional committee for the site. Perhaps surprisingly, the effort was made easier by the global pandemic, which made online and video collaboration more widely accepted. BCFK also prepared a draft regulation and action plan that includes training, cooperation on firefighting along national borders, coordinated research and data sharing.

BCFK's actions resulted in the first meeting of the committee in July 2021, with 18 representatives from the three countries.

December 2020

Progress toward first marine protected area in Côte d'Ivoire

▶ The environment minister of Côte d'Ivoire has signed a proposed decree bearing the creation of the country's first marine protected area (MPA) in Grand Béréby. The future MPA, which is part of the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, will protect nearly 2,600 square kilometers of key habitats where more than 20 species of sharks and rays—as well as important nesting and foraging grounds for sea turtles—are found.

This official announcement is the result of years of work by the Côte d'Ivoire government, the Abidjan Convention, the Swedish government and CEPF grantee Conservation des Espèces Marines, supported by University of Exeter and Wildlife Conservation Society. It represents an important step in protecting the country's aquatic biodiversity.

January 2021

One investment completed and another planned in Tropical Andes

► CEPF's second investment in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot concluded during the first quarter of 2021 after more than five years of implementation. The CEPF Secretariat and regional implementation team hosted a virtual final assessment on 29 January 2021. More than 150 participants from throughout the hotspot, Europe and the U.S. attended.

Participants discussed the results of the US\$9.5 million investment, which provided grants to 65 organizations. The results include

- 2.9 million hectares under improved management.
- Establishment of 26 new protected areas to safeguard 763,901 hectares of high-biodiversity ecosystems.
- Benefits to nearly 60,000 people from 294 Indigenous and mestizo communities.
- Subnational governments with jurisdiction in six conservation corridors adopted tools, strategies and actions to mainstream biodiversity considerations in their development plans.
- Nine Indigenous ethnic groups experienced improved land management and governance.
- 100 networks and partnerships between civil society, government and the private sector were created and/or strengthened.
- 73 globally threatened species experienced direct conservation attention. Another 216 species also received direct benefits, and 74 species new to science were identified.
- Eight financing mechanisms were established for conservation and sustainable development.
- CEPF enabled the leveraging of nearly US\$5 million from local governments and donors.

The meeting also addressed next steps for the hotspot, which included planning for new funding from CEPF.

To pave the way for a new investment, an update to the ecosystem profile for the hotspot that began in 2020 was completed in April and approved by the CEPF Donor Council in June.

March 2021

Tunisian wetland gains international recognition

► Tunisia added Garâa Sejenane to the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Located in the Mogod Mountains of northwest Tunisia, within the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, the 1,500-hectare site is the largest natural freshwater wetland in the country.

CEPF supported WWF North Africa and their partner REACT (Association La Recherche en Action) to inventory and monitor the site and work with local authorities to prepare the files for inscription as a Ramsar site. This is a major step for future conservation of the biodiversity of the wetland, which hosts several globally and regionally threatened species, including the world's only population of *Rumex tunetanus*, an endemic plant species.

WWF and REACT are working closely with local communities on a long-term plan to preserve the area while maintaining sustainable farming activities and preventing future drainage of the wetlands.



An Andean Cock-of-the-Rock near Manu National Park, Peru ■
© Daniel Rosengren

Garâa Sejenane hosts several globally and regionally threatened species, including the world's only population of *Rumex tunetanus*, an endemic plant species pictured here with botanist Imtinen Ben Haj Jilani ■
© Awatef Abiadh



Cascade des Roussettes, Montagne d'Ambre National Park, Madagascar ■
© Cristina Mittermeier

April 2021

Indian Ocean Islands project supported by Green Climate Fund

► L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Conservation International signed an agreement for grant funds of US\$38 million for a 10-year project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The focus of the project, which also calls for US\$11.2 million in cofinancing, is building resilience to climate change in the communities of the Indian Ocean Islands.

AFD—an accredited entity of the GCF—is managing the funds for the project, which will be executed by CEPF on behalf of Conservation International.

The ambitious project aims to reduce the vulnerability of island populations in the Indian Ocean nations of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles by securing the critical ecosystem services necessary for resilience. The funds will be awarded as grants to civil society organizations—nonprofit groups, communities, universities and the private sector—working on conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region. The project also will build on conservation results from CEPF's current US\$9.54 million investment, which will be completed in 2022.

An update to the ecosystem profile for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, which sets CEPF's conservation strategy for the region, is underway. Grant-making is expected to begin in 2022.



A private natural heritage reserve, Brazil ■
© Ricardo Haidar

June 2021

Grantee helps establish dozens of private protected areas in Brazil

► The Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot has one of the lowest rates of protection of Brazilian terrestrial biomes at 8.2% despite having the highest rate of deforestation, ahead of Amazonia. This low percentage contrasts with the Aichi Targets, endorsed by the country, to protect at least 17% of each biome.

CEPF grantee Fundação Pró Natureza (Funatura) is addressing this problem by working with individuals and entities to establish reservas particular do patrimônio natural (RPPNs), or private natural heritage reserves. According to Brazilian law, once an RPPN is created, its protection status is perpetual, even when the property is sold. By the end of June 2021, Funatura had 50 new areas undergoing the registration processes at the federal and state environmental agencies, with a combined area of 11,411 hectares.

RPPNs benefit not only flora and fauna but also communities that depend on the ecosystem services produced by the Cerrado, such as fresh water and climate maintenance.

Funatura has launched a series of short videos about RPPNs, available on the organization's YouTube channel.



A participant reviews a community action plan to improve resilience to climate change during a CEPF workshop in Burundi ■ © Resilience Now – Claire Galvez-Wagler

Learning from conservation success

▶ Sharing best practices within the conservation community is one way to enable the most effective use of funding and effort.

CEPF's "Building on Success" learning resource series provides tools for this kind of exchange by highlighting proven conservation approaches from around the globe. These innovative learning products describe best practices from three biodiversity hotspots—Cerrado, Eastern Afromontane and Indo-Burma—but the lessons are valuable well beyond the boundaries of those regions.

Found on the CEPF Learning Hub, cepf.net/learning, the resources were created by experienced conservation practitioners to make it easier for CEPF applicants, grantees, conservationists and others to replicate successful practices. Most of the learning products are also available in more than one language.

"Building on Success" resources developed during the fiscal year:

- "Establishing and Managing Freshwater Fish Conservation Zones with Communities": Based on lessons learned in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, this comprehensive guidebook (in English) and video (in English or Spanish) were created by FishBio with input from other CEPF grantees. The materials outline how to establish and implement fish conservation zones. The guidebook contains high-quality photos, case studies and interviews, while the video provides a 12-minute overview.
- "Master Class for CEPF Applicants" uses best practices from the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot to provide detailed guidance on how to prepare a top-quality project proposal. The master class addresses project design, budgeting, monitoring, safeguards, gender considerations and other topics. While geared to CEPF applicants, the master class is a valuable resource for anyone interested in developing a conservation project. It is available in English and Spanish.
- Featuring best practices from Burundi and Rwanda in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, the "Solutions Worth Sharing" manual provides comprehensive guidance for the use of strategies to engage communities in sustainable practices. The methodology was created by Resilience Now to introduce and ensure the long-term use of conservation and sustainable development methods. The manual is available in English and French.
- The Bustard Conservation Portal, bustards.org, was created by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Cambodia to support the conservation of these tall, terrestrial birds that inhabit the grasslands of Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia. Bustards are one of the most threatened groups of birds in the world today, facing challenges such as agriculture, hunting and power lines. This web portal focuses on best practices developed in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and serves as a valuable hub of information for conservationists seeking to protect bustards.

June 2021

Replicating proven fish-conservation approach

▶ Through the course of fiscal year 2021, the fish conservation zone (FCZ) model, which began in Lao PDR in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, was replicated in India by CEPF grantee ATREE with help from grantee FishBio, which led FCZ projects in Indo-Burma. One FCZ was established in India's Meghalaya State, along the Rymben River, and another in Manipur State, along the Tuivang River. An FCZ helps communities protect freshwater biodiversity while also bolstering food security.

Also during the year, a CEPF-funded FishBio project conducted outreach to Indigenous communities in Costa Rica to establish FCZs, connecting them with the experiences of communities in Indo-Burma. While the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed planned exchange and outreach activities, two Costa Rican villages have submitted formal proposals for "fish conservation zones" under government regulations for "Responsible Fishing Areas."



Fish conservation zone sign, East Khasi Hills District, India ■ © Diengdoh

June 2021

New investment in the Caribbean Islands launched

▶ A new five-year, US\$13.9 million grant-making and capacity-building program was launched in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

CEPF's regional implementation team (RIT) is based at the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), helping implement CEPF's strategy by directly supporting grantees in the hotspot. CEPF and the RIT also are working with Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) to establish networks and partnerships among conservation organizations, government agencies, private businesses and communities.

The new funding, which will run through 2027, aims to strengthen the capacity of local civil society groups and stakeholders to protect and improve management of globally important biodiversity within 32 priority KBAs clustered in seven corridors in seven countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The new grant-making will build on CEPF's previous investment from 2010–2016, which channeled US\$6.9 million to 68 organizations for projects in eight countries. CEPF grantees improved the management and protection of 25 Key Biodiversity Areas, strengthened the capacity of 58 local and regional Caribbean organizations, and integrated biodiversity concerns into seven development plans.

The new investment is financed through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Caribbean Hotspot Project of the World Bank, using funds provided by the Government of Japan.



Rhinoceros iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*), Lago Enriquillo, Dominican Republic ■ © O. Langrand

June 2021

Solomon Islands community profits from protecting forest

▶ On the island of Choiseul in the Solomon Islands, CEPF grantee Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) is working with the small community of Sirebe to sell carbon credits, which will enable residents to profit from their forest by preserving it instead of selling their land to loggers or miners.



Forest inventory, Choiseul, Solomon Islands ■ © NRDF

NRDF worked toward Plan Vivo verification of the community's carbon credits and set the stage for a deal reached in October 2021 in which the Swiss organization Myclimate will buy Sirebe's credits for the next five years. Considering that the Solomon Islands is one of the world's most extensively deforested nations, the carbon project is an important positive step.

CEPF APPROVED GRANTS

1 July 2019–30 June 2021 Grants are reported on the basis of the effective date of the agreement.



Cerrado

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3. Promote and strengthen supply chains associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and ecological restoration in the hotspot.

Working (Associação de Integração Profissional) US\$37,316

Study of Collaborative Networks: Strengthening the Baru Sustainable Productive Chain in Brazil

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5. Support the implementation of tools to integrate and to share data on monitoring to better inform decision-making processes in the hotspot.

Fundação Coordenação de Projetos, Pesquisas e Estudos Tecnológicos (COPPETEC) US\$38,571

Research and Develop a Daily Alert System of Burned Areas for the Cerrado

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6. 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.

Cooperativa Central do Cerrado US\$97,731

Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Babassu Palm, Maranhão and Tocantins States, Brazil

Fato Relevante US\$47,427

CEPF Cerrado Communication, Brazil

Impact Hub Brasilia US\$99,912

Accelerate the Conservation of the Cerrado: Program for Strengthening Civil Society Organizations

Instituto Cerrados US\$32,010

Cerrado Links



East Melanesian Islands

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity at priority Key Biodiversity Areas underserved by current conservation efforts.

BirdLife International US\$137,869

Biodiversity Rapid Assessment Project for the Islands of Futuna and Aneityum in Vanuatu

Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership US\$19,996

Supporting the Zaira Resource Management Area Toward the Protection of Marovo-Kavachi Key Biodiversity Area, Solomon Islands

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into local land-use and development planning.

Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights Inc. US\$86,485

Improving Resource Management in the Baining Mountains and Nakanai Ranges, New Britain-Papua New Guinea

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4. Increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalyzing civil society partnerships.

BirdLife International US\$214,156

Establishing Key Biodiversity Areas: Furthering Conservation Tools in the East Melanesian Islands

Mai-Maasina Green Belt US\$18,325

Toward a Network of Protected Areas in Malaita: Sharing Lessons from Key Biodiversity Areas in Western Province, Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership US\$58,000

Institutional Strengthening of the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership



Guinean Forests of West Africa

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors at local, sub-national and national levels.

A Rocha Ghana US\$179,984

Protecting Ghana's Atewa Forest Through Biodiversity Assessments and Participatory Monitoring

Conservation Society of Sierra Leone US\$169,906

Conserving the Yawri Bay Ecosystem in Sierra Leone's Coastal Corridor

Fondation Biotope US\$381,296

Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing Business Contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union Countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia

NatureMetrics US\$180,912

Improving Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation in Côte d'Ivoire Using DNA-Based Monitoring

Solomon Islands Rangers Association Trust Board Inc. US\$20,000

Reinforcing the Solomon Islands Ranger Network for the Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas in Solomon Islands

Tropical Biology Association US\$130,301

Sustaining CEPF's Investment in the East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Van Vat Integrated Environmental Consultants US\$20,000

Capacity Building and Conservation Mainstreaming in Vanuatu

Re:wild US\$65,483

West Africa Team for Critical Habitat Protection (WATCH) of Primates

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew US\$146,533

Expanding Guinea's Protected Area Network, Including Important Plant Areas

Society for Sustainability and Conservation Education for Rural Areas US\$180,000

Building Capacity and Sustainable Partnerships for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Nigeria

Volunteers for Sustainable Development in Africa (VOSIEDA) US\$147,976

Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing Business Contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union Countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia



Indo-Burma

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats.

Centre for Environment and Community Assets Development US\$59,900

Conservation of Critically Endangered and Endemic Bent-Toed Geckos in Vietnam

Fauna & Flora International US\$225,000

Re-Establishing Wild Populations of the Critically Endangered Siamese Crocodile in Cambodia

Fauna & Flora International US\$149,998

Securing the Future of Delacour's Langur in Northern Vietnam

Rising Phoenix Co. Ltd.
US\$235,000
Conserving Vultures and Ibises in Their Last Cambodian Stronghold

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
US\$240,000
Showcasing Best Practice for Restoration of Sarus Crane Feeding Grounds in Cambodia

World Wide Fund for Nature–Cambodia
US\$199,997
AD HOC: Advancing Hog Deer Conservation in Cambodia

World Wide Fund for Nature–Greater Mekong
US\$235,000
Rewilding the Annamites in Vietnam

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

International Fund for Animal Welfare
US\$224,969
Counter Wildlife Crime in China's Southwest Border Region

Wildlife Alliance, Inc.
US\$160,000
Preventing Pandemics: Illegal Trade Reduction, Wildlife Care and Community Mobilization in Cambodia



Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1. Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority Key Biodiversity Areas.

Association des Volontaires pour la Transmission vers le Développement Durable (AVT2D)
US\$38,677
Improvement of Socio-Economic Activities to Conserve Madagascar's Montagne des Français Protected Area and Baie d'Ambodivahibe Marine Protected Area

Association Femmes Entrepreneurs Environnement Mahajanga (FEEM)
US\$40,000
Mangroves and Wild Silk: A Balance in Madagascar

Madagasikara Voakajy (MAVOA)
US\$39,989
Supporting Biodiversity Preservation and Population Development Around Madagascar's Ampombofofo in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Peregrine Fund
US\$39,800
Strengthening Community Management of Madagascar's Protected Area Tsimembo Manambolamaty Complex in the Face of the Impacts of COVID-19

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority Key Biodiversity Areas.

FISHBIO
US\$200,000
Evaluating Cambodian Freshwater Conservation Projects in the Lower Mekong

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.

NatureLife Cambodia
US\$233,000
Conserve Critically Endangered Species in Cambodia Through National Coordination and Research

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 11. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
US\$740,000
Indo-Burma Small-Grant Mechanism

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
US\$1,400,000
Regional Implementation Team: CEPF Indo-Burma Phase III

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
US\$30,182
Support Sustainable Conservation and Community Livelihoods Around Madagascar's Massif d'Itremo Protected Area and Ambatofinandrahana Key Biodiversity Area

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2. Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into political and economic decision-making.

Arche aux Plantes
US\$79,691
Aiming for Zero Extinction of Mauritius and Rodrigues Floras

Initiative pour le Développement, la Restauration écologique et l'Innovation (INDRI)
US\$103,062
Creating Networks to Protect Madagascar's Landscapes and Forests

Island Biodiversity and Conservation
US\$50,000
Rescuing the Last Seychelles White-Eyes and Developing Sustainable Tourism Partnerships



Mountains of Central Asia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1. Address threats to priority species.

Agzybir Hereket
US\$20,000
Conservation Monitoring of the Eurasian-African Flyway over the Tallymergen-Kelif-Zeit Key Biodiversity Area, Turkmenistan

Agzybir Hereket
US\$50,000
Tools for Monitoring Bird Species in the Eurasian-African Flyway, Turkmenistan

Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan
US\$149,254
Advancing Cooperative Biodiversity Conservation in Kazakhstan's Dzungaria Ecological Corridor

Fauna & Flora International
US\$148,578
Building Capacity to Protect the Meadows, Marmots and Megafauna in Kyrgyzstan's Besh Aral Nature Reserve

Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan
US\$20,000
Engaging Communities to Safeguard Rural Livelihoods and Cultivate Conservation Partnerships in Kyrgyzstan

Noosfera
US\$19,872
Endemic Plant Conservation in Sarihosor Jamot, Baljuvan District, Tajikistan

Panthera Corporation
US\$150,000
Engaging Communities to Safeguard Rural Livelihoods and Cultivate Conservation Partnerships in Kyrgyzstan

Society for the Protection of Birds of Uzbekistan
US\$19,981
Monitor Sociable Lapwing in Uzbekistan's Talimarzhan Reservoir Key Biodiversity Area

Wildlife Without Borders
US\$19,832
Evaluate Effectiveness of Snow Leopard Conservation in Northern Tien Shan, Kazakhstan

University of Central Asia
US\$110,911
Conservation and Research of Wild Fruit Species in Western Tian Shan, Kyrgyz Republic

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

Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
US\$149,488
Improving the Management of Protected Areas of the Western Tien Shan, Kazakhstan

Climate Conservation DBA Center for Large Landscape Conservation
US\$150,001
Connectivity, Capacity and Cats: Building Resiliency in the Mountain Ecosystems of Koytendag, Turkmenistan

Ecological Resource Center (EKOMAKTAB)
US\$19,997
Community Awareness and Forest Management in Karakum, Uzbekistan

Global and Local Information Partnership
US\$19,990
Measuring Management Effectiveness of Kyrgyzstan's Kulun-Ata and Karatal-Zhapyryk State Reserves

Issyk-Kul Clean
US\$19,523
Save Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul Lake from Fish Nets

Jonli Tabiat
US\$19,700
Identify Necessary Measure to Conserve Species in the Northern Foothill Plain of the Nuratau Range in Uzbekistan

Michael Succow Foundation
US\$18,757
Conservation of Key Natural Complexes in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley

Nature Protection Team
US\$19,900
Promoting Improved Community Awareness of Plant Species in the Baljuvan Region of Tajikistan

Orchun
US\$20,000
Community-Based Conservation in the Kara-Kulzhinsky District in the Pamir-Alai Range, Kyrgyzstan

Socio-Ecological Fund
US\$19,970
Public Monitoring of Plans and Activities for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Development of Tourism in the Mountain Regions of Southern Kazakhstan

Ugam
US\$19,849
Promote Ecotourism in Western Tien Shan, Kazakhstan

Wildlife Conservation Society
US\$250,000

Building Multi-Stakeholder Capacity for Co-Management of Wakhan National Park, Afghanistan

Ynanch-Vepa Analytical Agency
US\$20,000

Improving Community Outreach Surrounding the Koitendag Nature Reserve, Turkmenistan

Zhassyl Azyk
US\$19,995

Reduce Threats to Biodiversity in Kazakhstan Sairam-Ugam State National Natural Park Through Integrated Pasture Management

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

Union of Pasture Users of Ak-Dobe Village District
US\$19,938

Restore Pastures in Kyrgyzstan's Ak-Dobo Village

Wildlife Conservation Society
US\$156,723

Introducing SMART in the Khan-Tengri Corridor, Kyrgyzstan

Youth Group on Protection of Environment
US\$18,958

Promote Biodiversity Conservation in the Upper Reaches of Tajikistan's Kairakkum Reservoir

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4. Engage communities of interest and economic sectors, including the private sector, in improved management of production landscapes (i.e., priority sites and corridors that are not formally protected).

Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT)
US\$123,550

Supporting Private Sector and Community Conservation Co-Management in Baljuvan Key Biodiversity Area, Tajikistan

Wildlife Conservation Society
US\$33,487

Supporting Private Sector and Community Conservation Co-Management in Baljuvan Key Biodiversity Area, Tajikistan

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

Biogen
US\$19,757

Conservation Education and Capacity Building in Kazakhstan's Aksuzhabagli Reserve

Center for Civil Initiatives (LEADER)
US\$18,710

Strengthening the Capacity of Women and Youth in the Saruuy Aiyl Okmoto Region of Kyrgyzstan

Jabagly-Manas Mountain Club
US\$19,160

Environmental Education in the Zhulay District of Kazakhstan

Zoi Environment Network
US\$149,720

Supporting Effective Safeguards at Corridor-Level in the Era of Infrastructure Boom in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage
US\$149,268

Sea Djerba Up: Supporting Traditional Fisheries to Preserve Marine Environment of Djerba, Tunisia

Association Tunisienne de Taxonomie
US\$20,000

Conservation of the Coastal Biodiversity of Tunisia's Kerkennah Archipelago

Escapade Tunisie
US\$7,900

Conservation Through Observation: Creating an Underwater Pathway for Mteris Cove in Jbel Haouaria, Tunisia

Fundação Maio Biodiversidade
US\$111,040

Toward Co-Management of Protected Areas on Maio Island, Cabo Verde

Khaled Ben Othmen
US\$7,950

Supporting Artisanal Eco-Friendly Fishing in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia

Libyan Society for Birds
US\$107,902

Sea Turtle Conservation in Partnership with Artisanal Fishermen in the Gulf of Sirte, Libya

Projeto de Conservação das Tartarugas Marinhas em Porto Novo
US\$25,112

Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Protection of Endangered Sea Turtles on the Island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde

Société Ras Adar pour Divertissements Touristiques
US\$2,130

Assessing Underwater Macro-Pollution and Abandoned Fishing Gear Around Zembra Island, Tunisia

Tariq Ben Younis
US\$7,675

Supporting Traditional Fishing to Protect Marine Resources in Zembra Protected Area Buffer Zone, Tunisia

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

Centre for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Energy University Donja Gorica
US\$17,649

Assessment and Mainstreaming of Ecosystem Services in Nikšić Field, Montenegro

Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa (Montenegrin Ecologists Society)
US\$27,140

Updating the Conservation Status of Important Fish Species and Raising Awareness of Local Communities on Freshwater Ecosystem in the Catchment Surrounding Niksic, Montenegro

Difaf SAL
US\$26,983

Development of an Integrated Management Plan for Damour River Basin, Lebanon

Hrvatsko Društvo za Biološka Istraživanja (Croatian Biology Research Society)
US\$24,979

Conservation of the Southern Dalmatian Minnow, Advanced Semi-Cave Fish of the Dinaric Karst in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Regionalni Resursni Centar (ReRec)
US\$100,960

Improved Protection and Sustainable Management of River Ecosystems in the Neretva Delta, Trebizat and Mostarsko Blato, Bosnia and Herzegovina

T.E.R.R.E. Liban
US\$20,000

Enhance Conservation of the Unique Biodiversity in Lebanon's Bisri River Basin

www.cepf.net **CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND**

Zeleni Dom Green Home
US\$32,269

Assessment of the European Eel Population in Montenegro's Bojana River

Zeleni Dom Green Home
US\$29,230

Supporting the Conservation of the Natural Values of the Upper Zeta River in Montenegro

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

AESVT-Maroc
US\$249,332

Strengthening Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas in the Central High Atlas, Morocco

Amjad and Majdi Salameh Company (Environmatics)
US\$199,971

Promoting Biodiversity-Friendly Agriculture to Sustain Traditional Production Landscapes of Dibeen Area, Jordan

Association de Réflexion, d'Échanges et d'Actions pour L'Environnement et le Développement (AREA-ED)
US\$190,495

Promoting Traditional Agriculture for Preservation of Biodiversity in Babor-Tababort National Park, Algeria

Association Les Amis de Capte Tunisie (LACT)
US\$142,103

Protecting an Endemic Clover in Dyr el Kef, Tunisia

Association Sidi Bouzitoun
US\$16,830

Conserving Biodiversity in Tunisia's Kroumirie Region Through the Involvement of Women Shepherds

Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif Mountains
US\$135,641

Supporting Traditional Management Practices to Preserve Barbary Macaque and its Habitats in Morocco

Center for Protection and Research of Birds (CZIP)
US\$28,420

Restoration of Skadar Lake Wet Meadows for Sustainable and Traditional Land Use, Montenegro

Eco Values for Sustainable Development
US\$5,000

Traditional Farming as a Tool to Maintain a Viable Landscape, Jordan

Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM)
US\$140,023

Traditional Pastoral Practices for the Conservation of Vultures in Jbel Moussa, Morocco



Mediterranean Basin

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

Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR)
US\$217,498

Improving Resilience of Local Communities and Ecosystems of the Coastal Zone of Souss-Massa and Tamri in Morocco

Association Jlij pour l'Environnement Marin (AJEM)
US\$164,975

Engaging Fisherman to Preserve Coastal Heritage in Libya and Tunisia

Associação Lantuna
US\$107,265

Seabirds of Baía do Inferno, Cabo Verde: Studying Them Now to Ensure Their Promising Future

Istituto Oikos Onlus
US\$149,923

Lebanese Biosphere Reserves Joint Initiative to Revive Traditional Agricultural Practices

Jordan BirdWatch Association
US\$97,978

Supporting Traditional Farming and Protecting Biodiversity in Ajloun, Northern Jordan

Palestine Wildlife Society
US\$151,606

Safeguarding Jebel Al Khalil and Wadi Al-Quff Cultural Landscapes, Palestine, Through Innovative Approaches

Shoqata AlbNatyra
US\$20,950

Support of Livestock Breeders for Maintenance of Pastures in Shebenik Jabllanice National Park, Albania

The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon (SPNL)
US\$150,450

Promoting Traditional Land-Use Practices in the Upper Beirut River Valley, Lebanon

Udruženje za Biološka Istraživanja i Zaštitu Prirode (BIO LOG)
US\$16,737

Bees Behind Dry Stonewalls: Traditional Practices for Bee Habitat Improvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

WADI
US\$39,973

Biodiversity Conservation Through Traditional Agroforestry Practices in Dibeen Key Biodiversity Area, Jordan

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

Albanian Society for Protection of Birds and Mammals
US\$19,538

Strengthening the Conservation Actions for Endemic Plant Species in Several Key Biodiversity Areas in Albania

Bethlehem University
US\$20,000

Green Oasis in Bethlehem for Plant and Ecosystem Conservation, Palestine

Biflores-Conservação da Biodiversidade
US\$24,342

Endemic Plant Conservation and a Feasibility Evaluation of a Protected Area in Brava, Cabo Verde

Crnogorsko Društvo Ekologa (Montenegrin Ecologists Society)
US\$30,000

From the Inventory of Skadar Pedunculate Oak to Restoration of its Forests and Protection of Biodiversity, Montenegro

Green Ground Seraidi-Annaba
US\$20,000

Enhance Knowledge of Rare and Endemic Plant Species of the Edough Peninsula, a Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria

Université BADJI Mokhtar-Annaba
US\$20,000

Protect and Monitor Rare, Endemic Plant Species of the El Kala Key Biodiversity Area in Algeria

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5. Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the region.

Alhayat Organization to Protect Wildlife and Marine Organisms
US\$15,000

Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Eastern Libya and Identification of the Best Sites for Their Resettlement

American University of Beirut
US\$2,006

Replacement of Equipment Damaged During Beirut, Lebanon, Explosion

Cedars for Care
US\$3,140

Restoring Cedars for Care Center Affected by Beirut Blast on 4 August 2020

Environment for Life
US\$6,997

Reparation of Environment for Life Office in Beirut, Lebanon

Hemaya Company for Environmental Consultancies and Services
US\$15,000

Assessment of Egyptian Tortoise Populations in Western Egypt and Identification of the Best Sites for Their Resettlement

International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)
US\$196,945

Protected Area Network Review for Palestine

Jouzour Loubnan Association
US\$28,700

Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Plant Conservation in Lebanon and Palestine

Nahnoo
US\$6,000

Office Restoration Following Explosion in Beirut, Lebanon

The Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon (SPNL)
US\$5,880

Replacing Damages at SPNL Office From Beirut Port Blast, Lebanon

World Wide Fund for Nature-North Africa
US\$149,396

NastNet: A Network to Boost Sea Turtle Conservation in North Africa



Tropical Andes

Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (PRONATURALEZA)
US\$238,047

Updating of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6. Strengthen civil society capacity, stakeholder alliances and communications to achieve CEPF conservation outcomes, focusing on indigenous, Afro-descendent and mestizo groups.

National Audubon Society
US\$20,000

Strengthening Bird Informants and Local Communities with Conservation Agreements in Colombia



Fire salamander (*Salamandra salamandra*), Shaar Mountains National Park, Kosovo ■ © O. Langrand



Wallacea

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2. Improve management of sites (Key Biodiversity Areas) with and without official protection status.

Perkumpulan KELOLA
US\$32,143

Protecting Dugong Habitat in Bunaken National Park, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Perkumpulan TAKA
US\$29,900

Community-Based Marine Conservation in the Pantar Strait, Alor Island, Indonesia

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

Habitiasi
US\$20,000

Community-Based Marine Management on Tana Jamepa Island, South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Perkumpulan Destructive Fishing Watch Indonesia
US\$47,015

Small-Scale Fisheries Management in Buton, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

Resguardo Palmar Imbi
US\$20,000

Strengthening the Indigenous Awá Reserve Palmar Imbi in Colombia Through Exchange with Other Cotacachi-Awá Corridor Initiatives

Universidad San Francisco de Quito (ECOLAP)
US\$21,943

Land Governance in Ecuador's Cotacachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve

Yayasan Tana Ile Boleng
US\$19,439

Using Local Wisdom for Coastal Management in Eastern Flores, Indonesia

Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia
US\$21,590

Improving Management of Small-Scale Tuna Fisheries and Thresher Shark Habitat in Alor, Indonesia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4. Strengthen community-based action to protect marine species and sites.

Lembaga Partisipasi Pembangunan Masyarakat (LPPM)
US\$75,354

Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Management on Small Islands in West Seram, Indonesia

Lembaga Pengembangan Masyarakat Lembata (BARAKAT)
US\$47,612

Strengthening Customary Marine Management Systems on Indonesia's Lembata Island

Manengkel Solidaritas
US\$63,242

Improving Marine Protected Areas and Sustainable Fisheries Management in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Perkumpulan Japesda
US\$64,991

Strengthening Conservation and Management of Small-Scale Fisheries in Peleng-Banggai, Indonesia

Perkumpulan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat dan Pendidikan Konservasi Alam (YAPEKA)
US\$60,757

Seagrass Ecosystem Management in Sangihe, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Perkumpulan Relawan untuk Orang dan Alam (ROA)
US\$32,143

Community-Based Marine Management in Togeang Banggai, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Yayasan Konservasi Laut Indonesia
US\$63,499

Community-Based Conservation Program for Octopus Fisheries in South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Yayasan Pengelolaan Lokal Kawasan Laut Indonesia
US\$64,794

Conserving Vital Nearshore Marine Ecosystems and Building Sustainable Community Fisheries in Seram, Indonesia

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 7. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team.

Burung Indonesia
US\$453,769

Wallacea Phase II Regional Implementation Team

Multiple Hotspots

Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning
US\$24,019

Saving the Fish from Mekong to Meghalaya

Shan Shui Conservation Center
US\$99,578

Mainstreaming Biodiversity by Capacity Building and Experience Sharing in Two Hotspots in China

Aloe suzannae, the most endangered Madagascan aloe, Itampolo, southwest Madagascar ■ © Andry Petignat / Arboretum d'Antsokay



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Área de Conservación Regional Q'eros-Koshipata, Peru ■ © Michelle Léon / Pronaturaleza

CEPF awarded US\$14.7 million in new grants during the 2021 fiscal year of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, bringing the amount it has invested in conserving critical ecosystems since 2000 to US\$269 million.

CEPF's engagement in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot began an exciting new phase with the signing of a US\$38 million agreement with l'Agence Française de Développement as the accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund for the project titled, "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean." The project will be executed by CEPF on behalf of Conservation International and calls for an additional US\$11.2 million in cofinancing.

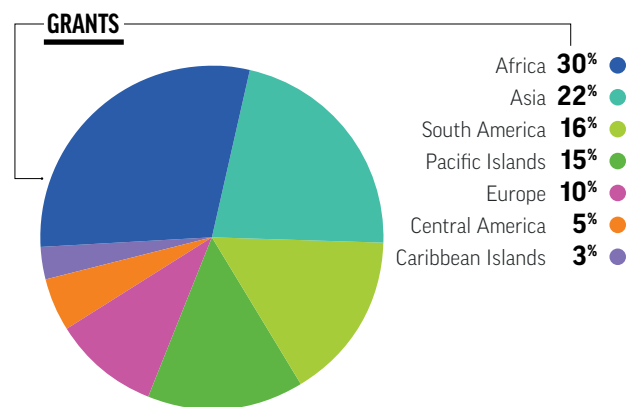
A new investment began in the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot, focusing on coastal resources management, thanks to multiple new donor agreements supporting the hotspot, including:

- US\$1 million from the Walton Family Foundation.
- US\$800,000 from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.
- US\$700,000 from the Vibrant Oceans Initiative, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- US\$400,000 from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

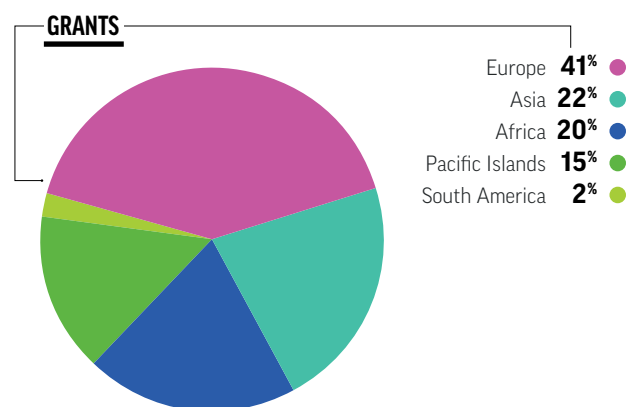
In October 2020, CEPF also signed an agreement with the MAVA Foundation for nearly US\$2.4 million to support the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot.

By the end of the year, 2,602 grantees had received support from the fund since its inception. CEPF completed one five-year investment and began a new investment in the Tropical Andes. Meanwhile, active granting continued in the Cerrado, East Melanesian Islands, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Burma, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, the Mediterranean Basin and the Mountains of Central Asia.

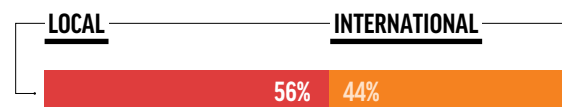
Inception through 30 June 2021



Awarded in fiscal year 2021



Awarded in fiscal year 2021



CEPF STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

REVENUE

	FY21	CUMULATIVE
Grants and contributions	5,278,951	355,846,378
Gain (loss) in foreign exchange	63,276	(1,855,953)
Interest earned	9,261	3,443,465
TOTAL REVENUE	5,351,488	357,433,890

EXPENSES AND GRANTS AWARDED

GRANTS BY FUNDING REGION*	FY21	CUMULATIVE
Atlantic Forest		10,010,403
Cape Floristic Region		7,551,147
Caribbean Islands		6,873,205
Caribbean Islands II		
Caucasus		9,288,219
Cerrado	410,864.60	7,881,879
East Melanesian Islands	1,066,895.65	8,612,605
Eastern Afromontane		11,974,727
Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests		8,789,550
Eastern Himalayas		4,882,859
Guinean Forests of West Africa		8,072,696
Guinean Forests of West Africa II	2,516,091.21	9,985,359
Indo-Burma		9,656,797
Indo-Burma II	(231,726.83)	15,438,448
Indo-Burma III	3,412,865.98	5,641,399
Madagascar		5,555,602
Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	345,845.59	12,082,983
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany		6,646,749
Mediterranean Basin	0.00	10,600,744
Mediterranean Basin II	3,942,682.77	11,557,593
Mountains of Central Asia	2,001,294.48	3,401,294
Mountains of Southwest China		7,886,147
Multiple Hotspots	123,596.55	523,582
Northern Mesoamerica		7,079,430
Philippines		6,970,399
Polynesia-Micronesia		6,828,576
Southern Mesoamerica		7,046,928
Succulent Karoo		9,220,999
Sundaland		9,901,465
Tropical Andes		8,287,386
Tropical Andes II	(76,193.38)	9,622,874
Tropical Andes III	0.00	
Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena		6,797,978
Wallacea	(141,460.85)	6,689,843
Wallacea II	1,292,636.50	1,292,637
Western Ghats		6,055,069
TOTAL GRANTS	14,663,392.27	268,707,571
Ecosystem profile preparation	260,338.30	11,884,011
Use of interest: External evaluations, audit and special projects	132,212.00	3,308,547
Operations	3,263,928.00	54,034,270
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	3,656,478.30	69,226,828
TOTAL EXPENSES AND GRANTS AWARDED	18,319,870.57	337,934,399
Revenue less expenses	(12,968,382.57)	19,499,491
Fund balance at beginning of period	31,457,128.73	
Fund balance at end of period	18,488,746.16	

	FY21	CUMULATIVE
TOTAL GRANTS	14,663,392.27	268,707,571
Ecosystem profile preparation	260,338.30	11,884,011
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TOTAL EXPENSES AND GRANTS AWARDED	18,319,870.57	337,934,399
Revenue less expenses	(12,968,382.57)	19,499,491
Fund balance at beginning of period	31,457,128.73	
Fund balance at end of period	18,488,746.16	

FUND BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD CONSISTED OF

Cash and interest accrued, net of amount due to/from CI	22,912,229
Accounts receivable	17,321,920
Grants payable	(21,745,403)
Fund balance at end of the period (fully earmarked for investments)	18,488,746

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

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Fondo de Promoción
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WALLACEA

Wahyu Teguh Prawira

Burung Indonesia
Bogor, Indonesia



Cave located below the Dramešina plateau, near Gacko, Bosnia and Herzegovina ■
© Ester Premate, SubBIOCODE project

CEPF's Monitoring Framework

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

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

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

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

Definitions for CEPF's 16 global indicators

1. Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

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

2. Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

To be counted, an area must be a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), must benefit directly from CEPF funding, and there must be a substantive and meaningful positive change in the management/protection of the KBA. There must be a reasonable attribution between CEPF grantee action and the strengthening of management in the KBA.

For an area to be considered as having "improved management," it can benefit from a wide range of actions. Examples include increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices.

3. Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity

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

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

4. Number of protected areas with improved management

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

5. Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action

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

6. Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity

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

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

CEPF measures change in understanding of and commitment to gender issues with the Gender Tracking Tool (GTT). It is a self-assessment tool that can be used by an organization to understand if and to what extent gender considerations have been integrated into its program and operations. It consists of seven questions for a total possible score of 20. The tool should be completed twice: at the start and at the end of the project. Local and national grantees are required to complete the GTT.

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

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

9. Number of people receiving structured training

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

10. Number of people receiving cash benefits

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

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

Non-cash benefits are increased access to clean water; increased food security; increased access to energy; increased access to public services; increased resilience to climate change; improved land tenure; improved recognition of traditional knowledge; improved decision-making and governance and improved access to ecosystem services. Data are sex-disaggregated.

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

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

13. Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats

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

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

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

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

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

16. Number of companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices

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

Data collection and reporting processes

Each of CEPF's grantees makes an important contribution to CEPF's global impact. CEPF's monitoring system has evolved from a simplistic effort focused on rudimentary data collection and an emphasis on stories to a complex framework applicable to grants of all sizes and scope, capable of articulating global impact and contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and CBD Aichi Biodiversity targets in quantitative and qualitative ways. CEPF's reporting system is fully electronic, allowing for aggregation of results and production of reports that can present portfolio and global results for all projects.

CEPF's monitoring framework allows for reporting on the fund's operational contribution as well as on impact.

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

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

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

Interpretation

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

Overreporting

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

Creative reporting

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

Lack of focus on reporting during implementation

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

do not record such data during the project, they may not be able to supply the required information in their final report.

Validation of grantee results

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

Post-project contact to ensure comprehensive reporting

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

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



A taruca (*Hippocamelus antisensis*), Peru ■
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