



EIGHTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CEPF PROJECTS

To fund conservation initiatives in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

**CALL TO PRESENT SMALL AND LARGE GRANT PROPOSALS
TO FUND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PERU, AND
MULTI-COUNTRY PROJECTS**

Open Date:

20 of November 2018

Submission Deadline:

7 January 2019 (6:00 p.m. in Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Washington D.C.; 7:00 p.m. in Bolivia)

CEPF invites local and international conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs), economic and community-based development NGOs, academic institutions, indigenous organizations, community organizations and representatives of the private sector interested in biodiversity conservation to apply for small and large grants, within the framework of this call.

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1. 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 (GEF), the Government of Japan and The World Bank.

A fundamental purpose of CEPF is to ensure that civil society is engaged in efforts to conserve biodiversity in the hotspots, and to this end, CEPF provides civil society with an agile and flexible funding mechanism complementing funding currently available to government agencies. CEPF was founded in 2000 and is unique amongst the financing mechanisms focusing on the world's biodiversity hotspots.

As part of its investment strategy in the Tropical Andes, CEPF has constituted a regional implementation team (RIT) made up Fondo Patrimonio Natural of Colombia, Fondo de Promoción de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas of Perú (Profonanpe) and Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) of Ecuador to facilitate conservation initiatives in four countries of the hotspot: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Since 2015, the RIT has helped CEPF promote and manage the grant-making process for small grants; promote and provide technical advice to support large grants; undertake key capacity-building; and maintain and update data on conservation outcomes. It also provides leadership to promote the overall conservation outcomes agenda to government and other stakeholders in the countries of the hotspot.

The CEPF investment niche in the Tropical Andes Hotspot was designed through an inclusive and participatory process that included civil society, donors and government stakeholders throughout the

region. The results of this process led to CEPF's five-year investment strategy (2015-2020) to support biodiversity conservation in the Tropical Andes Hotspot, which is detailed in the [Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF – 7.2 MB). Seven strategic directions were identified, covering 36 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and seven conservation corridors in four countries that are priorities for receiving CEPF support (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

Since 2016, 49 projects have been approved in the Tropical Andes with a budget of US\$6.4 million. All projects contribute to the objectives and conservation results established in the ecosystem profile. See CEPF's [project database](#) for more information on individual projects.

The consortium of organizations that serves as the RIT is pleased to open the eighth call for proposals in the Tropical Andes. The RIT invites eligible organizations to present letters of inquiry (LOIs) for large grants in key corridors and priority KBAs of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The RIT is pleased to accept LOIs for small grants for projects only in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Please review the following information carefully before submitting your proposal to CEPF.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1. Applicant Eligibility

To qualify for a CEPF grant, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a local or international conservation non-governmental organization (NGO), economic development or community-based NGO, academic institution, indigenous organization, community-based organization, or private sector representative interested in the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Have a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- Have the authority to apply for and receive private funds and be able to account for, in a transparent manner, and under a separate bank account.
- Not be able to assert a claim of sovereign immunity.¹

2.2. Non-Eligible Activities

CEPF will **not** finance the following activities:

- The purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people, including the displacement of land use or the impediment of access to traditionally used natural resources, or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities;
- For activities that negatively affect indigenous peoples or where the communities have not granted their approval of the project activities, or;
- Elimination or alteration of any physical cultural property (including sites of natural, archeological, paleontological, historical, religious or other unique value).

¹ Right of Sovereign Immunity: CEPF is a fund aimed at civil society organizations. Public entities may only access under certain rules specific to this fund and for that reason it is specified among other aspects in the eligibility criteria that eligible entities cannot claim immunity.

3. Investment Priorities

The present call seeks to support the consolidation of results and facilitation of synergistic links in KBAs that have already received or are receiving financing through the previous CEPF calls. The strategic directions and investment priorities supported under this call for proposals can be found in Table 1 below. The prioritized KBAs and corridors targeted under this call are found in Tables 2 and 3.

3.1. Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

This call is only open for the investment priorities presented in Table 1. In the case of Strategic Direction 1, CEPF seeks proposals for the priority KBAs indicated in the table.

Table 1: CEPF investment priorities for the 8th Call for Proposals.

Strategic Directions	Investment Priorities
<p>1. Improve protection and management of 36 priority KBAs to create and maintain local support for conservation and to mitigate key threats.</p> <p><i>The following KBAs are eligible for funding under this strategic direction:</i></p> <p><u>Colombia:</u> <i>PNN Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (COL 110), Parque Nacional Natural Munchique (COL 67), Munchique Sur (COL 54), Serranía del Pinche (COL 109) y Reserva Natural Río Ñambí (COL 91)</i></p> <p><u>Perú:</u> <i>ACB 7km al este de Chachapoyas (PER4), ACB Cordillera de Colán (PER 29)</i></p> <p><u>Ecuador:</u> <i>Reserva Ecológica Cotacachi-Cayapas (ECU 61)</i></p> <p><u>Bolivia:</u> <i>Yungas Inferiores de Pílon Lajas (BOL 37)</i></p>	<p>1.1 Support preparation and implementation of participatory management plans that promote stakeholder collaboration in managing protected KBAs.</p> <p>1.3 Strengthen land tenure, management, and governance of indigenous and Afro-descendant territories.</p>
<p>2. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policies and development plans in seven corridors to support sustainable development, with a focus on sub-national governments.</p>	<p>2.1 Support land-use planning and multi-stakeholder governance frameworks that create shared visions for integrating biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services into the corridor-level development.</p> <p>2.2 Integrate biodiversity objectives into development policies, programs, and projects that impact resource use, including climate change, agricultural development, and water resources.</p> <p>2.3 Promote traditional and innovative financial mechanisms for conservation, including payments for ecosystem services, leveraging of rural and micro-credit, mainstreaming biodiversity into climate change programs, and compensation mechanisms to mobilize new conservation finance.</p>
<p>3. Promote local stakeholder engagement and the integration of social and environmental safeguards into infrastructure, mining and agriculture projects</p>	<p>3.1 Build local capacity and facilitate public consultation and alliance building in the assessment, avoidance, mitigation, and monitoring of environmental impacts of large development</p>

to mitigate potential threats to the KBAs in the seven priority corridors.	projects that pose a direct or indirect risk to the KBAs.
	3.2 Encourage constructive approaches to promote environmental and social sustainability of infrastructure, mining, and agriculture projects through partnerships between civil society groups, the private sector, and international investors.
	3.3 Integrate biodiversity objectives into development policies, programs, and projects related to mining, infrastructure, and agriculture.
4. Promote and scale up opportunities to foster private sector approaches for biodiversity conservation to benefit priority KBAs in the seven corridors.	4.1 Promote the adoption and scaling up of conservation best practices in those enterprises compatible with conservation to promote connectivity and ecosystem services in the corridors.
	4.2 Encourage private sector partners and their associations to integrate conservation their business practices and implement corporate social responsibility policies and voluntary commitments
	4.3 Leverage of private-sector financing schemes, such as carbon projects and green bonds that benefit the conservation outcomes.
5. Safeguard globally threatened species. Support under this strategic direction will only be given to the species presented in Annex 1.	5.1 Prepare, help implement, and mainstream conservation action plans for the priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species and their taxonomic groups.
6. Strengthen civil society capacity, stakeholder alliances and communications to achieve CEPF conservation outcomes, focusing on indigenous, Afro-descendent and mestizo groups	6.1 Strengthen the administrative, financial and project management, and fundraising capacity of civil society organizations and indigenous and Afro-descendent authorities to promote biodiversity conservation in their territories.
	6.2 Enhance stakeholder cooperation, alliance building and sharing of lessons learned to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes, including efforts to foster hotspot-wide information sharing.
	6.3 Strengthen capacity in communications of CEPF partners to build public awareness of the importance of the conservation outcomes.
	6.4 Pilot and scale up promising approaches for the long-term financing of local and national civil society organizations and their conservation missions.

For more details of the investment priorities, consult the [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 7.2 MB) pages 279 to 293.

3.2. Priorities for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

This call will finance conservation projects aligned to strategic directions 2, 3, 4 and 6 in the priority KBAs presented Table 2. Please note that CEPF will only fund projects aligned to Strategic Direction 1 as presented in Table 1.

Table 2: Site-level priorities (KBAs) for the Strategic Investment Lines (2 to 6).

Colombia	Ecuador	Perú	Bolivia
Parque Nacional Natural Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (COL 110)	Reserva Ecológica Cotacachi-Cayapas (ECU 61)	Abra Pardo de Miguel (PER6)	Yungas Inferiores de Pílon Lajas (BOL 37)
Parque Nacional Natural Munchique (COL 67)	Territorio Awá y alrededores (ECU 70)	Cordillera de Colán (PER29)	
Munchique Sur (COL 54)	Intág-Tosán (ECU 34)	Río Utcubamba (PER84)	
Serranía del Pinche (COL 109)	Alrededores de Amaluza (ECU 6)	7km al este de Chachapoyas (PER4)	
Reserva Natural Río Ñambí (COL 91)	Bosque Protector Alto Nangaritza (ECU 9)	Kosñipata-Carabaya (PER44)	
	Cordillera del Cóndor (ECU 27)		

3.3. Priorities at the Corridors level

This call will finance conservation projects at a corridor-scale, aligned to strategic directions 2, 3, 4 and 6, as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Priority corridors eligible for CEPF funding under the 8th call for proposals.

Colombia	Ecuador	Perú	Bolivia
Parque Nacional Natural Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta y alrededores	Corredor Noroeste del Pichincha	Corredor Cordillera de Vilcanota	Corredor Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata
Corredor Paraguas-Munchique		Corredor Carpish-Yanachaga	
	Corredor Cotacachi-Awá	Corredor Noroeste del Perú	
	Corredor Cóndor-Kutukú-Palanda		

Note: Use the [interactive maps](#) to better locate priority corridors and KBAs.

4. Evaluation Criteria

CEPF grants are awarded on a competitive basis, in which LOI are reviewed by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, the national evaluation committee and other external technical reviewers when necessary. The evaluation will be conducted following technical and strategic criteria, and safeguards considerations will also be taken into account.

1. Strategic Importance to Achieve CEPF's Strategic Framework: Will the results of this project contribute to achieving the priorities articulated in the CEPF ecosystem profile and more specifically, to

the Tropical Andes Hotspot's logical framework found in the ecosystem profile? How will the project contribute to a specific investment priority and target within the logical framework and meet specific and justified needs in the KBA, corridor, country or hotspot?

2. Ability of Project to Achieve Results: Are the objectives, approach/strategies and deliverables well thought out and comprehensive? Are the project objectives, approach/strategies and proposed deliverables aligned to achieving strategic conservation results?

3. Applicant Capacity: Does the applicant have the capacity and comparative advantage (skills, knowledge, experience, relationships and credibility with local stakeholders) to successfully implement the project? Is permission required for the project to proceed? If yes, are there any risks in the project obtaining permission?

4. Building Tropical Andes Civil Society Capacity: Does the project contribute to CEPF's priority to empower Tropical Andes civil society organizations, including local community organizations and indigenous groups?

5. Participation: Does the project incorporate stakeholder consultation in design and participation in implementation to build local ownership, buy-in and capacity? Were key stakeholders, including government agencies and local communities, involved in the project design, and will they be involved in project implementation?

6. Cost-effectiveness: Is the proposed funding request commensurate and reasonable in view of the objectives and activities proposed? Is the proposed funding request acceptable within CEPF's overall budget allocation for the strategic direction?

7. Strategic Alliances and Partnerships: Does the project have the potential to establish and/or maintain long-term relationships for collaboration on biodiversity conservation with appropriate local, regional or national organizations? Does it ensure coordination and build synergy with existing and future initiatives?

8. Leveraging Resources: Does the project attract additional funding or an in-kind contribution that will directly increase CEPF's impact and contribute to project sustainability? Is the applicant already receiving funding for this project?

9. Ongoing projects: Does the project complement and generate synergies with the projects already being implemented?

5. Financing and Duration

This call covers funding for small and large grants:

- **Small grants are up to US\$20,000.**
- **Large grants are over US\$20,000.** CEPF decides on the amount to be awarded based on the scope and magnitude of the conservation results expected to be achieved. Please note that the average size of large grants ranges from US\$50,000 to US\$140,000.

CEPF expects projects under this call to be contracted and start implementation between April and September 2019, and to end on or before 31 May 2020, which reflects the expected closure of the second phase of CEPF investment in the Tropical Andes.

6. Application Process

All applications should complete a **letter of inquiry** (LOI) before the deadline for submission and follow the established procedures and formats. For small grants, please note that this call only will accept proposals for projects to work in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia.

Remember that the deadline for the submission of your LOI is **7 January 2019**. You may submit your LOI before the deadline.

<p style="text-align: center;">Process to Apply for a Small Grant (<20,000 USD)</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Only applies for Ecuador, Peru and Colombia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Process to Apply for a Large Grant (> 20,000 USD)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links for additional information. 2. LOIs for small grants must be prepared in a Word template that can be downloaded in Spanish or English. 3. Once you complete your LOI in the Word form, submitted it through the following online form: Form for sending Small Grant CFP. If you cannot enter data in the form, you must log in with a Google/Gmail account. If you cannot upload data into the form, please log in through a Google/Gmail account. If you do not have a Google/Gmail account, you can register here to create one. 4. Send your LOI and supporting documentation before the submission deadline of 7 January 2019, at 6:00 p.m. Washington DC, USA. 5. Once we receive your LOI, we will send a confirmation email. Note that no printed LOIs or LOIs sent via email will be accepted. 6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to rit@andestropicales.info. 7. The result of the evaluation of your LOI will be communicated by email by the entity managing the small grants mechanism in our country. 8. If your LOI is successful, the RIT will request that you complete your proposal with additional information (e.g., a financial risk assessment form and an anti-terrorist and World Bank screening form, among others) before signing a contract for small 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links for additional information. 2. LOI for large grants must be prepared and submitted through the ConservationGrants electronic portal open for this call. 3. Applicants must register in advance in ConservationGrants. We strongly recommend initiating your proposal well before the deadline to familiarize yourself with the system. 4. Submit your LOI and supporting documentation by the deadline of 7 January 2019, at 6:00 p.m. Washington DC, USA. 5. You will receive an acknowledgement confirming that your submission through ConservationGrants has been accepted. CEPF will not accept printed letters of inquiry or LOIs via electronic mail or any other mechanism. Letters of Inquiry will not be accepted in printed form, via email or other mechanisms. 6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to conservationgrants@conservation.org 7. The CEPF Secretariat will inform you of the result of the evaluation of your LOI by email. 8. If your letter of inquiry is successful, the CEPF Secretariat will invite you to prepare a complete project proposal. Detailed instructions for preparing a project proposal will be provided in the invitation letter prepared by the Secretariat.

grants with the entity managing small grants in your country.	
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All applicants should carefully review the following points to maximize your chance for success:

- Make sure that your project addresses critical threats to biodiversity in priority conservation corridors, KBAs, and priority species (see [Annex 1](#) [PDF, Spanish – 122 KB]). Use the tools and strategic documents made available in this call, including the [interactive maps](#), to present your proposal clearly and precisely.
- Review the [ecosystem profile](#) (PDF – 7.2 MB), especially the [logical framework](#) (PDF – 67 KB), and verify that your project contributes to the achievement of the targets and indicators established for the strategic directions.
- CEPF places significant importance on preventing and/or mitigating potentially negative impacts on the environment and communities which could arise from its projects. For more information, review [CEPF’s safeguard policies](#).
- Check that you meet the eligibility requirements, presented in section 2 of this call.
- Carefully review the evaluation criteria in section 4 of this call to ensure your proposal is prepared to maximize your chances for approval.
- For applicants of large grants, review [How to Apply](#) and the [Life Cycle of a Grant](#).

7. Further Information and Assistance

The primary email contacts for the RIT are:

Colombia: Mónica Orjuela, National RIT Coordinator (morjuela@patrimoniounatural.org.co)

Ecuador: Vincent Gravez, National RIT Coordinator (cepf-rit@ffla.net)

Peru: Odile Sánchez, National RIT Coordinator (osanchezd@profonanpe.org.pe)

Bolivia: Jorge Mariaca, National RIT Coordinator (jmariaca@andes-tropicales.net)

We recommend you contact the RIT to:

- confirm your eligibility to apply;
- ensure your proposal idea fits with the specific priorities for this call for proposals for the Tropical Andes;
- get further information on CEPF's policies, procedures, and the application process.

CEPF Website: www.cepf.net

Website PROFONANPE (Perú) : www.profonanpe.org.pe

Website FFLA (Ecuador): www.ffla.net

Website Patrimonio Natural (Colombia): www.patrimoniounatural.org.co