



## 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:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Grants will be awarded to projects focusing on the improvement of the value chain of mountain products, along the production cycle:</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Production technique</li> <li>- Transformation</li> <li>- Storage</li> <li>- Quality assurance</li> <li>- Safety control</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Product development</li> <li>- Certification</li> <li>- Marketing</li> <li>- Labelling</li> <li>- Distribution</li> </ul> |
| <b>Target Community</b>   |  |
| Small holder mountain producers in the below landscapes: .  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ruhondo catchment landscape (Musanze District))</li> <li>- Muvumba catchment -B landscape (Gicumbi District)</li> <li>- Mount Kabuye landscape (Gakenke District)</li> </ul> |  |

## 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](mailto:registry.rw@undp.org) (Subject: Call for Proposals – GEF SGP- MP) no later than November 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 1<sup>st</sup> satisfactory progress report (40%)

\*a final payment upon receipt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> satisfactory progress report (10%)

**7. For more information, contact:**

National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme - Rwanda at the following address:

[registry.rw@undp](mailto:registry.rw@undp)