



## **Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

### **Call for Letters of Inquiry for Large Grants and Small Grants**

This call is open to biodiversity conservation projects

For the following countries of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean  
Islands Hotspot:

Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius

**Opening Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Deadline Date: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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## Background Information

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is inviting proposals in the form of **Letters of Inquiry (LOIs)** from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private, enterprises, universities and other civil society organizations.

This call for LOI is **for both small grants of less than \$ 20,000 and large grants for an amount between \$ 20,000 and \$ 200,000. IMPORTANT NOTE: the process to follow is different for the two types of grant.**

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, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. Additional support is provided for Madagascar by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

More information on [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).

CEPF's niche and strategy for investment in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (MADIO) Biodiversity Hotspot was formulated through an inclusive, participatory process that engaged experts, civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region, from July 2013 through March 2014. It is based on an analysis of information gathered during the Ecosystem Profile preparation process.

The council of donors that governs CEPF approved in July 2014 a 5-year investment strategy for the MADOI Hotspot, based on this Ecosystem Profile, with an initial budget of US\$8.4 million. This investment strategy comprises of a series Strategic Directions, broken down into a number of investment priorities outlining the types of activities that will be eligible for CEPF funding.

CEPF has recruited Fondation Tany Meva as Regional Implementation Team (or RIT). The RIT works in partnership with CEPF Secretariat to lead the implementation of the strategy for achieving conservation goals. RIT provides assistance to civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities.

Applicants who have worked in the former investment phases of CEPF in Madagascar shall be aware that the new Ecosystem Profile, released in July 2014, is now the official document upon which CEPF Strategy and future investment will be based.

**LOIs will only be accepted for the following eligible countries: Madagascar, the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of Mauritius.**

The deadline for receipt of proposals is on **8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**. Please read all the information below for details on the CEPF investment and how to apply.

**It is critical that applicants review the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, and particularly the written descriptions of the CEPF niche and investment strategy under the section 'CEPF Investment Strategy and Program Focus' (Chapter 12), to prepare an LOI that addresses the priorities identified for funding. The profile can be found on the CEPF website here:**

[English version](#)

[French version](#)

**A Technical Summary of the Ecosystem Profile, as well as a document synthesizing the Niche and Strategy for CEPF investment and providing details about eligible activities can be downloaded on the Grants page of CEPF website:**

[www.cepf.net/grants](http://www.cepf.net/grants) (anglais)

[www.cepf.net/fr/appels\\_a\\_projets](http://www.cepf.net/fr/appels_a_projets) (français)

**It is very important that applicants read carefully these documents in order to make sure their proposal fits with CEPF Strategy.**

**Applicants must use the Letter of Inquiry Template, and send their application by email only, as indicated in the guidance below.**

**Letter of Inquiry Templates are different for the small grants (less than \$20,000) and the large grants (\$20,000 to \$200,000).**

## **Letter of Inquiry Criteria**

Please note that this call is relevant for projects focusing only on the Strategic Directions mentioned in Table 1 below.

**Projects should focus on CEPF priority Key Biodiversity Areas listed in Table 2.**

CEPF encourages applicants to develop joint proposals with organizations from different sectors or with different backgrounds, to address the need for a multi-sectoral approach where relevant. In

particular, fishing associations, farmers' organizations, associations of the tourism sector and the private sector, development organizations, environmental associations and experts in biodiversity, are encouraged to come together to build partnerships.

**Table 1: Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities**

STRATEGIC DIRECTION	INVESTMENT PRIORITIES
<b>1 - Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas.</b>	1.1 Support local communities to design and implement locally relevant conservation and sustainable management actions that respond to major threats at priority sites. 1.2 Support the development of economic models to improve both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. 1.3 Build the technical, administrative and financial capacity of local organizations and their partners.  <b>WARNING: ONLY FOR AREAS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2.1 -</b>
<b>2 - Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices</b>	2.1 Support local research institutions to improve basic knowledge of biodiversity of priority ecosystems.  <b>WARNING: ONLY FOR AREAS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2.2 -</b>
<b>3 - Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation</b>	3.1 Foster the emergence of a new generation of conservation professionals and organizations by small grants assistance for technical and practical training. 3.2 Encourage exchanges and partnerships between civil society organizations to strengthen conservation knowledge, organizational capacity, and management and fundraising skills.

**Tips for Project Proposals for Strategic Direction 1:**

CEPF will provide special attention, when selecting projects, to the roots of local organizations applicants. The issue of sustainability of the actions will be studied carefully. The projects that would set up community management systems of natural resources, and the projects that would develop sustainable business models taking into account the preservation of biodiversity will be favored.

Proposals for projects located in areas other than those mentioned in Table 2.1 below will be rejected.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the ecosystem profile, chapter Investment Strategy for more complete information on the expected projects.

**Tips for Project Proposals for Strategic Direction 2:**

Only the investment priority 2.1 is open for this call, and proposals for projects located in areas other than those mentioned in Table 2.1 below will be rejected.

For this investment priority, CEPF *preferably* use the modality of small grant.

The sites selected for Madagascar match orphaned sites where basic information on biodiversity is often incomplete. Proposals will therefore provide key data on heritage species and the threats to the sites. Sociological and economic aspects will also be included as needed.

For Mauritius, priority will be given on the realization of floristic inventories of KBA offered in the list. Other taxa under-inventoried or neglected such as shellfish, insects and arachnids, may also be considered.

In the Seychelles, priority is given to sites currently considered for extension or protected area creation, as shown in Table 2.2.

Under this investment priority, the following will be eligible: scientific inventory programs of biodiversity, habitat mapping, and possibly deputy of research on the use of natural resources by the population. The programs will be implemented primarily by organizations from the hotspot, possibly in association with international researchers. CEPF will finance priority actions for the young professionals of the hotspot and promoting regional cooperation. All results of research funded by CEPF should be made public, unless their distribution entails risks in terms of conservation (eg distribution of species subject to illegal trade)

### **Tips for Project Proposals for Strategic Direction 3:**

#### **Investment Priority 3.1 - Technical and practical training**

CEPF expects for this strategic direction and for this call, project proposals that:

- Provide young professionals or students basic training, technical and practical, on topics related to biodiversity. Applicants are encouraged to consider the complementarity with the projects supported by CEPF.
- Provide a theoretical and practical framework for community leaders and development actors (including agricultural development) enabling them to better integrate conservation issues in their programs. CEPF will consider a priority, especially for Madagascar, proposals focusing on priority areas and habitats, either a) coastal and marine areas, b) wetlands, c) dry forests.

#### **Investment Priority 3.2 - To encourage exchanges and partnerships**

For this call, CEPF is seeking proposals to develop dynamic partnerships or mutual assistance between organizations of the Hotspot on concrete issues, technical or organizational (fundraising, administrative and financial management etc.). The support of organizations with extensive experience to younger and less structured organizations is especially encouraged.

Proposals must relate to organizations working on priority key sites of CEPF (all 78 priority KBAs presented in the Ecosystem Profile) or thematic of interests to the priority habitats as stated in the profile: coastal and marine areas, wetlands or dry forests.

**Table 2.1: List of Key Areas for Biodiversity Investment Priorities CEPF eligible for this call under the Strategic Direction 1 (Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity).**

<b>MADAGASCAR: Corridor Paysage Kirindy-Mangoky</b>	
MDG-142	Kirindy Mite National Park and extension
MDG-42	Mangoky River
MDG-90	Complex Lac Ihotry- Delta of Mangoky NPA
MDG-92	Complex Mangoky-Ankazoabo NPA
<b>MADAGASCAR: Corridor Paysage Menabe</b>	
MDG-2	Ambalibe Menabe
MDG-97	Menabe Central Corridor NPA
<b>MADAGASCAR: Groupe des Hautes Terres Centrales</b>	
MDG-5	Ambatofinandrahana
MDG-112	Ibity NPA
MDG-113	Itremo NPA
MDG-121	Manjakatempo-Ankaratra Massif NPA
<b>MAURITIUS: Mauritius Island</b>	
MUS-2	Bambou Mountain Range
MUS-3	Chamarel - Le Morne
MUS-9	Le Pouce - Anse Courtois - Pieter Both – Longue Mountain
MUS-12	Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas
MUS-17	Yemen-Takamaka
<b>MAURITIUS: Rodrigues</b>	
MUS-13	Plaine Corail
MUS-16	South Slopes of Grande Montagne
MUS-6	Rodrigues' Islets
<b>SEYCHELLES: Praslin</b>	
SYC-7	Fond Azore southern slopes to Anse Bois de Rose
SYC-9	Fond Ferdinand
<b>SEYCHELLES: Mahé</b>	
SYC-11	Montagne Corail-Collines du Sud dry forests
SYC-13	Grand Police wetlands
SYC-36	Montagne Brûlée-Piton de l'Eboulis
SYC-38	Montagne Planneau (Grand Bois-Varigault-Cascade)
SYC-43	Morne Seychellois National Park

**Table 2.2: List of Key Areas for Biodiversity Investment Priorities CEPF eligible for this call under the Strategic Direction 2, 2.1 Investment Priority (Improve basic knowledge on biodiversity).**

<b>MADAGASCAR</b>	
MDG-42	Mangoky River
MDG-2	Ambalibe Menabe
MDG-16	Ampombofofo
MDG-33	Rigny Bay Complex
MDG-122	Montagne des Français NPA
MDG-36	Coastal area East of Antsiranana

MDG-54	Tseny Lake
MDG-105	Bongolava Classified Forest (Marosely) NPA
MDG-132	Port-Bergé wetlands NPA
MDG-211	Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetlands
MDG-85	Bombetoka Bay - Marovoay NPA
MDG-4	Ambato-Boeny
MDG-5	Ambatofinandrahana
<b>MAURITIUS</b>	
MUS-1	Cargados Carajos Shoals
MUS-2	Bambou Mountain Range
MUS-3	Chamarel - Le Morne
MUS-9	Le Pouce – Anse Courtois – Pieter Both – Longue Mountain
MUS-12	Black River Gorges National Park and surrounding areas
MUS-17	Yemen-Takamaka
<b>SEYCHELLES</b>	
SYC-7	Fond Azore southern slopes to Anse Bois de Rose (Praslin)
SYC-9	Fond Ferdinand (Praslin)
SYC-11	Montagne Corail-Collines du Sud dry forests (Mahe)
SYC-13	Grand Police Wetlands (Mahe)
SYC-36	Montagne Brûlée-Piton de l'Eboulis (Mahe)
SYC-38	Montagne Planneau (Grand Bois-Varigault-Cascade) (Mahe)
SYC-43	Morne Seychellois National Park (Mahe)
SYC-5	Cosmoledo
SYC-21	Desnoeufs Island (Desnoeufs)

## Eligibility

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, universities, private enterprises and other members of civil society can apply.

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that the enterprise or institution has:

- A legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- The authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- May not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Grants cannot be used for:

- The purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities.
- Activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities.
- Removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values). Proposed activities should observe all other relevant safeguard and social policies as set out on the CEPF website:

[http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard\\_policies.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx)

## Application Procedure

Please follow the guidance below:

- This call for proposals is for
  - **Large grants between US \$20,000 and US \$200,000**
  - **Small grants less than US \$20,000**

**Applicants must use the appropriate Letter of Inquiry Template according to the amount of funding requested.**

**WARNING: Letter of Inquiry Templates are different for the small grants (less than \$20,000) and the large grants (\$20,000 to \$200,000).**

- If an organization has the right to present several Letters of Intent, it is strongly recommended that organizations **do not have similar projects in both categories.**
- Only **Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles are eligible for this call.** Organizations from **other countries are eligible to receive funds** but only to support activities taking place in the eligible countries and for their benefit.
- Specifically, organizations from the French Overseas Departments and Territories of the Hotspot are eligible to receive funds for projects that foster regional cooperation and integration. Due to current CEPF regulations, projects benefiting *directly* these departments and territories are not eligible.
- **Only the Investment Priorities indicated in Table 1 above is eligible** for this call. Projects for other priorities will not be considered. Details on the Investments Priorities can be found the Ecosystem Profile.
- For site-based projects, **only the sites listed in Tables 2.1 (Strategic Direction 1) and 2.2 (Strategic Direction 2) are eligible** for this call.
- Future calls in the months to come will cover the other CEPF priority sites.
- The project idea should be built **on biodiversity conservation as a fundamental component.**
- Applicants can submit more than one Letter of Inquiry; however, it is not encouraged.
- Proposals must be submitted by following the Letter of Inquiry template provided on the CEPF website. Applicants will select the template in the preferred language (English, French, or Malagasy) and to the desired category (small or large grant). Proposals may be submitted in **English or French, as well as in Malagasy for small grants only.**
- Hard copy proposals will not be accepted. All applications must be submitted by email. A receipt email will be sent out to applicants.
- In specific cases, in the case of remote areas or areas without connection, **and only for small grants**, an arrangement can be found for transmission of paper records. In those circumstances, the tenderer may call ahead to the number indicated in the "contacts" for the details.
- **The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016, midnight Eastern Standard Time.**

**CEPF will only accept submissions using the templates provided and sent by email to the following addresses:**

**For large grants: [cepfmadio@cepf.net](mailto:cepfmadio@cepf.net)**  
**For small grants: [cepfritmadio@tanymeva.org](mailto:cepfritmadio@tanymeva.org)**

Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by e-mail. Submission of the LOI initiates the application review process. Based on the information contained within the LOI, CEPF and the RIT will perform an initial screening. A reviewing panel, composed of experts from the region, will support CEPF in the reviewing process.

For large grants, selected applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal, respond to a Financial Questionnaire and, if needed, demonstrate the project's compliance with CEPF's safeguard policies. The RIT will assist applicants to complete the full proposal and provide the necessary supporting documents. Approbation of the LOI does not imply the validation of the project. The approval of the grant award is taken on the basis of the full proposal, which should therefore contain all the elements needed for CEPF to take a decision.

For small grants, there will be no full proposal solicited. However, additional information requests occur after analysis of the LOI in order to finalize the decision at the Regional Team implementation.

Applicants should expect to receive a decision on whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal within 4 months from the close of the period for the submission of the LOI. For successful applicants, the whole process from submission of the full proposal to signing of the grant agreement typically requires a further 2 to 4 months.

## Contact details

CEPF will answer all questions pertaining to the application process until July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. All answers will be made publicly available online at [www.cepf.net/grants](http://www.cepf.net/grants) for the benefit of all applicants.

- For any question related to large grants, please send an email to [cepfmadio@cepf.net](mailto:cepfmadio@cepf.net)
- For all questions related to small grants, please email [cepfritmadio@tanymeva.org](mailto:cepfritmadio@tanymeva.org) or call: (+261) 20 22 403 99

Before submitting, applicants can contact the Project officer for the areas where the project would be implemented, to inquire about the eligibility of their project concept and site:

Miara RAJAABELINA : [m.rajaobelina@tanymeva.org](mailto:m.rajaobelina@tanymeva.org)

- o Corridor of North-West Landscape, Madagascar;
- o Corridor of Kirindy-Mangoky Landscape, Madagascar;
- o Corridor of Menabe Landscape, Madagascar;
- o Mauritius.

Herimanitra RANDRIANARIJAONA [a.randrianarijaona@tanymeva.org](mailto:a.randrianarijaona@tanymeva.org)

- o Corridor of Groupe des Hautes Terres Centrales, Madagascar
- o Seychelles

Hantavololona RAKOTONIAINA : [h.rakotoniaina@tanymeva.org](mailto:h.rakotoniaina@tanymeva.org)

- o Corridor of Paysage de l'Extreme Nord.