



Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE Project)

Solicitation of Concept Papers No. 2

Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF) a five-year cooperative agreement to implement the INSPIRE Project – Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems. INSPIRE seeks to 1) improve the way that natural resources and the areas from which these are derived are governed and 2) address the drivers of natural resources insecurity by addressing both the supply of and demand for natural resources through the reduction of environmental crimes and unsustainable environmental practices and the sustainable management of the natural resources sector. In consonance with the climate goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and maintain the global temperature increase below 1.5°C, INSPIRE also aims to contribute to halting deforestation and enhance sequestration of carbon by restoring degraded carbon sinks.

INSPIRE will support activities that seek to advance natural resource resilience and security through the increased participation and critical engagement of civil society organizations (CSO), media, indigenous peoples (IPs), academe, local communities, and the private sector in planning and governance decisions that impact habitats and have climate change repercussions. This goal will be achieved by implementing a suite of interventions geared towards: 1) improving the capacity of CSOs, IPs and local communities to participate in and demand good natural resource governance; 2) enhancing legal frameworks with stronger support for customary rights to land and water especially those within biologically significant areas that sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and the appropriate allocation of rights to natural resources; and 3) increasing transparency and accountability of various stakeholders, especially of the government, on how natural resources are managed, extracted and brought to market.

I. Strategic Priorities

Conservation projects often focus their interventions on specific key biodiversity areas. Some of the threats and drivers to biodiversity, natural resource loss, and climate change, however, stem from the activities of various actors to take advantage of the economic value of land and its resources.¹ Issues affecting natural resource degradation also vary in terms of scale; and some may be beyond the sphere of influence of local decision-making bodies.² The sustainable landscapes and seascapes approach highlights the need to meet conservation goals while ensuring the steady stream of ecosystem services and benefits needed for economic development. To address the direct links between human development and natural resource governance, INSPIRE is adopting a bioregional approach. This would build on the drive and

¹ USAID (2018). Cross Sectoral Guide: Sustainable Landscapes and Democracy, Human Rights and Governance. U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington DC.

² Bas Arts et.al. (2017). Landscape Approaches: A State-of-the-Art review. Annual Review of Environment and Resources: Wageningen University and Research.

passion of local communities and organizations to defend their home range and expand their ranks for more effective stewardship of their habitat.

By reconnecting the people to the landscapes and seascapes where they live, INSPIRE seeks to support programs that will engage stakeholders and build a constituency for the cycles that provide food, clean water, other ecosystem services and a wealth of biodiversity. INSPIRE also intends to harness the capacity of CSOs and community partners to act as catalysts and help strengthen natural resource management at the local level. By leveraging investments and resources from private companies and businesses, INSPIRE aspires to increase support to natural resource security and to provide benefit streams to communities through conservation-based enterprises.

INSPIRE developed a Situation Model (SM) and Theory of Change (TOC) to illustrate the project's conservation targets and the intended results would guide partners in identifying activities to be supported.

2. Requirements for Integrated Biodiversity and Sustainable Landscapes and Seascapes Grants

This project will support activities that protect the natural ecosystems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while upholding human well-being and ensuring long-term resilience of local communities.

Applications that will be supported *must*:

- Either have an (a) explicit biodiversity objective, or (b) an explicit objective of slowing, halting, or reversing GHG emissions from land use or reducing emissions (e.g., REDD+, forest conservation, etc.) from improved land use or other enabling conditions, or (c) an integration of these two objectives;
- Have interventions identified based on an analysis of drivers and threats to biodiversity and must correspond to a clear theory of change;
- Have site-based interventions that intend to positively affect biodiversity in biologically significant areas;
- Monitor indicators based on the stated theory of change; and
- Engage a larger network or constituency and gain broad support to achieve objectives and ensure the sustainability of results.

Grantees will be required to report on performance indicators that will be identified during co-development.

Illustrative Sustainable Landscapes and Biodiversity activities:

Biodiversity

- Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches and innovations that will enhance environmental resilience
- Adopting and supporting the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in fisheries and marine habitat management to reduce overfishing and habitat destruction
- Reducing trafficking and poaching of endangered species
- Improving management effectiveness of conservation areas

Sustainable Landscape

- Natural landscape restoration and protection
- Avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation
- Peatlands and mangroves restoration and protection

- Capacity-building on nature-based solutions initiatives
- Watershed restoration and protection through payments for ecosystem services

Integrated Biodiversity and Sustainable Landscape

- Strengthening access and use rights of IPs and local communities to land and coastal resources
- Strengthening CSO, media, and community participation in natural resource governance
- Stimulating and strengthening private sector engagement in natural resource management
- Implementing social marketing, media engagement and expanding the constituency for conservation, and promotion of inclusive nature-based development and climate solutions in the bioregion
- Promoting social enterprises, sustainable financing, or payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes
- Establishing sustainable supply chains and ecosystem service markets

3. Application Process

The INSPIRE Project will use a two-step application process. Interested applicants will submit concept papers and if selected, will be invited to a co-development process to complete the application, including the crafting of the SM and TOC. The co-development process will use a multi-stakeholder approach involving IPs and local communities, women, youth, media, the business sector, academe, faith-based organizations, CSOs, National Government Agencies, and Local Government Units.

An invitation to the co-development process does not constitute an award. The decision for funding will go through a more stringent review process and be subject to availability of funds. The maximum amount of award is P25M, but the approved grant award will depend on the reach and focus of the proposed activities and on the absorptive capacity of the applicant. The project duration is for a maximum 3 years. INSPIRE reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications received.

4. Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from non-profit organizations, people's organizations (POs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), cooperatives and other CSOs including private universities, research organizations, professional associations, media, faith-based and community organizations and other relevant entities. Branches or Local Offices of international organizations are eligible to apply, and the requested funds should be used solely for project operations in the Philippines. Applicants must not be currently receiving nor intend to receive any funding in violation of Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its protocols, or in any way cause any government partners to violate them.

Applicants must have:

- Legal Certifications (SEC Registration and/or other accreditation by authorized government agencies);
- An established three-year track record;
- A working Board of Trustees or any equivalent governing body and preferably with a determinable membership base or constituency

5. Cost Share

Applicants will be required to provide a cost share of five (5%) percent of the amount requested. Cost share may be in kind or in cash. It must be noted however that funds coming from other USAID projects are not eligible to be used as cost-share.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Concept paper selection will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has clear understanding of the threats and challenges in the target scope and how the applicant intends to address them• Has clear definition of goals and objectives and how they will be progressively achieved through outputs and measurable outcomes• Has specific conservation targets• Has clear climate mitigation strategies• Has clear plans for generating, measuring, and reporting verifiable results and demonstrate interventions that work
Strategic Positioning and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Features innovative ideas and interventions• Has potential for scaling up and sustainability• Has potential to build synergy with other USAID or development projects in the area to amplify project results and build partnerships• Promotes co-benefits within the bioregion of choice• Proposes activities that aims to defend against unsustainable development,• Expands constituency, leverages resources, and engages the CSO community and private sector within the bioregion of choice• Engage government and assist in ensuring public conservation funding is increased, maximized and/or made more effective
Organizational Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Past performance showing experience or track record in managing similar activities• An established three-year track record• A working Board of Trustees or any equivalent governing body and preferably with a determinable membership base or constituency

Shortlisted applications must go through INSPIRE's co-development process which includes participation in co-development workshops, site validation, assessment of technical and organizational capacity, risk assessment, and best value assessment. Essentially, applicants during the co-development process will demonstrate their capability to accomplish project objectives at a cost.

7. Submission Instructions

Deadline of submission of concept papers is on **December 1, 2022, at 5:00 pm (PST)**. Late submissions will be considered in the next solicitation cycle, if any. Succeeding solicitation cycles will be announced on the GRF website.

An organization shall not submit more than one concept paper or application per Bioregion as a primary proponent or as a consortium lead. However, organizations may participate in multiple consortia or under different applications and not as a prime or consortium lead.

Concept papers should be addressed to:

The CHIEF OF PARTY
INSPIRE Project, Gerry Roxas Foundation
Level 3 Cyberpark Tower 1, #60 Gen. Aguinaldo Ave.,
Araneta Center, Quezon City

Only electronic submissions will be accepted.

Any questions concerning this application must be emailed to inspire@gerryroxasfoundation.org **until 5pm, November 7, 2022**. A written response in the form of FAQ will be released on November 14, 2022 to address common inquiries. Interested applicants are also invited to visit GRF's website www.gerryroxasfoundation.org for updates on this application, additional guidelines, and instructions.

Issuance of this application does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the INSPIRE Project, nor does it commit INSPIRE to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of Applications. The INSPIRE Project reserves the right to reject any or all applications received.

8. Additional References

Additional resources on Biodiversity, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change can be accessed through the following links. The INSPIRE team will be happy to answer your questions on these matters:

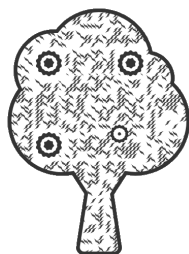
- [USAID Biodiversity Policy 2015](#)
- [USAID Biodiversity Development Handbook 2015](#)
- [USAID Biodiversity How-to Guide I: Developing Situation Models in USAID in Biodiversity Programming 2016](#)
- [USAID Biodiversity How-to Guide II: Using Results Chain to Depict Theories of Change in USAID Biodiversity Programming 2016](#)
- [USAID Biodiversity How-to Guide III: Defining Outcomes and Indicators for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Biodiversity Programming 2016](#)
- [Integrating Biodiversity and Sustainable Landscapes in USAID Programming 2020](#)
- [Cross Sectoral Guide: Sustainable Landscapes & Democracy, Human Rights and Governance](#)
- [USAID Sustainable Landscapes Sector Guidance Document: Effective Engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Integrating Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation in Activity Design](#)
- [INSPIRE Situation Model Diagram](#)
- [INSPIRE Theory of Change](#)

9. Regional Roadshows

INSPIRE will hold regional roadshows to better explain the solicitation and assist site-based applicants explore project ideas and craft concept applications according to INSPIRE's guidelines. The presentations during the roadshow will be livestreamed in the GRF Facebook Page. Topics to be discussed include the open standards for the practice of conservation (Situational Model and Theory of Change), high conservation value areas (HCVA), natural climate solutions (NCS), ecosystems approach to fisheries management (EAFM), and behavioral change communications (BCC). Opportunities for working with USAID will also be part of the discussions. The formulation of SM and TOC will be a hands-on workshop.

Attendance in these regional roadshows is **NOT** a prerequisite in the processing of applications. Applicants working in the same bioregions or with the same biodiversity focus are highly encouraged to work as a consortium.

On a case-to case basis, INSPIRE may cover the transportation and accommodation of the participants especially if they are coming from peoples organizations or indigenous peoples organizations. Organizations can participate in only 1 regional roadshow and can send a maximum of 2 representatives. Interested participants may register through the corresponding link below. Registration is limited to 100 participants per regional roadshow.

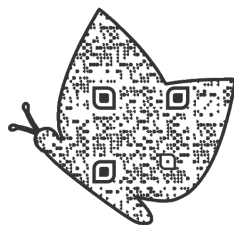


Southern Luzon

October 6-7, 2022

Quezon City

<https://bit.ly/INSPIRE2SLuzon>

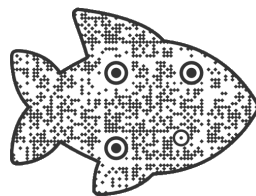


Northern Luzon

October 12-13, 2022

Baguio City

<https://bit.ly/INSPIRE2NLuzon>

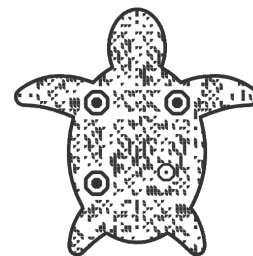


Visayas

October 19-20, 2022

Cebu City

<https://bit.ly/INSPIRE2Vis>



Mindanao

October 26-27, 2022

Davao City

<https://bit.ly/INSPIRE2Min>

CONCEPT PAPER SUBMISSION AND INFORMATION

A. General Guidelines

Concept papers submitted for review must be signed by the organization's authorized representative with her/his name in print on the cover page of the concept paper.

Applications must be e-mailed to inspire@gerryroxasfoundation.org no later than **December 1, 2022** at 5:00 P.M. (PST).

No additions or modifications will be accepted after the submission date. Incomplete submission shall mean non-processing of the application.

Schedules for succeeding solicitations, if any will be announced on the GRF website: www.gerryroxasfoundation.org. Interested organizations can visit the site regularly for announcements.

B. Concept Paper Template (maximum number of pages:15)

I. General Information

Name of Organization		
SEC Registration No.		
Office Address		
Email Address		
Contact Number		
Date established		
Brief Organizational Profile		
Board of Trustees	Please enumerate names and position of BOT or similar governing body	
	Name	Contact No./Email Address
Contact Person/s	4.1 Name, position in the organization, address, phone, email	
	4.2 Name, position in the organization, address, phone, email	

2. Project Information

Project Title	
Bioregion Focus	
Project Timeframe	
Target Beneficiaries	
Project Partners (Identify potential multi-stakeholder partners)	

3. Project Description

3.1 **Project Background.** *Importance of the Bioregion and FMA. Describe the biodiversity values and/or mitigation potential of the Bioregions and/or FMA. Overall objectives and goals for the project.*

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3.2 **Situation Model: Challenge(s) to be addressed.** *Identify the current issues (threats and contributing factors) to be addressed in the Bioregion and FMA.*

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3.3 **Proposed responses or measures to address the challenges(s) identified above.** Describe the strategies or interventions to be implemented that will contribute to threat reduction objectives.

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3.4 **Planned Activities and Outcomes** (maximum of 10 rows, 1 activity per row; detailed steps for each set of activities are not required at this stage)

Proposed Activities	Expected
<i>Example: CSO Capacity building</i>	<i>Enhanced competencies of proponent NGO in</i>
<i>Threatened Species interventions / Habitat management</i>	

3.5 Indicative Budget. The cost summary may be changed and rationalized in the final full proposal.

Category	Budget
Salaries	
Employee Benefits	
Consultants (Legal, Organizational, Technical, ADR, government processes)	
Travel and Transportation	
Equipment and Supplies	
Other Direct Costs	
TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST	
Cost Share	
TOTAL PROGRAM COST	

3.6 Describe what makes your concept unique and innovative and how it can catalyze partnerships and collaborations for sustained natural resource security and governance in your target area.

3.7 Describe your communication strategies to engage the stakeholders and media in your selected Bioregion.

3.8 Have you implemented similar projects to the one being proposed? If so, how do you plan to build on past accomplishments to leapfrog towards a larger impact? Do you have experience in working in or leading a consortium of NGOs before? Please describe briefly.

3.9 Are there unique circumstances, immediate threats, other matters you wish INSPIRE to know? (Optional)