

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

Large Grants

Eligible Country: Seychelles

Opening Date: 8 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@iucn.nl for clarification.

Eligible Technical Scopes

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, the following types of project will be considered eligible:

- Projects which are implemented across multiple islands, multiple KBA sites, with a common theme of restoring ecosystem integrity and function by targeting the removal of specific invasive alien species that pose a threat to each of the areas.
- Projects which involve communities in designing a program whereby invasive alien species (such as the invasive creepers, sisal) could be used to make nature-based products as business models to improve the livelihoods of these people. These projects could be combined as part of the invasive alien species projects outlined above.
- Projects which undertake a ridge to reef approach whereby restoration of riverine systems can be undertaken, and address both the forest management and intact coastal area indicators (see below).

Other considerations that will strengthen an application include:

- Promoting the sustainable management of intact freshwater, wetlands, and marine and coastal ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds).
- Strengthening management of intact watershed forest ecosystems through the implementation of protected area management plans in collaboration with local communities.
- Restoring degraded coastal ecosystems (wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds), their integrity and functioning, by promoting control and eradication of invasive alien species posing a threat to each of the areas.

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.
- 300,000 hectares of intact watershed forest ecosystems with enhanced management.
- 2,000 hectares of degraded coastal* ecosystems restored.
- 1,000 hectares of degraded watershed forest ecosystems restored.
- 1,000 hectares of small island ecosystems where invasive alien species have been eliminated or reduced.

**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 CEPF targets, with intermediate contributions by 31 December 2026 and final contributions by the project end.

Eligible Geographic Areas

Out of the 20 priority KBAs identified for Seychelles, **only 18 KBAs listed below are eligible for this call**. This is because projects covering the remaining 3 KBAs are already underway.

KBA Code	KBA Name
SYC03	Astove
SYC05	Cosmoledo
SYC06	Farquhar - South Island and islets
SYC09	Fond Ferdinand
SYC15	Bird Island (Ile aux Vaches)
SYC19	D'Arros Island and Saint Joseph Atoll
SYC20	Denis Island
SYC32	Saint-François and Bijoutier Islands
SYC36	Burnt Mountain-Piton de l'Eboulis
SYC38	Planneau Mountain (Grand Bois-Varigault-Cascade)
SYC41	Praslin National Park
SYC42	Silhouette National Park
SYC43	Morne Seychellois National Park
SYC46	Curieuse Island Marine National Park*
SYC48	Sainte-Anne Marine National Park**
SYC50	Aldabra Special Reserve***
SYC51	Aride Island Special Reserve
SYC52	Cousin Island Special Reserve

**KBA SYC46 excludes the terrestrial part of Curieuse Island (SYC18) which is not eligible for this call.*

***For KBA SYC48, only Île Cachée, Cerf Island and Harrison Rock (Grand Rocher) are eligible for this call.*

**** KBA SYC50 excludes the terrestrial part of Aldabra Special Reserve (SYC50) which is not eligible for this call.*

To help you locate the 17 KBAs open for this call, an interactive map showing all the 20 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. Applicants for grants below US\$50,000 are advised 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 grants 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.

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 online information session will be held on Tuesday, 20th August from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Seychelles time, GMT+4) to inform all potential candidates and give them the opportunity to ask questions. The session will be recorded.

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

On this [webpage](#), a Q&A section will be regularly updated up till the deadline of the Call for LOI by the RIT, 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 detail on the types of activities CEPF will fund under each investment priority.

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

Additional resources:

- [Eligibility](#)
- [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](#)