



FOURTH CALL FOR PROJECTS IN THE TROPICAL ANDES BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

To fund conservation initiatives in the Madidi–Pilón Lajas–Cotapata

Corridor in Bolivia

CALL TO PRESENT SMALL AND LARGE CEPF GRANTS

- FUNDES NAP from Bolivia, as RIT, awards and manages CEPF small grants.
- CEPF's Secretariat awards and manages large grants with support from RIT.

Launch date for the Call: **September 19th 2016**

Submission deadline: **October 25th 2016**

Further information regarding this Call can be found in:

<http://www.fundesnap.org/>

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

CEPF invites local communities, indigenous peoples groups and other civil society organizations to apply for small and large grants, in the context of this Call

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1 BACKGROUND

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and The World Bank.

A fundamental purpose of CEPF is to ensure that civil society is engaged in efforts to conserve biodiversity in the hotspots, and to this end, CEPF provides civil society with an agile and flexible funding mechanism complementing funding currently available to government agencies. CEPF was founded in 2000 and is unique amongst the financing mechanisms focusing on the world's biodiversity hotspots.

As part of its intervention strategy, CEPF has integrated four environmental funds to undertake a conservation initiative of regional scope along the Tropical Andes. The consortium is led by the Foundation for the Development of the National System of Protected Areas of Bolivia (FUNDESAP), in partnership with Colombia's Fondo Patrimonio Natural, Peru's Fondo de Promoción de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas (PROFONANPE) and an environmental partner from Ecuador to be appointed. Since 2015 they are part of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT).

The CEPF investment niche in the Tropical Andes hotspot was designed through an inclusive and participatory process that included civil society, donors and government stakeholders throughout the region. The results of this process led to CEPF's five-year investment strategy (2015-2020) to support biodiversity conservation in the Tropical Andes Hotspot, which is detailed in the [Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile](#). Seven strategic directions were identified, covering 36 key biodiversity areas (KBA) and seven conservation corridors in four countries that are priorities for receiving CEPF support.

2 CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY

The Foundation for the Development of the National System of Protected Areas of Bolivia (FUNDESAP), in its role as RIT leader for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, opens the fourth call for Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from civil society organizations for small and large grants for conservation projects in the Madidi–Pilón Lajas–Cotapata corridor in Bolivia.

2.1 Objective of the Call

To encourage local indigenous, afro-descendent and environmental civil society groups to be effective advocates and facilitators of multi-stakeholder approaches that promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Tropical Andes Hotspot through financing projects within the framework of CEPF's Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities of the Ecosystem Profile.

2.2 CEPF's niche of work

The ecosystem profile finds that the Tropical Andes Hotspot is at an important juncture, as unprecedented economic growth based on extractive industries and infrastructure expansion brings the promise of development to millions of people, but also come with potentially large environmental and social costs.

Given this imperative, CEPF will work to ensure that the Andes' outstanding biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved in its highest priority areas, while promoting development approaches that are compatible with environmental and social sustainability. Through its grants, CEPF will seek to build bridges between biodiversity conservation and economic development objectives, based on stakeholders' needs and aspirations, within a framework of development compatible with conservation.

CEPF will support civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants, in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecological functions in local, regional and national policies and programs, as well as in private sector plans. Grants will strengthen policies and programs within the following sectors: tourism, mining, agriculture, infrastructure and climate change. When necessary, CEPF will support assessments and public inquiries to identify priorities and opportunities for action as well as for developing strategies that lead to conservation outcomes. CEPF will not fund basic research that does not clearly lead to conservation actions. Grants will enhance awareness among decision makers about the benefits and cost effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and the values of ecosystems functions considered vital for economic development, human wellbeing and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Whenever possible, CEPF's grants will seek to incorporate two crosscutting themes: i) mainstreaming resilience to climate change and ii) strengthening capacities of local indigenous, afro-descendent and mestizo communities.

On climate change, CEPF will also support innovative demonstration and small-scale projects related to climate change in or near KBAs that illustrate the benefits of conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions for adaptation and mitigation.

In relation to indigenous peoples, peasants and Afro-descendants, CEPF will seek to strengthen their capacities to manage natural resources on their lands and territories, in organizational and financial management, in analyzing their environment, strengthen their ability to influence in decision-making, and in general, to improve their quality of life in harmony with the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem function.

In addition, CEPF seeks to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and leverage new and existing resources to strengthen development experiences that integrate the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions with economic development. CEPF will build the capacity of local civil society groups and multi-stakeholder alliances to achieve consensus on common development and conservation objectives and to support key approaches to achieve these objectives.

2.3 Investment priorities

In order to ensure that financed projects are realized in significant impacts and sustained conservation of biodiversity, CEPF will avoid diluting resources. In this regard, donations have been prioritized both, geographically at the level of corridors and KBAs, and thematically at the level of strategic directions. It is important to note that in this fourth call, current projects will be considered in the selection process to avoid geographic and thematic duplications and overlapping.

2.3.1 Priorities at corridor and KBA level

In Bolivia, priorities have been set for the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata corridor¹ (Map 1), and six KBAs within it.

- Bosque de Polylepis de Madidi (BOL5)
- Bosque de Polylepis de Sanja Pampa (BOL7)
- Bosque de Polylepis de Taquesi (BOL8)
- Coroico (BOL12)
- Cotapata (BOL13)
- Yungas Inferiores de Pilón Lajas (BOL37)

Projects to be financed should be implemented within the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata corridor and should include at least one or more priority KBA.

At site, grants will seek to put in place the enabling conditions required to achieve conservation and sustainable development in the highest priority KBAs. Support will target traditional management planning and implementation in protected areas, grants will promote appropriate land management designations, secure land tenure, and planning frameworks to foster a development path based on sustainability. At the same time, grants will support the development of incentive schemes that offer tangible benefits to local communities from biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.

In order to contribute to biodiversity of global relevance, support will be aimed at protecting Critically Endangered and Endangered species at global level, as well as its taxonomic groups. The Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata corridor includes nine narrow endemic plants, four threatened amphibians, and three threatened birds in six priority KBAs².

It should be noted that current CEPF projects will be considered to prioritize LOIs in this call. As a general rule, proposals akin to ongoing projects and in the same areas or who lack a clear complement will not be financed.

¹ Prioritization has considered several variables such as biodiversity richness, endemism as well as threats. Additional details on the prioritization process of corridors and ACBs can be found at the [Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile](#).

² More details of priority species can be found in the Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile – Appendix 4 and 5b.

Table1. Current CEPF projects in the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata Corridor

GEM	Project	Implementator	Description	KBA	Duration
66037	Strengthening T'smane Mosetenes Regional Council to Manage Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Communal Land in Bolivia	Consejo Regional T'simane Mosetenes Pilon Lajas - CRTM	Promote the integrated management of Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory through the updating and implementation of the management plan and life plan of the T'simane Mosetenes Indigenous People, strengthening of the legal and administrative capacities of the Regional Council of the T'smane Mosetenes, and establishment of a women's group dedicated to improved land management.	BOL37	1 Jul, 2016-31 Dec, 2018
66041	Capacity Building to Reduce the Impact of Mining in the Polylepis Forests of Apolobamba, Madidi, and Pilon Lajas Protected Areas of Bolivia	Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS	Mitigate the environmental impacts of mining occurring legally inside three protected areas by promoting the application of best practices in the operations of legal mines. Specifically, the grant will assess current mining practices in the protected areas, build the technical capacity of miners and park guards to adopt and monitor these best practices, support pilot projects for environmentally sustainable mining, and strengthen local management committees to oversee these operations.	BOL5 BOL37	1 Jul, 2016-31 Dec, 2018
66042	Strengthening Local Capacities to Conserve Polylepis Forests and their Threatened Biodiversity in Madidi and Cotapata National Parks in Bolivia	Asociación Civil Armonía - ARMONIA	Conserve highly threatened Polylepis forests and globally threatened species that live in these high Andean Mountain habitats through an integrated program to support reforestation with Polylepis and native trees, demand reduction for fuelwood through provision of efficient cook stoves to local communities, and monitoring and action plan development for globally threatened species.	BOL5, BOL13	1 Jul, 2016-30 Jun, 2018
66043	Assessing the Status of the Endemic Amphibian P. bisignatus in Cotapata and Coroico Key Biodiversity Areas of Bolivia	Centro de Estudios en Biología Teórica y Aplicada - BIOTA	Assess the presence and status of the endemic and Endangered amphibian <i>Pristimantis bisignatus</i> to determine conservation priorities and actions for its conservation in the key biodiversity areas of Coroico (BOL12) and Parque Nacional Cotapata (BOL13). This grant will also conduct outreach to local stakeholders.	BOL 12 BOL13	1 Aug, 2016-30 Dec, 2016
66045	Conserving Cotapata National Park by Promoting the Chasquimaraton Pre-Colombian Trail in Bolivia	Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ecología - FUNDECO	Promote ecotourism, increase environmental and cultural awareness, and generate community revenues by holding the Chasquimaraton, a historical trekking competition along the pre-Colombian road network of Cotapata National Park. The grant funds logistical preparation, trail improvement, establishment of a multi-stakeholder alliance, community engagement, public education, media outreach, and environmental protection and safety plans.	BOL13	Jun 1, 2016-Jun 30, 2017

Specific considerations at KBA level

BOL12. Coroico.-Currently a diagnostic project is underway in this KBA. Meanwhile, new grants will not be admitted for this KBA. Once the project is completed, new calls will be issued for LOIs that target priorities outlined for this KBA.

BOL37. Yungas Inferiores de Pilon Lajas.- At present, a project is being carried out to update the Management Plan and Life Plan of the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory. This call is not seeking new LOIs for large grants in BOL37 and the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory. After finishing the participatory planning of the Reserve and Indigenous Territory, a call for proposal may be issued. .

Specific considerations at Corridor level

At corridor level, proposals should seek to ensure sub-national governance frameworks, --specifically with municipal and departmental governments with competences for managing natural resources--, to support sustainable development by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into policies, projects and plans undertaken by public and private sectors.

Moreover, proposals at the corridor level, must demonstrate realistic impacts that aim to:

For the public sector:

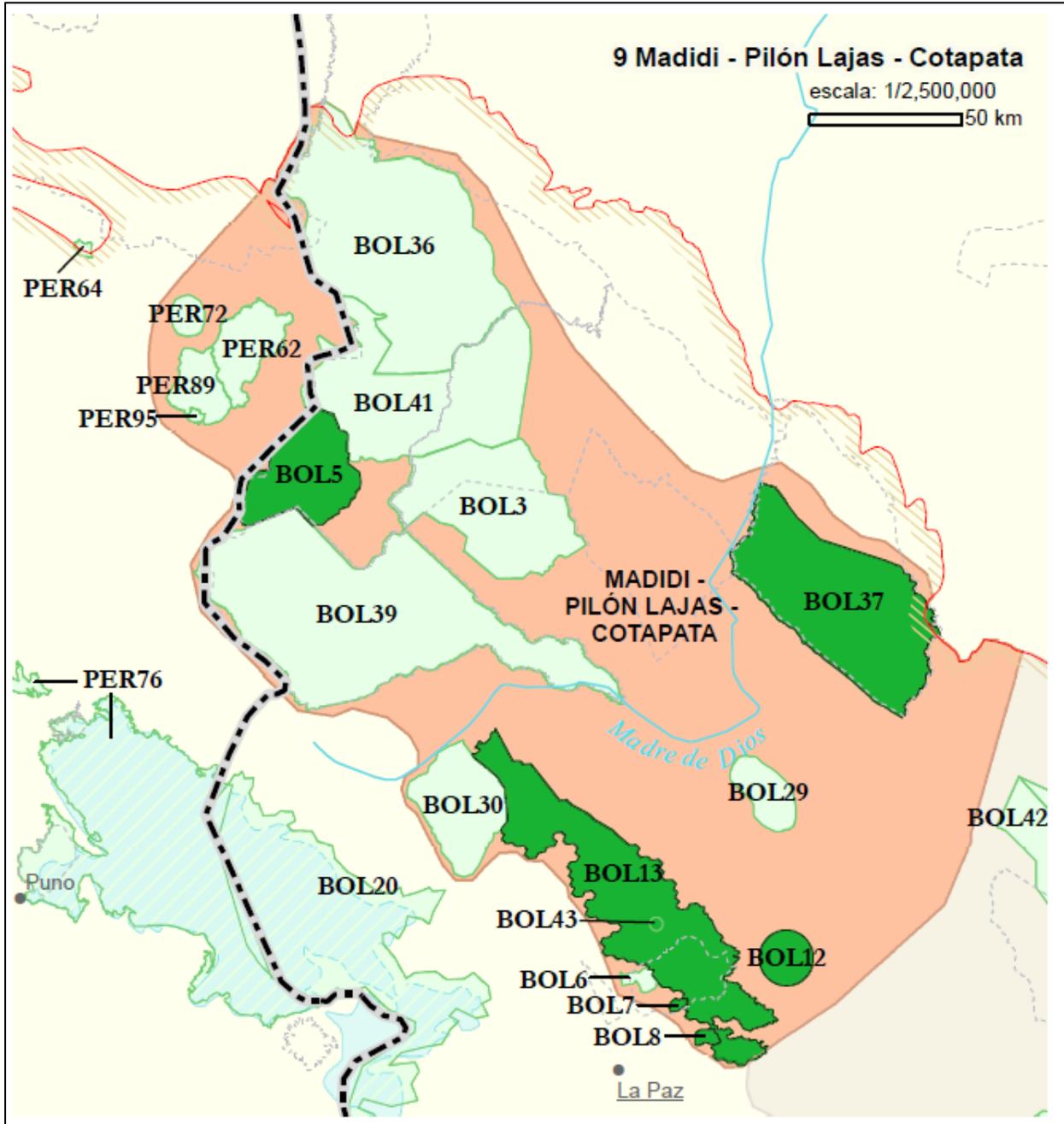
- Support efforts with sub-national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable development into landscape scale public policy planning and implementation frameworks. Special emphasis should be placed on ensuring the social and environmental sustainability of large development projects and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into broader development programs and financing schemes;
- Strengthen the management of protected areas and KBAs within the corridor, through exchange of experiences and development of common strategies and synergies.

For the private sector:

- Support opportunities to strengthen and scale up the linkage between conservation and income generation;
- Scale up private sector financing for conservation;
- Engage extractive industries and infrastructure developers to ensure that social and environmental safeguards are adopted for development schemes that put the KBAs at risk;
- Strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local actors through the exchange of experiences and analysis of their realities and future scenarios;
- Strengthen capacities of local peoples and civil society in general, in management of natural resources related to national and sub-national public policies;

Proposals at the corridor wide approach are not subject to the above restrictions set for KBAs BOL 12 and BOL 37.

Map 1. Detail of the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata Corridor and Priority KBAs



2.3.2 Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Grants for the Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata corridor, will be awarded within six strategic directions and its corresponding investment priorities. The strategic directions are based on stakeholder consultations from eight workshops, complemented by analysis and information presented in the ecosystem profile. Strategic directions are summarized in Table 2.

As cross-cutting objectives, proposals should seek to mainstreaming climate change resilience and strengthening capacities for indigenous, Afro-descendants and mestizo communities. **CEPF will emphasize support to community and indigenous civil society groups.**

Table 2. Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Improve protection and management of 36 priority KBAs (6 in Bolivia) to create and maintain local support for conservation and to mitigate key threats.	1.1 Support preparation and implementation of participatory management plans that promote stakeholder collaboration in managing protected KBAs.
	1.2 Facilitate the establishment and expansion of indigenous, private, and subnational reserves, and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks for conserving unprotected and partially protected KBAs.
	1.3 Strengthen land tenure, management, and governance of indigenous and Afro-descendant territories.
	1.4 Catalyze conservation incentives schemes for biodiversity conservation for local communities.
2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policies and development plans in seven corridors (one in Bolivia) to support sustainable development, with a focus on sub-national governments.	2.1 Support land-use planning and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks that create shared visions for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions into corridor level development.
	2.2 Integrate biodiversity objectives into development policies, programs, and projects that impact resource use, including climate change, agricultural development, and water resources management.
	2.3 Promote traditional and innovative financial mechanisms for conservation, including payments for ecosystem functions, leveraging of rural and micro-credit, mainstreaming biodiversity into public climate change programs, and compensation mechanisms to mobilize new conservation finance.
3. Promote local stakeholder engagement and the integration of social and environmental safeguards into infrastructure, mining and agriculture projects to mitigate potential threats to the KBAs in the seven priority corridors (one in Bolivia).	3.1 Build local capacity and facilitate public consultation and alliance building in the assessment, avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring of environmental impacts of large development projects that pose a direct or indirect risk to the KBAs.
	3.2 Encourage constructive approaches with the private sector to promote environmental and social sustainability of infrastructure, mining, and agriculture projects through partnerships between civil society groups, the private sector, and international investors.
	3.3 Integrate biodiversity objectives into development policies, programs, and projects related to mining, infrastructure, and agriculture.
4. Promote and scale up opportunities to foster private sector approaches for biodiversity conservation to benefit priority KBAs in the seven corridors (one in Bolivia).	4.1 Promote the adoption and scaling up of conservation best practices in enterprises compatible with conservation to promote connectivity and ecosystem functions in the corridors.
	4.2 Encourage private sector partners and their associations to integrate conservation into their business practices and to implement corporate social responsibility policies and voluntary commitments.
	4.3 Leveraging private-sector financing schemes, such as carbon projects and green bonds that benefit the conservation outcomes.
5. Safeguard globally threatened species.	5.1 Prepare, help implement, and mainstream conservation action plans for the priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species and their taxonomic groups.
	5.2 Update KBA analysis for mainstreaming to incorporate new AZE sites and Red Listing of reptiles, freshwater species and plants, based on addressing several high priority information gaps.

6.Strengthen civil society capacity, stakeholder alliances and communications to achieve CEPF conservation outcomes, focusing on indigenous, Afro-descendent and mestizo groups.	6.1 Strengthen the administrative, project management, and fundraising capacity of civil society organizations and indigenous and Afro-descendent authorities to promote biodiversity conservation in their territories.
	6.2 Enhance stakeholder cooperation, networking, and sharing of lessons learned to achieve CEPF’s conservation outcomes, including efforts to foster hotspot-wide information sharing.
	6.3 Strengthen capacity in communications of CEPF partners to build public awareness of the importance of the conservation outcomes.
	6.4 Pilot and scale up promising approaches for the long-term financing of local and national civil society organizations and their conservation missions.

2.4 Eligibility Criteria

2.4.1 Applicant Eligibility

To qualify for CEPF grant, the applicant needs to meet the following criteria:

- Be a civil society organization such as social organization, no governmental, private company, and university among others.
- Have a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- Have the authority to apply for and receive private funds, and be able to account for in a transparent manner and under a separate bank account.
- Not be able to assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

2.4.2 Non Eligible Activities

CEPF will **not** finance the following activities:

- the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, including the displacement of land use or the impediment of access to traditionally used natural resources, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities;
- for activities that negatively affect indigenous peoples or where the communities have not granted their approval of the project activities, or;
- the elimination or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites of natural, archeological, paleontological, historical, religious or other unique value).

If you have questions about your eligibility or the chances to receive funding from CEPF please contact the RIT at cepf-rit@fundesnap.org for further clarification.

2.4.3 Financing

This call provides for the financing of small and large grants.

- **Small grants** can reach up to US\$20,000.

- **Large grants** range from US\$20,000 onwards. CEPF decides on the amount to be awarded based on the scope and magnitude of the conservation results expected to be achieved. Please note, the average size of CEPF large grants is approximately \$140,000.

2.4.4 Duration

All projects funded under this call must be completed before April 30, 2020 in line with the closing of the CEPF Tropical Andes investment program.

2.5 Evaluation Criteria

CEPF grants are awarded after a competition process, in which LOI are reviewed and assessed by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, the national evaluation committee and other external technical reviewers when necessary. The evaluation will be conducted following technical and strategic criteria, and safeguards considerations will also be taken into account to ensure environmental and social quality of projects.

2.5.1 Technical and Strategic criteria

1. Strategic Importance to CEPF: Will the results of this project contribute to achieving the priorities articulated in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile and more specifically, the Tropical Andes Hotspot: Logical Framework for CEPF Investments (found within the Ecosystem Profile)? How will the project contribute to a specific investment priority and target and indicator within the Logical Framework and meet specific and justified needs in the KBA, corridor, country, or hotspot?

2. Ability of Project to Achieve Results: Are the objectives, approach / strategies and deliverables well thought out and comprehensive? Are the project objectives, approach/strategies and proposed deliverables aligned to achieving strategic conservation results?

3. Applicant Capacity: Does the applicant have the capacity and comparative advantage (skills, knowledge, experience, relationships and credibility with local stakeholders) to successfully implement the project? Is permission required for the project to proceed? If yes, are there any risks in the project obtaining permission?

4. Building Tropical Andes Civil Society Capacity: Does the project contribute to CEPF's priority to empower Tropical Andes civil society organizations, including local community organizations and indigenous groups?

5. Participation: Does the project incorporate stakeholder consultation in design and participation in implementation to build local ownership, buy-in and capacity? Were key stakeholders, including government agencies and local communities, involved in the project design and will they be involved in project implementation?

6. Cost-effectiveness: Is the proposed funding request commensurate and reasonable in view of the objectives and activities proposed? Is the proposed funding request acceptable within CEPF's overall budget allocation for the strategic direction?

7. Strategic Alliances and Partnerships: Does the project have the potential to establish and/or maintain long-term relationships for collaboration on biodiversity conservation with appropriate local,

regional, or national organizations? Does it ensure coordination and build synergy with existing and future initiatives?

8. Leveraging Resources: Does the project attract additional funding or an in-kind contribution that will directly increase CEPF's impact and contribute to project sustainability? Is the applicant already receiving funding for this project?

9. Ongoing projects: Does the project overlap with ongoing actions with other CEPF-funded projects? ¿Does the project complement or generate synergies with the projects already underway? Projects related to the considerations for KBAs BOL 12 and BOL 37 detailed in section 2.3.1 will not be considered under this present call.

2.5.2 Social and Environmental Safeguards

CEPF pays close attention to potential negative impacts from its projects to the environment and to people. Thus it will strive to prevent and mitigate any undesired impact that may result.

When filling the LOI, applicants are encouraged to correctly identify all potential negative environmental, social and other impacts and justify measures of prevention, mitigation or compensation.

CEPF will not finance activities that clearly have negative impacts on the environment or social actors. For more information you should review the safeguard policies of the World Bank found in <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>.

2.6 Application Process

To apply for a small or large grant, applicants should fill a LOI and send it by email.

Note that the format of the LOI for small and large grants is different as well as the email address for sending it.

Remember also that the deadline for submission of the LOI is **October 25th 2016**.

We encourage applicants to submit their LOIs early to expedite proposal reviews and processing.

2.6.1 Process for applying for a small grant

FUNDESNAPE from Bolivia, as RIT, awards and manages CEPF small grants in Bolivia.

1. Read through all the sections of this call for proposals document carefully.
2. Download the CEPF Tropical Andes Small Grant LOI form in English here: <http://www.fundesnap.org/>.

If you are having difficulties accessing the form, please contact the RIT at cepf-rit@fundesnap.org.

3. Once the LOI is complete, send an email to cepf-rit@fundesnap.org with the LOI attached on or before the deadline of October 25th, 2016. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application. Kindly note that hardcopy LOIs will not be considered.
4. The decision on the LOI will take approximately three months after closure of the Call. After that, applicants will receive a letter from the RIT with the evaluation results.
5. If the LOI is successful, the applicant will be asked to complete a Financial Risk Assessment form and an Anti-Terrorist and World Bank Screening form before signing a contract with FUNDESNAPE for a small grant in Bolivia.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the RIT at cepf-rit@fundesnap.org to:

- a) confirm your eligibility to apply;
- b) ensure your proposal idea fits with the specific priorities for this call for proposals;
- c) get further information on CEPF's policies, procedures, and the application process.

2.6.2 Process for applying for a large grant

CEPF's Secretariat awards and manages large grants with support from the RIT.

1. Read through all the sections of this call for proposals document carefully.
2. Download the LOI form in English or Spanish from the CEPF website here: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>.

Application guidelines can also be downloaded from this site.

3. Once the LOI is complete, send an email to cepfandes@conservation.org with the LOI attached on or before the deadline of October 25th, 2016. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application. Kindly note that hardcopy LOIs will not be considered.
4. A decision on the LOI is based on reviews by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, the national evaluation committee and other external technical reviewers where necessary. You will receive a letter from the CEPF Secretariat to let you know the evaluation results.
5. If the LOI is successful, the applicant will be asked to prepare a full project proposal. The detailed guidelines for preparing a full project proposal will be provided with the letter of invitation. If the full project proposal is accepted by the CEPF Secretariat, you can expect your large grant project to start the first half of 2017.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the RIT at cepf-rit@fundesnap.org or CEPF at cepfandes@conservation.org to:

- a) confirm your eligibility to apply;
- b) ensure your proposal idea fits with the specific priorities for this call for proposals;
- c) get further information on CEPF's policies, procedures, and the application process.

2.6.3 Further Information and Assistance

The primary email contact for the RIT: cepf-rit@fundesnap.org

You can also contact:

- Imke Oetting, RIT Coordinator: ioetting@fundesnap.org
- Jorge Mariaca, National RIT Coordinator for Bolivia: jmariaca@fundesnap.org

CEPF web site: www.cepf.net

CEPF's Newsletter: http://www.cepf.net/news/e_news/Pages/current_newsletter.aspx

CEPF's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CriticalEcosystemPartnershipFund>

FUNDESNAPE (Bolivia) Web site: www.fundesnap.org

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