

Call for Proposals 2010 Mink'a Fund- Chorlaví Group

“Experiences in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Forests and Land) in Rural Territorial Dynamics”

1. The Chorlaví Group is inviting public, private and civil society organizations interested in rural issues in Latin America to participate in the 2010 Mink'a Fund Competition. The topic of the competition is “Experiences in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Forests and Land) in Rural Territorial Dynamics: The Participation of Excluded Populations from Latin America and the Caribbean.” The Fund will allocate approximately US\$150,000 to eight to ten projects through this competition. For more information, please visit the Website www.grupochorlavi.org or send an email to concursochorlavi@rimisp.org.

2. The Chorlaví Group's Mink'a Fund competition consists of two stages: project profile selection and final project systematization. Twenty profiles will be selected during the first stage, and the institutions responsible for them be asked to develop a final systematization proposal. The Fund will allocate resources to this group in accordance with the scores assigned based on the criteria outlined below and the proposals' potential to contribute to the understanding of the state of the issue in the region. This process will continue until the resources available for the competition are exhausted. An effort will be made to ensure as much geographic representation as possible considering the criteria presented below. The timeline for each stage is specified in the “Timelines” section of this Call for Proposals.

THE CHORLAVÍ GROUP

3. The Chorlaví Group is an interactive network that looks to encourage and facilitate decentralized social learning processes oriented towards enriching the quality and effectiveness of initiatives aimed at transforming rural societies in Latin America and the Caribbean. It does so in accordance with a well-defined and clear-cut topical sustainable rural development agenda. The Chorlaví Group is supported by the Inter-Church Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) of Holland and Rimisp, the Latin American Center for Rural Development, which serves as the Executive Secretariat. This Call for Proposals has the support of the Rural Territorial Dynamics Program, which is partially financed by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

4. The Group's work is organized around Social Learning Projects, a set of systematization, critical reflection, dialogue, communication and documentation activities which focus on a specific issue and questions or learning objectives within said issue through a systematic, analytical and comprehensive process. A learning project involves dozens of organizations, groups, networks and individuals in numerous countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. This learning project requires that the following be completed:
- a) A state-of-the-art document that summarizes the most advanced knowledge and experiences linked to the project topic.
 - b) Eight to ten projects that systematize innovative experiences related to the topic; these projects will be selected through an open competition.
 - c) Comparative analysis of innovative experiences that have been systematized.
 - d) Onsite workshops, e-conferences and active participation in the Chorlaví Blog, which will provide local, national, regional and international coverage.
 - e) Documentation of products through an electronic newsletter and Website.
 - f) A communication and incidence strategy.
 - g) Distance learning courses prepared based on the results of all of the steps outlined above.

DEFINITIONS

6. The following definitions will be used for the 2010 Competition:

Dynamic territories refer to areas that have experienced improvements in income, poverty reduction and, in a few cases, increased equality during the 1990s and 2000s. They can be identified using maps built by Rimisp or similar methodologies. This includes but is not limited to the 19 territories that Rimisp is currently studying under the Rural Territorial Dynamics Program. The maps and territories that form part of this study are described on the program Website: www.rimisp.org/dtr. This includes areas that are not necessarily part of these dynamic territories but that play important environmental roles for them.

Experiences of sustainable management of natural resources are specific and verifiable experiences in which diverse stakeholders in a specific territory have undertaken actions directed at the conservation and management of natural resources. These processes, which may be the result of a concerted or other effort, place special emphasis on the management of forests and land and allow for verifiable economic, social and environmental improvements.

Forest: Area dominated by the presence of trees, generally those utilized for wood production, firewood and other non-wood forestry products. This includes trees, water, land, wildlife and often domesticated animals. The term also covers native forests that cannot be exploited but play an important bio-ecological role. Priority will be placed on proposals involving forests that are related to specific rural and indigenous communities and small-scale producers.

Soild that presents limitations for its continuous use such as being on a slope, being susceptible to erosion and having a reduced fertile layer.

Rural territorial development is defined as a simultaneous process of productive and institutional transformation that results in the generation of economic growth, increased

levels of inclusivity and sustainable management of specific territories comprised of intermediate cities and articulated rural areas.

Sustainable forest management is defined as a dynamic concept in evolution aimed at maintaining and increasing the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests in order to benefit present and future generations. It is comprised of seven characteristic points: (i) extension of forestry resources; (ii) forest biological diversity; (iii) health and vitality of forests; (iv) productive functions of forest resources; (v) efforts to protect forest resources; (vi) socio-economic functions of forests; and (vii) normative, institutional and policy framework (Source: UN Resolution 62/98 2008). This includes sustainable exploitation of forests in relation to markets' demand as well as management of water, soil, wildlife and often domestic animals that live in the forest.

Sustainable handling of lands that can be maintained for long periods of time without interruption, weakening or loss of potency or quality.

Environmental governance is a system that is composed of rules and procedures (both formal and informal) that generate an institutional framework that regulates the decision-making system regarding access (or not) and use (or not) of natural resources by the various stakeholders that are involved with the territorial environment, particularly traditionally excluded sectors. The governance of this system will increase as it becomes more foreseeable, coherent, effective, transparent and legitimate. This system can be managed at various levels: national, territorial, local or ecosystem (basins or eco-regions). (Chorlavi Group, 2003, <http://www.grupochorlavi.org/gad/>)

Systematization is a process of organization and critical reflection based on one or more development experiences in regard to a specific question or concern with the participation of local stakeholders. It is to be aimed at generating lessons learned that allow for the action to be improved and contribute to a broader body of knowledge.

WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCES ARE WE LOOKING TO SYSTEMATIZE?

7. The goal is to systematize experiences that meet at least five of the following characteristics:

- a) Experiences that present various responses to forest management carried out as a result of explicit or other agreements by stakeholders located in specific territories in which populations that had been excluded participate.
- b) Experiences that present improvement of the environmental, economic and socio-cultural conditions of the populations that inhabit a specific territory as a result of the actions undertaken.
- c) Cases that impact or are susceptible to involving or affecting a significant portion of the population of the territories in which they are located.

- d) Experiences that include groups that were traditionally excluded from the negotiation, agreement, design and implementation of sustainable management of forests and lands and that build lasting social coalitions.
- e) Experiences that consider the differentiated impact of natural resource management (specifically forests and land) on men and women.
- f) Experiences from which lessons related to best practices in adaptation to climate change can be extracted, such as using forest conservation to capture carbon.
- g) Experiences that emphasize the local impact on public and private programs or policies.
- h) Experiences that have existed for at least five years and can thus be analyzed in terms of effects on the members' living conditions and from which lessons and learning can be extracted.
- i) Experiences that do not depend exclusively on cooperation agents or foreign investors, which means that key decisions are made using mechanisms internal to the associations.

QUESTIONS THAT APPLICANTS TO THE 2008 COMPETITION SHOULD ADDRESS

Whether natural or planted by rural or indigenous communities, the forest has extremely important functions for sustainable territorial development. Over the past few years, a broad range of publications has emphasized the role played by the forest in its various forms: protective forests, reforestation actions and restoration of land degraded by tree plantations, agricultural/livestock/pastoral systems and capture and setting of carbon. This is added to functions related to water courses, limitation of erosion processes, support for the regularization of climatological cycles, conservation of biodiversity, and the limitation and attenuation of natural disasters produced by extraordinary episodes such as earthquakes, landslides and hurricanes. The forest's role is equally important as a generator of economic activity for rural and indigenous communities and small-scale producers. Related activities include construction, small-scale furniture manufacturing and traditional artistic production. Furthermore, the forest is an important identity reference for many groups. There is similar literature on innovative experiences in terms of land management.

Much has been written about significant collective actions in forest management in Latin American countries. The experience of communal forests in Guatemala is very well known, as are forestry initiatives in Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil.

However, many texts that systematize the relationship between rural and agro-forestry communities with the forest, associative companies composed of rural workers and women's groups have not analyzed forests' broader role in territorial development.

For these reasons, the Call for Proposals is designed to draw out experiences with **sustainable management of forests (including water and biodiversity) and land in dynamic territories that result from systems of governance that feature the participation of a wide**

range of actors including rural populations that traditionally were excluded in order to achieve sustainable development of the territory and its economic activities.

9. In this context, the systematizations should help answer the following main question:
What are the characteristics of experiences with forest and land management as part of broader experiences with rural territorial development in which rural populations that initially were poor and excluded actively participate?

10. This main question is to be addressed by applicants through more specific issues and questions such as:

- a) How and in what way does sustainable management of forest and land form part of the territorial dynamic?
- b) What territorial governance system is in place and what are the rules, procedures and processes regarding access to and use of forests and land management?
- c) What role have the various stakeholders played in the construction of those rules and agreements? How have poor and traditionally excluded groups participated in them and how have they improved their situation as a result of this?
- d) What actions have been undertaken in terms of conflict, resistance, negotiation, design management and the implementation of sustainable management actions for forests and land?
- e) What has been the impact of the steps taken regarding consciousness raising and empowerment in the communities? How have these actions impacted the behaviors of the various stakeholders in regard to the forests and land?
- f) What are the institutional, economic, social and cultural characteristics of the rural organizations developing sustainable forest and land management experiences?
- g) What role have government institutions, cooperation agencies and internal catalysts and innovators played in the development of the experience?
- h) What steps have been taken to ensure gender equity in decision-making systems and how are young people involved in the experience?
- i) What sustainable forest management mechanisms are used by the groups or communities in order to impact on public and private policy or program proposals for forest development and sustainable land management?
- j) What indicators are available for analyzing the impact of sustainable forest management experiences in territorial development?
- k) How can we ensure that the actions or programs implemented provide the expected services and benefits once the funding or technical support for a specific program ends and thus guarantee its continuity, including activities derived by rural tourism, carbon capture, etc.?

EXPECTED RESULTS FOR THE 2011 COMPETITION

11. The entities that participate in the Competition and those whose projects are selected will be involved in the complete cycle of learning planned by the Chorlaví Group's Minká Fund. This cycle includes three main stages, each of which is to last approximately one year:

- a) The implementation of the winning systematizations, including a coordination workshop in which the representatives of each project will take part. Participants will reach agreements so that the set of winning projects will form as coherent and coordinated a grouping as possible.
- b) The comparative analysis of the results of the projects with a view to extract conclusions, lessons and recommendations with more general validity.
- c) A process of strategic communication of the results of the entire cycle.

12. One of the main results of the 2011 Competition will be a document systematizing the experiences selected. Said document should produce conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations regarding the questions formulated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Call for Proposals.

13. The final reports of the winning projects will be the main inputs for comparative analysis which, in addition to a process of consultation and discussion (via an online dialogue), should produce a summary document that addresses the central question presented in paragraph 9 of this Call for Proposals.

TIMELINE

14. The timeline for the Competition is as follows:

25 July 2010	Publication of the Call for Proposals and Rules of the 2010 Competition
14 September 2010	Deadline for inquiries about the Call for Proposals, competition rules or any other aspect of interest to the applicants.
21 September 2010	Project profiles must be received by 1 p.m. in Santiago de Chile.
14 October 2010	Publication of the results of the evaluation of the profiles on the Chorlaví Group Website.
10 December 2010	Final systematization proposals and the additional documentation outlined in the Regulations must be received in Santiago de Chile by 1:00 p.m.
29 December 2010	Publication of the list of winning projects on the Chorlaví

Group Website.

30 December 2010	Contracts will be submitted to the coordinating organizations.
15 January 2011	Signing of contracts with the coordinating organizations of the winning projects.
February 2011	Workshop for the coordinators of winning projects
15 July 2011	Submission of progress reports
31 December 2011	Submission of final, technical and financial reports
January-March 2012	Review of reports and comparative analysis
April 2012	E-conference to summarize results

REGULATIONS FOR THE CHORLAVÍ GROUP'S MINK'A FUND

This competition is subject to the 2010 regulations of the Chorlaví Group's Mink'a Fund. It is essential that those interested in applying familiarize themselves with and analyze these regulations in detail prior to beginning the process.

For more information, please visit us online at www.grupochorlavi.org or write or call us at:

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All official information regarding this competition will be published at www.grupochorlavi.org. Those interested in participating in this process are encouraged to periodically visit the Website so that they can be informed of any news that may be pertinent to their application in a timely manner.