



Addis Ababa Highlights

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The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's Launched in Addis Ababa

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Eastern Afromontane hotspot investment programme was officially launched on March 1st 2013 at Alliance Ethio-Française, AddisAbaba during an event organized by the CEPF in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWHNS), in the presence of the French Ambassador H.E. Mme Brigitte Collet and representatives from Ethiopian governmental authorities, civil society and donor communities.

The main purpose of the launch event was to introduce CEPF's five-year investment plan of \$9,8 million in the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot and its significant role in mainstreaming biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the cobenefits of biodiversity conservation. It was also an occasion to detail the strategic directions and investment priorities of the programme to potential grantees working in the field of environment conservation in the Ethiopian part of the biodiversity hotspot.

Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot covers 15 countries that are geographically located up from the Saudi Arabia through Yemen, down to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot comprises biogeographically similar mountain ranges in eastern Africa that covers more than 7000km, of which 40% is found in Ethiopia. In this hotspot, 10.000 species can be found, of which almost 1/3 is endemic to Ethiopian territory.

The CEPF, founded in 2000, is a joint program of the EU, L'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, The Global Environment Facility, The Government of Japan, The World Bank, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. CEPF's main objective is to endorse civil societies operating in protection of biodiversity and vital ecosystems, by providing grants to civil society actors. H.E Mme Collet recalled French development philosophy: "economic development, and more generally, human development cannot be reached at the expense of the environment and also that preserving biodiversity is absolutely essential for the planet and mankind".

The call for proposals that was introduced at the event is open to NGO's, private enterprises and community groups whose programmes on eco-system protection match with CEPF's strategy. The deadlines for submission are on 1st April for large grants, and 19th April for small grants (<http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/default.aspx>).

Group photo of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund launch

Photo credit: CEOF

