JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

GEF Small Grants Programme and Mountain Partnership

Strengthening mountain agri-food value chains to improve local economies and livelihoods

1. Background

The Small Grants Programme (SGP), a Corporate Programme of Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides financial and technical support to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to meet the overall objective to secure global environmental benefits through community-based initiatives and actions.

The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. In collaboration with Slow Food International, the MP launched in 2015 the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative (MPP), a participatory certification and labelling scheme that supports small-holder mountain producers in developing countries through value chain improvement, marketing strategy development and the granting of the MPP label to selected high-value mountain products.

The SGP and the MPP have joined forces to address the urgent challenges faced by mountain peoples and environments and would like to invite small-holder mountain producers, to develop proposals for projects aiming at “Strengthening mountain agri-food value chains to improve local economies and livelihoods”.

The Table below provides the priority themes and eligibility criteria:

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<th>Grants will be awarded to projects focusing on the improvement of the value chain of mountain products, along the production cycle:</th>
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<td>– Production technique</td>
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<td>– Transformation</td>
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<td>– Storage</td>
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<td>– Quality assurance</td>
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<td>– Safety control</td>
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<td>– Product development</td>
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<td>– Labelling</td>
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<td>– Distribution</td>
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**Target Community**

Small holder mountain producers in the below landscapes:

- Ruhondo catchment landscape (Musanze District))
- Muvumba catchment -B landscape (Gicumbi District)
- Mount Kabuye landscape (Gakenke District)
2. Duration
Projects may be implemented over a period of up to 15 months

3. Who may submit proposals:
- Eligible applicants are registered cooperatives of small-holder mountain producers.
- Products must be produced and processed in mountains.
- The applicant must be or become a member of the Mountain Partnership (Application form).
- Projects with a high involvement of women, youth and other vulnerable groups will be prioritized.
- Partnership with private sector and/or Civil society organizations or any other relevant entity is encouraged

4. Budget
The maximum amount for a grant award for the entire project will be limited to USD 40,000, with applicants required to provide a detailed budgetary estimate. The SGP thrives on partnerships and thus it is a requirement that the applicant provides a detailed breakdown of co-financing (in cash and/or in kind) to match or exceed the grant award (at least 50% of the total cost).

5. How to apply
Interested organizations shall prepare project concept papers using the standard format (Project concept-template)

Completed proposals can be submitted by email to: registry.rw@undp.org (Subject: Call for Proposals – GEF SGP- MP) no later than 26/04/2021. Late submissions will not be considered.

Annexes:
- Cal for concept notes- Notice
- SGP-Mountain Partnership Pamphlet
- Project concept- template

6. Additional information
- Application acknowledgement e-mail will be sent to all applicants within 12 days after their submission.
- Acceptance/Rejection notifications will be sent by 7/5/2021 following the evaluation and selection of proposals by the National Steering Committee.
- Successful applicants will be given two weeks to write a full proposal
- Successful applicants shall sign the grant agreement (Memorandum of Agreement) by end of May 2021 and receive the first grant installment by end of June 2021.

- The approved grant shall be disbursed in 3 installments:
  * an up-front payment to initiate the project (50%)
* a second payment upon receipt of the 1st satisfactory progress report (40%)
* a final payment upon receipt of the 2nd satisfactory progress report (10%)

7. **For more information, contact:**
National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme - Rwanda at the following address:
registry.rw@undp