

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
38th Meeting of the CEPF Donor Council  
Virtual Meeting  
26 May 2021  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)**

**Conservation Achievements of the Investment  
in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Background**

The Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot is known for its biodiversity, ecosystem services and cultural values. Home to more than 35,000 plant and vertebrate species, the hotspot is the most biodiverse in the world. It spans 158 million hectares across the mountains of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and northern Argentina and Chile. It contains 130 ecosystems, 1,451 Red-Listed species, and 474 Key Biodiversity Areas. The Tropical Andes is the second most important hotspot for irrecoverable carbon stocks, and it serves as the headwaters for the world's first and fourth largest rivers, the Amazon and Orinoco, respectively. The hotspot has the highest concentration of distinct Indigenous groups in South America.

With CEPF's assistance, the Andean conservation community has made headway in advancing the conservation agenda in recent decades. At the same time, the scale of local conservation capacity and response has been dwarfed by the scale of threats from mining, climate change, agricultural encroachment, infrastructure development, deforestation, hunting and wildlife trafficking, and others. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic and human health crisis not witnessed in modern history, significantly increasing the hotspot's vulnerability.

Recognizing the urgent challenges facing the Tropical Andes, the Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile for the hotspot in March 2015 for investment in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The investment phase began in July 2015 with the award of the regional implementation team (RIT) grant to an alliance of Andean environmental trust funds. In January 2021, CEPF and the RIT brought closure to the investment phase, having awarded 100 large and small grants to 65 organizations, 55 of which were based in the hotspot. Grants led to the achievement of local, national and global conservation outcomes in all four countries.

CEPF Grant Director Michele Zador will present highlights from the investment phase, a summary of the results achieved, and an overview of CEPF plans for re-investment in the hotspot.

## **Grantee Video Links**

### **Bolivia**

Asociación Civil Armonía:

- [Saving the Polylepis Forests of Bolivia](#), with English subtitles (1:14 minutes)
- [Reforestation of Polylepis Forests](#) (3:20 minutes)
- [Polylepis: Forest for Life](#) (11:19 minutes)

### **Colombia**

Corporación Serraniagua:

- [Thanks to CEPF for Conserving Paraguas de Serraniagua](#), with subtitles (2:16 minutes)

Fundacion Ecohabitats:

- [Conserving Serranía El Pinche KBA of Colombia](#) (3:00 minutes)

Fundación Ecológica los Colibríes de Altaquer:

- [Thanks to CEPF for Conserving Rio Ñambí Nature Reserve](#) (1:23 minutes)

La Planada Nature Reserve

- [Thanks to CEPF for Supporting the Awa People and La Planada Nature Reserve](#) (4:24 minutes)