

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 14 Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

Request for Proposals

For projects related to Strategic Direction 2 – KBA management and Protection –
in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique,
Zambia and Zimbabwe

1. Opening Date: Friday, 8 January 2016

2. Submission

Deadline: Friday, 19 February 2016

Application format: Submit a Letter of Inquiry in English, French or Portuguese, available from www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance

See also www.birdlife.org/projects/cepf-eam-calls-proposals

Submission method: Submit Letter of Inquiry to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org

3. Call for Letters of Inquiry

BirdLife International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, in their role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, invite civil society organizations to submit Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for projects in countries within the Hotspot per the Scope of this Call, as described below.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (CI), the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. More information on CEPF can be found at www.cepf.net and at www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot stretches over a curving arc of more than 7,000 kilometers from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. Within this area, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) cover an area of more than 50 million hectares, of which only 38 percent have full legal protection and variable amounts of government funding.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The results of this process and the five-year (2012-2017) strategy that CEPF has identified for supporting biodiversity conservation in the region are outlined in the Ecosystem Profile, available at:

www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/Pages/default.aspx

4. Eligible Applicants

Non-government organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities, and other civil society organizations may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites and countries identified in the Ecosystem Profile. Organizations must have their own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.

Government-owned 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.

5. Eligible Activities

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below. All activities must support Strategic Direction 2, **Improve the Protection and Management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot**, per the Investment Priority listed below.

Investment Priority 2.3. Advance the identification and prioritization of KBAs* in Africa

**This includes all subsets of KBAs, e.g. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Important Plant Areas, Important Mammal Areas, Freshwater KBAs...*

In relation to Investment Priority 2.3, CEPF seeks projects that contribute to the following:

- Identify new Eastern Afromontane KBAs using the criteria provided in **Annex 1 of this call for proposals**.
- 'Upgrade' the "biological importance/biological priority status" of already identified KBAs (all KBAs are listed in [Appendix 2 of the Ecosystem Profile](#)) based on new/additional information about the KBA – see also **Annexes 2a and 2b of this call for proposals**
- Discovery of new species / new species locations or range extension that will identify/prioritize KBAs

Specific focus will be on field work at threatened sites where there is urgent need for information about the status/vulnerability assessment to make the case to identify/prioritise the KBA for conservation action.

Under this call, CEPF is specifically interested in assessments of non-iconic species.

6. Eligible Sites

Proposed projects must work in or have an impact on:

- *New sites that would qualify as KBAs* using the KBA identification process – **see Annex 1 to this call for proposals, for more information**
- *Already identified KBAs as listed in Appendix 2 of the Ecosystem Profile* – especially those that have a low score of 3 or 4 for their 'biological importance' as a result of insufficient data/information – **see Annexes 2a and 2b to this call for proposals, for more information**

PLEASE refer to the [Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF 4MB) for a list of all identified Eastern Afromontane KBAs.

7. Budget and Timeframe

CEPF anticipates making a maximum of ten awards under this call for proposals. The **maximum budget per project is US \$20,000 (but less is preferred)**. Projects are expected to start in April 2016 and must be **completed by 30 June 2017** at the latest.

8. Letter of Inquiry and Award Process

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) at this time. If your LOI is successful, BirdLife International will be in touch with you to complete the necessary processes to award you a small grant.

9. Instructions for submitting a Letter of Inquiry

Applicants **must** use the CEPF letter of inquiry template referenced here: [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#). The template is also available from BirdLife International.

Letters of inquiry **must** be submitted to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org

Letters of inquiry submitted to any other e-mail address may not receive full review. CEPF will not accept hardcopy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your application.

10. Advisory Service

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the EAM RIT at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org. Based on experience from previous calls for proposals, discussing your proposal idea with us before submitting it will significantly increase the chances of success. The advisory service will **terminate on 12 February 2016**; so please send your questions to the RIT before that date.

11. Reference Documents

All potential applicants should refer to the Ecosystem Profile, the LOI Form, and the following references available on the CEPF and BirdLife websites.

[Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF 4MB) - including appendices 2, 4-12
[Appendix 1: Species Outcomes](#) (PDF - 102 KB)
[Appendix 3: Species per KBA](#) (XLSX - 135 KB)

- How to apply: www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx and www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance
- CEPF projects database: www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx
- World Bank safeguard policies: <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>

All required documentation, information, guidance, formats and news are also available at www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

12. Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to: CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

CEPF Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation Team (EAM-RIT), BirdLife International, Africa Partnership Secretariat - Volker's Garden, off Rhapta Road, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya
PO BOX 3502, 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya - Tel: +254 (0)20 247 3259

www.cepf.net

www.birdlife.org/africa

www.iucn.org

www.ewnhs.org.et

Annex 1: How to identify a new KBA?

There is a standard approach for identifying new KBAs:

KBAs

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are nationally identified sites of global significance. The identification of KBAs is an important approach to address biodiversity conservation at the site scale i.e. at the level of individual protected areas, concessions and land-management units. KBAs are identified using globally standardised criteria and thresholds, and should, as far as possible, have clearly defined boundaries. There is no maximum or minimum size of sites, because appropriate size will vary according to the biodiversity features for which it has been identified as well as other factors, including the socio-economic context, embracing land-use and land-tenure etc. The site should however be manageable, whether formally or otherwise, for the key biodiversity it holds.

KBAs are seen as an 'umbrella' designation, which includes globally important sites for different taxa and realms, such as:

- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs);
- Important Plant Areas (IPAs);
- Important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity;
- Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

KBAs can make an important contribution to national gap analyses and prioritisation processes in order to increase the comprehensiveness of protected area networks, as mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In particular, Aichi Target 11 calls for an increase in the coverage of protected areas "...especially of areas of particular importance for biodiversity". KBAs are a means of identifying and documenting such areas of biodiversity importance. However further mechanisms may be needed to protect the KBAs legally once identified, if such an approach is considered appropriate.

CRITERIA AND THRESHOLDS FOR IDENTIFYING KBAS

Sites are proposed for recognition as KBAs by local stakeholders through the application of the two principal criteria of *vulnerability* and *irreplaceability*. These are further refined into a standardised set of sub-criteria and thresholds:

- **Vulnerability:** This criterion is triggered when there is a regular occurrence of a significant population (i.e. site holds > threshold numbers) of a globally threatened species (according to the IUCN Red List) at the site for which a sites-based approach is appropriate. Currently applied thresholds comprise the regular presence of a single individual of a globally Critically Endangered or Endangered species, or 30 individuals of a Vulnerable species.
- **Irreplaceability:** This criterion refers to a site that holds a significant proportion of a species' global population at any stage of the species' lifecycle. This includes:
 - a) Restricted-range species – with threshold currently proposed as 5% of the global population of species with a global range of less than 50,000 km² occurring at the site.

- b) Species with large but clumped distributions – with the threshold currently proposed as 5% of global population at site.
- c) Globally significant congregations – with the threshold currently proposed as 1% of global population seasonally occurring at the site.
- d) Globally significant source populations – with the threshold currently proposed as the site is responsible for maintaining 1% of the global population.
- e) Bioregionally restricted assemblages – with thresholds yet to be determined.

Relevant links with regards to KBA criteria

- Identification and Gap Analysis of Key Biodiversity Areas:
http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/pag_015.pdf
- Key Biodiversity Areas as Site Conservation Targets:
<http://bioscience.oxfordjournals.org/content/54/12/1110.full.pdf+html>
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA): <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/key-biodiversity-areas-kba>
- IBA methodology: www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibacritglob/ / www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/IBAs/AfricaCntryPDFs/methodology.pdf
- Important Bird Areas in Africa: Key Sites for Conservation
www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibasaf
- IDENTIFYING AND PROTECTING THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS
- Identifying important sites for conservation of freshwater biodiversity: extending the species-based approach
<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.378.1489&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Annex 2a: How to Determine the Biological Priority of KBAs

1. Biological Priority (BP) and Biological Importance mean the same thing.
2. The Ecosystem Profile recognizes four classes of Biological Priority:
 - a. BP1
 - b. BP2
 - c. BP3
 - d. BP4
3. The distinction between these priorities is determined by the weakest link. The weakest link is represented by the trigger species in each site that is the most threatened by global extinction as determined by its Red List status and / or its irreplaceability.
4. So if a site contains the last remaining population of a species on the planet (i.e. is an Alliance for Zero (AZE) extinction site) it automatically qualifies for the top class of Biological Priority (BP1).
5. If a site qualifies as a KBA for containing one or more Critically Endangered (CR) species it also qualifies as BP 1.
6. If a site does not contain a CR species, but qualifies as a KBA because it includes one or more Endangered (EN) species, it qualifies as a BP 2 site.
7. If a site does not contain a CR or EN species but qualifies as a KBA because it includes one or more Vulnerable (VU) species, it qualifies as a BP3 site.
8. If it contains no CR, EN and VU species but is recognised as a KBA in Appendix 2 of the Afromontane Profile, then it is a BP4 site. In such cases it is recognised as a KBA because of its irreplaceability on the grounds of qualifying for one or more Restricted Range species and / or Congregatory species.

Annex 2b: How to determine whether or not the 'Biological Priority' of a Site should be changed

1. Check its current Biological Priority status in the 8th column of Appendix 2 in the Profile.
2. You can suggest a change in its Biological Priority status if it:
 - a. Contains a bird, mammal or amphibian species that is currently recognised as VU, EN or CR but was not considered as such at the time (2012) that the Ecosystem Profile was compiled and is therefore not listed as such in the Profile;
 - b. Includes a plant, reptile or invertebrate species that is currently recognised as VU, EN or CR in the IUCN Red List but is not included in the species listed for each site in Appendix 3 of the Profile.
3. If you discover that either a) or b) applies, then the site qualifies for a change in status as per the criteria listed above.