



Call for Concept Notes

Preparatory Research Grants



Preparatory Research Grants

Call for Concept Notes

September 2021

About Explore

Explore is a research network and community of practice dedicated to expanding and applying knowledge on forest landscape governance in Southeast Asia. Through multi-disciplinary and participatory, inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches, the network aims to contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and other international and national commitments. Explore emphasizes gender equality and social inclusion. More than 50 percent of its advisory board members are women, and it seeks equal representation by female researchers. Explore also emphasizes transboundary collaboration and problem solving.

Launched in October 2020, Explore is funded by Sida, Sweden's agency for international development cooperation. The network is hosted by RECOFTC, in partnership with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and in collaboration with

universities, research institutes, government, civil society organizations, local communities and the private sector in Southeast Asia.

For more information on Explore, visit: <https://www.recoftc.org/projects/explore>

Call for Concept Notes

Explore is recruiting and supporting researchers to develop research proposals on forest landscape governance through a Preparatory Grant Mechanism. Explore is calling for concept notes, which will be developed into research proposals. If resources are secured for 2023, Explore will fund selected proposals through grants and expert mentorship. Research proposals developed under Explore can also be submitted to other funding opportunities. See Illustration 1 for more information on Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Illustration 1. The Preparatory Grant Mechanism follows a seven-step process.



Timeline

- 16 September: Call for concept notes opens
- 15 November: Deadline for submission of concept note applications
- 24 December 2021: Announcement of successful concept notes for development to full research proposals
- 14 January: Deadline for submission of financial risk assessments
- 31 January 2022: Contract agreements finalized
- 1 February to 31 May 2022: Phase 1 research proposal development and mentorship
- 1 to 30 June 2022: Peer review of research proposals
- 31 July 2022: Deadline for submission of research proposals

Application process

To submit your concept note fill out the online application form and include requested attachments. Visit application form on SurveyMonkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2SCY8WS>

Incomplete concept notes will not be considered.

Due to high levels of interest in Explore grants and support, we cannot provide detailed feedback on concept notes that are not selected for Phase 1.

What Explore offers

Explore will support research preparatory grants ranging from US\$3,000 to US\$15,000 depending on the complexity and scale of the issues addressed, as well as the degree of transboundary approaches.

Applicants should apply for the size of grant that best reflects the research innovation proposed for translating the forest landscape governance concepts into practice.

A grantee can use the preparatory grants to enhance their capacities to produce high quality grant applications for full research grants in the second phase of Explore, as well as other funding opportunities.

In addition to funding, Explore provides training and mentorship by scientific experts, as well as peer review of full research grant proposals to increase their quality and probability of attracting funding.

Researchers will also be able to share ideas and learn from one another as they develop research proposals through Explore's community of practice.

For more information on how grants can be used, our expectations regarding due diligence and other guidance, visit: <https://www.recoftc.org/publications/0000395>

What Explore is looking for

Explore is looking for new ideas for research in forest landscape governance. The network seeks research ideas that will improve forest governance, and an approach that integrates a range of themes. Explore welcomes concept notes for research on these topics and more:

- Role of policies and institutions in the development of sustainable forest landscapes
- Impact of climate change on local communities and response mechanisms
- Gender and social drivers and impacts of forest governance focusing on rights and roles of women, youth and other marginalized groups in natural resource management
- Changes in forests and effects on local livelihoods and poverty
- Trade-offs among economic development, environmental conservation and human rights in land-use planning
- Scaling up effective forest governance platforms
- Decentralizing natural resource management
- Links among forests, food and water
- Ways to mitigate risks in land and forest investments
- Forest governance and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Forest governance and responding to COVID-19 response and building resilience
- Interdependence and intersectionality between local communities and natural resources in forest landscapes

Eligibility

The call for concept notes is open to all scientific disciplines and fields of research related to forest landscape governance. Professors, senior scientists and postdoctoral researchers affiliated with universities and think-tanks in Southeast Asia are

eligible to apply. Principal researchers must be affiliated with a university or research institution in Southeast Asia, and be a national of and reside in a country in Southeast Asia.

Fifty percent of team members must be women. Teams must include young and early-stage researchers, as well as a mix of ethnicity and socio-economic status.

The concept note should focus on one or more of Explore's seven focal countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Explore will consider submissions that involve other countries if the concepts involve key forest governance challenges for the region and/or integrate multidisciplinary research and lessons learned from both focal and other countries.

Researchers can apply as individuals or as a team. There are no limits to team size, however, estimated budgets must respect the US\$15,000 grant ceiling.

The team can include researchers and other experts from universities, research institutes, private sector, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and development agencies. Members must have an interest in contributing to transboundary, interdisciplinary and participatory action research to improve forest landscape governance in Southeast Asia, and to integrate gender inclusion and human rights in their research approaches.

Research teams should involve at least one university or research institution from Explore focal countries. Research teams that involve researchers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar will be given higher ranking.

Female and young researchers are highly encouraged to participate.

Selection criteria for Explore preparatory research grants

- Innovative and relevant to the topic to regional and national forest landscape governance priorities, policies and programs
- Technical quality and feasibility based on objectives, resources and timeframe
- Sustainability within the biophysical, socio-economic and cultural context
- Feasibility considering national and regional policy context, trends and future directions

- Relevance to other ongoing research initiatives
- Potential for future funding
- Analysis of gaps and specific research issues to be addressed, methods and capacity-building requirements
- Inclusive of human rights-based approaches
- Integration of interdisciplinary, transboundary and regional approaches
- Strength of gender and social inclusion framework and research objectives
- Inclusion of a minimum of one gender-related objective
- Use of inclusive methods for developing concept notes
- Degree to which the proposal incorporates these elements of participatory action research :
 - Inclusive development tailored to the needs and views of stakeholders
 - Cycles of reflection, learning and adaptation at all stages
 - Opportunities for stakeholders to work together voluntarily, not in isolation
 - Focus on achieving strategic and practical goals

About the Explore community of practice

Explore hosts a community of practice to support the Explore Preparatory Grant Mechanism and to galvanize interdisciplinary research on forest landscape governance. The community of practice is hosted by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLFx). GLFx enables and empowers communities with the new connections, technology and knowledge to connect, share, learn, and accelerate action towards more sustainable landscapes. All applicants for Explore preparatory research grants are asked to join the community of practice. To join the Explore community of practice, register here: glfx.globallandscapesforum.org/signup



At RECOFTC, we believe in a future where people live equitably and sustainably in and beside healthy, resilient forests. We take a long-term, landscape-based and inclusive approach to supporting local communities to secure their land and resource rights, stop deforestation, find alternative livelihoods and foster gender equity. We are the only non-profit organization of our kind in Asia and the Pacific. We have more than 30 years of experience working with people and forests, and have built trusting relationships with partners at all levels. Our influence and partnerships extend from multilateral institutions to governments, private sector and local communities. Our innovations, knowledge and initiatives enable countries to foster good forest governance, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.



RECOFTC

P.O. Box 1111
Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
T +66 (0)2 940 5700
F +66 (0)2 561 4880
info@recoftc.org

    @RECOFTC



recoftc.org

Our sponsors



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Sweden
Sverige

RECOFTC's work is made possible with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).