

# MacArthur Foundation

## **Grant Guidelines**

### **International Programs**

#### **Conservation and Sustainable Development**

#### **The Great Lakes Region of East and Central Africa**

#### **Request for Letters of Interest for 2013**

Five adjacent watersheds within the Great Lakes region comprise the focus of interest for MacArthur Foundation's Conservation and Sustainable Development program (CSD): Lake Victoria Watershed, Upper Nile Watershed, Lake Tanganyika Watershed, Lake Malawi/Nyasa Watershed, and Turkana/Omo Watershed (see map).

The foundation is inviting Letters of Interest (LOIs) in 2013 that focus on the following Rift Valley lake watersheds: Turkana/Omo, Tanganyika, and Malawi/Nyasa.

The foundation's overall goal for the Great Lakes region is to prevent or reduce biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and to sustain ecosystem benefits for human well-being (*CSD strategy linked here*).

Our Theory of Change is that an understanding of the benefits ecosystems provide to humans is necessary, but insufficient to spur effective conservation responses at the appropriate scales. To close the gap that exists between concern and effective action, sufficient incentives must be created for societies to slow current trends of ecosystem degradation and service loss and eventually reverse them.

Four major assumptions underpin this hypothesis:

- Ecosystems and the ecological processes that produce benefits for society can be understood sufficiently to value and then manage for them.
- Some ecosystem benefits – both economic and non-economic – are sufficiently valuable to be prioritized by society in resource use decisions.
- Sustainable management of natural resources contributes to preventing, mitigating, and/or resolving environmental and social conflicts.
- Some drivers of ecosystem loss are linked to global trends and responses to them are best addressed at a global scale.

The overall CSD strategy tests the theory and assumptions by supporting initiatives that :

- Describe the importance of ecosystems to sustainable economic growth persuasively to key decision makers;
- Illustrate ways to generate positive incentives for environmental stewardship;
- Strengthen resource use rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples who manage many of the ecosystems that provide benefits to others in society;
- Contribute to testing and evaluating policies that distribute the costs and benefits of ecosystem management efficiently and more equitably among the users and providers of ecosystem services; and
- Monitor the status / trends in the health of ecosystems and pressures on them with scientific rigor and share this information with a broad audience.

Grant making in the Great Lakes region is informed by extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and government representatives, in a process coordinated by BirdLife International over the period September 2011 to March 2012. ***(The report resulting from this consultative process is [linke here](#), with appendices [here](#)).*** In areas of geographical overlap, the strategy also draws on consultations conducted by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in 2011 during the development of the Ecosystem Profile for the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot ***(CEPF Ecosystem profile for EABH [linked here](#)).***

## **Priority watersheds for grant making in 2013**

### **a) Lake Tanganyika Watershed**

Lake Tanganyika is the second deepest and second largest in volume of all the world's lakes. It is long and narrow and bordered by four countries (Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia and the DRC).

Lake Tanganyika's fisheries provide employment to an estimated 1 million people in the watershed and the Lake provides an important transport system within the region. The watershed hosts Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) such as the Itombwe Mountains, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (NP), and Kibira NP as well as globally important primate habitats such as Nyungwe, Gombe and Greater Mahale parks. Important wetlands include the Malagarasi River system, Lake Kivu, and Rusizi River.

Agriculture, livestock rearing and fisheries are the main livelihoods in the watershed. Major threats to biodiversity and ecosystems include over-fishing, siltation, agricultural practices and climate change.

### **b) Lake Malawi/Nyasa Watershed**

Lake Malawi/Nyasa is the world's fourth deepest lake in the world and is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi. The lake's fisheries provide a major contribution to the protein needs of the surrounding population and its outflows support the generation of electricity in Malawi. The lake also supports domestic and international tourism in Malawi. KBAs in the watershed include Nyika National Park, Mount Rungwe, Ruhuhu and Lufiro regions, Zomba and Umalila Mountains.

Livelihoods within the watershed are based on agriculture, livestock and fisheries, with the latter providing a major contribution to the Malawian population. Major threats to biodiversity include over-fishing, poor agricultural practices, deforestation and the burning of biomass.

### **c) Turkana/Omo Watershed**

Lake Turkana, which is located in northern Kenya, is the largest desert lake in the world and the most saline of Africa's large lakes. The Omo River in southwestern Ethiopia provides 90 percent of the lake's inflow. The lake has a thriving fish population and fisheries are increasingly becoming an important alternative livelihood providing a valuable source of protein to people in the Turkana area. The Omo River hosts hydropower dams and its annual flood cycles support agricultural activities in its banks. KBAs in the watershed include the Gughe Mountains and the Omo, Nechisar and Mago National Parks in Ethiopia; Mounts Nyiru, Kulal, and Elgon, the Mau-Narok grasslands and Cherangani Hills, Lakes Baringo and Bogoria in Kenya; and Mounts Kadam, Moroto and Elgon on the Ugandan side.

Major threats in this watershed include large hydropower development on the Omo River, large-scale irrigation projects and climate change. Recent discovery of oil within the Watershed could potentially support national policy objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development. However, if managed poorly, oil can lead to significant and adverse social and environmental impacts.

### **Key sites**

The Foundation will prioritize sites within these watersheds that demonstrate a number of values at the national and regional level, including designation as freshwater and terrestrial KBAs; and ecosystem services such as provisioning of water, food, energy, and carbon sequestration. Special attention will be paid to the conservation of biodiversity within agricultural, fisheries, and livestock production landscapes around important lakes, rivers, wetlands, and water catchment areas. Grant making in 2013 will focus on the following sites:

Lake Kivu and Rusizi river catchment – this area extends from Lake Kivu to Rusizi River mouth in Lake Tanganyika. KBAs in the area include highland forests such as Nyungwe, Kibira, Kahuzi-Biega and Itombwe. The area is an important water catchment for Lakes Kivu and



Tanganyika and is an important source of water for Bujumbura and Bukavu cities. The Rusizi delta is rich in biodiversity and the Rusizi river flood plains support the livelihoods of thousands of people who cultivate, fish, graze cattle and harvest wetland products. The Rusizi outlet to Lake Tanganyika is important for fisheries.

Near coastal waters in Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi – Lake Malawi has the highest fish diversity in the GLR with 358 species of fish, mainly cichlids, 99 percent of which are endemic.. Lake Tanganyika is host to the second highest diversity of fish in the GLR with 287 species. The lakes' fisheries are also an important source of protein for people in the region. Over-exploitation of fish and habitat degradation tends to occur in the more accessible coastal waters which are the richest in biodiversity and the nursery for most pelagic fish.

Agricultural landscapes in southern Tanzania - expanding populations of smallholder farmers currently practice mixed agriculture within Ruhuhu and Rukuru sub-catchment areas of Lake Nyasa. Major investments in agriculture and infrastructure development by government and the private sector are also planned for the region under the auspices of a government and private sector initiative, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor. The area encompasses KBAs such as Mount Rungwe, Kitulo Plateau, Bulongwa Forest Reserve, Umalilia Mountains, and Kipengere Range and extends over altitudinal gradients ranging from over 2000 meters down to Lake Nyasa.

Areas targeted for oil production, hydropower production and agriculture in the Turkana/ Omo Watershed – The Omo River drains the southern highlands of Ethiopia into the Lower Omo floodplain, whose seasonal floods provide a rich natural resource for people and biodiversity. KBAs in this area include L. Turkana and Omo delta, Mount Kulal, and the Turkwell. However, upstream development projects along the Omo River such as dam and irrigation schemes are likely to have significant impacts on the river's annual flood cycles, upon which thousands of pastoralists and fishers in Ethiopia and Kenya depend for cultivation, grazing, and fishing. Furthermore, oil exploration concessions around and within Lake Turkana and the recent discovery of oil highlight the need to ensure that oil production and transportation is conducted

in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on conservation and ensures greatest social and economic benefits. LOIs for this area will be accepted on an invitation only basis.

Within these key sites , the Foundation will prioritize proposals that address the following objectives:

**1) Understand and respond to increased environmental pressures from development and climate change impacts:**

- a) Develop local management networks, innovative projects and shared plans to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services and to enhance climate change resilience in Climate Resilient Altitudinal Gradients (manageable areas at landscape-scale level based on watersheds that range from sensitive montane forests through transitional habitats down slope, ideally to the lake shores at the lower edge).
- b) Promote understanding of ecosystem services, their values and expected changes under key development and climatic scenarios.
- c) Support monitoring and assessment of impacts of major development initiatives such as agriculture and fisheries on ecosystems and biodiversity; identify and implement interventions that create incentives for environmental stewardship, reduce tradeoffs and increase synergies between development initiatives and conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide.
- d) Turkana/Omo Watershed:
  - i) Monitor impacts of oil/gas exploration and production; ensure oversight of oil and gas industries and monitor the implementation of relevant laws and policies; increase transparency and accurate information in relation to impacts of resource management choices on economic development, local livelihoods, human rights, social welfare and conservation of ecosystems. Grant making in this area is developed in collaboration

with MacArthur's Human Rights and International Justice program, and LOIs are accepted on an invitation only basis.

- ii) Monitor and assess impacts of major hydropower initiatives and large-scale irrigation projects; promote understanding of ecosystem services, their values and expected changes in key development and climatic scenarios; strengthens traditional rights to natural resources for indigenous and other marginalized communities. LOIs for this theme are accepted on an invitation only basis.

## **2) Create and expand incentives to conserve ecosystems**

- a) Pilot and/or expand payments for ecosystem services programs.

## **3) Assist the rural poor – with special attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women - in managing their natural resources for multiple benefits**

- a) Promote the establishment and management of community conserved areas, community fisheries, community forests and associated sustainable livelihood strategies.
- b) Promote locally-based energy service provision (micro-hydro, solar and other off-grid sources).

*The Foundation will pay particular attention to proposals that specifically seek to complement geographical and thematic priorities for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot and the Foundation encourages applicants to highlight linkages to CEPF where appropriate (see CEPF guidelines linked here).*

## **Eligibility**

Letters of Inquiry should address the above geographic and thematic priorities.

CSD typically makes three year grants with the possibility of renewal based on performance and continued relevance of the project.

Please note that the Foundation does not support political activities or attempts to influence action on specific legislation. We do not provide individual scholarships or tuition assistance for undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate studies; nor do we support annual fundraising drives, institutional benefits, honorary functions, or similar projects.

As is now the case with most charities in the United States who make grants to organizations based outside the United States, the Foundation checks the names of foreign based grantees, and the principal officers and directors of such grantees, against one or more lists maintained by the U.S. government, the European Union, and the United Nations, which contain the names determined by such entities to be terrorist organizations or individual terrorists. This process is a result of legislation passed by the U.S. Congress, Executive Orders issued by the President, and suggested guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. A memorandum on this topic is available upon request.

### **Review Process**

All eligible Letters of Inquiry will be evaluated by the Foundation.

The Foundation may ask outside experts or persons with relevant professional experience to review LOIs and/or proposals.

Decisions to invite full proposals based on the submitted LOIs and/or award grants will be made by the Foundation.

All material submitted becomes the property of the MacArthur Foundation.

### **Deadlines**

LOIs should be submitted no later than April 5th by e-mail to: [4answers@macfound.org](mailto:4answers@macfound.org)

A suggested LOI format is available [here](#).

