

Call for Letters of Inquiry Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Large Grants

Eligible Countries:	Cabo Verde
Opening Date:	Wednesday, 28 October 2020
Closing Date:	Monday, 30 November 2020
Budget:	US\$20,000 to US\$110,000
Project Timeframe:	Projects are expected to begin on 1 March 2021, at the earliest, and must be completed by 30 June 2022.

CEPF and BirdLife International, as regional implementation team (RIT) for the hotspot, are inviting proposals in the form of letters of inquiry (LOIs) for large grants from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society organizations (CSOs). 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.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, universities and private enterprises may apply for funding. 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.

Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that the enterprise or institution has:

- a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Grants cannot be used for:

- the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities.
- activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities.
- removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious or unique natural values). Proposed activities should observe all other relevant safeguard and social policies as set out on the [CEPF website](#).

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The scope of this call is limited to the types of activities and locations described below.

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

- 1) Strategic Direction 1:** Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of **biodiversity in coastal areas**.

Country: Cabo Verde

- Eligible coastal Key Biodiversity Areas under this call for proposals are presented in the table below:

Country	KBA code	KBA name
Cabo Verde	CPV 05	Costa de Fragata
Cabo Verde	CPV 07	Cruzinha da Garça
Cabo Verde	CPV 08/09	Falésias costeiras entre Porto Mosquito e Baía do Inferno; Falésias costeiras entre Porto Mosquito e Baía do Inferno – Marinha
Cabo Verde	CPV 10	Ilha de Santa Luzia

Cabo Verde	CPV 11	Ilha de São Nicolau – Marinha (TBC)
Cabo Verde	CPV 23	Parque Natural do Norte do Maio
Cabo Verde	CPV 24	Praias da Ilha de São Nicolau

Under Strategic Direction 1, the following investment priorities are eligible under this call for proposals:

- Investment Priority 1.1: Engage local stakeholders in conservation actions that address threats to key elements of biodiversity in priority KBAs in the coastal zone.
- Investment Priority 1.3: Support civil society to engage with local or national governments to mainstream biodiversity conservation into integrated coastal zone management, land-use and development planning processes.

More specifically, CEPF expects to support projects that aim at:

- i) Supporting the creation of new protected area through innovative management initiatives.
- ii) Improving management of existing protected areas, including through initiating site co-management and/or through preparing/updating/implementing strategic documents such as management plans.
- iii) Developing or strengthening concrete conservation actions that aim at protecting threatened species.
- iv) Improving knowledge and monitoring.
- v) Supporting best practices for artisanal fisheries (in particular, enhancing sustainable fishing practices, reducing by-catch and building synergies with marine protected areas).
- vi) Mobilizing local private sector in support of biodiversity-friendly practices, supporting small-scale business in ecotourism, local fisheries, valorisation of local products (fish, shells, food products), supporting local farmers or cooperatives, etc.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications (LOIs) can be submitted in English or Portuguese.

All applications must be submitted through the ConservationGrants website via [this link](#).

CEPF will not accept LOIs via email or any other mechanism. You will receive an acknowledgement from CEPF confirming that your submission through ConservationGrants has been received.

This is a new online system, so for CEPF applicants or grantees who applied in Phase I (2012-2017), please note that the Grant Writer/GEM system is no longer in use, and you will need to set up a new account at ConservationGrants to apply. Register a new account by clicking on the blue "New User?" link underneath the "Sign in" box. Existing ConservationGrants users can use the same login information and create a new LOI.

Questions regarding account creation or issues using ConservationGrants should be emailed to conservationgrants@conservation.org.

The LOI review process will take approximately eight weeks from the deadline date. The review committee will select the strongest LOIs which meet the eligibility criteria. All applicants will receive a response from CEPF following the review of their project. Applications which are invited to the second stage will be developed into a full proposal through ConservationGrants. 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.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

All applicants are advised to review the CEPF Investment Strategy for the Mediterranean Basin within the ecosystem profile. This provides more detail on the types of activities CEPF will fund under each investment priority:

- Ecosystem Profile:
 - [English](#) (PDF – 16 MB)
- Ecosystem Profile Technical Summary:
 - [English](#) (PDF – 2.2 MB)
 - [French](#) (PDF – 2.9 MB)

An interactive map of the Mediterranean Hotspot can be accessed [here](#); use the top right-hand "layer list" icon to select the layer you would like to view.

CEPF is committed to integrating gender into its portfolio. Applicants should design projects and write proposals that consider gender issues in the achievement of their conservation impacts. CEPF has developed several resources that can help applicants to design, implement and evaluate gender-aware projects ([CEPF Gender Toolkit](#), PDF – 359 KB) and understand what CEPF seeks in a proposal ([CEPF Gender Fact Sheet](#), PDF – 352 KB). Visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#) to learn more about how CEPF addresses gender in the projects it supports. The integration of gender in your project will be a factor in evaluation.

Helpful resources:

- [Eligibility and How to Apply](#)
- [ConservationGrants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Safeguard Policies](#)
- [CEPF and Gender](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)

CONTACT

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

- Cabo Verde Program Officer Aurélien Garreau: aurelien.garreau@live.fr

For general queries about the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot program, please contact Mediterranean Basin Regional Team Leader Maaïke Manten at maaïke.manten@birdLife.org or visit the [RIT website](#).