

**STANDARD 'CALL FOR PROPOSALS' (CFP)****Overriding Principle**

SGP is calling for proposals based on a new grant-making modality to be administered at the global level. This is in addition to similar 'Call for Proposals' (CFP) which are undertaken by national level SGP country programmes. The principles under which this CFP will work is based on the interest of fairness, transparency, and integrity. This modality is recommended as the most appropriate solicitation method for announcing available grant support under the competitive selection method. The selection will be undertaken by a committee whose decisions will be final. The eligible entities who may wish to pursue further information related to their bids may follow the UNOPS advisory related to this call for proposals.

**Background of GEF SGP**

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a corporate programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1992. SGP grant-making in over 125 countries promotes community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment through sustainable development projects of communities' local civil society organizations with special consideration for indigenous peoples, women, and youth. SGP projects support biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and reduction of the impact of chemicals, within a sustainable development framework that promotes sustainable livelihoods and citizen empowerment.

**Background of FAO-MPS**

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. The MP launched in 2015 the Mountain Partnership Products Initiative (MPP), a participatory certification and labeling 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

**Objective**

The GEF SGP and MP have entered in a partnership with an objective to leverage resources and increase the resilience of mountain communities through the enhancement of agriculture-food value chains by providing technical assistance, capacity development, and communication and events. Specifically, the eligible organization will help in strengthening value chains of high-value mountain products and enhanced capacity of producer organizations to promote mountain products, including enhancing branding and market linkage, in specific countries, and possibly scale up the learning in others. Grant funding available for the activity is up to a maximum of US\$140,000.

**Primary project/program title:**

**Enhancing agri-food value chains to increase the resilience of mountain communities**

**and/or UNOPS reference number (if applicable):**

## 1. General instructions for proposal submission

### How to submit?

#### Fill out this simple CFP form.

Or, you can also use the Grant Application template ([attached to UNGM post](#)) to assist the submission of a more detailed application.

### When to submit?

Deadline: 05 April 2020 1700hrs Eastern Time

### Where to submit?

Email: [KristofferK@unops.org](mailto:KristofferK@unops.org) subject line: **CFP/Mountains Innovation Program/001**

**For questions and clarification:** Please contact Mr. Charles Nyandiga at [charles.nyandiga@undp.org](mailto:charles.nyandiga@undp.org). Any request for clarifications or questions submitted after the deadline of submission will not be considered.

## 2. Eligibility criteria as per project agreement

### Eligibility Criteria:

- A trusted entity with a high reputation and is working or will be ready to work in the following countries: Guatemala, Rwanda, Papua New Guinea, Lesotho, and Nepal.
- Entity with a commitment to empower local community and CSO stakeholders as well as ability to work closely with the government and support development agencies to participate, to make the overall effort truly country driven.
- An experienced entity that can build partnerships with relevant organizations, projects or programs which have requisite experience and expertise at the country and global level. Proven experience in developing and managing a portfolio of about 15 small projects with communities with an implementation period of 2-3 years spread across the countries.

### Limitations:

Only NGOs who have the ability or can demonstrate their potentials for working and or liaising with national entities in the countries listed under the eligibility section above.

Only entities with proven long-term mandate, experience, and interests in working with local civil society organizations and/or community-based organizations in the five listed countries above.

The proponent is expected to have an existing in-country and regional infrastructure/network to be able to administer and coordinate the projects.

### Minimum requirements/qualifications. Examples:

- Expertise in natural resource management or biodiversity conservation in mountains ecosystems, with proven records of mountains products, value addition processes,
- Experience in skills and capacity development of communities for improved livelihoods, institutional strengthening, and organizational capacity
- Proven experience in linking smallholder producers to domestic and international markets as well as to existing networks promoting sustainable food systems;
- Proven experience in working with diverse value chain stakeholders including producers, intermediary value chain actors and consumers;
- Proven experience in organizing international communication campaigns and events to raise awareness on the sustainability and marketability of sustainably produced food and food products.
- Administrative capacity of at least 10 staff.

### Other critical considerations.

- No sub-agreements allowed.
- Past performance will be strongly considered when selecting the most suitable proposal.

### 3. Description of scope of work

#### Overall sector/Area of work.

Mountains matter for all. Mountains are key ecosystems providing goods and services to the planet and supporting the livelihoods of a vast number of peoples. Mountains provide and regulate up to 80 percent of global freshwater resources. Mountain ecosystems and peoples are crucial for achieving the SDGs, and the 2030 Agenda recognizes the crucial role of sustainable mountain development in SDG 6 and SDG 15.

On the other hand, climate change has a strong impact on mountain areas, increasing the occurrence of disasters and exacerbating desertification, land degradation, and soil erosion. Consequently, living in mountain areas is increasingly difficult. FAO's statistics show that the rate of poverty and food insecurity in mountain areas is higher than anywhere else in the world, almost three times above the global average of all developing countries. Food insecurity among mountain populations increased by 30 percent since 2000, often forcing peoples to migrate.

In the mountains, agriculture is often the backbone of the local economy. Farming in mountain regions is undergoing rapid transformation and global changes have contributed to higher pressure on local resources, unsustainable practices in land use, loss of local customs and ancient traditions. The urgent challenge is to identify new and sustainable opportunities that can enhance the resilience of mountain peoples and environments. Investments and technical support are needed to diversify and boost mountain agricultural production systems and improving the competitiveness of mountain food systems and agri-food value chains.

Considering the above, GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP, and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), housed in FAO, have decided to combine efforts of the two initiatives "*GEF Small Grants Programme*" and "*Mountain Partnership Products Initiative*" (MPP) towards the common goal of increasing the resilience of mountain communities through the improvement of local economies and livelihoods by strengthening agriculture food value chains.

#### Specific activities to be funded.

SGP and the MPS agree to jointly announce a specific call for proposal at the country level to target small-holder producers and communities living in mountain areas based on both SGP and MPP criteria (Annex 1).

The first call for proposals will include the following countries: 1) Lesotho, 2) Rwanda, 3) Nepal, 4) Papua New Guinea, and 5) Guatemala, where both programs are currently actively implementing their initiatives related to mountain products.

Projects selected through this joint initiative will be funded by SGP by following the standard SGP Operational Guideline and will benefit from technical support from the MPS.

Under the guidance of SGP and MP, the successful entity will support in:

##### 1. Grant Making:

- 1.1. MPS and selected entity representatives could be part of the Technical Advisory Group in screening/reviewing the proposals for short listing, which in turn will be reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee of each participating country. Therefore, the successful entity will help identify the grantees, support development of the proposals, and be in the TAG.

##### 2. Coordination

- 2.1 Together with the SGP National Coordinator and National Steering Committee, engage in programme coordination in each country under this partnership;
- 2.2 Together with the SGP Central Programme Management Team and FAO-MPS, engage in global coordination under this partnership.

### 3. Technical Assistance:

- 3.1 Mapping of selected producers and their production systems;
- 3.2 Establish alliances for the MPP producers, with private sector, chefs and restaurants, as well as global network;
- 3.3. Carry out market analysis and develop guidelines and support its implementation for producers to strengthen their organizations and facilitate access to broader markets, together with an agricultural marketing expert recruited by the MPS;
- 3.4. Implement the MPP label-granting system in line with the SGP branding guideline, including assessment of applications and label monitoring, as well as for providing support to producers to create the storytelling for each product, obtain endorsement on the label, and officially grant the label;

### 4. Capacity Development:

- 4.1 Capacity building for the improvement of the value chain by applying effective methodologies: production, harvesting management, post-harvesting management, farming practices (agro-ecological), agro-biodiversity, sustainable food systems;
- 4.2 Capacity building on transformation and distribution by applying effective methodologies: raw material management and transformation, product quality, labelling, tasting and analysis, certification, storage and marketing, business management;
- 4.3 Provide technical expertise to develop specific guidelines and tools for producers to strengthen their entrepreneurial and marketing capacities;
- 4.4 Provide technical expertise to develop guidelines for producer organizations to create a Participatory Guarantee System to certify organic mountain farming (Mountain PGS);
- 4.5 Support the selection of candidates for five scholarships for the 2020 Summer school “Grow - agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate”, focussing on improving resilience and adaptability of cropping and farming systems to climate change”;
- 4.6 Support the selection of candidates for three scholarships for the 2020 International Programme on Mountain Sustainable Development (IPROMO);
- 4.7 Support the selection of five producers to participate in the next “Training of trainers for the development of a Mountain PGS” (2020);

### 5. Communication and events:

- 5.1 Develop specific promotional material for the products at global level;
- 5.2 Boost visibility of the MPP products and the collaboration with the SGP through their websites, social media, videos, annual reports and press releases;
- 5.3 Raise awareness during global events for the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices for the conservation of mountain ecosystem services;
- 5.4 Facilitate participation in local/national/international fairs and events, and relevant communication.

## **4. Evaluation process**

In line with UNOPS evaluation principles of fairness, transparency, and integrity, an independent Grant Evaluation and Selection Committee will be responsible for the review of proposals and the Grantee selection. The review is based on the criteria outlined in the ‘Call for Proposals’ (CFP) and includes an assessment of the grant proposal’s formal, technical and financial aspects. The review should usually include at least two (2)

'substantially compliant' proposals and result in the selection of the lowest-priced, substantially compliant proposal. Any non-compliant proposal may automatically be eliminated from the evaluation process.

## 5. UNOPS Grant Support Agreement

The UNOPS Standard Grant Support Agreement (GSA) containing UNOPS General Conditions for Grant Support Agreements (Annex D of the [UNOPS Grant Support Agreement template](#)). The GSA constitutes an integral part of this CFP as it is mandatory to accept this agreement with its conditions before submitting a proposal.

## 6. Interest / Grantee Application template

If your organization is interested in submitting a grant proposal in response to this CFP, please kindly prepare a short 'Expression of Interest' statement (below) and/or complete the Grantee Application template ([herewith attached to UNGM post](#))

My organization \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby formally interested in the advertised grant program/component and will submit a proposal within the established timeframe.

**Authorized signature:**

**Title:**

**Date:**