

Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Call for Proposals for Regional Implementation Team (Phase II, 2017–2022)

Questions and Answers

Question: Is the deadline of 7 April also for project grants?

Answer: No, the current open call is only for the regional implementation team role. Other calls will be launched later, during the implementation of CEPF's Phase II in the Mediterranean Basin.

Question: Would the organization playing the role of RIT be able to submit proposals for projects later on?

Answer: No. As part of the procedure to mitigate conflicts of interest, the RIT cannot apply for any other CEPF support.

Question: Is it possible to submit a proposal to cover only one of the strategic directions, or can an organization only bid for one of those (for instance coastal zone or river basins)?

Answer: No, the RIT's role is to coordinate the portfolio of CEPF projects, covering all the strategic directions presented in the ecosystem profile.

Question: Is there a maximum number of partners for creating a consortium?

Answer: No, there is not a maximum number of organizations for a consortium.

Question: How many projects will be supported by CEPF in the coming phase?

Answer: At this stage, we estimate about 115 projects. Details are provided in the text of the call for proposals.

Question: We have our own procedures and methodology for awarding grants. Could we use this system as RIT for managing the CEPF program?

Answer: Yes, for the small grant program in particular. For the large grant program, elements of the selection process of the RIT could be applied, but the procedures for award, payment, etc. will need to be CEPF's standard procedures (see call for proposals).

Question: BirdLife and their partners are doing a good job as RIT for the first phase. During the selection is this going to be taken into account? Is the selection process transparent? We do not have the same experience as BirdLife, which gives them a competitive advantage.

Answer: The selection process will be competitive; the strongest application will be the one chosen. In the recent past, in four hotspots, the group which was playing the role of RIT in the first phase was not selected for the second phase.

Question: How do we create a partnership or consortium? Would CEPF advise on type of partners or organizations?

Answer: CEPF will not support applicants to identify partners or build a consortium. The list of organizations who have applied is included in the call for proposals. The lead organization can reach out to other groups that did not initially express interest.

Question: Where can we find templates for the RIT application?

Answer: The templates are included in the call for proposals and annexed documents are posted on the CEPF website.

For most documents there are no templates (e.g., CV, etc.). There is a budget template, which should be used.

Question: Due to technical reasons in our IT system, we couldn't attend the conference call. Can our organization still submit a proposal?

Answer: The call has been recorded and is available on our website. Your organization can still submit a proposal.

Question: What is the maximum budget of a grant?

Answer: The grant for the role of RIT, as explained in the call for proposals, will be for a maximum of \$US1,650,000. Regarding the other grants (for projects), CEPF has two sets of grants:

1) Small grants below US\$20,000.

2) Large grants over US\$20,000, for which the maximum amount can vary and is announced during each call for proposals. The average CEPF large grant is between US\$ 120,000 and US\$175,000.

Question: In your notification letter and instructions for submitting a project proposal it is requested that 10.02 Financial Questionnaire Form and 10.3 Anti-Terrorism Screening Form must be completed. Could you please send these forms to us?

Answer: The two documents you mention, ATS and FRA, will be requested from the selected grantee only. Those documents are not part of the selection process, and we do not require that they be completed at this stage.

Question: In your instructions for submitting the project proposal, it states that CEPF allows for a maximum management support cost of 13 percent. Could you please elaborate on whether these costs are only for management fees of staff involved in the process or if these costs also include indirect costs (e.g., communication, office rent and stationary)?

Answer: You're correct, the MSC can include costs such as communication, office rent, etc. Your organization can send its IDC policy as an annex. These costs should be audited regularly.

Question: If we have in-house expertise, can these employees be involved as experts (besides those involved as coordinators)?

Answer: This is not a problem; you can include other experts from your organization, either full or part time.