

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Call for Letters of Inquiry (LOI)

LARGE GRANTS

Investment in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot: Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros

- 1. Opening Date:** 5 October 2018
- 2. Closing Date:** 30 November 2018 (Midnight in Antananarivo, Madagascar)
- 3. Budget & Timeframe:** The minimum budget per project is **US\$20,000** and the maximum budget per project is **US\$200,000**.

Projects are expected to start on **1 June 2019** at the earliest and must be completed by **30 June 2022**.

4. General Information

The [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#) (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The hotspot has often been considered a priority among hotspots, because of its extreme diversity—with about 15,000 plant species, of which more than 12,000 are endemic—and because of the high-level taxonomic endemism, which demonstrates distinct evolutionary mechanisms related to the isolation of the hotspot. The area also qualifies as a hotspot due to a very high level of degraded natural ecosystems, illustrated by the massive deforestation of Mauritius or Madagascar, or the disappearance of many higher vertebrates, like the dodo, which has become the symbol of species extinction. The

conservation outcomes (species, sites and corridors) represent the highest geographical priorities for biodiversity investments.

The niche and investment strategy of CEPF for the Madagascar and Indian Islands Biodiversity 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. The CEPF Donor Council approved the ecosystem profile in 2014. The strategy of the Ecosystem Profile is broken 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 2015, the Tany Meva Foundation has assumed the role of RIT for the Madagascar and Indian 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.

5. Eligible Applicants

Nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, private enterprises, universities, and civil society organizations 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.

Applicants must have their own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.

Applicants may submit their LOI as a consortium of partners. In this instance, one leading organization should be identified, and the roles and added contributions of the different partners should be detailed.

6. Eligible Activities

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities described in **strategic directions 1,2 and 3** of the ecosystem profile and their associated **investment priorities**:

Strategic Directions	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.
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. 2.2 Support civil society to disseminate biodiversity information and influence political and economic decision-makers in favor of biodiversity and conservation priorities. 2.3 Explore partnerships with private sector stakeholders to promote sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation.
3. Strengthen civil society capacity at national and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.	3.1 Foster the emergence of a new generation of conservation professionals and organizations through small grants for technical and practical training. 3.2 Encourage exchanges and partnerships between civil society organizations to strengthen conservation knowledge, organizational capacity, management and fundraising skills.

7. Eligible Geographic Areas

The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) eligible for application per strategic direction are summarized in the table below. Further details on these KBAs can be found in chapter 12 of the [ecosystem profile](#).

Strategic Direction	"Corridor du Paysage"	Eligible KBA
MADAGASCAR		
SD1	Kirindy Mangoky	MDG 142, 42, 90, 92
	Mikea	MDG 9, 11, 12, 67, 127, 175
	Menabe	MDG 2 et 97
	Extrême Nord	MDG 8, 122, 123, 16, 33, 36
	Nord Ouest	MDG 85, 141, 143, 132, 4
	Littoral Est	MDG 107
	Hautes Terres du Centre	MDG 5, 113
	Other Sites (Barren Islands MP, Beanka NPA, Tsimembo-Manambolomaty-Bemamba Complex NPA)	MDG 13, 86, 93
SD2	Extrême Nord	MDG 33
SD3	Training, Exchanges and Regional Cooperation should focus to the following: - Ecotourism - Management of MPAs - Management of fires - Improved carbonization - Poaching of species - Good governance Applicants will need to show relevant experience and expertise in these areas.	Proposals under SD3 are open to all 38 KBAs in Madagascar.
MAURITIUS		
SD1 - IP 1.3 only	Saint Brandon	MUS 1
SD1	Main Island	MUS 2, 3, 9, 12, 17
SD1	Rodrigues	MUS 13, 16, 6
SD2 and SD3 are not under geographic restrictions.		
SEYCHELLES		
SD1	Silhouette	SYC 42, 49
	Praslin	SYC 7, 9
	Mahé	SYC 11, 13, 36, 38, 43
	Other (Cosmolédo, Ile Desnoeufs, Ile Félicité)	SYC 5, 21, 26
SD2 and SD3 are not under geographic restrictions.		
COMOROS		
SD1		COM 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20
SD2		COM 3,5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20
SD3		Proposals under SD3 are open to all 20 KBAs in Comores.

8. Application Process

All applications must be submitted through the **ConservationGrants** website via this link:

[Access to ConservationGrants](#)

CEPF will under exceptional circumstances only, and with prior approval only, accept LOIs by email or any other mechanism.

Applications are welcome in **French** and **English**.

Upon completion of your application, you will receive an email acknowledgement from the **ConservationGrants** system confirming that the submission has been received.

Applicants who do not have a **ConservationGrants** portal account will need to register a new account. Open an account by clicking on the blue “New User?” link underneath the ‘Sign in’ box.

Existing **ConservationGrants** users can use the same login information and create a new LOI.

Questions regarding account creation or regarding the **ConservationGrants** application process should be emailed to conservationgrants@conservation.org.

The LOI review process will take a few weeks from the deadline date. All applicants will receive a response from CEPF following the review of their proposed project. Applicants whose LOIs receive a positive review will be invited to submit a full proposal through the **ConservationGrants** electronic portal. Full proposals will need to be received by the CEPF Secretariat on a date specified by the grant director.

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 applicant’s institution (the “grantee”). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English, with a French version also available.

9. General Advice and Contacts

Project proposals should be built on biodiversity conservation as a fundamental component and should demonstrate positive impacts on the conservation status of biodiversity.

Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to submit LOIs which harmonize with existing national or regional initiatives. CEPF encourages applicants to develop joint proposals with organizations from different sectors to respond to the need for a multi-sectoral and/or multi-regional approach where relevant. In particular, fishermen or farmers' organizations; the tourism industry associations; and experts in biodiversity and encouraged to come together to build partnerships.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with relevant stakeholders and organisations that are already implementing activities in a given KBA, in order to ensure complementarity.

The advisory service will end on **15 November 2018**. Please send your technical questions to the RIT (regional implementation team) at cepfritmadio@tanymeva.org before that date.

To consult the mapping of the KBAs, please consult [Tany Meva's website](#).

10. Evaluation of Letters of Inquiry

- Evaluation of LOIs shall be made according to the following guidelines:
Criteria of eligibility for the applicant and the overall proposal (budget amount, project timeframe, etc.) is in line with this call.
- The LOI is convincing and the project has been well-thought-through and is clearly presented.
- The proposed activities are likely to generate sustainable results and impacts, beyond the period of performance/financing of the project.
- Complementarity with existing projects in a given area has been considered.

11. Reference Documents

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 Chapter 12.

The ecosystem profile is available on the CEPF website:

- [English](#) (PDF - 7.1 MB)
- [French](#) (PDF - 7.5 MB)

Additional Resources:

- [Eligibility and How to Apply](#)
- [Conservation Grants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Safeguard Policies](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)