

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

**Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 17  
Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Request for Proposals**

**For projects related to Strategic Direction 1 – *Mainstreaming* - and Strategic Direction 3 – *Sustainable Financing* – in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda**

**1. Opening Date:** Monday, 24 July 2017

**2. Submission**

**Deadline:** Monday, 4 September 2017

**Application format:** Applicants must respond to the call via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. Applicants who do not have a ConservationGrants portal account will be required to register a new account.

The link to create an account in ConservationGrants is:

[ConservationGrants](#)

Questions regarding account creation or the application process should be emailed to [conservationgrants@conservation.org](mailto:conservationgrants@conservation.org).

**3. General information**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International (CI), the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. More information on CEPF can be found on the [website](#) and the Eastern Afromontane regional implementation team [website](#).

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot stretches over a curving arc of more than 7,000 kilometers from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. Within this area, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) cover an area of more than 50 million hectares, of which only 38 percent has full legal protection and variable amounts of government funding.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the

region. The results of this process and the five-year (2012–2017) strategy that CEPF has identified for supporting biodiversity conservation in the region are outlined in the [ecosystem profile](#).

#### 4. Eligible Applicants

Non-government organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities, and other civil society organizations may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites and countries identified in the ecosystem profile. 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 demonstrate that the enterprise or institution:

- i. has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- ii. has the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- iii. may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

#### 5. Eligible Activities

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below. All activities must support Strategic Direction 1 ***mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development***, or Strategic Direction 3 ***initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of KBAs***. Please see further guidance below:

- Strategic Direction 1:  
Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for:
  - Projects that will result in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in government policies, programs or plans in specific sectors (see table under section 6). These can be plans at national, county/district, or local level. Mainstreaming at a local level is only eligible at the sites indicated in Table 6 below.
  - Projects that will result in biodiversity-friendly management practices being incorporated into the business practices of private sector agencies in specific corporate sectors, and at specific sites (see table under section 6).
- Strategic Direction 3:  
Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for
  - Innovative models for private sector conservation finance, including PES, REDD, offsets, public/private partnerships, direct incentives, and similar activities, at specific sites (see table under section 6).

#### 6. Eligible Sectors and Sites

The geographic and sectoral focus of this request for proposals is shown below. Competitive letters of inquiry will address both a sector and one or more KBAs. Projects with a focus on a national level of mainstreaming or improving practice across an entire sector may, reasonably, not address any single

KBA. However, geographically narrow and technically narrow projects must address one the KBAs listed here.

Note that work does not need to take place within a KBA in order to have an impact upon a KBA.

Strategic Direction	Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
<b>SD1, government mainstreaming - sectors of interest</b>	-Agriculture/land  -Water	-Tourism  -Population, Health and Environment  -Water (including sedimentation)	-Extractive industries (oil and gas, mining)  -Infrastructure (including pipelines)  -Energy (charcoal)	-Extractive industries (oil and gas, mining)  -Tourism
<b>SD1, corporate mainstreaming - sectors of interest</b>	-Tourism  -Agriculture  -Water	-Agriculture (including coffee/tea)  -Extractive industries and mining	-Forestry  -Agriculture	-Extractive industries (oil and gas, mining)
<b>SD1, government and corporate mainstreaming – priority sites</b>	-Taita Hills  -Mount Kenya	-Gishwati  -Nyungwe National Park including  -Cyamudongo Forest  -Volcanoes National Park  -Rusizi River	-East Usambara Mountains  -West Usambara Mountains  -Udzungwa Mountains  -Uluguru Mountains	-Murchison Falls National Park  -Lake Albert
<b>SD3, sustainable financing – priority sites</b>	-Mount Kenya  -Kikuyu Escarpment  -Taita Hills  -Chyulu Hills	-Gishwati  -Nyungwe National Park  -Volcanoes National Park	-East Usambara Mountains  -Uluguru Mountains	-Bugoma Central Forest Reserve

## 7. Budget and Timeframe

CEPF anticipates making a maximum of eight awards under this call for proposals. The **minimum budget per project is US\$50,000** and the **maximum budget per project is US\$100,000**. Projects are expected to start on **1 January 2018** and must be **completed by 31 December 2019**.

Selected applicants will be invited to attend a pre-contracting training workshop in **November 2017 in Kenya**.

## 8. Letter of Inquiry, Full Proposal and Award Process

Applicants are required to submit a letter of inquiry through the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. CEPF will **not** accept letters of inquiry via electronic mail or any other mechanism. You will receive an email acknowledgement confirming that your submission through ConservationGrants has been accepted.

Applicants whose letters of inquiry receive a positive review will then be invited to submit a full proposal, again through the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal.

Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, and the recipient (the “grantee”). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

## 9. Advisory Service

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the Eastern Afromontane regional implementation team at [CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org](mailto:CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org).

Based on experience from previous calls for proposals, discussing your proposal idea with us before submitting it will significantly increase the chances of success. The advisory service **will terminate on 21 August 2017**; so, please send your questions before that date.

## 10. Reference Documents

All potential applicants should refer to the ecosystem profile and the following references:

- [How to apply](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Eligibility criteria for applicants](#)
- [CEPF projects database](#)
- [CEPF safeguard policies](#)
- [World Bank safeguard policies](#)

All required documentation and information is also available on the regional implementation team [website](#).

## 11. Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to [CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org](mailto:CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org).