



## **Second Call for Letters of Inquiry Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot**

### **Small and Large Grants Bolivia, Colombia, and Perú**

<b>Eligible Countries:</b>	Bolivia, Colombia and Perú (Please refer to Table 2 for eligible geographic areas)
<b>Opening Date:</b>	Wednesday, 06 July 2022 (9:00 a.m., Bogotá and Lima time; 10:00 a.m. La Paz and Washington, D.C. time)
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Sunday, 14 August 2022 (10:59 p.m. Bogotá and Lima time; 11:59 pm. La Paz and Washington, D.C. time)
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	Small grants between US\$5,000 and US\$50,000; Large grants greater than US\$50,000

[The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund \(CEPF\)](#) y la [Bolivian Association for Research and Conservation of Andean Amazon Ecosystem \(ACEAA\)](#), the [Natural Heritage Fund](#) de Colombia and [Profonanpe](#) from Perú, as the regional implementation team (RIT) for the Tropical Andes Hotspot, are inviting letters of inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organization, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other [civil society organizations](#) active in the eligible geographic areas of Bolivia, Colombia and Perú.

## **BACKGROUND**

CEPF is 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. The ultimate goal is to ensure that civil society is engaged in conserving biological diversity.

Between 2001 and 2021, CEPF carried out two phases of investments in the Tropical Andes Hotspot in Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Bolivia, thereby contributing to the achievement of the conservation objectives established in the Ecosystem Profile for the Tropical Andes Hotspot.

To implement its Phase III investment strategy (2022-2027), CEPF has awarded the role of RIT to a consortium comprised of ACEAA in Bolivia, the Natural Heritage Fund in Colombia, and Profonanpe in Perú. The RIT's role is to support conservation initiatives in the key biodiversity areas (KBA) of the three countries that are eligible in this call.

The Tropical Andes Hotspot is the most biodiverse in the world. It covers 158.3 million hectares and is home to more than 35,000 plant and vertebrate species, ranking first in plant, bird, mammal and amphibian diversity, and second in reptile diversity of the 36 hotspots identified to date. The hotspot provides essential ecosystem services particularly for water provisioning and carbon storage, for the planet, for South America, and for the approximate 59.7 million people

living within the hotspot

Despite its importance, the hotspot is under severe threat from various pressures, including mining, climate change, agricultural encroachment, deforestation, illegal land occupation, hunting and wildlife trafficking, and new infrastructure, among others. Many of these threats have been exacerbated by increased pressure on natural resources due to the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has dramatically affected the Tropical Andes hotspot.

In light of the urgent needs created and/or exacerbated by the crisis, CEPF's niche for Phase III in the Tropical Andes is focused on supporting civil society organizations to foster the long-term sustainability of the results obtained through CEPF's previous investments. The Phase III investment strategy is structured into strategic directions which are supported by specific investment priorities. The Phase III investment strategy (2022-2027) can be found in chapter 13 of the [Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile 2021](#) (PDF – 13.908 MB).

This is the second call for proposals under Phase III of CEPF's investment in the Tropical Andes. In this call, new KBA have been opened for small and large grants (Table 2), with the purpose of supporting initiatives in the prioritized KBA in the Ecosystem Profile, that articulate and complement where possible with previous CEPF investments in the corridors.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the CEPF website, particularly the sections on [Eligibility](#), [Before You Apply](#) and [How To Apply](#). Potential applicants who are unsure about their organization's eligibility or project concepts may contact the RIT for clarification at [cepf-rit@andestropicales.net](mailto:cepf-rit@andestropicales.net)

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

This call aims to support the consolidation, complementarity, sustainability, replication, and amplification of conservation processes in the priority corridors, KBAs, and globally threatened species presented in this document. The strategic directions and investment priorities are listed in Table 1. The prioritized KBA and corridors are presented in Table 2.

### **Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities**

This call seeks to support activities under Strategic Directions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the ecosystem profile. **Guidance presented in this section is more fully explained in CEPF's investment strategy in Chapter 13 of the ecosystem profile and the logical framework in Chapter 14.**

**Table 1. Strategic Directions and Investments Priorities Eligible Under This Call**

<b>Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities</b>	<b>Intermediate Targets</b>
<p><b>Strategic Direction 1.</b> <i>Strengthen protection and management of 52 priority KBAs to foster participatory governance, green recovery from COVID-19, climate change resilience, species conservation, and financial sustainability.</i></p> <p><b>Investment Priorities</b></p> <p>1.1. Facilitate the establishment, upgrading, and/or expansion of public and private protected areas.</p>	<p>At least 6 unprotected or partially protected KBAs, covering at least 300,000 hectares, under new or expanded protection.</p> <p>At least 15 protected areas experience, on average, an improvement of at least 10 points in their METT score.</p> <p>15 protected areas experience a 10% improvement in their participatory</p>

<p>1.2. Prepare and implement participatory management plans and other relevant KBA management instruments that support broad stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>1.3. Strengthen land tenure, management, and governance of indigenous territories and campesino communities.</p> <p>1.4. Enable local communities to enter and remain in incentive programs that benefit biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>1.5. Promote and strengthen bio-enterprises that support biodiversity conservation and provide gender-equitable benefits to local communities.</p>	<p>management, based on performance in questions 22 to 25 of the METT.</p> <p>Co-management mechanisms that enable community participation in site management and governance developed and/or strengthened for at least 5 KBAs.</p> <p>Climate change resilience integrated into 100% of KBA-level management plans and related management instruments.</p> <p>10 planes de vida prepared and/or updated as development and empowerment plans for indigenous communities.</p> <p>6 KBAs with improved indigenous and campesino land tenure.</p> <p>At least 15 KBAs support successful small and medium-level conservation enterprises with gender-equitable sustainable livelihoods for communities.</p> <p>In at least 5 KBAs, 30 communities receive cash benefits from incentive schemes for the effective management of biodiversity.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Direction 2.</b> <i>In the seven priority corridors, collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders to enable biodiversity conservation, a green recovery from COVID-19, and environmental, financial, and social sustainability, in benefit of the priority KBAs..</i></p> <p><b>Investment Priorities</b></p> <p>2.1. Support participatory land-use and development plans and governance frameworks to foster a shared vision of conservation and sustainable development to guide future investments.</p> <p>2.2. Support the preparation of policies, programs, and projects that foster biodiversity conservation, particularly at sub-national levels, and that leverage funding for their implementation.</p> <p>2.3. Support the dissemination and integration of the conservation outcomes (threatened species, KBAs and corridors) in the strategic plans and public policies of governments, donors, and the private sector.</p>	<p>At least 5 local development plans, projects, policies, and tools mainstream biodiversity, ecosystem services, and nature-based climate solutions, with a focus on tourism, mining, unsustainable agriculture, and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Climate change resilience integrated into 100% of sub-national development plans and policies supported by CEPF.</p> <p>At least five-subnational public entities in five priority corridor mainstream conservation tools and outcomes into their policies and operations.</p> <p>At least four sub-national governments in four corridors provide funding or in-kind support to CEPF-funded projects.</p> <p>Long-term sustainable financing mechanisms in place for at least two CEPF priority KBAs and/or corridors.</p> <p>At least 10 conservation-friendly enterprises support local community monetary and/or nonmonetary incentives for biodiversity in five corridors.</p> <p>At least 3 demonstration projects created and/or replicated with co-financing from the private sector, that integrate conservation,</p>

<p>2.4. Establish and strengthen traditional and innovative financial mechanisms and leverage financing initiatives for conservation, including payments for ecosystem services, carbon credits and compensation mechanisms.</p> <p>2.5. Promote and scale up bio-enterprises to benefit communities, biodiversity, connectivity and ecosystem services.</p> <p>2.6. Promote private sector actors and their associations to integrate conservation into their business practices and to implement corporate social responsibility policies and voluntary conservation Commitments.</p> <p>2.7. Integrate biodiversity conservation objectives into policies and programs related to mining and infrastructure and promote related demonstration projects.</p> <p>2.8. Strengthen local capacity, facilitate public consultation, and support partnerships to implement mitigation measures (assess, avoid, mitigate and monitor impacts) in projects that present a risk to priority KBAs, with a focus on mining and infrastructure.</p>	<p>ecosystem services, and/or irrecoverable carbon into their production practices.</p> <p>At least two businesses and/or business associations influenced to better incorporate biodiversity, ecosystem services and irrecoverable carbon in their business and production practices, strategies, and policies in two corridors.</p> <p>At least three mining or infrastructure projects in two corridors integrate and co- finance social and environmental safeguards to prevent and/or mitigate environmental hazards in their operations.</p> <p>At least three mining or infrastructure projects in two corridors implement and finance monitoring protocols before and after their adoption of improved environmental and social practices.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Direction 3.</b> <i>Safeguard priority globally threatened species.</i></p> <p><b>Investment Priorities</b></p> <p>3.1. Prepare, implement, and institutionalize conservation action plans that include climate change resilience for 183 Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) species, and for select genera, presented in Appendix 13.3.</p>	<p>Conservation attention focused on at least 50 globally Endangered and Critically Endangered species and/or their genera to improve their threat status.</p> <p>Conservation action plans developed, approved, and implemented for at least 20 priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species, with in-kind or monetary support provided by governmental and/or private sector entities to promote their sustainability after CEPF support.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Direction 4.</b> <i>Cultivate a well-trained, well- coordinated and resilient civil society sector at the local, corridor, and hotspot levels to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes.</i></p> <p><b>Investment Priorities</b></p> <p>4.1. Strengthen the institutional capacities (administrative, financial, fundraising, communications,</p>	<p>At least 80 percent of local CSOs demonstrate improved capacity and performance on their CSTT and GTT.</p> <p>100 percent of CEPF projects working with communities incorporate gender considerations and capacity building to achieve gender equitable benefits.</p>

<p>governance, and project management) of CEPF's strategic partners to implement biodiversity conservation programs.</p> <p>4.2. Strengthen the technical knowledge and skills of civil society through short-term courses to implement practical conservation actions based on an evaluation and training strategy.</p> <p>4.3. Support a security strategy and alliance to safeguard at-risk environmental and indigenous defenders.</p> <p>4.4. Strengthen the strategic communication capacity of the media and civil society networks to create conservation awareness among the public and decision makers.</p> <p>4.5. Strengthen the capacities and involvement of women in CEPF initiatives.</p> <p>4.6. Improve stakeholder cooperation and strengthen alliances, and foster information exchange and lessons learned.</p>	<p>CSO sustainable financing strategies developed and implemented by at least 10 partners, leveraging at least \$100,000 in sustainable funding.</p> <p>At least 5,000 people, with 50 percent targeting women, receive structured training.</p> <p>One capacity needs assessment undertaken and implemented to support capacity building on priority conservation topics of direct relevance to implementation of the CEPF investment strategy.</p> <p>Baseline and final evaluation of virtual technical and administrative courses demonstrate improved capacity of at least 250 Andean conservation practitioners to implement conservation projects and secure new financing.</p> <p>A security strategy to reduce threats to at-risk environmental and indigenous defenders developed and promoted to attract a broad coalition to support strategy implementation.</p> <p>Five of media outlets (newspapers, radio and television stations, magazines) increase their capacity and coverage on the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem service values, and carbon stocks.</p> <p>At least 2 communication campaigns implemented to link the KBAs and their ecosystem services with climate resilience and human welfare.</p> <p>Awareness of local conservation issues and rights and opportunities related to natural resource management raised among local communities within at least 5 priority sites.</p>
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Proposed projects must support one of the four strategic directions in Table 1. The investment priority(ies) on which the project will focus should also be identified. If the activities contribute to investment priorities of other strategic directions, indicate them too. Review the description of these items in the Ecosystem Profile 2021, which is included as Reference Material.

For projects that fall under strategic direction 2, applicants are encouraged to focus on *investment priority 2.2 mainstreaming biodiversity into public policy and private sector practices*.

Under this line, we will seek to generate the necessary enabling conditions to promote conservation and sustainable development in the seven conservation corridors that foster the priority KBAs. Particular attention will be given to the elaboration of public policies that promote green recovery, and consider conservation and the adoption of social and environmental safeguards in development policies, and specifically, in mining and infrastructure projects. Moreover, the importance of preserving KBA and corridors due to their ecosystem services will be highlighted, particularly for water supply and important sites to support nature-based solutions to climate change.

For projects that fall under strategic direction 4, and focus on *investment priority 4.2. strengthen the technical knowledge and skills of civil society through short-term courses to implement practical conservation actions based on an evaluation and training strategy*, it is suggested to focus the proposals on the following issues identified in Phase II as priorities to be addressed in Phase III:

- Attraction of resources from various sources, specifically the private sector.
- Strengthening of alliances/networks to position the KBAs and corridors at a local/national level, which is sustainable over time. Said alliances/networks must include components of self-management, communication and participation in public policies.
- Adaptation Based on Ecosystems: elaboration of studies of mitigation and resilience to the impacts of Climate Change in the KBA aligned with benefits to biodiversity.

### ***Cross-cutting themes***

The CEPF investment strategy in Chapter 13 of the ecosystem profile includes five cross-cutting themes that are essential to achieve CEPF's overall conservation objectives in the hotspot. The logical framework in Chapter 14 of the ecosystem profile presents CEPF's conservation targets for the Tropical Andes, which integrate the five cross-cutting themes. CEPF will seek proposals that clearly integrate one or more of the cross-cutting themes. CEPF recommends that applicants clearly identify which conservation targets and cross-cutting themes their projects will aim to contribute to.

The five cross-cutting themes are as follows:

#### 1) Recovery of COVID-19 impacted KBAs and their economies based on green objectives.

Conventional economic recovery strategies currently taking place in the hotspot are increasing pressures on the ecosystems of the Tropical Andes. CEPF seeks to support projects that will contribute to the design and implementation of ecosystem-based alternatives that favor the conservation of priority KBAs and the generation of income for communities that can provide economic incentives for biodiversity conservation.

#### 2) Mainstreaming of gender equality into conservation strategies and projects.

CEPF is committed to integrating gender equity into its projects. Applicants should integrate gender equity into their project design. The [Gender Tool Kit](#) provides useful guidance on how to integrate gender in your project.

#### 3) Strengthening of capacities of Indigenous peoples and local civil society.

Building the capacity of strategically positioned stakeholders is important to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes. Projects may include capacity building for the formation of civil society leaders, strengthening of local organizations and Indigenous peoples, as well as for local governments. The species aspects of CEPF's targets in capacity building are presented under Strategic Direction 4 found in Table 1. Applicants may consider including actions to strengthen their technical and institutional capacity needs as they develop their projects.

Institutional technical capacities will be assessed at the beginning and end of each grant through CEPF's [Civil Society Tracking Tool \(CSTT\)](#).

#### 4) Fostering long-term financial sustainability.

Long-term financial sustainability is a current concern for many Andean civil society organizations, as there is great uncertainty about the impact of the economic crisis on their future. CEPF aims to build civil society capacity, networks, and tools that can attract new funds and generate innovative financing mechanisms that contribute to biodiversity

conservation and sustainability of CEPF partners. This process is expected to include the creation or strengthening of alliances between the public and private sectors and academia, locally and across the hotspot.

5) Contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Building resilience to climate change is another important objective for CEPF. Applicants should identify how climate change is affecting or could affect their proposed activities and objectives and identify how they plan to foster resiliency to climate change.

The inclusion of the themes must be coherent to the proposed activities, and not seen as additional activities without connection.

In addition, CEPF encourages LOIs to demonstrate the following characteristics as relevant:

- Co-funding or the capacity to leverage additional funds.
- Coordination with other organizations to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Support from relevant stakeholder groups, including local authorities.
- Transnational or regional projects.
- Plans for the continuation and/or replication after initial CEPF funding.

Part of CEPF's focus is to help conserve threatened species and their ecosystems (See Appendix 13.3 and 13.4 of the Ecosystem Profile). It is important that the proposals mention how they expect to contribute to this objective from their activities and products.

Proposed activities must comply with CEPF's environmental and social standards. Consult CEPF's website on its safeguards policies [here](#) and on its gender policy [here](#).

## ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Table 2 presents the corridors and KBAs eligible for CEPF funding under this call in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. CEPF will accept a multi-country LOI that includes two or more priority KBAs or corridors in Table 2.

**Table 2. Priority Corridors and Sites**

CEPF Priority Corridor	CEPF Priority Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)		Country
	Large grants	Small grants	
<a href="#">Madidi-Pilón Lajas Cotapata</a>	BOL8 Bosque de Polylepis de Taquesi BOL13 Cotapata BOL45 Parque Nacional y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Cotapata BOL39 Yungas Superiores de Apolobamba	BOL8 Bosque de Polylepis de Taquesi BOL13 Cotapata BOL45 Parque Nacional y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Cotapata BOL37 Yungas Inferiores de Pilón Lajas BOL39 Yungas Superiores de Apolobamba	Bolivia

<a href="#">Paraguas-Munchique/Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia</a>	COL5 Alto Pisones COL11 Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia COL45 La Empalada COL74 Parque Nacional Natural Tatamá COL36 Enclave seco del Río Dagua COL65 Parque Nacional Natural Farallones de Cali COL75 Parque Nacional Regional Páramo del Duende COL80 Región del Alto Calima COL109 Serranía del Pinche	COL5 Alto Pisones COL11 Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia COL45 La Empalada COL74 Parque Nacional Natural Tatamá COL36 Enclave seco del Río Dagua COL65 Parque Nacional Natural Farallones de Cali COL7 Bosque de San Antonio Km 18 COL75 Parque Nacional Regional Páramo del Duende COL80 Región del Alto Calima COL106 Serranía de los Paraguas COL109 Serranía del Pinche	Colombia
<a href="#">Awá-Cotacachi-Illinizas</a>	COL91 Reserva Natural Río Ñambí COL86 Reserva Natural El Pangán	COL88 Reserva Natural La Planada COL91 Reserva Natural Río Ñambí COL86 Reserva Natural El Pangán	
<a href="#">Noreste de Perú</a>	PER84 Río Utcubamba PER65 Moyobamba	PER28 Cordillera de Colán PER84 Río Utcubamba PER65 Moyobamba	
<a href="#">Cordillera de Vilcanota</a>	PER3 6 km sur de Ocabamba PER5 Abra Málaga-Vilcanota PER50 Lagos Yanacocha PER75 Quincemil PER97 Río Araza	PER44 Kosñipata Carabaya PER3 6 km sur de Ocabamba PER5 Abra Málaga-Vilcanota PER50 Lagos Yanacocha PER75 Quincemil PER97 Río Araza	Perú

The following links are to interactive maps for the priority corridors and KBAs:

- [Madidi-Pilón Lajas Cotapata](#)
- [Paraguas-Munchique/Bosques Montanos del Sur de Antioquia](#)
- [Awá-Cotacachi-Illinizas](#)
- [Noreste de Perú](#)
- [Cordillera de Vilcanota](#)

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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

To qualify for a CEPF grant, the applicant must not be a government agency or institution. Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can establish that they:

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

Applicants based outside of the eligible countries may submit a LOI as long as the project

deliverables are focused on the conservation needs of this call.

Joint projects with other organizations are eligible, with one lead organization submitting the application and project partners with clear roles stated in the application.

## BUDGET AND TIMEFRAME

This call covers funding for small and large grants:

- Small grants are between US\$5,000 and US\$50,000. The RIT expects small- grant projects under this call to be contracted and start implementation in **November 2022** and close **no later than November 2023**.
- Large grants are defined as greater than US\$50,000. Please note that the average grant in the CEPF Phase II investment period was US\$100,000. CEPF decides on the final amount to be awarded based on the scope of the conservation results expected to be achieved. CEPF expects large grants under this call to be contracted and start implementation in **November 2022** and close **no later than November 2023**.

## HOW TO APPLY

All LOIs for large and small grants must be submitted through a letter of intent (LOI) following the established procedures and templates. Proposals can be sent in English or Spanish. Remember that the time and deadline for submitting your CDI is **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, 2022 (Washington, DC time)**. Don't wait until the last minute to submit your CDI.

LOIs sent after the deadline will not be considered.

### Large Grants

LOIs must be prepared and submitted via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. CEPF will not accept LOIs via email or any other mechanism.

If you have not previously used ConservationGrants, you will need to [register for a new account](#). If you encounter any technical difficulties with ConservationGrants, please email [conservationgrants@conservation.org](mailto:conservationgrants@conservation.org).

### Small Grants

Applicants for small grants must prepare their LOIs in a Word template as provided and submit it through the online form, as described in Table 3. If you encounter technical problems, please email [cepf-rit@andestropicales.net](mailto:cepf-rit@andestropicales.net).

**Table 3 Step-by-step Instructions for Applying for Large and Small Grants**

<b>Large Grants (&gt;US\$ 50,000)</b>	<b>Small Grants (US\$5,000 – ≤ US\$50,000)</b>
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links to additional information.</li> <li>2. LOIs for large grants must be prepared and submitted through the <a href="#">ConservationGrants</a> electronic portal open for this call.</li> <li>3. Applicants must register in advance in <a href="#">ConservationGrants</a>. We strongly recommend initiating your proposal well before the deadline to familiarize yourself with the system.</li> <li>4. Submit your LOI and supporting documentation by the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, 14 August 2022 (Washington, D.C. time).</li> <li>5. You will receive an acknowledgement confirming that your submission through <a href="#">ConservationGrants</a> has been accepted. CEPF will not accept LOIs submitted by post, email or any other mechanism.</li> <li>6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to <a href="mailto:cepf@cepf.net">cepf@cepf.net</a>. For technical issues in registering for the ConservationGrants portal, please contact <a href="mailto:conservationgrants@conservation.org">conservationgrants@conservation.org</a>.</li> <li>7. The CEPF Secretariat will inform you of the result of the evaluation of your LOI by email.</li> <li>8. If your application is successful, the CEPF Secretariat will invite you to prepare a full project proposal. Detailed instructions for preparing the project proposal will be provided in the invitation letter.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links to additional information.</li> <li>2. LOIs for small grants must be prepared in a Word template that can be downloaded in <a href="#">English</a> or <a href="#">Spanish</a>.</li> <li>3. Once you have completed your LOI in the Word template, you should submit it through this <a href="#">online form</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you cannot enter data in the form, you must log in with a Google/Gmail account.</li> <li>• If you do not have a Google/Gmail account, you can register <a href="#">here</a> to create one.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Submit your LOI and supporting documentation, through the online form, before the submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, 14 August 2022 (Washington, D.C. time).</li> <li>5. Once we receive your LOI, the RIT will send a confirmation email. Note that no printed LOIs or LOIs sent via email will be accepted.</li> <li>6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to <a href="mailto:cepf-rit@andestropicales.net">cepf-rit@andestropicales.net</a></li> <li>7. The result of the evaluation of your LOI will be communicated by email by the RIT.</li> <li>8. If your application is successful, the RIT will request that you provide additional information (e.g., a financial risk assessment form, a security screening form, a World Bank debarred entity screening form, environmental and social instruments) before signing a contract for a small grant.</li> </ol>
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### **Informational Webinar for Prospective CEPF Applicants in the Tropical Andes**

CEPF and the RIT will host an informational webinar for prospective applicants on Friday, July 15, 2022 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm (Bogotá, Lima time), 3:00 to 4:30pm (La Paz, Washington D.C. time).

To participate in the webinar, please register with [this link](#). The event will be held in the Zoom platform.

## **SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS**

**Large-grant applicants** whose LOIs receive a positive review will be invited to submit a full proposal, again through ConservationGrants. Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, and the applicant organization (the “grantee”). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars.

**Small-grant applicants** whose LOIs receive a positive review will be advised of the application finalization process by the RIT. Small-grant LOIs that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between the individual RIT partner for your country (ACEAA in Bolivia, the Natural Heritage Fund in Colombia, and Profonanpe in Perú), and the applicant organization (the “grantee”). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Both small and large grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible LOIs will be reviewed by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, a national advisory committee and other external technical reviewers when necessary. The LOI’s evaluation will be conducted according to the following technical and strategic criteria:

- 1. Strategic importance:** Will the results of the project contribute to the achievement of the priorities presented in the ecosystem profile, more specifically, to the strategic directions, investment priorities, and targets in the logic framework of this call for proposals? Do the activities proposed in the LOI contribute to the conservation of prioritized species in the ecosystem profile in Appendices 13.3 and 13.4?
- 2. Project approach and methodology:** Are the project objectives, approach, strategies and results coherently organized and aligned to achieve the project’s stated targets?
- 3. Applicant capacity:** Does the applicant have the background and/or experience to implement this project effectively and efficiently? Does the project show promise to complement and/or to generate synergies with ongoing or recently completed projects?
- 4. Potential to strengthen Tropical Andes civil society capacity:** Will the project help strengthen Andean civil society organizations, Does the project contribute to strengthening civil society organizations in the Tropical Andes, particularly local organizations and Indigenous groups located in the priority KBAs?
- 5. Sustainability:** Will project results be sustained in the short term beyond CEPF funding? Does the project have co-financing or it is expected to be obtained? Are alliances proposed that help the sustainability of the project?

- 6. Budget:** Is the funding request consistent and reasonable given the project's scale, objectives and activities? Is the funding request within CEPF's overall budget allocation for the strategic direction?

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

All applicants are advised to review the ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot, which provides more detail on the types of activities CEPF will fund under each investment priority.

### Ecosystem Profile

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

### Ecosystem Profile Summary

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

### Gender

CEPF is committed to integrating gender into its portfolio. Applicants should design projects and write proposals that consider gender issues in the achievement of their conservation impacts.

CEPF has developed several resources that can help applicants design, implement and evaluate gender-aware projects ([CEPF Gender Toolkit](#), PDF – 351 KB) and understand what CEPF seeks in a proposal ([CEPF Gender Fact Sheet](#), PDF – 318 KB). Visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#) to learn more about how CEPF addresses gender in the projects it supports.

### Additional Resources

- [Before You Apply](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [Database of closed CEPF Projects](#)
- [Life Cycle of a Grant](#)
- [ConservationGrants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [RIT Web Page](#)

## CONTACTS

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas, eligibility and alignment with the specific priorities for this call for proposals. Please contact the CEPF Tropical Andes Regional Implementation Team [cepf-rit@andestropicales.net](mailto:cepf-rit@andestropicales.net)

- Cynthia Garland, RIT Regional Coordinator and Country Coordinator Perú
- Martha Liliana Silva, Country Coordinator Colombia
- Jorge Mariaca, Country Coordinator Bolivia