



30 April 2011



Call for Proposals, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Western Ghats

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions, known as biodiversity hotspots. 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. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), in its role as the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF in the Western Ghats Region, invites funding proposals from non-governmental organisations, community groups, universities, private enterprises and other civil society organisations.

This is the third call for proposals issued by ATREE and CEPF for the Western Ghats. The deadline for receipt of proposals is **17:30 (Indian Standard Time) on Tuesday, 31st May 2011** but applicants are encouraged to submit prior to the deadline, in order that review and processing of their proposals can begin sooner. This call for proposals covers only the Indian part of the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka Hotspot, and addresses gaps in the current CEPF investment portfolio as identified during the participatory mid-term assessment conducted in April 2011.

It is important that applicants familiarise themselves with the CEPF investment strategy and program focus for the Western Ghats, which can be viewed on the [CEPF website](#).

Please note that, because this is the last funding round under the CEPF investment program in the Western Ghats, preference will be given to projects that demonstrate clear plans for sustainability beyond the end of the grant period, and to projects that build on and consolidate the results of CEPF-supported work to date (see [Project Database](#) and [Map](#)). Also, applications that address priorities identified in National Tiger Recovery Programme for India are particularly encouraged.

Strategic Direction 1. Enable action by diverse communities and partnerships to ensure conservation of key biodiversity areas and enhance connectivity in the corridors

Investment Priority 1.1 Test pilot models of community and private reserves to achieve conservation outcomes at priority sites and critical links in unprotected areas of the Sahyadri-Konkan, Malnad-Kodagu, Mysore-Nilgiri and Anamalai corridors

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issues: (i) develop and pilot conservation strategies for managing and restoring forests on private land in important ecological links, particularly between Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and Anshi-Dandeli Tiger Reserve, and in the Cardamom Hills; (ii) develop and support implementation of management plans for conservation reserves and community reserves designated through CEPF projects; and (iii) explore and test opportunities for leveraging financial support for conservation, community and private reserves from public and private sector sources, with a particular emphasis on financial incentives for local communities to manage natural ecosystems sustainably.

Investment Priority 1.2 Promote partnerships to identify, evaluate, and advocate for suitable mechanisms that incorporate critical links (biological corridors) into the protected area network in the Periyar-Agasthyamalai, Mysore-Nilgiri and Malnad-Kodagu corridors

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issues: (i) develop criteria and protocols for defining biological corridors, and use them to develop landscape-scale conservation strategies with broad ownership among government and civil society; (ii) pilot economic incentive mechanisms to encourage landholders to restore, enhance and preserve ecological connectivity on private lands; and (iii) promote partnerships that empower civil society to identify and respond rapidly to threats to ecological connectivity arising from development projects (mining, energy, transport, etc.), including by promoting public participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Investment Priority 1.3 Support civil society to establish partnerships with state agencies to implement science-based management and conservation of priority sites in the Mysore-Nilgiri corridor

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issues: (i) build networks of local ‘conservation leaders’ who can take responsibility for ecological monitoring of priority sites after the end of CEPF funding; (ii) strengthen informal networks among civil society organizations to help them find a common voice on key conservation issues and facilitate engagement with Forest Departments and the proposed Western Ghats Authority; and (iii) build capacity of civil society and government institutions to collect and analyse spatially explicit quantitative data for monitoring and assessment of biodiversity information.

Strategic Direction 2. Improve the conservation of globally threatened species through systematic conservation planning and action

Investment Priority 2.1 Monitor and assess the conservation status of globally threatened species with an emphasis on lesser-known organisms such as reptiles and fish

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issue: (i) ensure that species assessed as globally threatened under CEPF projects receive strengthened legal protection through upgrade or inclusion on the Wildlife Protection Act of India.

Investment Priority 2.2 Support efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered species through the creation and implementation of species recovery and management plans

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issues: (i) develop and implement conservation management plans for Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (i.e. irreplaceable sites for the conservation of Critically Endangered and Endangered species); and (ii) consolidate efforts to conserve Critically Endangered and Endangered vulture species *in situ*.

Investment Priority 2.3 Evaluate the existing protected area network for adequate globally threatened species representation and assess effectiveness of protected area types in biodiversity conservation

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issue: (i) evaluate the existing protected area network in one or more corridors for adequate globally threatened species representation, drawing on the results of CEPF projects and closely engaging the relevant Forest Department(s).

Investment Priority 2.4 Support interdisciplinary efforts to analyze and disseminate biodiversity data

ATREE and CEPF invite proposals that specifically address the following issues: (i) produce local-language materials and use them to disseminate the results of on-going and completed CEPF projects among local communities, Forest Departments and other key stakeholders; and (ii) develop networks of environmental journalists and use them to disseminate information on biodiversity conservation through the popular media.

Eligibility

Projects must address at least one of the specific issues outlined in the call for proposals, above. Projects are restricted to the boundaries of the Western Ghats Region, as defined in the [Ecosystem Profile](#), within the states of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, universities, private enterprises and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Individuals are encouraged to work with civil society organisations to develop applications, rather than to apply directly. Organisations must have their own bank account and be authorised under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions. Indian non-governmental organizations must be eligible to receive foreign funds, according to the provisions of the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act (FCRA). Government-affiliated enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that the enterprise or institution (i) has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; (ii) has the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and (iii) may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Grants cannot be used for: (i) purchase of land; (ii) involuntary resettlement of people (including displacement of land uses); (iii) activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples, or activities for which these communities have not provided their broad support; or (iv) removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious, etc.) including those important to local communities. Proposed activities must observe all other environmental and social [safeguard policies](#) of the World Bank.

Application Procedures

CEPF supports biodiversity conservation through two types of grants: [small grants](#) of up to US\$20,000; and large grants above this amount. Because of limited funding, **CEPF will not accept large grant proposals above US\$40,000** under this call. Because of the limited time remaining, the maximum duration of grants awarded under this call will be 18 months, and all projects must be completed by June 30, 2013.

CEPF's working languages are English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. To facilitate review of proposals, however, applicants are encouraged to apply in English. Please note that hard copy proposals are not acceptable.

Before formally submitting proposals, applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas and eligibility with the CEPF-Regional Implementation Team at cepfwghats@atree.org

Applying for small grants of US\$20,000 or less is a one-stage process. Applicants should download an [application form](#) (questionnaire, proposal and budget). Completed applications should be sent as an e-mail attachment to cepfwghats@atree.org. Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by e-mail, and it will be forwarded to the appropriate team member. The submitted proposals will be reviewed by the [Regional Implementation Team](#) and [external technical experts](#). Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation to the review panel, and will have an opportunity to respond to feedback and questions on their proposal. The review panel is expected to be held in Bangalore during August 2011. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to make revisions to their proposal before the contract is awarded.

Applying for large grants between US\$20,000 and US\$40,000 is a two-stage process. Applicants should download a [Letter of Inquiry \(LoI\) template](#). Completed LoIs should be sent as an e-mail attachment to cepfgrants@conservation.org. Receipt of the LoI will be acknowledged by e-mail, and it will be forwarded to the appropriate team member. The submitted LoIs will be reviewed by the CEPF Secretariat, the [Regional Implementation Team](#) and [external technical experts](#). Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation to the review panel, and will have an opportunity to respond to feedback and questions on their proposal. The review panel is expected to be held in Bangalore during August 2011. Successful applicants will be invited to submit full proposals and other supporting documents.

For further information and assistance, please contact:

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