

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 19
Investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Call for proposals for projects related to
Strategic Directions 1 (*Mainstreaming*), 2 (*KBA management and protection*) and 3 (*Capacity
development*) – in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda**

1. Opening Date: Wednesday, 18 April 2018

2. Submission

Deadline: Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Application format: Submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) in English; the LOI form is available from the [regional implementation team website](#).

Submission method: Submit letter of inquiry to CEPF-EAM-SGP@birdlife.org

3. General information

BirdLife International, as the regional implementation team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, invites 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 the [CEPF website](#) and [BirdLife International website](#).

4. Eligible Applicants

Non-government organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities, and other civil society organizations may apply for funding. **Applications from women's groups, Indigenous People's organizations and 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 this call for proposals. 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 and Sites (Key Biodiversity Areas)

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below. **Please refer to the third column of the table for the eligible activities under this call.**

Activities [please refer to the [ecosystem profile](#) and the new [results framework](#) for more details]

Strategic Direction	Investment Priority	What we are looking for under this call:
<p>1. Mainstream biodiversity into 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 KBAs.</p>	<p>Local mainstreaming: Projects at selected KBAs (see list below) that will provide direct and indirect socio-economic benefits to local men and women, through enhanced and more secure delivery of ecosystem services.</p>
<p>2. Improve the protection and management of the KBA network</p>	<p>2.1 Increase the protection status (via creation or expansion of protected areas) and/or develop, update and implement management plans for KBAs.</p>	<p>Species conservation: Projects that will reduce threats to globally threatened species at selected KBAs (see list below).</p> <p>Site conservation: Projects that will enhance connectivity within/between selected KBAs (see list below), especially through the adoption of biodiversity-friendly management practices by private companies.</p>
<p>3. Initiate and support sustainable financing and related actions for the conservation of priority KBAs.</p>	<p>3.3 Support training for civil society organizations in fund-raising and project management, especially training such organizations at all levels with respect to emerging opportunities for sustainable financing for KBAs in Africa.</p>	<p>Mainstreaming: Training to CEPF grantees and their beneficiaries (Civil Society Organisations) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda in ‘biodiversity mainstreaming’, in order to develop the necessary capacity and credibility to engage with government and private sector actors for KBA conservation in their respective countries.</p> <p>Organisational development and gender: Training to CEPF grantees and their beneficiaries (Civil Society Organisations) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda to strengthen their organizational and technical capacity, including in the application of social and environmental safeguards, and gender mainstreaming. This project will need to include one or more grantee experience-exchange meetings.</p>

Priority sites

We will only fund activities that will benefit the following Key Biodiversity Areas (see table below):

Kenya	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uganda
- Mt Kenya - Kikuyu Escarpment - Lake Bogoria NR - Lake Ol' Bolossat	- Gishwati and - Mukura NP - Nyungwe NP including - Cyamudongo Forest - Volcanoes NP - Rugezi Swamp	- East Usambara Mountains - West Usambara Mountains - Udzungwa Mountains - Uluguru Mountains - Njombe Forests - Greater Mahale Landscape	- Bugoma Central Forest Reserve - Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP - Echuya Forest Reserve - Murchison Falls NP

Projects that will add value to past or ongoing CEPF investment at these sites are highly encouraged. For targeted information about ongoing investments/projects, please contact CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org.

6. Budget and Timeframe

CEPF anticipates making a maximum of ten awards under this call for proposals. The **maximum budget per project is US \$50,000**. Projects are expected to start on **1 August 2018** and must be **completed by 31 September 2019 (14 months)**. Selected applicants will be invited to attend a pre-contracting training workshop in **July 2018**.

7. 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.

Applicants **must** use the CEPF Letter of Inquiry template in [English](#) (for Mac users and/or if this format gives you problems, use the old Word doc referenced [here](#)).

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. We will not accept hardcopy LOIs. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your application.

8. Advisory Service

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the EAM RIT at CEPF-EAM-RIT@birdlife.org. Based on experience, discussing your proposal idea with us before submitting it will significantly increase the chances of success. The advisory service **will terminate on 16 May 2018**; so please send questions to the RIT before that date.

9. Reference Documents

All potential applicants should refer to the [ecosystem profile](#) and the new [results framework](#). The following references are also available on the [CEPF](#) and [BirdLife](#) websites.

- [How to apply](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Eligibility criteria for applicants](#)
- [CEPF safeguard policies](#)
- [World Bank safeguard policies](#)

10. Contact

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