



CEPF-strengthening civil society

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) believes civil society holds the key to conservation that lasts.

Enabling nongovernmental organizations, community groups and other civil society partners to participate in and influence the conservation of critical ecosystems is the hallmark of our approach. Our experience demonstrates that civil society can bring innovative ideas and solutions, as well as participatory approaches, to solving local challenges.

CEPF provides grants for civil society through a flexible and agile funding mechanism. Grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives and community associations to private sector partners and international organizations. Regional implementation teams in the hotspots lead the granting process and provide local leadership and knowledge, identifying potential partners and providing hands-on assistance to design projects.

Since its founding in 2000, CEPF has provided support to more than 1,550 civil society groups in 51 countries.

How we work with civil society

Enabling a stronger voice: CEPF empowers NGOs, community groups and private sector partners to conserve their environment and to influence decisions that affect lives, livelihoods and, ultimately the global environment. CEPF-supported groups have enabled adoption of at least 25 policies, laws and regulations in support of biodiversity and mainstreaming conservation into development policy.

Building networks: CEPF fosters the creation and consolidation of networks of civil society groups, combining resources and expertise for active and coordinated conservation action. The program has helped establish more than 80 networks of civil society groups, creating a new model for conservation in Sumatra, the Guinean Forests of West Africa and other regions where conservation historically has been characterized by isolated and fragmented approaches.

Catalyzing momentum for change: CEPF has provided mentoring, support and training to more than 30,000 people in proposal writing, project management and institutional development, often via local coordinating partners. Our approach not only enables conservation outcomes but also builds strong local institutions and ownership, as well as good governance, so these results will last.

A 2010 evaluation of the program's impact since its founding in 2000 found that CEPF has **“helped civil society reach independently sustained growth and activity in many regions.”**

highlights from our approaches to strengthening civil society

Stronger voice: Through policy analysis, stakeholder consultations, media and community outreach, training and technical assistance, local civil society groups gained important new capacities that allowed them to work collaboratively with local and federal agencies to strengthen public policies in northern Mesoamerica. Grant partners achieved important policy results in forest fire management, nature tourism, road development and protected areas management. In Guatemala, CEPF support provided the basis for the National Council of Protected Areas to issue a decree prohibiting the construction of new roads that would cross the Maya Biosphere Reserve, a wilderness area of more than 2.1 million hectares.

Networks: Building networks has been a major focus of CEPF investments in capacity strengthening in every one of its funding regions. One example is the alliance of 30 NGOs brought together by WWF Indonesia to advocate for the conservation of Sumatra's Tesso Nilo-Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape. With support from CEPF, WWF Indonesia raised the capacity of the participating NGOs to effectively discuss biodiversity conservation within the context of land-use and land-tenure plans and policies with decisionmakers at all levels of government, private sector and media. The alliance developed a common vision for the landscape, established a permanent secretariat, and was instrumental in securing the designation of Tesso Nilo National Park.

Catalyzing momentum: In the Cape Floristic Region of South Africa, the Table Mountain Fund Capacity Building Program used a number of methods to build the capacity of previously disadvantaged people, such as technical training courses and mentored internships at conservation organizations. As a result of the project at least 14 participants found management positions with partner organizations and more than 355 individuals benefited from capacity-building opportunities through courses and mentoring. The program has made possible the emergence of an inspiring leadership base of black and female conservation role models who are forging community-centered conservation management.



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)
The Global Environment Facility (www.thegef.org)
The MacArthur Foundation (www.macfound.org)

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

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