

Call for Letters of Inquiry Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

Large Grants

Eligible Countries:	Cambodia and Lao PDR
Opening Date:	Friday, 22 November 2019
Closing Date:	Friday, 3 January 2020
Grant Size:	US\$20,000 to US\$200,000
Strategic Directions:	4, 6 and 8
Eligible Languages:	English, French, Portuguese or Spanish

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is currently accepting letters of inquiry (LOIs) from non-government organizations, community groups, Indigenous People's organizations, women's groups, private companies and other civil society organizations for projects that address the conservation of critical freshwater ecosystems in four priority geographies in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

BACKGROUND

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (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 LOIs is limited to projects that address one or more of the following priority geographies in Cambodia and Lao PDR (see Annexes 1 and 2):

- a) Mekong-3S Rivers Confluence
- b) Northern Plains Seasonally Inundated Forests
- c) Tonle Sap Lake and Inundation Zone
- d) Xe Champhon Wetlands Complex

CEPF expects to issue additional calls for LOIs covering other geographies within the Indo-Burma Hotspot in mid-2020. These calls will be announced through CEPF's website, e-newsletter and social media accounts.

Preference will be given to projects that are the closest fit to the strategic directions and investment priorities eligible for support under this call. CEPF welcomes applications from current and past grantees, as well as organizations that have not previously received CEPF funding.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the CEPF website, particularly the sections on [Eligibility](#), [Before You Apply](#) and [How to Apply](#). Potential applicants who are uncertain of the eligibility of their organization or project concept are encouraged to contact CEPF at cepf@cepf.net for clarification.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS CALL

Strategic Direction 4. Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

NOTE: Projects must focus on one or more of the priority KBAs shown in Annexes 1 and 2, and address the conservation of freshwater ecosystems and their immediate watersheds. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate tangible well-being benefits to communities living in or dependent on critical freshwater ecosystems. CEPF expects to award one or more grants under Investment Priority 4.5, to support rigorous third-party evaluation of the impacts on freshwater biodiversity, human well-being and civil society capacity of other projects awarded under this call.

CEPF invites 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.
- 4.5 Undertake third-party evaluation of project impacts in the priority geographies.

Strategic Direction 6. Engage key actors in mainstreaming biodiversity, communities and livelihoods into development planning in the priority corridors.

NOTE: Projects must focus on one or more of the priority geographies shown in Annexes 1 and 2, and address the conservation of freshwater ecosystems and their immediate watersheds.

CEPF invites proposals that address one or more of the following investment priorities:

- 6.1 Analyse development policies, plans and programs; evaluate their impact on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods; and propose and actively support the application of alternative development scenarios, nature-based solutions and mitigation measures.
- 6.3 Develop demonstration projects for ecosystem restoration, with protocols suitable for replication through government programs.
- 6.5 Pilot and scale-up models for biodiversity-friendly production, including certification and eco-labelling.

Strategic Direction 8. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.

NOTE: Projects must support organizations working on biodiversity conservation in one or more of the priority geographies shown in Annexes 1 and 2.

CEPF invites proposals that address one or more of the following investment priorities:

- 8.1 Support networking mechanisms that enable collective civil society responses to priority and emerging threats.
- 8.2 Provide core support for the sustainable organizational and technical capacity development of domestic civil society organizations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This call is open to both international civil society organizations and civil society organizations local to the Indo-Burma Hotspot. Individuals must work with civil society organizations to develop applications rather than apply directly. Please note that preference will be given to projects that demonstrate a leading role for local organizations and/or an explicit focus on capacity building for local civil society.

CEPF is committed to integrating gender into its portfolio. Applicants should design projects and write proposals that consider gender issues in the achievement of their conservation impacts. CEPF has developed several resources that can help applicants to design, implement and evaluate gender-aware projects ([CEPF Gender Toolkit](#)) and understand what CEPF seeks in a proposal ([CEPF Gender Factsheet](#)). Visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#) to learn more about how CEPF addresses gender in the projects it supports.

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 safeguard policies, which can be found [here](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants 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 letter of inquiry (LOI). LOIs can be submitted in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish. Successful applicants at the LOI stage will be invited to prepare a full proposal, providing more information, a detailed budget and supporting documentation. CEPF is not able to accept applications submitted by email or in hard copy.

Applicants must submit their LOIs by 6.00 p.m., Washington, D.C. time, on Friday, 3 January 2020. LOIs received after this time will be rejected. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of their LOI at the time of submission. LOIs will then undergo technical review by the CEPF Secretariat. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their project in person to a technical review committee, which will meet in late January 2020. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been invited to the full proposal stage by the end of February 2020.

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, successful applicants will be invited to attend a collaborative proposal development workshop in Cambodia, where they will have the opportunity to develop their proposals collaboratively, as a cohort, with guidance from CEPF Secretariat staff.

Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, and the recipient (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English. It is anticipated that grants will start on or after 1 May 2020, and be no longer than 24 months in duration.

For further information and assistance, email cepf@cepf.net.

Annex 1: Map of priority geographies (green) and priority KBAs (orange) in Cambodia and southern Lao PDR



Annex 2: Map of priority geographies (green) and priority KBAs (orange) in southern Lao PDR

