



**Call for Letters of Inquiry
Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Request for Proposals No. 12
For Small Grants (\$20,000 or less) in Ethiopia**

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- 1. Opening Date:** Monday, 21 September 2015
- Deadline:** Tuesday, 20 October 2015
- Application method:** Send Letter of Inquiry to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org
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This call invites applicants to submit Letters of Inquiry that will contribute to the CEPF **Strategic Direction 1, Investment Priority 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3; and Strategic Direction 2, Investment Priority 2.1**, described in the Ecosystem Profile.

Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) in English using the form available [here](#) and at www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance. LOIs must be submitted electronically to BirdLife International at CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org by 20 October 2015. *All required documentation, information, guidance, formats and news are also available on: www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot*

2. Call for Letters of Inquiry

BirdLife International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, in their role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, invite civil society organizations to submit Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) for projects in countries within the Hotspot per the Scope of this Call, as described below.

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 at www.cepf.net and at www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

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 have 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, available at:

www.cepf.net/Documents/Eastern_Afromontane_Ecosystem_Profile_FINAL.pdf

3. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Applications from trainees of “**Project Proposal Writing and Fundraising Training Workshop**” held in October 2014, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia AND OR any current CEPF-EAM grantee in Ethiopia are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites indicated below. 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

Successful applicants will be invited to a workshop that will be organized in November 2015 to further develop the accepted LOIs to full project proposals.

4. Eligible Activities

This is one of several Calls for Proposals over the investment period of 2012-2017 and as such, is purposefully limited in scope. This call invites applicants to submit Letters of Inquiry that will contribute to the CEPF **Strategic Direction 1, Investment Priority 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3;**

and Strategic Direction 2, Investment Priority 2.1, described in the Ecosystem Profile. *We will not accept proposals for other Strategic Directions / Investment Priorities for this call.*

Strategic Direction	Investment Priority
<p>1.Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co- benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.</p>	<p>1.1. Enhance civil society efforts to develop and implement local government and community-level planning processes to mainstream biodiversity conservation, and leverage donor and project funding for livelihood activities that explicitly address causes of environmental degradation in and around priority KBAs in priority corridors.</p> <p>For projects that will ensure all or some of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A better integration of biodiversity into existing local development planning process in priority KBAs – e.g. local village plans, village forest reserve plans, etc; 2. Advocacy activities to contact donors (government, institutional donors, foundations, NGOs) to establish the different components of local plans; 3. Imitation of local development planning process in priority KBAs, bringing together development and environment NGOs. The plans should take into consideration livelihoods and biodiversity issues such as agricultural production, forest (and natural areas) protection, water resources preservation, energy production, alternative livelihood activities and health and the adaptation (and potentially mitigation) of climate change. 4. Direct support to activities that have a direct and measurable impact on biodiversity, such as alternative livelihood options, better natural resources management, etc. 5. Components related to biodiversity protection in livelihood activities supported by other donors (such as monitoring biodiversity). 6. Activities to scale up the working methodologies and projects in relation to Investment Priority 1.2 (briefly described below). <p>1.2. Promote civil society efforts and mechanisms to mainstream biodiversity conservation into national development policies and plans, and into territorial planning in priority corridors and countries.</p> <p>The key objective of this investment priority is to ensure that KBA conservation is integrated into national/district land use and development plans by providing the opportunity for civil society to engage with planning processes led by government and donors. It focuses on the need to engage directly with the wider development agenda while building on the previous</p>

investment priority, which focuses on the community/local level. Under this investment priority,

CEPF will fund activities that support:

1. Advocacy work at the policy level, with national authorities or major donor agencies (institutional or foundation) to ensure integration of biodiversity concerns in high-level planning. These activities would focus specifically on policies that might have a high impact on biodiversity in the concerned countries, such as agriculture, energy or fisheries;
2. Engaging civil society organizations in land use/territorial planning processes at national/district scale in priority corridors to ensure KBA conservation needs are taken into account;
3. Strengthening or creating networks, platforms or alliances bringing together environmental civil society organizations or bridging environmental and development organizations for a better integration of biodiversity and development.
4. Participation of environmental civil society in the development of regional/national climate change policies and plans to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity.
5. Mainstreaming biodiversity at landscape level planning, such as for reforestation, creating buffer areas around protected areas through agro-forestry, controlling invasive alien species and watershed management.
6. Improving (and disseminating) knowledge of baseline data and monitoring of change and impacts, especially in relation to forest cover at landscape levels or variation in fish stocks for freshwater KBAs in concerned corridors.
7. Developing tools and trainings for decision makers to enhance their comprehension of biodiversity and how to take its conservation into account in development planning.
8. Poling and sharing experience within and between priority corridors in the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation and livelihood projects to learn from and facilitate the transfer or scaling-up of best practices.
9. Where regulatory and legal frameworks are barriers to implementation or integration, projects to support creation of an appropriate legal, regulatory, institutional, rights-based environment at the local level and directly linked to priority KBAs.
10. Participation of civil society in strategic environmental assessments when they are tied to policies that could impact KBAs and biodiversity in the concerned corridors.

	<p>1.3 Support civil society to build positive relationships with the private sector to develop sustainable, long-term economic activities that will benefit biodiversity and reduce poverty in priority corridors.</p> <p>Specifically under this investment priority, CEPF will fund activities that support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of standards and labels for biodiversity-friendly production of high added- value export products. This could comprise—but is not limited to—coffee, tea or timber. 2. Identification and implementation of sustainable economic activities engaging private sector and communities, in order to bring direct economic benefits to communities to engage in conservation. Such activities would help civil society organizations link with the private sector in developing additional appropriate ecotourism ventures that exploit the many similar attractions and opportunities in the hotspot, channel benefits to local communities, and build political support for KBA conservation (in particular in Ethiopia). Non-timber forest products can also be targeted for alternative livelihoods funding if they are extracted according to a sustainable management plan and any additional local agreements and management mechanisms. 3. Projects that investigate the potential for corporate responsibility programs with local private sector entities. <p>N.B: Private sector enterprises could also receive grants directly for nonprofit activities, following the CEPF regulations for granting to the private sector.</p>
<p>2. Improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot.</p>	<p>2.1 Increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for terrestrial priority KBAs.</p> <p>Available funds are for projects that will work to increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for terrestrial priority KBAs.</p> <p>This investment priority targets terrestrial priority KBAs in the hotspot, particularly KBAs that are currently unprotected or only partially protected.</p> <p>Eligible activities under this investment priority</p>

	<p>include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of proposals and advocacy for designation of unprotected or partially protected KBAs with appropriate national protected area status; 2. advancing the necessary technical and legal processes to achieve legal recognition of these KBAs 3. Development and implementation of new (if none exists) or improved management plans 4. Support may also be provided for the development of monitoring schemes for biodiversity within the protected area and the application of GEF's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool.
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Please see also Chapter 12 of the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, containing CEPF's Investment Strategy and Programmatic Focus, which is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Grants cannot be used for:

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

5. Eligible Budget

This call for proposals is open for small grants (of USD 20,000 or less).

6. Eligible Country

Ethiopia only.

7. Eligible sites (Key Biodiversity Areas)

Please see the list of eligible KBAs (sites) below. This list applies to all Investment Priorities under this call.

1. Sheka Forest (Metu-Gore-Tepi)
2. Awi Zone
3. Little Abai River
4. Mount Guna
5. Wadela
6. Lake Tana

7. AliyuAmba-Dulecha
8. Ankober-DebreSina Escarpment
9. Guasa Plateau/GuasaGrasland Reserve

KML files for Google Earth maps with eligible sites (KBA) layers are also available on www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION ADDRESSES ONE OF THE KBAs LISTED IN THE TABLE ABOVE. **We will not be able to fund projects that are not benefiting an Eastern Afromontane KBA, or an Eastern Afromontane KBA that is not in the above list.**

8.Application

Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) in English using the form available on www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance.

LOIs must be submitted electronically to BirdLife International at CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org **by 20 October 2015**. We will not accept hard copy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.

9. Reference Documents

All potential applicants should refer to the Ecosystem Profile, the LOI Form, and the following references available on the CEPF website.

- How to apply: www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx and www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance
- CEPF projects database: www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx
- World Bank safeguard policies: <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>

All required documentation, information, guidance, formats and news are also available on:

www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

10.Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to: CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org

Or contact:

- **In Ethiopia:** Ms ZewdituTessema:z.tessema@ewnhs.org.et
- **In Kenya:** Ms MaaikeManten:maaike.manten@birdlife.org

Further information and assistance can also be obtained from:

CEPF Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation Team (EAM-RIT), BirdLife International, Africa Partnership Secretariat - off Rhapta Road, Volker's Garden, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya

PO BOX 3502, 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya - Tel: +254 (0)20 247 3259

www.cepf.net

www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

www.iucn.org

www.ewnhs.org.et