

Call for Letters of Inquiry, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Indochina

BirdLife International *in Indochina*, in its role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in Indo-Burma, invites Letters of Inquiry (LoIs) from non-government organisations, community groups, and other civil society organisations.

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.

This call for LoIs is solely for Cambodia and Vietnam. LoIs will be accepted in English, Khmer, or Vietnamese. It is intended that eligible areas of Lao P.D.R., Thailand, and China will be addressed by future calls for LoIs. Each proposed project must support one of the first three strategic directions in the CEPF investment strategy for Indo-Burma to be eligible for funding. It is important that applicants read the investment strategy and strategic directions for Indo-Burma, which are summarised in English and Khmer, and available in full in Vietnamese, at <http://www.birdlifeindochina.org> and available in full in English at http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/Final.IndoBurma_Indochina.EP.pdf (PDF 2.5MB)

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, 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 (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.

Within the broad swathe of eligible entities, as described above, those that most exemplify civil society and can build civil society capacity are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications that include civil society actors with limited capacity, who may not otherwise be eligible or able to apply – for example, community groups – are also encouraged. Further, individuals are encouraged to work with civil society organisations to develop applications, rather than to apply directly. Anyone who is uncertain of their eligibility or likelihood of receiving funding from CEPF should contact the BirdLife International Regional Implementation Team at cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn

Grants cannot be used for: the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people (including displacement of land uses), or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities; for activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities; or to remove or alter any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values). Proposed activities must observe all other World Bank safeguard and social policies: <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>

The CEPF will be supporting biodiversity conservation through two types of grants, core grants of over US \$20,000 and small grants of US \$20,000 or less. All applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry. The Letter of Inquiry form is available at: <http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/apply/index.xml> Before submitting formal Letters of Inquiry, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the BirdLife International Regional Implementation Team cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn.

Once a Letter of Inquiry is completed for a core grant project over US \$20,000, send an e-mail to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the completed application attached. You will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the application, and the application will be forwarded to the appropriate team member. You will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepfgrants@conservation.org.

Once a Letter of Inquiry is completed for a small grant project of US \$20,000 or less, send an e-mail to cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn with the completed application attached. You will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the application, and the application will be forwarded to the appropriate team member. You will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn

Please note that hard copy LoIs will not be accepted. The last date for submission of LoIs is 30 November 2008, but it is in applicants' interest to apply earlier, in order that review and processing of their applications starts earlier.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

CEPF-RIT, BirdLife International *in Indochina*, N6/2+3, Lane 25, Lang Ha Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Email: cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn; Website: www.birdlifeindochina.org

Tel: +84 (0)4 3514 8904 Ext. 28; Fax: +84 (0)4 3514 8921.