

Call for Letters of Inquiry Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (MADIO) Biodiversity Hotspot

Large Grants

Eligible Country: Madagascar

Opening Date: 02 August 2024

Closing Date: 20 September 2024, 11.59 pm (Eastern Time, GMT-4)

Grant Size: Large Grant (>US\$50,000)

The [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#) (CEPF) and its regional implementation team (RIT) for the hotspot the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, are accepting letters of inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organisations, community groups, Indigenous peoples' organisations, women's groups, private companies and other [civil society organizations](#) for projects that promote ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in response to climate change and address the eligible activities and geographies of this call.

For more information about CEPF investment in the hotspot, consult:

- Ecosystem Profile: [English - French](#)
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean: [English - French](#)

1. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organisations, community groups and associations, universities and research institutes, private enterprises and other civil society organisations may apply for this call.

Individuals are not eligible.

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are not eligible unless it can be established that they:

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

Applicants based outside the eligible geographic areas are eligible as long as the project deliverables are focused on the conservation needs of this call within the eligible geographies.

Preference will be given to projects that show that they will coordinate with other organisations to prevent duplication of efforts, for instance through partnerships and alliances. As such, joint projects with multiple organisations are eligible, as long as one lead organisation submits the application and all project partners have clear roles defined in the application.

Applying organisations must have their own bank account and they must be legally entitled to receive grants.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the CEPF website, particularly the sections on [Eligibility](#), [Before You Apply](#) and [How to Apply](#). Potential applicants who are uncertain of the eligibility of their organisation or project concept are encouraged to contact the RIT at cefp proposals@iucn.nl for clarification.

Eligible Technical Scopes and Geographic Areas

Applicants should ensure that the core content of their LOI refers to Strategic Direction 1 and one or both of its Investment Priorities as listed below. Failing to align with this strategic direction will result in the application being considered ineligible.

Strategic Direction 1: Empower communities and civil society to implement actions to improve the resilience of species, ecosystems, and human populations to climate change in priority KBAs

This strategic direction will focus on providing the necessary funding, technical support, and capacity building for CSOs to implement EbA actions to improve the resilience of the most vulnerable species, ecosystems, and people to climate change. Expected outcomes include increased resilience and improved livelihoods for vulnerable populations, but also improved resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

Investment Priority 1.1: Implement EbA actions, including agroforestry, “climate smart agriculture”, eradication of IAS, restoration of degraded watersheds and coastal ecosystems (including wetlands, mangroves, reefs and seagrass beds), and promotion of sustainable management of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems

Eligible projects will be those proposing to design and implement EbA, Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and conservation actions that respond to climate impacts at priority KBAs. Activities will analyze the adverse impacts of climate change on human livelihoods and propose solutions that can support, conserve, or restore species and natural areas in ways that help regulate or diminish the negative impacts. Identified solutions will then need to be planned based on an understanding of their costs and strategies to cover those costs, both during the projects and beyond, to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the new EbA actions.

Investment Priority 1.2: Support the establishment and development of economic models that improve the resilience of local communities to climate change and support value chains for natural products, while strengthening ecosystem services that contribute to EbA

Eligible projects will be those proposing to support the development of economic models that improve community resilience to climate change, including nature-based tourism and sustainable production of natural products. This could be done, in particular, through strengthening the factors of production, improving access to national and international markets and/or capacity building in business management and entrepreneurship.

For this call, within the guidelines of Strategic Direction 1 and its associated Investment Priorities, CEPF and the RIT are looking for specific, large scale, types of project for specific KBAs. Eligible projects will be those aligning with one or more of the below thematics in one or more of the related geographies.

Eligible types of project	Eligible KBA
<p>Projects that strengthen coastal ecosystem management, in particular mangroves (e.g. strengthening management structures, local rules, surveillance and patrols).</p> <p>Projects that support Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities’ tenure and resource use rights.</p> <p>Restoration projects with actions to eradicate/reduce invasive alien species.</p>	<p>MDG-011 Tsinjoriake-Andatabo</p> <p>MDG-028 Belalanda</p> <p>MDG-090 Lake Ihotry Delta Complex</p>
<p>Projects that strengthen coastal ecosystem management, in particular mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds (e.g. strengthening management structures, local rules, surveillance and patrols).</p> <p>Projects that support Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities’ tenure and resource use rights.</p> <p>Reef and seagrass restoration projects.</p>	<p>MDG-046 Toliary Great Reef</p> <p>MDG-034 Three bays Complex</p>

<p>Projects that strengthen the management of intact forest ecosystems in catchment areas by implementing management plans for protected areas in collaboration with local communities (e.g. strengthening management structures, local rules, surveillance and patrols, fire management...).</p> <p>Restoration projects with actions to eradicate/reduce invasive alien species.</p> <p>Projects that support Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights.</p>	<p>MDG-057 Makay MDG-073 Analavelona MDG-089 Mahafaly Plateau Forest Complex MDG-092 Mangoky-Ankazoabo Complex MDG-096 Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor MDG-095 Ambositra-Vondrozo Corridor MDG-099 Forest Corridor Fandriana - Marolambo National Park MDG-107 Vohibola Classified Forest MDG-111 Sahafina Forest (Anivorano-Brickaville) MDG-153 Ranomafana National Park MDG-155 Zombitse-Vohibasia National Park and extension MDG-179 Mangerivola Special Reserve MDG-187 Pic d'Ivohibe Special Reserve MDG-199 Mangoro-Rianila Rivers MDG-200 Namorona-Faraony River</p>
<p>Projects that strengthen the sustainable management of watershed forest ecosystems, with contributions from local communities: (e.g. strengthening management structures, local rules, surveillance and patrols, ...).</p> <p>Restoration projects with actions to eradicate/reduce invasive alien species.</p> <p>Projects that support Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights.</p>	<p>MDG-090 Lake Ihotry Delta Complex</p> <p>MDG-217 Faraony Headwaters</p> <p>MDG-230 Nosivolo River and Tributaries Ramsar Site</p>

Priority will be given to projects considering the following aspect:

- **Bigger scale contemplating high number of hectares (as per targets below).**
- Partnership with private companies.
- Clear plans for continuing the project after the proposed project end date.
- Complementarity to existing projects and coordination or partnership with other organisations to prevent duplication of efforts.
- Run by local institutions (sustainability) or involving or supporting them.

- Strong impact on local communities, thereby enhancing their resilience and capacity to protect biodiversity.
- Endorsement from relevant government authorities or Protected Area Manager.

For this call, the targets that projects are expected to partially or fully contribute to are:

- 610,000 hectares of intact coastal* ecosystems with enhanced management
- 2,000 hectares of degraded coastal* ecosystems restored.
- 300,000 hectares of intact watershed forest ecosystems with enhanced management.
- 1,000 hectares of small island (including Madagascar as a whole) ecosystems where invasive alien species have been eliminated or reduced.
- 152,500 women and 152,500 men with non-monetary benefits other than formal training, as a result of strengthened ecosystem service delivery.

*In the case of the CEPF project for this investment, “coastal” refers to both habitats along the coast, above the low tideline (mangroves, beaches, lagoons, etc.) and inshore marine areas along the coast and below the low tideline (seagrass beds, coral reefs , etc.).

LOIs should explicitly present the expected contributions of the projects towards these targets, with intermediate contributions by 31 December 2026 and final contributions by the project end.

To help you locate the 23 KBAs open for this call, an interactive map showing all the priority KBAs identified by CEPF in the hotspot is available [here](#).

Eligible Budget and Timeframe

The minimum amount for large grants is US\$50,000. Applications with a budget below US\$50,000 will not be eligible for review. These applicants are recommended to check the call for small grants.

Large grant projects can start as of 1 April 2025 and run up until 31 December 2029 (56 months). However, every project will need to be designed in such a way that intermediate results towards the CEPF targets will be achieved by 31 December 2026.

In case the project is part of a larger programme that runs beyond CEPF timelines and/or eligibility criteria, please ensure there is a clear distinction between the CEPF part (including activities and results) and the rest of the programme.

Submission Date

Letters of inquiry (LOIs) are due no later than 20 September 2024, 11.59 pm (Eastern Time, GMT-4). Applications submitted after the deadline will not be eligible.

Language Criteria

Large grant applications can be either in **French** or **English**. Other languages will not be considered for review.

General Eligibility Criteria

Priority will be given to projects that:

- i. Demonstrate that the proposed EbA activity addresses vulnerability based on a clear climate change risk.
- ii. Adopt EbA approaches that increase the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services in the priority KBAs.
- iii. Reflect on the climate change mitigation potential of the project.
- iv. Address priorities identified in national climate change policy or strategy documents of the relevant country of implementation.
- v. Demonstrate positive gender impacts.
- vi. Demonstrate effective and efficient use of funds.
- vii. Demonstrate a clear strategy for achieving financial sustainability.
- viii. Are the closest fit to the investment strategy set out in the ecosystem profile.

The active CEPF projects and their locations are listed below. In case activities are planned in a KBA already covered by a project, it is important to harmonise with the project leaders to avoid overlap and doubling in the indicators (location of activities and number of hectares, communities and number of people supported...).

Account Name	Project Title	Type	Start Date	End Date	KBA Code
The Aspinall Foundation	Developing Climate Change Resilience in Rural Community Protected Area Management	Large Grant	09/01/2023	8/31/2026	MDG96
Association Ny Tanintsika	Building Community-led Climate Resilience in Ambositra-Vondrozo Corridor, Madagascar.	Large Grant	10/01/2023	6/30/2026	MDG95
Association Ny Tanintsika	Appui aux trois communautés de base dans la commune rurale Ankarinoro face au changement	Small Grant	07/01/2023	6/30/2025	MDG99

	climatique.				
Association PARTAGE	Développement d'un système de paiement pour services écosystémiques destiné à restaurer les terres dégradées et à diminuer les pressions sur les forêts naturelles du Corridor Forestier Fandriana Marolambo	Small Grant	07/01/2023	6/30/2025	MDG99
Association pour le Développement de l'Energie Solaire Suisse-Madagascar	Hazo Aina- les arbres la vie - ou les communautés qui restaurent les écosystèmes forestiers des bassins versants dans le sud-ouest de Madagascar	Large Grant	07/01/2023	10/31/2026	MDG11, MDG28, MDG67
Conservation Centree sur la Communauté C3 Madagascar	Building resilience for climate change impacts in Three Bays KBA	Large Grant	01/01/2024	12/31/2026	MDG34
Money for Madagascar	Habilitation (« Empowerment ») des organisations communautaires de base (COBA/VOI) dans leur rôle de gestionnaires des ressources naturelles de 3 ZCB	Small Grant	07/01/2023	12/31/2024	MDG67, MDG90
Madagascar Action Development	Appui à l'amélioration de la résilience des écosystèmes marins, côtier et les populations riveraines du site « Complexe des Trois Baies » (MDG-033) face au changement climatique	Small Grant	07/01/2023	7/30/2025	MDG34
Tahosoa Alandriake Mitambatse Ianantsono Andatabo	"Revitaliser la Conservation Communautaire autour de l'Aire Protégée de Tsinjoriake" – Phase I	Small Grant	09/01/2023	6/30/2024	MDG11
Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines	Initiative à la restauration communautaire des herbiers marins du Grand Récif de Toliara	Small Grant	04/01/2024	12/31/2026	MDG46
MIANTSOROKA	Projet de conservation et de restauration de mangroves d'Ambondrolava gérées par le VOI Mamelon Honko : mise en place de pépinières et de reboisement de 20ha Commune Rurale de : Belalanda	Small Grant	04/01/2024	3/31/2026	MDG28
MIHARI Network	Projet d'amélioration de la résilience des communautés côtières face au changement climatiques qui affecte la bande littoral Ouest de Madagascar (PAR4C-Ouest Madagascar)	Large Grant	07/01/2024	12/31/2026	MDG46, MDG67, MDG90

Check [here](#) what CEPF does **not** fund.

Before awarding any grant, CEPF will screen all projects against [CEPF's safeguard policies](#) in order to prevent any potential negative impacts of the project on humans and the environment.

CEPF will also evaluate the projects based on gender equality. CEPF has developed several resources that can help applicants to design, implement and evaluate gender-responsive

projects ([CEPF Gender Toolkit](#)) and understand what CEPF expects in a proposal ([CEPF Gender Fact Sheet](#)). Visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#) to learn more about how CEPF addresses gender equality in the projects it supports.

2. HOW TO APPLY

Large grants applicants must respond to the call via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal in either French or English. An automated acknowledgement email will be sent by ConservationGrants confirming that the submission has been received.

CEPF will not accept LOIs via email or any other mechanism.

Existing ConservationGrants users must use their credential information to login. If you have not previously used ConservationGrants, you will need to [register for a new account](#) by clicking on the “*New User?*” or “*First time user? Click here*” on the main page. If you encounter any technical difficulties with ConservationGrants, please email conservationgrants@conservation.org.

Questions can be sent to the RIT at cepfproposals@iucn.nl, by specifying in the subject line the proposed country of implementation (or “multi-country” when relevant).

3. SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

An information session will be held on Wednesday 14 August at the Hôtel le Pavé Antaninarenina from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm (Madagascar time, UTC+3) to inform all potential candidates and allow them to ask questions. This session can be attended online as well. The session will be recorded.

- Register here to join the French Online Information [Session](#)

On this [webpage](#), a Q&A section will be regularly updated by the RIT up till the deadline of the Call for LOI, providing detailed answers to the questions submitted by the applicants.

Before submitting an LOI, applicants are encouraged to read the “[12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)” for helpful advice.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be eligible.

The selection process of the LOIs will take approximately eight weeks from the submission deadline. All applicants will receive a notification following the review of their LOI.

Large grant applicants whose LOIs receive a positive review will be invited to attend a masterclass in the first week of December 2024 and then submit a full proposal by the end of January 2024 approximately, again through ConservationGrants. More information on the masterclass will be provided to each applicant having received a favourable review of their LOI.

Final approved LOIs will be awarded a large grant, with an agreement made between Conservation International, as the host of CEPF Secretariat, and the applicant's organisation (the "grantee").

Grants will be in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English or French.

4. REFERENCE MATERIALS

All applicants are advised to review the ecosystem profile for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, which provides more details on the types of activity CEPF will fund under each investment priority.

- Ecosystem Profile: [English - French](#)
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean: [English - French](#)

Additional resources:

- [Eligibility criteria](#)
- [Before You Apply](#)
- [How to Apply](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)
- [Life Cycle of a Grant](#)
- [Conservation Grants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard](#) [English - French](#)