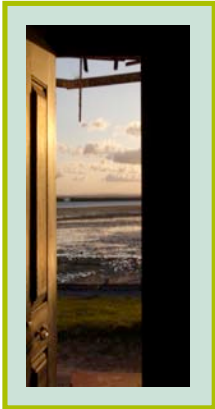


WH-LEEP

The World Heritage Local Ecological Entrepreneurship Program



Many community enterprises struggle for long-term sustainability due to an inability to access affordable credit with favorable payment conditions or reasonable credit obligations.

Funds (grant and loan) are available to meet this challenge through a new program designed to support community-based businesses. The program is an innovative partnership of Conservation International's Verde Ventures fund, the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Fund Small Grants Programme and the United Nations Foundation.

The support package provided to selected enterprises includes:

Enterprise Development Support: Provides support for services entrepreneurs need to ensure the long-term financial viability of their business. These services often include: marketing support, accounting/finance training, management training, guide training and certification. Each package is tailored to the needs of the each enterprise and builds on existing efforts made by the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) initiative. Experienced staff conduct enterprise needs assessments and develops a plan to address those needs to be delivered by an EDS specialist.

Affordable Loans: The WH-LEEP loan program is based on the model established by Verde Ventures and adapted for the COMPACT enterprise portfolio. Instilling the fiscal discipline that loans require is critical in order to grow beyond a project to become a thriving business with long-term growth potential. The objective of the loan program is to build each enterprise's capacity to achieve the goals of its business plan by diversifying and professionalizing its resource base beyond grants. The enterprises supported will be eligible for loans once their enterprise development support plan has been developed and implemented.



Phase 1 (July 2009 – October 2010)

Kenya – Mount Kenya National Park
 Belize – Belize Barrier Reef
 Mexico – Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve
 Tanzania – Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

Phase 2 (October 2010 – October 2011)

Dominica – Morne Trois Piton National Park
 Philippines – Puerto Princesa National Park
 Madagascar – Dry Forests of the South-West

Any community-based, income-generating enterprise that provides direct benefits to people and biodiversity conservation at one of the above COMPACT sites is encouraged to apply.

To apply, contact your **COMPACT** coordinator or download the application forms from:

[Conservation International Verde Ventures](#)
[The Small Grants Programme](#)
[UNF Community Based Enterprises Site](#)

Apply for a loan, grant, or both!

Some examples of eligible businesses include:

Agroforestry: Shade-grown and sustainable agriculture buffering biologically important protected areas.

Ecotourism: Tourism products and services that protect biodiversity while providing employment and income for communities living near protected areas.

Wild-harvest products: Businesses that develop and promote oils, nuts, fruit, plants, fibers and other natural materials sustainably harvested near protected areas.



An applicant/business must meet the following basic criteria:

- Be a community-based enterprise.
- Be in or proximate to a COMPACT site.
- Has been identified by the local COMPACT coordinator.
- Is legally registered and has a formal business structure and board.
- Generate sales and/or have good relationships with supply chain buyers.
- Support biodiversity conservation.
- Address rural poverty.
- Have demonstrated a willingness to grow and learn.

Enterprise Development Support

- Enterprise Development Support package with a value of up to US\$10,000 per organization.
- To be used to implement an enterprise development plan, designed to improve the sustainability of the enterprise and enable the enterprise to secure additional capital.

Loans

- Limit of US\$50,000 per organization.

Submission Deadlines

- Mexico - Sept 30, 2009
- Belize - Sept. 30, 2009
- Kenya - Oct. 30, 2009
- Tanzania – Oct 30 2009

Contact you local COMPACT Coordinator at this address: