

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
Conservation International  
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600  
Arlington VA 22202, USA  
19 March 2020  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time**

**Conservation Achievements of the Investment  
in the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Background**

The Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot encompasses the whole of Timor-Leste along with 10 Indonesian provinces, including the major island groups of Sulawesi, Maluku and the Lesser Sundas. The hotspot, notable for its 274 endemic bird species and 400 species of coral, lies within the Coral Triangle and includes 391 Key Biodiversity Areas.

Despite its rich biodiversity and myriad threats—infrastructure development, resource extraction and population growth among them—Wallacea has long been overlooked by Indonesia’s economic development planners as they focused on the human capital and natural resources available in Java, Bali, Sumatra, Kalimantan (Borneo) and West Papua. Meanwhile, the conservation community has focused its efforts on the large forests and charismatic megafauna of Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Recognizing the urgent challenges facing Wallacea, the CEPF Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile for the hotspot in June 2014 and allocated US\$6,000,000 for investment. Shortly thereafter, the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation allocated an additional US\$850,000, specifically for the engagement of local organizations working in coastal and marine environments.

Formal grantmaking began in December 2014 with the award of the regional implementation team (RIT) grant to Burung Indonesia, based just outside of Jakarta. Originally slated to end after five years, in November 2019, exchange-rate efficiencies allowed work to continue until 30 June 2020, when the RIT grant will formally end.

CEPF and Burung Indonesia have awarded 105 large and small grants to 68 organizations, 63 of which are based in Indonesia or Timor-Leste.

CEPF Grant Director Dan Rothberg will present highlights from the work, an overview of results, and prospects for future investment.