

Call for Expression of Interest for Indian Ocean Civil Society Organisations
to participate in
Capacity for Ecosystem-based Adaptation project

Please return the completed EOI form

by 5th August 2024

About the project

This project¹ will enhance the capacity of 12 CSOs working in Madagascar and Indian Ocean Island (MADIO) hotspot countries to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in their work, and the communities they work with. EbA is a nature-based solution that harness biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity of communities towards climate change impacts. This will ultimately bolster the resilience of ecosystems – and priority Key Biodiversity Areas -, ensuring stable supply of ecosystem services that are so important in sustaining livelihoods and human well-being.

Project objectives

- Adapt current and future projects to enhance climate resilience within communities.
- Strategically plan projects and programmes, ensuring the sustained viability of local CSOs.
- Strengthen organisational management and structures to effectively deliver conservation impact in the hotspot.
- Improve project design for greater impact, and measure conservation outcomes.
- Catalyse collaboration among hotspot CSOs in addressing climate change threats.

What are the benefits?

1. Tailored training on climate change and EbA resulting in new knowledge, techniques and approaches for safeguarding local biodiversity and people against climate risks.
2. Support (including financial) to assess EbA approaches within communities, develop EbA strategic plans and collaborative actions and ideas for their organisations.
3. Meet like-minded CSOs, share experience and lessons, and make contacts for future collaboration in addressing climate change risks in the MADIO hotspot.
4. Opportunity to assess own organisation capacity, and learn how weaknesses can be addressed. This includes developing new or reviewing existing organisational operational guidelines, plans and strategies for long-term growth.
5. Access to TBA network of alumni and partners for lasting support. The network has the potential to help participating CSOs mainstream their new knowledge and skills into their operations and work.

¹ Enhancing Indian Ocean Civil Society Organizations' Capacity for Ecosystem-based Adaptation' is being implemented by Tropical Biology Association (TBA) in partnership with Madagasikara Voakajy (Madagascar), Banda Bitsi (Comoros), and MaCoMauSey contacts in Seychelles and Mauritius. MaCoMauSey is a MADIO regional network of conservation CSOs that started in 2019 after participating in TBA CEPF-funded capacity building project between (2017 –2019).

What will be covered and the approach

The project will be delivered through a series of interlinked activities including

1) CSOs training on climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation. This will teach

- Concept of Ecosystem based Adaptation in climate risks mitigation; looking at how to use EbA approaches to mitigate climate risks.
- Knowledge and tools to safeguard biodiversity and people against climate related risks

- We will organise **two training courses** (in Madagascar and in Comoros) lasting 5 days each.
- Allocation of places will be based on CSOs level of capacity in and EbA work engagement.

2) Application of EbA knowledge at the community level

- Conduct EbA participatory assessments within communities to identify opportunities for integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches in current and future projects.
- Develop /review EbA strategic plans for participating CSOs

- 12 small grants (one per participating CSOs) to build local communities EbA capacities and carry out EbA participatory assessments.
- Each CSO is expected to train at least 100 community members on climate change and EbA

3) Regional technical capacity masterclass to share knowledge and solutions in EbA

- Training on EbA and climate change building on CSOs own expertise and experience so far
- Peer review of CSOs EbA strategic plans, highlighting areas of improvement, and the specific implementable measures to reduce climate risks for people and biodiversity.
- Share lessons learnt and barriers in implementing EbA strategic plans at hotspot level

- This regional masterclass will happen in Madagascar and involve all the 12 CSOs.

4) Online masterclasses to build CSOs' organizational capacity

We will deliver 4 interactive online masterclasses (at the very beginning of the project). Training will be centered around CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Toolkit (CSTT), and address priority topics;

- i) Designing projects and measuring impacts
- ii) CSOs sustainability
- iii) Strategic planning and organizational management
- iv) CSOs management systems

- After the training, each CSOs will undertake baseline self-assessment using the CSTT toolkit and file their scores.
- The CSOs will be expected to develop plans to improve scores during the project (and file new CSTT scores at the project end)

5) Facilitate CSO Twinning through thematic site exchanges

The exchanges - in form of twinned learning visits – will bring together staff from different CSOs to learn from on-the-ground projects that have successfully integrated or demonstrated how to integrate EbA to address climate change. The exchanges will focus on diverse thematic areas, including (but not limited to):

- i) Planning, implementation and monitoring of EbA actions
- ii) Effective management of marine and coastal areas, and terrestrial wetlands

- iii) Restoration of island ecosystems
- iv) Invasive species management
- v) Local community participation in adaptation actions

- We will facilitate 7 site exchanges involving CSOs in same country (4 exchanges) or from different countries (3 exchanges)
- Provide 4 competitive small grants to help CSOs formulate joint ideas and proposal, with emphasis on scaling EbA solutions and expertise.

6) On-going support and feedback

This will help participating CSOs apply their new skills and improve their operations, as well as build confidence and open new avenues for impactful EbA work in the hotspot.

Who can apply?

Applying **CSOs MUST**

1. Be based in the MADIO hotspot country (Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, or Mauritius), and be actively engaged in conservation preferably involving communities.
2. Be prepared to develop an EbA strategic plan that they commit to implement, thereafter.
3. Commit to make available suitably qualified staff to participate in project activities, and support them in the application of skills gained, afterwards.

The working language for the training programme under this project will be English (and to a lesser extent French), and potential CSOs must be able to understand and communicate in English.

Funding

All expenses (travel, meals, internet, accommodation and training costs) will be covered by the project². This is a capacity building project, **no per diems will be paid** to participating staff.

How to submit application, and inquiries

Interested CSOs should submit completed application form, and **signed by the Head of the organisation** to:

Basil Okoth

Tropical Biology Association, P O Box 44486, 00100-Nairobi, Kenya

Tel.: +254 (0)20 353 7568; +254(0)708 941 520

Email: programmes@tropical-biology.org

The deadline for submitting applications is 5th August 2024.

² The project is funded by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). *The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund 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*