



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:

Grants will be awarded to projects focusing on the improvement of the value chain of mountain products, along the production cycle:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production technique - Transformation - Storage - Quality assurance - Safety control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Product development - Certification - Marketing - Labelling - Distribution
Target Community	
Small holder mountain producers in the below landscapes: .	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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