

Guinean Forests Of West Africa Regional Implementation Team Call for EOIs

30 April 2025



Expressions of Interest Information Call – 30 April 2025



(c) W. Hawthorne

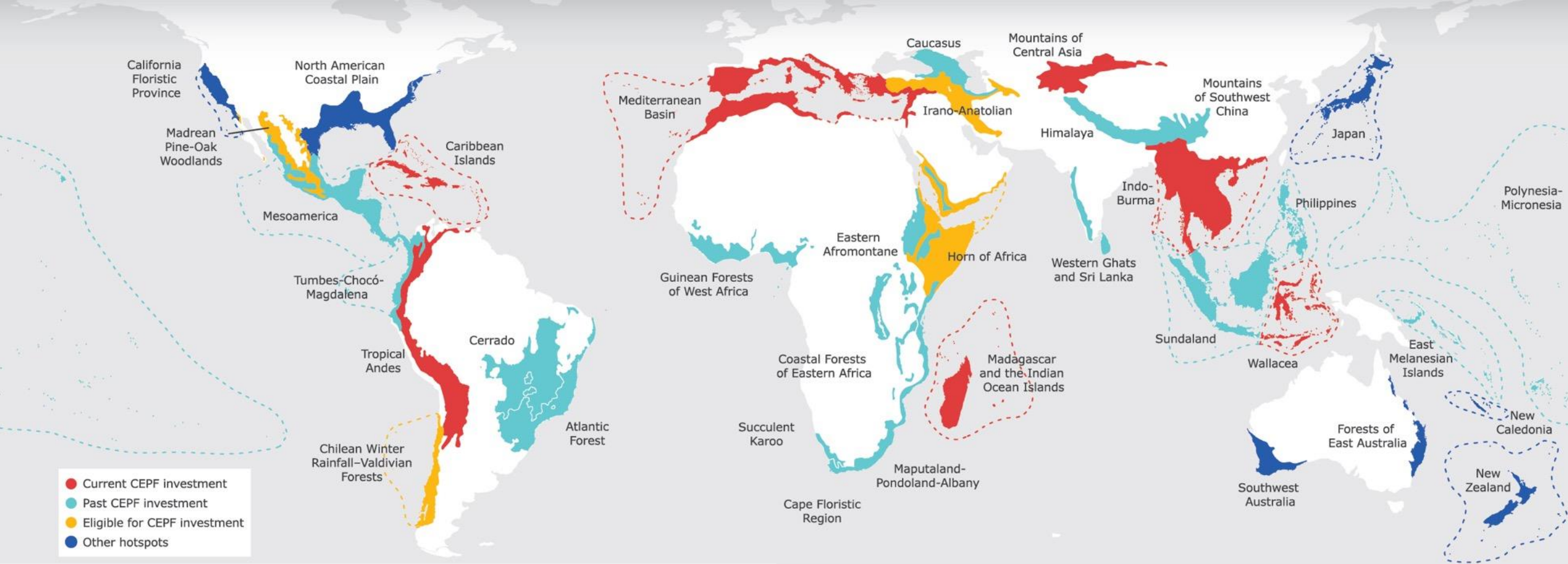
- About CEPF
- Plans in the Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA)
- The role of the RIT
- Implications of being the RIT vs. receiving a grant
- Eligibility
- Calendar
- Expectations for EoI submission
- Next steps



PARTNERSHIP

CEPF is a joint initiative of

- \ l'Agence Française de Développement**
- \ Conservation International**
- \ The European Union**
- \ Fondation Hans Wilsdorf**
- \ The Global Environment Facility**
- \ The Government of Japan**
- \ The World Bank**



WHERE WE WORK



From left, © Goldman Environmental Prize; © O. Langrand; © O. Langrand

**Active in 9 biodiversity hotspots.
Since inception, conservation strategies
implemented in 24 of 36 hotspots.**

Investment Strategy – Ecosystem Profile

Technical Themes – Strategic Directions

1. Support local partnerships for conservation of globally important biodiversity in **priority sites and ecological corridors**
2. Safeguard priority globally **threatened species and ecosystems** by identifying and addressing major threats and **information gaps**
3. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into **public policy and private sector practice**
4. Facilitate the development of a robust and resilient community of conservation civil society organizations (**Capacity Building & Organizational Development**)
5. **Regional Implementation Team (RIT)**

Bio-Geographic Priorities

83 priority species

33 priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs)

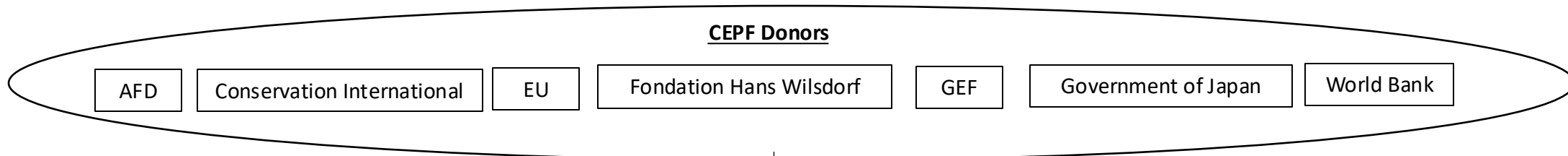
& associated corridors



13 in Cameroon
2 in Côte d'Ivoire
3 in Equatorial Guinea
2 in Ghana
2 in Guinea
7 in Liberia
2 in Nigeria
2 in São Tomé and Príncipe

RIT Terms of Reference

1. Coordinate CEPF investment in the hotspot
2. Support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into public policies and private sector business practices
3. Communicate the CEPF investment throughout the hotspot
4. Build the capacity of local civil society
5. Support the CEPF Secretariat process for solicitation and review of proposals for large grants (above a threshold amount of >US\$50,000)
6. Manage a program of small grants (<US\$50,000).
7. Monitor and evaluate the impact of CEPF's large and small grants
8. Reporting



\$

CEPF Secretariat
(within CI)

\$

\$

\$

RIT – Agreement 1 (3 yrs)
RIT Terms of Reference
(\$900,000)

RIT – Agreement 2 (2 yrs)
RIT Terms of Reference
(\$600,000)

RIT – Agreement 3 (&4)
Small Grants Mechanism
(≈\$1,000,000)



\$

\$

\$

Recipient NGO of
Large Grant
(≈\$125,000)

Recipient NGO of
Large Grant
(≈\$125,000)

Recipient NGO of
Large Grant
(≈\$125,000)

\$

\$

\$

Recipient NGO of
Small Grant
(≈\$25,000)

Recipient NGO of
Small Grant
(≈\$(25,000)

Recipient NGO of
Small Grant
(≈\$25,000)

Portfolio math: how many grants might we make?

Large Grants

\$10,000,000 for the region

- \$1,500,000 for the RIT

- \$1,000,000 for the SGM

= \$7,500,000 *remaining*

Divided by Av. \$125,000 per
“large” grant

≈ 40 large grants

Small Grants

\$1,000,000 (tbc) for RIT Small
Grants Mechanism

Divided by Av. \$25,000 per
“small” grant

≈ 40 small grants

Approx. 80 grants

RIT versus recipient of “large grant”

- The organization in the role of RIT – including any member of a consortium – is **not** eligible to receive grants in the hotspot
- RIT coordinates, promotes, promulgates, communicates, builds capacity, monitors, helps award [large grants], awards [small grants]
- Grantees implement projects related to Strategic Directions 1-4 and in relation to the priority species and sites
- RITs implement the “grant” or the “project” called Strategic Direction 5
- Key Message: your organization can serve as the RIT, or it can receive a grant to implement a conservation project – you cannot do both

Should you submit an Expression of Interest?

- You **must** submit an Eol if you intend to submit a proposal to be the RIT, or to lead a consortium of organizations that serves as the RIT.
- You do **not** need to submit an Eol if you want to be a non-lead member of a consortium.
- Individual organizations bidding to be the RIT do **not** need to have presence or expertise in all hotspot countries
- You may submit an Eol now and then choose **not** to submit a proposal to be RIT.
- If you submit a proposal for RIT and are not selected, you can still apply for grants under Strategic Directions 1-4.

Eligibility

The same rules apply to recipients of CEPF grants as apply to the RIT: civil society organizations, defined broadly to include:

- Local non-government organizations
- International non-government organizations
- Private companies
- Associations
- Community-based organizations
- Universities and research institutes
- Independent trust funds

Organizations must

- Have their own bank account
- Be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if

- legal personality independent of any government agency or actor
- the authority to apply for and receive private funds
- may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity

Questions about Eligibility?

Send an email to ddowd@cepf.net

Provisional Calendar

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 22 May | Expressions of Interest due |
| 28 May | Planned release of Request for Proposals |
| 28 July | Planned due date of proposals |
| August | Internal reviews, clarification questions, revised responses from top-ranked applicants |
| Aug-Sept | CEPF internal procedures with donors and negotiations |
| October | Contract preparation and signature |
| Start November | Anticipated award of RIT – formal start of five-year investment period |
| November | Training & ways of working |
| Jan 2026 | First large grant solicitations released |
| June 2026 | Award of first large grants |
| October 2030 | End of RIT grant and close of portfolio |

Eol Submission

1. Basic letter stating your interest in submitting a proposal for the role of Regional Implementation Team (include a lead contact name, email, and telephone)
2. Electronic copies of pre-existing materials describing your relevant organizational capacity
3. Electronic link to a website describing your organization

Next Steps

- Watch our website – we may release a draft RfP or other relevant documents (*e.g. Lessons learnt, OD Strategy, Q&A*)
- The RfP will include the name of all invited participants (organization name, lead contact, contact information)
- The EoI is simple
Submission of a full proposal will not be simple
- There will be another bidders conference, like this one, once we release the RfP, which will go into more details on proposal submission

Questions?

Send an email to ddowd@cepf.net