

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 15 Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

Request for Proposals

For projects related to Strategic Directions 1 – Mainstreaming, 2 – KBA management and Protection, and 3 – Sustainable Financing, in Mozambique and Zimbabwe

1. Opening Date: Friday, 8 January 2016

2. Submission

Deadline: Friday, 19 February 2016

Application format: Submit a Letter of Inquiry in English and Portuguese, available from www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance

See also www.birdlife.org/projects/cepf-eam-calls-proposals

Submission method: Submit Letter of Inquiry to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org

3. 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/where we work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/Pages/default.aspx)

4. Eligible Applicants

Non-government organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities, and other civil society organizations may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged. Projects must be located within the sites and countries identified in the Ecosystem Profile. 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.

5. Eligible Activities

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below. All activities must support:

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</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.</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 (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.</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 investment priority, which focuses on the</p>

	<p>community/local level. Under this investment priority, CEPF will fund activities that support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Pooling and sharing experience 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. <hr/> <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.</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. <p>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.</p>
--	---

	<p>3. Projects that investigate the potential for corporate responsibility programs with local private sector entities. 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. 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. This investment priority targets terrestrial priority KBAs in the hotspot, particularly KBAs that are currently unprotected or only partially protected. Eligible activities under this investment priority include: 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.</p>
<p>3. Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of KBAs</p>	<p>3.1 Support civil society organizations to develop forest carbon partnerships and projects that advance biodiversity conservation in Key Biodiversity Areas. In relation to Investment Priority 3.1, CEPF seeks projects that contribute to the following: 1. Empower Community Based Organisations to (1) improve their financial management and sustainability, and/or (2) develop or strengthen their networking capacity under a sustainable financing initiative. 2. Contribute to ongoing forest carbon initiatives or the planning of new ones in Key Biodiversity Areas.</p> <p>3.2 Support civil society organizations to develop partnerships and projects for non-carbon payment for ecosystem services schemes and other market mechanisms in Key Biodiversity Areas. In relation to Investment Priority 3.2, CEPF seeks project that contribute to the following: 1. Feasibility assessments of Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes related to water services. Such assessments should be useful in investors’ forums and contribute to the development of PES schemes as sustainable financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation. 2. Actual development of appropriate partnerships and strategic alliances with government agencies and the private sector, the exploration and/or development of PES opportunities with direct or combined biodiversity benefits, the facilitation of community involvement, and the development of business plans.</p>

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](#).

6. Eligible Sites

Proposed projects must work in or have an impact on:

Zimbabwe	Chimanimani Mountains (Zimbabwe) Chirinda Forest Nyanga Mountains Stapleford Forest Vumba Highlands
Mozambique	Chimanimani Mountains (Mozambique) Lake Malawi, Mozambique Mount Chipirone Mount Mabu Mount Namuli

As this is the final call for proposals in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, CEPF is specifically looking for projects that will ADD VALUE to past or ongoing CEPF investment in the two countries – especially to the trans-boundary programme in Chimanimani Mountains.

7. Budget and Timeframe

Under this call for proposals, CEPF anticipates making a maximum of 3 awards in Zimbabwe and 5 awards in Mozambique. The **maximum budget per project is US \$20,000**. Projects are expected to start in April 2016 and must be **completed by 30 June 2017** at the latest.

8. Letter of Inquiry and Award Process

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) at this time. If your LOI is successful, BirdLife International will be in touch with you to complete the necessary processes to award you a small grant.

9. Instructions for submitting a Letter of Inquiry

Applicants **must** use the CEPF letter of inquiry template referenced here: [English](#), [Portuguese](#). The template is also available from BirdLife International.

Letters of inquiry **must** be submitted to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org

Letters of inquiry submitted to any other e-mail address may not receive full review. CEPF will not accept hardcopy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your application.

10. Advisory Service

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the EAM RIT at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org. Based on experience from previous calls for proposals, discussing your proposal idea with us before submitting it will significantly increase the chances of success. The advisory service will **terminate on 12 February 2016**; so please send your questions to the RIT before that date.

11. Reference Documents

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

[Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF 4MB)
[Appendix 1: Species Outcomes](#) (PDF - 102 KB)
[Appendix 3: Species per KBAs](#) (XLSX - 135 KB)

- How to apply: www.birdlife.org/worldwide/project/cepf-eam-application-guidance
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/fag/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 at www.birdlife.org/africa/project/cepf-eastern-afromontane-hotspot

12. Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to: CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org
Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

CEPF Eastern Afromontane Regional Implementation Team (EAM-RIT), BirdLife International, Africa Partnership Secretariat - Volker's Garden, off Rhapsa Road, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya
PO BOX 3502, 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya - Tel: +254 (0)20 247 3259

www.cepf.net
www.birdlife.org/africa
www.iucn.org
www.ewnhs.org.et