



# 10 years of CEPF investment

## to support the Convention on Biological Diversity 2010 target

Established in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global leader in enabling civil society to participate in and influence the conservation of some of the world's most critical ecosystems. CEPF is unique among funding mechanisms in that it focuses on high-priority biological areas rather than political boundaries and examines conservation threats on a landscape scale. From this perspective, CEPF seeks to identify and support a regional, rather than a national, approach to achieving conservation outcomes and engages a wide range of public and private institutions to address conservation needs through coordinated regional efforts.

CEPF has invested \$124 million across 18 biodiversity hotspots with the principal objective of mobilizing civil society participation in biodiversity conservation *in places where it matters most*. This represents only 0.5 percent of total biodiversity-related aid to developing countries over the last decade yet CEPF has played an evident role in global efforts to achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target of 'a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss.' Much of this must be owed to the attention it has given to three principles adopted by the CBD:

- A belief that biodiversity and its component parts of species, habitats and ecological processes serve as the foundation of human well-being,
- that safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity is best achieved through site conservation tactics, and
- that building credibility and confidence of civil society in regions where biodiversity value is greatest and threats most impacting maximizes the potential for long lasting conservation action and effective national implementation of the CBD.

CEPF has positioned itself to provide a strategic focus on globally threatened species and protected areas by adopting Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)<sup>1</sup> as the guiding framework for determining why, where, and how its site conservation investments should be made. Attention has been given to funding a suite of site conservation measures to conserve habitat essential for the persistence of globally irreplaceable and vulnerable species. These protection achievements have also helped maintain the capacity of KBAs to preserve stocks of carbon in natural forests and, through diverse investments in Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, helped maximize the delivery of essential clean water services to downstream human populations<sup>2</sup>.

CEPF has also shown commitment to building capacity to secure maximum conservation gains in places where it matters most. Major investment in national and local civil society groups has not only instilled a long-lasting stewardship for biodiversity conservation but has also transferred the necessary financial and technical resources for systematically monitoring progress towards achieving CBD goals and supporting implementation of the CBD framework. As one of the few global conservation funding programs narrowly focused on biodiversity conservation through civil society empowerment, CEPF has built an important niche for itself. This niche has given, and will continue to give, critical attention to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to achieve its ambitious goals of conserving species diversity and the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes, and maintaining their ability to deliver goods and services for future societies.

## CEPF contributions to the Convention on Biological Diversity goals and targets

### GOAL 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes

**Target 1.1:** At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.

**Target 1.2:** Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected

CEPF has worked to protect the Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened areas by investing \$60M in 25% of the KBAs in 15 hotspots, including 10% of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites defined globally. Supporting conservation in these 493 KBAs covers almost 50% of the area of KBAs in these hotspots.

CEPF has helped to establish and expand 79 formal protected areas and community reserves totaling approximately 6% of all the terrestrial area protected since the inception of CEPF in 2000. Investments have also helped increase the rate of protected area coverage for KBAs where CEPF invested to three times that for KBAs where CEPF investment did not invest.

### GOAL 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity

**Target 2.1:** Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups

**Target 2.2:** Status of threatened species improved. and support livelihoods

Investments in KBAs have benefited 6% of all species assessed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

### GOAL 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

**Target 8.1:** Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained

CEPF's work establishing 97,400 sq km of new protected areas and expanding 5,591 sq km of existing protected areas is helping to secure 3,530,375,083 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent that could be lost to the atmosphere in the absence of such site protection measures.

### GOAL 11. Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

**Target 11.1:** New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20

**Target 11.2:** Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4.

Over \$60 million can be attributed to components of site conservation work in KBAs and of this investment 50% has been committed to establishing new protection, improving management of existing areas and species conservation/research strategies.

CEPF investment has helped document the threatened status of 6.7% of species currently assessed on the IUCN Red List and establish habitat change detection baselines for 30% of the total area in the 15 hotspots where CEPF invested. These achievements have helped generate knowledge of biodiversity status that support measurement of two CBD headline indicators - change in status of threatened species and trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats.

Over 10 years CEPF has mobilized an increasing number of projects targeting KBAs through local and national partners suggesting commitments to building national capacity for long-term implementation of the CBD. The percent of CEPF projects implemented by national, sub-national and local organizations for site conservation action has risen from 13% of the total in 2001 to 57% in 2009.

## the partnership

CEPF unites six global leaders under a common vision, maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of their conservation investment by enabling civil society to protect vital ecosystems and promote economic prosperity.

L'Agence Française de Développement ([www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr))  
The Global Environment Facility ([www.thegef.org](http://www.thegef.org))  
The MacArthur Foundation ([www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org))

Conservation International ([www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org))  
The Government of Japan ([www.env.go.jp/en/](http://www.env.go.jp/en/))  
The World Bank ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org))

<sup>1</sup>The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) approach is a framework for pinpointing areas that are the highest priority for biodiversity conservation. KBAs are identified using transparent, globally standard criteria and serve as the building blocks for conservation planning and investment decision-making.

<sup>2</sup>Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites are the highest priority subset of Key Biodiversity Areas. These sites are the last remaining strongholds for one or more Critically Endangered or Endangered species. 58 AZE sites out of 595 defined globally (based on 2005 analysis) have benefited from CEPF site investments.