



SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAM 5 (PPI 5.4)

RULES AND CRITERIA CALL FOR PROPOSALS SMALL GRANT

I. PPI: A NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS & AN EXTENDED GEOGRAPHY

The Small-Scale Initiatives Program ([PPI](#)) is a program launched in 2006 by the French Facility for Global Environment ([FFEM](#)), and managed by the French Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ([IUCN France](#)), which main objective is to strengthen the contribution of civil society in sub-Saharan African countries **to biodiversity conservation and addressing climate change adaptation by funding local projects**. This program also has a component on **building capacities and networking** of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), managed by IUCN Central and West Africa Program (IUCN-PACO).

Since the end of 2016, the FFEM has been funding the fifth phase of the PPI to support African CSOs in order to i) contribute to the protection **of remarkable biodiversity and addressing climate change impacts through nature-based solutions**¹ through concrete projects in the field **that improve people's livelihoods** (ii) strengthen the capacities and influence of African civil society on environmental issues.

A total of 34 CSO projects and networks are currently supported in 11 countries in West and Central Africa until September 2019.

A new call for projects opens today and aims at financing (by the FFEM and the [MAVA Foundation](#)) and implementing of about **30 new projects in 19 countries in West and Central Africa**.

Important news: the organizations of **Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde Islands, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone** are eligible for this call (see all eligible countries in section 3 - eligibility criteria).

¹ Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are defined by IUCN as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits". Nature-based solutions involve three types of actions, which may be combined at regional and local level: preserving the integrity and good ecological status of ecosystems, improving sustainable management of ecosystems used by human activities, restoring degraded ecosystems or creating ecosystems.



2. A PROGRAM FOR PROTECTING NATURE AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS

PPI's objectives include:

- To fund on-ground projects implemented by the civil society of Western and Central Africa that protect remarkable biodiversity (e.g.: rare and/or endemic species or ecosystems) and/or address climate change issues ;
- To build the civil society capacity on project development, management and monitoring and reinforce technical skills required to successfully implement these projects ;
- To raise the level of the civil society influence on environmental decisions and policies in their own countries, and
- To facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and enable networking among grantees.

The program has 3 main pillars:

2.1 Funding of project: Selection, funding, monitoring and evaluation of local projects coordinated by the IUCN French Committee (IUCN France) ;

2.2 Building capacities of organizations: technical, organizational and institutional capacity building and networking of CSOs coordinated run by the IUCN Central and West Africa Program (IUCN-PACO) ;

2.3 Capitalization: documenting and sharing outcomes and lessons learnt with a wider audience also for the structuring of organizations.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 Eligible countries (map below)



Western Africa: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, South and Central Burkina-Faso, extreme South of Niger. For Burkina Faso and Niger, the limit is along the ecoregion of the “West Sudanian Savanna² »

Coastal West Africa: Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde Islands, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone

Central Africa: Cameroon, Republic of Central Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Sao Tome-and-Principe, Republic of Congo.

² The West Sudanian Savanna is a terrestrial ecoregion defined by the WWF, belonging to the Prairie biome, tropical and subtropical savanna and bushes of the afrotropical ecozone. It extends over south-central Senegal, Burkina Faso, southern Mali, southern Niger, northern Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. The limits of this ecoregion are available here: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5f/Ecoregion_AT0722.svg
The distribution of animal species according to terrestrial ecoregions is available on the "WildFinder" application: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/>



3.2 Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants for this round of small grants are:

- **Emerging African NGOs** that have not previously benefited from a PPI grant, working on high biodiversity values and/or that are important for addressing climate change issues.

Note: CSOs who have applied unsuccessfully in the last two PPI 5 calls for projects (in 2017) are allowed update their applications and resubmit them.

The recipients must have:

- A recognised legal status that allows them to receive a grant;
- Confirmed on-ground experience;
- Experience in project management;
- A solid knowledge in the field relevant to the project, e.g. biodiversity conservation and/or on climate change issues.

3.3 Eligible themes

The four eligible themes are:

- Improvement of territorial governance;
- Conservation of threatened species;
- Management of Protected Areas (PA) and their fringes;
- Combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

The proposed project must include on-ground actions with concrete, measurable and lasting impacts on one of the four eligible themes as well as local development.

Particular attention will be paid to projects that explicitly include mechanisms of sustainable financing of the conservation (development of value chains, ecotourism, diversification of the incomes, partnership with the private sector ...)

3.4 NON – eligibility criteria

This grants program does not cover:

- Capacity building or scientific research programs not directly linked to an on-ground project and/or for which the main activities are limited to workshops, training or research ;
- Projects dedicated to ordinary biodiversity ;
- Operating costs and business-as-usual activities ;
- Micro-finance projects unless they are led under a close partnership with specialised micro-finance organisations ;
- National lobbying campaigns with no on-ground component ;
- Agro-ecology and rural development projects (farming or fishery) that don't have a well-documented and significant effect on a rare or threatened species or on climate change adaptation through nature based solutions ;



- Reforestation projects (non-native tree or fruit-tree species) that don't have a well-documented and significant effect on a rare or threatened species or on climate change adaptation through nature based solutions ;
- Erosion control projects not directly linked to the protection of a rare or threatened species or on climate change adaptation through nature based solutions;
- Wild game farming projects with no conservation goal ;
- Stove based projects and solar, wind energy or hydroelectric power equipment based projects.

3.5 Financial eligibility

The maximum contribution for these small grants is € 40 000.

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 or private companies), PPI could contribute up to **75% of the total amount of the project.**

All projects asking for more than 40 000 € or presenting a co-financing percentage of more than 50% or 75%, depending on circumstances for co-financing, will not be considered.

Co-funding must correspond to:

- Real monetary contributions, either from the NGO itself, or from other donors. Documentary evidence of this co-funding will be required into the application form.
- In-kind contributions may also be taken into account providing the NGO has the capacity to:
 - i). Provide clear and precise information on how in-kind contribution have been calculated;
 - ii). Indicate the method by which the NGO can monitor the effective mobilization of this contribution.

Whether it is actual monetary contribution and / or in-kind contribution, IUCN France reserves the right to conduct audits to verify the exact nature and use of this cofunding throughout the project implementation period.

3.6 Duration of project

Project duration: 15 months maximum.



4. SELECTION CRITERIA

The projects will be shortlisted as a competition. The projects will be rated according to the following criteria:

- Elimination criteria:
 - Country and recipient eligibility (Cf. 3.1 et 3.2) ;
 - Themes and activities eligibility according to PPI objectives (Cf. 3.3) ;
 - Financial eligibility and reality of co-financing of the project (Cf. 3.5) ;
 - Duration of project (Cf. 3.6) ;
 - Pre-proposal filled in an unsuitable form.

- Selection criteria:
 - Recipient's background on the topics and in the geographical area concerned by the project ;
 - Contribution to biodiversity conservation or climate change impacts mitigation through nature-based solutions ;
 - Technical and socio-economic feasibility and realistic nature of expected outcomes ;
 - Contribution to local economic and social development ;
 - Cultural and social acceptance of the project demonstration of community involvement and agreement or support by relevant local authorities ;
 - Coherence with adopted national and local environmental policies ;
 - Capacities of the organisation to successfully lead a project to its completion ;
 - Sustainability of actions implemented at project's end ;
 - Ability of the organization to implement a monitoring and evaluation framework defining modalities and mechanisms for data collection and reporting through clearly defined indicators.

5. SELECTION PROCEDURE

In order to reduce time spent by proponents on formulating proposals and designing projects, **projects selection by PPI will be first based on a pre-proposal of 5 pages maximum.**

The procedure will follow two stages:

5.1 Pre-proposals selection (preselection):

IUCN France will assess pre-proposals according to criteria (paragraph 4) and will invite proponents with the best projects to submit a complete proposal. A personal support will be proposed for writing the complete proposal to the preselected recipients who want to benefit from it.

This support does not guarantee the approval of the submission as it's a Selection Committee (composed with independent members from PPI executive team) which takes the final decision among the projects.

The IUCN France will notify each candidate about the results of the competition.

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



5.2 Selection of complete proposals

Organizations invited to submit the complete proposal must send it to IUCN France.

IUCN France will receive completed proposals and submit them to the PPI 5 Selection Committee, in charge of selecting the **top 30 proposals in November 2019**.

The IUCN France will inform individually each organization about the selection results.

Successful projects will receive funds once IUCN France and the proponent have both agreed on the terms of the grant contract and once all administrative documents³ required by the FFEM have been provided, in accordance with the French development Agency (AFD) procedures.

We draw your attention to the fact that collecting these documents can take several months, depending on responses received from proponents.

This is why we ask proponents to prepare these documents several weeks/months before the final decision of the Selection Committee is made, in order to stand at-the-ready in case your project is approved and be able to start straight away.

It should also be noted that any significant changes with a proponent's organisation (e.g. in relation to human and/or financial resources) which happens between the time the grant is awarded and the contract is signed may lead to the cancellation of the grant.

² The list of administrative documents will be provided to NGOs pre-selected



6. HOW TO APPLY?

6.1 Pre-proposals:

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

It is important to respect the thematic of submission in which your project fits. Any error in the thematic election will lead to a rejection of the project.

The pre-proposals form can be downloaded on the [FFEM](#) and [UICN France](#) websites on the following addresses:

<http://uicn.fr/cooperation-internationale/programme-de-petites-initiatives-du-ffem/>

<https://www.ffem.fr/fr/le-programme-de-petites-initiatives-ppi>

Only the duly completed pre-proposals will be considered: respect of plan, font required, number of pages (maximum 5), and has to be in a Word format (PDF and paper not accepted). Projects whose budget is not eligible will not be considered.

Application procedure:

Please ensure that you:

- **Follow the following format to name your file: COUNTRY - ORGANISATION (ex. GHANA – AFED) ;**
- Include page numbers and types of your files, especially Excel files ;
- Split the main application core and its appendices into separate files. Start by sending the application form as a standalone as it should be a lighter file ;
- Use only one email address per application.

During the selection process, additional information may be requested by the PPI team.

Applications can be only submitted in French or English.

Next dates to remember for this round of call for proposals PPI 5 are:

- **Deadline for sending pre-proposal forms: 31st of March 2019 (6.00 pm, Paris Time GMT+1).**
- **Once NGOs are invited by IUCN, complete proposals will have to be sent before 30th of August 2019 (6.00 pm, Paris Time GMT+1).**
- **Pre-proposals and complete proposals received after 6.00 pm (Paris Time GMT+1) will not be considered.**
- **Final decision for funding: 22nd of November 2019**