

Call for Letters of Inquiry, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Indochina

BirdLife International *in Indochina*, in its role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in Indo-Burma, invites Letters of Inquiry (LoIs) from non-government organisations, community groups, and other civil society organisations.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (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 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.

This is the second call for LoIs issued by BirdLife and CEPF in Indochina. The deadline for receipt of LoIs is 17:30 (Hanoi time) 11th September 2009, but it is in applicants' interest to apply earlier, in order that review and processing of their applications starts earlier. This call for LoIs is open for Laos and Thailand but restricted for Cambodia and Vietnam to investment priorities not sufficiently addressed to date.

It is important that applicants read the investment strategy and strategic directions for Indo-Burma, which are summarised in English, Khmer, Lao and (coming soon) Thai, and available in full in Vietnamese, at <http://www.birdlifeindochina.org/cepf/eligibility-criteria> and available in full in English at http://cepf.net/Documents/final.indoburma_indochina.ep.pdf (PDF 2.5MB)

In Lao PDR and Thailand, applications are invited for any of the Investment Priorities in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile. In Cambodia and Vietnam, applications are encouraged to directly address the following gaps in the CEPF investment strategy:

Investment Priority 1.1: Identify and secure core populations of 67 globally threatened species from overexploitation and illegal trade

CEPF priority species that may benefit from greater attention are: Wild Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis*; Asian Golden Cat *Catopuma temminckii*; Eld's Deer *Cervus eldii*; Clouded Leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*; Marbled Cat *Pardofelis marmorata*; Saola *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*; Delacour's Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus delacouri*; Asian Black Bear *Ursus thibetanus*; White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata*; White-eared Night-heron *Gorsachius magnificus*; Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*; Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata*; Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*; White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni*; Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*; Siamese Crocodile *Crocodylus siamensis*; Black-breasted Leaf Turtle *Geoemyda spengleri*; Asian Giant Tortoise *Manouria emys*; Asian Yellow Pond Turtle *Mauremys mutica*; Mekong Freshwater Stingray *Dasyatis laosensis*; Marbled Freshwater Stingray *Himantura oxyrhynchus*; Giant Catfish *Pangasianodon gigas*; Freshwater Sawfish *Pristis microdon*; Jullien's Golden Carp *Probarbus jullieni*; Laotian Shad *Tenualosa*

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Investment Priority 1.2 Implement public awareness campaigns that reinforce existing wildlife trade policies and contribute to the reduction of consumer demand for 67 globally threatened species and their products

Any projects that directly address this Investment Priority are encouraged.

Investment Priority 1.5: Conduct research on 12 globally threatened species for which there is a need for greatly improved information on their status and distribution

CEPF priority species not addressed so far are: Kouprey *Bos sauveli*; Otter Civet *Cynogale bennettii*; Small-toothed Mole *Euroscaptor parvidens*; Vietnam Leaf-nosed Bat *Paracoelops megalotis*; Chapa Pygmy Dormouse *Typhlomys chapaensis*; Red-necked Pond Turtle *Chinemys nigricans*; and Vietnamese Pond Turtle *Mauremys annamensis*.

Investment Priority 1.6: Publish local-language reference materials on globally threatened species

Any projects that directly address this Investment Priority are encouraged.

Investment Priority 2.1: Establish innovative local stakeholder-based conservation management and caretaking initiatives at 28 key biodiversity areas

CEPF priority key biodiversity areas that may benefit from greater attention are: Mekong from Kratie to Lao P.D.R.; Sekong River; Sesan River (all in Cambodia); Ban Bung; Binh An; Cham Chu; Dong Phuc; Na Chi; Sinh Long; Tat Ke; Thang Hen Lake (all in Vietnam).

Investment Priority 2.2: Develop regional standards and programs that address overexploitation of biodiversity and pilot at selected sites

Any projects that directly address this Investment Priority are encouraged.

Investment Priority 3.1: Support civil society efforts to analyze development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and propose alternative development scenarios and appropriate mitigating measures

Any projects that directly address this Investment Priority are encouraged.

Investment Priority 3.2: Support initiatives that leverage support for biodiversity conservation from development projects and programs

Any projects that directly address this Investment Priority are encouraged.

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, 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 (i) has a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor; (ii) has the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and (iii) may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Within the broad swathe of eligible entities, as described above, those that most exemplify civil society and can build civil society capacity are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications that include civil society actors with limited capacity, who may not otherwise be eligible or able to apply – for example, community groups – are also encouraged. Further, individuals are encouraged to work with civil society organisations to develop applications, rather than to apply directly. Anyone who is uncertain of their eligibility or likelihood of receiving funding from CEPF should contact the BirdLife International Regional Implementation Team at cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn

Grants cannot be used for: the purchase of land, involuntary resettlement of people (including displacement of land uses), or activities that negatively affect physical cultural resources, including those important to local communities; for activities adversely affecting Indigenous Peoples or where these communities have not provided their broad support to the project activities; or to remove or alter any physical cultural property (includes sites having archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values). Proposed activities must observe all other World Bank safeguard and social policies: <http://go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0>

The CEPF will be supporting biodiversity conservation through two types of grants, core grants of over US \$20,000 and small grants of US \$20,000 or less. All applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry. Applications for SMALL grants can be made in national languages, currently Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese. The LoI form is available at <http://birdlifeindochina.org/cepf/application-process> or <http://cepf.net/Documents/cepf.loi.doc>. The LoI form and summary of CEPF strategic directions and related investment priorities in Thai language will be available on the websites soon. Before submitting formal Letters of Inquiry, applicants are encouraged to discuss proposal ideas and eligibility with the BirdLife International Regional Implementation Team cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn

Once a Letter of Inquiry is completed for a core grant project over US \$20,000, send an e-mail to cepfgrants@conservation.org with the completed application attached. You will receive an e-mail 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. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepfgrants@conservation.org.

Once a Letter of Inquiry is completed for a small grant project of US \$20,000 or less, send an e-mail to cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn with the completed application attached. You will receive an e-mail 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. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn

Please note that hard copy LoIs are not encouraged.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

CEPF-RIT, BirdLife International in Indochina, N6/2+3, Lane 25, Lang Ha Street, Hanoi, Vietnam
Email: cepf-rit@birdlife.org.vn; Website: www.birdlifeindochina.org/cepf
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