

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 2
LARGE GRANTS**

Investment in the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

- 1. Opening Date:** Friday, 15 September 2017
- 2. Deadline:** Monday, 30 October 2017 (midnight GMT)
- 3. Application format**

Applicants must respond to the call via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal.

Applicants who do not have a ConservationGrants portal account will be required to register a new account. The link to create an account in ConservationGrants is [here](#). Questions regarding account creation or the application process should be emailed to conservationgrants@conservation.org.

4. General information

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions, known as biodiversity hotspots. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. The 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. More information on CEPF can be found at www.cepf.net and at <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/projects/cepf-guinean-forests-west-africa-hotspot>.

The Guinean Forests Biodiversity Hotspot covers 621,705 sq. km and can be divided into two sub-regions: the '**Upper Guinean Forests**' from Guinea in the west, through Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and, marginally, into Benin and the '**Lower Guinean Forests**', from much of southern Nigeria, into south-west Cameroon, and São Tomé & Príncipe and the offshore islands of Equatorial Guinea. The Guinean Forests support impressive levels of biodiversity, having high levels of species richness and endemism. It also faces many ongoing threats to biodiversity which have resulted in the loss of more than 85 percent of the native vegetation cover.

CEPF's investment niche in the Guinean Forests is therefore to provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) at grassroots, national and international levels with the tools, capacity and

resources to establish and sustain multi-stakeholder partnerships that demonstrate models for sustainable, pro-poor growth and achieve priority conservation outcomes. CEPF's niche for investment in the Hotspot was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor, governmental stakeholders, the private sector and other actors 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 region are outlined in the Ecosystem Profile, available [here](#).

5. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organizations, community groups and associations, private enterprises, universities, research institutes, and other civil society organizations may apply for funding.

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.

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

Organizations must have their 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.

6. Eligible Activities

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below. All activities must support **Strategic Direction 1** (*Empower local communities to engage in sustainable management of 40 priority sites and consolidate ecological connectivity at the landscape scale*) or **Strategic Direction 2** (*Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels*) or **Strategic Direction 3** (*Safeguard priority globally threatened species by identifying and addressing major threats and information gaps*). Strategic Direction 4 is not eligible for this call. Please see further guidance below:

- **Strategic Direction 1:**
Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for projects that will:
 - strengthen the elaboration and/or implementation of land-use planning, land tenure and forestry reforms in community and private reserves and concessions;
 - promote preparation and implementation of participatory management plans in protected areas;

- demonstrate sustainable livelihood/job creation activities for local communities that will act as incentives for the conservation of priority sites.
- Strategic Direction 2:
Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for projects that will:
 - conduct policy-relevant research, analysis and outreach for national government conservation policies;
 - generate locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems to influence political and economic decision-making;
 - facilitate partnerships among local communities, private sector and government to demonstrate models for best practice mining, sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture by private companies.
- Strategic Direction 3:
Under this Strategic Direction, we are looking for projects that will:
 - support the implementation of Conservation Action Plans for Critically Endangered and Endangered species;
 - update the KBA analysis by incorporating recently available data and by conducting targeted research to fill critical knowledge gaps.

7. Eligible Sites and other Criteria

All eleven countries of the hotspot are eligible. However, for this call, specific geographic or thematic **focuses have been prioritized** for each Strategic Direction and their respective Investment Priorities as shown below.

KBAs eligible under Strategic Direction 1 and its Investment Priorities (IP)

Country	KBA name	KBA code	IP 1.1	IP 1.2	IP 1.3
Cameroon	Bakossi Mountains	CMR1		Eligible	Eligible
	Bali-Ngemba Forest Reserve	CMR2	Eligible		Eligible
	Bamboutos Mountains	CMR3	Eligible		Eligible
	Mbi Crater Faunal Reserve - Mbingo forest	CMR6	Eligible		Eligible
	Mount Cameroon and Mokoko-Onge	CMR12		Eligible	Eligible
	Mount Oku	CMR15	Eligible		Eligible
	Mount Rata and Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve	CMR16		Eligible	Eligible
	Tchabal Mbabo	CMR18	Eligible		Eligible
	Yabassi	CMR19	Eligible		Eligible
	Lake Barombi Mbo e bacias circundantes	fw2		Eligible	Eligible
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Côte d'Ivoire	Forêt Classée de Cavally et Goin - Débé	CIV3			
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Guinée	Konkouré	GIN6			Eligible
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Nigeria	Cross River National Park: Oban Division	NGA4			
	Gashaka-Gumti National Park	NGA5			
	Mbe Mountains and Cross River National Park: Okwangwo division	NGA7			Eligible
	Obudu Plateau	NGA9	Eligible		Eligible
	South East Niger Delta - near Calabar	fw10			Eligible
	West Niger Delta	fw13	Eligible		Eligible

	Other non Priority KBAs				
Liberia	Cestos – Senkwen	LBR1		Eligible	Eligible
	Cestos/Gbi Area	LBR2			
	Grebo	LBR7		Eligible	Eligible
	Lofa-Mano Complex	LBR11		Eligible	Eligible
	Nimba Mountains	LBR12		Eligible	Eligible
	Sapo National Park	LBR14		Eligible	Eligible
	Wonegizi Mountains	LBR17		Eligible	Eligible
	Zwedru	LBR18		Eligible	Eligible
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Sierra Leone	Western Area Peninsula Non-hunting Forest Reserve	SLE8		Eligible	Eligible
	Yawri Bay	SLE9		Eligible	Eligible
	Gbangbaia River Basin	fw1		Eligible	Eligible
	Rhombe Swamp e Mouth of Little and Great Scarcies Rivers	fw8		Eligible	Eligible
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Ghana	Atewa Range Forest Reserve	GHA3		Eligible	
	Florestal Cape Three Points Forest Reserve	GHA9		Eligible	Eligible
	Tano-Offin Forest Reserve	GHA29		Eligible	Eligible
	Other non Priority KBAs				
Guinea Ecuatorial	Annobón	GNQ1		Eligible	Eligible
	Reserva Científica de la Caldera de Luba	GNQ2			
	Parque Nacional do Pico de Basilé	GNQ3		Eligible	Eligible
São Tomé e Príncipe	Parque Natural Obô do Príncipe	STP1		Eligible	
	Parque Natural Obô de São Tomé e Zona Tampão	STP2		Eligible	Eligible
	Zona Ecológica dos Mangais do Rio Malanza	STP3		Eligible	Eligible
	Zona Ecológica da Praia das Conchas	STP4		Eligible	Eligible

Corridors eligible under Strategic Direction 2 and its Investment Priorities (IP)

Corridor	Country	KBA Name	KBA Code	IP 2.1	IP 2.2	IP 2.3
Bandama River Catchment	Cote d'Ivoire			Eligible		Eligible
Cestos Sapo Grebo Tai Cavally	Cote d'Ivoire	Foret classée de Cavally et Goin Debe	CIV3		Eligible	Eligible and priority
	Liberia	Cestos-Senkwen	LBR1			
		Cestos/ Gbi Area	LBR2			
		Grebo	LBR7			
		Sapo National park	LBR14			
		Zwedru	LBR18			
Forest reserves of South Eastern Cote d'Ivoire and South Western Ghana	Ghana	Atewa range forest reserve	GHA3			Eligible
		Tano-Offin forest reserve	GHA29			
		Cape Three Points	GHA9			
	Cote d'Ivoire					
Korupmba Obacha	Nigeria	Cross River National Park, Oban division	NGA4	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible and priority
		Obudu Plateau	NGA9			
		South East Niger Delta near Calabar	FW10			
		Gashaka-Gumti national park	NGA5			
		Mbe mountains and Corss River national park Okwango division	NGA7			
	Cameroon	Bakossi mountains	CMR1			
		Bali-Ngemba forest reserves	CMR2			
		Bamboutous mountains	CMR3			
		Mbi crater faunal reserve - Mbingo forest	CMR6			
		Mount Cameroon and Mokoko-Onge	CMR8			
		Mount Oku	CMR15			
		Mount Rata and Rumpi hills forest reserve	CMR16			
		Tchabal Mbabo	CMR18			

		Yabassi	CMR19			
		Lake Barombi Mbo and surrounding catchments	FW2			
Lofa Gola Mano complex	Guinee			Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Sierra Leone					
	Liberia	Wonegizi mountains	LBR17			
		Lofa Mano Complex	LBR11			
Lower Niger delta	Nigeria	West Niger delta	FW13	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Mount Nimba complex	Liberia	Nimba mountains	LBR12	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible and priority
	Cote d'Ivoire					
	Guinee					
Sierra Leone Coastal	Sierra Leone	Western Area Peninsula Forest National Park	SLE8	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
		Yawri Bay	SLE9			
		Rhombe swamp and Mouth of little and great scarcies river	FW8			
		Gbangbaia river basin	FW1			
Togo Highlands	Togo			Eligible		Eligible

Eligibility under Strategic Direction 3 and its Investment Priorities (IP)

Criteria for project prioritization	IP 3.1	IP 3.2
Species listed in Appendix 4 of the Ecosystem Profile	Eligible	
Mammal	Eligible	
Bird	Eligible	
Plant		Eligible and priority
Reptile		Eligible and priority
Other Taxa		Eligible
Listed as CR on the IUCN RedList	Eligible	
Listed as EN on the IUCN RedList	Eligible	
Listed as DD on the IUCN RedList		Eligible and priority
Not listed on the IUCN RedList		Eligible and priority
Has an officially recognized Action Plan	Eligible	
Umbrella species <i>(protecting this species indirectly protects the many other species of its habitat)</i>	Eligible	
Flagship species <i>(by raising the profile of this species, it can successfully leverage more support for biodiversity conservation at large)</i>	Eligible	
Listed as National Priority	Eligible	
Lacks financial support	Eligible	
Species conservation effort needed <i>(the species would only benefit from targeted efforts as opposed to site-based efforts)</i>	Eligible	
Freshwater Habitat		Eligible and priority
Recently available data to update the KBA analysis		Eligible
Lower Guinean Forests		Eligible and priority
Opportunities for early career conservationists to gain field experience		Eligible

8. Budget and Timeframe

The **minimum budget per project is US \$50,000** and the **maximum budget per project is US \$300,000**. Projects are expected to start on **01 July 2018** the earliest and must be **completed by 31 December 2020**.

9. Letter of Inquiry, Full Proposal, and Award Process

Applicants are required to submit a Letter of Inquiry through the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. CEPF will **not** accept Letters of Inquiry via electronic mail or any other mechanism. You will receive an acknowledgement confirming that your submission through ConservationGrants has been accepted.

All applicants will receive a notification following the review of their project. Applicants whose LOIs receive a positive review will be invited to submit a full proposal, again through the ConservationGrants electronic portal.

Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, and the applicant's institution (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

10. Advisory Service

All applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas with the Project Officer in charge of the areas where the project would be implemented:

- 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, Annobón and Bioko):
Mariana Carvalho
Mariana.Carvalho@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 Monday 16 October 2017**; so, please send your questions to the RIT before that date.

11. Reference Documents

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

- How to apply: [English](#)
- Frequently asked questions: [English](#)
- Eligibility criteria for applicants: [English](#)
- Ecosystem Profile Investment Strategy: [English](#)
- Ecosystem Profile Logical Framework: [English](#)
- CEPF projects database: [English](#)
- CEPF safeguard policies: [English](#)
- World Bank safeguard policies: [English](#)

Additional information is also available <http://www.birdlife.org/africa/projects/cepf-guinean-forests-west-africa-hotspot>

12. Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns to: cepf-gfwa-rit@birdlife.org