

Call for Letters of Inquiry (LOI)
Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot
Small Grants

Key information

1. Eligible Countries:

Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo

Deadline: August 14, 2017

Eligible Strategic Directions: 1, 2 and 3 (you must choose only one)

Eligible Applicants: This call is open to community groups and associations, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises, universities, research institutes and other civil society organizations.

Small Grants (up to US\$50,000): Submit letters of Inquiry (LOIs) by email to cepf-gfwa-sgp@birdlife.org. The LOI application template for small grants can be found in English [here](#).

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1. Background

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions, known as biodiversity hotspots. 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.

2. Ecosystem Profile Summary

The Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot represents one of eight biodiversity hotspots in Africa and Madagascar, and extends across the southern part of West Africa and into Central Africa, north of the Congo Wilderness Area. The hotspot covers 621,705 square kilometers and can be divided into two sub-regions. The first sub-region, referred to as the "Upper Guinean Forests," stretches from Guinea in the west through Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and, marginally, into Benin. The second sub-region, the "Lower Guinean Forests," covers much of southern Nigeria, extends into southwest Cameroon, and includes São Tomé and Príncipe and the islands of Equatorial Guinea. The Guinean Forests support impressive levels of biodiversity. Approximately 9,000 species of vascular plants are believed to occur in the hotspot, including 1,800 endemic species. The hotspot also supports an exceptional diversity of other terrestrial species. There are 416 mammal (representing nearly a quarter of the mammals native to continental Africa), 917 bird, 107 reptile and 269 amphibian species within the hotspot boundary of which 65 mammals, 48 birds, 20 reptiles and 118 amphibians are thought to be endemic. The hotspot is among the world's top priorities for primate conservation with five Critically Endangered and 21 Endangered species. A number of ongoing threats to biodiversity in the hotspot have resulted in the loss of more than 85 percent of the native vegetation cover. These include agricultural expansion to provide for the needs of an expanding population in rural and urban areas; unsustainable logging and fishing; hunting and trade of bush meat; industrial and artisanal mining; industrial development; climate change; and pollution. Many of the threats to biodiversity occurring in the region are linked, either directly or indirectly, to a high incidence of poverty, political instability and civil conflict. CEPF's investment niche in the Guinean Forests is therefore to provide civil society organizations at grassroots, national and international levels with the capacity and resources to establish and sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships that demonstrate models for sustainable growth, target the poorest populations and achieve priority conservation outcomes. This investment niche was formulated through a participatory process that engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, donors, governmental agencies, private sector and other activists throughout the region. The results of this process and the five-year (2016–2021) strategy that CEPF has identified for supporting biodiversity conservation in the eco-region are outlined in the ecosystem profile, available in English [here](#).

3. Eligible Applicants

BirdLife International, as the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, are pleased to invite Letters of Inquiry (Lols) from eligible applicants from community groups and associations, non-governmental organizations, private enterprises, universities, research institutes and other civil society organizations for biodiversity conservation projects in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot. 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.

This call is open to both local and international civil society organizations. Please note that BirdLife International as the RIT and CEPF particularly welcome applications from local and grassroots organizations (for example indigenous people’s, women’s and youth groups and NGOs).

Individuals must work with civil society organizations to develop applications, rather than apply directly.

An organization must have its own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions. Anyone who is uncertain of their eligibility to apply for CEPF funding should contact the RIT at: cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org after reviewing the following page and video:

- [Eligibility \(in English\)](#)
- [Eligibility video in Portuguese and English](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions in English](#)

4. Eligible Geographies

For each Strategic Direction (see section 5 below) a geographic scope is specified. These are summarized in the table below.

Strategic Direction	Geographic Scope
1	Priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
2	Conservation Corridors in the Hotspot
3	Whole Hotspot

The list of priority KBAs for the investment of CEPF in the hotspot is in Annex 1 and in the Ecosystem Profile.

This call covers all eleven countries of the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity Hotspot, so projects must be located within the hotspot boundaries in Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo

5. Eligible Strategic Directions

This call is only open to Strategic Directions 1, 2 and 3 and the Investment Priorities below from the overall CEPF investment strategy described in the Ecosystem Profile, as specified below.

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale (Eligible for CEPF priority KBAs only)	1.1 Strengthen the elaboration and/or implementation of land-use planning, land tenure and forestry reforms to facilitate good governance in the management of community and private reserves and concessions
	1.2 Promote preparation and implementation of participatory management plans that support stakeholder collaboration in protected area management
	1.3 Demonstrate sustainable livelihood/job creation activities for local communities that will act as incentives for the conservation of priority sites (e.g. domestication of wildlife species, sustainable logging from locally- controlled forests, harvesting of NTFPs, sustainable agriculture, etc.)
2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels (Eligible for the 9 conservation corridors only)	2.1 Conduct policy-relevant research, analysis and outreach that informs and influences the development of national government conservation policies, including on protected area management, payment for ecosystem services, REDD+ and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change
	2.2 Generate locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems (e.g., economic valuations of ecosystem services) to influence political and economic decision-making in favour of their conservation
	2.3 Facilitate partnerships among local communities, private sector and government to demonstrate models for best practice mining, sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture by private companies
3. Safeguard priority globally threatened species by identifying and addressing major threats and information gaps (Eligible for the entire hotspot)	3.1 Support the implementation of Conservation Action Plans for Critically Endangered and Endangered species on the IUCN Red List
	3.2 Update the KBA analysis by incorporating recently available data, including on Alliance for Zero Extinction sites and global Red List assessments and by conducting targeted research to fill critical knowledge gaps

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the complete investment strategy for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot, which is summarized in English [here](#) and to contact the Guinean Forests of West Africa RIT at cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org if they have any questions or wish to discuss project ideas.

Please note that preference will be given to projects that are the closest fit to the investment strategy and demonstrate a leading role for local civil society organizations. Projects should address one unique Strategic Direction but can cover one or more Investment Priorities within it.

Grants cannot be used for: (i) purchase of land; (ii) removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including those with archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious or unique natural values); (iii) relocation of people or any other form of involuntary resettlement; or (iv) capitalization of trust funds. All activities must comply with CEPF's social and environmental safeguard policies, which can be found [here](#).

1. How to Apply

Before submitting formal LOIs, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the RIT at cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org. Please note that hardcopy LOIs are not acceptable; LOIs should be sent by email only.

Answers to frequently asked questions may be found in English [here](#), in French [here](#), and in Spanish [here](#). Tips for getting your grant idea funded can also be found in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).

All applicants for small grants must submit an LOI in either English, French, Portuguese or Spanish. The LOI templates for small grants are available in English [here](#), in French [here](#), in Portuguese [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#) and application guidelines are available [here](#).

Completed LOIs for small grant projects of US\$50,000 or less should be sent as an email attachment to cepf-gfwa-sgp@birdlife.org. Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by email. Applicants will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org

2. Closing date

The deadline for receipt of LOIs is 18:00 Accra time (GMT) or equivalent 2p.m Washington D.C Time (EDT) on August 14, 2017.

Applicants are encouraged to submit LOIs and ensure that they receive a response prior to the deadline to avoid last minute internet challenges.

3. Contacts

Before submitting, applicants can contact the Project Officer for the areas where the project would be implemented, to inquire about the eligibility of their project concept and site:

- Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire:
François Phopho Kamano
Francois.Kamano@birdlife.org

- Togo, Benin, Ghana:
Muyang Enjoh Achah
Muyang.Achah@birdlife.org

- Nigeria, Cameroon:
Ruth Akagu
Ruth.Akagu@birdlife.org

- Gulf of Guinea Islands (São-Tomé and Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea):
Mariana Carvalho
Mariana.Carvalho@birdlife.org

Please direct any other questions or concerns to the CEPF RIT:
CEPF Guinean Forest of West Africa Regional Implementation Team (GFWA-RIT)
BirdLife International West Africa Sub-Regional Office
35A Sam Nujoma Road, North Ridge
P.O. Box GP 22521 Accra, Ghana
Tel.: +233 (0) 302 255 015 / 261 737 101
Mobile: +233 268499261
cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org
www.birdlife.org

All potential applicants should refer to the ecosystem profile, the LOI application template and the following references:

- Priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Conservation Corridors listed in the ecosystem -profile (see *Annex 1 below and the ecosystem profile in English and in French*)
- CEPF projects database: Available on [this Link](#)
- World Bank safeguard policies: Accessible [here](#)

Annex I

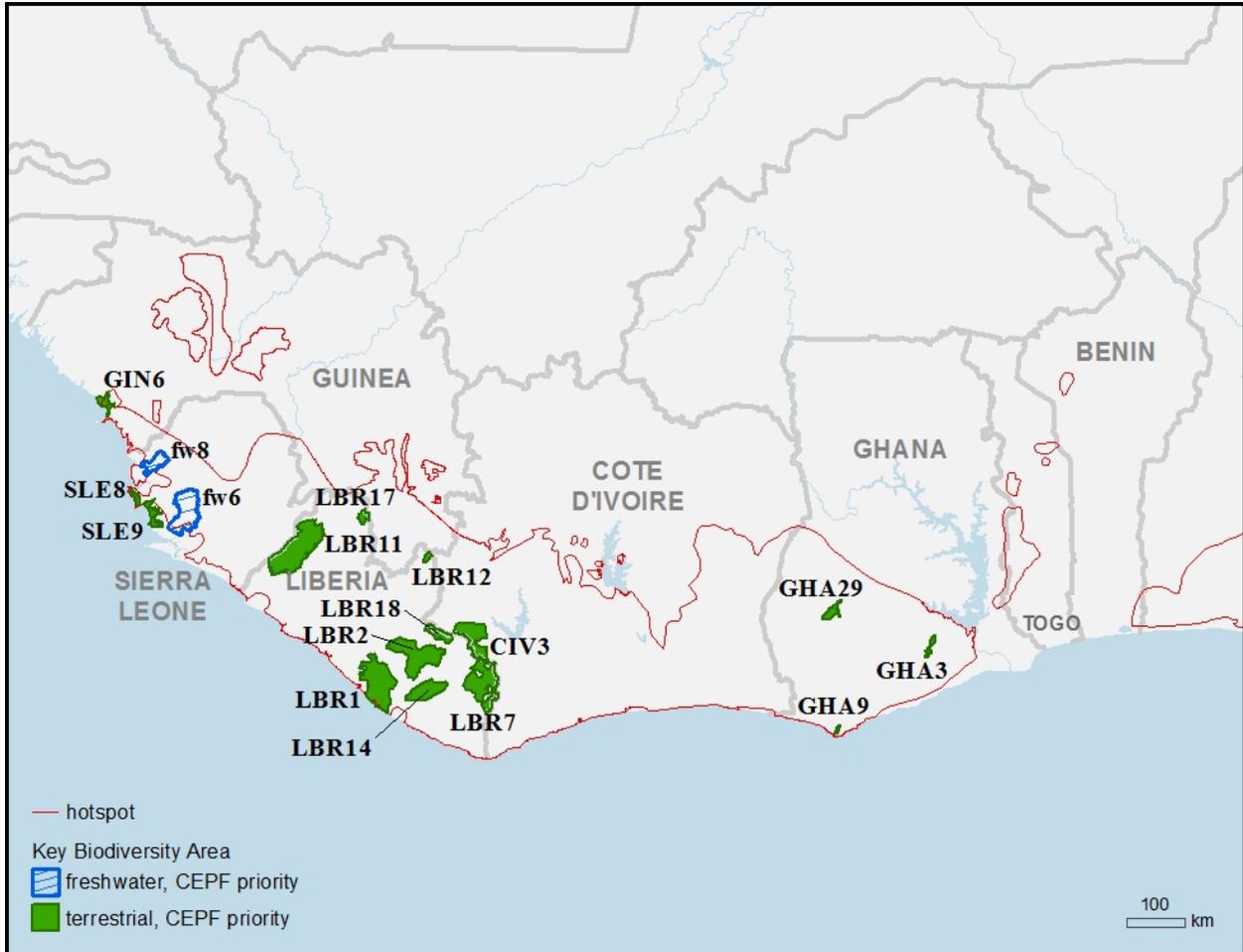
Priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Conservation Corridors listed in the Ecosystem Profile

Priority KBAs for CEPF Investment in the Guinean Forests Hotspot

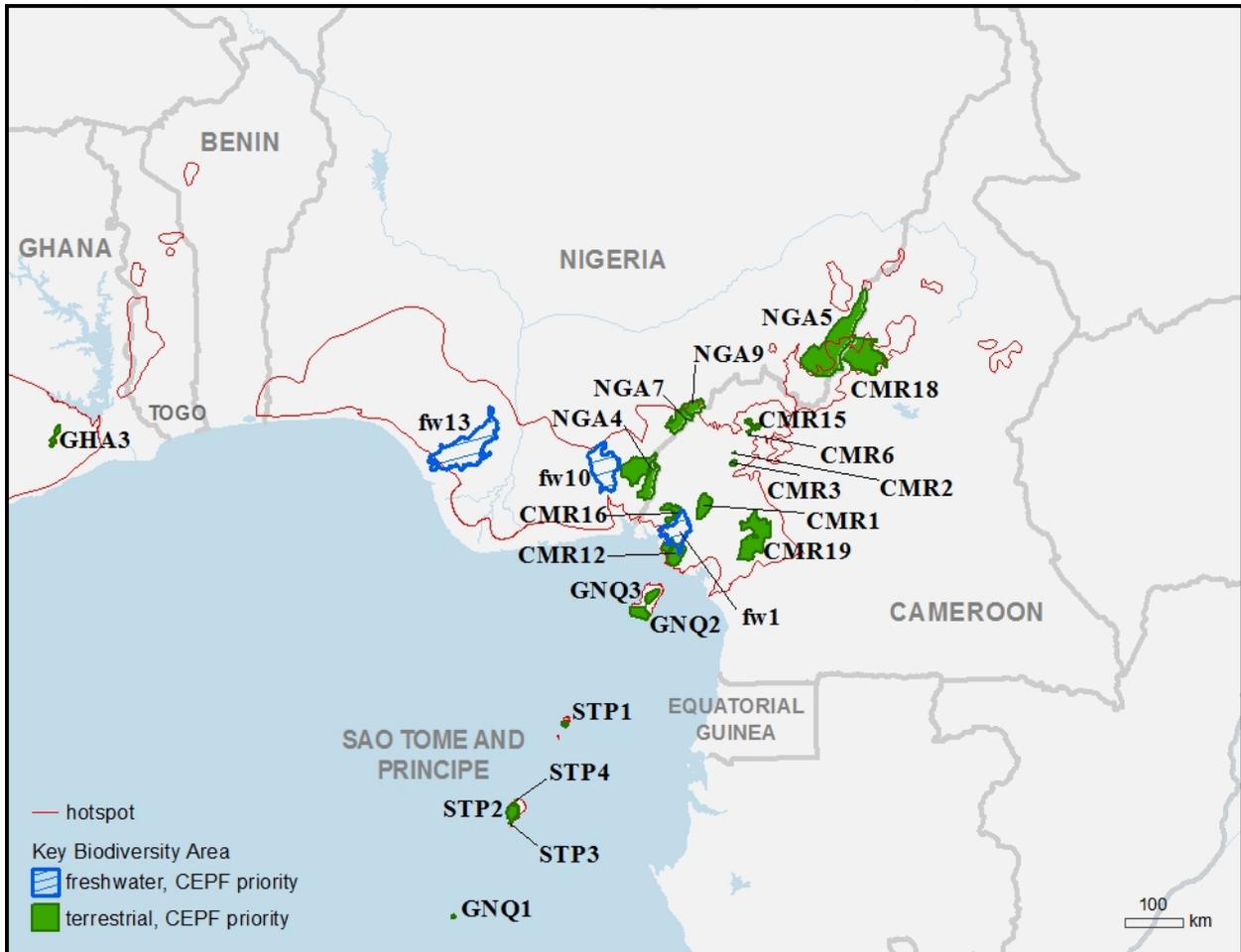
Code	Priority Site	Realm	Hectares
CAMEROON			
CMR1	Bakossi Mountains	Terrestrial	75,581
CMR2	Bali-Ngemba Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	899
CMR3	Bamboutos Mountains	Terrestrial	7,396
CMR6	Mbi Crater Faunal Reserve - Mbingo forest	Terrestrial	3,233
CMR12	Mount Cameroon and Mokoko-Onge	Terrestrial	107,143
CMR15	Mount Oku	Terrestrial	16,353
CMR16	Mount Rata and Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	45,200
CMR18	Tchabal Mbabo	Terrestrial	312,347
CMR19	Yabassi	Terrestrial	264,867
fw1	Lake Barombi Mbo and surrounding catchments	Freshwater	176,536
CÔTE D'IVOIRE			
CIV3	Forêt Classée de Cavally et Goin - Débé	Terrestrial	197,925
EQUATORIAL GUINEA			
GNQ1	Annobón	Terrestrial	2,871
GNQ2	Caldera de Lubá Reserva Científica	Terrestrial	51,075
GNQ3	Pico de Basilé National Park	Terrestrial	32,256
GHANA			
GHA3	Atewa Range Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	21,111
GHA9	Cape Three Points Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	4,545
GHA29	Tano-Offin Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	43,061
GUINEA			
GIN6	Konkouré	Terrestrial	45,744
LIBERIA			
LBR1	Cestos - Senkwen	Terrestrial	350,405
LBR2	Cestos/Gbi Area	Terrestrial	316,490
LBR7	Grebo	Terrestrial	282,195
LBR11	Lofa-Mano Complex	Terrestrial	437,854
LBR12	Nimba mountains	Terrestrial	13,254
LBR14	Sapo National Park	Terrestrial	155,084
LBR17	Wonegizi mountains	Terrestrial	28,868
LBR18	Zwedru	Terrestrial	64,458
NIGERIA			

Code	Priority Site	Realm	Hectares
NGA4	Cross River National Park: Oban Division	Terrestrial	268,952
NGA5	Gashaka-Gumti National Park	Terrestrial	586,803
NGA7	Mbe Mountains and Cross River National Park: Okwangwo Division	Terrestrial	95,288
NGA9	Obudu Plateau	Terrestrial	70,743
fw10	South East Niger Delta - near Calabar	Freshwater	269,451
fw13	West Niger Delta	Freshwater	493,149
SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE			
STP1	Parque Natural do Príncipe	Terrestrial	5,670
STP2	Parque Natural Obô de São Tomé e Zona Tampão	Terrestrial	44,830
STP3	Zona Ecologica dos Manguezais de Rio Malanza	Terrestrial	229
STP4	Zona Ecologógica de Praia das Conchas	Terrestrial	522
SIERRA LEONE			
SLE8	Western Area Peninsula Non-hunting Forest Reserve	Terrestrial	16,414
SLE9	Yawri Bay	Terrestrial	54,674
fw6	Gbangbaia River Basin	Freshwater	266,478
fw8	Rhombe Swamp and Mouth of Little and Great Scarcies Rivers	Freshwater	88,460

Priority KBAs for CEPF Investment in the Upper Guinean Forests Sub-region



Priority KBAs for CEPF Investment in the Lower Guinean Forests Sub region



Conservation Corridors in the Guinean Forests Hotspot

