

Call for Proposals 2009

Mink'a Fund

Chorlaví Group

"Climate change in water use and management: responses of excluded populations in Latin America and the Caribbean"

1. The Chorlaví Group calls public and private organizations and civil society institutions interested in the rural problems of Latin America, to participate in the Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund 2009 Contest. The subject of this year's contest is: **"Climate change in the use and management of water: responses of excluded populations in Latin America and the Caribbean"**. In this contest, the Fund will allocate an estimated sum of US\$ 150,000 which will be distributed between 8 and 10 projects. Please visit www.grupochorlavi.org or write to concursochorlavi@rimisp.org for further information.

2. The Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund Contest comprises 2 stages: selection of project profiles and selection of final projects to follow a systematization process. In the first stage, 20 profiles will be pre-selected from which the responsible institutions will elaborate a systematization final proposal. The Fund resources will be allocated in score order within this project group under the criteria set below, and according to the proposal's potential to contribute on the understanding of this issue within the region, until all available resources for this Contest are used. However, it will aim at ensuring the maximum geographic representation, considering the criteria mentioned below. The deadline for each stage is specified in the section "Deadlines" hereof.

CHORLAVÍ GROUP

3. The Chorlaví Group is an interactive network seeking to stimulate and facilitate decentralized social learning processes. It aims at improving the quality and effectiveness of the initiatives designed to transform rural societies in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the scope of sustainable rural development. The Chorlaví Group is a program supported by the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) from the Netherlands. Rimisp (Latin American Centre for Rural Development) is the Executive Secretariat of the Chorlaví Group.

4. The Group's work is organized based on Social Learning projects, which consist on a set of systematization processes as well as critical reflection, dialogue, communication and documentation activities, among others. Through a methodical, analytical and comprehensive procedure, a concrete issue is identified. The project focuses on this particular issue, particularly on its learning aspects and specific objectives. . A social learning project involves dozens of organizations, groups, networks and individuals from numerous countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. This learning project comprises the following:

- A state of the art document summarizing advanced knowledge and experiences on the project's subject.
- A selection of 8 to 10 innovative experiences in which systematization processes have been conducted within the subject matter. Such projects will be chosen through the Mink'a de Chorlaví's open contest.
- A compared analysis of innovative experiences that have been systematized.
- On-site workshops, e-conferences and active Blog participation, at local and international level.
- Documentation of all the proposed products disseminated through an electronic bulletin and a website.
- A communication and impact strategy.
- Distance training courses prepared from the results of all the above-mentioned criteria.

DEFINITIONS

6. The following definitions will be used for the 2009 Call for Proposals:

a) Climate change: climate change caused, directly or indirectly, by human activities which alter world's atmosphere conditions, and increases the natural observable changeability of climate during comparable periods of time (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992).

b) Vulnerability: degree in which a system is sensitive to, or incapable of facing, the adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extreme events, depending on its type, degree of sensitivity and its adaptation capabilities.

c) Adaptation to Climate Change: It refers to capacity building to better respond and adjust to the actual and potential impacts of climate change in such way that damages may be reduced or may be turned into positive opportunities due to climate change.

d) Mitigation: Mitigation refers to the human activities performed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions produced by anthropogenic activities and to promote the

natural places that capture carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

e) Sustainable experiences: sustainable organized experiences, economically, socially and environmentally, around climate change adaptation and water use and management for human consumption and agricultural activities which have produced an improvement on life conditions and quality of life for men and women who participate on them; and which have been reinforced, both as individuals and as communities, in their control capabilities over territory's conditions; and their advocacy capabilities within local, regional or national systems and institutions.

d) Systematization: A critical reflection and ordering process from one or more development experiences around a pre-defined query or concern, with the participation of local actors and geared at the development of learned lessons which allow enhancing the agents' own initiatives as well as contributing to a broader knowledge body.

WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCES SHOULD BE SYSTEMATIZED?

7. Experiences that at least meet the following characteristics should be systematized:

- a) Experiences that may prove how they have performed diverse responses around adaptation to climate change in water use and management, carried out in an associative practice by members of poor rural and traditionally excluded communities or regions.
- b) Experiences that show a degree of improvement in life conditions and quality of life of the vulnerable population as a result of the activities carried out by the project, so these populations may respond and adapt better to the consequences of a water shortage for human consumption and agricultural activities.
- c) Experiences that consider the differentiated impact and consequences of climate change and water resources management on men and women.
- d) Experiences that stress out the impulse toward advocacy and public or private policy making at a local, regional or national level.
- e) Experiences that have been performing this work for at least five years so they may be analyzed in terms of their impact on life conditions of their target population, and lessons may be withdrawn and learnt from their activities.
- f) Experiences that show no exclusive dependency on cooperation agencies or foreign private funding, and therefore their main decisions are made through internal procedures and respond to the interests of the associations and/or communities.
- g) Cases in which the impact may be relevant to a large part of the population on the territories.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2009 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

8. Latin American and the Caribbean region has been considered one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change, this is due to the limited capacity of adaptation to its effects and the poverty context in which it is trapped. Despite Latin American and the Caribbean region only produces around 3.5% (IPCC, 2007) of the greenhouse gas emissions, the global consequences of climate change are affecting the population of this region; the most impoverished and vulnerable countries are the most affected because projections on climate change indicate less security on sustainable means, more vulnerability towards hunger and poverty, increasing social inequities, and a higher environmental damage. Growing evidence on the impact of natural events related to climate change on agriculture and the rural context refer to the diminishing regularity on climate cycles: rain and drought periods, linked to the sowing and harvest stages; but also the existing rain periods with a greater intensity and length which many times leads to floods and landslides, together with prolonged periods of droughts (Chiriboga, 2009). There is also a growing concern for the contribution of agricultural activities on greenhouse gas emissions; and at the same time, there's a growing interest on climate change effects on agriculture and food security.

Rural areas have been, and still are, affected by a series of much more complex events related to climate change: a) growing intensity of hurricanes with significant consequences on the ecosystems of the Caribbean basins, which include Mexico, the Central American isthmus, Venezuela, the Colombian Pacific and Caribbean, as well as the Caribbean islands; b) average temperature increase in the Andean region with deep impacts on the ecology, affecting the Andean glaciers and other mountain ecosystems. This becomes evident on the shortage of water both for irrigation, and for human consumption; c) this situation is also having an impact on the Andean moorlands, a particular mountain ecosystem which traditionally filtrates waters into the lower lands; d) average temperature increase and changes on rain periods may deeply affect the cycle of the Amazonian rainforest reducing its capacity to retain carbon, increasing its soil temperature and eventually provoking a transformation process of moorlands and rainforests into savannah and, e) a growing tendency toward floods in the low regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (Chiriboga, 2009).

In this context does not seem accurate, nor appropriate, to think of models which require an intensive use of natural resources, neither those based on the exploitation of fragile ecosystems. Therefore it is essential to analyze experiences which stress out on mitigation actions aiming on reducing the impact of climate events, through a better use of land, water, rainforests, and the entire ecosystem in which rural communities inhabit and which represent social and productive priorities for the rural areas. We also find it necessary to analyze experiences of adaptation into the new climate context where the shortage of water and resources, and the climate change become more common.

For these reasons, the present call for proposals intends to aim into experiences working on processes of sustainable water management, where there is an active presence and participation of traditionally excluded rural populations intending to preserve the water available for human consumption and for irrigation, and also promoting payments for environmental services.

9. In this context, the systematization of experiences must help to respond the following core question: ¿What are the strategies implemented by impoverished and traditionally excluded rural population to carry out mitigation and/or adaptative actions facing water use and management under climate change?¹

10. This core question may be approached by the participating projects on the present call for proposals through more specific questions or topics, such as:

- a) What is the socio-demographic and environmental profile of the populations and communities that will be systematized, and what's their levels of vulnerability to climate change in water use and management?
- b) What are the actions undertaken to mitigate and adapt water use and management for human consumption and agricultural purposes in a climate change context?
- c) What has been the impact and the result of the actions carried out for empowering and building consciousness within communities?
- d) What are the institutional, economic, social and cultural features of rural organizations participating and developing these experiences of climate change adaptation?
- e) What has been the role of external institutions and internal innovating agents in developing the experience?
- f) How can gender equity be assured within decision making systems and processes, and how can the experience reach for young people to get involved in the proposal?
- g) Which are the government measures or politics that facilitate, or not, the proper care and sustainable use of natural resources, specially water?
- h) What are the strategies used by groups or communities to forecast advocacy and to impulse public and private policies which may help to mitigate climate change effects on water use and management?

EXPECTED RESULTS FROM THE 2009 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

11. The entities participating in the Contest whose projects are finally selected will have to participate in the complete cycle of the social learning project of the Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund. This cycle includes three main stages, within a one year term approximately:

¹ This core question must be reflected on the general objective of the proposal.

a) Carrying out the selected systematizations, including a coordinating workshop where those responsible for each winning project should participate and where agreements are adopted so that all the selected projects develop a coherent and articulated group.

b) The comparative analysis of project results aiming at drawing more general and valid conclusions, lessons and recommendations.

c) A process of strategic communication of the entire cycle's results.

12. The main result of the projects submitted to the 2009 Call for Proposals will be a systematization document. Such systematization should produce conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations referring to the questions of paragraph 9 and 10 hereof.

13. The final reports of the selected projects will constitute the main input for a comparative analysis, which together with a consultation and discussion process (through e-conference), should produce a synthesized document which answers the main question asked in paragraph 9 hereof.

DEADLINES

14. The deadlines for the stages of the Contest are:

July 20, 2009	2009 Call for Proposals and Regulations published on the Group's Website.
September 14, 2009	Deadline to receive clarifying queries concerning the Call for Proposals and its Regulations or any other aspect which might be of interest to participants.
September 21, 2009	Submit deadline for project profiles (13h00, Santiago de Chile time)
October 14, 2009	Profile evaluation results published on the Group's website
December 10, 2009	Submit deadline for proposals and additional requirements according to the Regulations section (13h00, Santiago de Chile time)
December 29, 2009	Publication of selected projects on Group Chorlavi's website.
December 30, 2009	Sending of contracts to the selected projects

January 15, 2010	Contracts subscription by the coordinating organizations
February 2010	Workshop for coordinators of the selected projects.
July 15, 2010	Submit of progress reports.
December 31, 2010	Submit of technical, financial and final reports.
January – March 2011	Review of final reports and comparative analysis.
April 2011	Synthesis e-conference

MINK'A DE CHORLAVÍ FUND REGULATIONS

15. This Contest is ruled by the Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund Regulations. It is essential for the interested applicants to know in advance and analyze these Regulations in detail. This document contains information on:

- a) The characteristics of the organizations that may submit proposals to the contest.
- b) Deadlines for project profile and proposal presentations and other important information.
- c) Profile eligibility evaluation and selection criteria, proposal selection and merit evaluation criteria.
- d) Maximum amounts that the Fund will donate, budget items that may be financed and the matching fund requirements.
- e) Profile and proposal submission, evaluation and selection process.
- f) Format guidelines which the profiles and proposals must follow.
- g) Contracts to be signed with the winning organizations and matching fund transfer procedures for Fund contributions to the projects.
- h) Selected project execution deadlines.
- i) Technical, financial, partial and final report requirements.
- j) Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund Committee faculties to make decisions related to this Contest.

k) Other general aspects of the Contest and the Mink'a de Chorlaví Fund.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

16. The Regulations, as well as other information of interest, are available online at (www.grupochorlavi.org/) or can be requested at:

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All the official information related to this contest will be published at www.grupochorlavi.org/. All interested parties are encouraged to regularly visit this website to get timely and relevant information that could be useful for their participation or proposal.