

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

Eligible Country: Comoros

Opening Date: 08 August 2024

Closing Date: 13 September 2024, 12 pm (Comoros time, GMT+3)

Grant Size: Maximum grant size US\$50,000

The regional implementation team (RIT) of the [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#) (CEPF) in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands hotspot, is accepting letters of inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organizations, community groups, Indigenous peoples' organizations, 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, such as projects that will be implemented through partnerships and alliances. As such, joint projects with multiple organisations are eligible, as long as one lead organisation submits the application and project partners have clear roles stated in the application.

Applying organisations must have their own bank accounts and 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 cepfproposals@iucn.nl for clarification.

Eligible Technical Scopes

Applicants should ensure that the core content of their LOI refers to the eligible strategic direction as listed below and one or two of the associated investment priorities. If the activity is not aligned with this strategic direction and the associated investment priority, the application will be rejected.

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.

Source: Further information on strategic directions and KBAs is available in Chapter 14 of the [ecosystem profile](#).

Only the following types of projects will be considered eligible as part of this call:

- Projects that strengthen coastal ecosystem management (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds) with contribution from the Private Sector (trusteeship system).
- Projects that strengthen the management of intact forest ecosystems in catchment areas by implementing management plans for protected areas in collaboration with local communities and the contribution of the private sector (guardianship system).
- Projects that promote resilient agroforestry and climate-smart agriculture.
- Restoration projects with actions that eradicate/reduce invasive species.
- Projects that provide support to Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights.

The targets of CEPF investment for these Investment Priorities can be found in chapter 15. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MADIO HOTSPOT of the Ecosystem Profile, and are for this call for LOI:

- 16,500 women and 16,500 men with increased income as a result of ecosystem-based livelihood activities (sustainable fishing, nature-based tourism, harvesting natural products, etc.).
- 152,500 women and 152,500 men with non-monetary benefits other than formal training, as a result of strengthened ecosystem service delivery.
- 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 climate-resilient agroforestry systems implemented.
- 1,000 hectares of small island ecosystems where invasive alien species have been eliminated or reduced.
- 22,000 men benefiting from climate-resilient livelihood activities.
- 22,000 women benefiting from climate-resilient livelihood activities.

*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.).

Eligible Geographic Areas

This Call is open to all 10 priority KBAs identified by the CEPF for Comoros.

KBA Code	KBA Name
COM-01	Moya forest
COM-04	La Grille mountains
COM-05	Karthala mountains
COM-07	Mount Ntringui (Ndzuanu highlands)
COM-08	Mohéli Marine Park
COM-12	Bimbini area and La Selle islet
COM-14	Domoni area

COM-16	Moya area
COM-19	Pomoni area
COM-20	Coelacanth area

An interactive map showing the priority KBAs identified by CEPF is available [here](#). Further information on strategic directions and KBAs can be found in Chapter 14 of the [ecosystem profile](#).

Eligible Budget and Timeframe

The maximum amount for small grants is US\$50,000. Applications with a budget higher than this amount will not be eligible for review, but applicants can check the call for large grants.

Small grant projects can start as of 1 **January 2025** and can not have a time span exceeding 31 December 2026 (24 Months).

In case the project is part of a larger programme which runs beyond CEPF timelines, the maximum amount and/or eligibility criterias, the applicant must provide a clear distinction of activities and results in the LoI in order to establish eligibility of the application.

Submission Date

Letters of inquiry (LOIs) are due no later than 13 September 2024, 12:00 pm (Comoros Time, GMT+3). Applications submitted after the deadline will not be eligible.

Language Criteria

Small 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.

Other considerations that will strengthen an application include:

- o Projects carried out by local institutions (sustainability) or that involve or support them. Particularly in the case of projects carried out in protected areas preferably carried out in collaboration with the management entity.
- o Clear plans for continuing activities after the proposed project end date ensuring sustainability through trained CSOs, local communities (particularly “notables”) or project partners.
- o Complementarity to existing projects and coordination or partnership with other organizations to prevent duplication of efforts.
- o Strong impact on local communities, thereby enhancing their resilience and capacity to protect biodiversity.
- o Endorsement from relevant government authorities through the corresponding National Designated Authorities.

We encourage proposals to focus only on a few activities (1-2) in order to maximise the contribution of proposals to the indicators listed in the Eligible Technical Scope section with the constraint of the maximum duration of the proposals being 24 months.

Included is the list of active CEPF projects in the eligible KBAs for this call, for harmonisation and strategic purposes and to avoid overlap in the indicators. NB identical hectares, communities and people supported for examples can not be counted twice to meet our targets.

Account Name	Project Title	Type	Start Date	End Date	KBA Code
Dahari	A climate-resilient community-based reef conservation model for the Comoros	Large Grant	01/07/2023	31/12/2025	COM 16-Moya area; COM 19-Pomoni area
Initiative pour une alternative citoyenne	Building the resilience of farmers in the Hapimba forest area to the effects of climate change.	Small Grant	01/07/2023	31/12/2024	COM 7-Mount Ntringui (Ndzواني highlands)
Association "les Amis de Nyoumbadjou-Djou moichongo	Préservation de l'Ecosystème de Karthala par la Promotion des Pratiques Agricoles et forestières résilientes au Changement Climatique dans la réserve forestières de Nyoumbadjou	Small Grant	01/07/2023	28/02/2025	COM 5-Karthala mountains

Grants may not be used for:

- o Use of child labor or forced labor.
- o Construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams.
- o Payment of salaries or salary supplements to government personnel.
- o Purchase of firearms or other weapons.
- o Activities that promote the trade in or use of any substances listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or other chemicals or hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phaseouts due to high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential depletion of the ozone layer.
- o Purchase and use of pesticides that fall in the World Health Organization classes IA and IB, or in class II (English / French) if they are likely to be used by, or be accessible to, lay personnel, farmers or others without training, equipment and facilities to handle, store and apply these products properly.
- o Physical resettlement of people (voluntary or involuntary).
- o Purchase of land.

- o Activities that have the potential to cause adverse impacts to critical habitat.
- o Activities that introduce or use potentially invasive, non-indigenous species.
- o Removal or alteration of any tangible cultural heritage.

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

Applications for small grants can be submitted in English or French. Please download the letter of inquiry and budget templates or fill in the online form directly (Preferred).

Any changes to the letter of inquiry and budget templates will render the application ineligible. **Applications must be submitted by filling in the online form directly (Preferred) or as a Word document (for the letter of intent) and as an Excel sheet for the budget (in case of poor Internet connection).**

•**English:** [Letter of Inquiry template](#) and [Budget template](#). / [Online form](#)

•**French:** [Letter of Inquiry template](#) and [Budget template](#). / [Online form](#)

Small grant applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent and budget by e-mail **no later than September 13, 2024 at 11:59 pm (Madagascar time)** via the **online form** or at cepfproposals@iucn.nl, indicating the following e-mail subject: LOI_2/2024/SG_CEPF_“COM”/“your organization”.

For example: **LOI_2/2024/SG_CEPF_COM/IUCN NL**

3. SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be eligible. Before submitting your LOI, we encourage you to read the tips for submitting a successful letter of inquiry for helpful advice. The selection process for the LOI will take approximately six weeks from the submission deadline. All applicants will be informed of the decision in due time.

CSOs whose applications have been preselected will be required by the CEPF to provide a more detailed LOI proposal. Final approved LOIs will be awarded a small grant, with an agreement made between IUCN NL, as the RIT, and the applicant's organization (the "grantee").

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

An online information session will be held on Monday, 19 August from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Comoros time, GMT+3) to inform all potential candidates and give them the opportunity to ask questions. The session will be recorded.

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

Face-to-face sessions are scheduled for 9 August in Anjouan, 14 August in Mohéli and 17 August in Moroni.

For more details on the organisation of the information sessions, please refer to the RIT focal point in Comoros Initiative Développement | ID.

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.

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](#)