

## Call for Proposals

### Thematic study on patterns of conservation investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot

- Opening Date:** 14 February 2020
- Closing Date:** 28 February 2020, 24:00 hrs (U.S. EST)
- Submission:** Proposals should be sent to [cepf@cepf.net](mailto:cepf@cepf.net) by the closing date.
- Location:** CEPF, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Crystal City VA 22202, USA

#### INVITATION

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (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. CEPF is a global program that provides grants to civil society to safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. CEPF's purpose is to strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity.

The Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot comprises Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and parts of southern China, and broadly corresponds to the Greater Mekong Sub-region. CEPF has been active in the Indo-Burma Hotspot since 2008, over which time it has awarded 317 grants with a total value of more than US\$25 million. These investments have had significant results in terms of conserving globally threatened species, combating the illegal trade in wildlife, empowering local and indigenous communities in ecosystem conservation, mainstreaming biodiversity into development plans and policy, and strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and networks.

#### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

In each of the biodiversity hotspots where it works, CEPF's investments are guided by an "ecosystem profile," developed through an extensive consultation process. Each ecosystem profile sets out a situational analysis—based upon a review of biodiversity priorities, threats, policy environment, civil society context and patterns of conservation

investment—and presents a consensus-based investment strategy, with broad stakeholder buy-in.

The first phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot, between 2008 and 2013, was guided by an ecosystem profile prepared in 2003. The ecosystem profile was updated in 2011, and the updated document was used to guide the second phase of CEPF investment, from 2013 to 2020. In 2020, CEPF will launch a third phase of investment in Indo-Burma. To this end, it is currently in the process of revising the ecosystem profile to bring it up to date.

Much has changed in the nine years since the ecosystem profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot was last updated. While the biological priorities defined in the document have generally stood the test of time, there have been changes in the relative severity of threats to biodiversity, and their social, economic and political drivers. There have also been changes to the capacity of civil society in each country, as well as to the political space in which it operates. Moreover, there have been major shifts in patterns of conservation investment, with several traditional funders of biodiversity conservation reorienting their programs to other priorities or ending them altogether. It is essential that these trends are reflected in the updated ecosystem profile so that the next phase of CEPF investment addresses the highest priorities, takes advantage of emerging opportunities, and aligns well with investments by other funders.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Proposals should be submitted in a single document, in English, 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 be between three and five pages long but may not exceed five pages.

The technical proposal should describe in detail how the consultant intends to carry out the requirements 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.

- Experience, past performance and references. This part shall be between two and four pages long but may not exceed four pages. The consultant should name at least two referees.
- CVs of key personnel. These should be included in an annex to the technical proposal and will not count against the page limit.

The consultant can propose a team of one or more persons, who must collectively have:

- At least five years of experience in relevant technical areas, e.g., grant making, conservation project management, etc.
- Experience working in at least one of the countries of the Indo-Burma Hotspot, i.e. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Experience of writing technical documents in English.

### Financial Proposal

A detailed budget in USD. The budget shall include a budget narrative that explains the basis for the estimation of expenses. The consultant should budget for personnel time and any travel to and/or within the region that is envisioned as part of the technical approach. If required, supporting information must be provided in sufficient detail to allow for a complete analysis of the cost.

### **PROCESS AND BASIS FOR AWARD**

The thematic study on patterns of conservation investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot will be undertaken by an independent consultant, selected through a competitive procurement process. Selection of consultants will be overseen by the CEPF managing director. 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 (40 points)
- Personnel Qualification (30 points)
- Past Performance – reference of similar work previously implemented (20 points)
- Lowest Cost (10 points)

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

## **Thematic study on patterns of conservation investment in the Indo Burma Hotspot**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (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. CEPF is a global program that provides grants to civil society to safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. CEPF's purpose is to strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity. In mid-2020, CEPF will launch a third phase of investment in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, building on two previous phases, during which 317 grants were awarded to civil society organizations.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION**

The objective of the evaluation is to inform the next phase of CEPF investment in the Indo-Burma Hotspot by undertaking a thematic study of patterns of conservation investment in the hotspot. This study will form the basis of the chapter on conservation investment in the updated ecosystem profile.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The consultant will take the current (2011) ecosystem profile as a starting point, update it with more recent information, and deepen the original analysis through consultations with informed individuals from conservation and development donors, civil society, and relevant government agencies.

### **KEY TASKS**

- Review major existing and planned conservation investments in the Indo-Burma Hotspot by national government, multilateral, bilateral, civil society and private sector actors, by source, country and theme.
- Analyze key trends in conservation investment over the last decade.

- Investigate where and why existing investments are deemed to be insufficient or ineffective to achieve biodiversity conservation.
- Review sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation in the hotspot.
- Characterize the main funding sources for local civil society organizations in each country.

Collate and analyze the investment portfolios and strategies of the main conservation donors in the hotspot, and identify potential synergies and overlaps with the CEPF investment strategy.

These tasks will be undertaken through a combination of desk study, interviews with key individuals, and small group discussions. The consultant may conduct the interviews and small group discussions in person, virtually or through some combination of the two. If the methodology proposed by the consultant involves travel, the consultant will be expected to make their own travel arrangements and to organize all necessary meetings with stakeholders.

## **DELIVERABLES**

- 1) A draft chapter for inclusion in the ecosystem profile on “Assessment of Current Conservation Investments” (length: 25 pages). This chapter should follow the current [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 1.2 MB) for style and structure, and include, at minimum, the following:
  - An overview of major sources of investment in biodiversity conservation and related goals by source (donor), country and theme (this should include both quantitative and qualitative analysis).
  - A description of trends in conservation investment over the last decade by governments and major donors.
  - An analysis of current opportunities available to domestic civil society groups engaged in conservation.
  - A description of sustainable financing schemes, both existing and in preparation.
  - An analysis of gaps in conservation funding with respect to geographic priorities and thematic areas.
  - Recommendations for alignment and collaboration with other conservation and development funders with current or planned programs in the Indo-Burma Hotspot.
- 2) A final chapter, incorporating comments from the CEPF Secretariat. This chapter will be included in the ecosystem profile, of which the consultant will be listed as a co-author. Final editorial decisions on the chapter will be made by the CEPF Secretariat.

## **TIMEFRAME**

The evaluation will be conducted between 1 March and 24 April 2020. The draft chapter will be prepared no later than 13 April 2020, and submitted to the CEPF Secretariat for review. The final chapter, incorporating comments from the CEPF Secretariat, will be completed by 24 April 2020.

The consultant shall also provide the CEPF Secretariat with periodic verbal briefings, as requested.

The total amount of time for the assignment is 25 days and should include allocations for orientation with CEPF Secretariat staff, desk study, interviews with stakeholders, small group discussions, any necessary travel to and within the region, drafting of the chapter, and finalization of the chapter following incorporation of comments.

## **REPORTING**

The consultant will work under the close supervision and direction of the managing director, or such other individual that the CEPF Secretariat may designate.