

FFEM
French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)

PROGRAMME PETITES INITIATIVES
Small-Scale Initiatives Program

RULES AND CRITERIA

1. PROGRAM OUTLINE

The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) has launched a second phase of the Small-Scale Initiatives Program (SSIP) for the 2009-2011 period. This program aims at strengthening the civil society contribution of Central and Western African countries, Madagascar and Mozambique to the conservation of the 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.

From July 2009 to July 2011, about 50 projects will be funded by the program.

Along this period, 4 calls for proposals will be launched. Each time, 10 to 15 of the best projects will be shortlisted.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Execution of substantial projects implemented by the civil society of Western and Central Africa, Madagascar and Mozambique,
- Building civil society capacity in technical knowledge for implementing, managing and monitoring the 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.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1 Eligible countries.

The eligible countries are the following:

17 countries for Western Africa : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo.

9 countries for Central Africa : Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of The Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome-and-Principe, Rwanda, Burundi.

Other countries: Mozambique and Madagascar.

Priority will be given to French speaking countries. About 50 projects are expected to be funded during the 2 years of the program, 8 of which could be implemented in non French-speaking countries.

3.2 The eligible recipients

- NGOs from the eligible countries, professional bodies, women and youth groups or associations
- Priority is given to field based organizations (NGOs, etc)
- NGOs based outside the intervention area should specify their experience and involvement on the field
- Local authorities can intervene on their own or in partnership with an NGO.
- Private companies committed to protect biodiversity in a measurable way (for instance sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products, ecotourism, the strengthening of management of biodiversity, eco-certification process). As to climate change, the eligible companies should be involved in waste recycling, biogas production, remote areas electrification with renewable energies. Another condition of the eligibility is that the impacts of the CO2 emissions must be measurable.
- The international NGOs in partnership with NGOs that don't have yet a legal status or the appropriate technical or financial capacity to run a project by themselves. More specifically, these projects will be eligible if they contribute to the recognition and to the technical empowerment 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. The organisations that don't have any can also be eligible if they have a partnership with a recognised organisation (which will be in charge of the financial affairs of the project), only if by the end of the project the organisation get a legal status ;
- A confirmed field experience ;
- A management of projects experience including accountancy ;
- A solid knowledge of the area of intervention, on biodiversity conservation and/or on fight against climate change.

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 PPI

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.

- Empowerment and the structuration of small and medium-sized companies working on the electrification of isolated areas using alternative methods (biogas, valorisation of farm wastes waste) ;
- Valorisation of wastes from energy production or 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

PPI FFEM 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 without a verifiable durability vision ;
- 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.

4. PAYMENT TERMS

Maximum grant allowed: each project can receive up to 50 000 euro

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.

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 (UICN-CF) is in charge of the implementation of the program.

In West Africa, the French Committee of IUCN relies on the Western and Central Africa Program of the IUCN based in BURKINA FASO, for the selection and the monitoring of the projects in this area.

In Central Africa, UICN-CF works with a network of local experts.

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:

- Country and recipient eligibility ;
- Themes and activities eligibility according to paragraph 2 "Program objectives";
- The recipient's background on the topics and in the geographical area concerned by the project;
- Contribution to local economic and social development ;
- Co-financing of the project ;
- 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 ;
- Technical feasibility of the project, demonstrated socio-economic feasibility ;
- Project Innovation and reproducibility;
- An organisational and institutional framework ensuring a good project implementation and the sustainability of actions implemented at project's end.

The selection will take about 3 months.

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

A very few organisations presenting good ideas but whose projects were not accepted because some minors criteria were not satisfied, could be supported by a consultant in order to improve their proposition and apply again at the following call for proposals. This decision belongs to UICN-CF or UICN PACO and will come directly from them.

6. HOW TO APPLY

The application form can be downloaded here: www.ffem.fr.

Only the duly completed applications will be considered. The file must be no longer than 11 pages (appendix and recipient attestation not included), and being in a Word format (PDF not accepted).

N.B. All the documents must be sent by e-mail to the following address: ppi@iucn.fr.

For Western Africa countries (as to before-mentioned point 3.1), applications must also be sent to ppi@iucn.org.

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. Only files received before 18h00, Paris time (GMT+1) will be considered. Think about Internet connection problems that may arise and the time needed to transfer files: please meet the deadline.

Next call for proposals dates are:

Application deadline 2nd call for proposals: 15.02.2010 Decision 2nd call for proposals: 30.04.2010

Application deadline 3rd call for proposals: 15.09.2010 Decision 3rd call for proposals: 30.11.2010

Application deadline 4th call for proposals: 15.02.2011 Decision 4th call for proposals: 30.04.2011

Application forms will be accepted until 6 p.m. (Paris Time, GMT+1) last call, of the above-written deadline date.

All projects asking for more than 50 000 € or presenting a co-financing percentage of more than 50% or 75%, depending on circumstances at point 4, will not be considered.

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 [Application Form](#) (Word)