

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

**Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 3**

**SMALL GRANTS**

**Investment in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot**

- 1. Opening Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- 2. Submission Deadline:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- 3. Budget and Timeframe**

The minimum budget per project is US \$5,000 and the maximum budget per project is US \$20,000. Projects are expected to start from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at the earliest, and must be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

- 4. General information**

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, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The Mediterranean Basin Hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. CEPF's niche for investment in the Mediterranean was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The resulting Investment Strategy (2017-2022) is documented within the Ecosystem Profile, available [here](#). This investment strategy comprises of a series of strategic directions, broken down into investment priorities outlining the types of activities that will be eligible for CEPF funding.

CEPF and BirdLife International as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the hotspot, are inviting proposals in the form of Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for small grants from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society organizations. Applicants are advised to read this Call for Proposals document in full and submit LOIs under the scope of this call, as described in Section 6.

## 5. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, universities and private enterprises may apply for funding. Individuals must work with civil society organizations to develop applications rather than apply directly.

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 has:

- a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Grants cannot be used for:

- the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities.
- activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities.
- removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values). Proposed activities should observe all other relevant safeguard and social policies as set out on the [CEPF website](#).

## 6. Eligible Activities

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

LOIs will **only be accepted for these Strategic Directions and countries**:

- **Strategic Direction 1:** Albania, Cabo Verde, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.
- **Strategic Direction 4:** Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Cabo Verde, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco and Tunisia.

Proposed projects must support **either Strategic Direction 1 or Strategic Direction 4**. If you wish to apply for both Strategic Directions you must complete a separate LOI for each one.

### **i) Strategic Direction 1: Conservation of Coastal Areas**

Given the intense and widespread nature of the threats to many coastal Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), most actions under this strategic direction will focus on preserving specific, high-priority KBAs where key elements of biodiversity (i.e., threatened species and ecosystems) are under pressure but where there is also a realistic prospect of making a difference.

CEPF is looking for:

- LOIs which **address Strategic Direction 1 through one or more of the Investment Priorities** (see Table 1).
- LOIs which **only focus on one or more of the KBAs listed** in Table 2. Specific KBAs were identified as priorities for CEPF support and only those sites are eligible for funding.
- LOIs which clearly **demonstrate how project activities will benefit threatened species**.

**Table 1: Strategic Direction 1 and Investment Priorities**

Strategic direction	Investment priorities
1: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas.	1.1: Engage local stakeholders in conservation actions that address threats to key elements of biodiversity in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.2: Engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
	1.3: Support civil society to engage with local or national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into integrated coastal zone management, land-use and development planning processes.

**Table 2: Eligible sites (KBAs) for this call**

Country	KBA code	KBA name
Albania	ALB04	Gjiri i Sarandës - Parku Kombëtar Butrint
Albania	ALB05	Gjiri i Vlorës - Gadishulli i Karaburunit - Ishulli i Sazanit - Mali i Çikës
Albania	ALB10	Liqeni i Shkodrës – Lumi i Bunës-Velipojë - Vau i Dejës
Cabo Verde	CPV04	Boavista praias
Cabo Verde	CPV05	Costa de Fragata
Cabo Verde	CPV10	Ilha de Santa Luzia
Cabo Verde	CPV14	Ilhéu Raso
Libya	LBY06	Farwa
Libya	LBY11	Karabolli
Montenegro	MNE03	Delta Bojane
Montenegro	MNE05	Katicic, Donkova and Velja Seka
Morocco	MAR46	Parc National de Souss-Massa et Aglou
Tunisia	TUN03	Archipel de Zembra
Tunisia	TUN27	Golfe de Boughrara
Tunisia	TUN31	Îles Kuriat
Tunisia	TUN33	Jbel Nadhour et Lagune de Ghar El Melh
Tunisia	TUN60	Sebkhet Sejoumi



CEPF is looking for LOIs which **address Strategic Direction 4 through one or more of the Investment Priorities specified in Table 3 below.**

**Activities must be focused on the sites or plant species matching one or more of these criteria:**

- Sites with plant species in threat categories Critically Endangered (CR) in the [IUCN Global Red List](#)
- Sites with plant species that have not yet been assessed in the Global Red List, but that would qualify for CR according to the [IUCN global Red List criteria](#) and thresholds.
- Site restricted endemics (SRE), which include:
  - Taxa occurring in only one site (and nowhere else in the world)
  - Extent of occurrence less than 100 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Area of occupancy less than 10 km<sup>2</sup>

Projects proposals which focus on KBAs identified in the Ecosystem Profile will be prioritized due to the known biodiversity value of the site. If conservation work is to be conducted outside of a KBA, the coordinates for the site/s must be included in the LOI. Additional information about the site must be fully explained in the LOI e.g. its ownership and management, if it is a Protected Area, if there are any local communities within or nearby it, and if there are any threats faced.

If a plant species is not currently assessed under the IUCN Global Red List, applicants must clearly state in the project rational why this plant species needs special conservation attention, using IUCN criteria and thresholds. If a site restricted endemic (SRE) species is proposed, then the applicant must justify it against the criteria listed above. Justification may include references to previous work conducted for the species, detail on the habitat where it occurs and the threats faced.

An interactive map of the hotspot can be accessed [here](#), use the top right hand ‘Layer list’ icon to select the layer you need e.g. KBA.

**Table 3: Strategic Direction 4 and Investment Priorities**

Strategic direction	Investment priorities
4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges.	4.1: Increase knowledge and skills to support assessment and planning for the conservation of plants, and foster the emergence of a new generation of young professionals in plant conservation.
	4.2: Support integration of plant conservation into the management of protected areas.
	4.3: Support innovative actions for the conservation of important populations of plants, working with land owners and managers.

### **iii) General guidance**

Project proposals should be built on biodiversity conservation as a fundamental component, and should demonstrate positive impacts on the conservation status of biodiversity.

Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to submit LOIs which harmonize with existing national or regional initiatives. Synergies with other organizations are also eligible, with one lead organization submitting the application alongside sub-grantee project partners.

Applicants based outside of eligible countries may submit an LOI as long as the project deliverables are focused on the conservation need within an eligible country/countries. International organizations are encouraged to involve local organizations or communities as project partners or explain how local stakeholders will be engaged as part of project implementation.

## **7. The Application Process**

Applications (LOIs) can be submitted in **Arabic, English, French, Portuguese or Serbo-Croatian**.

Please **download the Letter of Inquiry form** in the language of your choice:

- [Arabic](#)
- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Serbo-Croatian](#)

Applicants **must** submit their Letter of Inquiry by the deadline to: [CEPF-MED-RIT@birdlife.org](mailto:CEPF-MED-RIT@birdlife.org).

You will receive an acknowledgement from the RIT confirming that your submission has been received.

The LOI review process will take approximately 8 weeks from the deadline date. The review committee will select the strongest LOIs which meet the eligibility criteria in Section 5 and 6. All applicants will receive a response from the RIT following the review of their project.

Applications which have been accepted will be moved to the second stage and asked to elaborate their LOI with a more detailed budget and logframe. Final approved LOIs will be awarded a small grant, with an agreement made between BirdLife International, as the RIT for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, and the applicant's institution (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

## 8. Reference Documents

All applicants are advised to review the CEPF Investment Strategy for the Mediterranean Basin, which provides more detail on the types of activity CEPF will fund under each Investment Priority.

- Ecosystem Profile: [English](#)
- Ecosystem Profile - Technical Summary: [English](#), [Arabic](#), [French](#)

An interactive map of the Mediterranean hotspot can be accessed [here](#), use the top right-hand 'Layer list' icon to select the layer you need.

Help and resources:

- [Eligibility and How To Apply](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Safeguard Policies](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Projects database](#)

## 9. Contact

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas and eligibility with the Programme Officer for your region:

- Balkans: Programme Officer, Borut Rubinič; [borut.rubinic@dopps.si](mailto:borut.rubinic@dopps.si)
- Cape Verde: Programme Officer, Mariana Carvalho; [mariana.carvalho@birdlife.org](mailto:mariana.carvalho@birdlife.org)
- Middle East: Programme Officer, Sharif Jbour; [sharif.jbour@birdlife.org](mailto:sharif.jbour@birdlife.org)
- North Africa: Programme Officer, Awatef Abiadh; [awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr](mailto:awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr)

For any other general queries about the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot programme, please contact the Regional Implementation Team Manager, Liz Smith, on: [liz.smith@birdlife.org](mailto:liz.smith@birdlife.org); or visit <http://www.birdlife.org/cepf-med>