

Equator Prize 2015 Nomination Form



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The Equator Prize 2015 will be awarded to 20 outstanding local and indigenous initiatives that are advancing innovative solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

Winning initiatives will join a prestigious network of 187 leading community-based organizations from 70 different countries that have been awarded the Equator Prize since 2002. Each winning initiative will receive USD 10,000 and be supported to participate in a series of policy dialogues and special events at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP21) in Paris, France in December 2015.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Equator Prize 2015, nominees must:

- ✓ Have been in operation for at least 3 years;
- ✓ Be a community-based and/or indigenous or local group, operating in a rural area; and
- ✓ Be within a country receiving support from the United Nations Development Programme, excluding countries with a high level of development. (For a list of eligible countries, please click [here](#) or visit www.equatorinitiative.org)

Selection Criteria

Equator Prize 2015 winners will be selected by a Technical Advisory Committee and an International Jury of Eminent Persons. Nominations will be assessed based on the following selection criteria:

- **Impact:** Initiatives that have improved community wellbeing and local livelihoods through the protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests; sustainable agriculture and food security; community-based adaptation to climate change; or biodiversity conservation.
- **Indigenous and Community Empowerment:** Initiatives demonstrating indigenous and local community leadership, the empowerment of local people, and the advancement of local and indigenous peoples rights over lands, territories and natural resources.
- **Partnerships:** Initiatives that are forging effective partnerships with governments, the private sector, civil society, research institutes and other stakeholders.
- **Innovation and Transferability:** Initiatives demonstrating new approaches that overcome prevailing constraints and offer knowledge, experience and lessons of potential relevance to other communities.
- **Empowerment of Women and Social Inclusion:** Initiatives that promote the equality and empowerment of women and marginalized groups.
- **Resilience, Adaptability, and Self-Sufficiency:** Initiatives demonstrating adaptability to environmental, social and economic change, resilience in the face of external pressures, and improved capacity for local self-sufficiency.

Please Note:

- Completed nominations should be no more than five pages in length
- Nominators are encouraged, where possible, to quantify results and include data which demonstrates impacts and positive changes in socio-economic and environmental conditions.
- Nominations may be submitted either directly by the initiative/community, by a partner organization, or by any third party that is sufficiently familiar with the activities and achievements of the initiative/community.
- Nominated initiatives will undergo a verification process that may require nominees and/or nominators to provide additional information and/or materials.
- Nominations may be submitted in: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.
- Completed nominations must be submitted by **27 May 2015**.

Completed nominations may be submitted through our [online nomination system](#) or via e-mail or post to:

Equator Initiative

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

304 East 45th Street, 6th Floor

New York, NY 10017 USA

Tel: +1 646 781-4072

Email: prize@equatorinitiative.org Web: www.equatorinitiative.org

1. **Name of the group or organization being nominated**
2. **Nominee is best described as:** (choose all that apply)
 - Indigenous group
 - Community-based organization
 - Community-based enterprise or cooperative
 - Community-based initiative associated with a conserved area
 - Women's group
 - Youth group
 - Non-governmental organization
 - Other (please specify): _____
3. **Thematic Areas:** (Please select the thematic area that applies most to the initiative's work)
 - Protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests
 - Sustainable agriculture and food security
 - Community-based adaptation to climate change
 - Conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and/or marine biodiversity
4. **Cross-cutting Issues:** (Please select maximum two cross-cutting issues that apply to the initiative's work)
 - Protecting and securing rights to communal lands, territories and natural resources
 - Advocating for and ensuring the effective implementation of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)
 - Community advocacy for environmental justice and climate change solutions
 - Innovative partnerships with government or the private sector to promote sustainable development
5. **Summary Sentence** (25 words or less): Provide a sentence summarizing the initiative. Try to capture the essence of the innovations that make it exceptional. What should the world know about what the initiative has accomplished?
6. **Initiative Description and Innovations** (300 words or less): Provide a description of the origin of the initiative and its purpose, activities, and achievements. Identify the main challenges addressed by the initiative and describe what innovative approaches are being taken to address them.
7. **Year of Establishment:** In what year did the initiative's activities begin?
8. **Community Wellbeing and Livelihoods** (200 words or less): How has the initiative improved the socio-economic conditions (livelihoods, incomes, etc) and wellbeing (health, food security, education, etc) of the community?
9. **Climate Impacts** (200 words or less): Please describe how the initiative works to address climate change. How does the initiative reduce vulnerability to climate-related stresses or mitigate climate change through protecting forests and other activities?
10. **Environmental Impacts** (200 words or less): How has the initiative contributed to environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and/or sustainable natural resource management?
11. **Social Inclusion and Governance** (200 words or less): Describe how the initiative is governed, highlighting where relevant the inclusion of traditionally marginalized groups. How has the initiative empowered women? What specific elements of the initiative promote community empowerment and community ownership?
12. **Scalability** (200 words or less): Describe if the initiative has had an impact on policy development at the local, national, regional or international levels and/or successfully shared its knowledge and innovations with other local and community-based groups.

With regard to your responses to Question #4 on “Crosscutting Issues”, please answer no more than 2 of the following 4 questions.

13. **Protecting and securing rights to communal lands, territories and resources** (200 words or less): Please describe how the initiative works to protect and/or secure rights to indigenous and community lands, territories and natural resources. Please outline any relevant pressures, including from extractive industries, government policies, or land conversion efforts. What have been the primary hurdles or enabling conditions to securing rights?
14. **Advocating for and ensuring the effective implementation of free, prior and informed consent** (200 words or less): Please describe if and how the initiative has advocated for and/or ensured the effective implementation of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in dealings with government, investors or companies. What have been the successes and the challenges?
15. **Community advocacy for environmental justice and climate change solutions** (200 words or less): Please describe how the initiative has sought to address environmental justice and climate change issues and the results of these efforts on policy change, public awareness or the situation of the affected community.
16. **Innovative partnerships with governments and the private sector** (200 words or less): If your initiative has worked with local, regional or national **government** authorities, please outline the nature of the partnership and how it has benefited your work (e.g. through changes in laws, regulations, policies etc.)? If your initiative has partnered with **companies** in the private sector, please outline the nature of the partnership and its benefits.
17. **Contact Information:** Please provide name, position, organization, street address, city / town, postal code, province or state, country, telephone, fax, email, website for the following individuals:
 - Contact person(s) for the nominated initiative
 - Contact person(s) for relevant partner organizations
 - Nominator
 - Two references familiar with the initiative’s activities and achievements and who are willing to be contacted by the selection committee during the verification process.

Additional information (optional)

18. Please take the opportunity to deliver a message to the governments and stakeholders who will meet in Paris in December 2015 to finalize a new climate agreement. What should they prioritize that will empower indigenous peoples and local communities? (100 words or less)
19. Please tell us about how you heard about the Equator Prize 2015.
 - Between the Lines* newsletter
 - Equator Initiative website
 - UNDP Country Office
 - GEF-Small Grants Programme
 - Former Equator Prize winner
 - WIN-Net
 - Press or media advisory
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Other (please specify): _____