



2024 CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE - PERIOD 2026 – 2028

1 Introduction

1.1. *Overview of the Forests Conservation supporting Grant Process*

The Forests & Communities Initiative (FCI) is launching a call for expression of interest (AMI), open from **9 August 2024 to 6 October 2024**.

The Forests & Communities Initiative (FCI) is launching a call for expression of interest for local organisations that wish to **manage a regional call for projects**, in line with the priorities that will be defined jointly with the FCI.

FCI's objective is to support and enhance the conservation of forest ecosystems through the actions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to ensure their sustainability and benefit for future generations.

To this end, the FCI is inviting applications from **organisations led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities** active in **sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands**.

The **partnership between FCI and the chosen organisation will last for 3 years (Jan. 2026 to Dec. 2028)**. During this period, the partner must launch at least one call for projects and support diverse projects. The partner will have a maximum **annual** budget of **€80,000** to cover both coordination costs and funding for the various projects selected. The exact amount will be determined at a later stage.

The role of the selected organisation will include:

- Defining the criteria for the call for projects, in collaboration with FCI
- Launching the call for projects
- Selecting and appraising projects
- Distributing and managing the funds allocated to project holders
- Monitoring projects
- Drafting annual reports to FCI on the progress of projects and communication elements.

We strongly encourage organisations that meet **the eligibility criteria** to express their interest in this opportunity to support local communities in the conservation of forest ecosystems.





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1.2. *Details of the phased application process*

The call for proposals will follow a two-stage process:

Phase 1: Light Application Pre-screening – Interested organisations are invited to complete the application form for the call for expression of interest, outlining their qualifications, capacity, and objectives. This initial screening will assess the eligibility and relevance of the proposals.

Phase 2: Full Proposal Submission – Selected applicants from Stage 1 will be invited to submit a detailed proposal and supporting documents. This stage will involve a comprehensive evaluation of the project's feasibility, impact potential, and alignment with FCI's objectives.

The Application form can be answered in **English, French, Spanish or Portuguese.**



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1.3. About FCI

The Forests and Communities Initiative (FCI) is committed to protecting forests and supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP & LCs), with a holistic approach that includes environmental law, economic, political, and social contexts of IP & LCs, forest conservation practices, protected area management, and financing.

FCI's mission is to support the conservation of forest ecosystems through the actions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP & LCs) and by developing a supporting network.

The geographical scope includes Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The priority is to promote training and capacity building of local experts to develop their tools, knowledge, and skills.

FCI aims to develop a network of actors who will participate in advancing new solutions, collaborations, and knowledge sharing.

FCI's 6 Founding Principles

1. Focusing on the conservation of high ecological value areas including primary forests and areas with low human activity, with an emphasis on IPLC-driven sanctuarisation and preservation of these areas.
2. Exercising conservation through a holistic approach to preserve all elements that make up these natural ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain fauna, flora, soil, air, human beings, and all life cycles which they are a part of.
3. Respecting the knowledge and rights of IP & LCs within and around conservation areas, moving forward with their full and effective participation, and supporting them in being at the forefront of decision-making processes and conservation actions. This is done using gender-just, rights-based approaches and participatory methodologies to take into account the rights, roles, needs, and aspirations of all members of the community without discrimination.
4. Practising and promoting science-based, evidence-based, adapted, and applied methodologies for projects' activities and monitoring, to guarantee their long-term ecological effectiveness for the proposed solutions and clear results for the conservation and growth of local biodiversity.
5. Practising and promoting a multidisciplinary approach to conservation, taking into account conservation science, environmental law, and social science, including the understanding of economic, political, and cultural contexts.
6. Fostering dialogue, research, information sharing, and best practices exchanges to advance our understanding and practice of forest conservation, both globally and locally.



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2 Eligibility Requirements for Applying Organisations

To be eligible to apply, the organisation must meet the following criteria:

1. **Official and Legal Establishment:** The organisation must be officially and legally established according to the laws of its operating country.
2. **Financial Stability:** The organisation must not be bankrupt or subject to any insolvency or winding up procedures.
3. **Forests Conservation Involvement:** The organisation must be actively involved in supporting forests conservation projects.
4. **Management by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or Local Communities (LCs):** The organisation should be composed of and managed by representatives of IPs and /or LCs, based in the region of its operations, and working for the benefit of IPLCs.
5. **Funding Experience:** The organisation must have experience receiving and managing funding for conservation projects¹.
6. **Community Representation:** The organisation must have access to a large representation of local communities and IPs, not limited to a specific village or limited zone.
7. **Cultural and Linguistic Connection:** The members of the organisation must be connected with the IPs and LCs in terms of language and culture.
8. **Geographic Activity:** The organisation must be active in at least one of the following regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

Applications from organisations not meeting these criteria will not be considered.

¹ All origin of the funds and/or type of funding



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3 Selection Criteria

The insights and feedback gathered during the FCI 2023 Conference have been instrumental in ensuring that the application process is inclusive, transparent, and selective. These insights have guided the selection process, focusing on four key themes:

- 1. Objectiveness:** *Ensure that selected organisations are objective, unbiased, and impartial.*
- 2. Experience:** *Confirm that selected organisations have the capacity to manage the process and track the proper use of deployed funds.*
- 3. Inclusivity:** *Validate that selected organisations have strong connections with Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs).*
- 4. Reach/Representativeness:** *Ensure that selected organisations can effectively handle the administrative, financial, legal, and operational aspects of the collaboration, and that their geographic presence is appropriate.*

4 Timing / Calendar

| | |
|--|---|
| | |
| Accepting Submissions (Phase 1: Light Application Pre-Screening): | From 9 th August 2024 to 6 th October 2024 |
| Invitation to Participate in Phase 2: | 8 th November 2024 |
| Phase 2: Full Proposal Submission: | From 8 th November 2024 to 15 th of December 2024 |





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Application Form (PHASE 1)

This form is intended to give the FCI team information about interested organisations. Additional details may be requested from the applicant.

The form must be completed by the applicant organization and submitted via the website www.fpa2.org before October 6, 2024.

Responses can be provided in **French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese.**

For any questions, you can send an email to fci@fpa2.org .

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that all sections must be completed in order for your application to be processed.



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1. General Information

Name of Applicant Organisation:

Date of submitting request:

Have you already received funding from our Foundation?

Yes No

If so, please give details of which project(s) and at which date(s):

Have you previously submitted (a) project (s) to our Foundation?

Yes No

If so, please give details of which project(s) and at which date(s):

Detailed list of acronyms mentioned in the application form:

For each acronym, the full name should be spelt out.

Add a link to your website and social media if you have:



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2. About the Applicant

A. Identification of applicant organisation

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Type of organisation: | |
| Name (and acronym if applicable): | |
| Geographic scope of operations: | |
| Address: | |
| Director/Manager: | |
| Creation date: | |
| Phone: | |
| Email: | |
| Website: | |
| Number of employees 2024: | |
| Number of volunteers 2024: | |
| Federation, institution or group: | |

B. Legal representative of the organisation

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Position in the organisation: | |
| Business address: | |
| Postcode: | |
| City: | |
| Country: | |
| Phone: | |
| Mobile: | |
| Email: | |
| LinkedIn (optional): | |

I confirm this person has the legal authority to represent the association





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3. Brief Description of the Organisation

Summary describing the applicant organisation, including mission and key objectives (1500 characters)

Briefly explain how are your members culturally and linguistically connected to the Indigenous Peoples and local communities you serve?



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Briefly describe your main current and future projects.

| Project Name | Goal | Status <i>Start Date</i> <i>/ Expected start Date</i> |
|--------------|------|---|
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4. Organisational Structure and Governance

Can you please indicate the communities and/or village/ and or indigenous groups that your organisation is composed of?

Description of the organisation’s governing bodies?





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How does your organisation interact with governmental bodies?

5. Funding and Financial Stability

What are your primary sources of funding?

Describe the organisation’s experience with partners and sponsors in the last 5 years
 (Specify the amounts and the main projects concerned)

| Year | Project Name | Partner/Sponsor | Funding Amount |
|------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
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Does the organisation have any affiliation with private companies/corporate lobbies?
(If yes, please describe)

6. Experience with conservation projects

What is your experience in leading/supporting conservation projects?
(Please provide specific examples of your work/past projects and their impact on the environment)

Do you employ or have connections with rangers (including community rangers and similar) in your conservation projects?



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7. Experience with IPs & LCs

How many years has your organisation been actively involved in conservation projects?

Brief description of IPs and LCs benefitting from the organisation's activities.
(How broad is your organisation's reach within local communities and Indigenous People? Are your activities concentrated in specific areas, or do they span multiple regions?)

Can you provide specific examples of your work/past projects and their impact on these communities?



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8. Legal and Policy Alignment

Does the organisation have access to legal support or resources to assess legislation on IPs & LCs' land rights, and its implementation and enforcement? If yes, can you provide examples of legal challenges you have addressed?

How does your organisation align its projects with existing public policies? Can you provide examples of successful policy advocacy or implementation?



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