



## **Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot**



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BIODIVERSITÉ

The CEPF Regional Implementation Team announce the next

### **Call for Letters of Inquiry for Small Grants**

This call is open to biodiversity conservation projects implemented by civil society and focused in the following countries in the Mediterranean Basin:

**Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Libya, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco and Tunisia**

<b>Opening Date:</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>
<b>Deadline Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>

## Call for Letters of Inquiry for Small Grants

BirdLife International, in its role as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, is inviting proposals in the form of **Letters of Inquiry (LOIs)** for **small grants** from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private, enterprises, universities and other civil society organizations. This is the third Call for LOIs for **small grants (up to \$20,000)** issued by BirdLife International and CEPF for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot.

**LOIs will be accepted for all Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities specified in this document, and for the eligible countries Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Libya, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco and Tunisia.** The deadline for receipt of LOIs is on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**. Please read carefully all the information below for details on the CEPF investment and how to apply.

**Due to the limit of funding available for this call, please be informed that a maximum of 5 projects will be granted under Strategic Direction 1; 7 projects under Strategic Direction 2; and 4 projects under Strategic Direction 3. In order to meet this, the review committee will select the best LOIs under each Strategic Direction and grant them. So please try your best to read all guidelines and conditions that are included this document and fill a complete LOI based on those. Incomplete LOIs will not be accepted.**

CEPF is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions known as biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint initiative of *l'Agence Française de Développement*, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

CEPF's niche for investment in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity 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.

The council of donors that governs CEPF approved a US\$ 10 million, 5-year investment strategy for the Mediterranean Basin in September 2010, based on this Ecosystem Profile. 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. Subsequently CEPF has recruited Birdlife International as the RIT which in partnership with CEPF will lead the implementation of the CEPF investment strategy for achieving conservation goals identified in the Investment Strategy, and provide assistance to civil society groups in designing, implementing and replicating successful conservation activities.

It is critical that applicants review the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile, and particularly the written descriptions of the CEPF niche and investment strategy under the

section 'CEPF Investment Strategy and Program Focus', to prepare an LOI that addresses the priorities identified for funding. The profile can be found on the CEPF website here:

English version: [http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Mediterranean\\_EP\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Mediterranean_EP_FINAL.pdf)

French version: [http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Mediterranean\\_EP\\_FINAL%20FRENCH.pdf](http://www.cepf.net/Documents/Mediterranean_EP_FINAL%20FRENCH.pdf)

Additional information is also available on the CEPF webpage dedicated to the Mediterranean Basin: [http://www.cepf.net/where\\_we\\_work/regions/europe\\_central\\_asia/mediterranean/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/europe_central_asia/mediterranean/Pages/default.aspx)

## Criteria Requested for the LOIs

Please note that this call is **only relevant to the Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities** listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities**

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	INVESTMENT PRIORITIES
<b>1. Promote civil society involvement in Integrated Coastal Zone Management to minimize the negative effects of coastal development in three priority corridors (Southwest Balkans; Cyrenaican Peninsula; and Mountains, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia), and in 20 coastal and marine priority key biodiversity areas in other corridors</b>	1.1 Support civil society involvement in the development and implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and the advancement of best practices in integrating nature conservation with the tourism sector.
<b>2. Establish the sustainable management of water catchments and the wise use of water resources with a focus on the priority corridors of the (1) Atlas Mountains, (2) Taurus Mountains, (3) Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains and (4) Southwest Balkans</b>	2.3. Support innovative financing mechanisms for conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems and traditional water catchments.  2.4. Facilitate and support adaptation to climate change via improving water use efficiency in agricultural landscapes and allowing environmental flows for key biodiversity areas.
<b>3. Improve the conservation and protection status of 44 priority key biodiversity areas</b>	3.2. Develop financial mechanisms that support protected areas while enhancing sustainable livelihood and promoting community management of priority key biodiversity areas.  3.3. Raise awareness of the importance of priority key biodiversity areas, including those that have irreplaceable plant and marine biodiversity.

## **The Focus of the Call**

The focus of this call is on 4 thematic areas and project ideas:

### **1. Strategic Direction 1**

- Contributing to the development of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) initiatives including a vision for ecotourism projects and pilot activities that would be feasible for each KBA. This may include provision of information required for the management planning process, addressing a general framework for the integrated coastal zone management and provision of best practices in the planning process.
- Mapping and capacity needs assessment of NGOs working in integrated coastal zone management, including identification of current initiatives and the potential for establishing partnerships and synergies with current CEPF investments.

### **2. Strategic Direction 2**

- Supporting the development of pilot projects about adaptation to climate change; via improving water use efficiency in agricultural landscapes and allowing environmental flows for KBAs.
- Encouraging conservation and restoration of freshwater ecosystems as well as innovative financing mechanisms for traditional water-saving landscapes, alongside initiatives to reduce water consumption as part of wider efforts to adapt to climate change.

### **3. Strategic Direction 3**

- Developing financial mechanisms that support protected areas whilst enhancing sustainable livelihoods and promoting the community management of priority KBAs.

**See Table 2 at the end of this document which lists in detail the eligible countries, corridors and KBAs, and Investment Priorities, that can receive funding under this call.**

### **4. Communication thematic area**

Development of a communication tool with the aim of promoting the engagement of civil societies in biodiversity conservation and documenting successful stories and lessons learnt in the current CEPF-funded active projects in the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot. The following are some suggestions for project ideas:

- **Developing a communication tool with the aim of raising public awareness about best practices in integrated coastal zone management;** sustainable tourism, sustainable development in the coastal areas and promoting its replication in order to reduce the negative impacts of insufficiently planned infrastructure and development in coastal areas (**Strategic Direction 1**).
- **Developing a communication tool with the aim of raising public awareness about best practices in water catchments;** sustainable management, the wise use of water resources and promoting its replication in order to reduce the negative impacts of insufficiently planned water infrastructures (**Strategic Direction 2**).

- **Developing a communication tool with the aim of raising public awareness about best practices in protected areas management effectiveness;** socio economic development and protected areas, the wise use of natural resources in protected areas and promoting its replication in order to reduce the negative impacts of sustainable activities in protected areas (**Strategic Direction 3**).

For this thematic area, we encourage innovative approaches, for example a short documentary film (up to 8 minutes) about active CEPF projects in one of the eligible countries. Ordinary and classical project ideas that focus only on public awareness programs will not be accepted. The awarded organizations/firms for this thematic area need to coordinate all of their project activities with the active project grantees, this may include (but not limited to) agreement on key objectives and messages for the communication project, target audiences, communication tool language and ideas on how to use the communication tools. One communication project can include more than one active project in each country.

**See Table 3 at the end of this document which lists in detail the eligible countries, corridors and KBAs that have active CEPF projects for this communication thematic area. For more information about these projects please visit:**

[http://www.cepf.net/grants/project\\_database/mediterranean/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cepf.net/grants/project_database/mediterranean/Pages/default.aspx)

## Eligibility

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, universities, private enterprises and individuals may apply for funding. Applications from organizations that propose to build the capacity of local civil society and community groups are particularly encouraged.

Exchange visits between civil societies to share lessons learned are also encouraged. Individuals can apply for grants but are encouraged to work with civil society organizations and communities to develop joint applications, rather than apply directly.

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:  
[www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net)

## Application Procedure

Please follow the guidance below:

- This call for proposals is for small grants up to US \$20,000
- Only **Albania, Algeria, Jordan, Libya, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco and Tunisia** are eligible for this call
- Projects based on **Strategic Direction themes** must be focused on the Investment Priorities and sites specified in **Table 2**.
- Projects based on the **Communication theme** must be focused on grants and sites specified in **Table 3**.
- **The project idea should be built on biodiversity conservation as a fundamental component. For more information about project ideas see the section titled Focus of the Call.**
- **Projects that only focus on awareness programs or capacity building will not be accepted.**
- LOIs can be submitted in English, French, Arabic (contact the RIT for more information)
- Each LOI must support only one of the three Strategic Directions
- Applicants can submit more than one LOI.
- Hard copy proposals will not be accepted.
- The deadline for receiving LOIs is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**All applicants must use this Letter of Inquiry template:** <http://www.birdlife.org/node/4129/#CEPF-Mediterranean-Resources>

**Completed LOIs should be sent as an e-mail attachment to:** [cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org](mailto:cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org)

Additional information and guidance on how to apply is available on the CEPF website related page:  
[www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean](http://www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean)

Receipt of the application will be acknowledged by e-mail, and it will be forwarded to the appropriate team member. Applicants will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to [cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org](mailto:cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org)

Applicants that meet all of the eligibility criteria and whose LOIs most closely respond to the Investment Priorities covered by the call will be invited to respond to a Financial Questionnaire (the necessary forms and guidance will be provided to these applicants). If relevant they will also be asked to demonstrate their project's compliance with CEPF's safeguard policies. For successful applicants the RIT will aim to complete the whole process from the submission of the LOI to signing the grant agreement within 3 months.

## Contact details

### Guidance and advice:

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas and eligibility with the RIT.

There are dedicated Programme Officers for each region, please contact them for any guidance:

- **Middle East: Sharif Jbour**  
Email: [Sharif.Jbour@birdlife.org](mailto:Sharif.Jbour@birdlife.org)
- **The Balkans: Borut Rubinic**  
Email: [borut.rubinic@dopps.si](mailto:borut.rubinic@dopps.si)
- **North Africa: Awatef Abiadh**  
Email: [awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr](mailto:awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr)

For any general enquiries and applications please contact: [cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org](mailto:cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org)

For more information please visit: [www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean](http://www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean)

### Further RIT information:

Regional Implementation Team, Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot  
BirdLife International *in the Middle East*, Amman, Khalda-Salameh Al-Maa'ytah Street, building no. 6.  
Email: [cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org](mailto:cepf-med-rit@birdlife.org); Website: [www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean](http://www.birdlife.org/community/cepf-mediterranean)  
Tel: +962 6 5548173 Fax: +962 6 5548172

**Table 2: Eligible countries, corridors and areas (KBAs), and Investment Priorities for this call.**

Sub-region	Corridor	Country	KBA	SD1	SD2	SD3	Investment Priority
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Bjeshka e Oroshit		X		1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Butrinti and surrounding area	X			1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Drini Delta	x			1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Drini Delta	x			1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Erseke		X		1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Lake Ohrid and surrounding area		X	X	2.3 & 2.4 & 3.2 & 3.3
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Lake Shkodra (Lake Scadar)		X	x	2.3 & 2.4 & 3.2 & 3.3
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Narta Lagoon and surrounding area	X			1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Velipoja and surrounding area	X			1.1
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	FYR Macedonia	Ohrid Lake		X	X	2.3 & 2.4 & 3.2 & 3.3
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Ajdabiya Marsh	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Benghazi Coast	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Bumbah Gulf	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Geziret Garah	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Jabal al akhdar	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Marmarica	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenaican Peninsula	Libya	Surrounding of Jabal al Akhdar	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Complexe de zone humide GS	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Edough National Park	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Elkala National Park	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Gouraya	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Marais de Mekhada	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Parc National de Taza	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Algeria	Marais de la Macta			X	3.2 & 3.3



<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Djebel Haouaria	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Kuriat Island	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Lagune de Korba	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Lake Tunis	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Nabeul Lagoon	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Ras el Melan Dune (Cap Sidi Mansour)	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Sebkhet Ariana	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Sidi Mechreg Beach	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Soliman	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Western Gulf of Tunisia	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Moutians, Plateaus and Wetlands of Algerian Tell and Tunisia	Tunisia	Zembra and Zembretta Island	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Coastal Atlantic Plains	Morocco	Essaouira Dunes	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	Oranie and Molouya	Morocco	Sebkha Bou Areg	X			1.1
<b>North Africa</b>	The Atlas Mountains	Morocco	Eastern middle Atlas Mountain		X	X	2.3 & 2.4 & 3.2 & 3.3
<b>North Africa</b>	The Atlas Mountains	Morocco	PN haut atlas oriental		X	X	2.3 & 2.4 & 3.2 & 3.3
<b>Middle East</b>	South Syria and Northern Jordan	Jordan	Jordan River			X	3.2 & 3.3

**Table 3: Eligible countries, corridors and KBAs that have active CEPF projects eligible for the communication thematic area**

Sub-region	Corridor	Country	KBA	Strategic Direction	Funded project	Project Title	Grantee
<b>Balkans</b>	Eastern Adriatic	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Hutovo blato	3	Large Grant	Improving the management of Hutovo Blato Nature Park	EuroNature Foundation
<b>Balkans</b>	Eastern Adriatic	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Trebizat River Tributary	3	Large Grant	Protection of Bats in the Neretva River Catchment Area	Center for Karst and Speleology
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Butrinti and surrounding area	1	Large Grant	Land of Eagles and Castles: Pilot Sustainable Tourism Model for the Albanian Adriatic Coastline	Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Narta Lagoon and surrounding area	1	Large Grant	Land of Eagles and Castles: Piloting a model to design, market and establish sustainable tourism product along the Albanian Adriatic Coastline	Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Albania	Vlora Bay, Karaburun Peninsula and Cika mountain	1	Large Grant	Land of Eagles and Castles: Piloting a model to design, market and establish sustainable tourism product along the Albanian Adriatic Coastline	Association for the Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Montenegro	Bojana Delta	1	Large Grant	Ecotourism in Ulcinj Salina	NGO Center for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro
<b>Balkans</b>	Southwest Balkans	Montenegro	Lake Skadar	3	Large Grant	Conservation of Pelicans, a Key Biodiversity Species of Skadar Lake	Noe Conservation
<b>North Africa</b>	Cape Verde	Cape Verde	Santa Luzia Island	1	Large Grant	Protecting Threatened and Endemic Species in Cape Verde: A Major Island Restoration Project	Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves
<b>North Africa</b>	Mountains, Plateaus & Wetlands of Algerian Tell & Tunisia	Tunisia	Djebel el Haouaria	1	Large Grant	Developing Eco-Tourism Activities for the Conservation of Key Sites for Biodiversity in Northern Tunisia	WWF-European Police Program-Branch Office
<b>North Africa</b>	Mountains, Plateaus & Wetlands of Algerian Tell & Tunisia	Tunisia	Sidi Mechig Beaches	1	Large Grant	Sustainable Economic Activities in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas	
<b>North Africa</b>	The Atlas Mountains	Morocco	Parc National de Toubkal	2	Large Grant	Integrated River Basin Management in Ait M'hamed and Imegdalen rural communes	Global Diversity Foundation
<b>North Africa</b>	The Atlas Mountains	Morocco	Parc Naturel d'Ifrane	2	Large Grant	Valuing Ecotourism, Fish, and Aquatic Biodiversity of the Moroccan Atlas for the Contribution to the Preservation of Water Resources "Case of Ifrane National Parks and High Atlas Oriental"	Association Marocaine pour l'Ecotourisme et la Protection de la Nature
<b>North Africa</b>	Cyrenacian Peninsula	Libya	Geziret al Elba - Ayn al Ghazalah Bay	3	Large Grant	Monitoring of Waterbirds in North Africa for the Conservation of Wetland Areas	Foundation Tour Du Valat

<b>Middle East</b>	Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains	Lebanon	Al Chouf Cedars Nature Reserve	3	Large Grant	Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood and Promoting Community Management of Shouf Biosphere Reserve	Al-Shouf Cedar Society
<b>Middle East</b>	Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains	Lebanon	Al Chouf Cedars Nature Reserve	3	Small Grant	Photographic guide to wildflowers of Lebanon with emphasis on the three priority KBA's in Lebanon	Art, Science and Technology University in Lebanon
<b>Middle East</b>	Orontes Valley and Lebanon Mountains	Lebanon	Western Anti Lebanon Mountains	3	Large Grant	Demonstrating Sustainable Management of Important Eastern Mediterranean Forests/KBAs in Anti-Lebanon Mountains	Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon
<b>Middle East</b>	South Syria and Northern Jordan	Jordan	Mujib	3	Large Grant	Strengthening Management Planning and Effectiveness of Mujib Biosphere Reserve	The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
<b>Middle East</b>	South Syria and Northern Jordan	Jordan	Mujib	3	Small Grant	Green Fodder Pilot Project	The United Society for Developing Water Resources and Environment