

**Request for Expressions of Interest  
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
Regional Implementation Team  
Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot: Indonesia and Timor-Leste**

**Opening Date:** 20 June 2014

**Closing Date:** 17 July 2014

**Background**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund ([www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net)) is designed to help safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. It is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Conservation International serves as the Secretariat to the global program on behalf of the partners.

CEPF will institute and manage a program of grants for civil society organizations to promote conservation of biodiversity in the Wallacea region of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, per the geographic and technical strategy described in the Ecosystem Profile posted to the CEPF website. The program is expected to run for five years, from approximately October 2014 through September 2019. The total value of the program will be US \$6,000,000 and is expected to result in perhaps 60-75 grants.

CEPF engages a lead organization or consortium, termed the Regional Implementation Team (RIT), to manage its portfolios, 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 7 of the Logical Framework in the Ecosystem Profile, is US \$1,500,000.

CEPF will hold an open and competitive procurement 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 \$1,500,000 if the proposing organization is not able to provide all services requested.

Due to conflict of interest, organizations that serve as the RIT, either as a lead entity or subordinate partner, are not eligible to receive any other funding from CEPF within the hotspot portfolio.

**Expressions of Interest**

CEPF now seeks Expressions of Interest from eligible parties. Non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Organizations must have their own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions. Government-affiliated 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.

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 Ecosystem Profile.

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.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **17 July 2014** to:

[cepfwallacea@conservation.org](mailto:cepfwallacea@conservation.org)

Please make the Subject line of your e-mail, "EOI: Wallacea RIT."

### **Information Call and Calendar**

Serving in the role of RIT is challenging and the decision to bid should not be simple. CEPF wants organizations to have as complete an understanding as possible of the role prior to bidding. We encourage interested parties to contact CEPF Grant Director Dan Rothberg ([drothberg@conservation.org](mailto:drothberg@conservation.org)) prior to the release of the full request for proposals. In addition, the Secretariat will hold an international conference call between 14-16 July to further explain the role of the RIT and CEPF goals in Wallacea. Connection information for this call will be posted on the CEPF website.

CEPF may post a Draft Request for Proposals (RfP) prior to release of the formal RfP to eligible parties.

The RfP should be released to eligible parties the week of 18 July, with an expected due date for full proposals of approximately 29 August. There will likely be subsequent clarifications and formal approval of the RIT by the CEPF Donor Council prior to award, leading to a planned inception of October 2014.