

**Call for Letters of Inquiry for the
Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (MADIO) Biodiversity Hotspot
Special Call for projects in Rodrigues Island (Republic of Mauritius)
Small Grants (Under USD 50 000)**

Eligible Country: Rodrigues Island (of the Republic of Mauritius)

Priority Key Biodiversity Areas: MUS 06 - Rodrigues' Islets and MUS 16 - South Slopes of Grande Montagne (Rodrigues) (see map below)

Opening Date: 08 August 2024

Closing Date: 13 September 2024, 12 pm (Mauritian time, GMT+4)

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 organizations, community groups and associations, universities and research institutes, private enterprises and other civil society organizations may apply for funding.

Individuals are not eligible.

A government-owned enterprise or institution is eligible only if it can establish that it:

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

Applicants must be based in Rodrigues Island or have ongoing activities in the eligible KBAs.

Preference will be given to projects promoting collaborative work, partnerships and alliances which can significantly reduce **duplication of efforts**. As such, joint projects with multiple organizations are eligible, as long as one lead organization submits the application and project partners have clear roles stated in the application.

Applying organizations must have **their own bank accounts** and 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 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 the management of intact watershed forest ecosystems through the implementation of protected area management plans in collaboration with local communities.
- Projects that enhance the resilience and adaptation of ecosystems.
- Projects that promote the control and eradication of invasive alien species.
- Projects that strengthen the capacity of local communities in participatory ecological monitoring of KBA target species and their habitats.

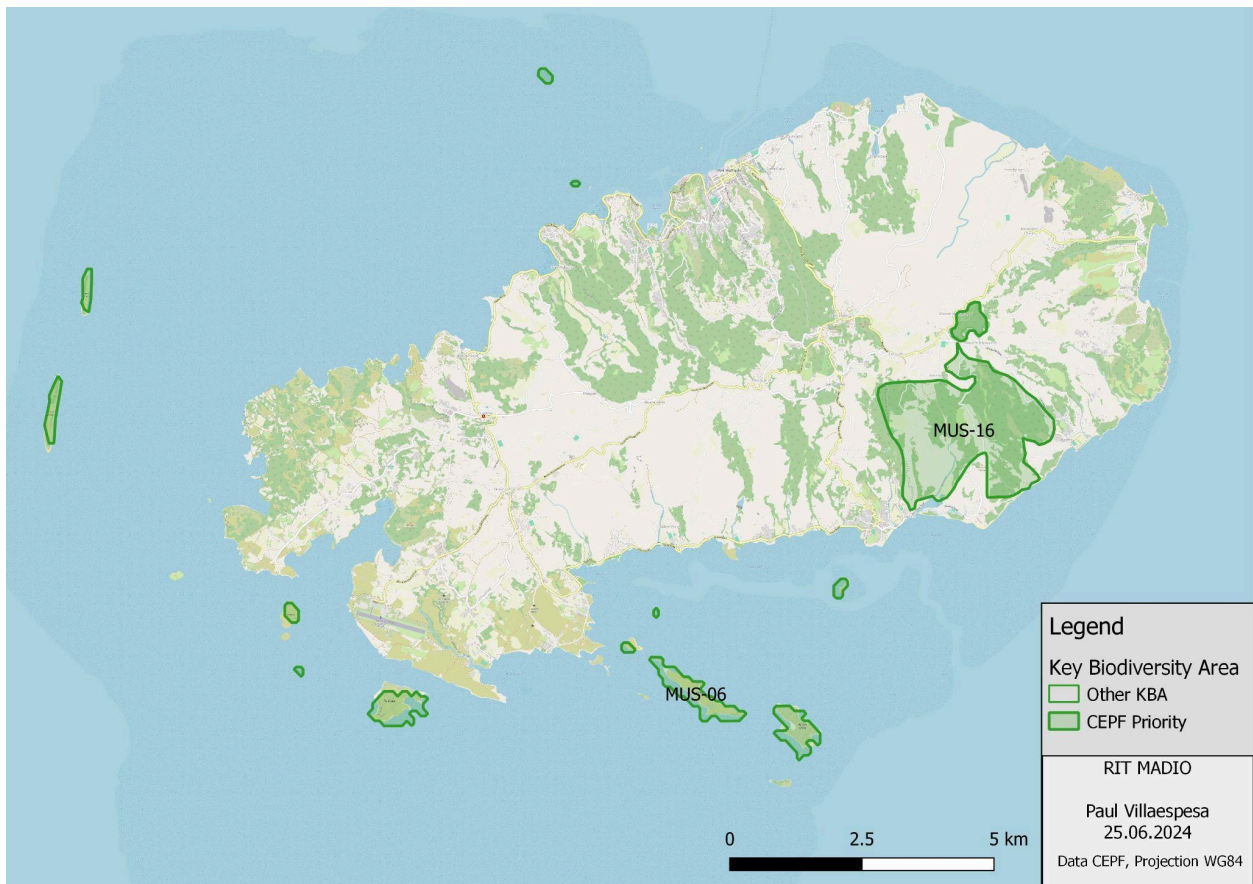
The targets of CEPF investment for these Investment Priorities can be found in chapter 15. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MADIO HOTSPOT of the Ecosystem Profile, and are:

- 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.
- 300,000 hectares of intact watershed forest ecosystems with enhanced management.
- 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.

Eligible Geographic Areas

This Call is open to the 02 priority KBAs identified by the CEPF for Rodrigues in Mauritius.

KBA Code	KBA Name
MUS-06	Rodrigues' Islets
MUS-16	South Slopes of Grande Montagne



To help you locate the 02 KBAs open for this call, an interactive map showing all the priority KBAs identified by CEPF in the hotspot is available [here](#). Further information on strategic directions and KBAs can be found in Chapter 14 of the [ecosystem profile](#).

Projects are eligible exclusively if the proposed activities impact the terrestrial part of the KBAs.

Activities in KBAs sometimes require authorization from the owner/manager of the area (e.g., KKBA MUS-06 Rodrigues' Islets). In case an authorisation is needed with regards to your project, please ensure that you are duly authorized, or have taken the necessary steps to obtain the official authorisation before submitting the LOI.

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 2023, 12:00 pm (Mauritius time zone 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.

Preferred key LOI components

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.
- ix. Collaborative projects and consortia of partners.

Other considerations that will strengthen an application include:

- o Clear plans for continuing the project after the proposed project end date.
- o Support for Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights.
- 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.

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 LOI and budget by email **no later than 13 September 2024, 12 pm (Mauritius Time)** to cepfproposals@iucn.nl, with the following object of the email: LOI_2/2024/SG_CEPF_“MUS”/“your organization”.

For example: **LOI_2/2023/SG_CEPF_MUS/IUCN NL**

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 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 Thursday, 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Mauritian 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 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 AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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](#)