



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

Terms of Reference (TOR)

1. Background- ICCA GSI

Climate change has caused global biodiversity loss and mass mortality events of plants and animals, resulting in declines in key ecosystem services. In response, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) has established a corporate programme implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to foster innovative, inclusive and impactful projects that address such environmental challenges. The Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCA-GSI), is a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the GEF-SGP and implemented by the UNDP. It is funded by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). ICCA-GSI strives to improve the recognition and overall effectiveness of territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities in **biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects**. Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPs/LCs) have been identified as critical players in the conservation of biodiversity from local to global levels thus can help governments to protect, manage and value their natural assets. They cover approximately 21-32 percent of global land, and 91 percent of the land they inhabit is categorized to be in good or fair ecological condition.

Phase One of the ICCA-GSI sought to expand the range and quality of diverse governance types in recognizing ICCAs across approximately 26 countries. Currently, Phase two (2) of the ICCA-GSI has been launched to further strengthen recognition and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in 50 countries including Zambia, through the provision of small grants directly to **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Indigenous Peoples and community-based organizations** especially those with significant youth and women's inclusion. In the Zambian context, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) may refer to territories located on customary land where the stewardship, utilization, and benefits of natural resources are governed by local communities through equitable governance structures and transparent by-laws. The second phase of the ICCA-GSI in Zambia (2023-2028) places stronger emphasis on biodiversity conservation through ICCAs, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets 3, 21, 22, and 23 (conservation and protection of ecosystems; guiding biological action; participation of IPs and LCs; and gender equality respectively), thereby

reinforcing Zambia's global commitments and its long-standing national priorities of equitable benefit-sharing and biodiversity conservation.

2.0 Main objectives

The ICCA Global Support Initiative 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, the initiative will contribute directly to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Zambia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Specific objectives include:

- I. Support community-led conservation and governance of ICCAs to contribute to **GBF Target 3**: conserving 20% of global land and sea areas by 2030
- II. Promote knowledge-sharing and documentation of traditional practices to advance **GBF Target 21**, ensuring free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- III. Strengthen inclusive decision-making and equitable governance systems in line with GBF Target 22
- IV. Empower women, youth and marginalized groups in biodiversity leadership, contributing to **GBF Target 23** on gender equality
- V. Enhance the visibility, legal recognition and ecological integrity of ICCAs through mapping, storytelling and policy engagement

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 and 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. ICCA-GSI Phase 2 Strategic Initiatives (Zambia)

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
- 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 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: Organizations wishing to apply for the ICCA GSI Phase 2

- Should be locally registered NGOs/CBOs/CSOs, foundation, academia etc., in accordance with the legal requirements of the Government (Proof of registration should be attached).
- Experience in implementing initiatives with similar scope and nature is required and demonstrate strong community involvement in the planned or proposed project.
- Should be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project.
- Be capable of preparing narrative and financial reports.

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.
- 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. Those wishing to apply for Grants, must submit:

Signed grant proposal application (using provided templates) directly to ops.zm@undp.org - UNDP Zambia and copy registry.zm@undp.org no later than **30th January 2026**. Proposals submitted after the deadline and those submitted using other templates will not be accepted.

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

Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 841 7512 1280

Passcode: 313355

Any request for clarification must be sent by standard electronic communication to ops.zm@undp.org

8.1. Other documents as required, in line with the Terms of Reference.

Proponent organizations must ensure their proposed project idea is **1) relevant, 2) innovative, 3) sustainable, and 4) aligned to the ICCA GSI Strategic Priorities above**. Encouraging and building partnerships among organizations and groups is an integral part of the SGP. Thus, less experienced community organizations are encouraged to take part in SGP activities.

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that are unable to submit written proposals are encouraged to use video recordings to respond to all sections of the proposal template. All applications for the ICCA GSI should have the following Subject: ICCA GSI Grant Application Zambia.

9.0 Budget: The country grant amount is **\$200,000 total** with each organization receiving amounts ranging from **5,000 to 25,000**. The implementation capacity of the CBOs and/or CSO and the ideas being proposed will be considered when approving the grant amount.

10.0 Project Duration: The duration of projects proposed should not exceed **24 months**.