



CRITICAL | **ECOSYSTEM**
PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

CALL FOR PROPOSALS For the Dominican Republic

For Small Grants: Call period starts: 01 April 2011
Proposals are due: 31 May 2011

For Large Grants: Call period starts: 01 April 2011
Proposals are due: 10 June 2011



A. Introduction

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 inviting proposals in the form of Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organisations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other civil society organisations for **the Dominican Republic**.

At this stage, CANARI will provide support to prospective applicants in developing LOIs.

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 Hotspot was formulated through an inclusive, participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. It is based on an analysis of information gathered during the Ecosystem Profile preparation process.

B. Purpose and Findings of the Ecosystem Profile?

[The Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#) presents an overview of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot in terms of biological importance, climate change impacts, major threats to and root causes of biodiversity loss, socioeconomic context and current conservation investments.

It was developed through a process of stakeholder consultations and expert research studies coordinated by BirdLife International (Caribbean Program) in collaboration with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust / Bath University, and the New York Botanical Garden, with technical support from Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science. At least 200 stakeholders representing more than 160 governmental and non-governmental institutions contributed to the development of this profile.



The profile reveals that these island ecosystems are particularly fragile, finite and under significant pressure. The advent of climate change and its disproportionate impacts on the islands of the Caribbean, combined with continued population growth, emphasizes the importance of maintaining what intact ecosystems remain, of strengthening their resilience and of restoring degraded ecosystems. This imperative is not only critical for maintaining biodiversity but also has clear implications for the future welfare of the people of the Caribbean.

The Profile identifies conservation outcomes as the scientific basis for determining CEPF's geographic and thematic focus for investment. Conservation outcomes are biodiversity targets against which the success of investments can be measured. Such targets must be achieved to prevent species extinctions and halt biodiversity loss. The targets are defined at three levels: **species** (extinctions avoided), **sites** (areas protected) and **landscapes** (corridors consolidated). As conservation in the field succeeds in achieving these targets, these targets become demonstrable results or outcomes.

Based on the outcomes of this study, CEPF has committed a total of US\$ 6.9 million for five years in support of conservation in 45 **priority key biodiversity areas** (KBAs) (which are further subdivided into *highest priority* and *other priority KBAs*) and six **conservation corridors**¹ in the region. CEPF will issue staggered calls for proposals for the duration of the investment period, to be awarded under strategic directions that are delineated below.

The countries eligible for CEPF investment in the Caribbean hotspot are **Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts (Christopher) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

C. CEPF's Investment Strategy – Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

The ecosystem profile contains a five-year (2010 – 2015) investment strategy for CEPF in the region. This investment strategy comprises of a series of strategic funding opportunities, termed **strategic directions**, broken down into a number of **investment priorities** outlining the types of activities that will be eligible for CEPF funding.

¹ Please note that the corridors encompass groupings of these key biodiversity areas of high priority due to their importance for maintaining ecosystem resilience, ecosystem services values, and the health and richness of the hotspot's biological diversity.



The profile does not include specific project concepts, as civil society groups will develop these as part of their applications for CEPF grant funding.

It is critical that applicants review the Caribbean Island Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, and particularly the written descriptions of the CEPF niche and investment strategy, to prepare a project that addresses the priorities identified for funding. The profile can be found on the CEPF website:

[http://www.cepf.net/where we work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem profile /Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/ecosystem_profile/Pages/default.aspx)

Each proposal must support **only one** of the CEPF strategic directions to be approved for funding. Applicants can submit more than one letter of intention.

Table 1: Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas	1.1 Prepare and implement management plans in the 17 highest-priority key biodiversity areas
	1.2 Strengthen the legal protection status in the remaining 28 key biodiversity areas
	1.3 Improve management of invasive species in the 45 priority key biodiversity areas
	1.4 Support the establishment or strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms
2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors	2.1 Mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service values into development policies, projects and plans, with a focus on addressing major threats such as unsustainable tourism development, mining, agriculture and climate change
	2.2 Strengthen public and private protected areas systems through improving or introducing innovative legal instruments for conservation
	2.3 Prepare and support participatory local and corridor-scale land-use plans to guide future development and conservation efforts
	2.4 Promote nature-based tourism and sustainable agriculture and fisheries to enhance connectivity and ecosystem resilience and promote sustainable livelihoods



3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration	3.1 Support efforts to build and strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organizations to undertake conservation initiatives and actions
	3.2 Enable local and regional networking, learning and best-practice sharing approaches to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation
4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team	4.1 Build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the shared conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile Already awarded; being executed by CANARI
5. Provide emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake	5.1 Support conservation of priority key biodiversity areas and ensure the integration of conservation priorities into reconstruction planning

D. Eligible Key Biodiversity Areas in the Dominican Republic

The following table shows a list of the highest-priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for CEPF investment in the Dominican Republic. Investment priorities 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 relate directly to these KBAs.

Table 2: Highest Priority KBAs for the Dominican Republic

Key Biodiversity Area	Status	Area (km ²)
Bahoruco Oriental	Wildlife Refuge	61
Jaragua National Park	National Park	1,694
Loma La Humeadora	National Park	315
Sierra de Bahoruco	National Park /Unprotected	1,152
Valle Nuevo	National Park	933

Other Priority Key Biodiversity Areas for CEPF Investment in the Dominican Republic eligible for support under investment priorities 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 are listed below.



Table 3: Other Priority KBAs for the Dominican Republic

Key Biodiversity Area	Status	Area (km ²)
Armando Bermudez National Park	National Park	810
Ebano Verde Scientific Reserve	Scientific Reserve	357
Enriquillo Lake	National Park	497
Haitises	National Park	626
Loma Guaconejo	Scientific Reserve	24
Loma Quita Espuela	Scientific Reserve	95
Nalga de Maco-Río Limpio	National Park	184
PN Jose del Carmen Ramirez	National Park	764

CEPF Strategic Direction #2 is targeted towards the following priority conservation corridors for CEPF Investment in the Dominican Republic as listed below:

Table 4: Conservation Corridors in the Dominican Republic.

Conservation Corridor	Key Biodiversity Area	Country	Land Area (km ²)
Massif de la Selle – Jaragua–Bahoruco–Enriquillo binational Corridor	Massif de la Selle (Haiti); Lago Enriquillo (Dominican Republic); Sierra de Bahoruco (Dominican Republic); Parque Nacional Jaragua (Dominican Republic)	Haiti; Dominican Republic	9,324
Cordillera Central	Parque Nacional Armando Bermúdez; Loma Nalga de Maco y Río Limpio; Parque Nacional José del Carmen Ramírez; Loma La Humeadora; Valle Nuevo; Reserva Científica Ébano Verde	Dominican Republic	6,517

Please note that Strategic Direction #3 can apply to Highest Priority KBAs, Other Priority KBAs and Priority Conservation Corridors for the Dominican Republic as listed in Tables 2-4 above as Strategic Direction #3 in essence supports the work of the first two Strategic Directions.



E. Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply for a CEPF grant? 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. for 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).

CEPF appraises projects not only on their technical merit, but also on their environmental and social ramifications. Therefore, procedures for addressing environmental and social issues are included in the project cycle management process.

A driving principle of CEPF is to prevent and mitigate any harm to people and thus to incorporate environmental and social concerns as an intrinsic part of project cycle management. Proposed activities must observe CEPF's safeguard and social policies found at: http://www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/safeguard_policies.aspx

CEPF encourages proposals that demonstrate the following characteristics, which form the basis of proposal evaluation:

- i. Direct support of CEPF's strategy to achieve meaningful and durable conservation results;
- ii. Existence of co-financing or the ability to leverage additional funds;
- iii. Demonstration of coordination with other organisations to reduce duplication of efforts and create synergies;



- iv. Existence of partnerships or alliances with one or more other organisations;
- v. Endorsements from other recognised agencies or authorities;
- vi. Transnational or regional projects;
- vii. Clear plans for continuation and/or replication after initial CEPF funding;
- viii. Support for indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for biodiversity conservation and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights, where relevant.

F. Application Process

CEPF is now inviting eligible stakeholders to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). The LOI and guidelines are available in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>

Projects must support **only one** of main strategic directions (#1 – 3) outlined in Table 1 above and explained in full in the [CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#). This document is also available in English, French and Spanish.

The opening and deadline dates for this call for proposals are as follows:

OPENING DATE:	01 April 2011
DEADLINE for Small Grant Proposals (US\$ 20,000 or less):	31 May, 2011
DEADLINE for Large Grant Proposals (over US\$ 20,000):	10 June 2011

This call for LOIs is targeted at the Dominican Republic, a country identified as a priority area in the Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Hotspot, with some of the highest-priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for CEPF Investment in the Caribbean.

Other calls for proposals will be opened in the remainder of the five-year investment period, ending in 2015. These calls will include specific guidance on geographic scope and application procedures.

CEPF supports two different types of grants for biodiversity conservation. Before submitting formal LOIs, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the CANARI Regional Implementation Team who can be contacted at cepf-rit@canari.org.



Please follow the steps below to apply for either a Small Grant or a Large Grant:

1) Small Grant of US\$ 20,000 or less

- Small Grants are awarded by the RIT under a small grants programme.
- Before you send in the Letter of Inquiry (LOI), you can direct questions or concerns to cepf-rit@canari.org
- Once a LOI is completed for a small grant project, send an e-mail to cepf-rit@canari.org with the completed application attached.
- You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application, and the application will be forwarded to the appropriate team member.
- You will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed.
- **The completed LOI forms will be sufficient as proposals for all small grants.**
- The RIT may require supporting documents from the applicant during the review period.
- Decisions will be made by the RIT based on whether or not the LOI meets the criteria highlighted in sections C, D and E of this document and on financial and programmatic reviews and discussions with applicants.
- The RIT will award grants of \$20,000 or less, inform applicants about its decisions, and document the results of the project.
- The RIT may conduct site visits with applicants and assist with the development of their plans, including the formation of partnerships, as well as conduct an external review process.
- **Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 4 to 6 months**

2) Large Grant of more than US\$ 20,000

- Before you send in the Letter of Inquiry (LOI), you can direct questions or concerns to cepf-rit@canari.org
- **For grants in this category, a two-stage application process is used.**
 - STAGE 1: The RIT along with a multi-stakeholder, independent Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC) and CEPF, will perform an initial screening based on the LOI.



- STAGE 2: If the LOI meets the criteria highlighted in sections C, D and E of this document, the CEPF Secretariat in Washington, DC will invite the applicant to submit a full project proposal.
- The RIT will assist applicants upon request to prepare both LOIs and full proposals.
- Once the LOI is completed for a large project, send an e-mail to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the completed application attached.
- You will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt of the application.
- You will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed.
- **Timeframe for processing application to funding stage: 6 to 10 months.**

Kindly note that hard copy LOIs are not encouraged.

All applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) and it is in applicants' interest to apply early, so that review and processing of their applications starts earlier. Interested parties who may not be ready to submit a LOI may still contact CANARI to discuss potential future grant applications.

G. Contact Information for the RIT

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

RIT team members are:

- Anna Cadiz, RIT Manager
anna@canari.org
- Hema Seeramsingh, Acting RIT Manager
hema@canari.org
- Nicole Brown, RIT Country Coordinator in Jamaica
nicolebrown@canari.org
- Leida Buglass, RIT Country Coordinator in the Dominican Republic
leidabuglass@canari.org



- Paul Judex Edouarzin, RIT Country Coordinator in Haiti
pauledouarzin@canari.org

CANARI's Website: www.canari.org

H. CEPF Resources

1. Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Ecosystem Profile -
http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/Pages/default.aspx
2. Frequently Asked Questions -
http://www.cepf.net/about_cepf/faq/Pages/default.aspx
3. CEPF Fact Sheets -
http://www.cepf.net/resources/publications/Pages/Fact_Sheets.aspx
4. How To Apply - <http://www.cepf.net/grants/apply/Pages/default.aspx>
5. CEPF Project Database -
http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx
6. CEPF Safeguard Policies -
http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/Pages/default.aspx.