



Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Call for Letters of Inquiry for Large Grants

This call is open to biodiversity conservation projects for the following countries of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot:
Madagascar, Comoros

Deadline Date:

Friday 29 September 2017

I. General Information

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is inviting proposals in the form of letters of inquiry (LOIs) for **large grants** from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private, enterprises, universities and other civil society organizations.

This call concerns large grants over US\$20,000. The current average amount in the hotspot is US\$147,000. Given budgetary constraints, CEPF encourages applicants to submit projects with similar budgets or less.

The niche and investment strategy of CEPF for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot were defined in a participatory manner during the development of the ecosystem profile, which brought together representatives of civil society, governments, donors and experts from all countries in the region from July 2013 to March 2014. The CEPF Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile in July 2014, for a five-year investment period, with an initial budget of US\$8.3 million. The strategy is broken down into strategic directions, which themselves combine several investment priorities eligible for CEPF funding.

CEPF has recruited a regional implementation team (RIT), which works closely with the CEPF secretariat, to achieve the objectives set out in the strategy. Since March 2015, the Tany Meva Foundation has assumed the role of RIT for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot. The RIT supports civil society organizations in identifying and preparing project proposals, supporting them throughout the implementation of the project and facilitating replication and scaling up of experiences.

Letters of intent will be accepted only for the following eligible countries: Madagascar and the Comoros.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, 29 September 2017, midnight Washington, D.C., USA. Please read the information below for more details on CEPF investments and how to apply for a grant.

It is essential that applicants carefully read the ecosystem profile for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, in particular the information concerning the CEPF niche and the investment strategies under the investment strategy of CEPF (Chapter 12).

The profile is available on the CEPF website:

[English version](#)

[Version française](#)

A technical summary of the ecosystem profile is also available, and the synthesis of the niche and the CEPF investment strategy, detailing strategic directions and investment priorities, are also available for download on the "grants" page of the CEPF website:

[English page](#)

[Page web française](#)

It is essential that applicants consult these documents to ensure that their project proposal meets the objectives of the CEPF.

Applicants must respond to the call via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. Applicants that do not have a ConservationGrants portal account will be required to register a new account. Questions regarding account creation or the application process should be emailed to conservationgrants@conservation.org.

II. Criteria of the Letter of Intent

Please note that this call relates only to the strategic directions and investment priorities given in Table 1 below.

CEPF is entering its third year of implementation and is looking for proposals for projects complementing the current portfolio. In addition, please note the restrictions in this call, which are presented in sections II.1 to II.3 below. Proposals which do not meet the specific objectives of the call will be rejected.

CEPF encourages applicants to develop joint proposals with organizations from different sectors to respond to the need for a multi-sectoral approach where relevant. In particular, fishermen or farmers' organizations; the tourism industry associations; the private sector; development organizations; environmental associations; and experts in biodiversity are encouraged to come together to build partnerships.

Table 1: Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities eligible for this call

STRATEGIC DIRECTION	INVESTMENT PRIORITIES
1 - Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority Key Biodiversity Areas.	1.1 Support local communities to design and implement locally relevant conservation and sustainable management actions that respond to major threats at priority sites. 1.2 Support the development of economic models to improve both livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. 1.3 Build the technical, administrative and financial capacity of local organizations and their partners. <p style="text-align: center;">ATTENTION ONLY FOR PROJECTS IN ELIGIBLE SITES - SEE TABLE 2. -</p>
2 - Enable civil society to mainstream biodiversity and conservation into policy making and business practices	2.1 Support local research institutions to improve basic knowledge of biodiversity of priority ecosystems. <p style="text-align: center;">ATTENTION ONLY FOR FAUNA AND FLORA INVENTORIES IN COMOROS - SEE SECTION II.2.1 -</p> 2.2 Support civil society to disseminate biodiversity information and influence political and economic decision-makers in favor of biodiversity and conservation priorities. <p style="text-align: center;">ATTENTION ONLY FOR PROJECTS FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS - SEE SECTION II.2.2 -</p>

II.1 Guidance for Project Proposals for Strategic Direction 1

When selecting projects, CEPF will pay particular attention to the experience and understanding of local conditions in proposed sites of the applying organizations. Sustainability of the proposed actions will also be studied carefully.

Projects for the establishment of community-based natural resource management systems and those for the development of sustainable economic models that consider the conservation of biodiversity will be prioritized.

Projects to set up or prepare for the establishment of protected areas in priority sites currently without status will be prioritized.

Proposals for projects in areas other than those listed in Table 2.1 below will be rejected.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the ecosystem profile, especially the investment strategy chapter, for more information on CEPF objectives under this strategic direction.

Table 2.1: List of Priority Key Biodiversity Areas Eligible for This Call Under Strategic Direction 1 (Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity).

MADAGASCAR: Kirindy-Mangoky Landscape	
MDG-92	NAP Mangoky-Ankazoabo Complex
MADAGASCAR: Menabe Landscape	
MDG-2	Ambalibe Menabe
MDG-97	Menabe Central Corridor NPA
MADAGASCAR: Cluster of Coastal Wetlands and Forests of the East	
MDG-137	Pangalane North
MDG-209	Wetland of Ambila- Lemaintso
MADAGASCAR: Northwest Landscape	
MDG-85	NAP Bombetoka Bay -Marovoay
MDG-132	NAP Wetland of Port-Bergé
MDG-143	Baly Bay National Park
MDG-211	Wetlands of Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny
MDG-4	Ambato-Boeny
COMOROS: All Key Biodiversity Areas on the Comoros, as presented in the ecosystem profile, with the exception of the Marine Park of Moheli	

II.2 Guidance for Project Proposals for Strategic Direction 2

II.2.1 Investment Priority 2.1

In the context of this call, and in consideration of the current CEPF portfolio for this strategic direction, CEPF will consider projects for **the improvement of knowledge on biodiversity in the Comoros archipelago**, and/or improvement of the management of biodiversity data as well as initiatives to promote sharing of biodiversity data.

Field activities (inventories and research) may take place throughout the territory of the Republic of the Comoros, independently of the already identified Key Biodiversity Areas.

Proposals will be welcome on all taxa, both plants and animals. Priority will be given to taxa and sites that have received little attention from the conservation community thus far, and for which the needs are most urgent.

Applicants—in particular international organizations—are encouraged to promote exchanges and partnerships with Comorian institutions and organizations.

The integration of young professionals and students from the Comoros (Master, PhD) is strongly encouraged. However, CEPF will not fund tuition fees.

II.2.2 Investment Priority 2.2

CEPF encourages applicants to propose projects to improve communication about the value of biodiversity, and integrate biodiversity conservation in the activities of stakeholders outside of the conservation field, particularly those working in **development sectors** (e.g., agricultural development and health).

CEPF will support activities for the promotion of co-benefits of conservation, improved dialogue with the development community, platform for coordination between stakeholders in the field of conservation and development.

This investment priority is not directly linked to CEPF priority sites. However, if links are established with ongoing activities on these sites, where applicable, it will strengthen the project's application.

Applicants are invited to consult [the website](#) of Tany Meva Foundation for more information on current projects.

III. Eligibility

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other members of civil society can apply for funding.

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that the enterprise or institution has:

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

Grants cannot be used for:

- the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities.
- activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities.
- removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values).

Proposed activities should observe all other relevant safeguard and social policies as set out on the [CEPF website](#).

IV. Additional information / Questions & Answers

What is the amount recommended for project proposals?

Large grants proposals should for actions over US\$ 20,000.

The average CEPF large grant in the hotspot is US\$147,000. The smallest grant amounts are US\$ 20,000; the largest are approximately US\$200,000. CEPF encourages applicants to propose projects roughly in the same scale.

What is the maximum duration of a project?

Projects financed by CEPF in the hotspot must be completed, at the latest, by 31 March 2020. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for a duration not exceeding two years.

Can we submit multiple grants?

The same organization may submit several of letters of inquiry, but considering budgetary constraints, this practice is not encouraged.

A call for small grants (less than US\$20,000) is launched in parallel with the large grants call. It is strongly recommended that organizations do not submit similar projects in both categories (small and large grants).

Which organizations are eligible?

The eligibility of organizations is covered in section III above.

Only projects in Madagascar and the Comoros are eligible for this call. Organizations in other countries may receive funding, provided that the actions are implemented in and for the eligible countries. In particular, organizations from the French overseas departments that are part of hotspot (Mayotte and Réunion) can apply for regional cooperation actions that benefit eligible countries. Activities directly benefiting the French overseas departments are not eligible for CEPF funding.

What are the criteria for the project to be selected?

Only certain investment priorities are eligible for this call; they are given in Table 1 (section II). Only certain areas are eligible for this call; details are provided in section II. Section II also provides specific requirements for project proposals. Details of the investment priorities are also provided in the ecosystem profile (links provided in section I).

Proposals that do not meet these criteria will be rejected. Read the requirements carefully and consult the investment strategy of the profile.

All proposals must contribute directly to the conservation of biodiversity!

How do I submit a proposal?

All proposals will be accepted through CEPF's online grantee portal **ConservationGrants**.

To create an application for this Call for Proposal, click [here](#). You will be directed to log into the ConservationGrants Portal to view the call details. Once displayed, click the Create Application link to begin the application process.

For organizations using this tool for the first time, you will be asked to register and create an account. This account may be used for subsequent applications.

When logging into ConservationGrants for the creation of your application, select the appropriate language from the sign-in screen. **Applicants can write their proposal in English or French.**

Proposals on paper or sent by email will not be accepted.

What are the next steps?

At the end of the call (Friday, 29 September 2017), the letters of inquiry will be evaluated by the CEPF secretariat and the regional implementation team (Tany Meva), for short-listing. Individual experts will also contribute to the selection of proposals on an *ad hoc* basis.

The short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal via the ConservationGrants portal. They will then be asked to complete a full proposal form, as well as financial and anti-terrorism questionnaires, and, if necessary, additional safeguard documents.

The regional implementation team will be able to assist applicants in preparing their full proposal and provide the necessary supporting documentation. The short-listing of a proposal based on letter of inquiry, and the invitation to submit a full proposal, do not constitute a de facto approval of the project. The grant is only awarded after the CEPF approves the full proposal.

Applicants usually receive a notification within 4 months of the deadline for submission. For successful proposals, the complete approval process, from the submission of the full proposal to the signing of the grant contract, usually requires an additional 2 to 4 months.

Additional questions and contacts

The CEPF secretariat and the regional implementation team are available for further information.

Questions can be asked before 15 August 2017. The answers will be given individually and also published on the CEPF website [grants page](#).

All questions should be directed to:

cepfmadio@cepf.net for technical questions, issues of eligibility, etc.

conservationgrants@conservation.org for issues with access to ConservationGrants portal.