

Regional Implementation Team of the Madagascar
and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

NEWSLETTER

Gombrani Islet, Rodrigues Island, Republic of
Mauritius. © Ter-Mer Rodriguez Association

NEWS FROM CEPF

Call for letter of Inquiry

CEPF is releasing a call for Letters of Inquiry for organizations that address the conservation of biodiversity in light of climate change in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, and that meet the criteria set out in this call.

Eligible Countries: Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles

Closing Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2023, 11:59 pm Eastern Time (Washington DC)

Grant Size: Above US\$50,000

Call for Letters of Inquiry

- [English](#) (PDF – 251 KB)
- [French](#) (PDF – 250 KB)

More information

To learn more about this call, you are invited to the online information sessions that will be held on 21 and 22 June 2023 to inform all prospective applicants and provide the opportunity to ask questions.

- Information session in French: Wednesday, 21 June, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Madagascar time (8:00 am – 9.30 am Eastern Time). [Register here](#).
- Information session in English: Thursday, 22 June, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Madagascar time (8:00 am – 9.30 am Eastern Time). [Register here](#).

The sessions will be recorded.

In case of any further questions about this call, the RIT can be reached via the following email address: cepf.ritmadio2@saf-fjkm.org.

Newsletter Highlights

News from CEPF

Q&A: Ecosystem-based
Adaptation

Training & fundraising
opportunities

Contact Details Regional Implementation Team



Madagascar
www.saf-fjkm.org



Comoros
www.id-ong.org



Mauritius
www.forena.mu



Seychelles
www.seyccat.org



International
www.iucn.nl

CEPF Investment Priorities

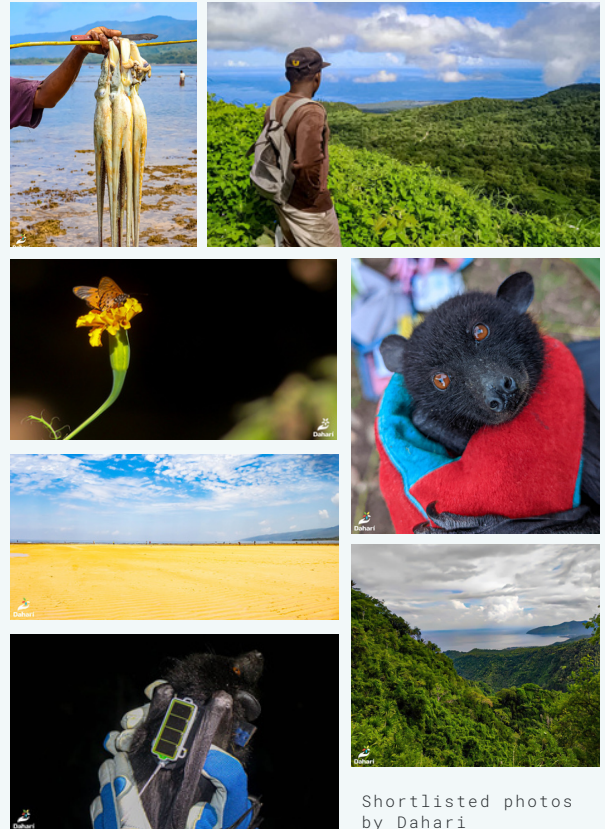
CEPF has been investing in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands (MADIO) Biodiversity Hotspot since the year 2000. Between 2022 and 2027 CEPF will be investing US\$14.1 million in the region. Focus will be on projects that build resilience to climate change. The five strategic directions for the new phase of CEPF investment are:

1. Empower communities and civil society to implement actions to improve the resilience of species, ecosystems, and human populations to climate change in priority Key Biodiversity Areas.
2. Support local communities and civil society to strengthen the integration of the EbA approach, ecosystem resilience and biodiversity conservation into political and economic decision-making processes and education.
3. Strengthen the capacities of local communities and civil society at regional and local levels to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce exposure to climate change risks.
4. Support research and ensure the dissemination of results for the promotion and improvement of knowledge on EbA actions and related good practices.

Read the updated version of the [Ecosystem Profile](#) to learn more about CEPF's investment in the hotspot.

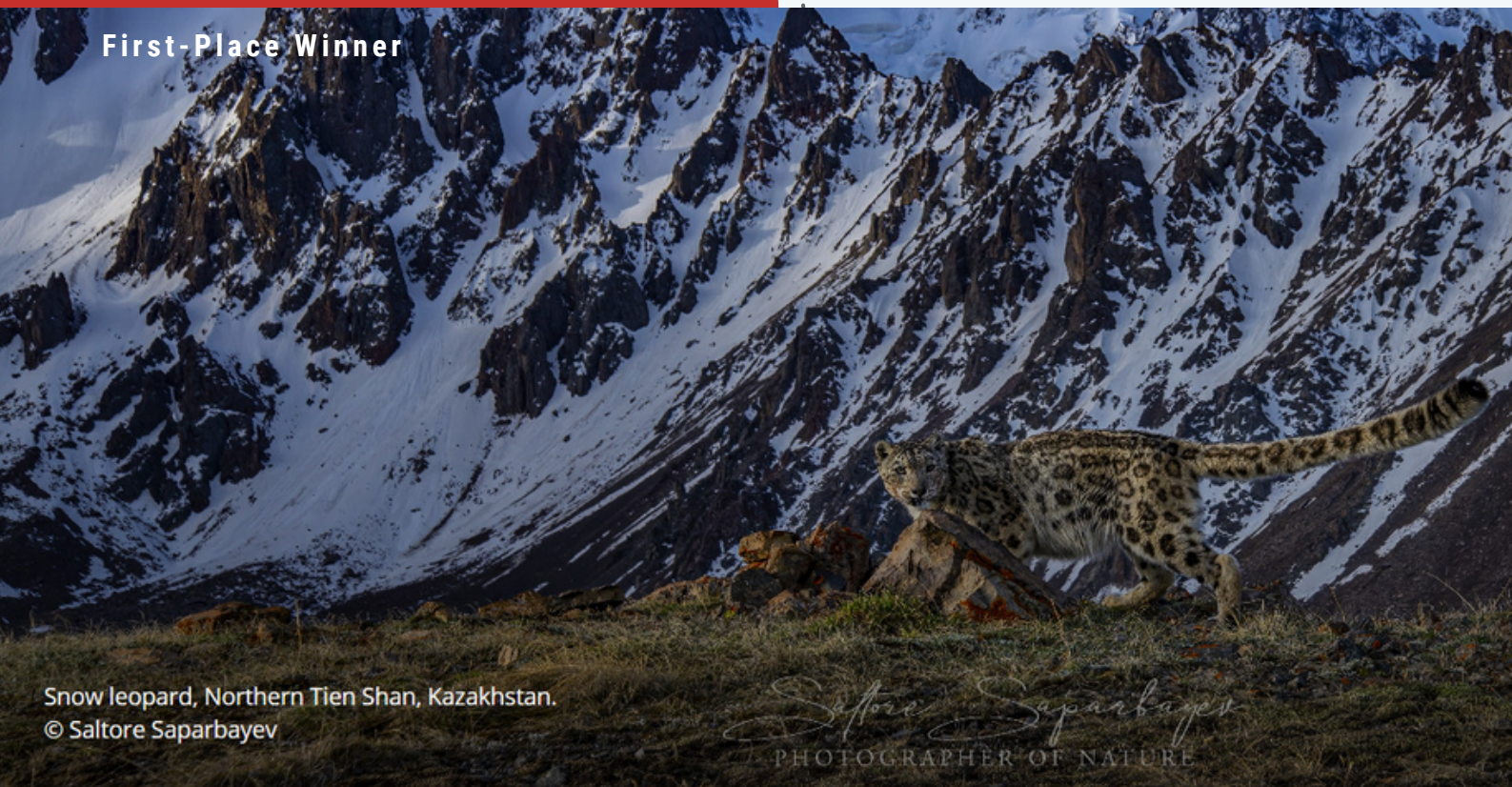
CEPF Photo Contest

Striking images of species, critical ecosystems and the people protecting them came out of CEPF 2023 photo contest, including some beautiful photos from the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. The winning photos this year come from grantees in Kazakhstan and Palestine.



Shortlisted photos
by Dahari

First-Place Winner



Snow leopard, Northern Tien Shan, Kazakhstan.
© Saltore Saparbayev

Saltore Saparbayev
PHOTOGRAPHER OF NATURE



Paroedura sanctijohanni.
© Antoine Baglan

Q&A: ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION

In 2021, CEPF launched a new, separate investment of US\$38 million in the Indian Ocean Islands region. The funding specifically focuses on building resilience to climate change on the island nations of Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The ambitious 10-year project will award grants to civil society organizations—nonprofit groups, communities, universities and the private sector—working on conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region.

In this Q&A we will answer the most frequently asked questions about Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA).

Q: What is EbA?

A: EbA promotes the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.

Q: Why is CEPF investing in EbA in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot?

A: The Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles are extremely vulnerable to climate change. People, agricultural lands and infrastructure are concentrated in coastal zones, which are exposed to sea-level rise and increased frequency and severity of cyclones.

Other than a few pilot projects, financing for EbA is currently insufficient and CSOs are not sufficiently engaged.

Q: What are CEPF's goals with regard to its EbA investments?

A: CEPF aims to reduce the vulnerability of island populations by securing the critical ecosystem services they need to be resilient to climate change. CEPF wants to reach this by:

- Developing strategic plans for EbA in the small island biodiversity hotspot that are well aligned with national climate change strategies
- Supporting EbA activities through grants to CSOs
- Ensuring long-term sustainability and replicating success through knowledge products and tools for EbA

The new program will provide targeted funding to mobilize civil society organizations (CSOs) in implementing EbA, to promote the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.

Q: What does CEPF consider to be priority threats in regard to EbA?

A: CEPF sees the following priorities for EbA:

- Decreased provision of freshwater due to degraded watersheds
- Increased flooding due to conversion of ecosystems providing flood regulation
- Loss of coastal protection due to damage to mangroves and coral reefs
- Declines in fisheries productivity due to loss of nursery habitats
- Decreased agricultural production due to heat stress and drought



Mangrove Grande Comore © O. Langrand



Wild silk production, Bombetoka Bay, Madagascar.
© Fondation Tany Meva

TRAINING & FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

- 6 July 2023, 2:00pm Madagascar time: **Online information session on Ecosystem Based Adaptation** organised by the Regional Implementation Team for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.
- The **Blue Grants Fund (BGF)** of SeyCCAT offers grants to impactful Seychellois-led projects that advance marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, development of new and existing Marine Protected Areas and Sustainable Use Zones, and select other blue sectors. Every year, the BGF opens a 6-week application window (usually in April) when all Seychelles-based NGOs, government entities, parastatal organisations, and businesses registered for more than one year are invited to submit project proposals for BGF funding. To stay informed about upcoming calls, please have a look at the SeyCCAT website (<https://seyccat.org/>), or subscribe to the SeyCCAT newsletter.

Q: What does CEPF expect to achieve?

A: With its new 10-year funding, CEPF expects the following results:

- **1.23 million hectares (ha)** of intact coastal ecosystems with strengthened management.
- **0.6 million ha** of intact watershed forest ecosystems with strengthened management.
- **4,000 ha** of degraded coastal ecosystems restored.
- **2,000 ha** of degraded watershed forest ecosystems restored.
- **2,000 ha** of climate-resilient agroforestry established.
- **2,000 ha** of small island ecosystems with alien invasive species removed.
- **33,000 females and 33,000 males** with increased income as a result of ecosystem-based livelihood activities.
- **305,000 females and 305,000 males** receiving non-cash benefits as a result of enhanced delivery of ecosystem services.
- **25 CSOs** with an institutional capacity score of 80% or more on CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Tool.
- **US\$5 million** of capital invested in long-term financing mechanisms (endowment funds, revolving funds, etc.) to support EbA activities beyond the end of the program.



© African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank.

With funding from the Green Climate Fund through AFD as the accredited entity, CEPF will institute and manage a 10-year program of support to civil society organizations to promote ecosystem-based adaptation in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. Program activities will take place in Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles.



IUCN NL, SAF/FJKM (Madagascar), ID-ONG (Comoros), FORENA (Mauritius) and SeyCCAT (Seychelles), as a regional implementation team, are working with CEPF to implement a five-year conservation strategy for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot and build local civil society capacity.