

# Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



<b>Post Title/ Project Name</b>	Proposal to support territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities through the ICCA-GSI Phase 2
<b>Agency</b>	UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment
<b>Country of Assignment</b>	Zambia
<b>Period of assignment/services</b>	2026-2028
<b>Value</b>	Grant Amounts of up to USD25,000
<b>Geographical Scope</b>	National Call Across All Provinces in Zambia

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has established the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA-GSI) as a flagship partnership to strengthen biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience. Funded by the Government of Germany through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), ICCA-GSI recognizes the critical role that Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs/LCs) play in safeguarding ecosystems and sustaining natural resources. Covering nearly one-third of the world's land, ICCAs are globally significant landscapes where customary governance and traditional knowledge ensure ecological integrity and community wellbeing.

Building on the achievements of Phase One, which supported recognition of ICCAs across twenty-six countries, Phase Two expands to fifty countries, including Zambia, with a stronger emphasis on inclusive governance, gender equality, and youth leadership. Through small grants, legal and policy support, and knowledge exchange, ICCA-GSI empowers communities to conserve biodiversity, strengthen resilience and contribute directly to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets 3,21,22, and 23. In Zambia, the initiative aligns with national priorities under the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) and the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), reinforcing commitments to equitable benefit-sharing, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. By centering community custodianship, ICCA-GSI catalyzes transformative change that is locally grounded, environmentally impactful, and globally significant.

# Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



## 2.0 OBJECTIVE

The ICCA GSI Phase 2 aims to improve the recognition and overall effectiveness of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience in Zambia. This includes supporting community-led conservation and governance of ICCAs to contribute to GBF Targets 3, 21, 22 and 23. It seeks to promote knowledge-sharing and documentation of traditional practices while strengthening inclusive equitable governance systems, empowering marginalized groups like women and youth, and enhancing the visibility and ecological integrity of ICCAs through mapping, storytelling and policy engagements.

## 3.0 TARGET GROUPS

This project builds on the GEF-SGP's strong track record of empowering Civil Society Organizations, smallholder farmer organizations, and Community-based Organizations whose initiatives strengthen community wellbeing, resilience, and global environmental benefits. Within this framework, gender equality and women's empowerment are emphasized, recognizing women as central actors in sustaining natural resources, nurturing community wellbeing, and leading grassroots projects. Local peoples are equally vital partners, with SGP working closely to respect customary laws and practices, secure rights to land resources, and ensure their meaningful participation in both local and national environmental governance. Persons with disabilities are actively included through projects that mainstream their engagement, enabling them to contribute to community efforts while improving their livelihoods and visibility in decision-making processes. Youth are prioritized as current and future stakeholders in environmental protection and sustainable development, bringing unique energy, creativity, and intergenerational perspectives that shape more sustainable futures. Together, these groups form the backbone of SGP's inclusive approach, ensuring that diverse voices and capacities drive community-led solutions that deliver both local wellbeing and global environmental benefits.

## 4.0 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### *4.1 Work Package 1: Community-Based Demonstration and Action Grants*

- Provision of small grants to Indigenous Peoples and local communities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience
- Directly contributes to GBF Targets 3, 21, 22, and 23.

## Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



- Supports mapping, documentation, and self-strengthening of ICCAs.

### 4.2 Work Package 2: Legal, Policy and Governance Support

- Strengthens national frameworks for ICCA recognition and protection.
- Includes support to Environmental Human Rights Defenders and customary governance systems.
- Aligns with Zambia's NBSAP2 and 8NDP goals for inclusive governance and legal reform.

### 4.3 Work Package 3: Networking, Knowledge Exchange, and Capacity Building

- Facilitates regional and global exchanges among ICCA custodians, NGOs and CBOs
- Promotes storytelling, digital tools, and participatory monitoring.
- Builds capacity for reporting on CBD targets and integrating ICCAs into national biodiversity strategies.

## 5.0 THE LANDSCAPES

Prioritized landscapes for ICCA GSI Phase two will include the six river catchment areas:

- I. Chambeshi catchment area
- II. Luapula catchment area
- III. Luangwa catchment area
- IV. Kafue catchment area
- V. Tanganyika catchment area
- VI. Zambezi catchment area

## 6.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The information in this section establishes the criteria for the submission, selection, and implementation of grants projects financed under this grants programme. Organizations wishing to apply under ICCA-GSI must meet the following criteria:

- Be a **locally registered NGO, CBO, CSO, foundation, academic institution, or similar entity**, in accordance with Government legal requirements. *Proof of registration must be attached.*

## Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



- Have **experience in implementing initiatives of similar scope and nature** and demonstrate **strong community involvement** in the proposed project.
- Be capable of preparing both **narrative and financial reports**.
- Be willing to provide a **matching contribution** (in-kind and/or cash) to complement the requested funds.

### 7.0 NON-ELIGIBLE PROJECT PROPOSAL TYPES

The following types of project proposals are **not eligible** for funding under the ICCA-GSI Phase 2:

- Project proposals that support activities that are not in line with the values of the UN or that provide funding for any criminal activities including but not limited to terrorism.
- Project proposals which do not demonstrate equal treatment for individuals or groups of people on grounds of their gender, religious beliefs, or lack of them, or their ethnic origin.
- Project proposals which consist exclusively or primarily of capital expenditure e.g., land, buildings, equipment, vehicles, etc.
- Political parties or religious activities.
- Project proposals concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, and congresses.
- Project proposals concerning only or mainly individual scholarships for studies or training courses.
- Credit or loan schemes.
- Cash donations.

### 8.0 ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS:

The categories of costs considered eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and a ceiling for "eligible costs". Note that the eligible costs must be based on real costs based on supporting documents. Costs that do not appear realistic may be rejected. It is therefore in the applicant's interest to provide a realistic and cost-effective budget in USD. Please use the attached budget template only.

#### *8.1 Eligible costs*

To be eligible under this call for proposals, costs must be directly verifiable and traceable to the activities being implemented.

#### *8.2 Ineligible costs*

## Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



The following costs are not eligible:

- Debts and provisions for losses or debt.
- Interest-owed.
- Salary top-ups and similar emoluments to government employees
- Items already financed in another framework, i.e. existing capacity should not be included in the budget.

### 9.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

#### 9.1 Application Process

Eligible organizations should prepare a proposal using the templates provided in the Annex (Narrative and Financial). Proponent organizations must ensure their proposed project idea is relevant, innovative, and aligned with the ICCA-GSI Strategic initiatives above. Applicants are to submit a full project proposal, which will be reviewed by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the GEF SGP in Zambia.

During the implementation of the GEF-SGP, facilitating and establishing partnerships among various organizations and groups is a core component of the project. The GEF-SGP encourages community organizations that lack project management experience to actively participate in related activities and enhance their capabilities by cooperating with organizations that have rich experience. This cooperation mechanism is necessary for better developing and promoting innovative local initiatives.

Those wishing to apply for Grants, must submit signed grant proposal application (using provided templates) directly to [ops.zm@undp.org](mailto:ops.zm@undp.org) -UNDP Zambia and copy [registry.zm@undp.org](mailto:registry.zm@undp.org) no later than **30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Proposals submitted after the deadline and those submitted using other templates will not be considered. A short zoom meeting has been arranged to provide more details.

Any request for clarification must be sent by standard electronic communication to [ops.zm@undp.org](mailto:ops.zm@undp.org)

The **zoom meeting** will be held on **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026** from **12:00 to 13:00 hours**.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/84175121280?pwd=h2rjwCpcHHOO3HxTcS972XYumjr67T.1>

Meeting ID: 841 7512 1280

Passcode: 313355

In submitting proposals, **the applicant must encode each document with the proper name as per below:**

# Call for Proposal for the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities Phase 2 (Global DIM ICCA-GSI project)



**ANNEX I** Letter of support from the government line Ministry.

**ANNEX II** Project Proposal (Technical) - The technical proposal must not exceed 15 pages. The minimum elements to be included must respond to the technical criteria identified in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

**ANNEX III** Project Proposal (Financial) - The financial proposal should be comprehensive.

Other documents to be attached:

- a. Proof of registration including copies of registration certificate(s).
- b. A clearly defined management structure: Organogram, Management Structure, contact details.
- c. Experience in relevant fields as indicated in the call for proposals.
- d. Support letter from a government line ministry

## 10.0 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The evaluation will be done by the NSC of the UNDP Small Grants Programme. **The quality of the project proposals will be assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria set.**

### *10.1 Approval and Award*

The provisionally selected project proposals are reviewed by the NSC of the GEF-SGP based on which the approval will be granted. The following documents will be signed as part of the grant agreement between UNDP and grant recipients:

- Standard MoA
- Project Proposal Template
- Project Budget