

## Request for Proposals

### Development of a Knowledge Product Pertaining to Best Practices for Empowerment of Women, based on Experiences from the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

<b>Opening Date:</b>	8 September 2025
<b>Closing Date:</b>	26 September 2025
<b>Questions Due Date:</b>	22 September 2025
<b>Submission:</b>	Applications should be sent to <a href="mailto:cepf@cepf.net">cepf@cepf.net</a> by the closing date.
<b>Location:</b>	CEPF, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Crystal City VA 22202, USA

## 1. INVITATION

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (CI), the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. CEPF is a global program that provides grants to civil society to safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. As one of the founding partners, CI administers the global program through a CEPF Secretariat. CEPF's purpose is to strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity.

The CEPF Secretariat intends to engage a consultant or firm (hereafter "consultant") to develop a knowledge product that will document best practice pertaining to Gender-responsive Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, **with a specific focus on Empowerment of Women**. This knowledge product should have significant potential for wider replication of this best practice within and outside of the Tropical Andes Hotspot. This knowledge product should be accessible and informative, and will be disseminated via the CEPF website or other innovative means, such as videos on social media, and online toolkits or presentations at international forums.

Interested consultants should submit a proposal by the closing date listed above. The successful consultant shall be required to adhere to CI's code of ethics, statement of work, and the terms and conditions of the contract. This call for proposals does not obligate CI to execute a contract nor does it commit CI to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals. Furthermore, CI reserves the right to reject any and all offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of CI.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Since 2001, CEPF has funded conservation in 25 of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. Over this period, CEPF's grantees have made significant contributions to safeguarding the biodiversity hotspots, developing sustainable livelihoods for local people, and strengthening local conservation leadership.

CEPF grants catalyze partnerships among civil society organizations, and between them and public and private-sector actors. Through these partnerships, CEPF's grantees have been able to develop and test innovative models and tools for conservation that empower local actors to protect, restore and sustainably manage critical ecosystems in ways that conserve biodiversity, improve human well-being and enhance resilience to climate change.

CEPF intends to facilitate replication of best practice pertaining to Empowerment of Women. The consultant will work with selected CEPF grantees and stakeholders to identify successful methods for empowerment of women and develop a knowledge product that will allow for replication of the best practice in other hotspots. The consultant should be skilled in communications and preparation of public awareness materials. The language of the knowledge product will be Spanish.

## **3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Proposals shall be submitted in one volume, in either English or Spanish, and consist of:

- Technical Proposal
- Financial Proposal

### Technical Proposal

Should comprise of the following parts:

- Technical approach, methodology and detailed work plan. This part shall not exceed five pages.

The technical proposal should describe in detail how the offeror intends to carry out the requirement described in the scope of work, below. The technical proposal should demonstrate

a clear understanding of the work to be undertaken and the responsibilities of all parties involved.

- Management, key personnel and staffing plan. This part shall not exceed five pages. CVs of key personnel may be included in an annex to the technical proposal and will not count against the page limit.

Must have:

- Excellent communication skills.
  - Experience in producing knowledge products focused on conservation.
  - Fluency in Spanish.
- Corporate capabilities, experience, past performance and references. This part shall not exceed four pages.

#### Financial Proposal

A detailed budget in USD. The budget shall include a budget narrative that explains the basis for the estimation of expenses. If required, supporting information must be provided in sufficient detail to allow for a complete analysis of the cost.

## **4. PROCESS AND BASIS FOR AWARD**

The development of the innovative knowledge product will be undertaken by a consultant, selected through a competitive procurement process. Selection of consultants will be overseen by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Outreach Unit within the CEPF Secretariat. An award will be made to the consultant whose proposal is determined to be responsive to this call for proposals, meets the technical requirement, and is determined to represent the most advantage to CEPF.

Evaluation Criteria:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| - Technical Approach, Methodology and Work Plan                       | 35 |
| - Personnel Qualification   | 25 |
| - Past Performance – reference of similar work previously implemented | 20 |
| - Lowest cost   | 20 |

## **Scope of Work, Deliverables and Deliverables Schedule**

### **Development of an Innovative Knowledge Product Pertaining to Best Practices for Empowerment of Women, based on Experiences from the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**

#### **1) Background**

CEPF grants catalyze partnerships among civil society organizations, and between them and public and private-sector actors. Through these partnerships, CEPF's grantees have been able to develop and test innovative models and tools for conservation that empower local actors to protect, restore and sustainably manage critical ecosystems in ways that conserve biodiversity, improve human well-being and enhance resilience to climate change.

CEPF intends to facilitate replication of best practice pertaining to Empowerment of Women by engaging a consultant skilled in communications. The consultant will work with selected CEPF grantees and stakeholders to identify successful methods for empowering women and develop a knowledge product that will allow for replication of the best practice in other hotspots.

#### **2) Objective**

CEPF grantees in the Tropical Andes Hotspot have worked to empower women in conservation. A number of their strategies have potential for replication in other hotspots. CEPF would like to develop an innovative knowledge product that will be accessible, informative and have significant potential for wider replication. The knowledge product will be publicized via the CEPF website, but can also be disseminated by other innovative means, such as videos on social media, and online toolkits or presentations at international forums.

*Audience:* This knowledge product should be aimed at technical staff at civil society organizations working in the field of biodiversity conservation within and outside of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.

*Purpose:* To guide practitioners on strategies to empower women in conservation.

*Content:* Grantees in the Tropical Andes Hotspot have developed successful strategies for empowerment of women in conservation. A knowledge product should provide guidance on methods, activities, challenges and lessons, to enable replication in other hotspots.

*Format:* The knowledge product may take any suitable form and could be a manual, document, video or other innovative format.

*Resources:* Material available to create the knowledge product includes products from CEPF grantees as well as those produced by other relevant organizations.

### **3) Duties**

The consultant is required to produce a knowledge product that focuses on empowerment of women in conservation.

The following tasks are expected to form part of the consultancy:

- Review reports and products pertaining to the topic produced by CEPF grantees working in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.
- Review relevant information pertaining to the topic produced by other organizations, as appropriate.
- Facilitate an in-person roundtable in Peru at the Final Assessment of the Tropical Andes investment (during the week of October 27<sup>th</sup>) to meet practitioners, discuss strategies and methods, and determine the content of the knowledge product. Attendees should include, but are not limited to: Fundación Ecológica Arcoiris, Asociación para el Estudio y Conservación de las Aves Acuáticas en Colombia, Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awá – UNIPA, Fundación Teko Kavi, Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Yunkawasi, Fundación Ecológica Rikcharina and Asociación de Conservación Oso Dorado Hierba Buena Allpayacu.
- Produce a quality knowledge product that can be used to replicate the best practice in the Tropical Hotspot and in other hotspots.

The consultant will be expected to schedule their own interviews, and facilitate the roundtable in Peru. Should the consultant deem it necessary to travel to produce the knowledge product, the consultant will be expected to make their own travel arrangements and to organize all necessary meetings with interviewees. Costs for the consultant's travel should be included in the budget.

### **4) Deliverables**

The consultant will produce a quality knowledge product that can be used to replicate the best practice in other hotspots. The product should be submitted as an electronic file; applicants do not need to budget for printing costs if a hardcopy format is selected. The language of the knowledge product will be Spanish.

### **5) Timeframe**

The consultancy will be conducted between 1 October 2025 and 30 November 2025. The total number of days estimated to complete this assignment is 20. Draft deliverables will be

prepared no later than 15 November 2025, and submitted to the CEPF Secretariat for review. Final deliverables, incorporating comments from the CEPF Secretariat, will be completed by 30 November 2025. The consultant shall also provide the CEPF Secretariat with periodic verbal briefings and meet with Secretariat staff, as requested.

## **6) Reporting**

The consultant will work under the close supervision and direction of the senior director for monitoring, evaluation and outreach, or such other individual that the CEPF Secretariat may designate.

## **7) Important Information**

*Currency:* Price must be quoted in USD. CI reserves the right to determine upon seeing the bids which components of pricing should be used as the basis of comparison between proposals.

*Resulting Award:* CI reserves the right to issue an award with no further discussion, or to modify the award type. Issuance of this RfP in no way obligates CI to award a contract, nor does it commit CI to pay any costs incurred by the bidder in preparing and submitting the proposal. CI reserves the right to enter negotiations about price and terms as required.

*Confidentiality:* All proprietary information provided by the bidder shall be treated as confidential and will not be shared with potential or actual applicants during the solicitation process. This includes but is not limited to price proposals, cost proposals and technical proposals. CI may, but is not obliged to, post procurement awards on its public website after the solicitation process has concluded, and the contract has been awarded. CI's evaluation results are confidential and applicant scoring will not be shared among bidders.

*Code of Conduct:* The Code of Conduct reflects CI's commitment to ethical behavior and decision-making, grounded in CI's core values and mission to protect nature for the benefit of all. The Code of Conduct applies to CI staff, as well as grantees, contractors, suppliers, consultants and their employees (collectively, "Delivery Partners"). The full [Code of Conduct](#) can be found at this link.

Delivery Partners are expected to review and adhere to the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct. Delivery Partners may report potential violations of our Code, policies or applicable laws and regulations to the CI Ethics Hotline at [www.ci.ethicspoint.com](http://www.ci.ethicspoint.com).

Grievances related to Code of Conduct violations will be addressed in accordance with the grievance mechanism required as an integral part of the Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards ([https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/gef-documents/ci-gef-environmental-and-social-management-framework-\(esmf\)-version-06.pdf?sfvrsn=6e521414\\_2](https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/gef-documents/ci-gef-environmental-and-social-management-framework-(esmf)-version-06.pdf?sfvrsn=6e521414_2)).