



CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF)

INVESTMENT IN THE EASTERN AFROMONTANE BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

**For large grants (of more than USD 20,000) in
*Yemen, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Malawi, Zambia***

The opening and deadline dates for this call for letters of inquiry:

Opening Date: Monday 11 November 2013

Deadline Dates: Monday 16 December 2013

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.

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)

Interested parties are strongly advised to read the Ecosystem Profile, with particular attention given to the chapters on the CEPF Investment Strategy and Programmatic Focus (chapter 12). This chapter is also available as a separate document, and can be found on

[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)

***This call for proposals is open for large grants (of more than USD 20,000) only.
The expected average size of grants will be USD 100,000 - USD 150,000
for 1-3 year projects.***

SCOPE OF CALL

This is the fifth 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 CEPF **Strategic Direction 2, Investment Priorities 2.1 and 2.2**, as described in the Ecosystem Profile. *We will not accept proposals for other Strategic Directions / Investment Priorities at this stage.*

Eligible countries for this call are: ***Yemen, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Malawi, and Zambia.***

Projects addressing the following Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities are eligible for this call. Please see Tables 12.1 and 12.2, and Appendix 2 of the Ecosystem Profile for more details. See also the table at the end of this call for proposals which lists the eligible countries and Key Biodiversity Areas (sites) for each Investment Priority:

Strategic Direction	Investment Priority
2. To improve the protection and management of the KBA network throughout the hotspot	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
	2.2. Support the role of civil society organizations in the application of site safeguard policies and procedures including the strengthening of environmental impact assessment implementation in order to address ongoing and emerging threats to all terrestrial KBAs, and priority freshwater KBAs

ELIGIBILITY

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants 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 above and 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

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).

APPLICATION

Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) **in English or in French** using the form referenced at www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx. Both PDF and Word files are available in English and French on this website.

LOIs must be submitted electronically to CEPF at cepfefromontane@conservation.org **by 16 December 2013**. CEPF will not accept hardcopy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledgement acknowledging receipt of your application.

ADVISORY SERVICE

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the EAM RIT at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org. Those wishing to seek guidance from the EAM RIT should do so well in advance of the deadline.

Please consult us **before 9 December 2013**.

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.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx
- Frequently asked questions: www.cepf.net/about_cepf/fag/Pages/default.aspx
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/eligibility.aspx
- CEPF projects database: www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx
- Proposed activities must observe all World Bank safeguard policies found at <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Decisions on are based on reviews by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, the RIT Advisory Board and external technical reviewers.

If your LOI is successful, the CEPF Secretariat will invite you to prepare a full project proposal. The invitation to submit a full project proposal is usually sent within two months after the deadline. The guidelines for preparing a full project proposal will be provided when your LOI has been accepted. The timeframe for processing a large grant application from initial submission of the LOI to the award of the grant is usually 6-8 months.

CONTACT

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

- With questions for projects in **Yemen (including in Arabic)**: please contact Sharif Jbour at sharif.jbour@birdlife.org
- With questions for projects in **Ethiopia (including in Amharic)**: please contact Ms Zewditu Tessema at z.tessema@ewnhs.org.et
- With questions for projects in **other Eastern Afromontane countries (including in English, French and kiSwahili)**: please contact Jean Paul Ntungane at jean-paul.ntungane@birdlife.org

Further information and assistance can 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; Fax: +254 (0)20 806 8315

www.cepf.net

www.birdlife.org

www.iucn.org

www.ewnhs.org.et

Annex: Investment priorities, countries and sites. Please refer to the map on www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionImages/Maps/EasternAfromontane_Outcomes_map.pdf [3.8 MB] for KBAs, and to the Tables 12.1 and 12.2, and Appendix 2 of the Ecosystem Profile. KML files for Google Earth maps with KBA layers are also available on www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane/

Investment Priority	Countries	KBAs
2.1. Increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for <u>terrestrial priority KBAs</u>	Yemen	High Mountains of Ibb Hujjariyah Jabal al-Nabi Shuayb Jabal Bura Jabal Iraf Jabal Raymah
	Ethiopia	Aliyu Amba-Dulecha Ankober-Debre Sina escarpment Awi Zone Guassa Plateau Little Abbai River Mount Guna Sheka Forest (Metu-Gore-Tepi) Wadela (Wadila)
	Rwanda	Cyamudongo Forest
	Burundi	Bururi Forest Nature Reserve Kibira National Park
	DRC	Itombwe Mountains LaLuama-Katanga-Mount Kabobo
	Malawi	Misuku Hills Forest Reserves (including Mugesse)
2.2. Support the role of civil society organizations in the application of site safeguard policies and procedures including the strengthening of environmental impact assessment implementation in order to address ongoing and emerging threats to <u>all terrestrial KBAs, and priority freshwater KBAs</u>	Zambia	Mafinga Hills
	Yemen	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Hajjah Mountains Haraz Mountains High Mountains of Ibb Hujjariyah Jabal Al Lawz-Jabal Madhbur Jabal al-Nabi Shuayb Jabal Bura Jabal Dawran Jabal Habashi Jabal Iraf Jabal Marran Jabal Milhan Jabal Raymah Jabal Razih Jabal Sabir Jabal Sawraq Jabal Sumarah Kawkaban – Shibam Mafraq al-Mukha Mahwit

Investment Priority	Countries	KBAs
		Shaharah Ta'izz Wadis Udayn Wadi al-Birayn
	Ethiopia	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Abijatta - Shalla Lakes National Park Akaki - Aba-Samuel Wetlands Aliyu Amba - Dulecha Alledeghi Wildlife Reserve Anferara Forests Ankober - Debre Sina Escarpment Assimba Natural Forest Awash National Park Awi Zone Bahir Dar - Lake Tana Bale Mountains National Park Belete-Gera Forest Berga floodplain Bishoftu Lake Bonga Forest Borana-Saynt Boyo Wetland Chebera Chorchora National Park Chelekleka Lake and Swamp Chilimo-Gaji Forest Choke Mountains Deme-Laha Dessaa forest Dilu Meda (Tefki) Dindin-Arba Gugu Eastern Hararghe (Bisdimo Babile) Entoto Natural Park Finchaa and Chomen swamps Fogera Plains Gara Muleta Gedo Forest Gefersa Reservoir Genale River Godere Forest Green Lake Guassa Plateau Gudo plain Gughe Mountains Harena-Kokosa Hugumburda Grat-Kahsu forests Jello Muktar Jemma and Jara valleys Jibat Forest

Investment Priority	Countries	KBAs
		Koffe Swamp Koffole (Arsi) Koka dam and Lake Gelila Konso-Segen Kubayu Forest Lake Ashenge Lake Awassa Lake Langano Lake Zeway Liben Plains Little Abbai River Mankubsa – Welenso Forest Mega Mountains Mena-Angetu Forest Menagesha State Forest Mid-Abbay (Blue Nile) River Basin Mount Abune Yosef Mount Guna Mount Zuquala Mugo Highlands Nechisar National Park Omo National Park Qafta-Shiraro National Park Shako Forest Shek Husein Sheka Forest (Metu- Gore-Tepi) Shire lowlands in the Tekeze Valley Sigo-Geba Forest Simien Mountains National Park Sof Omar Sululta Plain Tiro Boter - Becho Forest Wadela (Wadila) Yabello Sanctuary Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve Yegof forest <u>Priority Freshwater KBA:</u> Lake Tana
	Rwanda	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Cyamudongo Forest Gishwati Mukura Reserve Nyungwe National Park Rugezi Marsh Volcans National Park <u>Priority Freshwater KBA:</u> Lake Kivu (Rwanda)

Investment Priority	Countries	KBAs
	Burundi	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Bururi Forest Nature Kibira National Park Reserve Mukungu-Rukamabasi Nyamugari Rusizi National Park <u>Priority Freshwater KBA:</u> Lake Tanganyika (Burundi)
	DRC	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Forests west of Lake Edward Ijldwi Island (Lake Kivu) Irangi Forest Itombwe Mountains Kahuzi-Biega National Park LaLuama-Katanga-Mt. Kabobo Lendu Plateau Marungu highlands Mount Hoyo Reserve Rutshuru Virunga National Park <u>Priority Freshwater KBAs:</u> Lake Kivu (DRC) Lake Tanganyika (DRC)
	Malawi	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Dedza Forest Reserve Misuku Hills Forest Reserves (inc. Mugesse) Mount Mulanje Forest Reserve Mtangatanga and Perekezi forest reserves Ntichisi Mountain Forest Reserve Nyika National Park Malawi Soche Mountain Forest Reserve South Viphya Forest Reserve Uzumara Forest Reserve Zomba Mountains <u>Priority Freshwater KBA:</u> Lake Malawi/Niassa (Malawi)
	Zambia	<u>Terrestrial KBAs:</u> Mafinga Hills Mweru Wantipa National Park Nyika National Park Zambia Sumbu National Park and Tondwa GMA <u>Priority Freshwater KBA:</u> Lake Tanganyika (Zambia)