



French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)

SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAM (SSIP)

RULES AND CRITERIA

1. PROGRAM OUTLINE

The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) has launched a third phase of the **Small-Scale Initiatives Program (SSIP)** for the 2011-2013 period. This program aims at strengthening the civil society contribution of Central and Western African countries, Madagascar to the conservation of the world Environment by funding local projects.

As environment FGEF means the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change, whilst improving the living standards of the local populations of these countries.

The SSIP 3 reaches the general goals of **protecting the world environment** and **strengthening the capacities of the civil society** targeted on 5 focal regions.

From July 2011 to July 2013, about **40 projects will be funded by the program shared out among countries called "Focal Regions" (24 projects) and 16 projects in the "Non-Focal Regions"**.

The countries in the Focal Regions in Western Africa (FRWA) are: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, and in the Central Africa (FRCA) are: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Non-focal Regions: other countries of Western Africa and Central Africa and Madagascar.

Along this period, 3 calls for proposals will be launched. Each time, 10 to 15 of the best projects will be shortlisted.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program is divided into 2 components:

2.1 Selecting and funding local projects, run by the IUCN French Committee (IUCN-FC)

SSIP reaches the following goals:

- Execution of biodiversity conservation and fight against climate change field-based projects implemented by the civil society of Western and Central Africa, Madagascar,
- Building civil society capacity in technical knowledge for implementing, managing and monitoring the projects, and in terms of technical skills related to these projects
- Strengthening a monitoring network of small projects in Central and Western African countries,
- Building civil society organisations capacity so that they can have some influence on the environmental choices in their respective countries,
- Sharing, promoting and networking civil society experiences.

2.2 Strengthening capacities of civil society and networking NGOs of the focal regions (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, DRC) run by IUCN Central and the West Africa Program (IUCN-PACO) (contact:

NGOs are able to take advantage of IUCN-PACO technical support in designing the projects and monitoring on their implementation. IUCN-PACO (based in Burkina Faso and Cameroon) will hold meetings between NGOs about their field experiences and the environmental public policies at national and regional level.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 Eligible countries and regions.

The indicative allocation target of the 40 projects is as follows, knowing that it will vary depending on the quality of the projects presented in each country:

Focal Region in Western Africa (FRWA): 12 projects located throughout the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo

Focal Region in the Central Africa (FRCA): 12 projects located throughout the following countries: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Non-focal in Western Africa (NFWA): 7 projects located throughout the following countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tchad

Non focal in the Central Africa (NFCA): 7 projects located throughout the following countries: Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome-and-Principe, Rwanda, Burundi

Madagascar: 2 projects

3.2 The eligible recipients

- **NGOs from southern countries (at least 80% of projects),** professional bodies, women and youth groups or associations. Priority is given to field based organizations. NGOs based outside the intervention area should specify their experience and involvement on the field
- **The international NGOs in partnership with NGOs that don't have yet a legal status:** these projects will be eligible if they contribute to the official recognition of the local NGO. The terms of the partnership between the international and local NGO should be stated in a formal agreement signed by the two parties. **The empowerment of local organisations must be detailed** and some easy-to-check indicators for this purpose must be developed

The recipients must have:

- A legal status that allow them to receive a grant;
- A confirmed field experience ;
- A management of projects experience;
- A solid knowledge of the field relevant to the project, on biodiversity conservation and/or on fight against climate change.

Application forms must include **concrete, realistic and measurable objectives and outcomes, expected at the end of the project.**

3.3 Eligible themes

The eligible themes concern **biodiversity protection and the fight against climate change, along with the improvement of local populations living standards.**

1) Biodiversity is the main area of intervention of the SSIP

Priority will be given to the following themes:

- Ecosystems and habitats protection and restoration ; Rare or endangered endemic species protection, inside or outside protected areas ;
- Rare resources sustainable management and valorisation with an easy-to-check impact on the protection of biodiversity, in particular local and national resources governance, marketing channels, non-timber forest production, ecotourism, game reserves, firewood, valorisation of peripheral zones of protected areas, etc...Activities improving the population rights concerning management of natural resources are eligible ;
- Ecological and fair trade certification in favour of biodiversity ;
- Management and control on fisheries, based or not on traditional rules, implemented by groups of fishermen in areas they can control.

2) Fight against climate change

The eligible themes are the following:

- The "Clean Development Mechanism" applied to small projects and innovative devices for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) aiming at improving the small organisations access to carbon credit. Local populations must financially profit by this process.
- Valorisation of wastes for energy production and the sale of carbon credits ;
- Natural forest regeneration without tree planting could also be supported in some case ;
- Training/empowerment of NGOs and local populations on climate change issues in the framework of projects funded by other donors.

3.4 Types of intervention particularly looked for

- Actions implemented in the field, in a real participative process, with a high implication of local people ;
- Practical and appropriate trainings, information and awareness raising actions, only if they come with actions in the field and if they have a structuring capacity on a network of NGO, at town, regional or country level;
- The income generating activities linked to biodiversity or climate change possibly linked to private sector.

3.5 NON – eligibility criteria

SSIP 3 does not fund:

- Capacity building or scientific research programs non directly linked to a project and/or in which the main activities are limited to workshops, training or research ;
- The recurring activities and the recurring operating budget expenditures ;
- Activities of micro-finance if not led under a close partnership with Micro-finance professionals
- The national lobbying campaigns that don't have real protection initiatives on the field;
- Agro-ecology based projects and rural development projects (farming or fishery) that don't have a well-documented and significant effect on a rare or threatened biodiversity or on greenhouse gases effects reduction ;
- Reforestation projects (non-native tree or fruit-tree species) that don't have a well-documented and significant effect on a rare or threatened biodiversity or on greenhouse gases effects reduction ;
- Anti-erosion projects non specifically linked to the protection of a rare or threatened biodiversity or to a valued carbon storage ;
- Wildlife farming projects with no conservation goal ;
- Improved cook stoves based projects and solar, wind energy or hydroelectric power equipment based projects which are not obtaining carbon credits.

4. PAYMENT TERMS

Contribution of SSIP will have an average amount of 35 000 € for each project.

Some projects can receive up to 50 000 € in case of projects with great biodiversity issues, guaranteed results, strong expertise of the NGO on the relevant field, or/and importance of co-financing.

This contribution will cover at maximum **50% of the total cost of the project** when there are other partners such as international organisations or NGOs or private companies as co-funding donors. If the recipients only have local donors (local population contribution, NGO, local authorities...) FFEM could contribute up to 75% of the total amount of the project.

All projects asking for more than 50 000 € or presenting a co-financing percentage of more than 50% or 75%, depending on circumstances for co-financing, will not be considered.

The co-financing contribution will have to correspond to real monetary contributions, from the NGO itself or its other financiers.¹

The effectiveness of co-funding should be proved by including documentary evidence into the application form.

Project duration: 2 years maximum.

Recipients may apply for many grants at the moment of a call for proposals, but only one project will be financed.

After a first grant assignment, the recipient can apply for a second grant, but the project will be financed only if the first one ended and the final activity reports, validated by UICN-CF, attested the success of the activities and proved the interest of a new grant.

5. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The French Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-FC) is in charge of the implementation of the program.

The projects will be shortlisted as a **competition** (only the 10-15 best ones will be granted). The projects will be rated according to the following criteria:

Elimination criteria:

- Country and recipient eligibility ;
- Themes and activities eligibility according to SSIP objectives (paragraph 3 "Program objectives");
- Reality of co-financing of the project ;

Selection criteria:

- The recipient's background on the topics and in the geographical area concerned by the project;
 - Contribution to world biodiversity conservation;
 - Technical feasibility of the project, demonstrated socio-economic feasibility ; definition of realistic expected outcomes;
 - Contribution to local economic and social development ;
 - Project reproducibility;
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- Cultural and social acceptance of the project such as local populations involvement and local authorities agreement ;
- Integration into environmental national policies ; original and imaginative activities in comparison to the actual policy ;
- An organisational and institutional framework ensuring a good project implementation
- Sustainability of actions implemented at project's end.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

In order to reduce time spent by recipients on formulating proposals and designing projects, **project selection projects by SSIP will be first based on a pre-proposal of 4 pages maximum.**

The procedure will follow two stages:

6.1 Pre-proposals selection (preselection):

- within the focal regions (see list on paragraph 3.1): IUCN-FC will assess pre-proposals according to criteria (paragraph 5) and will invite recipients with the best projects to submit a complete proposal. IUCN PACO may support then technically some of these preselected recipients.

- within the non-focal regions (see list on paragraph 3.1): IUCN-FC will assess pre-proposals according to criteria (paragraph 5) and will invite recipients with the best projects to submit a complete proposal.

Only preselected NGOs (those whose pre-proposals have been selected) will be invited to submit a complete proposal.

NGOs will be informed within two months after the submission of their concept note if they are invited to submit a complete project proposal.

6.2 Selection of complete proposals

- For countries within the focal regions, NGOs invited to submit the complete proposal according to the provided application form must send it to IUCN-FC, with administrative documents

- For countries within the non focal regions, NGOs invited to submit the complete proposal according to the provided application form must send it to IUCN-FC, with administrative documents

The whole complete proposals will be collected by IUCN-FC and submitted to the Selection Committee of SSIP, in charge of selecting the best **10-15 best proposals for each call for proposals.**

The final selection of complete applications will be held during 3 meetings of the Selection Committee in January 2012, October 2012 and April 2013.

The UICN-CF will inform each candidate about the results of the competition.

7. HOW TO APPLY?

7.1 Pre-proposals:

NGOs must send **by email only** their pre-proposals to IUCN-CF: ppi@uicn.fr

The pre-proposals form can be downloaded here: www.ffem.fr

Only the duly completed pre-proposals will be considered: respect of plan, font required, number of pages (maximum 4), and has to be in a Word format (**PDF and paper not accepted**).

7.2 Complete proposals:

Preselected NGOs by IUCN-FC must send by email only their complete proposal to IUCN-CF: ppi@iucn.fr

The application form for complete proposals will be sent to them.

Only the duly completed applications will be considered: respect of plan, font required, number of pages, and has to be in a Word format (**PDF and paper not accepted**). **The administrative documents must be sent too.**

7.3 Application procedure:

Please, make sure you meet the following requirements:

- give your project the name of the country and the name of the recipient organization (ex. TCHAD – AFED)
- Page number and page setting your application, especially Excel files
- Split the project core and its appendices in two separate files. First send the core project, which is supposed to be a much lighter (smaller) file
- Use only one email address per application. Multiple addresses only make confusion
- At the precedent call for proposal 30% of projects were refused because they were sent too late **Think about Internet connection problems that may arise and the time needed to transfer files: please meet the deadline.**

Except for the first call for proposals, pre-selection process will be continuous; pre-proposals could be sent at any time.

Next dates to remember for the following Selection Committees (october 2012, april 2013) are:

For focal countries

(Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo)

Preproposals can be sent at any time

For NON focal countries

(other countries in central Africa and Western Africa)

Preproposals can be sent at any time, but preproposals sent after the 19 of July 2012, will be considered for the following Selection Committee expected for April 2013

NGOs have to be invited by French Committee of IUCN before sending their complete proposal

Reception deadline for complete proposals: 20.09.2012 (focal and non-focal countries)

Final decision for funding: 31.10.2012

During the selection process, some information can be requested to the recipient by UICN-CF and PACO.

Files can also be written in Spanish or Portuguese.

→ Download the [Pre-proposal Form](#) (Word)