

## **Call for Letters of Inquiry**

### **Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

#### **Small and Large Grants**

#### **Dominican Republic and English-speaking Caribbean**

- Eligible Countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Please refer to Tables 2 and 3 for eligible geographies for large and small grants.
- Opening Date:** Friday, 26 July 2024  
9:00 a.m. Washington, D.C. time
- Closing Date:** Monday, 9 September 2024  
11:59 p.m. Washington, D.C. time
- Grant Size:** Small grants – between US\$5,000 and US\$50,000  
Large grants – greater than US\$50,000

The [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund \(CEPF\)](#) and the [Caribbean Natural Resources Institute \(CANARI\)](#), as regional implementation team (RIT) for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, are inviting letters of inquiry (LOIs) from non-governmental organizations, community groups, private enterprises, universities and other [civil society organizations](#) active in the eligible geographic areas in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This call targets organizations working at the site and corridor levels and supports national, regional and multi-country capacity building. CEPF is keen to support projects that complement its existing portfolio of large and small grants listed in Appendix A.

## **BACKGROUND**

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. The CEPF Phase II investment (August 2021–July 2026) in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is financed through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Caribbean Hotspot Project of the World Bank, using funds provided by the Government of Japan.

CEPF's niche for the current investment is documented in the [Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile](#) (PDF – 16.6 MB). This investment strategy comprises a series of strategic directions broken down into investment priorities outlining the types of activities that are eligible for CEPF funding.

This investment seeks to improve the capacity of civil society organizations to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. Projects supported under this investment should help:

- Increase the capacity of civil society organisations to reduce key threats to biodiversity;
- Increase the organizational capacity of civil society organisations;
- Increase the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in conservation-related networks; and/or
- Reduce threats to biodiversity at Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

This is the eighth call for proposals under the CEPF Phase II investment in the Caribbean Islands.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the CEPF website, particularly the sections on [Eligibility](#), [Before You Apply](#) and [How to Apply](#). Potential applicants who are uncertain of the eligibility of their organization or project concept are encouraged to contact Nicole Brown, RIT Manager, at [caribbeanrit@canari.org](mailto:caribbeanrit@canari.org) for clarification.

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The present call seeks to support national and multi-country activities under Strategic Directions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the ecosystem profile in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Table 1 below provides guidance on the strategic directions and investment priorities eligible for support under this call. This guidance is not a substitute for a thorough review of the CEPF investment strategy and programmatic focus in Chapter 13 of the ecosystem profile and the logical framework for the CEPF Caribbean investment in Chapter 14. Applications for projects that directly contribute to the logical framework indicators will be positively regarded.

Projects should seek to:

- **Ameliorate threats:** A core goal of CEPF is to build local capacity to reduce threats to biodiversity at priority sites and for priority species. Applicants are, therefore, requested to make explicit linkages between how their project will build capacity and how this will reduce key threats to KBAs and species. CEPF measures the reduction of threats to KBAs using the [IBA Monitoring Tool](#).

**Build CSO Capacity:** Applicants are encouraged to think about their technical and institutional capacity needs as they develop their projects, particularly with respect to the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) ([English](#), [Spanish](#)), threats reduction for biodiversity conservation, promotion of gender equity and attention to vulnerable groups, and to include a specific component responding to these needs, where relevant.

Projects can be national or regional in scope within the eligible geographies.

**Table 1. Eligible Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities**

<b>Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<p>1. Improve the protection and management of 33 priority sites for long-term sustainability.</p> <p>1.1 Strengthen the legal protection of priority sites.</p> <p>1.2 Prepare and implement participatory management plans that support broad stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>1.3 Assess climate change impacts and integrate climate change adaptation into management plans and their implementation responses to protect ecosystem functions and build resilience.</p> <p>1.4 Eradicate, control, or prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals affecting globally threatened species populations at priority sites.</p>	<p>All proposals under Strategic Direction 1 must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) mitigate priority threats to biodiversity at priority sites (see Tables 2 and 3); and</li> <li>b) demonstrably benefit the KBA trigger species listed in Appendix 4 of the Ecosystem Profile.</li> </ul> <p><i>CEPF has a particular interest in addressing the following threats:</i> over-exploitation of biological resources; habitat destruction and fragmentation due to agricultural, aquacultural, urban, tourist, industrial and/or commercial development; predation and competition by invasive alien (and other problematic) species; and, increasingly, climate change/severe weather events.</p> <p>Grantees will be asked to use BirdLife International’s <a href="#">Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring framework</a>, adapted to apply to all vertebrate groups and plants to measure the reduction of threats at the site level. This tool allows for the assessment of threats, compilation of data on targeted species, collection of information on institutions or other entities associated with the site and activities undertaken at the KBA.</p> <p>CEPF will only support activities in nearshore marine ecosystems related to terrestrial ecosystems and KBA trigger species, such as through ridge-to-reef approaches; activities in offshore marine ecosystems will not be eligible for support.</p> <p>CEPF will not fund academic research but it will support focused, applied data gathering for management, testing management responses and investigating climate/ ecosystem interactions to improve management to mitigate threats to the KBA and its trigger species.</p> <p>CEPF will not fund major construction or capital investments.</p>

<b>Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<p>2. Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in seven priority corridors.</p> <p>2.1 Prepare and support the implementation of participatory local and corridor-scale land-use and watershed management plans to guide future development and conservation efforts.</p> <p>2.2 Support sustainable livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and nature tourism that enhance ecosystem resilience and landscape-level connectivity and deliver gender-equitable benefits to maintain the functionality of priority sites.</p> <p>2.3 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.</p>	<p>Strategic Direction 2 targets corridor or landscape-level activities only. <i>CEPF has a particular interest in supporting activities at the corridor or landscape-level under this call.</i></p> <p>Activities supported under Strategic Direction 2 must result in the strengthened management of biodiversity within production landscapes.</p> <p>A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. For example, shade-grown coffee and cacao farms can harbor significant biodiversity and would benefit from strengthened management of that biodiversity.</p> <p>For an area to be considered as having "strengthened management of biodiversity," it can benefit from a wide range of interventions, such as best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified, or sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.</p> <p>Activities under this strategic direction must occur in one of the following six conservation corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Massif de la Selle – Sierra de Bahoruco – Hoya de Enriquillo Basin Binational Corridor (Dominican Republic side only)</li> <li>ii. Cordillera Central</li> <li>iii. North Coast Forest Cockpit Country-Black River Great Morass-Central Spinal Forest</li> <li>iv. Surrey Country Corridor</li> <li>v. Iyanola - Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis-Mandele Protected Landscape</li> <li>vi. St. Vincent Mountain Range</li> </ul> <p>All corridor-level activities must have a demonstrable link to the functionality and ecosystem services of priority sites (see Tables 2 and 3) and their trigger species. They must also explicitly contribute to reducing threats to the priority sites.</p>

<b>Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<p>3. Safeguard priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.</p> <p>3.1. Prepare and implement conservation action plans for priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.</p> <p>3.2. Identify climate impacts and develop and implement management plans in response to climate change impacts on priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.</p> <p>3.3. Support assessments of high priority plant families to update national lists and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and develop conservation action plans</p>	<p>CEPF investment in species conservation will target globally threatened single-island endemic species occurring in at least one priority site (see Tables 2 and 3).</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix 9 of the ecosystem profile for the full list of priority species; only species occurring in Antigua &amp; Barbuda, The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines are eligible for support under this call.</p> <p>Under this call for proposals, <i><u>CEPF is prioritizing support for the implementation of conservation action plans previously developed with CEPF support.</u></i></p> <p>Assessments of high-priority plant families will only be supported if linked with the preparation and implementation of species conservation action plans.</p> <p>Species conservation plans should be developed following the Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning prepared by the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee, which can be found at the following link: <a href="https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-065.pdf">https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-065.pdf</a></p> <p>Species action plans must be institutionalized into management plans or local conservation plans. Applications under this strategic direction are strongly encouraged to leverage co-funding.</p>
<p>4. Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with priority sites.</p> <p>4.2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem values into development policies, projects, and plans by governments and the private sector, with a focus on addressing major threats, such as unsustainable agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure development.</p>	<p>Under this call for proposals, <i><u>CEPF is prioritizing support for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecosystem values into development policies, projects, and plans by governments and the private sector and supporting sustainable financing mechanisms.</u></i></p> <p>Under Investment Priority 4.2, CEPF is interested in supporting private sector demonstration projects aimed at planning and implementing biodiversity conservation efforts. These projects are integral to mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service values into regional, national policies, and private sector plans. This approach promotes a development path that harmonizes conservation goals with economic activities.</p> <p>Sustainable financing mechanisms under Investment Priority 4.3 include but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem service (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.</p>

<b>Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
4.3 Establish and strengthen sustainable financing mechanisms.	Activities under these two investment priorities must be implemented in the conservation corridors and priority sites listed in Tables 2 and 3.
<p>5. Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>5.1 Strengthen CSOs' technical knowledge and skills to implement practical, applied biodiversity conservation actions through short-term training in topics that will advance the implementation of projects that support CEPF priorities based on a CSO training assessment and strategy.</p> <p>5.2 Strengthen the administrative, financial, fundraising and project management capacity of strategic CEPF civil society partners to implement biodiversity conservation programs and activities.</p> <p>5.3 Support local, national and regional information exchange, networking, mentorship, and coalition building among civil society organizations.</p>	<p>Training and capacity building under this component are intended to mitigate threats and result in strengthened capacity of civil society organizations, as measured by the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) [<a href="#">English</a>, <a href="#">Spanish</a>].</p> <p><u><i>CEPF is particularly interested in building the capacity of current grantees and organisations working at priority KBAs.</i></u></p> <p>Training activities and capacity building activities must support and complement the portfolio of CEPF grants in implementation (see Appendix A). There must be evidence of demand for these activities.</p> <p>CEPF can fund development and delivery of technical training courses. This could include face-to-face courses, e-learning courses, blended approaches or stand-alone content such as video/podcast. Academic degree or diploma programs are not eligible for support, however.</p> <p>Technical training can be combined with activities that share best practice and knowledge exchange, encourage networking among CEPF grantees and groups working at priority sites, including exchanges, peer learning cohorts, and mentorship arrangements.</p> <p>CEPF has a strong interest in actions that: result in lasting knowledge transfer; combine theory with hands-on practical approaches; and integrate follow-up support and mentoring to consolidate knowledge transfer and learning.</p> <p>CEPF will also support networking among civil society organizations at national, sub-regional or regional levels. CEPF will support actions that strengthen or revitalize existing networks or the establishment of networks, particularly where there is evidence of a need or gap that can be filled through a network approach.</p> <p>Networks can be formal or informal groups or alliances.</p> <p>In all cases, sustainability beyond CEPF funding will be an important consideration. Grants can be used to help networks develop sustainability mechanisms.</p> <p>Networks and networking supported under this strategic direction must support the CEPF investment strategy and collective learning and/or action that build capacity and cooperation in strategic areas of importance, including tourism and mining development, invasive species, climate change, site base conservation, policy and legislation.</p>

Proposed projects must support one of the five strategic directions in Table 1. Even if actions contribute to more than one strategic direction, applicants must identify the primary strategic direction under which the project falls.

Crosscutting concerns for CEPF include:

- **Climate change:** Building resilience in the face of climate change is another important objective for CEPF. Applicants should identify how climate change is affecting or could affect their proposed activity and objectives and identify how they plan to integrate climate change within their projects to ensure that all results are resilient to climate change.
- **Gender and vulnerable groups:** CEPF is committed to integrating equity for gender and vulnerable groups into its projects. Applicants should design projects that include gender equity and are responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups in the achievement of their conservation impacts.

Proposed activities must observe all relevant environmental and social standards, as set out in the Environmental and Social Management Framework ([English](#); [Spanish](#)) for the CEPF Caribbean Hotspot Project.

Civil society organizations working at one or more priority sites will develop a project biodiversity monitoring framework based on the [global Important Bird Area monitoring framework](#).

See Appendix B for more information on eligibility criteria.

## ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

This call for LOIs is focused only on the priority corridors and sites in the eligible countries for small grants shown in Tables 2 and large grants shown in Table 3.

A map of eligible sites and corridors (large and small grants) is shown in Appendix C.

**Table 2. Priority Corridors and Sites for Small Grants (Strategic Directions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)**

CEPF Priority Corridor	CEPF Priority Sites – Small Grants	Country
-	• ATG-5 North East Marine Management Area and Fitches Creek Bay	Antigua and Barbuda
-	• ATG-6 Redonda	Antigua and Barbuda
-	• BHS-2 Andros Blue Holes National Park	The Bahamas
-	• BHS-12 Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park	The Bahamas
-	• DOM-4 Monumento Natural Cabo Samaná	Dominican Republic
-	• DOM-20 Parque Nacional Los Haitises	Dominican Republic

<b>CEPF Priority Corridor</b>	<b>CEPF Priority Sites – Small Grants</b>	<b>Country</b>
<b>Cordillera Central</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOM-13 Parque Nacional Parque Nacional Dr. Juan Bautista Pérez Rancier (Valle Nuevo)</li> <li>• DOM-23 Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora</li> <li>• DOM-34 Reserva Científica Ébano Verde</li> </ul>	Dominican Republic
<b>Massif de la Selle – Sierra de Bahoruco – Hoya de Enriquillo Basin Binational Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOM-16 Parque Nacional Jaragua</li> <li>• DOM-18 Parque Nacional Lago Enriquillo e Isla Cabritos</li> <li>• DOM-24 Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco</li> <li>• DOM-34 Refugio de Vida Silvestre Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte (Bahoruco Oriental)</li> </ul>	Dominican Republic
<b>Surrey County Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-2 Blue and John Crow Mountains Protected National Heritage and surroundings</li> </ul>	Jamaica
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-22 Portland Bight Protected Area</li> </ul>	Jamaica
<b>North Coast Forest Cockpit Country-Black River Great Morass-Central Spinal Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-5 Catadupa</li> <li>• JAM-7 Cockpit Country</li> <li>• JAM-13 Litchfield Mountain- Matheson’s Run</li> <li>• JAM-20 Peckham Woods</li> </ul>	Jamaica
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-8 Dolphin Head</li> </ul>	Jamaica
<b>Iyanola - Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis-Mandele Protected Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCA-2 Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis</li> <li>• LCA-4 Mandele Protected Landscape</li> </ul>	Saint Lucia
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCA-6 Pointe Sables</li> </ul>	Saint Lucia
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCT-1 Chatham Bay, Union Island</li> </ul>	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
<b>Saint Vincent Central Mountain Range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCT- 3 Cumberland Forest Reserve</li> </ul>	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines



**Table 3. Priority Sites and Corridors for Large Grants (Strategic Directions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)**

<b>CEPF Priority Sites – Large Grants</b>		<b>Country</b>
• BHS-2 Andros Blue Holes National Park		The Bahamas
• BHS-12 Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park		The Bahamas
• DOM-16 Parque Nacional Jaragua		Dominican Republic
• DOM-19 Parque Nacional Los Haitises		Dominican Republic
• DOM23 Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco (southern zone)		Dominican Republic
• DOM26 Parque Nacional Dr. Juan Bautista Pérez Rancier (Valle Nuevo) (southern zone)		Dominican Republic
• DOM24 Reserva Científica Ébano Verde		Dominican Republic
• JAM-5 Catadupa		Jamaica
• JAM-7 Cockpit Country		Jamaica
• JAM-13 Litchfield Mountain- Matheson’s Run		Jamaica
• JAM-20 Peckham Woods		Jamaica
• JAM-8 Dolphin Head		Jamaica
• LCA-2 Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis		Saint Lucia
• LCA-4 Mandele Protected Landscape		Saint Lucia
• VCT-1 Chatham Bay, Union Island		Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
• VCT- 3 Cumberland Forest Reserve		Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
<b>CEPF Priority Conservation Corridors – Large Grants (Strategic Direction 2 only)</b>		
<b>Cordillera Central</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOM-13 Parque Nacional Parque Nacional Dr. Juan Bautista Pérez Rancier (Valle Nuevo)</li> <li>• DOM-23 Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora</li> <li>• DOM-34 Reserva Científica Ébano Verde</li> </ul>	Dominican Republic
<b>Massif de la Selle – Sierra de Bahoruco – Hoya de Enriquillo Basin Binational Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOM-16 Parque Nacional Jaragua</li> <li>• DOM-18 Parque Nacional Lago Enriquillo e Isla Cabritos</li> <li>• DOM-24 Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco</li> <li>• DOM-34 Refugio de Vida Silvestre Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte (Bahoruco Oriental)</li> </ul>	Dominican Republic
<b>Surrey County Corridor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-2 Blue and John Crow Mountains Protected National Heritage and surroundings</li> </ul>	Jamaica

<b>CEPF Priority Sites – Large Grants</b>		<b>Country</b>
<b>North Coast Forest Cockpit Country-Black River Great Morass-Central Spinal Forest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAM-5 Catadupa</li> <li>• JAM-7 Cockpit Country</li> <li>• JAM-13 Litchfield Mountain- Matheson’s Run</li> <li>• JAM-20 Peckham Woods</li> </ul>	Jamaica
<b>Iyanola - Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis-Mandele Protected Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCA-2 Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis</li> <li>• LCA-4 Mandele Protected Landscape</li> </ul>	Saint Lucia
<b>Saint Vincent Central Mountain Range</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCT- 3 Cumberland Forest Reserve</li> </ul>	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Non-governmental organizations, community groups, universities and private enterprises may apply for funding. Individuals must work with civil society organizations to develop applications rather than apply directly.

To qualify for a CEPF grant, applicants must not be a government agency or institution. Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can establish that they:

- (i) have a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor;
- (ii) have the authority to apply for and receive private funds; and
- (iii) may not assert a claim of sovereign immunity.

Applicants based outside of the eligible countries may submit an LOI as long as the project activities are focused on a conservation need within a priority corridor or site in Table 2 or 3.

Joint projects with other organizations are eligible, with one lead organization submitting the application and project partners with clear roles stated in the application.

## **BUDGET AND TIMEFRAME**

This call covers funding for small and large grants:

- Small grants are between US\$5,000 and US\$50,000. CANARI expects small-grant projects under this call to be contracted and start implementation between December 2024 and January 2025.

- Large grants are defined as greater than US\$50,000. CEPF and CANARI decide on the amount to be awarded based on the scope and magnitude of the conservation results expected to be achieved. CEPF and CANARI expect large-grant projects under this call to be contracted and start implementation between January and March 2025.

## HOW TO APPLY

All applicants should complete and submit an LOI before the deadline for submission and follow the established procedures and formats. Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.

The deadline for the submission of LOIs is **11:59 p.m. Monday, 9 September 2024, Washington, D.C. time**. Applicants are encouraged to submit LOIs well in advance of the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

### Large Grants

LOIs must be prepared and submitted via the [ConservationGrants](#) electronic portal. LOIs submitted via email or any other mechanism will not be accepted.

If you have not previously used ConservationGrants, you will need to [register for a new account](#). If you encounter any technical difficulties with ConservationGrants, please email [conservationgrants@conservation.org](mailto:conservationgrants@conservation.org).

### Small Grants

Applicants for small grants must prepare their LOIs in a Word template in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) and submit them to the RIT through this [online form](#).

**Table 4. Step-by-step Instructions for Applying for Large and Small Grants**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Large Grants (&gt;US\$50,000)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Small Grants (US\$5,000 - \$50,000)</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links to additional information.</li> <li>2. LOIs for large grants must be prepared and submitted through the <a href="#">ConservationGrants</a> electronic portal open for this call. LOIs can be prepared in English, French, Portuguese or Spanish.</li> <li>3. Applicants must register in advance in <a href="#">ConservationGrants</a>. Applicants are strongly recommended to initiate their application well before the deadline to familiarize themselves with the system.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read through all sections of this call to understand the strategic and geographic priorities. This call includes recommendations and links to additional information.</li> <li>2. LOIs for small grants must be prepared in a Word template that can be downloaded in <a href="#">English</a> or <a href="#">Spanish</a>.</li> <li>3. Once you have completed your LOI in the Word template, you should submit it through this <a href="#">online form</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you cannot enter data in the form, you must log in with a Google/Gmail account.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Large Grants (&gt;US\$50,000)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Small Grants (US\$5,000 - \$50,000)</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Submit your LOI and supporting documentation by the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Monday, 9 September 2024 (Washington, D.C. time).</li> <li>5. You will receive an acknowledgement confirming that your submission through ConservationGrants has been accepted.</li> <li>6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to <a href="mailto:cepf@cepf.net">cepf@cepf.net</a>. For technical issues in registering for the ConservationGrants portal, please contact <a href="mailto:conservationgrants@conservation.org">conservationgrants@conservation.org</a></li> <li>7. You will be informed of the result of the evaluation of your LOI by email.</li> <li>8. If your application is successful, you will be invited to prepare a full proposal. Detailed instructions for preparing the full proposal will be provided in the invitation letter.</li> <li>9. All applicants invited to prepare a full proposal will be required to attend a project preparation workshop in October 2024. Dates, venue and joining instructions will be included in the invitation letter.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you do not have a Google/Gmail account, you can register <a href="#">here</a> to create one.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Submit your LOI and supporting documentation, through the online form, before the submission deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Monday, 9 September 2024 (Washington, D.C. time).</li> <li>5. Once we receive your LOI, the RIT will send a confirmation email. Note that no printed LOIs or LOIs sent via email will be accepted.</li> <li>6. Questions about the application process should be sent by email to <a href="mailto:caribbeanrit@canari.org">caribbeanrit@canari.org</a></li> <li>7. The result of the evaluation of your LOI will be communicated by email by the RIT.</li> <li>8. If your application is successful, the RIT will request that you provide additional information (e.g., a financial risk assessment form, a security screening form, a World Bank debarred entity screening form, environmental and social instruments) before signing a contract for a small grant.</li> </ol>

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR APPLICANTS**

- **Planning grants:** First-time applicants can apply for a planning grant of up to \$5,000, under the small grant facility. This funding is intended to assist in planning, conceptualizing, and conducting necessary outreach activities that will enable applicants to prepare a larger grant application of \$50,000 or more for future submission to CEPF.
- **Proposal development workshop:** As part of our commitment to supporting strong and well-prepared proposals, all large grant applicants invited to prepare a full proposal must participate in a mandatory proposal development workshop. This workshop will be held in late October/early November 2024. Dates, venue and joining instructions will be included in the invitation letter.

## PROPOSAL PREPARATION GUIDANCE WEBINARS

### **Informational Webinar for Prospective CEPF Applicants in the Caribbean Islands in English and Spanish**

CEPF and the RIT will host an informational webinar for prospective applicants on

**Thursday, 8 August 2024**, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time)

[Register for the 8 August 2024 prospective applicants' webinar](#)

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### **LOI Preparation Workshops**

The RIT will host two workshops on preparing CEPF letters of inquiry (LOIs) for large and small grants as follows:

**Preparing your large grant LOI – Thursday, 15 August 2024**, from 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

(Washington D.C. time)

[Register for the 15 August 2024 workshop on large grant LOIs](#)

**Preparing your small grant LOI - Thursday, 15 August 2024**, from 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

(Washington D.C. time)

[Register for the 15 August 2024 workshop on small grant LOIs](#)

## SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

All applicants will receive notification following the review of their LOI.

**Large-grant applicants** whose LOIs receive a positive review will be invited to submit a full proposal through ConservationGrants. Full proposals that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between Conservation International, as the host of the CEPF Secretariat, and the applicant organization (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars and grant agreements will be in English.

**Small-grant applicants** whose LOIs receive a positive review will be advised of the application finalization process by the RIT. Small-grant LOIs that receive a positive review will lead to the award of a grant between CANARI and the applicant organization (the "grantee"). Grants will be denominated in United States dollars, and grant agreements will be in English.

Both small and large grants are awarded on a competitive basis. All LOIs must meet the criteria for eligibility set out in Appendix B. Eligible LOIs will be reviewed by CEPF, the RIT, a Regional Advisory Committee and other external technical reviewers where necessary. The evaluation will be conducted according to the following technical and strategic criteria:

1. **Strategic importance:** How well does the project contribute to achieving the priorities of the CEPF investment strategy of the ecosystem profile? (35 points)

2. **Project approach and methodology:** Are the project approach and methodology likely to achieve the project’s stated objectives and (where applicable) contribute strongly to sustainable conservation outcomes? (20 points)
3. **Applicant capacity:** Does the applicant have the capacity and experience to implement this project effectively and efficiently, given its scale and complexity? (15 points)
4. **Potential to strengthen Caribbean civil society capacity:** Will the project help to strengthen Caribbean civil society organizations? (10 points)
5. **Sustainability:** Will the project results be sustained beyond the phase of CEPF funding? (10 points)
6. **Budget:** Is the proposed funding request commensurate and reasonable given the project’s scale, objectives and likely cost of the work? (10 points)

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

All applicants are advised to review the ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, which provides more detail on the types of activities CEPF will fund under each investment priority.

### Ecosystem Profile

- [English](#) (PDF - 16.6 MB)
- [Spanish](#) (PDF - 18.1 MB)

### Ecosystem Profile Summary

- [English](#) (PDF - 3.3 MB)
- [Spanish](#) (PDF - 4.1 MB)

## Gender

To learn more about how CEPF addresses gender in the projects it supports, visit the [CEPF and Gender webpage](#).

For information on what CEPF seeks in a proposal see: [CEPF Gender Fact Sheet](#) (PDF – 318 KB).

For help in designing, implementing and evaluate gender-aware projects, see: CEPF Gender Toolkit in [English](#), [PDF – 351 KB] and [Spanish](#) [PDF - 375 KB]

## Additional Resources

- [Before You Apply](#)
- [12 Tips for Getting Your Grant Idea Funded](#)
- CEPF Gender Toolkit [English](#), [PDF – 351 KB] and [Spanish](#) [PDF - 375 KB]
- [ConservationGrants Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Environmental and Social Management Framework for the CEPF Caribbean Hotspot Project](#) (PDF – 2.2 MB)
- [RIT Project Page](#)
- [RIT Call for Proposals Page](#)
- [How to open an account in ConservationGrants for a large grant](#) (Video in English)

- [How to submit a letter of inquiry for a CEPF small grant, Caribbean Islands](#) (Video in English)
- [How to submit a letter of inquiry for a CEPF small grant Caribbean Islands](#) (PDF in English)

## CONTACT

Before applying, ***applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project ideas***, eligibility and alignment with the specific priorities for this call for proposals and ***to attend one of the proposal development workshops listed above***. Please contact the RIT at [caribbeanrit@canari.org](mailto:caribbeanrit@canari.org). Members of the RIT are available for one-on-one consultations throughout the call period.

- Nicole Brown, RIT Manager
- Liliana Betancourt, Country Coordinator, Dominican Republic
- Simone Lee, Country Coordinator, English-speaking Caribbean
- Lehome Johnson, Small Grants Coordinator

## Appendix A. CEPF Phase II Portfolio of Projects

**Strategic Direction 1: Improve the protection and management of 33 priority sites for long-term sustainability**

**Grantee:** Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)

**Amount:** US\$388,483.58

**Grant Term:** July 2022 - June 2025 (36 months)

**Project Title:** Management Planning and Implementation in the Portland Bight Protected Area, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen management of the Portland Bight Protected Area to mitigate threats through the updating of the management and zoning plan, preparation and implementation of species conservation action plans, control of invasive alien species, stakeholder engagement in management actions and monitoring, and institutional strengthening of the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation.

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**Grantee:** Fundación José Delio Guzmán (FJDG)

**Amount:** US\$209,892.12

**Grant Term:** July 2022 - June 2024 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Reducing Threats in Valle Nuevo National Park, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will focus on management actions at the Valle Nuevo National Park (Parque Nacional Dr. Juan Bautista Pérez Rancier) for threats mitigation and species conservation through strengthening protected areas management capacity, promoting ecotourism, preparing and implementing species conservation action plans, habitat restoration, community engagement and fire control.

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**Grantee:** Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH)

**Amount:** US\$434,625.22

**Grant Term:** July 2022 - June 2024 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Enhancing management to mitigate threats in Sierra de Bahoruco and Bahoruco Oriental KBAs, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the management of the Sierra de Bahoruco and Bahoruco Oriental (Refugio de Vida Silvestre Monumento Natural Domingo Fuerte) protected areas and their buffer zones to mitigate threats. It will also build management capacity, develop bird-friendly coffee demonstration plots and promote ecotourism, as well as prepare and implement species conservation action plans and establish a stakeholder management committee and community extension.

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**Grantee:** Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)

**Amount:** US\$47,143.71

**Grant Term:** January 2023 – January 2024 (13 months)

**Project Title:** Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Cockpit Country, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will lay the groundwork for future engagement by the Southeast Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Community (SELFMC) and surrounding communities in biodiversity monitoring and conservation in the Cockpit Country Protected Area, through the preparation of a local adaptation plan. This



plan will complement the larger participatory management strategy being developed by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

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**Grantee:** Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)

**Amount:** US\$393,385.39

**Grant Term:** May 2023 - April 2026 (36 months)

**Project Title:** Accelerating Locally Led Conservation Action in Antigua and Barbuda

**Summary Actions:** This project will safeguard habitats and their global threatened species in the North East Marine Management Area and Redonda Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) through community management and sustainable financing. It will support the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for KBA management and NGO operations, species conservation action planning and implementation, biosecurity monitoring for invasive alien species, biodiversity monitoring, ecotourism development and institutional strengthening.

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**Grantee:** Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)

**Amount:** US\$215,224.18

**Grant Term:** July 2023 - January 2025 (18 months)

**Project Title:** Management Planning and Implementation in Parque Nacional Montaña La Humeadora, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** This project will strengthen management of and reduce agricultural encroachment into Parque Nacional Montana La Humeadora by updating of the park's management plan, supporting agroforestry in buffer zone communities, preparing species conservation action plans, building ecotourism capacity, and strengthening park guard capacity.

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**Grantee:** Fundación para el Mejoramiento Humano (Fundación PROGRESSIO)

**Amount:** US\$49,473.00

**Grant Term:** July 2023 - June 2024 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Update of the Management Plan for the Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the management of the Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve by updating the protected area's management plan, preparing a zoning plan, and developing a 10-year strategic management framework and a one-year operational plan. The project will also carry out an analysis of women's participation in social and economic activities in and around the protected area and build the capacity of local stakeholders to engage in management and oversight of the protected area.

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**Grantee:** International Iguana Foundation (IIF)

**Amount:** US\$49,996.00

**Grant Term:** July 2023 - June 2025 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Improve Invasive Species Management to protect the Jamaican Rock Iguana, Hellshire Hills, Portland Bight Protected Area, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will support the protection of biodiversity within the dry forest ecosystem of the Hellshire Hills, Portland Bight Protected Area in Jamaica by working to minimise the threat of invasive alien species to the critically endangered Jamaican Rock Iguana.

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**Grantee:** Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT)

**Amount:** US\$50,000.00

**Grant Term:** January 2023 – July 2024 (19 months)

**Project Title:** Establishing the enabling environment for sustainable management of the PSEPA, Saint Lucia

**Summary Actions:** The project will support the preparation of a draft national protected areas policy for Saint Lucia as well as the updating of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA) management plan (2020 – 2030) and a complementary sustainable financing strategy for the KBA. The project will also strengthen the organisational capacity of the SLNT for improved sustainable management of, and income generation within, the PSEPA.

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**Grantee:** Fundación De Apoyo Al Suroeste (FUNDASUR)

**Amount:** US\$49,964.00

**Grant Term:** October 2023 – September 2025 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Promotion of Participatory Management of the Miguel Domingo Fuerte Natural Monument Wildlife Refuge (Bahoruco Oriental), Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the management of the Padre Miguel Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument in the Dominican Republic through the preparation of a management plan for the protected area. The plan will include zoning of the protected area with considerations for the land use and the current legislative framework.

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**Grantee:** Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT)

**Amount:** US\$252,880.84

**Grant Term:** April 2024 – April 2027 (36 months)

**Project Title:** Improving Strategic Management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen management and monitoring of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park by updating the area's management plan, enhancing biodiversity monitoring and research capacity, and implementing the conservation action plan for the Wild Pine Sargent (Jamaican Blackbird).

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**Grantee:** Fundación CI-ATABEY

**Amount:** US\$43,065.00

**Grant Term:** May 2024 – April 2025 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Control of the Invasive Species *Leucaena leucocephala* in the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will mitigate the threat posed by the invasive alien species *Leucaena leucocephala* in the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve of the Dominican Republic. To achieve this goal, the project will implement a public awareness campaign highlighting the risks associated with the invasive

species and emphasizing the importance of its control. Additionally, it will conduct removal activities and enhance the technical capacity of key local stakeholders in controlling *Leucaena leucocephala*.

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**Grantee:** Fundación CODESPA

**Amount:** US\$320,581.25

**Grant Term:** June 2024 – May 2026 (23 months)

**Project Title:** Development Planning and Ecotourism Management in the Cabo Samana KBA, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen conservation of Cabo Samana Key Biodiversity Area by updating the management plan of Cabo Samana Natural Monument, building community capacity for conservation, taking targeted action for globally threatened species, and promoting community-based ecotourism.

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**Grantee:** American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

**Amount:** US\$477,375.71

**Grant Term:** July 2024 – January 2027 (30 months)

**Project Title:** Removal of Alien Invasive Species for Habitat Restoration in Isla Alto Velo, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will remove invasive alien species (IAS) from 152 hectares of Alto Velo island to restore oceanic island habitat and promote the survival of two Critically Endangered reptile species. It will also plan and implement biosecurity measures to prevent future invasions, species action planning and environmental education.

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**Grantee:** Fondazione AVSI

**Amount:** US\$360,031.80

**Grant Term:** July 2024 – July 2026 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Strengthen Management of Parque Nacional Lago Enriquillo, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the management of Lago Enriquillo and Isla Cabrito National Park to mitigate threats from agricultural encroachment, hunting and fishing. It will also update the national park management plan, strengthen the capacity of park guards, promote ecotourism, raise local awareness of the park and its ecosystem services and restore ecological connectivity through reforestation and agroforestry in the buffer zone.

### **Strategic Direction 2: Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in seven priority corridors**

**Grantee:** Fondazione AVSI

**Amount:** US\$70,695.00

**Grant Term:** January 2023 – April 2024 (15 months)

**Project Title:** Promoting conservation through Beekeeping in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will mitigate and reduce threats to the biodiversity of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, by promoting beekeeping for sustainable livelihoods, creating buffer zone communities and reforesting 10 hectares with native trees to trigger a “payments for ecosystems services” scheme to benefit local communities.

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**Grantee:** Northern Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society (NCCLFMCBS)

**Amount:** US\$47,022.00

**Grant Term:** June 2023 - November 2024 (18 months)

**Project Title:** Maintaining Biodiversity Through Sustainable Livelihoods and Environmental Awareness in Northern Cockpit Country, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will address the threats of deforestation, forest fires and illegal logging impacting the Linton Park Mountain Forest Reserve within the Cockpit Country Protected Area, Jamaica. It will also build capacity for community-based forest management, strengthen the Local Forest Management Committee and improve community awareness of forest conservation.

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**Grantee:** Sawyers Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society (Sawyers LFMCBS)

**Amount:** US\$50,000.00

**Grant Term:** December 2023 - February 2025 (15 months)

**Project Title:** Preserving biodiversity through sustainable alternative livelihoods within the Cockpit Country, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will support the reforestation of degraded lands and promote sustainable alternative livelihoods to reduce the threat of deforestation within sections of the Cockpit Country, Jamaica.

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**Grantee:** Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee Cooperative Society (DHLFMCCS)

**Amount:** US\$47,750.88

**Grant Term:** December 2023 - February 2025 (15 months)

**Project Title:** Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods through Ecotourism in the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will establish sustainable alternative livelihoods to incentivise ongoing conservation of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve and improve awareness among youth and community members about the value of biodiversity conservation in the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve.

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**Grantee:** South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society (SECLFMCBS)

**Amount:** US\$49,480.40

**Grant Term:** December 2023 - December 2024 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Promoting and Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods in South East Cockpit Country, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will promote adoption of live yam sticks in yam cultivation and the diversification of income streams through sustainable alternative livelihoods, such as beekeeping, as a means of reducing the threat of deforestation in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica.

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**Grantee:** JEMS Environment Management Services

**Amount:** US\$48,635.00

**Grant Term:** March 2024 – February 2025 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Climate and Conservation risk mapping initiative in St Vincent and the Grenadines

**Summary Actions:** The project will facilitate the collaborative preparation of GIS maps illustrating the effects of climate change and conservation challenges on biodiversity within the St. Vincent Central Mountain Range. Additionally, it will involve the development of alternative livelihood options and action plans for the conservation of biodiversity.

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**Grantee:** Fundación CI-ATABEY

**Amount:** US\$271,161.05

**Grant Term:** July 2024 – January 2027 (30 months)

**Project Title:** Promoting Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation in Los Haitises, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will support ecosystem-based climate resiliency and species conservation in Los Haitises National Park and its buffer zone. It will also safeguard four globally threatened species, restore 20 hectares of degraded habitat, provide sustainable livelihoods for two communities through reforestation and agroforestry, and raise environmental awareness through communications outreach.

### Strategic Direction 3: Safeguard priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species

**Grantee:** International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

**Amount:** US\$112,626.15

**Grant Term:** July 2022 - June 2024 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Conservation action planning of selected threatened conifers and palm species in the Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will prepare two species action plans for 18 palm and conifer species and build the capacity of local botanists by supporting field surveys, conducting Red Listing planning and training, and supporting outreach and technical assistance for integrating the action plans into management plans of three protected areas.

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**Grantee:** BirdsCaribbean

**Amount:** US\$49,986.00

**Grant Term:** December 2022 – November 2024 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Developing a Conservation Action Plan for the Endangered Whistling Warbler in the Cumberland Forest Reserve and the Central Mountain Range, St. Vincent

**Summary Actions:** The project will develop a conservation action plan to monitor, track and manage the Whistling Warbler, an endemic endangered bird species found in the Cumberland Forest Reserve and the Central Mountain Range of St. Vincent. Field surveys will be conducted to collect data on the species and inform the preparation of the plan.

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**Grantee:** Re:wild

**Amount:** US\$336,614.05

**Grant Term:** March 2023 – March 2026 (36 months)

**Project Title:** Call to Action: Conservation Action Plans for Endangered Caribbean Species

**Summary Actions:** The project will support the preparation and implementation of conservation action plans for 10 Endangered and Critically Endangered amphibian, bird, plant and reptile species in Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. It will also support baseline field research, stakeholder and species action planning and implementation, capacity building, networking and knowledge exchange, monitoring and evaluation, and fundraising.

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**Grantee:** Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT)

**Amount:** US\$241,833.71

**Grant Term:** April 2023 – April 2026 (36 months)

**Project Title:** Conserving the Saint Lucia racer and strengthening regional capacity for racer conservation

**Summary Actions:** The project will support the conservation of three threatened reptilian species through funding ex-situ conservation of the Saint Lucia Racer, capacity building and networking between practitioners working on racer conservation in Antigua and Saint Lucia, and biosecurity monitoring and habitat enhancement on four islands in Saint Lucia.

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**Grantee:** International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

**Amount:** US\$147,105.94

**Grant Term:** June 2023 – December 2024 (19 months)

**Project Title:** Preparing Conservation Action Plans for Jamaica's Threatened Plants

**Summary Actions:** This project will prepare conservation action plans dedicated to conserving 100 threatened plant species in priority Key Biodiversity Areas of Jamaica. It will support data compilation on plants, training of Jamaican botanists, global Red Listing, and preparation, approval and dissemination of action plans, working in close collaboration with Jamaican civil society and government authorities.

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**Grantee:** The Peregrine Fund

**Amount:** US\$166,668.24

**Grant Term:** August 2023 – February 2025 (18 months)

**Project Title:** Conservation Action Planning and Implementation for Ridgway's Hawk, Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** This project will increase the population of the Critical Endangered Ridgway's Hawk in Los Haitises National Park to serve as a stronghold source population for reintroduction efforts across Hispaniola. This grant supports components dedicated to preparing a ten-year species conservation action plan, managing 125 - 150 pairs of Ridgway's Hawks, and environmental outreach and capacity development targeting 10 communities.

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**Grantee:** Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)

**Amount:** US\$183,742.00

**Grant Term:** June 2024 – July 2026 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Implementing the Jamaican Blackbird Conservation Action Plan in the Blue and John Crow Mountains KBA, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will implement the Jamaican Blackbird Conservation Action Plan in the buffer zone of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. It will also support bird-friendly coffee cultivation, awareness building, and a policy review supporting protection of the blackbird and its habitat.

**Strategic Direction 4: Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with CEPF priority sites**

**Grantee:** Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency (STEA)

**Amount:** US\$50,000.00

**Grant Term:** January 2023 – February 2024 (14 months)

**Project Title:** Using Nature-Based Tourism to Strengthen Biodiversity Conservation in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the STEA/Cockpit Country Adventure Tours (CCAT) eco- and community-based tourism programme that promotes the sustainable use of the Cockpit Country and offers alternative income-generating opportunities for the local communities, while maintaining the integrity of the landscape and biodiversity.

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**Grantee:** Fitches Creek Residents Association Inc. (FCRA)

**Amount:** US\$49,430.00

**Grant Term:** July 2023 - December 2024 (18 months)

**Project Title:** Building a Community Constituency for Conservation of Fitches Creek Bay and the Northeast Marine Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen participatory management of the Northeast Marine Management Area (NEMMA) and Fitches Creek Bay in Antigua through collaborative social accountability approaches and community and collective actions to prevent further erosion of the KBA's protective status.

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**Grantee:** Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc. (IDDI)

**Amount:** US\$49,417.00

**Grant Term:** June 2024 – May 2025 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Improving the Capacity and Enabling Conditions for the Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of the Dominican Republic

**Summary Actions:** The project will enhance the capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) operating within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the Dominican Republic. It will foster sustainable biodiversity conservation and reduce climate risks through an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach. Additionally, the project will establish a network of CSOs focused on participatory learning and experience sharing. This network will emphasize the protection, conservation and sustainable management of KBAs through EbA strategies.

**Strategic Direction 5: Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration**

**Grantee:** Fauna & Flora

**Amount:** US\$249,987.06

**Grant Term:** June 2023 – June 2025 (24 months)

**Project Title:** Building Caribbean civil society capacity in delivering sustainable financial strategies

**Summary Actions:** The project will strengthen the financial resilience of civil society organisations working at priority Key Biodiversity Areas in the Caribbean islands, with a focus on four organisations in Antigua, Saint Lucia,

and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It will also support the development and implementation of sustainable financing plans, provide training and mentoring on project design and fundraising, and promote eco-tourism products.

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**Grantee:** Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE)

**Amount:** US\$49,861.00

**Grant Term:** March 2024 – April 2025 (12 months)

**Project Title:** Conservation standards online training workshop pilot project

**Summary Actions:** The project will enhance the technical capacities of civil society organisations across the hotspot in the use and application of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (Conservation Standards) for project and programme design, management, and monitoring in order to help improve the practice of conservation in the Caribbean.



## **Appendix B. Eligibility Criteria**

Proposed projects that target direct global environmental benefits and meet the following eligibility criteria are welcome:

- Project is located in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot.
- Project is located in a country that is not subject to sanctions under U.S. law or other applicable law.
- Project supports a strategic direction outlined in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot ecosystem profile and investment strategy (see Table 1).
- Applicant is authorized under relevant national laws to receive charitable contributions.
- Applicant is not a government agency or institution.

In addition, CEPF encourages proposals that demonstrate the following characteristics as relevant:

- Existence of co-financing or the ability to leverage additional funds.
- Demonstration of coordination with other organizations to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Existence of partnerships or alliances with one or more other organizations.
- Endorsements from other recognized agencies or authorities.
- Transnational or regional projects.
- Clear plans for continuation and/or replication after initial CEPF funding.
- Support to local communities in community-based or co-management activities for biodiversity conservation and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights and facilitate equitable and sustainable economic recovery post COVID-19.

### **Ineligible Activities**

CEPF grants cannot be used for activities on the following "negative list":

- The use of child or forced labor.
- Purchase and use of formulated products that fall in the World Health Organization classes IA and IB or formulations of products in Class II if they are likely to be used by, or be accessible to, lay personnel, farmers or others without training, equipment and facilities to handle, store and apply these products properly.
- Financing elections or election campaigning.
- Funding salaries or salary supplements of government security personnel.
- Purchase of firearms or other weapons.
- Activities that contravene local laws related to the purchase and consumption of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and other drugs.
- Manufacture of alcohol for local consumption and/or cultivation of crops for this purpose.
- Activities carried out in relation to the adjudication of lands under dispute.
- Physical resettlement of people (voluntary or involuntary).
- Purchase of land.
- Activities that have the potential to cause adverse impacts on critical habitats.
- Conversion, deforestation or degradation of natural forests or other natural habitats, including, among others, conversion to agriculture or tree plantations.
- Activities related to commercialization of illegal timber and non-timber forest products.
- Construction and/or restoration of religious buildings.
- Removal or alteration of any physical cultural heritage property (includes sites having archeological, paleontological, historical, religious or unique natural values).

## Appendix C: Maps of Target KBAs and Corridors, Call for Proposals 8



