

Call for Expressions of Interest Regional Implementation Team Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

Opening Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025

Closing Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Email submission: cepf@cepf.net

BACKGROUND

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wildorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan and the World Bank, is designed to help safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. As one of the founding partners, Conservation International administers the global program through a CEPF Secretariat.

CEPF will institute and manage a 5-year program of support to civil society organizations to promote biodiversity conservation in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot. Program activities will take place in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Togo, following the investment strategy described in the [ecosystem profile](#). The total value of the program will be up to USD10,000,000 and is expected to result in approximately 100 grants of various sizes.

CEPF seeks to recruit an organization or consortium to serve as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for a period of five years, from November 2025 to October 2030. During this five-year period, it is anticipated that the RIT will support the development and oversight of a portfolio of approximately 100 grants to nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, private companies and other civil society organizations. Grants of up to USD50,000 in value will be contracted and overseen directly by the RIT; grants above this value will be contracted and overseen by the CEPF Secretariat, with support and guidance from the RIT.

The Terms of Reference for the RIT are made available together with this announcement. CEPF will hold an open and competitive process to select the RIT. The result will be the

award of a grant to a single, lead entity, which may have subordinate partners in a consortium, if it so chooses.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CEPF seeks expressions of interest from eligible parties. Nongovernment organizations and other civil society organizations with substantial experience in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development or capacity building may apply for funding. Organizations must have their own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions. Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can establish that the enterprise or institution: (1) has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; (2) has the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and (3) may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity. Private and for-profit firms, including consulting groups, as members of civil society, are eligible to apply. Provided an organization meets the above requirements, groups that participated in the ecosystem profiling process, as a stakeholder, participant, author or consultant, are eligible to apply. Any potential advantage gained as a result of involvement in creating or updating the CEPF ecosystem profile for the hotspot will not be considered during selection of the RIT.

The RIT can consist of a single organization or a consortium of eligible organizations, with both models equally encouraged. If a consortium is submitting a proposal, then one organization must be clearly identified as the lead. The lead organization will have final responsibility for submitting the consolidated proposal, and if successful, will be responsible for leading implementation, reporting to CEPF, receiving and disbursing funds, and coordinating the other members of the consortium.

Individual organizations that lead the RIT, or organizations that are members of the selected RIT consortium, will not be eligible to apply for other CEPF grants within the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot. Applications from formal affiliates of those organizations that have an independent operating board of directors will be accepted, subject to additional external review.

Interested parties should provide a basic letter, electronic copies of pre-existing materials, or references to appropriate websites demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services required per the RIT terms of reference. There will be no shortlist. Rather, all eligible organizations that submit this information by the closing date listed above will be allowed to submit a full proposal as a lead entity. Organizations that do not submit such information will not be allowed to submit as a lead but may serve as a subordinate partner to an eligible lead. Organizations may submit an expression of interest and then choose not to submit a full proposal.

All materials should be submitted in **English** and/or **French**.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by the closing date via email to cepf@cepf.net
Please make the email subject line **"EOI: GFWA RIT"**

INFORMATION CALL AND CALENDAR

Serving as the RIT is challenging and the decision to bid should not be considered lightly. CEPF wants organizations to have as complete an understanding as possible of the role prior to bidding. We encourage interested parties to reach out to the CEPF Grant Director, Dervla Dowd (ddowd@cepf.net) should you have any questions. In addition, the CEPF Secretariat will hold a conference call on **30 April 2025** to further explain the role of the RIT and CEPF's goals in the region. Connection information for this call will be posted on the CEPF website.

The Call for Proposals will be released to eligible parties on **28 May 2025**, with an expected due date for full proposals of **approximately 28 July 2025**. There will be subsequent clarifications and formal selection of the RIT by the CEPF Donor Council prior to award, leading to a **planned start of 1 November 2025**.