

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 18 Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

For projects related to Strategic Direction 2 – Key Biodiversity Area management and protection – in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

1. **Opening Date:** Monday, 29 January 2018
2. **Submission Deadline:** Monday, 5 March 2018
3. **Application format:** Applicants must respond to the call via the ConservationGrants electronic portal [here](#). Applicants who do not have a ConservationGrants portal account will be required to register a new account. Questions regarding account creation or the application process should be emailed to conservationgrants@conservation.org.

4. General information

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. [Learn more about CEPF](#)

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot stretches over a curving arc of more than 7,000 kilometers from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. Within this region, 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 [here](#).

5. Eligible Applicants

Nongovernmental 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.

6. Eligible Activities and Sites

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below.

Activities

All activities must support Strategic Direction 2 **Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot**. Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for projects that will introduce *new management models involving direct participation of CSOs or indigenous and local communities at protected areas*.

- We expect to make 4 or 5 grants to civil society organizations in the Eastern Afromontane portions of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda that plan to introduce new management models involving direct participation of CSOs or indigenous and local communities in at least 4 protected areas.
- With ‘new management models’ we mean any model that is not the ‘conventional’ model of government-owned and government-managed protected areas. This can include co-management models, community-managed areas, areas set aside by corporate sector entities, etc. For further guidance, please contact the regional implementation team at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org.
- With “protected areas” we mean all protected area categories a [defined by IUCN](#) as well as Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs).
- Applications from women’s groups and Indigenous People’s organizations are specifically encouraged.

Priority sites

We are specifically looking for projects at the following sites (see table below). However, if you wish to propose a project at a different Eastern Afromontane KBA in any of the four eligible countries [the full list is included in the ecosystem profile], please contact the regional implementation team at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org before you submit your application.

Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
- Mt Kenya	- Gishwati-Mukura NP	- East Usambara Mountains	- Bugoma Central Forest Reserve
- Kikuyu Escarpment	- Nyungwe NP including	- West Usambara Mountains	- Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP
- Taita Hills	- Cyamudongo Forest	- Udzungwa Mountains	- Echuya Forest Reserve
- Lake Bogoria NR	- Volcanoes NP	- Uluguru Mountains	- Murchison Falls NP
- Lake Ol’ Bolossat			

7. Budget and Timeframe

CEPF anticipates making a maximum of five awards under this call for proposals. The **minimum budget per project is US\$50,000** and the **maximum budget per project is US\$100,000**. Projects are expected to start on **1 July 2018** and must be **completed by 31 October 2019 (15 months)**.

Selected applicants will be invited to attend a pre-contracting training workshop in **May 2018 (likely held in Kenya)**.

8. Letter of Inquiry, Full Proposal and Award Process

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of inquiry at this time through the ConservationGrants electronic portal [here](#). CEPF will not accept hardcopy letters of inquiries. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your application upon submission.

Applicants that submit a letter of inquiry that receives a positive review will be asked to submit a full proposal through ConservationGrants.

Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the home of the CEPF Secretariat, and the recipient (the “grantee”). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

9. 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 23 February 2018**; so please send your questions to the regional implementation team before that date.

10. Reference Documents

All potential applicants should refer to the ecosystem profile, [found here](#), and the following resources:

- [CEPF Grant Application Steps](#)
- [ConservationGrants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)
- [CEPF Safeguard Policies](#)
- [World Bank Safeguard Policies](#)

All required documentation and information is also available on the [BirdLife International website](#).

11. Contact

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