

Call for Letters of Inquiry, Indo-Burma Hotspot

Opening date: 15 August 2022

Closing date: 26 September 2022

Grant size: small grants (up to US\$40,000) and large grants (US\$40,000 to US\$200,000)

Eligible countries: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

Eligible priorities: Strategic Directions 4 and 6.

Eligible languages: CEPF accepts **large grant applications** in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. IUCN accepts **small grant applications** in Chinese, English, Khmer, Lao, Myanmar, Thai and Vietnamese.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are currently accepting Letters of Inquiry (Lols) from non-governmental organisations, community groups, Indigenous People's organisations, women's groups, private companies and other civil society organisations for projects that address the conservation of biodiversity in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, and that meet the criteria set out in this call.

CEPF is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions, known as biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. In the Indo-Burma Hotspot, it is also supported by the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The Indo-Burma Hotspot comprises all non-marine parts of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, plus parts of southern China. The current call for Lols is limited to projects that address one or more of the investment priorities listed in the following section. Future calls, if any, will be announced on CEPF's website and e-newsletter.

Preference will be given to projects that address the following criteria: (i) are the closest fit to the investment priorities eligible for support under this call; (ii) have a high likelihood of achieving their stated objectives and contribute strongly to sustainable conservation outcomes; (iii) build upon past initiatives and complement ongoing initiatives; (iv) represent good value for money; and (v) demonstrate the institutional capacity and experience necessary to carry out the work. CEPF welcomes applications from current and past grantees, as well as organizations that have not previously received CEPF funding. For projects in Myanmar, however, only former CEPF grantees are eligible to apply.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the [Ecosystem Profile](#) for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, and to contact the Indo-Burma Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at IUCN (email: CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org) if they have any questions or wish to discuss project ideas. Applicants are further encouraged to visit the CEPF website, particularly the sections on [Eligibility](#); [Before You Apply](#); and [How to Apply](#).

PRIORITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS CALL

Strategic Direction 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority sites.

NOTES: With the exception of Investment Priority 4.4, which focuses on KBA identification, to be eligible for support under this strategic direction, projects must: (i) focus on one or more of the priority sites listed in Table 27 in the Ecosystem Profile; and (ii) demonstrate wellbeing benefits for local communities. Recognizing the critical role of gender relations in determining men and women's access to and participation in management of natural resources, projects must also integrate gender considerations into their design and implementation.

CEPF and IUCN invite proposals that address one or more of the following investment priorities:

- 4.2 Pilot, amplify and develop sustainability mechanisms for community forests, community fisheries and community-managed protected areas through authentic, community-led processes.
- 4.3 Develop co-management mechanisms for protected areas that enable community participation in zoning, management and governance.
- 4.4 Revise KBA identification in the hotspot using the new KBA standard.

Strategic Direction 6. Demonstrate scalable approaches for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into development planning in the priority corridors

NOTE: To be eligible for support under this strategic direction, projects must: (i) demonstrate scalable approaches that are suitable for replication by civil society or private sector actors, or for incorporation into government programs; and (ii) focus on one of the five priority corridors listed in Table 27 in the Ecosystem Profile or one of the 24 limestone karst KBAs in Myanmar.

CEPF and IUCN invite proposals that address one or more of the following investment priorities:

- 6.1 Analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose and actively support the application of alternative development scenarios, nature-based solutions and mitigation measures.
- 6.2 Develop demonstration projects for ecosystem restoration, with protocols suitable for replication.
- 6.3 Engage the media in order to increase awareness, inform public debate and influence decision making on mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning.
- 6.4 Pilot and scale-up models for biodiversity-friendly production, including certification and eco-labelling.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This call is open to both international organisations and organisations local to the Indo-Burma Hotspot. Individuals wishing to apply must work with civil society organisations to develop applications, rather than apply directly. Please note that preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a leading role for local organisations and/or an explicit focus on capacity building for local civil society. Preference will also be given to projects that actively incorporate gender considerations, in line with CEPF's [gender policy](#) and [gender toolkit](#). Also see the CEPF [gender factsheet](#).

Grants cannot be used for: (i) purchase of land; (ii) removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including those with archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious or unique natural values); (iii) relocation of people or any other form of involuntary resettlement; or (iv) capitalization of trust funds. All activities must comply with CEPF's social and environmental policies, which can be found [here](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants for small grants (up to US\$40,000) can apply in Chinese, English, Khmer, Lao, Myanmar, Thai and Vietnamese, using the offline template available [here](#). Applicants are advised to prepare Lols for projects that are 6-24 months in duration with an estimated start date of 1 March 2023. Completed Lols should be sent as an e-mail attachment to CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org. The file name of the Lol submitted should be as follows: *Organisation acronym_CEPF SG Letter of Inquiry*. For example, *IUCN_CEPF SG Letter of Inquiry*. Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org.

All Lols submitted will first be screened to confirm their eligibility. Eligible Lols will then undergo preliminary reviews utilising the criteria mentioned above. Based on these reviews, shortlisted applications will be further considered during a meeting of the National Advisory Committees (NAC) established in each of the relevant Indo-Burma countries. Considering the recommendations of the NAC, decisions will be made on projects to receive funding.

Applicants for large grants (US\$40,000 to US\$200,000) must apply through CEPF's online portal, [ConservationGrants](#). First-time users will need to [register](#) to create an account. Applicants encountering any technical difficulties with the online portal should contact conservationgrants@conservation.org.

The first step in the application process is to submit an online Lol. Lols can be submitted in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish. Applicants are advised to prepare Lols for projects that are 12-30 months in duration with an estimated start date of 1 March 2023. Eligible Lols will undergo technical review by the CEPF Secretariat and IUCN using the criteria mentioned above. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their projects to a Technical Review Committee in October or November 2022. Applicants will be subsequently informed whether they have been invited to the full proposal stage.

Detailed guidance on preparing a full proposal will be provided to successful applicants together with the letter of invitation. Successful applicants will be given six weeks to prepare a full proposal, through the online portal. During this period, they will be invited to attend a

proposal development workshop, where they will have the opportunity to develop their proposals collaboratively, as a cohort, with guidance from CEPF Secretariat and IUCN staff.

All applicants must submit their Lols by 11:59 PM Indochina Time (ICT) on 26 September 2022. Lols received after this time will be rejected. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of their Lol at the time of submission.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (in English) may be found [here](#). During 22-26 August 2022, IUCN will be hosting online Information Sessions regarding this Call for Lols. The relevant details will be posted to IUCN Asia [Facebook](#) and Twitter accounts.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

CEPF Regional Implementation Team, IUCN Asia Regional Office,
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39, Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Email: CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org
Tel: +66 2 662 4029; Fax: +66 2 662 4389.

Table 27. Priority Corridors and Sites for Investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot

Priority Corridor	Priority Sites	Countries	Area (km ²)
Chindwin River	Upper Chindwin River: Kaunghein to Padumone Section	Myanmar	5,281
Mekong River and Major Tributaries	Lower Nam Ou; Mekong Confluence with Nam Kading; Mekong Confluence with Xe Bangfai; Mekong Channel near Pakchom; Mekong River from Kratie to Lao PDR; Mekong River from Phou Xiang Thong to Siphandon; Mekong River from Louangphabang to Vientiane; Pakxan Wetlands; Sekong River; Sesan River; Siphandon; Srepok River; Thala Stueng Treng; Ubon Nam Mun; Upper Lao Mekong; Upper Xe Kaman; Western Siem Pang; Xe Champhon	Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand	19,435
Myanmar Limestone Karst*	Ataran Taung Karst; Bayin Nyi Karst; Dhammata Karst; Himeinkanein Karst; Hpa-an; Hpruso Karst; Kayin Linno Karst; Kayon Karst; Kyauk Nagar; Montawa Cave; Myaleik Taung; Naung Ka Myaing Karst; Padamyar Karst; Panlaung-Pyadalin Cave; Parpant Caves; Pathein Karst; Pharbaung Karst; Phayartan Karst**; Sabel Karst; Tar Tar Karst; Waiponla Karst; Weibyan Karst; Yathae Pyan Karst; Ywangan Karst	Myanmar	536
Northern Plains Seasonally Inundated Forests	Chhep; Dong Khanthung; O Skach; Upper Stung Sen Catchment	Cambodia and Lao PDR	19,322
Sino-Vietnamese Limestone	Ba Be; Ban Bung; Ban Thi-Xuan Lac; Bangliang; Bat Dai Son; Binh An; Cham Chu; Chongzuo; Daweishan; Diding; Du Gia; Funing Niaowangshan; Fuping-Gula-Dingye; Gulongshan; Khau Ca; Lam Binh; Longhua; Longhushan; Longshan Section of Nonggang; Malipo; Na Chi; Nonggang; Paiyangshan; Shangsi-Biannian; Sinh Long; Tat Ke; Tay Con Linh; Than Xa; Trung Khanh; Tung Vai; Xidamingshan	China and Vietnam	58,502
Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone	Ang Trapeang Thmor; Bakan; Boeung Chhmar-Moat Khla; Chhnuk Tru; Dei Roneat; Kampong Laeng; Lower Stung Sen; Preah Net Preah-Kra Lanh-Pourk; Prek Toal; Stung-Chi Kreng-Kampong Svay; Stung Sen-Santuk-Baray; Veal Srongae	Cambodia	17,547

Notes: * = Myanmar Limestone Karst is a dispersed network of small sites, which does not meet the criteria for a conservation corridor but is nevertheless recognized as a geographic priority for CEPF investment under Strategic Directions 4 and 6. ** = Phayartan Karst is located within Lenya KBA but is several orders of magnitude smaller; therefore, only the limestone karst is considered a priority site and not the wider KBA within which it lies.