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Global ICCA Support Initiative (GSI)

COVID-19 support to territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) in Kenya

Call for Proposals

Objectives

Phase 2 of the ICCA Global Support Initiative ([GSI](#)) provides support to territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities ([ICCAs](#)), with a focus on forty-five (45) countries participating in the GEF Small Grants Programme ([SGP](#)), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The ICCA GSI is funded by the International Climate Initiative ([IKI](#)) of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment and Nuclear Safety ([BMU](#)).

The ICCA-GSI response to COVID-19 will support IPLCs to strengthen their short-term coping mechanisms as well as their long-term socio-ecological resilience. Grassroots actions and initiatives will build on indigenous self-determination principles, including indigenous food sovereignty, to nurture healthy, reciprocal relationships with the land, plants and animals, as well as with other producer organisations and networks. A balanced distribution between COVID-19 response projects supporting coping mechanisms, will be combined with a similar share of projects aiming to support long-term prevention of future pandemics.

In alignment with the relevant National COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan, applications from qualified non-state, not-for profit organisations are invited to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. National and local civil society organisations (including community-based organisations, NGOs, and Indigenous Peoples organisations) are encouraged to apply based on the list of eligible criteria presented below.

Thematic categories for ICCA-GSI projects in response to COVID 19	
<i>Communication and lessons sharing through culturally-appropriate means</i>	Translating and communicating medical and sanitary information on COVID-19 in local and vernacular languages (i.e. examples from UNDP China, Peru etc.) in partnership with universities, UN agencies and other partners. Ensuring the participation of indigenous women, youth and the disabled in line with their self-determined development and SDGs principle of Leaving No-One Behind (LNOB) will be prioritised.
<i>Food production systems: agroecology and agroforestry</i>	Strengthening sustainable and biodiversity-friendly food production systems in ICCAs focused on expanded activities in agroecology and agro-forestry techniques. Food and seed exchange to be promoted by linking IPLCs, indigenous networks and other sustainable agriculture practices. Activities will be aimed at promoting socio-ecological

	resilience and bolstering food security and cultural identity while delivering biodiversity conservation outcomes.
<i>Sustainable and well governed wildlife conservation</i>	Promote sustainable and regulated wildlife conservation through good governance, customary regulation and awareness raising. Generate knowledge and promote measures against illegal poaching.
<i>Prevention of zoonoses and future pandemics</i>	ICCAs as Territories of Life to conserve barriers for zoonotic disease and habitat conservation through reduced fragmentation. Eligible activities include direction grassroots actions to support ecological corridors which increase habitat connectivity within resilient socio-ecological landscapes. Given that the demand for action-focused projects on zoonoses may not come from IPLCs themselves, a more proactive approach may sometimes be required. Proactive partnership may be established with relevant networks (i.e. EcoHealth Alliance, USAID Predict, University of Cambridge, and others).
<i>Transmission of traditional medical knowledge</i>	Reflecting an important cultural heritage recognised by the CBD, UNESCO and WIPO, IPLCs have relied on traditional medicine for centuries -- using medicinal plants to prepare remedies for a variety of ailments and diseases. IPLCs hold detailed knowledge of local natural resources and techniques that are important in boosting immune systems during the pandemic. Documentation and transmission of known remedies, sustainable techniques for harvesting, quality control of medicinal plants, and transmission of medicinal knowledge in local languages will be supported.
<i>Territorial mapping and demarcation for self-isolation and conservation</i>	Mapping and demarcation to increase territorial zoning, self-isolation procedures, buffer zones and conservation areas, will be supported within ICCAs. Spatial demarcation efforts will be complementary to strengthening food production systems and socio-ecological resilience within individual ICCAs -- nested with wider 'biocorridors of living well' or 'territories of life' (i.e. term adopted by the global ICCA Consortium).
<i>Deployment of traditional knowledge of fire management</i>	Given elevated threats to ICCAs from wildfires linked to climate change and illegal activities left uncontrolled on account of the COVID-19 crisis, projects will be developed to control bushfires (i.e. digging firebreaks, employing traditional knowledge of "early burn" techniques) adapted to different savannah and forest ecosystems as well as creating short term green recovery employment.
<i>Local bio-circular economy approaches based on reciprocity</i>	The pandemic has severely impacted income-generation activities in many ICCAs, in particular for ecotourism-based ventures which have been paralyzed through a lack of visitors. For agricultural-dependent communities, some IPLCs have experienced an over-abundance of supply with reduced access to markets, while others face food shortages owing to closed borders and restricted mobility. Reciprocal food exchange networks will be supported, including provision of food to other at-risk IPLCs and urban areas. Alternative livelihood options identified by IPLCs, including <i>inter alia</i> locally-made personal protective equipment (PPE) based on traditional techniques, handicrafts and other value chains, will be supported to provide income.

Criteria

Civil society organizations (CSOs) wishing to apply to the ICCA COVID-19 initiative will be expected to submit an application in line with the prevailing socio-economic, cultural and sanitary context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya.

Individual ICCA COVID-19 projects will be expected to last for a **duration up to 18 months** and to have a maximum budget of **US\$30,000**. All proposals will be reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC).

Qualifications

- Demonstrated commitment to protect and defend territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities ([ICCAs](#));
- Knowledge and awareness of biodiversity conservation efforts at the national level;
- Experience in organizing and hosting consultations and capacity development activities with indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Capacity to produce high quality written reports according to deadlines;
- Familiarity with key issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially as they relate to indigenous peoples and local communities, considered an advantage

Submission

Each applicant is to use the SGP proposal template, found in the Kenya page of the global SGP website: www.sgp.undp.org

All proposals should be sent to the following addresses by CoB **January 29 2021**:

Bids.ke@undp.org with a copy to salome.nyakundi@undp.org

If you have queries, write to Salome.nyakundi@undp.org or call the GEF SGP office on 0759-637521

**** Additional Information on ICCAs is found below

What are ICCAs¹?

ICCAs are areas conserved by indigenous peoples and communities. They are often referred to as ‘Territories of Life’.

The ICCA concept includes a wide range of examples, but ICCAs usually have the following three characteristics*:

- 1. There is a close and deep connection between a territory or area and its custodian indigenous people or local community.** This relationship is usually embedded in history, social and cultural identity, spirituality and/or people’s reliance on the territory for their material and non-material wellbeing.
- 2. The custodian people or community makes and enforces (alone or together with other actors) decisions and rules about the territory or area** through a functioning governance institution (which may or may not be recognised by outsiders or by statutory law of the relevant country).
- 3. The governance decisions and rules (e.g., regarding access to, and use of, land, water, biodiversity and other gifts of nature) and the management efforts of the concerned people or community overall positively contribute to the conservation of nature** (i.e., the preservation, sustainable use and restoration, as appropriate, of ecosystems, habitats, species, natural resources, landscapes and seascapes), as well as to community livelihoods and wellbeing.

Beyond these shared characteristics, ICCAs are very diverse. Some examples include indigenous territories, indigenous protected areas, cultural land and seascapes, sacred natural sites, migration routes of mobile indigenous peoples, bio-cultural heritage territories, sustainable resource reserves, and community-managed areas.

[*Sajeva, G, Borrini-Feyerabend, G & Niederberger, T 2019, Meanings and More...: Policy Brief of the ICCA Consortium no. 7. \[Barcelona\].](#)

ICCAs in Kenya

With its culturally and biologically diverse geography, and relatively limited extent of state protected areas, Kenya has a wide range of documented ICCAs covering both marine and terrestrial environments and a wide range of ecosystems. The country has a diversity of cultures, many of whom – such as pastoralists – have strong connections to their lands and natural resources and a range of traditional conservation institutions, many of which remain undocumented. Examples of ICCAs in Kenya include:

- (i) Sacred forests
- (ii) Community wildlife conservancies
- (iii) Group Ranches/Pastoralist landscapes
- (iv) Locally managed marine areas

Nelson, F. 2012. Recognition and Support of ICCAs in Kenya. In: Kothari, A. with Corrigan, C., Jonas, H., Neumann, A., and Shrumm, H. (eds). *Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved By Indigenous Peoples And Local Communities: Global Overview and National Case Studies*

¹ ICCAs – Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Conserved Areas