



## CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY CEPF INVESTMENT IN THE MAPUTALAND-PONDOLAND-ALBANY HOTSPOT

Civil Society Organizations are invited to propose projects for funding from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. This is the third call for proposals in this Hotspot and will focus solely on the themes and geographic areas identified below. The call is for applications to both the large and small grants components of the investment and will remain open until 17h00 (CAT) on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2012. Requirements for the application process are detailed below.

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 is designed to safeguard biodiversity hotspots – the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on earth. In 2005 The Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany region was identified as a global biodiversity hotspot. This area spans 275,000km<sup>2</sup>, stretching from Xai-Xai in Mozambique in the north to Port Elizabeth in the south. It is a meeting place of six biomes and includes three centers of plant species endemism.

In September 2010 CEPF contracted the Wildlands Conservation Trust as Regional Implementation Team for the investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. A fundamental goal of the CEPF investment is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. As a result, the primary objective of the investment is strengthening the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation and the management of globally important biodiversity. In order to achieve this goal CEPF developed an Ecosystem Profile for the Hotspot, identifying five strategic funding directions, covering 22 Key Biodiversity Areas and two

corridors within the hotspot. Please note below that this call is only relevant to Strategic Directions 1, 3 and 4 and that we will not accept proposals for Strategic Direction 2 at this stage. The Ecosystem Profile is available online at [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net) and all potential applicants should refer to this document when preparing project concepts for consideration. Applicants are also advised to review other references available on the CEPF website, including, specifically:

- Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Ecosystem Profile: [http://www.cepf.net/where\\_we\\_work/regions/africa/maputaland/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/maputaland/Pages/default.aspx)
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx>
- CEPF safeguard policies: [http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard\\_policies.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx)
- How to apply: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>
- Frequently asked questions: [http://www.cepf.net/about\\_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx)

This call for proposals focuses specifically on the following themes and geographic areas, and applicants are requested to propose projects that will support the achievement of the following outcomes:

1. A civil society network is established in the hotspot to increase and coordinate civil society participation in conservation action and which serves as a platform for shared learning across international borders (Strategic Direction 4).
2. A coordinated training programme is developed and implemented in Mozambique and Swaziland that builds the professional capacity of staff from civil society organisations. CEPF support will emphasize technical skills, including GIS and project management (Strategic Direction 4).
3. Public-private partnerships and civil society initiatives are supported in the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve and the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area (Usuthu-Tembe-Futi and Kosi Bay-Ponta do Ouro protocol areas), leading to increased management effectiveness (Strategic Direction 1).
4. Innovative approaches are implemented that lead to the strengthened management and conservation of the Licuati Forests in Southern Mozambique (Strategic Direction 1).
5. Biodiversity is mainstreamed and conservation practises are integrated into existing and new business development agreements in the Manhica Key Biodiversity Area and Licuati Forests Key Biodiversity Area in Mozambique. Strengthened agreements should address threats of pollution, over-extraction of water, and the destruction of critically endangered habitats through regional industry development (Strategic Direction 1).

6. Innovative projects are implemented in the Highlands Grassland and Pondoland corridors that apply new policy and market mechanisms resulting in the restoration and maintenance of ecosystem services (Strategic Direction 3).
7. Biodiversity is mainstreamed in business practises in the Highlands Grasslands and Pondoland Corridors through civil society engagement with industry to reduce negative freshwater, coastal and marine impacts (Strategic Direction 3).
8. Environmental regulations that maintain functional ecosystem corridors are strengthened through, amongst other means, improved analysis of existing laws and policies, advocacy, awareness raising and monitoring (Strategic Direction 3).
9. Community stewardship initiatives that catalyse sustainable financing from local carbon markets are supported. In particular CEPF funding will support information gathering, location planning for maximum biodiversity and carbon outcomes, and optimal project conceptualization and documentation to meet applicable standards (Strategic Direction3).

The average size of CEPF grants is \$75,000. Non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Organizations must have their own bank account and be authorized 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 (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. Among the many 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 that 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 organizations 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 Wildlands Conservation Trust RIT at [cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za](mailto:cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za)

Grants cannot be used for: (i) 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; (ii) activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project

activities; or(iii) removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites having archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values). Proposed activities must observe all other World Bank safeguard and social policies at:

- <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7TO>

All applicants must submit a LOI. The LOI form is available at

- <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>

Before submitting formal LOIs, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the Wildlands Conservation Trust RIT at [cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za](mailto:cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za).

As stated above, CEPF supports biodiversity conservation through two types of grants, core grants of over US \$20,000 and small grants of US\$ 20,000 or less. Completed LOIs for core grants of over US \$20,000 must be submitted in English and should be sent as an e-mail attachment to [cepfgrants@conservation.org](mailto:cepfgrants@conservation.org). Receipt will be acknowledged by e-mail, and applicants will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Completed LOIs for small grants of US \$20,000 or less can be submitted in English or Portuguese and should be sent as an email attachment to [cepfgrants@wildlands.co.za](mailto:cepfgrants@wildlands.co.za). Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to [cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za](mailto:cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za)

Please note that hardcopy LOIs are not acceptable. Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

Dr. Roelie Kloppers, Project Leader, CEPF-RIT, Wildlands Conservation Trust, Suite 7, Tower Block B, 57 Hilton Road, Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal, Republic of South Africa.

Email: [cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za](mailto:cepf-rit@wildlands.co.za); Website: [www.wildlands.co.za/mpah](http://www.wildlands.co.za/mpah); [facebook page](#)

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