

List of questions and answers received during the webinar and by email. Last update December 19, 2022

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Q	Which countries are eligible for this call?
A	Only Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are eligible for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot
Q	What are the eligible areas?
A	For investment priority 1, i.e. 1.1 and 1.2, only eligible priority KBAs listed in the letter of Inquiry are eligible (1.2 only for Large grants in Seychelles et Comoros and only Seychelles for small grants). For Investment Priority 3.1, the capacity building activities can take place throughout the territory of Madagascar. However, priority will be given to projects strengthening the capacities of organizations working in the priority KBAs of CEPF.
Q	Are projects including activities in a priority KBA and also in a non-priority KBA eligible?
A	For strategic direction 1, only activities carried out in a priority KBA eligible for this call can be funded.
Q	Can we propose a multi KBA project or each project must relate to only one KBA ?
A	Yes a project can have activities in several priority KBAs
Q	Can we define what a regional project is?
A	A regional project is a project with activities in several countries and sites eligible for this CEPF call
Q	Is an agro-forestry project like syntropic agriculture eligible even if it is not within a biodiversity hotspot?
A	No it is not eligible if it is outside the biodiversity hotspot of Madagascar and the Indian ocean islands. Otherwise, yes, this activity is eligible, if within the hotspot and if it is part of an EbA process. Namely maintaining/restoring/improving ecosystem services in order to fight against climate change.
Q	Is there a minimum size of project in terms of land area?
A	No there is no minimum or maximum in the size of the projects

Q	What is the maximum amount authorized for a Large Grant?
A	There is no maximum amount allowed for Large Grants, the average grant for this Hotspot historically has been around \$150.000 but higher budgets are not excluded. The budget should match the anticipated impact of the project. Similarly, there is no minimum amount for Small Grants. Your budget should depend on your activities
Q	What is the maximum duration of the project?
A	The project should not have any activity after December 31, 2026, i.e. a maximum of about 3 years and 6 months. There is no minimum duration.

Q	On what date do we receive the response (favorable or not) of our application for the call for projects?
A	An answer will be provided to you in mid-March, we will respond to all the letter of Inquiry submitted.
Q	Regarding the budget distribution of the grant, can we know the percentage granted for the staff and the percentage for the implementation of the project?

A	In terms of budget allocation, there is no percentage limit for the staff versus the implementation of the project. The only limit is for the administrative costs (or management support costs) which are limited at 13% of the direct costs for large grants and 10% for small grants.
Q	Can this call fund a study/research?
A	This call will not fund research activities, specific calls on these topics (investment priority 4) will be opened later
Q	Can CEPF funding be used as co-funding for another project?
A	Yes CEPF grants can be use for part of co-funding for other project, CEPF itself does not require co-funding.
Q	Is there a limit to the number of grants an NGO can have?
A	There is no limit on the number of grants an applicant can submit, nor is there a limit on the number of grants funded for an applicant. Having said this, be sure that you remain reasonable is what you are asking.
Q	Is a newly created organization/company eligible for grants?
A	Yes, any organization with a legal status is eligible, as long as it is not government owned.
Q	Is an international NGO with in country based in Madagascar eligible for grants?
A	Yes international organization are eligible for this call, if their project activity is located in the eligible areas
Q	Are there recommendations for exchange rates to be used on the project budgets?
A	For the moment there is no recommendation, these will come after selecting your project and writing it. You need not worry about this for your Lol.
Q	If we are going to submit a project in a particular KBA where there is a managing actor who is already working there, should we contact this manager for the submission of our project?
A	yes, if the organization is the official manager, you should provide a support letter, if not, synergy of actions and partnership between both of you must be proven
Q	Is there a Template for this letter of support from actors already working in an area?
A	No, we do not have a specific template
Q	Should we coordinate activities with this actor already present in the area of the project proposal?
A	No unless he is the manager of the area (example of national parks)
Q	If we have a good project but we can't get this letter of support for some reason, is that negotiable?
A	It depends on the case, so explain why it is difficult to get the support letter. The support letter would be nice...but it is not a strict condition
Q	Will there be a period of review for full proposals?
A	Yes, but for both the small- and the large we strive to get all contracts for approved Letters of Inquiry / proposals signed before July 2023
Q	Can an NGO use a bank account for different projects?
A	A dedicated bank account is preferred to receive CEPF funds, but it is not mandatory
Q	Should a project require clearance from authorities (working in river or mountain reserves, for example), is there a time limit for obtaining such authorisations?
A	Ideally the relevant authorities should allow the activity to take place. So we invite you to discuss with the authorities in your country, early on in the CEPF application process. At least the applicant should demonstrate that he/she tried to obtain such clearance or otherwise explained why he/she didn't.

Q	Is approval is still required for any use of chemicals such as rodenticide in a project?
A	Yes. For this use of rodentices the safeguard protocol of CEPF would need to be complied with. For large grants a question on this aspect comes up in the ConservationGrant online system
Q	How many calls are planned for the entire investment period?
A	We have not defined a number of specific calls for projects. But all strategy directions will be offered in the 4 eligible countries at least once. Mostly likely at least 6 calls will be made
Q	Could a project be as simple as funding the recruitment of a critical resource we are missing?
A	CEPF can cover the costs of recruiting critical resources missed within an organization. In this case, the project proposition should clearly explain how critical these resources are and what activities will take place thanks to the presence of these human resources and with which funding. Demonstration should be made how this would strengthen the capacities of your organization.
Q	Would a project proposal with collaboration and partnership be an advantage?
A	In principle yes. Partnerships that will enhance the impact of the CEPF investment are encouraged
Q	How are the sub-grants organized between partners?
A	The grantee or partner is the one who signed the contract with IUCN NL /RIT, he is responsible to us (RIT). If there are sub-grants (or services providers) it must be reasonable in number/amount. The CEPF capacity strengthening of CSOs is a principle CEPF objective, sub-grantees should also be seen in the contexts of partnership.
Q	Can we donate a grant entirely to a partner for specific and budgeted actions?
A	You can subgrant part of an activity plan to an actor, but you remain ultimately responsible to the RIT / CEPF, depending on the budget. There are specific procedures to follow for the selection of service providers (following the indications of CEPF) this will also be discussed after your possible selection.
Q	Should the number of partners be limited and preference given to identified service providers?
A	The numbers of partners (I suppose you mean sub-grantees) should make sense from the project's objectives / the desired outcomes
Q	We have a climate change smart agriculture related activities outside priorities KBAs , we are not sure do we need to apply as NGO or private entity (we have two entity).
A	Your activities are not eligible for this call. You will be better off under priority 2, which specifically targets the private sector, a specific call for this will come later in 2023.
Q	Can we include building of infrastructure related to the delivery of project results into the LOI? If yes, shall we use the budget line 'Furniture and Equipment'?
A	We can't fund large infrastructures, but an infrastructure that makes sense to obtain the project's anticipated outcomes is possible. However but it should make sense from the objectives of the project (and thus from a budget perspective). Infrastructure construction will trigger environmental and social safeguards which will need to be incorporated within the project. These safeguards will be considered together with the RIT/CEPF should your project be shortlisted.
Q	How do I get the formats/template for the budget and Lol for small grants?
A	The templates are available on Google Drive via this link. You must download them in order to complete them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French: letter of inquiry template and budget template • English: letter of inquiry template and budget template
Q	How did CEPF reach the decisions on which KBA's would become priority KBA's?

A	<p>The technical reports of the Ecosystem Profile are published on the CEPF website which include a section on the methodology for the selection of priority sites.</p> <p>https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/kbapplus-analysis-for-madagascar-2022.pdf https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/kbapplus-analysis-for-indian-ocean-islands-2022.pdf</p>
Q	<p>Do you have any guidance for agroforestry activities/project</p>
A	<p>For Agroforestry activities, it should be clearly demonstrated that the planned agroforestry activities actually improve the ecological quality of the landscape. It is an asset if activities are already in place, so the functioning can be demonstrated and the applicant's capacity to deliver results on improving the quality of the ecosystem (through agroforestry).</p> <p>Key criteria for agroforestry projects should explain;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The impact of agroforestry, the 'how' of the activities (on e.g. ecological impact, the diversity of species, invasive or native species introduction, drought resistance, etc);In the implementation of practice in the Agroforestry system, we would like to see the protection and use of native species, as well as to check whether certain species proposed are not considered as invasive alien. This website https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/ can help you with information on invasives for your country - The conservation agreements with communities that are in place - Outcomes of a market study, to understand the sustainability and viability of the project.....is there a market for the product?
Q	<p>Should the partner or lead organization in the proposal automatically intervene in conservation?</p>
A	<p>Any organization can propose a project, whatever their field of expertise. But projects supported by competent organizations on the proposed activities will enhance the quality and sustainability of the outcomes</p>
Q	<p>Are there any specific definitions of habitats by CEPF?</p>
A	<p>We follow the guidance of the IUCN Red List regarding habitat definitions. You can find them here: https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/classification-schemes Or here for habitats https://nc.iucnredlist.org/redlist/content/attachment_files/dec_2012_guidance_habitats_classification_scheme.pdf</p>
Q	<p>Can the costs of environmental and social impact studies of activities be included in the project budget?</p>
A	<p>Yes, this is possible for projects where this is a necessity, for example regarding the eradication of invasive species</p>
Q	<p>Can we submit a proposal for investment priorities 1.1 and 3.1 at the same time for the same project?</p>
A	<p>Yes, but the project leader will still have to select the main strategic direction (1 or 3) under which his project will fall and for which key impacts are be expected.</p>
Q	<p>Is the handling of agents of the State and local authorities eligible during activities?</p>
A	<p>Yes, we can cover their travel, accommodation and food costs with a clear preference for the handling of these costs directly by the project leader rather than by per diems.</p>