



CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot
Call for Letters of Inquiry

This call is only open to projects that will be focused in the Massif de la Hotte key biodiversity area (KBA), Haiti.

The opening and deadline dates for this call for letters of inquiry:

Opening Date: Tuesday 15th May 2012

Deadline Date: Friday 29th June 2012

Call for Letters of Inquiry

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in its role as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot is now inviting **letters of inquiry (LOIs)** from civil society organisations for both small and large grant projects for **Massif de la Hotte, Haiti**. Please read all the information below for details on the CEPF investment in the Caribbean and how to apply for a grant.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. CEPF provides grants to civil society organisations to help protect biodiversity hotspots, which are Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened areas. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society plays a critical role in achieving biodiversity conservation.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Caribbean islands was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The results of this process and the five-year (2010-2015) strategy that CEPF has identified for supporting biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean region are outlined in the **Ecosystem Profile**. Five **strategic directions** were identified, covering 45 **key biodiversity areas (KBAs)** and six **conservation corridors** throughout 11 countries that are eligible for CEPF support in the region. Applicants are advised to carefully review the Ecosystem Profile and other references available on the CEPF website when preparing their LOIs, specifically:

- Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile: http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem_profile/Pages/default.aspx
- Frequently asked questions: http://www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
- How to apply: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>
- CEPF projects database: http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
- CEPF safeguard policies: http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx

In addition, here are some Tips for Preparing a CEPF Letter of Inquiry:

http://canari.org/documents/TipsforPreparingaCEPFLetterofInquiry-111011_000.pdf

Please note that this call is only relevant to Strategic Directions 1, 2 and 3 and will only focus on one KBA – the Massif de la Hotte KBA in Haiti. Massif de la Hotte has an area of 128, 700 hectares and is among the highest priority KBAs for CEPF investment in the region. It has also been recognised as among the sites hosting the largest number of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) species in the world with 13 endemic and critically endangered species.

CEPF has a limited amount of funding available to support biodiversity conservation in Massif de la Hotte. Due to the fact that there are a number of partners at the local, national and international level already investing in conservation initiatives in this priority KBA, CANARI and the CEPF Secretariat facilitated a stakeholders meeting to identify complementary projects and initiatives

currently being implemented to help avoid duplication of efforts and increase collaboration. This meeting was held in La Borde, Haiti on 30th March 2012 and was also an opportunity to reflect on actions that would lead to tangible conservation results with local stakeholders. Park Macaya, within the Massif de la Hotte KBA, was the focus of the discussions.

The full report of the stakeholders meeting including conclusions and recommendations that led to this call for proposals can be found on CANARI's website here:

<http://canari.org/documents/CANARI-CEPFMacayaStakeholdersMeeting.pdf>.

This call focuses on the following themes in Massif de la Hotte, Haiti:

1. Activities designed to set up formal or informal protection mechanisms for the KBA, such as the establishment of municipal reserves or any other mechanisms, especially outside of the Park Macaya, in particular the buffer zone north of Macaya and important forest areas of Massif de la Hotte such as (but not limited to) Bois Cavalier, Morne Grand Bois, Deux-Mamelles and Grande Colline; and areas of particularly high and demonstrated biodiversity value that have not benefited from conservation action before, will be favoured (Strategic Direction 1);
2. Initiatives aiming at the strengthening of existing formal or informal partnerships among local stakeholders, and among the *communes* at the level of the Massif de la Hotte KBA (Strategic Direction 3);
3. Capacity building activities for local organisations contributing to biodiversity conservation in the Massif de la Hotte (Strategic Direction 3);
4. Development of a vision for ecotourism projects and pilot activities that would be feasible in Massif de la Hotte (Strategic Direction 2);
5. Public awareness and sensitisation to harmful practices and to the urgent need to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Massif de la Hotte (Strategic Direction 3);
6. Initiatives designed to complement ongoing activities against erosion for habitat restoration, improved agricultural productivity (including breeding) and alternative livelihoods that would have direct and measurable impacts on biodiversity (Strategic Direction 2).

All projects should demonstrate concrete and direct conservation results for Massif de la Hotte, Haiti.

Eligibility Criteria

Non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society applicants may apply for funding. Organisations must have their own bank account and be authorised 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:

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

Anyone who is uncertain of their eligibility or likelihood of receiving funding from CEPF should contact the RIT at cepf-rit@canari.org

Grants cannot be used for:

- i. the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people including displacement of land uses or impeding access to traditional uses of natural resources, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities;
- ii. activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities; or
- iii. the removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values).

For reference, CEPF large grants are \$125,000 on average (in the Caribbean, the large grant average is \$110,000) while small grants are \$13,000 on average.

CEPF not only evaluates the technical merits of a project but also pays attention to a project's social and environmental impacts. Proposed activities must observe all other World Bank safeguard policies found at <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>

Application Process

Applicants for both small and large grants must submit a LOI. The LOI and guidelines are available in English and French: <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>. Kindly note that hard copy LOIs are not encouraged.

The deadline for submitting small and large grant LOIs is 29th June 2012. We encourage applicants to submit their LOIs early so that review and processing of their applications can start earlier. Before submitting either small or large formal LOIs, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the CANARI Regional Implementation Team at cepf-rit@canari.org.

Please follow the steps below to apply for a small or large grant.

Small Grants of up to \$20,000

Small grants are awarded by the RIT. Once the LOI is completed, send an email to cepf-rit@canari.org with the LOI attached. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.

The RIT may require supporting documents from the applicant during the review period. Decisions will be made by the RIT with input from an independent Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC).

The timeframe for processing an application for funding is usually between 4-6 months.

Large grants of more than \$20,000

Large grants are awarded by the CEPF Secretariat. Once the LOI is completed, send an email to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the LOI attached. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.

Decisions on large grant LOIs are based on reviews by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, the RACC and other external technical reviewers where necessary. If your LOI is successful, the CEPF Secretariat will invite you to prepare a full project proposal. The invitation to submit a full project proposal is usually sent within two months after the deadline of the call for proposals.

The guidelines for preparing a full project proposal will be provided when your LOI has been accepted.

The timeframe for processing a large grant LOI to the award of the grant is usually 6-8 months.

Contact information for this call

The primary email contact for the RIT: cepf-rit@canari.org

You can also contact:

- Anna Cadiz, Regional Implementation Team Manager
anna@canari.org
- Paul Judex Edouarzin, Regional Implementation Team Country Coordinator in Haiti
pauledouarzin@canari.org
- Loïza Rauzduel, Regional Implementation Team Technical Officer
loiza@canari.org

CANARI's website: www.canari.org