

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
34th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202, USA
18 February 2019
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time**

DC 34 Minutes

- 1. Welcome by the Chair and Introduction of Participants (CEPF/DC34/1)**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda (CEPF/DC34/2)**
- 3. Presentation and Discussion of the Executive Director's Report (CEPF/DC34/3)**
 - a) **Action Points Review (CEPF/DC34/3/a)**
See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments:

The discussion focused on the action points on fundraising, and contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity targets. Overall, the fundraising efforts by the Secretariat were promising, with prospective funding from the EU, AFD and KfW being a very good sign for the partnership. It was noted that no progress had yet been made to approach the Paradise Foundation.

The Donor Council also discussed the CBD's upcoming COP15, noting the need to get involved well before the COP starts. The IUCN Congress to be held in June 2020 is seen as an excellent platform for CEPF to provide input on future targets, influence policy makers and prepare for COP15. It was suggested that the CEPF Secretariat be involved in discussions about the 2020 biodiversity framework; and work with grantees and RITs to influence policy positions. Preparatory work should get started pretty soon, with the aim of ensuring that clear targets favoring biodiversity conservation will be defined, adopted and implemented at COP15.

Action Points:

- CEPF to work with the RITs to engage civil society organizations/small stakeholders in the hotspots about the post-2020 biodiversity conservation agenda.
- At the 2020 IUCN Congress, CEPF to ensure that grass roots grantee voices are heard to influence policies.
- CEPF will connect with the EU about the process under way for regional meetings on this topic.

- b) **Partnership Highlights (CEPF/DC34/3/b)**
See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments on Government of Japan/World Bank:

It has been decided that the \$15M from Japan will be invested in the Caribbean Islands hotspot. The World Bank has now drafted a concept note. An appraisal mission is to be prepared to evaluate the design of the project. That project will then be presented to the World Bank board for final approval.

For the new project, the World Bank will be represented by Valerie Hickey on the Donor Council, and Anna Gueorguieva on the Working Group. The timeline for development of the concept note through to project approval, is estimated to take between 12-18 months. No funds would be transferred to CEPF prior to project approval. A concern was raised about the possibility that the ecosystem profile might be outdated with this timeline, but the Secretariat noted it was not the data that was a concern as it was not significantly different from the first profile, rather the concern was for the continuity of initiatives that began in the first phase.

Action Points:

- Olivier to reach out to Valerie Hickey, new representative to the Donor Council from the World Bank, as soon as possible regarding the investment in the Caribbean to begin coordinating.
- CEPF will communicate to the Caribbean hotspot the further delays to be expected.

c) Financial Narrative (CEPF/DC34/3/c)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

d) Financial Report (CEPF/DC34/3/d)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments on Finance:

CEPF may discuss the benefits of an investment portfolio for its cash reserves with each donor. Money market accounts instead of more complicated investments could be an option as those seem to be doing quite well. The EU will be consulted specifically on the various options possible since they had raised some concerns in the risks involved during the previous phase of investment.

Action Point:

- The Secretariat will share with the EU and AFD the options for investment of cash advances, and the history of the decision to invest prior cash reserves held by CEPF with UBS.

e) Q2 Approved Grants (CEPF/DC34/3/e)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

f) Impact Report – Update on the impact of CEPF during Fiscal Year 2018 (CEPF/DC34/3/f)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments:

This second Impact Report from CEPF was very well received by the Donor Council members, who see it as an important tool to explain CEPF to partners. Next year this document will be key, as 2020 will be a significant year for biodiversity targets. A number of suggestions were made to improve presentation and clarify some of the topics.

Action Points:

- Include a clear explanation of what a KBAs, protected areas and landscapes are.

- Include a map, with indications of levels of investment.
- Explain what the challenges encountered in preparing the impact numbers and in achieving our goals.
- The Secretariat will share the ICF report once it is ready.

4. Gender: How is CEPF addressing gender in its grant-making program? (CEPF/DC34/4)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments:

The Donor Council welcomed the work done by the CEPF Secretariat on gender. All donors use gender in their work and encourage considering gender in CEPF projects as it is such a relevant topic that allows for more effective work on the ground. The gender toolkit seems to be a good tool to help mainstreaming gender into CEPF projects.

Action Points:

- The Secretariat should connect with various donors' units/staff that focus on gender issues.
- The EU will provide information regarding the UN workshop taking place in April in New York on gender.
- The Secretariat should consider including language in the calls for proposals to ensure sensitivity to gender issues.

5. CEPF's approach to sustainable financing (CEPF/DC34/5)

See [meeting document](#) for further information.

Comments:

The Donor Council noted that sustainable financing is a tough topic that many organizations struggle with. Resource mobilization will be a key topic in the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, and CEPF does provide some good examples of what financing can do. Of note is that Donor Council members did not think that CEPF should alter its approach to trust funds, in that CEPF should not change to be able to capitalize them. CEPF does already have good ideas that support efforts to achieve sustainability such as its support to NGOs to fundraise, and its strategy of developing long-term visions for the hotspots.

Action Point:

- In future documents, the Secretariat should expand the language surrounding civil society, to ensure that RITs are included in the description of civil society considering that RITs benefit from capacity building from the Secretariat, and while the RITs also lead the strategy and perform administrative functions, they are integral to CEPF work to empower civil society.

6. Any other business