



**Request for Expressions of Interest  
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
Regional Implementation Team  
Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Opening Date:** 9 February 2017

**Closing Date:** 23 February 2017

**Background**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund ([www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net)) is designed to help safeguard the world's biodiversity hotspots. It is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. Conservation International serves as the Secretariat to the global program on behalf of the partners.

CEPF will manage a program of grants for civil society organizations to promote conservation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, per the strategy presented below and described in the draft ecosystem profile posted on the CEPF website in association with this announcement. The program is expected to run for five years, from approximately July 2017 through June 2022. The total value of the program is expected to be US \$10,000,000 and is expected to result in perhaps 100 grants.

CEPF is seeking to engage a lead organization or consortium of organizations, termed the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) to manage its portfolio in the Mediterranean Basin based on the terms of reference posted in association with this announcement. Subject to the CEPF Donor Council approval, the maximum amount allocated to achieve the tasks of the RIT, per the terms of reference and Strategic Direction 6 in the draft ecosystem profile, is US \$1,650,000.

CEPF will hold an open and competitive procurement process to select the RIT. The result will be a formal grant agreement between Conservation International and a single lead entity, which may have sub-agreements with partners if it so chooses. The amount of the final grant award may be less than US \$1,650,000 if the proposing organization is not able to provide all services requested.

Due to conflict of interest, organizations that serve as the RIT, either as a lead entity or subordinate partner, are not eligible to receive any other funding from CEPF within the Mediterranean Basin hotspot portfolio.

**Expressions of Interest**

CEPF now seeks Expressions of Interest from eligible parties, which include non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, and other civil society applicants. Organizations must have their own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions. Government-affiliated 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.

Interested parties should provide a basic letter, electronic copies of pre-existing materials, and/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 and draft ecosystem profile. There will be no short-list. 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 sub-ordinate partner to an eligible lead. Organizations willing to be part of a consortium but that have not yet identified partners are welcome to submit their Expression of Interest. Organizations may submit an Expression of Interest and then choose not to submit a full proposal.

Note: Organizations may submit their expression of interest and supporting documentation in either French or English. While French will be one of the principal languages of work for the RIT, CEPF requests the RIT to have the capacity to communicate in English with the Secretariat.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **23 February 2017** to: [cepfgrants@conservation.org](mailto:cepfgrants@conservation.org)  
Please add in the subject line of your e-mail the name of your organization as follow: "EOI Mediterranean Basin RIT – Name of Your Organization."

### **Information Call and Calendar**

Serving in the role of RIT is challenging and the decision to bid should not be simple. CEPF wants organizations to have as complete an understanding as possible of the role prior to bidding. Should you have any questions, please contact CEPF Grant Director, Pierre Carret ([pcarret@cepf.net](mailto:pcarret@cepf.net)). In addition, the Secretariat will hold an international conference call on 27 or 28 February 2017 to further explain the role of the RIT and CEPF's goals in the Mediterranean Basin. Connection information for this call will be posted on the CEPF website.

The Request for Proposals should be released to eligible parties in early March 2017, with an expected due date for full proposals of approximately 30 March 2017. There will likely be subsequent clarifications and formal approval of the RIT by the CEPF Donor Council prior to award, leading to a formal contract by June 2017, with the RIT starting in July 2017.

### **CEPF Strategic Directions for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot (subject to approval)**

- 1: Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas
- 2: Support the sustainable management of water catchments through integrated approaches for the conservation of threatened freshwater biodiversity
- 3: Promote the maintenance of traditional land use practices necessary for the conservation of Mediterranean biodiversity in priority corridors of high cultural and biodiversity value
- 4: Strengthen the engagement of civil society to support the conservation of plants that are critically endangered or have highly restricted ranges
- 5: Strengthen the regional conservation community through the sharing of best practices and knowledge among grantees across the hotspot
- 6: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team