



CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

CALL FOR PROPOSALS for Haiti and Jamaica

Small Grants: 1st February 2011 - 31st March 2011

Large Grants: 1st February 2011 – 15th April 2011

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, is opening the first call for proposals and inviting Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society organisations to develop proposals for Haiti and Jamaica. As the RIT, CANARI provides support to civil society groups in the CEPF grant-making and monitoring process.

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 that civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation and to help enable civil society organisations to conserve and benefit from globally significant biodiversity in critical ecosystems in hotspots.

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, and is based on an analysis of information gathered during the Ecosystem Profile preparation process.

B. WHAT IS THE ECOSYSTEM PROFILE?

The purpose of the ecosystem profile is to provide an overview of biodiversity values. It is also designed to enable other donors and programs to effectively target their efforts and thus complement CEPF investments. The ecosystem profile presents an overview of the hotspot in terms of its biological importance, climate change impacts, major threats to and root causes of biodiversity loss, socioeconomic context and current conservation investments.

[The Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#) 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 nongovernmental institutions contributed to the development of this profile.

The profile focuses on conservation outcomes—biodiversity targets against which the success of investments can be measured—as the scientific basis for determining CEPF's geographic and thematic focus for investment. Such targets must be achieved by the global community to prevent species extinctions and halt biodiversity loss. These 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. While CEPF cannot achieve all of the outcomes identified for a region on its own, the

partnership is trying to ensure that its conservation investments are working toward preventing biodiversity loss and that its success can be monitored and measured.

The profile also reveals that these island ecosystems are particularly fragile, finite and under significant pressure. The advent of climate change and its disproportionate impacts on the islands of the Caribbean, combined with continued population growth, emphasizes the importance of maintaining what intact ecosystems remain, of strengthening their resilience and of restoring degraded ecosystems. This imperative is not only critical for maintaining biodiversity but also has clear implications for the future welfare of the people of the Caribbean.

Important opportunities exist to leverage support for the kind of approaches that will help lay a foundation for a more sustainable economic base and future. Responsibility for natural resource management in the Caribbean lies primarily with national governments, which, together with international donors, are investing significant resources in natural resources management and conservation. However, the complexity of the challenge requires that civil society in all its various forms, from national environmental groups to small community-based organizations, must also fulfill a vital role as key advocates of and stewards for biodiversity and the benefits it provides for people.

A systematic conservation planning process was undertaken to identify the highest priorities for conservation. Based on the outcomes of this study, CEPF has committed US\$ 6.9 million in support of conservation in 45 priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and six conservation corridors in the region. 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. The countries eligible for CEPF investment in the hotspot include Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The ecosystem profile contains a five-year (2010 – 2015) investment strategy for CEPF in the region. This investment strategy comprises 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 develop these as part of their applications for CEPF grant funding.

It is critical that applicants review the Caribbean Island Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, and particularly the CEPF niche and investment strategy, to prepare a strategically aligned letter of inquiry. The profile can be found on the CEPF website:

[http://www.cepf.net/where we work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem profile /Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem_profile/Pages/default.aspx)

C. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Each proposal must support one of the following strategic directions to be approved for funding:

CEPF Strategic Directions	CEPF Investment Priorities
1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas	1.1 Prepare and implement management 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 organizations 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 IN HAITI AND JAMAICA

The following table shows a list of the highest-priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for CEPF investment in Haiti and Jamaica. Investment priorities 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 relate directly to these KBAs in Haiti and Jamaica:

Key Biodiversity Area	Country	Status	Area (km ²)
Citadelle	Haiti	National Park	14
Massif de la Hotte	Haiti	National Park / Unprotected	1,287
Massif de la Selle	Haiti	National Park / Unprotected	1,669
Morne Bailly	Haiti	Unprotected	21
Plaisance	Haiti	Unprotected	93
Catadupa	Jamaica	Forest Reserve / Unprotected	158
Cockpit Country	Jamaica	Forest Reserve / Unprotected	749
Dolphin Head	Jamaica	Forest Reserve / Unprotected	168
Hellshire Hills	Jamaica	Protected Area	147
Litchfield Mountain-Matheson's Run	Jamaica	Forest Reserve / Unprotected	158
Peckham Woods	Jamaica	Unprotected	75
Portland Ridge and Bight	Jamaica	Protected Area	430

Other Priority Key Biodiversity Areas for CEPF Investment in Haiti and Jamaica eligible for support under investment priorities 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4:

Key Biodiversity Area	Country	Status	Area (km ²)
Black River Great Morass	Jamaica	Ramsar / Unprotected	178
Bluefields	Jamaica	Unprotected	47
Brazilleto Mountains	Jamaica	Protected Area	71

CEPF Strategic Direction #2 is targeted towards the following priority conservation corridors for CEPF Investment in Haiti and Jamaica:

No	Conservation Corridor	Key Biodiversity Areas	Countries	Land Area (km ²)
1	Cockpit Country-North Coast Forest-Black River Great Morass	North Coast Forest; Cockpit Country; Catadupa; Litchfield Mountain-Matheson's Run; Black River Great Morass	Jamaica	2,458
2	Portland Bight Protected Area	Hellshire Hills; Portland Ridge and Bight; Brazilleto Mountains; Milk River	Jamaica	2,622
3	Massif du Nord	Plaisance; Morne Bailly; Citadelle	Haiti	1,078
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	9,324

E. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who can apply for a CEPF grant?

Nongovernmental 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-affiliated 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 and social policies found at: http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx

CEPF encourages proposals that demonstrate the following characteristics:

- 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 organizations to reduce duplication of efforts and create synergies;
- iv. Existence of partnerships or alliances with one or more other organizations;
- v. Endorsements from other recognized 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.

F. APPLICATION PROCESS

CANARI and CEPF are now inviting eligible stakeholders to submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) which is the CEPF grant application form. 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 the strategic directions (#1 – 3) outlined in section C above and explained in full in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. The Ecosystem Profile is also available in English, French and Spanish here:

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

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

OPENING DATE: **1st February, 2011**

DEADLINE for Small Grant Proposals (US\$ 20,000 or less): **31st March, 2011**

DEADLINE for Large Grant Proposals (over US\$ 20,000): **15th April 2011**

This first call for LOIs is particularly targeted at the islands of Jamaica and Haiti, two countries identified as priority areas in the Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot, as they have some of the highest-priority KBAs for CEPF Investment in the Caribbean.

Other funding windows will be open 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 who can be contacted at cepf-rit@canari.org.

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

- **Small Grant of US\$ 20,000 or less**

Small Grants are awarded by the RIT under a small grants programme. Decisions will be made by the RIT 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 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. The completed LOI forms will be sufficient as proposals for all grants of this size. The RIT

may require supporting documents from the applicant during the review period. The RIT will award grants of \$20,000 or less on a regular schedule, inform applicants about its decisions, and document the awards as part of its regular reporting to the CEPF Secretariat.

Once a LOI is completed for a small grant project, send an email to cepf-rit@canari.org with the completed application attached. You will receive an email 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@canari.org

Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 4 to 6 months

▪ **Large Grant of more than US\$ 20,000**

For grants in this category, a two-stage application process is used. The RIT, the Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC) and CEPF, will perform an initial screening based on the LOI. If the LOI meets the criteria highlighted in sections C,D and E of this document, CEPF 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 a LOI is completed for a large grant, send an email to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the completed application attached. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application. You will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepfgrants@conservation.org.

Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 6 to 10 months

Kindly note that hardcopy LOIs are not encouraged.

All applicants must submit a LOI and it is in the 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.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

- Anna Cadiz, RIT Manager
anna@canari.org
- Nicole Brown, RIT Country Coordinator in Jamaica
nabrown@btinternet.com
- Leida Buglass, RIT Country Coordinator in the Dominican Republic
leibuglass@gmail.com
- Paul Judex Edouarzin, RIT Country Coordinator in Haiti

pauljudex.edouarzin@gmail.com

Websites: www.cepf.net and www.canari.org