

Burung Indonesia leads Wallacea profile team for CEPF

Title

BirdLife Partner **Burung Indonesia** is coordinating the development of the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund** (CEPF) ecosystem profile for the Wallacea biodiversity hotspot in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

When completed, the profile will identify priority areas for conservation action, and guide CEPF in the disbursement of up to US \$5 million (50 billion Indonesian Rupiahs) in grants over five years. Grants will be awarded to civil society organisations (CSOs) to enable them to engage in conservation activities in the region.

The Wallacea region includes the Indonesian islands east of Bali and west of Papua (Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara), and Timor-Leste. CEPF has chosen Wallacea because its rich biodiversity and natural resources are threatened by conversion, over-exploitation and invasive species.

Wallacea is home to species found nowhere else in the world, many already listed as in danger of extinction by the IUCN. BirdLife International, the IUCN Red List authority on birds, classifies more than 50 species as threatened in Wallacea. BirdLife has also identified ten **Endemic Bird Areas** (EBAs) in Wallacea. EBAs have been shown to be equally important for restricted-range species from other animal and plant groups.

"Wallacea has incredible biodiversity that needs to be preserved. Unfortunately, investment in conservation in the region is still far less than elsewhere in Indonesia, such as Sumatra and Borneo," said Burung Indonesia's Executive Director, Agus Budi Utomo. "The ecosystem profile which we are developing will help make sure that CEPF funds are spent on the most urgent priorities."

CEPF provides funding and technical assistance to CSOs such as nongovernmental organisations, academic institutions, community groups and the private sector to conserve biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, which are essential to human welfare.

Burung Indonesia is the coordinator of the consortium of organisations that will prepare the profile. The other members are the Wildlife Conservation Society, BirdLife International, the Samdhana Institute and the Center for Coastal and Marine Resources Studies at Bogor Agricultural University.

The BirdLife Partnership has coordinated CEPF profiles for the Indo-Burma and Mediterranean hotspots, and staff from the BirdLife global and regional secretariats and national Partners now serve as the Regional Implementation Teams for these hotspots, soliciting and reviewing grant applications and disbursing funds.