



The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This call is open to regional projects that are focused in two or more of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bahamas¹.

This call is also open to single-country projects based in the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bahamas.

<u>For Small Grants:</u>	Call period starts:	21st September 2011
	Proposals are due:	17th October 2011

<u>For Large Grants:</u>	Call period starts:	21st September 2011
	Proposals are due:	24th October 2011

¹ CEPF approval of investing in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Bahamas, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines is conditioned upon receiving the endorsements of these countries' GEF Operational Focal Points.

A. Introduction

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in its role as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot has already launched two Calls for Proposals in 2011 for projects focused in Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

The RIT is now inviting proposals in the form of Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society organisations for regionally based, multi-country projects. This call is also open to single-country projects that are based in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bahamas.

Proposals for single-country projects in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica will not be considered under this Call as the first two Calls covered proposals in these countries. Such proposals will be considered in the next call.

Proposals are assessed on the basis of their ability to fulfil the strategic directions of the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (see Section B below).

At this stage, CANARI will provide support to prospective applicants in developing LOIs. CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

CEPF provides grants to civil society organisations to help protect biodiversity hotspots, which are Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened areas. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society plays a critical role in achieving biodiversity conservation.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot was formulated through an inclusive, participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. It is based on an analysis of information gathered during the Ecosystem Profile preparation process.

B. Purpose and Findings of the Ecosystem Profile

[The Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#) presents an overview of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot in terms of biological importance, climate change impacts, major threats to and root causes of biodiversity loss, socioeconomic context and current conservation investments.

It was developed through a process of stakeholder consultations and expert research studies coordinated by BirdLife International (Caribbean Program) in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust / Bath University, and the New York Botanical Garden, with technical support from Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science. At least 200 stakeholders representing more than 160 governmental and non-governmental institutions contributed to the development of this profile.

The Profile identifies conservation outcomes as the scientific basis for determining CEPF's geographic and thematic focus for investment. Conservation outcomes are biodiversity targets against which the success of investments can be measured. Such targets must be achieved to prevent species extinctions and halt biodiversity loss. The targets are defined at three levels: **species** (extinctions avoided), **sites** (areas protected) and **landscapes** (corridors consolidated). As conservation in the field succeeds in achieving these targets, these targets become demonstrable results or outcomes.

Based on the outcomes of this study, CEPF has committed a total of US\$ 6.9 million for five years in support of conservation in 45 **priority key biodiversity areas** (KBAs) (which are further subdivided into highest priority and other priority KBAs) and six **conservation corridors**² in the region. CEPF will issue staggered calls for proposals for the duration of the investment period, to be awarded under strategic directions that are delineated below.

The countries eligible for CEPF investment in the Caribbean hotspot are **Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts (Christopher) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines**. CEPF approval of investing in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Bahamas, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines is conditioned upon receiving the endorsements of these countries' GEF Operational Focal Points.

C. CEPF's Investment Strategy – Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

The ecosystem profile contains a five-year (2010 – 2015) investment strategy for CEPF in the region. This investment strategy comprises of a series of strategic funding opportunities, termed **strategic directions**, broken down into a number of **investment priorities** outlining the types of activities that will be eligible for CEPF funding.

The profile does not include specific project concepts, as civil society groups will

² Please note that the corridors encompass groupings of these key biodiversity areas of high priority due to their importance for maintaining ecosystem resilience, ecosystem services values, and the health and richness of the hotspot's biological diversity.

develop these as part of their applications for CEPF grant funding.

It is critical that applicants review the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, and *particularly the written descriptions of the CEPF niche and investment strategy under the section ‘CEPF Investment Strategy and Program Focus’*, to prepare a LOI that addresses the priorities identified for funding. The profile can be found on the CEPF website in English, French, and Spanish:

http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem_profile/Pages/default.aspx

Each proposal must support **only one** of the CEPF strategic directions to be approved for funding. Applicants can submit more than one letter of inquiry.

Table 1: Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas	1.1 Prepare and implement plans in the 17 highest-priority key biodiversity areas
	1.2 Strengthen the legal protection status in the remaining 28 key biodiversity areas
	1.3 Improve management of invasive species in the 45 priority key biodiversity areas
	1.4 Support the establishment or strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms
2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors	2.1 Mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service values into development policies, projects and plans, with a focus on addressing major threats such as unsustainable tourism development, mining, agriculture and climate change
	2.2 Strengthen public and private protected areas systems through improving or introducing innovative legal instruments for conservation
	2.3 Prepare and support participatory local and corridor-scale land-use plans to guide future development and conservation efforts
	2.4 Promote nature-based tourism and sustainable agriculture and fisheries to enhance connectivity and ecosystem

	resilience and promote sustainable livelihoods
3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration	3.1 Support efforts to build and strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organisations to undertake conservation initiatives and actions
	3.2 Enable local and regional networking, learning and best-practice sharing approaches to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation

D. Eligible Key Biodiversity Areas

The following table shows a list of the highest-priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for CEPF investment in the Caribbean.

Table 2: Summary table of 45 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Highest-Priority Key Biodiversity Area ³	Country
Bahoruco Oriental	Dominican Republic
Jaragua National Park	Dominican Republic
Loma La Humeadora	Dominican Republic
Sierra de Bahoruco	Dominican Republic
Valle Nuevo	Dominican Republic
Citadelle	Haiti
Plaisance	Haiti
Massif de la Hotte	Haiti
Massif de la Selle	Haiti
Morne Bailly	Haiti
Catadupa	Jamaica
Cockpit Country	Jamaica
Dolphin Head	Jamaica
Hellshire Hills	Jamaica
Litchfield Mountain–Matheson's Run	Jamaica
Peckham Woods	Jamaica
Portland Ridge and Bight	Jamaica
Other Priority Key Biodiversity Areas⁴	

³ Proposals to work in the Highest-Priority KBAs can apply under any Strategic Direction and Investment Priority.

Offshore Islands	Antigua and Barbuda
Booby Cay	Bahamas
Graham's Harbour	Bahamas
Southern Great Lake	Bahamas
Scotland District	Barbados
Armando Bermudez National Park	Dominican Republic
Ebano Verde Scientific Reserve	Dominican Republic
Enriquillo Lake	Dominican Republic
Haitises	Dominican Republic
Loma Guaconejo	Dominican Republic
Loma Quita Espuela	Dominican Republic
Nalga de Maco-Río Limpio	Dominican Republic
PN Jose del Carmen Ramirez	Dominican Republic
Beausejour/Grenville Vale	Grenada
Mount Hartman	Grenada
Black River Great Morass	Jamaica
Bluefields	Jamaica
Brazillete Mountains	Jamaica
Mandele Dry Forest	St. Lucia
North-east coast	St. Lucia
Point Sables	St. Lucia
Colonarie Forest Reserve	St. Vincent
Cumberland Forest Reserve	St. Vincent
Dalaway Forest Reserve	St. Vincent
Kingstown Forest Reserve	St. Vincent
La Soufrière National Park	St. Vincent
Mount Pleasant Forest Reserve	St. Vincent
Richmond Forest Reserve	St. Vincent

The longer-term conservation of some KBAs requires the consolidation of inter-connected landscapes of sites through conservation corridors to ensure broad-scale ecological and evolutionary processes and ecosystem resilience. The conservation corridors encompass groupings of these key biodiversity areas of high priority due to their importance for maintaining ecosystem resilience, ecosystem services values, and the health and richness of the hotspot's biological diversity. The table below lists the conservation corridors identified in the region.

Table 3: Conservation Corridors

No.	Conservation Corridor	Key Biodiversity Area	Countries
1	Cockpit Country – North	North Coast Forest; Cockpit	Jamaica

⁴ Proposals to work in the Other Priority KBAs can apply under any Strategic Direction and Investment Priority **except** for *Investment Priority 1.1. Prepare and implement management plans in the 17 highest-priority key biodiversity areas.*

	Coast Forest – Black River Great Morass	Country; Catadupa; Litchfield Mountain Matheson's Run; Black River Great Morass	
2	Portland Bight Protected Area	Hellshire Hills; Portland Ridge and Bight; Brazilieto Mountains; Milk River	Jamaica
3	Massif du Nord	Plaisance; Morne Bailly; Citadelle	Haiti
4	Massif de la Selle- Jaragua- Bahoruco- Enriquillo binational corridor	Massif de la Selle (Haiti); Lago Enriquillo (Dominican Republic); Sierra de Bahoruco (Dominican Republic); Parque Nacional Jaragua (Dominican Republic)	Haiti; Dominican Republic
5	Cordillera Central	Parque Nacional Armando Bermúdez; Loma Nalga de Maco y Rio Limpio; Parque Nacional José del Carmen Ramírez; Loma La Humeadora; Valle Nuevo; Reserva Científica Ébano Verde	Dominican Republic
6	Central Mountain Range	Colonarie Forest Reserve; Cumberland Forest Reserve; Dalaway Forest Reserve; Kingstown Forest Reserve; La Soufrière National Park; Mount Pleasant Forest Reserve; Richmond Forest Reserve	St. Vincent and the Grenadines

E. Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply for a CEPF grant? Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Organisations must have their own bank account and be authorised under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that the enterprise or institution has:

- i. a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- ii. the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- iii. may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Anyone who is uncertain of their eligibility or likelihood of receiving funding from CEPF should contact the RIT at cepf-rit@canari.org;

Grants cannot be used for:

- i. the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people including displacement of land uses or impeding access to traditional uses of natural resources, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities;
- ii. for activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities or;
- iii. the removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious or unique natural values.

CEPF appraises projects not only on their technical merit, but also on their environmental and social ramifications. Therefore, procedures for addressing environmental and social issues are included in the project cycle management process.

A driving principle of CEPF is to prevent and mitigate any harm to people and thus to incorporate environmental and social concerns as an intrinsic part of project cycle management. Proposed activities must observe CEPF's safeguard policies found at: http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx

CEPF encourages proposals that demonstrate the following characteristics, which form the basis of proposal evaluation:

- i. Direct support of CEPF's strategy to achieve meaningful and durable conservation results;
- ii. Existence of co-financing or the ability to leverage additional funds;
- iii. Demonstration of coordination with other organisations to reduce duplication of efforts and create synergies;
- iv. Existence of partnerships or alliances with one or more other organisations;
- v. Endorsements from other recognised agencies or authorities;
- vi. Transnational or regional projects;
- vii. Clear plans for continuation and/or replication after initial CEPF funding;
- viii. Support for indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for biodiversity conservation and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights, where relevant.

CEPF will require a letter of permission from the appropriate management authority for work in protected areas.

F. Application Process

CEPF is now inviting eligible stakeholders to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). The LOI and guidelines are available in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>

Projects must support **only one** of main strategic directions (#1 – 3) outlined in Table 1 above and explained in full in the [CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#). This document is also available in English, French and Spanish.

The opening and deadline dates for this call for proposals are as follows:

OPENING DATE:	21 September 2011
DEADLINE for Small Grant Proposals (US\$ 20,000 or less):	17 October 2011
DEADLINE for Large Grant Proposals (over US\$ 20,000):	24 October 2011

This call for LOIs is targeted at regional multi-country projects, and is also open to projects aiming to work in one of the following countries eligible for CEPF support in the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Bahamas.

Other calls for proposals will be opened in the remainder of the five-year investment period, ending in 2015. These calls will include specific guidance on geographic scope and application procedures.

CEPF supports two different types of grants for biodiversity conservation. Before submitting formal LOIs, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the CANARI Regional Implementation Team (RIT) who can be contacted at cepf-rit@canari.org.

Please follow the steps below to apply for either a Small Grant or a Large Grant:

1) Small Grant of US\$ 20,000 or less

Note: Before you send in the Letter of Inquiry (LOI), you can direct questions or concerns to cepf-rit@canari.org. To facilitate the processing of requests, kindly send all questions to the RIT by the deadline of **12th October 2011**.

- Small Grants are awarded by the RIT under a small grants programme.
- Once a LOI is completed for a small grant project, send an e-mail to cepf-rit@canari.org with the completed application attached.
- You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application.
- **The completed LOI forms will be sufficient as proposals for all small grants.**
- The RIT may require supporting documents from the applicant during the

review period, as well as a letter of permission from the relevant government where applicable. Decisions will be made by the RIT with input from a multi-stakeholder, independent Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC) based on whether or not the LOI meets the criteria highlighted in sections C, D and E of this document and on financial and programmatic reviews and discussions with applicants.

- The RIT will award grants of \$20,000 or less, inform applicants about its decisions, and document the results of the project.
- The RIT may conduct site visits with applicants and assist with the development of their plans, including the formation of partnerships, as well as conduct an external review process.
- **Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 4 to 6 months**

2) Large Grant of more than US\$ 20,000

Note: Before you send in the Letter of Inquiry (LOI), you can direct questions or concerns to cepf-rit@canari.org. To facilitate the processing of requests, kindly send all questions to the RIT by the deadline of **19th October 2011**.

- **For grants in this category, a two-stage application process is used.**
 - **STAGE 1:** The RIT along with a multi-stakeholder, independent Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC), will perform an assessment and provide a recommendation to the CEPF Secretariat based on the LOI.
 - **STAGE 2:** If the LOI meets the criteria highlighted in sections C, D and E of this document, the CEPF Secretariat in Washington, DC will invite the applicant to submit a full project proposal.
- The RIT will assist applicants upon request to prepare both LOIs and full proposals.
- Once the LOI is completed for a large project, send an e-mail to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the completed application attached.
- You will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the application.
- **Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 6 to 9 months.**

Kindly note that hard copy LOIs are not encouraged.

All applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) and it is in applicants' interest to apply early, so that review and processing of their applications starts earlier. Interested parties who may not be ready to submit a LOI may still contact CANARI to discuss potential future grant applications.

G. Contact Information for the RIT

The primary contact for the RIT is cepf-rit@canari.org

RIT team members are:

- Anna Cadiz, RIT Manager anna@canari.org
- Nicole Brown, RIT Country Coordinator in Jamaica nicolebrown@canari.org
- Leida Buglass, RIT Country Coordinator in the Dominican Republic leidabuglass@canari.org
- Paul Judex Edouarzin, RIT Country Coordinator in Haiti pauledouarzin@canari.org

CANARI's Website: www.canari.org

H. CEPF Resources

1. Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Ecosystem Profile - http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem_profile/Pages/default.aspx
2. Frequently Asked Questions – http://www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
3. CEPF Fact Sheets - http://www.cepf.net/resources/publications/Pages/fact_sheets.aspx
4. How To Apply – <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>
5. CEPF Project Database - http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
6. CEPF Safeguard Policies – http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx

