Monitoring Framework

The existing and continually evolving CEPF management tools include the ecosystem profiling process, and the grants management procedures and monitoring systems. These are useful in developing and promoting the strategies for profiles, managing a large and dynamic pool of grants, and tracking progress in grant making and achieving goals. These tools enable the fund to focus on achieving conservation impacts on the ground.

The CEPF Strategic Framework outlines overarching "key indicators of success":
- Number of critical ecosystems/hotspots with active investment programs involving civil society in conservation.
- Number of civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the CEPF ecosystem profiles.
- Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) with strengthened protection and management.
- Number of hectares of new protected areas.
- Number of hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use.

The Monitoring Framework seeks to complement the broad goals of the Strategic Framework, underpin these goals with more sensitive data, and better communicate the stories of CEPF's work.

➢ **Purpose of the monitoring framework** – i) to efficiently and adaptively manage the CEPF portfolio both globally and at the profile levels; ii) to capture information on impacts of CEPF investments in a systematic manner to enable more effective communication of results; and iii) to identify emerging conservation needs or those that are cross cutting/critical to the conservation success of a given investment region.

➢ **Elements of the monitoring framework** – This framework is split into two main components: program impact and portfolio management. Program impact focuses on the impacts CEPF will have as a fund and is split into four broad categories as described below. Portfolio management focuses on CEPF internal processes and the ability of CEPF to efficiently and effectively operate.

> ➤ **Program impact** – Each of CEPF's grants is placed into one of four categories of impact, known as the pillars of CEPF: Biodiversity, Civil Society, Human Well-being, and Enabling Conditions:

Table 3.5.A: Impact categories and associated statements of success

Biodiversity	Human well-being
Improve the status of globally significant biodiversity in critical ecosystems within hotspots.	Improve the well-being of people living in and dependent on critical ecosystems within hotspots.
Civil society	**Enabling environment**
Strengthen the capacity of civil society to be stewards and effective advocates for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.	Establish the conditions needed for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

CEPF's first two pillars, which aim to conserve biodiversity and to build civil society capacity to achieve conservation, are closely linked. Strong civil society capacity is essential for a sustainable foundation for biodiversity conservation. Underpinning both are the third and fourth pillars. Human Well-being is directly linked to the success of biodiversity conservation efforts because healthy ecosystems are essential for people's lives and livelihoods, while ecosystems that are unhealthy or devoid of biodiversity cannot deliver the benefits that people need, such as freshwater. Enabling Conditions are critical for successful conservation, but can be altered and improved by civil society, in particular a civil society that is empowered and informed. CEPF aims to measure progress in all four of these interlinked pillars to gain a holistic understanding of impact of the fund.

Each impact category is presented below.

Impact category 1: Biodiversity

Objective – Improve the status of globally significant biodiversity in critical ecosystems within hotspots.

Description – Measuring the status and trends in biodiversity can take many forms. CEPF has chosen to measure progress toward this impact category via indicators focusing on species and sites.

Species – Represent the smallest recognizable and (in most cases) replicable unit of biodiversity and also underpin CEPF's ecosystem profiling framework. CEPF investment strategies are built 'from the species up'; threatened species inform the selection of

important sites (KBAs[1]), which, in turn, inform the definition of conservation corridors. Together, these "conservation outcomes" at species, site and corridor scales guide conservation investments within a hotspot. CEPF monitors its contribution to species conservation by recording the number of globally threatened species that benefit from CEPF-supported conservation action.

Sites – Represent spatial units managed for the purpose of biodiversity conservation (whether this is a primary or secondary purpose). These include KBAs, protected areas, and production landscapes. Examples of management activities may include protected area management, community conservation agreements and biodiversity-friendly agriculture, among others.

CEPF monitors its contribution to site conservation through structured self-reporting by grantees at the end of their projects, verified by spot checks by the CEPF Secretariat and its Regional Implementation Teams (RITs). The following indicators are used:
- Number of hectares of KBAs with improved management.
- Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded.
- Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity.
- Number of protected areas with improved management (using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool).
- Number of globally threatened species benefiting from conservation action.

Impact category 2: Human well-being

Objective – Improve the well-being of people living in and dependent on critical ecosystems within hotspots.

Description – Conservation and human well-being have a complex, bi-directional relationship. Conservation success depends on the willing participation of human societies – from the local to the global level. Conversely, human communities need nature to thrive; depending on the valuable services such as fresh water and disaster mitigation that natural ecosystems provide. CEPF embraces this complex relationship and invests to ensure compatibility between and improvement in ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. CEPF uses two categories of metric to monitor its impacts on human well-being at the global scale: 1) beneficiaries; and 2) climate.

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[1] KBAs, or Key Biodiversity Areas, are sites of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity. They are identified for biodiversity elements for which specific sites contribute significantly to their global persistence, such as globally threatened species or ecosystems. The identification of KBAs uses multiple criteria and sub-criteria, each with associated quantitative thresholds (IUCN, 2016, *A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas*. Available at http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/what-are-kbas).

Beneficiaries – Comprise those people and communities that receive cash and non-cash benefits from activities undertaken through CEPF investments. Because a large number of beneficiaries receive non-cash benefits in the form of structured training, this category is measured separately from other non-cash benefits, such as improved land tenure and increased access to clean water. CEPF monitors the beneficiaries of its investments through structured self-reporting by grantees at the end of their projects, verified by spot checks by the CEPF Secretariat and RITs. The following three indicators are used:

- Number of people receiving structured training.
- Number of people receiving non-cash benefits other than structured training (e.g. increased access to clean water, increased food security, increased access to energy, increased access to public services, increased resilience to climate change, improved land tenure, improved recognition of traditional knowledge, improved representation and decision-making in governance forums, improved delivery of ecosystem services, etc.).
- Number of people receiving cash benefits (e.g. increased income from employment, increased income from livelihood activities, financial incentives for conservation, etc.).

Climate – Climate change is expected to increasingly drive biodiversity loss. Already, species are moving to new habitats and altering life cycles to adapt to changes in their environments. Meanwhile, the loss of biodiversity and destruction or degradation of natural areas undermine the health of ecosystems that are vital for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Natural ecosystems can help people – particularly the poor in rural and urban areas – adapt to changes in climate. Sustainably managed rivers, aquifers and floodplains can help ensure water supplies and regulate flooding. Healthy coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and wetlands, temper the impact of storms. Thriving grasslands counter drought and flooding. Tropical forests provide wild reserves of food and income during failed harvests. The oceans absorb heat and CO_2 from the atmosphere, helping to stabilize the climate.

CEPF monitors its contribution to combating climate change through self-reporting by grantees at the end of their projects, coupled with analysis of GIS data and carbon maps to calculate the amount of carbon stored at CEPF-supported natural habitats. The following two indicators are used:

- Number of projects promoting nature-based solutions to combat climate change.
- Amount of CO2e sequestered in CEPF-supported natural habitats.

Impact category 3: Enabling conditions

Objective – Establish the conditions needed for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

Description – CEPF operates under the premise that conservation actions in isolation are far less likely to succeed than those undertaken in an enabling environment. Three broad enabling conditions provide the framework for monitoring impacts at the global level under this impact category: ensuring that public policies are in place that promote (or do not inhibit) conservation action; ensuring sufficient capital and flow of financial resources for conservation; and promotion of biodiversity-friendly practices in the private sector.

Regulatory environment – In order for conservation interventions to proceed and be successful, the underlying legal and policy frameworks must be in place. This includes the legislative and regulatory framework for civil society to participate in conservation actions, as well as the inclusion of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use goals and provisions within sectoral development policies and plans. CEPF has directed funding toward both of these aspects of the regulatory environment but the most common need identified in ecosystem profiles has been for the latter (because most countries already have regulations in place that allow civil society to emerge and engage in conservation). CEPF monitors progress towards an enhanced regulatory environment by recording the number of laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended.

Long-term financing – One of the greatest barriers to effective conservation is the lack of financial resources to implement management that leads to conservation success. CEPF targets a portion of its investments to ensuring financial sustainability of civil society and conservation activities in the long term. This entails not only establishing long-term financing vehicles (e.g., conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, and payment for ecosystem services mechanisms) but also supporting them to ensure that they function well and deliver financially. CEPF monitors progress towards enhanced long-term financing by tracking the number of sustainable financing mechanisms that are delivering funds for conservation.

Private sector practices – There is a great need to identify and promote biodiversity-friendly management practices in economic sectors that have significant impacts on biodiversity, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc. Identification of those practices that are successful and replicable is the first step, from which promoting their uptake follows. CEPF monitors progress towards improved private sector practices by counting the number of companies that adopt biodiversity practices.

For each of the three indicators of enabling conditions, CEPF will monitor impacts at the global scale through aggregating data generated by structured self-reporting from grantees, verified by spot checks by the CEPF Secretariat and RITs.

Impact category 4: Civil society

Objective – Strengthen the capacity of civil society to be operationally effective as stewards and effective advocates for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

Description – CEPF is premised on the assumption that a capable and functioning civil society is necessary for sustained conservation progress. CEPF takes a wide perspective of civil society that encompasses more than traditional definitions. CEPF works with a wide range of nongovernmental actors in seeking to improve the organizational capacity of institutions to deliver conservation success. CEPF assesses this impact category at the scale of the individual organization, by looking at the institutional capacity of civil society organizations to undertake conservation actions, as well as at the network scale, recognizing the strength of self-reinforcing networks and alliances to leverage complementary capacities and respond to complex conservation challenges that no single organization can address working alone.

CEPF monitors its contribution to strengthening civil society impact through structured self-reporting by grantees, verified by spot checks by the CEPF Secretariat and RITs. The following three indicators are used:
- Number of CEPF grantees with improved organizational capacity (using the Civil Society Tracking Tool).
- Number of CEPF grantees with improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues (using the Gender Tracking Tool).
- Number of networks and partnerships that have been created and/or strengthened.

The Monitoring Framework contributes to the outcomes of CEPF's Global Results Framework, as well as to the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets. These linkages are set out in Table 3.5.B, which presents the CEPF Monitoring Framework.

Capturing CEPF's qualitative impact
As a complement to the collection of data on the indicators above, CEPF will capture stories and lessons from CEPF grantees and develop products that effectively share this information. Examples of products include but are not limited to, lessons learned papers, case studies, interviews, articles, videos, etc.

- ➤ **Results Frameworks and Global Conservation Goals:**
  - o **Synergy with the Global Results Framework** – The Global Results Framework[2] contains indicators that address both impact and management performance. This monitoring framework should be viewed as supplementary to the Global Results Framework, as CEPF will continue to monitor the indicators nested within CEPF's governing documents (e.g. the Project Appraisal Document (PAD)). Further, the Global Results Framework contains intermediate targets, which are updated periodically. CEPF will continue to strive to reach all targets.
  - o **Additional Results Frameworks:** Each donor's contribution to CEPF has a financing agreement, which may or may not contain additional indicators/targets that are specific to that donor's contribution. It is in these financing agreements that targets are set, both for impact and for programmatic performance. CEPF cannot set new targets within the Global Results Framework or any other supplementary results framework, without sufficient financing to support the work that will allow targets to be achieved.
  - o **Contribution to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals:** All indicators in the Monitoring Framework correspond, to the extent possible, to relevant Aichi targets and Sustainable Development Goals. Table 3.5.B demonstrates the links between CEPF and these global goals. CEPF will, on a regular basis, report on contributions to achieving these goals.

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[2] The current Global Results Framework for CEPF is located within CEPF's Strategic Framework for FY2008-2012. This document may be updated or replaced in future, as CEPF moves into its third phase.