

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF), INDIA

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY (LoI)

The CEPF India Implementation Team, based in ATREE, Eastern Himalaya Office, Kalimpong invites Letters of Inquiry (LoI) from **non government organizations, community groups, academia and other civil society organizations** with extensive experience in implementing biodiversity conservation projects in Eastern Himalayas, India. The CEPF will be supporting civil society organizations through two types of funding. These are the core/large grant and the small grant. This call for LoIs is for the core/large grant. The LoIs for potential core/large grant projects should be based on the strategic directions, investment priorities and geographic locations as laid down in the Ecosystem Profile of the Eastern Himalayas (refer to the profile on www.cepf.net). For India the priority investments for core/large grants will be the Khangchendzonga-Singhalila region in Sikkim and Darjeeling district of West Bengal and the North Bank Landscape (parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh). A core/large grant may range from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 120,000.

CEPF is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. In the Eastern Himalayas, the CEPF will support civil society in Bhutan, India and Nepal. CEPF provides strategic assistance to non-government organizations, community groups and other civil society partners to help safeguard the earth's biodiversity hotspots. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to engage civil society in biodiversity conservation. Out of 16 hotspots currently being funded by CEPF globally, the Eastern Himalayas region is the newest one.

The CEPF Project Technical Advisory Committee will select and evaluate the LoIs, and the Program Steering Committee will endorse the proposals for approval by the Grant Review Committee based in Conservation International, Washington D.C. The Project Technical Advisory Committee, the Program Steering Committee India and the CEPF Grant Review Committee reserve the right to accept or reject LoIs. Accepted LoIs will pass on to the second phase of application for developing full proposals which will be further evaluated to make final funding decisions by CEPF.

Interested institutions may download the CEPF LoI Guidelines and Format from
www.cepf.net

All completed LoIs should be sent electronically directly to
cepfgrants@conservation.org

Please note that hard copies of LoIs will not be accepted. The last date for submission of LoI is 10 October 2006.

For further information and assistance contact:

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