

**Call for Expressions of Interest**  
**Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**  
**Regional Implementation Team**

**Opening Date:** Wednesday, 17 November 2021

**Closing Date:** Wednesday, 15 December 2021

**Email Submission:** [cepf@cepf.net](mailto:cepf@cepf.net)

## **BACKGROUND**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank, is designed to help safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. As one of the founding partners, Conservation International administers the global program through a CEPF Secretariat.

With funding from the Green Climate Fund through AFD as the accredited entity, CEPF will institute and manage a 10-year program of support to civil society organizations to promote ecosystem-based adaptation in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. Program activities will take place in the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. [View full details](#)

CEPF seeks to recruit an organization or consortium to serve as the regional implementation team (RIT) for a period of five years, from June 2022 to May 2027. During this five-year period, it is anticipated that the RIT will support the development and oversight of a portfolio of approximately 100 grants to nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, private companies and other civil society organizations.

Grants of up to US\$50,000 in value will be contracted and overseen directly by the RIT; grants above this value will be contracted and overseen by the CEPF Secretariat, with support and guidance from the RIT. It is anticipated that 50% of the portfolio will be in Madagascar, with the remainder being split evenly among the other three countries.

The terms of reference for the RIT are made available together with this announcement. Applicants are expected to respond to all eight components.

CEPF will hold an open and competitive process to select the organization or consortium to serve as the RIT. The result will be one or more grant agreements between Conservation International, as the host of CEPF, and the lead organization(s).

## **HOW TO APPLY**

CEPF seeks expressions of interest from eligible parties. Nongovernment organizations and other civil society organizations with substantial experience in climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable development or capacity building may apply for funding.

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 establish that the enterprise or institution: (1) has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; (2) has the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and (3) may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity. Private and for-profit firms, including consulting groups, as members of civil society, are eligible to apply.

Provided an organization meets the above requirements, groups that participated in the ecosystem profiling process, as a stakeholder, participant, author or consultant, are eligible to apply. Any potential advantage gained as a result of involvement in creating or updating the CEPF ecosystem profile for the hotspot will not be considered during selection of the RIT.

The RIT can consist of a single organization or a consortium of eligible organizations. If a consortium is submitting a proposal, then one organization must be clearly identified as the lead. The lead organization will have final responsibility for submitting the consolidated proposal and, if successful, will be responsible for leading implementation, reporting to CEPF, receiving and disbursing funds, and coordinating the other members of the consortium.

Individual organizations that lead the RIT, or organizations that are members of the selected RIT consortium, will not be eligible to apply for other CEPF grants within the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot. Applications from formal affiliates of those organizations that have an independent operating board of directors will be accepted, subject to additional external review.

Interested parties should provide a basic letter, electronic copies of pre-existing materials, or references to appropriate websites demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services required per the RIT terms of reference. There will be no shortlist. Rather, all eligible organizations that submit this information by the closing date listed above will be allowed to submit a full proposal as a lead entity. Organizations that do not submit such information will not be allowed to submit as a lead but may serve as a sub-ordinate partner to an eligible lead. Organizations may submit an expression of interest and then choose not to submit a full proposal.

All materials should be submitted in **English** and/or **French**.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by the closing date via email to [cepf@cepf.net](mailto:cepf@cepf.net). Please make the email subject line "**EOI: MADIO RIT.**"

Once the Secretariat has selected the RIT, and the CEPF Donor Council has provided its non-objection, the formal award will be made. The anticipated start date of the RIT is **1 June 2022**.

## **INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS**

Serving as the RIT is challenging and the decision to bid should not be considered lightly. CEPF wants organizations to have as complete an understanding as possible of the role prior to bidding. To this end, the CEPF Secretariat will hold a conference call on **23 November 2021**, at 11 a.m. (local Madagascar time), to further explain the role of the RIT and CEPF's goals in the region. Connection information for this call will be posted on the CEPF website.

The call for proposals will be released to eligible parties on **4 January 2022**, with an expected due date for full proposals of **approximately 15 February**. (Note that the draft updated ecosystem profile for the hotspot will be made available as part of the call for proposals.)

A conference call for applicants will be scheduled on or around **12 January**. The Q&A discussed during this call will be subsequently posted on the CEPF website.