

Call for Letters of Inquiry Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

**CEPF Emergency Response for Environmental Civil Society
Organizations in Beirut, affected by the disaster on 4 August 2020**

Small Grants Only

Eligible Country:	Lebanon
Opening Date:	Monday, 24 August 2020
Closing Date:	Monday, 7 September 2020 (midnight GMT)
Budget:	US\$1,000 to US\$7,000 per individual grant
Project Timeframe:	Projects are expected to start on 1 October 2020, at the earliest

CEPF and BirdLife International, as regional implementation team (RIT) for the hotspot, are inviting proposals in the form of letters of inquiry (LOIs) for small grants from non-governmental organizations in Lebanon, who meet the eligibility criteria set out below. Applicants are advised to read this call for proposals document in full and submit LOIs under the scope of this call.

BACKGROUND

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 and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. CEPF's niche for investment in the Mediterranean was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The resulting investment strategy (2017-2022) is documented within the [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 16 MB). This investment strategy is comprised of a series of strategic directions, broken down into investment priorities outlining the types of activities that are eligible for CEPF funding.

Following the tragic explosion at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, on 4 August 2020, CEPF is requesting environmental civil society actors in Lebanon to apply for funding to address the immediate impact of this disaster on their infrastructure and operating facilities. These grants are aimed to mitigate the immediate impacts of the disaster, while also building a foundation for the engagement of civil society organizations in planning for relief and reconstruction.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Only organizations meeting all criteria below are eligible for these emergency response grants:

Applicants must be:

- 1. A non-governmental charitable/not for profit organization with a clear environmental conservation scope;**
- 2. A legal entity established and registered as required by the laws or regulations of Lebanon whose head office is located in Lebanon;**
- 3. Authorised under relevant laws to receive charitable contributions and have a bank account registered in the name of the organization; and**
- 4. Applying due to the applicant having sustained damage or loss of the type set out in the Eligible Activities section below, and be able to demonstrate the same with evidence.**

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

LOIs will only be accepted for the following strategic direction and countries:

- Strategic Direction 5: Strengthen the regional conservation community in the hotspot
- Country: Lebanon

It is expected that about 5-10 grants will be awarded under this call.

Eligible activities are limited to:

- 1. The reparation of the applicant's office / project facilities that were damaged as a result of the disaster in Beirut on 4 August 2020;**
- 2. The purchase of project equipment that was damaged to the extent that it is rendered unusable, or destroyed as a result of the disaster in Beirut on 4 August 2020.**

Proposed activities must observe all terms and conditions applying to funded activities (including but not limited to relevant safeguard and social policies) as set out on the [CEPF website](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications (LOIs) can be submitted in **English or Arabic**.

Please download the Letter of Inquiry (LOI) form in the language of your choice:

- [English](#)
- [Arabic](#)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LOI FORMATS FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL LOIs UNDER THE CEPF MEDITERRANEAN SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU USE THE CORRECT VERSION, WHICH CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

Applicants must submit their LOI by the deadline to CEPF-MED-RIT@birdlife.org. Applications need to address, with evidence, the immediate needs of environmental civil society actors in Lebanon.

In addition to the LOI, applicants will also need to submit:

- (1) *An electronic copy of valid registration documentation of your organization;*
- (2) *Proof of damage/destruction of the item(s) (i.e. infrastructure/equipment) for which funding is requested and that such loss/destruction was a result of the disaster in Beirut on 4 August 2020 (e.g. a photo, newspaper article, police report, or similar);*
- (3) *Proof of original ownership of any damaged/destroyed equipment for which funding is requested (e.g. receipt/invoice/proof of payment, letter from the original donor, a photo that shows the equipment, or similar);*
- (4) *Your insurance policy, if you have one, which clearly shows what is covered by the policy and written confirmation as to whether a claim has been made or not in respect of any loss for which you are seeking funding.*

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Once you have submitted a complete application (= the LOI + supporting documents as described above), you will receive an acknowledgement from the RIT confirming that your submission has been received.

The LOI review process will take approximately 3 weeks from the deadline date. All applicants will receive a response from the RIT following the review of their project.

Subject to approval and availability of funds, LOIs will be awarded/offered a small grant. The grant will be made on the terms and conditions set out in a grant agreement to be entered into by successful applicants and BirdLife International as the RIT for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

CONTACT

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas and eligibility with the programme officer for your region:

- Middle East Programme Officer, Sharif Jbour: sharif.jbour@birdlife.org

For general queries about the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot programme, please contact the Regional Implementation Team Manager, Maaike Manten at maaike.manten@birdlife.org, or visit the regional implementation team's [website](#).