



FIRST CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY CEPF INVESTMENT IN THE EASTERN AFROMONTANE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

The opening and deadline dates for this call for letters of inquiry:

Opening Date: Friday 7th September 2012

Deadline Date: **Friday 19th October 2012**

Call for Letters of Inquiry

BirdLife International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, in their role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, invite civil society organizations to submit Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for projects within the Hotspot per the Scope of this Call, as described below.

CEPF is a joint initiative of *l'Agence Française de Développement*, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. CEPF is designed to safeguard biodiversity hotspots – the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on earth.

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot stretches over a curving arc of more than 7,000 kilometers from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. Within this area, key biodiversity areas (KBAs) cover an

area of more than 50 million hectares, of which only 38 percent have full legal protection and variable amounts of government funding.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The results of this process and the five-year (2012-2017) strategy that CEPF has identified for supporting biodiversity conservation in the region are outlined in the Ecosystem Profile, available at:

www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/Pages/default.aspx

Interested parties are strongly advised to read the Ecosystem Profile, with particular attention given to the chapters on CEPF Investment Strategy and Programmatic Focus.

For this call for proposals, the expected average size of grant will be \$100,000 for a 1 or 2 year project.

Scope of Call

This is the first of several calls for proposals over the investment period of 2012-2017, and as such, is purposefully limited in scope. This call invites applicants to submit Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) that will contribute to CEPF **Strategic Direction 2**, as described in the Ecosystem Profile. *We will not accept proposals for other Strategic Directions at this stage.*

Proposals should address the broad Strategic Direction 2, namely, improving the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot, and address one (or more) of the following three identified Investment Priorities:

- 2.1 Increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for terrestrial priority KBAs.
- 2.2 Support the role of civil society organizations in the application of site safeguard policies and procedures including the strengthening of environmental impact assessment implementation in order to address ongoing and emerging threats to priority KBAs, including freshwater KBAs.
- 2.3 Advance the identification and prioritization of KBAs in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Projects in the following sites and countries are eligible for this call:

- For Investment Priorities 2.1 and 2.2: all priority KBAs in the Hotspot (see Ecosystem Profile, Table 12.1). We will accept proposals to work in the priority KBAs named Table 12.1, i.e. in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- For Investment Priority 2.3: Portions of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot in Yemen, Ethiopia and southeastern DRC; sites of the Chimanimani-Nyanga Mountains corridors and adjacent Montane Islands of Mozambique, and sites of the Northern Lake Niassa Mountain complex.
- At the current time, we cannot accept proposals seeking to conduct work in South Sudan.

Eligibility

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites and countries identified in the Ecosystem Profile. 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:

- 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

Grants cannot be used for:

- i. the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people including displacement of land uses or impeding access to traditional uses of natural resources, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities;
- ii. activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities; or
- iii. the removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values).

Application

Applicants must submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) in English or in French using the form referenced at

www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx

www.cepf.net/Documents/OM_4_4_1_LOI_english_rev3.pdf

www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/grants/cepf_loi_french.pdf.

LOIs must be submitted electronically to cepfgrants@conservation.org by 19 October 2012. CEPF will not accept hard copy LOIs. **You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.**

Applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the EAM RIT at cepf-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org. Those wishing to seek guidance from the EAM RIT should do so well in advance of the deadline.

All potential applicants should refer to the Ecosystem Profile, the LOI form, and the following references available on the CEPF website:

- Eligibility criteria for applicants: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx
- CEPF projects database: www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx
- How to apply: www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
- Proposed activities must observe all other World Bank safeguard policies found at <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>.

Decisions are based on reviews by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT and other external technical reviewers where necessary. If your LOI is successful, the CEPF Secretariat will invite you to prepare a full project proposal. The invitation to submit a full project proposal is usually sent within two months after the submission of LOIs. The guidelines for preparing a full project proposal will be provided if your LOI has been accepted. The timeframe for processing a large grant application from initial submission of the LOI to the award of the grant is usually 6-8 months.

Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to: cepf-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

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