

**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**

**Twenty-first Meeting of the Donor Council  
Conservation International, Arlington, VA  
11 June 2012  
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EST**

**Selection of BirdLife International as the  
Regional Implementation Team for the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot**

**Recommended Action Item**

The Donor Council is asked to approve the selection of Birdlife International as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for administration and as the RIT for programs for the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot.

The Council is asked to further instruct the Secretariat to work with Birdlife International to finalize its respective work plans and budgets for RIT-Administration and RIT-Programs, which would include a particular emphasis on grant-making in Ethiopia, procedures for small grants, engagement of development partners, and engagement of donors via donor round tables.

**Background**

On 10 January 2012 the Secretariat issued two calls for proposals inviting applications to fulfill the roles of RIT-Administration and RIT-Programs for the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot. After 19 organizations expressed initial interest, the Secretariat received formal submissions from consortia led by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) and Birdlife International. Both consortia submitted proposals for the two RIT functions.

The Secretariat analyzed the applications and concluded that the proposals submitted by BirdLife International are superior to those of ARCOS. On 8 May 2012, the Secretariat provided the Working Group with an assessment of proposals received, and requested that comments be received by 21 May 2012. While no comments were received, the CEPF Executive Director is holding individual discussions with Working Group members to include any suggestions they may have in preparation for the Donor Council meeting.

The following documents were provided to the Working Group on 8 May 2012, and are available for Donor Council perusal at the following link: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/proposals.aspx>

- Secretariat's assessment of proposals
- **Annex 1** (PDF 403 KB): Request for proposals for RIT-Administration, released by CEPF on 10 January 2012.
- **Annex 2** (PDF 393 KB): Request for proposals for RIT-Programs, released by CEPF on 10 January 2012.
- **Annex 3** (PDF 465 KB): Request for clarifications and best and final offers, sent from CEPF to ARCOS on 30 March 2012, regarding ARCOS' 16 March 2012 proposal for RIT-Administration and 16 March 2012 proposal for RIT-Programs. Note that this letter asks the applicant to submit a new RIT-Administration proposal, a new RIT-Programs proposal, and stand-alone responses to clarification questions. ARCOS provided the new Administration proposal (Annex 5) and Programs proposal (Annex 6), but did not provide stand-alone responses as requested.
- **Annex 4** (PDF 459 KB): Request for clarifications and best and final offers, sent from CEPF to BirdLife on 30 March 2012, regarding ARCOS' 16 March 2012 proposal for RIT-Administration

and 16 March 2012 proposal for RIT-Programs. Note that this letter asks the applicant to submit a new RIT-Administration proposal, a new RIT-Programs proposal, and stand-alone responses to clarification questions. BirdLife provided each requested item (Annex 7, 8, and 9).

- **Annex 5** (PDF 2 MB): ARCOS best and final offer proposal for RIT-Administration, submitted on 27 April 2012.
- **Annex 6** (PDF 2 MB): ARCOS best and final offer proposal for RIT-Programs, submitted on 27 April 2012.
- **Annex 7** (PDF 1.3 MB): BirdLife best and final offer proposal for RIT-Administration, submitted on 27 April 2012.
- **Annex 8** (PDF 1.2 MB): BirdLife best and final offer proposal for RIT-Programs, submitted on 27 April 2012.
- **Annex 9** (PDF 480 KB): BirdLife stand-alone responses to clarification questions, submitted on 27 April 2012.