

Call for Expressions of Interest Regional Implementation Team Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot

Opening Date: Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Closing Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2019

Email submission: cepfmca@cepf.net

BACKGROUND

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), 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, 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.

CEPF will institute and manage a program of grants for civil society organizations to promote conservation of biodiversity in the Mountains of Central Asia region of northeastern Afghanistan; western China; southeastern Kazakhstan; most of the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan; southeastern Turkmenistan; and eastern Uzbekistan, per the geographic and technical strategy described in the [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 5.9 MB). The program is expected to run for five years, from approximately October 2019 through September 2024. The total value of the program will be US\$8,000,000 and is expected to result in approximately 100 grants of various monetary values.

CEPF engages a lead organization or consortium, termed the regional implementation team (RIT), to manage its portfolio, per the terms of reference posted in association with this announcement. The maximum amount allocated to achieving all the tasks of the RIT, per the terms of reference and Strategic Direction 6 of the Logical Framework in the ecosystem profile, is US\$1,200,000.

CEPF will hold an open and competitive process to select the RIT. The result will be a formal grant agreement between Conservation International and a single, lead entity, which may have subordinate partners if it so chooses. The amount of the final grant award may be less than US\$1,200,000 if the proposing organization is not able to provide all services requested.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CEPF now seeks expressions of interest from eligible parties.

Nongovernment organizations and other civil society applicants with substantial experience in 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 consultant 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 the CEPF ecosystem profile for the region will not be considered during selection of the selected proposal.

The regional implementation team can consist of a single entity or a consortium of eligible entities. 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 same hotspot.

Applications from formal affiliates of those organizations that have an independent operating board of directors will be accepted and 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 and the [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 5.9 MB). There will be no short-list. 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.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by the closing date via email to cepfmca@cepf.net. Please make the email subject line “EOI: MCA RIT.”

INFORMATION CALL AND CALENDAR

Serving in the role of 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. We encourage interested parties to contact CEPF via cepfmca@cepf.net prior to the release of the full request for proposals. In addition, the Secretariat will hold an international conference call between **11-13 March** 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.

CEPF may post a draft call for proposals (CFP) prior to release of the formal CFP to eligible parties.

The CFP should be released to eligible parties the week of 1 April, with an expected due date for full proposals of approximately 13 May. There will likely be subsequent clarifications and formal selection of the RIT by the CEPF Donor Council prior to award, leading to a planned inception of October 2019.