

Call for Letters of Inquiry No. 3

Large and Small Grants

CEPF Investment in the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot

- 1. Opening Date:** Thursday, 8 November 2018
- 2. Deadline:** Wednesday, 12 December 2018 at 6 p.m., Brasilia Time
- 3. Type of grant:** Small grants (up to US\$50,000) and large grants (more than US\$50,000 with a maximum of US\$200,000).
- 4. Eligible Investment Priorities:**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is pleased to invite applicants to our third call for letters of inquiry (LOI) for conservation projects for the [Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot](#). This call is specific to support projects that focus on:

- **Investment Priority 2.1 - Support studies and analyses necessary to justify the creation and expansion of public protected areas, while promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and valuing local and traditional culture.**

In the [four priority corridors](#) (JPG – 159) (Mirador Mesas, Central de Matopiba, Veaderos Pouso Alto Kalungas and Sertão Veredas Peruaçu) there are many Key Biodiversity Areas that remain unprotected. CEPF wishes to support initiatives that can increase management effectiveness within existing protected areas (conservation units, indigenous lands, quilombola territories, biosphere reserves, etc.).

In this call, CEPF intends to choose projects that can present:

- 1) Multi-stakeholders' processes (civil society organizations, producers' organizations, watershed agencies, cooperatives, etc.) aimed at preparing and/or implementing management and financing plans in protected areas and mosaic of protected areas
- 2) Protected area mosaic networks, watershed and biosphere reserve committees that wish to take an active role in increasing protected area networks and improving their integrated territorial management to strengthen sustainable landscapes.

Proposals for Investment Priority 2.1 should be implemented **primarily** within the four priority corridors, as described in the [Cerrado Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF – 9.8 MB). On the [Logical Framework of the Cerrado Hotspot 2016-2021](#) (PDF – 80 KB) this investment priority is linked to Outcome 2 and the related intermediate indicators.

- **Investment Priority 2.2 - Promote the inclusion of existing indigenous, quilombola and other traditional populations, respecting and integrating their traditional knowledge into conservation/restoration planning by government and civil society.**

Complementarily to the Brazilian National Conservation Units System (SNUC), indigenous lands and quilombola territories contribute to biodiversity conservation. These areas do protect not only natural resources, but also traditional ways of life based on these resources for local communities. Thus, it is strategic to integrate these areas within conservation efforts.

In this call, CEPF wishes to support projects that:

- 1) Identify and disseminate good conservation examples and approaches of innovative environmental management, including the sustainable use of natural resources within and on the outskirts of protected areas;
- 2) Act in synergy with public policies and programs such as the Brazilian National Environmental Management Policy on Indigenous Lands (PNGATI);
- 3) Establish community agreements for the use of natural resources and help communities to characterize their territories as ICCAs (Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas);
- 4) Enable local organizations, land owners and indigenous, quilombola and other traditional communities to play an active role in increasing the network of protected area and in enhancing the management of these areas.

Proposals for Investment Priority 2.2 should be implemented **only** within the [four priority corridors](#) (JPG – 159 KB) as described in the [Cerrado Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF – 9.8 MB). On the [Logical Framework of the Cerrado Hotspot 2016-2021](#) (PDF – 80 KB), this investment priority is linked to outcome 2 and the related intermediate indicators.

- **Investment Priority 6.2 - Develop and strengthen technical and management skills of civil society organizations, on environment, conservation strategy, and planning, policy advocacy, fundraising, compliance with regulations and other topics relevant to investment priorities.**

CEPF wants to increase technical and management conditions of civil society organizations in the Cerrado, by strengthening them to better propose, execute and manage projects on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the hotspot.

With this call, CEPF's objective is to support projects that wish to help civil society organizations in the Cerrado to:

- 1) Comply with all Brazilian legislations such as fiscal and labor regulations;
- 2) Increase their administrative and financial management capacities (administrative and financial processes and registries, organizational structure, etc.);
- 3) Obtain new knowledge and skills to use participatory tools to make assessments, planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects;
- 4) Develop capacities to better structure and design projects, as well as efficiently define and implement effective communications and fundraising strategies (private or public funds, etc.);

- 5) Gain technical knowledge in relevant areas to better reach the conservation objectives in the hotspot;
- 6) Ensure women participation in the conservation and sustainability agenda, by increasing their qualified participation in as well as discussions on gender within civil society organizations of the Cerrado hotspot.

The objective here is NOT to support once-off courses and workshops, but rather promote longer term structured training processes, of at least one year, linked to a clear strategy to strengthen local organizations, using approaches and methodologies that combine live modular training sessions with practical field pedagogical activities. In the field, participants can exercise in their own organizations, monitored by field tutors during the entire process, with intervention plans developed by themselves, ensuring that concepts and skills attained will become a practice in their organizations. CEPF encourages proponents to be creative and innovative by using a combination of various methodologies and pedagogical approaches of nonformal educational models, such as exchange visits, training of trainers, round tables, experience learning, mentorships, etc.

CEPF strongly recommends that training opportunities include the capacity building of current CEPF grantees (see [projects page](#) on IEB's CEPF Cerrado website). It is also recommended that, especially live training sessions be structured and offered in the cities that constitute CEPF Cerrado portfolio hubs: Campo Grande (MS), Teresina (PI), Palmas (TO), Arinos (MG), Campinas (SP), Belo Horizonte (MG) and Brasília (DF). Applicants also have to state in their proposals, how many, the types and names (if possible) of organizations they wish to support during their proposed project.

As important premises, the following can be highlighted: (i) the main limitations faced by civil society organizations in their capacities can be solved by a combination of capacity building and financial support and ii) civil society organizations are able to retain qualified personnel who benefit from capacity building opportunities.

Proposals for Investment Priority 6.2 can be implemented in the **entire** Cerrado Hotspot, as described in the [Cerrado Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF – 9.8 MB). On the [Logical Framework of the Cerrado Hotspot 2016-2021](#) (PDF – 80 KB) this investment priority is linked to outcome 6 and the related intermediate indicators.

Any Letter of inquiry for projects that address any other investment priority will not be considered.

5. Eligible organizations:

Nongovernmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, research institutes and foundations and other candidates of the civil society can apply to receive funds from CEPF. Government agencies, institutions or entities are eligible only if they can establish the following: 1) They have a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; 2) they have a mandate to apply and receive private funds; and 3) they cannot rely on their right of sovereign immunity.

One organization can submit more than one proposal for small or large grants. Organizations that are already part of CEPF portfolio of projects are also eligible for grants in this call.

Organizations applying for small grants need to be legally registered in Brazil or should have a local partner who is eligible to receive and manage CEPF funds. See section 1 (Eligibility) on the document (in Portuguese) on the [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#).

6. Proposal Submission

- Proposals can be submitted in English or Portuguese.

While preparing your proposal, please include the project's contributions toward CEPF intermediate indicators as presented in the [Logical Framework of the Cerrado Hotspot 2016-2021](#) (PDF – 80 KB).

- The anticipated start date of awarded projects is **1 June 2019, for small grants** and **1 October 2019, for large grants**. Regardless of the start date of any agreement, all work must be completed by **31 December 2020**. Any Letter of Inquiry for a project requiring CEPF funding beyond 31 December 2020, will not be considered.

- **Proposals should include a budget** to cover costs for monitoring of project impacts, for communications about the project and for the participation of two people in two trainings to be offered by CEPF in Brasília, DF.

- Each type of LOI (small and large) should be submitted through a specific online system, as follows:

Small Grants (up to US\$50,000) – Applications should be submitted through [PROSAS](#) before **12 December 2018 at 6 p.m. (Brasilia time)**. After this, the system will no longer accept proposals. In PROSAS, it is necessary to register (create Citizen profile) and then to create an Entrepreneur profile. Only with an Entrepreneur profile it is possible to apply for calls in PROSAS. **The PROSAS website technical support will be available only until 6 p.m. on 12 December 2018**. For this reason, please do not submit your proposal on the very last day. **CEPF and IEB will not take responsibilities for any event that may prevent the submission of proposals in the system, even before the call deadline**. For small grants, the budget is a separate document that has to be filled out and inserted into the system. This budget template is called *Planilha de Orçamento CDI para Pequenos Apoios* and can be found [here](#).

Large Grants (over US\$50,000 with a maximum of US\$200,000) – Applications should be submitted through [ConservationGrants](#) before **12 December 2018 at 6:00 p.m. (Brasilia time)**. After this, the system will be blocked to receive proposals. It is necessary to register and create a profile in the system, which we recommend be done at least a week before the deadline. This will allow enough time to get familiarized with the system. **CEPF will not take responsibilities for any event that may prevent the submission of proposals in the system, even before the call deadline**. For large grants, the budget is a separate document that has to be filled out and inserted into the system. This budget template is available directly into the system.

- Any proposal sent by email to CEPF or IEB, even before the deadline of this call, will **not** be considered.

- Before entering data into either of the application systems, we recommend accessing our Word templates for small and large grant LOIs first—available in Portuguese and English [here](#)—to get an idea of the headings that will need to be completed. We also recommend reviewing the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) PDF document (available in both English and Portuguese).

7. Supporting documents

Before beginning your submission process for this call, please read carefully the following supporting documents:

Ecosystem Profile	English (PDF – 9.8 MB)
Ecosystem Profile Technical Summary	English (PDF – 1.9 MB)
Logical Framework of the Ecosystem Profile	English (PDF – (80 KB)
Investment Priorities of Ecosystem Profile	English (PDF – 139 KB)
Frequently Asked Questions	English PDF available

8. Contact

If you have further questions after reading all the materials related to this call, please email the regional implementation team at cepfcerrado@ieeb.org.br.