

## **Call for Letters of Inquiry Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot**

### **Small Grants**

- Eligible Countries:** Tunisia
- Opening Date:** Thursday 20 February 2020
- Closing Date:** Friday 20 March 2020
- Budget:** US\$5,000 to US\$8,000
- Project Timeframe:** Projects can start from 1 May 2020, at the earliest and must be completed by 31 March 2022.

CEPF and BirdLife International, serving as [regional implementation team](#) (RIT) for the hotspot, are inviting proposals in the form of letters of inquiry (LOIs) for small grants from private enterprises. Applicants are advised to read this call for proposals document in full and submit LOIs under the scope of this call.

### **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, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot is the second largest hotspot in the world and the largest of the world's five Mediterranean-climate regions. CEPF's niche for investment in the Mediterranean was formulated through a participatory process that engaged civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders throughout the region. The resulting investment strategy (2017-2022) is documented within the ecosystem profile, available [here](#) (PDF – 31 MB). This investment strategy is comprised of a series of strategic directions, broken

down into investment priorities outlining the types of activities that are eligible for CEPF funding.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

This call is only open to the private sector, for example small-scale businesses, private enterprises, local community groups and cooperatives.

They must be based in Haouaria and the surrounding area. The project should be implemented in the future marine protected area (MPA) of Zembra and Zembretta.

Successful grantees would need to ensure that the provision of services will be at cost, or below cost, and will not result in any profit to the organization or its shareholders.

The grantee would also need to confirm that its primary purpose in undertaking the project activities is for charitable or educational purposes.

Synergies with other organizations are eligible; in this instance just one lead organization fitting the criteria above should apply and submit the application, with the project partners stated in the LOI with clear roles.

Organizations must have its own bank account and be authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.

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](#).

## **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

The scope of this call is limited to:

- **Theme:** Strategic Direction 1 (preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas), Investment Priority 1.2 (engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices)

- **Location:** The future marine protected area (MPA) of Zembra and Zembretta
- **Applicant:** Private sector based in Haouaria and the surrounding area

Please read the whole document for complete information on the eligibility and requirements for this call.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Table 1. Eligible Strategic Direction and Investment Priority**

Strategic Direction	Investment Priority
Strategic Direction 1. Support civil society to engage stakeholders in demonstrating integrated approaches for the preservation of biodiversity in coastal areas	Investment Priority 1.2. Engage private sector stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices that deliver positive impacts for conservation in priority Key Biodiversity Areas in the coastal zone.

Strategic Direction 1 addresses some of the most threatened sites and ecosystems in the hotspot: those in the coastal zone. Coastal ecosystems are under increasing pressure from human population growth and migration, the growth of tourism, and associated urbanization and pressure on land and water resources. The specific threats in the coastal region are: (1) direct over-exploitation of biodiversity; (2) direct damage to sites through conversion of coastal habitats to intensive agricultural land, building land and infrastructure; and (3) actions that take place outside key sites but impact them, such as abstraction of water, dumping of solid waste and water pollution.

Threats to coastal zone species and ecosystems are, to a large extent, driven by private-sector investment in infrastructure and land use associated with tourism, expanding urbanization, recreational land use, industrialization and infrastructure development. The value of the coastal zone for these investments derives partly from the quality of the natural environment, including clean water, green spaces, clean seas and beaches. On a smaller scale, local private sector enterprises also use the natural environment in different ways for farming and fishing, providing services such as food or transportation. The sustainability of these sectors rely on natural resources, and the overexploitation or improper exploitation lead to a glaring imbalance. The private sector has an interest, therefore, in the improved management of the environment, and the challenge for conservation is to align conservation priorities (preservation of threatened species and ecosystems at priority sites) with the interests of private sector.

The ecosystem profile identifies the private sector as a source of knowledge and investment in support of conservation, as well as a major actor to provide solutions, once involved correctly in integrated coastal zone management processes. They have an important role in the sustainable management of resources, especially where they directly own and manage them.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding is growing in the region and has had an important impact on civil society organizations (CSO) activities, and there are examples of CSOs and other institutions working with private sector landowners to make their management of resources more sustainable and biodiversity friendly. Many companies have developed systems to support local NGOs or communities working on biodiversity conservation, working with CSOs directly or through associated foundations. The experience of CEPF in phase 1 was that smaller and more local companies were more approachable and more likely to respond positively.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR IN TUNISIA**

In Tunisia, the tourism industry is of particular significance to environmental management because it represents an important source of revenue and employment and a major source of pressure on resources, but also depends for its survival on maintaining the quality of the environment.

During the last decades, Haouaria has become an important destination for national and international tourism. This trend has encouraged the emergence of local enterprises providing services around the Jbel and within the marine area of the Zembra and Zembretta archipelago. Likewise, other sectors have been influenced such as the fishery and livestock businesses in Jbel Haouaria. Many businesses can develop and incorporate more biodiversity friendly actions, to benefit local plants and wildlife, as well as local communities.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CALL**

**Small-scale, private-sector businesses based in Haouaria and the surrounding area are eligible for this call. The proposed project should be implemented in the future MPA of Zembra and Zembretta and suggest an integrative approach that ensures sustainable management of resources.**

CEPF seek projects that will deliver these key deliverables:

- The development of sustainable practices with high environmental values. that reduce negative impact on the future MPA of Zembra and Zembretta.

- Demonstrate positive impacts on biodiversity conservation.
- Provide innovative support to local Civil Society Organizations which are already active.

Example activities that applicants may include:

- Strengthening local governance and capacities in terms of ecosystem monitoring and management
- Creating innovative solutions against coastal and marine pollution
- Developing sustainable agricultural/farming practices with high environmental values
- Developing responsible tourism activities and within the limits of societal and ecosystem carrying capacities
- Strengthening the involvement of young people in the processes related to sustainable development
- Documenting site values and impacts of threats communicated to decision-makers in order to influence private-sector planning (including environmental impact assessments)
- Negotiating changes to management practices, including providing advice and training to company staff, providing feedback on the impact of changes, and encouraging the dissemination of best practice from other sites
- Negotiating sustainable financial support for conservation management of the future MPA, for example, as part of CSR schemes, as part of a package of assistance for community development schemes, or as an integral part of managing the site to ensure continuation of benefits to private sector operations
- Communicating the achievements and/or needs of existing conservation initiatives, to advocate for change and support of key stakeholders

Project applications are **expected to link to or co-operate with the CEPF grantee** who is already working in the location:

- Initiative pour les Petites Îles de Méditerranée (PIM): [Toward Effective Co-Management of Zembra Archipelago and Jbel El Haouaria, Tunisia](#)

Useful links for project ideas:

- [Developing Ecotourism to Conserve Biodiversity in Tunisia](#)
- [How to engage local communities in a vision of nature-based tourism in Albania](#)

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications (LOIs) can be written in **English, French or Arabic**.

Please **download the LOI form** in the language of your choice:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Arabic](#)

Applications must be submitted as a Word document (PDFs will not be accepted).

Applicants must submit their letter of inquiry by the deadline to [CEPF-MED-RIT@birdlife.org](mailto:CEPF-MED-RIT@birdlife.org).

You will receive an acknowledgement from the RIT confirming your submission.

The LOI review process will take approximately eight weeks from the deadline date. The review committee will select the strongest LOIs that meet the eligibility criteria in the sections above. All applicants will receive a response from the RIT following the review of their project.

Applications that have been accepted will be moved to the second stage and asked to elaborate on their LOI with a more detailed budget and logframe. Final approved LOIs will be awarded a small grant, with an agreement made between BirdLife International, as the RIT for the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, and the applicant's institution (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

All applicants are advised to review the CEPF Investment Strategy for the Mediterranean Basin, which provides more detail on the types of activities CEPF will fund under each investment priority.

- Ecosystem Profile: [English](#) (PDF – 31 MB)
- Ecosystem Profile - Technical Summary: [English](#) (PDF – 4.6 MB), [Arabic](#) (PDF – 2.7 MB), [French](#) (PDF – 5 MB)
- [Mediterranean Basin Hotspot map](#)

CEPF is committed to integrating gender into its portfolio. Applicants should design projects and write proposals that consider gender issues in the

achievement of their conservation impacts. CEPF has developed several resources that can help applicants to design, implement and evaluate gender-aware projects ([CEPF Gender Toolkit](#)) and understand what CEPF seeks in a proposal ([CEPF Gender Fact Sheet](#)). Visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#) to learn more about how CEPF addresses gender in the projects it supports.

Help and resources:

- [Eligibility and How to Apply](#)
- [Safeguard Policies](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- [CEPF Project Database](#)

## **CONTACT**

Before applying, applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas and eligibility. Please contact Programme Officer Awatef Abiadh at [awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr](mailto:awatef.abiadh@lpo.fr).

For general queries about the CEPF Mediterranean Basin Hotspot Programme, please contact Small-Grant Manager Salwa Elhalwani at [Salwa.Elhalawani@birdlife.org](mailto:Salwa.Elhalawani@birdlife.org), or visit [www.birdlife.org/cepf-med](http://www.birdlife.org/cepf-med).