

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

Small Grants

Eligible Country: Madagascar

Opening Date: 02 August 2024

Closing Date: 13 septembre 2024, 23h59 (heure de Madagascar)

Grant Size: Maximum 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. 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 and Geographic Areas

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 Invasive Alien Species (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 RIT is looking for specific 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 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 : agroforestry, fish farming, beekeeping, sericulture, valuing species as handicrafts.</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> |

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| <p>Projects that strengthen the sustainable management of freshwater and wetlands, 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: agroforestry, fish farming, beekeeping, sericulture, valuing species as handicrafts.</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> |
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To help you locate the 17 KBAs open for this call, an interactive map showing all the priority KBAs identified by CEPF in the hotspot is available [here](#).

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

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. For this call, the following targets are specifically considered:

- 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.
- 22,000 men benefiting from climate-resilient livelihood activities.
- 22,000 women benefiting from climate-resilient livelihood activities.
- 300,000 hectares of intact watershed forest ecosystems with enhanced management.
- 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.

Priority will be given to projects considering the following aspect:

- 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.

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 (Eastern Time, GMT-4). 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.

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. This is due to 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 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 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 climatique. | Small Grant | 07/01/2023 | 6/30/2025 | MDG99 |
| 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 |

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 intent and budget templates or fill in the online form directly (Preferred).

Any changes to the letter of intent 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_“MADA”/“your organization”.

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

Letters of intent submitted after the deadline or in another language will not be eligible.

3. SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

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

The selection process for the LOIs 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 RIT 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 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) to inform all potential candidates and allow them to ask questions. This session can be attended online. 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 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 details 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](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)
- [Life Cycle of a Grant](#)
- The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard [English - French](#)