

Date Posted: July 31, 2020

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Conservation and Livelihoods in Tropical Forests: Gender and Youth Transformative Approaches

Due Date: Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be received by 5PM PDT on September 4, 2020

Background

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation aims to improve the lives of children, families, and communities—and restore and protect our planet. The [Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Conservation \(ALC\) strategy](#) builds upon the Foundation’s experience with climate and land use as well as the work in reproductive health. ALC aims to support communities in strengthening resilience and improving livelihoods while simultaneously protecting tropical forests and biodiversity. The hypothesis of ALC is that conservation and development goals in tropical regions with significant smallholder agriculture can be most effectively achieved through policies and actions that support smallholder livelihoods and community wellbeing, combined with effective regional planning and natural resource management.

There is limited research on the impact of tropical conservation initiatives that integrate livelihood and well-being objectives on women and young people, especially those that are focused on smallholder farmers and agricultural systems. Women are often not explicitly integrated in the design, planning, and evaluation of these initiatives, and a robust understanding of the role of women remains limited. Young people are even less present in the literature on integrated initiatives, and the best practices for youth engagement in agriculture are not well understood. To help fill this knowledge gap, **the Packard Foundation’s Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Conservation (ALC) program is issuing a targeted request for research proposals that center an analysis of women and/or young people in integrated rural agriculture or forest-dependent livelihoods development and conservation initiatives in tropical forested regions.** The research will provide an opportunity to deepen the collective understanding of the potential impact from conservation initiatives focused on women and/or youth and how to best support improved livelihoods and wellbeing for these populations.

Scope and Objectives

The objective of this RFP is to fund focused research that deepens understanding for the Packard Foundation, other funders and organizations working on conservation and agricultural livelihoods, and policymakers of the unique role of women and/or young people in initiatives that combine tropical forest conservation with smallholder farmer/forest-dependent community livelihoods and wellbeing (health, nutrition, individual agency, etc.). Research must include tropical forest conservation, smallholder agriculture, and an overarching focus on women and/or young people (age 15-29). The call seeks innovative methods to ensure the meaningful participation of under-represented communities; therefore, participatory research methods or community engagement must be included in research design and methodology.

Packard plans to support either a new research project(s) focused on these populations or contribute funds to an existing research initiative(s) that ensures the prioritization of women and/or young people in the design and implementation. ALC will provide funding to one or more organizations between

\$100,000 and \$1,000,000 (for a maximum of \$1,000,000) over a period of three years. Given ALC's ongoing work in Ethiopia and Indonesia, proposals that focus on these regions will be prioritized if they clearly meet the objectives of the call. However, strong proposals in other tropical forest regions that can provide lessons beyond the focus geographies will also be considered.

The research should answer the following core questions using well-defined indicators and a robust methodology:

- What role do women and/or young people play in tropical smallholder agriculture and conservation?
- What impact (positive and negative) do integrated livelihood and conservation initiatives have on the lives of women and/or young people?
- What are the barriers to full participation of women and/or young people in these initiatives? What mechanisms/tools/conditions encourage robust participation in these initiatives and improved livelihoods for women and/or young people?
- What benefits are derived from initiatives that effectively integrate women and/or young people?
- Are there additional community-level/economic/conservation/environmental benefits that can be attributed to women- and/or youth-led initiatives?

Final grant recipients will be expected to produce a research product that provides clear and evidence-based findings. Research methods and findings should provide empirically-supported conclusions as well as specific programmatic actions and broader enabling conditions that allow for meaningful participation of women and/or young people in agriculture and conservation, as well as articulate existing and potential barriers to participation for these groups. Research findings should also allow a nuanced understanding of the behaviors and choices of women and/or young people with regard to agriculture and conservation.

Elements of an Expression of Interest

Interested parties may submit a written expression of interest. Expressions of interest should describe the institutional or organizational background as well as qualifications of staff and partners involved, the planned research questions and objectives, and the research design and methodology. It should clearly describe the participating populations and context of the research, any previous or ongoing projects or programs in the area that may influence the research, and the ability to ensure the expected outcomes will be achieved. Expression of interest should be comprehensive, yet concise, and written documents should adhere to the following word limits:

- I. Background on organization(s) or institution(s) – 500 words
- II. Research context, including a description of participating populations – 250 words
- III. Research design & methodology, including research questions and objectives – 1000 words
- IV. Estimated total budget, including administrative costs
- V. Proposed time period of research

Expression of interest should be approximately three pages in length.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

All types of institutions and organizations (public, private, non-profit, and academic) are invited to submit an expression of interest. Please note that the Packard Foundation cannot provide grants to individuals. Institutions must have staff in the country where the research will be conducted and/or a strong

partnership with an organization located within that country. Institutions should serve as the lead for only one expression of interest but may be included as non-lead organization on more than one submitted expression of interest.

ALC will evaluate the proposals based upon the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to outlined objectives of RFP
- Depth of community engagement and participatory research methodology
- Qualifications and experience

Based on this criteria, ALC will review all expressions of interest and invite one or more institutions or organizations to submit a full grant proposal.

Terms and Conditions

The following is the expected timeline for the grant.

Request for Proposals Issued	July 31, 2020
Expression of Interest Due	September 4, 2020 by 5PM PDT
Invitation for Full Proposals Sent	Sept 10, 2020
Full proposal Due	October 8, 2020 by 5PM PDT
Grant Awarded	November 15, 2020

As mentioned, ALC expects to award one or more awards between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 (for a maximum of \$1,000,000) which will cover three years of support (2021-2024) with the first payment to be delivered in December 2020.

Contact Information

Expressions of Interest should be submitted on the [ALC website](#).

Questions regarding the RFP and Expression of Interest should be sent to Genora Givens:
ggivens@packard.org

An informational webinar will be held on August 14, 2020 at 8AM PDT. Please register on our website or email ggivens@packard.org

Additional Information

Rationale for Research Request

Globally, there are limited documented examples of long-term benefits for local stakeholders as a result of conservation schemes. Efforts to simultaneously achieve conservation and livelihood goals can be hindered by a number of factors including competing goals and a lack of financial and political support. Community-based forestry programs have reported mixed results globally due to the socioeconomic, ecological, and institutional factors that can influence them, the needed collaboration between actors with different objectives and an insufficient consideration of the complexity of these factors in the design.ⁱ In particular, gender-based inequality and lack of consideration of the objectives of minorities can lead to reduced group collaboration and increased conflict.ⁱⁱ Although women's participation in forest management institutions can reduce conflict, their participation is determined by institutional support, cultural norms and societal practices as well as education and wealth.ⁱⁱⁱ In addition, while the data is limited, women's incomes in agroforestry value chains can have a greater impact on food, health, and education expenditures than that of the income received by men.^{iv} Broadly, there is a need to better understand the unique role that women and young people play in integrated conservation and livelihood initiatives.

Research Examples

Illustrative examples of the kinds of research this grant will support in tropical forest, smallholder farmer communities are provided below:

- Quasi-experimental designs to evaluate sustainable commodity processing and marketing in diversified value chains that are managed by women in local communities or for which they have a comparative advantage;
- Natural experiments that allow comparative analysis of enabling conditions for women or youth participation in value chains and conservation planning and that can be generalizable beyond the population of interest;
- Action research or comparative analysis of participatory livelihood planning and value chain creation programs that increase coordination between local stakeholders to achieve a set of clear conservation and livelihood goals;
- Randomized control trials of inclusive and effective mechanisms for engagement of women in natural resource governance and decision-making (including participatory monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management strategies) for integrated social and conservation outcomes.

ⁱ Clare, Stephen M., Maria C. Ruiz-Jaen, and Gordon M. Hickey. "Assessing the Potential of Community-Based Forestry Programs in Panama." *Forest Policy and Economics* 104 (July 1, 2019): 81–92. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2019.04.004>.

ⁱⁱ Baynes, Jack, John Herbohn, Carl Smith, Robert Fisher, and David Bray. "Key Factors Which Influence the Success of Community Forestry in Developing Countries." *Global Environmental Change* 35 (September 25, 2015): 226–238. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378015300479>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Coleman, Eric A., and Esther Mwangi. "Women's Participation in Forest Management: A Cross-Country Analysis." *Global Environmental Change* 23, no. 1 (February 1, 2013): 193–205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.10.005>.

^{iv} Ingram, V., M. Haverhals, S. Peterson, M. Elias, B. Basnett, and S. Phosiso. "Gender and Forest, Tree and Agroforestry Value Chains." Eds. Colfer, Carol J. Pierce, Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, and Marlène Elias. *Gender and Forests: Climate Change, Tenure, Value Chains and Emerging Issues*. Routledge, 2016. <https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/6090/>