

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

**Name of the Partnership/Initiative**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

**Expected date of initiation:** August 2000 (original initiation), June 2002 (new phase)

**Expected date of completion:** 2005 (First phase)

**Partners Involved:**

Governments: Japan

Intergovernmental organizations: GEF, World Bank

Major groups: Conservation International, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Other: (local communities, NGOs, private sectors which involved in the funded activities)

*Leading Partner:*

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### **Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) advances the global conservation agenda on several fronts. The objective of the Fund is to serve as a catalyst to create strategic working alliances among diverse groups, combining unique capacities and eliminating duplication of efforts for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to conservation challenges. Investments support such projects as managing of protected areas and coordinating biodiversity corridors; training; transboundary planning; encouraging local dialogue with extractive industries; engaging in conflict resolution; priority setting and consensus building; strengthening indigenous organizations and facilitating partnerships between the private sector and protected areas.

<Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 and the United Nation Millennium Declaration >

The Chapter 15 of Agenda 21 gives special emphasis on biodiversity conservation and policies described in this chapter correspond with the objectives of the CEPF. The Millennium Declaration refers management of all living species and natural resources with respect for nature. It also reaffirms full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The CEPF activities are along with these commitments.

### **Expected results:**

The expected results are determined through a preparation and profiling process, called an Ecosystem Profile. This document determines the anticipated results per region. An example of the results that have been identified in The Ecosystem Profile and 5-Year Investment Strategy for Sumatra in the Sundaland Hotspot of Indonesia are summarized below:

- Enhance stewardship of forest resources at district level and below
- Empower civil society to organize in favor of conserving biodiversity
- Build alliances among conservation-minded groups in civil society and the private sector
- Assess impact of conservation interventions at district level and below

Each Profile has its own results.

### **Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

The CEPF Fund achieves the highest returns on conservation investments because it focuses primarily on regions where direct action results in the greatest percentage of species conserved. The Fund builds on Conservation International's strategic focus on the global biodiversity hotspots. Combined, these 25 unique places cover just 1.4 percent of the Earth's land surface, yet they claim more than 60 percent of the planet's terrestrial species diversity. The CEPF will use this biogeographic focus as an overarching policy to determine where investment can be made. Each subsequent year, the Fund will invest in additional hotspots.

To be eligible for funding, the following broad criteria must be met:

- Projects must be within a biodiversity hotspot.
- Projects must be within a developing country that has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Applicants must represent nongovernmental organizations, community groups or private-sector partners.
- Subject to prioritization by the CEPF Donor Council, the following hotspots may become eligible for funding:

Caucasus/ Brazilian Cerrado/ Central Chile/ Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya / Guinean Forests of West Africa/ Mountains of South-Central China Indo-Burma / Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands/ Polynesia· Micronesia/ Succulent Karoo/ Tropical Andes/ Wallacea/ Western Ghats and Sri Lanka

#### **Coordination and Implementation mechanism**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) allocates authority and accountability to each partner according to their strengths and responsibility. The CEPF Donor Council provides strategic guidance, reviews and endorses ecosystem profiles and investment plans, and authorizes funds in block ecosystem grants. The CEPF Working Group, comprised of one representative per donor organization serves as a resource to the CEPF for consultation on CEPF matters such as maximizing the potential to leverage donor organization resources and expertise, development of Ecosystem Profiles, to provide input and guidance on certain operational issues and addressing obstacles and challenges to biodiversity conservation success.

#### **Arrangements for funding**

##### **Global Funding**

CEPF aims to dramatically advance conservation of the developing world's biologically richest and most threatened areas by investing at least \$150 million over five years. In June 2002, the Government of Japan announced to join the CEPF to provide \$5 million for the year 2002, as the first governmental partner. Each donor partner has pledged \$5 million a year for 5 years. Conservation International is the administering partner for the initiative. The entrance of the Government of Japan marks a new phase for the CEPF Initiative.

##### **Ecosystem-Wide Funding**

The CEPF partners have agreed a specific grant decision-making process. Proposals are reviewed and approved based on how well they meet a strategic direction for the area in question. For this reason, the overall strategic approach and proposed implementation of the project is considered carefully. CI staff and other experts may review the proposal as part of the process. The CEPF grant director, in consultation with the CEPF executive director, determines whether a proposal will be funded. Only CEPF staff can make a financial commitment to any applicant.

#### **Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer**

Training for the civil society in order to build capacity or transfer technology is one of the targeted activities of funding by the CEPF. Each proposal will be reviewed in accordance with the existing criteria of funding described as above.

#### **Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) complements the partners' regular activities, rather than duplicating or overlapping them: Therefore each funded activity naturally has linkages with several on-going activities by governments, international organizations, NGOs and others.

**Monitoring Arrangements**

All grantees must submit regular financial and programmatic reports to the CEPF in a specific format using the online system at [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net). The frequency of reporting required is specified in each grant contract. The format has been designed to be a useful program management tool. The programmatic reporting relates to demonstrating progress with respect to the performance indicators articulated in the project design. The financial reporting is based on the approved project budget. Both of these reports are automated in the online system to facilitate easy and regular reporting.

**Other relevant information:**

Web-site (if available): <http://www.cepf.net>

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