



OP7 SGP Innovation Programme : Indigenous Peoples' Access to Energy

Phase 2

(17 Feb 2023 update)

Introduction

Indigenous peoples constitute approximately one third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people, a group that forms the bulk of those with no access to energy. Indigenous peoples (IPs) are a critical but largely invisible demographic group that needs to be placed at the centre of the global dialogue on energy development and access.

Human rights issues have also been absent from many international efforts and past debates on the provision of energy. Indigenous territories have often times been expected to host large-scale energy projects without respect for the rights, meaningful consultation and consent of Indigenous Peoples. This has resulted in conflicts, displacements, destruction of livelihoods, which have undermined Indigenous Peoples right to self-determined development. As a result, Indigenous Peoples' have increasingly called for the strengthening of social and environmental safeguards (SES) by international development actors, including in their consistent implementation and application.

In equal measure, IPs offer innovative renewable energy solutions, and are poised to become major contributors to solving problems surrounding energy access and clean energy. The OP7 Indigenous Peoples' access to energy programme seeks to support field-based, action-oriented renewable energy projects led by IPs with tangible impacts in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goal of the programme is to identify innovative projects that will support a broad spectrum of culturally-appropriate technologies in Indigenous Peoples territories, including those which combine western science and traditional knowledge systems, with quantifiable measurements.

Phase 1 (OP6)

During the first phase of implementation, the OP6 Indigenous Peoples' Access to Energy programme supported grant-making in seven participating countries. Between 2019-2022, the SGP Innovation Programme funded almost twenty projects, with a resource envelope of \$1M. The project investments included an array of renewable energy technologies including solar, micro-hydro and biogas, with a wide range of productive end uses including refrigeration, food drying, electrification, irrigation and domestic cooking.

In **Cambodia**, four projects totaling \$179,701 were supported with the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO), Kouy and Bnong communities, with a focus on solar battery charging stations, solar pumps for clean water, and legalization of community protected areas. In **Cameroon**, five projects totaling \$150,000 worked with Mbororo, Baka, and Bakola/Bagyeli Indigenous Peoples focusing on solar milk preservation, solar electrification kits, as well as photovoltaic repair and maintenance training. In **DR Congo**, the programme worked with the REPALLEEF network in support of the Bambuti Indigenous Peoples.

In **El Salvador**, the Initiative (\$150,000) collaborated with the Presidente del Consejo Indígena de Centroamérica y Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño (CCNIS) focusing on off-grid solar electrification and maintenance. In **Honduras**, an SGP strategic project of \$150,000 was awarded to the Lenca (Opalaca) community for the construction of a micro-hydro electricity facility and watershed mapping programme. In **Nepal**, four projects totaling were funded with Tharu, Raji, Terai Dalit, Humla Thakuri, and Mugu peoples with a focus on biogas, solar home systems, solar dryers, and solar water pumps. In **Timor Leste**, the programme strengthened the customary governance system known as Tara Bandu as part of decentralized solar energy production, and initiated preparations for South-South exchange and knowledge transfers with Indigenous-led micro-hydro schemes funded by the SGP in Malaysia.

Priority themes

During Phase 2 of the Innovation Programme during OP7 in 2023-2024, priority will be given to projects that aim to do one or more of the following:

- Projects which scale up existing indigenous-led pilot initiatives, including through impact investments and other forms of non-grant and blended finance;
- Projects to empower Indigenous Peoples to accelerate progress in renewable energy;
- Projects with multiple co-benefits, including greater community cohesion, which contribute to at least two or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Projects that test appropriate renewable energy technologies in Indigenous Peoples lands and territories (i.e. micro-hydro, solar, wind, biogas etc.);
- Projects that establish economic incentives for Indigenous Peoples to partner with international efforts (i.e. bilateral donors, Green Climate Fund etc.) to recognize the role of their lands and territories with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Projects which form partnerships between 'western' scientific approaches (such as remote sensing and geospatial monitoring institutions) and traditional knowledge systems, indigenous cosmologies and worldviews;
- Projects that seek to fulfill the recommendations arising from national action plans (i.e. UNFCCC NDCs, NAPAs, NAMAs), regional and/or sub-national energy strategies.

Co-financing and partnerships

The Innovation Programme will develop partnerships with national and regional partners to leverage resources and capacity for country level grants, and identify responsive Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) to work with in implementing the Rio environmental conventions at the local level, capacity development, and knowledge generation.

At the global level, the SGP OP7 Innovation Programme (Phase 2) expects to collaborate with the Right Energy Partnership (REP) of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group ([IPMG](#)) on Sustainable Development. Working with and supporting the IPMG, the Innovation Programme will seek out and explore further regional and global co-financing agreements with a range of donors and philanthropic organizations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility ([IPAF](#)) of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- Fondo Indígena ([FILAC](#))- supporting the engagement of indigenous participants from Latin America towards the UNFCCC COP25 in Dec 2019;
- Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change ([IIPFCC](#));
- European Commission – Directorate General for Environment ([DGS](#));
- Investors Alliance for Human Rights;
- Danish Institute for Human Rights;
- Center for Business and Human Rights;
- International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs ([IWGIA](#));
- Social Impact Investors;
- Other philanthropic organizations

Eligibility and Criteria

- Applicants may request SGP OP7 grant funding up to \$50,000 (or in exceptional cases up to \$150,000 if part of a consortium approach) to be used between one and two years;
- SGP country programmes where there are significant numbers of under-served and remote Indigenous Peoples without access to clean and reliable energy;
- Proposals should be bold, innovative, and transformative, and have the potential for replication and scaling up;
- Proposals led by Indigenous Peoples which include strong social inclusion elements, including concern for gender equality and women's empowerment, involvement of youth, and/or persons living with disabilities;
- All applications should explicitly state the plan for measuring and evaluating the impact of the work and show quantifiable results;
- SGP Country Programmes may leverage additional resources and partnerships with indigenous networks (e.g. co-financing with international foundations, NGOs and the private sector) at the programme and/or project levels.

Funding mechanism

Funding:

- An initial grant allocation of **\$100,000** will be allocated to each of the selected participating SGP country to cover a number of on-the-ground grant projects led by Indigenous Peoples.
- On the basis of continuing partnership discussions held with the IPMG Right Energy Partnership during (i) the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok (March 2022); (ii) UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt (Nov 2022); and (iii) IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum in Rome (Feb 2023); the participating SGP target countries in Phase 2 may include: **Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, El Salvador, DR Congo, and Nepal.**
- In addition to the country level grants, capacity development and knowledge-sharing opportunities, including participation in related global and regional fora on Indigenous Peoples' access to energy will be explored.

Call for Proposal and Process:

A call for proposals on the specific theme of Indigenous Peoples' access to energy will be made at the national level in each of the participating SGP countries. Pipeline proposals related to the topic may be utilized to form a portfolio of inter-related projects.