



# CEPF Long-Term Vision for the Indo-Burma Hotspot

Scott Perkin, Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia Regional Office

21 December 2017

# Background to the Vision

- CEPF supports the development of credible, effective and well-resourced civil societies that can help deliver conservation in the world's biodiversity hotspots.
- CEPF is not intended to be a permanent presence. However, experience has increasingly shown that a five-year programme of CEPF investment is not sufficient and that longer-term support is required to create robust civil societies.
- The question thus becomes: how long is enough? And how can CEPF determine when its support is no longer required?

# Background to the Vision

- To help address these questions, CEPF has commissioned “Long-Term Visions” in a number of biodiversity hotspots around the world.
- The visions are intended to identify clear targets towards which CEPF will work in each hotspot.
- At the end of each 5-year investment phase, progress will be evaluated and the CEPF investment strategy for the hotspot revised (assuming further investment is required).



# The Framework for Long-Term Visions

CEPF's Donor Council has identified five key questions to help determine if a hotspot is ready to transition away from CEPF support:

- 1) Are global conservation priorities (eg, Key Biodiversity Areas) and best practices being used?
- 2) Does local civil society possess sufficient organizational and technical capacity?
- 3) Do adequate financial resources exist for conservation?
- 4) Are public policies and private sector practices supportive of conservation?
- 5) Are mechanisms in place to identify and respond to emerging conservation challenges?

# The Long-Term Vision for the Indo-Burma Hotspot: Process

- The IUCN Asia Regional Office was commissioned to prepare the vision for Indo-Burma.
- The exercise was carried out between July and November 2015. It included an extensive literature review and consultations with over 100 stakeholders across the hotspot, representing national and international NGOs, government agencies, research institutions, universities and donors.
- A detailed peer review was carried out in 2016 and the document was then revised.
- The final document was submitted endorsed by the CEPF Donor Council in 2017.

# Key Findings

- As of 30 September 2017, CEPF had committed more than US\$25 million in grant funding in the Indo-Burma Hotspot since 2008.
- The first investment phase ran from 2008 to 2013; the second phase began in 2013 and will continue until the end of 2019.
- Despite this investment, there was widespread agreement among stakeholders that the conditions for reducing CEPF support have not yet been met.

# Key Findings

- Indo-Burma has the dubious distinction of being the world's most threatened biodiversity hotspot:
  - only five percent of its original natural habitat remains;
  - more people than any other hotspot.
- Key threats include:
  - hunting and trade of wildlife;
  - conversion of natural habitats to agro-industrial plantations of rubber, oil palm, tea and other commodities;
  - hydropower dams



# Key Findings

There is need for improvement in all five of the priority areas identified in the Long-Term Vision framework. In particular, there is a need to:

- 1) Update the list of Key Biodiversity Areas
- 2) Increase the institutional capacity and financial resources of civil society
- 3) Increase public funding for conservation
- 4) Revise and clarify the legal rights of Civil Society Organisations; and
- 5) Strengthen the monitoring of biodiversity and natural resources.



# Criteria, Targets and Milestones

- Criteria, targets and milestones for three phases (2016 to 2020; 2021 to 2025; and 2026 to 2030) were defined for each of these five major areas.
- In total, 24 targets were identified. In essence, what the vision is saying is that – if all or most of these targets are met – then CEPF can begin to reduce its support to the Indo-Burma hotspot.
- Some examples of criteria, targets and milestones are given in the following slides.

# 1. Conservation Priorities and Best Practices

**Criterion 1.1: Key Biodiversity Areas:** KBAs are updated in all countries in the hotspot, covering terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

**Target 1.1.1:** KBAs are updated and important threatened ecosystems are identified in all hotspot countries, taking into account changes in development, knowledge, and other relevant factors, and results are incorporated into the World Database of KBAs.

**Milestone 2016-2020:** All KBAs are reviewed for changes in status, conservation value, species presence, and prioritization.

KBAs not currently within a protected area are identified and prioritized for future/additional protection.

## 2. Civil Society Capacity

**Criterion 2.1: Institutional capacity:** Local civil society groups collectively possess sufficient institutional and operational capacity to raise funds for conservation and to ensure the efficient management of conservation projects.

**Target 2.1.1:** At least 25 local conservation CSOs in the hotspot, including at least three in each country, have a civil society tracking tool score of 80 or more.

**Milestone 2016-2020:** At least 10 local conservation CSOs, including at least one in each country, have a civil society tracking tool score of 80 or more.

# 3. Sustainable Financing

**Criterion 3.3: Private sector funding:** The private sector is providing funding for conservation in the hotspot that, in combination with public sector and donor funding, is sufficient to address global conservation priorities.

**Target 3.3.1:** Funding from the private sector is making a significant difference to long-term conservation efforts for at least three priority KBAs and/or globally threatened species in each hotspot country.

**Milestone 2016-2020:** Funding from the private sector is making a significant difference to long-term conservation efforts for at least one priority KBA and/or globally threatened species in at least two hotspot countries.

# 4. Enabling Policy

**Criterion 4.2: Enforcement:** Authorities have the capacity, mandate and resources to effectively manage protected areas and protect priority species in the hotspot.

**Target 4.2.1:** At least 50 per cent of protected areas have their boundaries demarcated on the ground and management regulations and laws are being effectively enforced, with appropriate sanctions applied to offenders.

**Milestone 2016-2020:** At least one protected area in each hotspot country has relevant portions of its boundary (e.g. accessible areas) clearly demarcated and is patrolled as necessary to enforce conservation regulations and laws.

# 5. Responsiveness to Emerging Issues

**Criterion 5.3: Public sphere:** Conservation issues are discussed in the public sphere in all countries in the hotspot, and these discussions are seen to periodically influence relevant public policy.

**Target 5.3.1:** Conservation issues are covered in local languages in at least one major newspaper, television channel or radio station at least twice per month in all hotspot countries

**Milestone 2016-2020:** Conservation issues are covered in local languages in at least one major newspaper, television channel or radio station at least once per month in all hotspot countries

# Some Key Recommendations

- CEPF should support landscape-scale projects that clearly demonstrate linkages between conservation and development
- CEPF should support CSO capacity building in areas such as governance, project cycle management, community-based natural resource management, and communications/advocacy.
- CEPF should strengthen the fundraising capacity of local CSOs

# Some Key Recommendations

- CEPF should support CSOs targeting key companies in critical sectors and geographies within the hotspot
- CEPF should support greater involvement of the mass media in its portfolio
- CEPF should support a review of tertiary conservation education in the hotspot, and assess options for putting in place additional degree courses, with a particular focus on Lao PDR and Myanmar.
- CEPF should invest in the development and strengthening of the National Advisory Committees in each country.



# Next Steps

- The full Long-Term Vision is a public document and we would be very happy to share it.
- We would welcome formal endorsement of the Long-Term Vision if you feel that it reflects your own organisation's priorities
- CEPF will use the Long-Term Vision to measure progress and to guide its future investment strategy in the Indo-Burma Hotspot



Scott Perkin  
Head, Natural Resources Group  
IUCN Asia Regional Office

[Scott.perkin@iucn.org](mailto:Scott.perkin@iucn.org)