

VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME SOUTHSOUTHNORTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2022 COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA, AND KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS: KENYA

The [Voices for Just Climate Action \(VCA\)](#) programme is a lobby and advocacy programme being implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature Netherlands (WWF-NI), SouthSouthNorth (SSN), Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Fundación Avina and Hivos under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' five-year strategic partnership: "Power of Voices". SSN, the knowledge partner for the VCA programme, has launched this call for proposals to support the knowledge management, brokering, communications and capacity development of the VCA Kenya programme. **The deadline for submissions is March 9th , 2022 17h00 CAT.**

Background

The VCA programme aims to ensure that by 2025, local civil society and underrepresented groups will have taken on a central role as creators, facilitators, and advocates of innovative and inclusive climate solutions. Their inclusion is crucial for effective and lasting climate responses. The programme's overall approach is to work with civil society to build widespread societal support for locally shaped climate solutions through an inclusive and rights-based approach. This includes building a broad-based climate alliance at the country level bridging divides (urban-rural, gender, youth) that amplify voices in unusual ways. In addition, it will influence national and global policies and financial flows (e.g., climate finance, private sector investments) in support of these locally shaped solutions. Finally, through a climate justice approach, the programme intends to see an expanded civic space where civil society voices, particularly indigenous and marginalised people, are heard on climate action.

VCA Kenya

The VCA programme is being implemented in Kenya by consortium members AMwA, Hivos, SDI, SSN and WWF under prevailing environmental, economic, social, and political contexts. Kenya is highly vulnerable to climate change and is ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, sitting at number 151 out of 181 on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative index (ICRC 2021). Increasing incidences of flooding and droughts are among the most notable and widespread effects of climate change. The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) bulletins has issued a drought alert for arid and semi-arid areas and was declared for most pastoral and marginal agricultural areas across Kenya following the poor March-May long rains. According to the 2021 Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) assessment, the population in need of humanitarian assistance in the arid and semi-arid areas increased by 47 percent since the Short Rains Assessment in February 2021 due to the compounding effects of consecutive below-average rainfall seasons on crop and livestock production, coupled with the protracted effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. Furthermore, it is an election year in Kenya, which presents unique opportunities and challenges for the VCA alliance, and it will shape the advocacy and influence agenda for the year.

It is clear that climate change impacts will have far reaching implications across all sectors of society, further putting pressure on Kenya's natural capital and fanning a cycle of making people more vulnerable, which in turn makes them draw more from this depleted natural capital. In Kenya, climate change is everyone's business. However, society has varying degrees of understanding of climate change impacts with those reliant on vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture, more vocal about the issue. There is a need therefore to urgently address the implementation of policies, and promote locally-shaped and nature-based solutions through planning, budgeting and implementation across different sectors if Kenya is to attain SDGs as well as its Kenya Vision 2030 commitments.

In five years, the programme envisions a transformation in the level of engagement between civil society and government. Civil society and individuals will be enabled, and will effectively, participate in climate change discourses, stimulate public debate at local and national levels, push for prioritisation of climate responsive investments, monitor climate change finance at their local level, and lobby for implementation of government commitments to ensure climate change impacts are included in planning and budgeted for. It is envisaged that the government –both at county and national level - will be more open and will meaningfully engage with CSOs and citizens in the development, and implementation, of policies and projects and move from commitment to action.

The programmes main strategic interventions are centred around the following three pillars

- a) Mutual capacity strengthening for co-creating alternative scaled climate solutions
- b) Agenda setting and movement in climate action through amplified storytelling
- c) Joint lobbying and advocacy to make policy and financial flows responsible to locally shaped climate solutions

Who we are

SouthSouthNorth (SSN) supports national and regional responses to climate change through policy and knowledge interventions, partnerships and deep collaboration. We do this by connecting people and information, enhancing capability and mobilising resources to respond innovatively to climate change's challenges and opportunities. Being positioned in the Global South affords SSN a deeper understanding of, and connection to, the climate and development challenges facing the region. SSN's role in this programme will focus on:

- Convening and connecting stakeholders across the science-policy divide
- Aggregation and synthesis of existing knowledge into easily accessible formats for different audiences
- Accessible and responsible communication through news, blogs, briefs, and other digital formats; and
- Learning collaboratively: with wider communities of practice, participating in and convening learning initiatives and capacity strengthening.

Call for proposals

The Alliance seeks to partner with Kenyan organisations specialising in climate change-related research and advocacy, campaign and movement building, media and communication, and capacity building for local CSOs, focusing on women, youth, urban poor, rural communities, and marginalised groups. A number of local organisations have already been contracted under the VCA programme through the various Alliance members.

The Alliance through these grants will support proposals designed and implemented by partners that contribute towards ensuring local civil society and underrepresented groups take on a central role as creators, facilitators, and advocates of innovative and inclusive climate solutions.

Grant lines:

The Alliance will support the proposals and activities designed to implement the VCA strategic interventions, as well as the above requirements .

1. **GRANT 1: Activities designed to support mutual capacity strengthening of local actors for co-creating alternative scaled climate solutions:** (a) capacity strengthening intervention to enhance CSO partners' Knowledge and expertise on climate justice, climate negotiations, climate finance, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS); (b) develop and deliver training on social innovation and co-creation of local climate solutions, and advocacy and movement building ; (c) supporting stakeholders to participate in national, regional, and global climate change meetings.

The Applicant for this grant should have considerable expertise and experience on capacity strengthening for local actors, with specific focus on social innovation, advocacy and movement building. The applicant is expected to have strong networks in climate change spaces and be connected to broad social movements in Kenya including conservation actors.

Budget: EU 40,000 for 1 year, with the potential to extend to 2-3 years based on performance and opportunity

2. **GRANT 2: Activities designed to support local actors to set agenda and connect movements through amplified storytelling :** (a) Produce stories with local actors on local climate solutions, (b)develop and deliver training on storytelling (c) Provide communication support to local actors, and raising the profile of their local climate solutions through media engagement and digital communication.

The Applicant for this grant should have considerable expertise and experience on media, communication and storytelling. The applicant is expected to have strong networks in climate change spaces and an established presence Kenyan media landscape.

Budget: EU 30,000 for 1 year, with the potential to extend to 2-3 years based on performance and opportunity

3. **GRANT 3: Activities designed to support evidence-based joint advocacy and lobbying by local actors to make policy and financial flows responsive to locally shaped climate solutions.** This includes: (a)targeted policy interventions at the county and national level to influence climate change policies and processes, supported by research for just climate transition in Kenya; (b)

provide support to local partners with relevant research for evidence-based advocacy and producing content for advocacy and engagement (such as policy briefs, positions papers, opinion pieces etc.)

The Applicant for this grant should have considerable expertise and experience on research and advocacy. The applicant is expected to have strong networks in climate change spaces and be connected to the climate policy ecosystem in Kenya.

Budget: EU 30,000 for 1 year

Please note, if applicable, SSN could consider an application for more than one grant by an organisation or coalitions. If an organisation would like to apply for more than one grant, they will be required to submit separate proposals for each grant line.

Applications

The Alliance encourages applications to NGOs, CSO and nonprofit organizations with relevant expertise, experience, network and relationships with proven track record of working with alliances and coalitions including unusual groups and able to bridge divides (national-local, urban-rural, gender, youth) to strengthen citizens agency and amplify voices.

The organisation will be contracted directly through SSN. Organisations or coalitions will need to have the appropriate skills, experience and networks to support SSN. You will play a central role in building strong communication of the programme and core themes of climate justice and will be required to work collaboratively with SouthSouthNorth and the other Alliance partners. The Organization or coalition will be expected to Lead on a communications and advocacy strategy, and capacity building activities for the VCA alliance and local partners (8-20 different organisations) contracted under the VCA programme in collaboration with SouthSouthNorth.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Locally registered non-profit Kenyan organisations who are not already contracted under the VCA programme.
- Coalitions, networks, consortiums, and alliances with at least one locally registered non-profit Kenya organisation with sufficient operational and financial management experience
- An applicant with a clean human rights record
- An applicant with a track record on developing and advocating for locally shaped climate solutions
- An applicant with the ability to link to and mobilise more extensive networks or capacity to access, mobilise, convene, and influence power holders
- It will be considered favourable if the coalitions/organisations:

- Have prior experience carrying out activities in priority areas related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including (desertification, water, food security and sovereignty, deforestation, coastline, energy, policy, etc...)
- Includes actors not traditionally working in climate justice issues but that have skills and tools which are relevant and/or scalable - Reflects a diverse perspective and intersectionality approach, which will enhance participation and strengthen the wider climate justice movement and advocacy
- Led by or who work with women groups, youth, persons with disabilities, or other marginalised groups.
- Willing to collaborate with other actors to influence more substantial impacts, build capacity over time, and jointly develop and implement a capacity strengthening plan.

The following criteria will be used during proposal review and selection:

- Clear aim and objective: the proposal is instrumental and/or strategic in contributing to VCA strategic objectives/outcomes (or even better, the ToC)
- Context analysis: the extent to which the proposal defines the problem and objective
- Rights holder representation: the degree to which the organisation involves, represents, and potentially amplifies the voices of most impacted and underrepresented groups and communities
- advocacy and lobby: the degree to which the project potentially influences the stakeholders to implement new procedures and policies, create new and unexpected connections and practice
- Innovation: the degree to which the project/coalition provides clear innovative methods to enhance civil society participation in climate action (innovative solutions, now-how potential of local communities and indigenous people, nature-based solutions)
- Knowledge brokering: how the project plans to use the available Knowledge and package relevant information in easily accessible formats to reach critical stakeholders to support evidence-based decision-making for just climate action
- Thematic focus and relevance: project addresses at least one of the thematic areas (desertification, water, food, deforestation, coastline, energy, etc...)
- Intersectionality approach: adopts a diverse, gender-equality and rights-based perspective to climate action and advocacy
- Relevant experience and Capacity to deliver: the proposal should demonstrate relevant experience and capacity to deliver on agreed milestones
- National presence: the priority is given to organizations working at national and county levels

Proposal submission

Grant Duration: March 2022 - February 2023. Depending on performance, the grant duration may extend for 2-3 years.

Application and submission Timelines: Application deadline is **Wednesday 9th March, 17h00 CAT**



To apply, kindly complete the (1) proposal template and (2) budget template and send documents to infovca@southsouthnorth.org. For further information, questions or clarifications, please contact tiffany@southsouthnorth.org