



**DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMME OF  
THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION  
2018-2021**

PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

24 April 2018

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This programme document has been prepared for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) as a guiding document for the programme based support received from MFA for years 2018-2021.

First section outlines the principles and background of Siemenpuu's work. It describes Siemenpuu's results based management system and administrative policies. It also gives a short overview of the results and lessons learnt from the activities in 2010-2017.

Second section describes the planned activities in 2018-2021, including the Theory of Change and results framework.

## B. SUMMARY

Siemenpuu is among the most experienced and significant actors in the Finnish developing cooperation on environmental issues and participatory ecological governance.

The programme of the Siemenpuu Foundation in 2018-2021 is a continuation of the activities that Siemenpuu has carried out since 2002 as a funder of environmental and democracy initiatives of civil society organisations in the global south and as a communicator of development issues in Finland. This new phase makes powerful use of the unique expertise of the Foundation in identifying and funding exceptional civil society groups in the global South that at the same time improve living conditions of marginalised communities and take care of the natural environment. Main funding for the activities in 2018-2021 comes from the programme-based support for CSOs received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA).

Siemenpuu's activities contribute to the realization of Finland's development policy goals. The projects supported by Siemenpuu in developing countries alleviate poverty and inequality, and decrease biodiversity loss and climate emissions. The projects are initiated, planned and implemented by local civil society organizations (CSOs) in the South.

During this programme period, Siemenpuu will call for proposals through five funding schemes:

- A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy
- Forests and Coastal Ecosystems
- Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities
- Rural Women and Food Sovereignty
- Climate and Energy Justice

The support for the strengthening of civil societies is a cross-cutting goal of the programme. Human rights based approach, improving women's rights and position, as well as mitigation of and adaptation to climate change are also included in all five funding schemes.

During the programme period 2018-2021 main focus countries are Brazil, Indonesia, India, Mali, Myanmar and Nepal. In these countries Siemenpuu has long-term experience, expertise and strong

cooperation networks to other actors working with similar advocacy and donor activities nationally and internationally. In India Siemenpuu's support with the MFA's programme based funding will be discontinued by the end of 2019. Siemenpuu may seek approval for further use of MFA's funds in 2020-2021 in India if such use would enable mobilization of other sources of funding, for example as a required co-financing element.

During 2018-2021, Siemenpuu will fund approximately 25-40 new projects, and 30 projects that have started before 2018. The goal is, among others, to strengthen the environmental rights of more than 50 000 beneficiaries and to contribute to processes leading to the inclusion of at least an additional 110 000 hectares of land under conservation and sustainable use.

Siemenpuu's communications work in Finland supports reaching the programme goals. The communications activities will contribute in Finland to an understanding of the value and importance of development cooperation and policy. Siemenpuu plans to reach at least 30 000 people through its communications work annually.

[www.siemenuu.org](http://www.siemenuu.org)

## 1. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION

### 1.1. FOUNDATION

Siemenpuu - Foundation for Social Movements' Cooperation sr (The Siemenpuu Foundation) is a registered Finnish foundation, founded in 1998 by 15 Finnish NGOs and foundations working on environment and development issues (see the list of founders in Annex 1).

As per its Charter and by-laws, the purpose of Siemenpuu is to:

- Promote environmental protection and defend human rights,
- Advance people's possibilities for political participation and make political decision making more democratic and transparent in the whole world,
- Advocate intercontinental cooperation between civil movements, in particular environmental and alter-globalist ones,
- Deepen the public understanding of the possibilities and limits of civic participation, of building civil society in different parts of the world, and of the impact of institutional funding to the inner dynamics of civil movements, and
- Provide support in particular to social movements, NGOs and research institutes which operate in the Third World and which promote environmental protection, human rights, social justice, the preservation of biological and cultural diversity and/or the democratisation of society, or which help communities in surviving and resisting the negative impacts of globalisation.

To achieve its purpose the Foundation may

- Support foreign NGOs, social movements and research institutes, which work towards similar objectives as the Foundation,
- Conduct information, training, research and publication activities,
- Seek also to achieve its purpose through any activities likely to further it in this pursuit.

## 1.2. MODALITIES OF WORK

Siemenpuu was founded in close cooperation with the Ministry for the Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). The cooperation agreement with the MFA has given Siemenpuu a firm and sustainable basis for its operations since 2001. The current cooperation agreement was signed in 2005.

Two other similar type of foundations were established at the same time with related backgrounds, aims and cooperation with the MFA. The three foundations were formed to enhance the support for civil societies in the global south concerning the cross-cutting issues of Finnish development cooperation: environment, human rights and disabled people's rights. Abilis Foundation for disabled people's rights, KIOS Foundation for human rights, and Siemenpuu for environment. These three foundations are named 'special foundations' in the communications related to the MFA and the programme based support. This term will be used also in this document.

Siemenpuu's modality of work is to grant funds for local initiatives, namely projects planned and implemented by different civil society actors in developing countries. In addition to funding, Siemenpuu provides support to capacity building of the grantees, and enables networking with other actors in the global south and north.

Projects proposals are identified through thematic and geographic funding windows. Siemenpuu has valued geographic and thematic diversity, as well as a variety of the approaches and working methods of its partners. Previous focus areas are described in chapter 1.5, and those for 2018-2021 in chapter 2.5.

All supported projects must also meet Siemenpuu's general criteria for project funding. These criteria will be used to assess the appropriateness of funding the projects and the prerequisites for their success. Partners can be encouraged in developing their plans and activities in the direction of the criteria.

General funding criteria:

- activities aim at improving the state of the environment
- activities aim to strengthen the position of vulnerable groups of people and communities in an environmentally, culturally, economically and politically sustainable manner;
- communities are involved in the definition, design and implementation of activities
- priority will be given to the most needy organizations, networks and movements that operate on and support the grassroots level
- activities aim to improve citizens' opportunities for social participation and to make political decision-making more democratic and transparent
- activities aim to foster the networking and cooperation of civil society actors
- the activity is non-violent
- the activities promote gender equality and the rights of marginalized groups (people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic, religious and sexual minorities)
- activities and results should be replicable, as far as possible, after the end of the project, with local resources and expertise
- the activities involve, where possible, new and innovative approaches
- the recipient organization is formally registered, it has the capacity to manage project support and its internal decision-making should be democratic and equal
- minimum criterion: the project does not particularly accelerate climate change
- minimum criterion: human rights are taken into account in the project design (human rights

sensitive level)

Local ownership is in the core of the activities. However, the applicant organisations are helped, if needed, by questions and comments in developing a strong and effective project plan. Applications are assessed also from a point of view how effectively project promotes cooperation and networking among civil society actors and how well the local communities have participated in setting the objectives, planning and implementation.

### 1.3. RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT

Siemenpuu's results based management system includes several interlinking elements: strategic programme management, grant/project cycle management, monitoring & evaluation, reporting and risk assessment & mitigation. Siemenpuu uses in its RBM a combination of different methods (LFA, Theory of Change, Results Chain and Outcome Mapping).

Results data are presented in the reporting at project, funding scheme and programme levels. M&E findings are used for the improvement of the project cycle management and guidance, calls for proposals as well as for substance-related developments at scheme level.

As challenges in developing the RBM system remain e.g.:

- How to apply RBM effectively to work with complex political objectives and contexts,
- Still to be developed understanding on the RBM for societal change,
- How to aggregate the project information into the funding scheme and programme level,
- How to encourage partners to communicate early needs and signals on concerns.

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#### STRATEGIC PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Strategic programme management is steered by Siemenpuu's Charter and by-laws. Programmatic objectives are defined in the Long-term Action Plan (LTAP, present 2016-2021). The LTAP is operationalised in the multi-year plans (this present document 2018-2021) with aggregated result targets. Activities are further refined and updated in the annual plans and budgets.

Programme level planning has also been supported lately by formal context outlines of the main focus countries. Strategic planning and target setting is also done on the level of the funding schemes (previously named cooperation programmes/clusters).

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#### GRANT/PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

Siemenpuu's project cycle management process:

### Funding decision

- Call for proposal (identification through networks or focused call)
- Local CSO drafts a project proposal on standard form
- Analysis and summary at the Foundation
- Siemenpuu Board's funding decision forwarded to MFA for approval

### Agreement

- Standard form
- Includes responsibilities, financial info, reporting obligations
- Drafted immediately after the approved funding decision

### 1. funding instalment

- Standard 50% of the total grant, in longer projects can be 30 %
- Paid after signing the agreement
- For instance in 2018

### Progress reports

- Implementing CSO writes according to the Foundation's guidelines
- Includes narrative and financial report, and self-financing
- Reviewed at the Foundation, guided by project management practices

### 2. + x. funding instalment

- Standard 40% of the total grant, in longer projects varies according to number of the progress reports demanded
- Paid after approving the progress report
- For instance in 2019

### Final report

- Implementing CSO writes according to the Foundation's guidelines
- Includes narrative and financial report, and self-financing
- Reviewed at the Foundation, guided by project management practices
- Results reported in Siemenpuu's reports

### 3. funding instalment

- Standard 10% of the total grant, in bigger grants can be smaller
- Paid after approving the final report
- For instance in 2020

List of project cycle management tools:

- Concept paper for applicants
- Application form for applicants
- Internal template for summary and assessment of the application
- Project Management and Financial Reporting Manual for partners
- Financial Agreement between Siemenpuu and project partner
- Progress report forms: narrative and financial for partners
- Internal template for summary and assessment of the progress report
- Final report forms: narrative and financial for partners
- Internal template for summary and assessment of the final report

The projects are selected through focused calls for proposals, using the key objectives and criteria as selection tools. The application process has two stages for new applicants: first Concept Papers are submitted, and based on their review, relevant projects are asked to submit the more detailed applications. Previous project grantees are mainly submitting directly a full proposal.

The applicant CSOs, are responsible for project planning, based on the guidelines given in the application form. Ownership of the projects lays with the CSOs applying for funding from Siemenpuu and the applicants/project partners use their own systems for planning and project management. Siemenpuu does not require any specific planning tool or RBM method/system to be applied, but the Siemenpuu's application and reporting forms requires the presentation of planned and achieved results, along with short-term and long-term objectives. Siemenpuu gives guidance to the partners in setting the result targets if needed. These targets are followed and monitored by Siemenpuu throughout the project cycle.

After the funding decision a project agreement is signed, setting responsibilities of the grantee and Siemenpuu, respectively.

Reporting to Siemenpuu is conducted with the standard forms. Usually Siemenpuu releases funds in three instalments, and project partners are required to submit two main reports. These are the progress report and the final report.

The progress reporting includes:

- progress report form with annexes
- financial report form with annexes
- copies of receipts and a categorised list of receipts OR an auditor's report

The final reporting includes:

- final report form with annexes
- financial report form with annexes
- auditor's report (original hard copy must be sent to Siemenpuu)
- copies of all the materials produced in the project (posters, leaflets, books, videos, etc.)

The project must have a minimum of 10 % self-financing share counted from the Siemenpuu grant. The self-financing can be cash contributions, voluntary work and donated materials and services. Other donor funding or local public funding may not be included in self-financing. The origin of the self-financing needs to be reported to Siemenpuu. Auditor should be able to include a statement

about the self-financing in the auditor's report. The interest gains of Siemenpuu grant need to be used for the current project activities. The final instalment is a refund. The final instalment is paid after the final reporting (including audit report with the verification of project expenses) is approved by Siemenpuu.

In Siemenpuu, the reports are reviewed based on internal assessment templates. Siemenpuu combines the info and data collected during the whole project cycle (from the grantee, during the monitoring visits by Siemenpuu, and information received through the networks) in the process of assessing the results of the projects.

Most of the data is collected also into Siemenpuu's project database.

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## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Apart from the standard reports, Siemenpuu's monitoring includes informal communication and monitoring visits. Extensive guidelines for monitoring and monitoring visits are in use (see Annex 2), which set also the following objectives for the monitoring:

- Helping and supporting. Monitoring the implementation of the project and supporting the partner CSO in the implementation of the project, e.g. identifying potential problems. Support may be informative or functional (e.g. helping with reporting and financial monitoring or information and advocacy/communication in Finland).
- Checking and monitoring. Finding out if the project management and functions went as planned and reported. Prevention of abuse.
- Knowledge acquisition, learning and communication. Deeper understanding of project implementation and impacts. Also, the impact of project financing on the implementing organization and the operating environment. Communicating projects and, more generally, lessons of cooperation, especially to Finnish society.
- Evaluation of the project. Were the goals met? Would there have been room for improvement in implementation? What are the results (compare indicators, if set for the project)? What are the longer-term effects that can be observed or expected? What are the project's lessons for Siemenpuu?
- Risks and their management. A more in-depth understanding of the various threats that may affect the implementation of the project, or the disadvantages potentially following from the implementation of the project. How the CSO implementing the project is prepared for different risks? Have unexpected / undesirable effects followed, or could these follow, from the activities? How can Siemenpuu support mitigating these risks?
- Developing the cooperation. Identifying potential opportunities for further co-operation between the project implementer and the Siemenpuu.
- Networking. Improving networking with other organizations and actors who work on similar themes. Bringing different parties to cooperate with each other.

Siemenpuu conducts external evaluations and self-assessment processes, especially on funding scheme level. All conducted evaluations are published on Siemenpuu's website. In addition, grantees are encouraged to carry out their own self-assessments and external evaluations.

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## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

The risks associated with the programme relate in particular to project funding: the operating environments, activities, or to the implementing organisations. All projects supported by Siemenpuu have potential risks, and also high-risk projects can be funded, if seen important. Siemenpuu has developed internal guidelines for risk assessment and mitigation (see Annex 3) and a matrix of risk factors and responses (Annex 4 Risk Matrix).

In short, the risk management system for funding schemes and project funding is based on the project management system of the entire project cycle. When assessing the application and preparing the funding decision, different risks and their likelihood and severity is assessed. At this point it is assessed if additional measures, in addition to normal project monitoring, are required to minimize the likelihood of risk being realized. When taking the funding decisions, the Siemenpuu Board decides which risks are acceptable and whether the monitoring plan is sufficient.

Some of the countries where Siemenpuu operates are very risky for CSOs, either due to political unrest (e.g. Mali) or shrinking space for the civil society (e.g. India). On the other hand, continuing funding for civil society in these countries is important in order to avoid the threatening scenarios.

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## REPORTING

In Siemenpuu's annual reports, data from approved final reports of projects in that year are reported and aggregated in the funding scheme and programme levels. More extensive aggregations of results of the finalised projects are done after each programme period when results are assessed against the set targets for the period.

Results data is supplemented with case stories that are used especially in Siemenpuu's communications.

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## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and approves the strategies and key documents, the annual and long-term targets and provides management guidance. The Office is responsible for implementation, including M&E and reporting. Working groups give guidance on thematic issues and projects. See following chapter 1.4 for more details.

## 1.4. ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Directors manages and represents Siemenpuu. It directs strategic planning and activities, sets guidelines, oversees the implementation of the annual action plans and budget, makes project-funding decisions and bears employer responsibilities and recruits permanent staff. Members of the board are selected by the Siemenpuu Council. The board's term of office is one calendar year, and it has approximately ten meetings during a year.

The Council monitors and supports the work of the Foundation. Each of the 15 founding organisations of Siemenpuu (see Annex 1 for list of the founders) has the right to appoint one member to the council. The council's term of office is two calendar years. An annual meeting is held in October-December. The main responsibility of the council is to select the board of directors, chairperson and the auditors. When electing the members of the board, it is pursued that both of the genders are represented.

The Siemenpuu office has currently five permanent full or part-time employees: a director, two programme coordinators, a programme and communications coordinator and a financial officer. The Siemenpuu office administers projects funded by the Foundation. It implements annual action plans within budgetary limits, is in charge of organisational development of Siemenpuu and represents Siemenpuu towards the public together with representatives of the executive board. The current staff of Siemenpuu has a strong experience in the fields of environment, development and in CSOs.

The work of the office and the executive board is supported by several working groups involving board and council members and other voluntary experts and activists mainly from the founding organisations. The board-appointed working groups act as guidance and action groups for the funding schemes. They prepare country and scheme-specific issues to be decided upon by the Foundation board and have an active role in monitoring and developing the funding schemes, as well as in communications, in support of the office and the board. The groups have limited decision-making power. Each group convenes approximately 4 to 10 times per year, according to its own schedule. Apart from the board-appointed members, the groups have other members who receive information on the activities of the Foundation and take part to the group activities, but they are formally not responsible in the decision making of the group.

Siemenpuu organises yearly joint weekend planning retreats for board, council, working group members and staff. The role of the volunteers is remarkable in Siemenpuu.

Siemenpuu has detailed administrative and financial management guidelines including staff policies.

## 1.5. RESULTS & LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE EARLIER WORK

Since Siemenpuu started funding CSOs' work in Asia, Africa and Latin America in 2002, it has granted funding to almost 600 projects. Until 2006 there were no sub-programmes, but a general application window for environmental proposals. The fully open application window resulted in an unmanageable number of proposals and heavy workload for both the Foundation and the CSOs drafting the proposals. In order to restrict the number of project proposals received, and to better focus Siemenpuu's support, eight cooperation programmes, or funding windows, were established between 2006 and 2013. Occasionally, focused application windows have also been opened outside the programmes. Siemenpuu's founding organisations have had the opportunity to suggest projects to be funded too.

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## MAIN RESULTS WITHIN THE EIGHT SUB-PROGRAMMES 2010-2016

### Global Dialogue for Good Living

Several distinct dialogue processes have been fostered within the sub-programme. The Global Forest Coalition has gathered forest communities' experiences and views on community-based conservation on different continents and relayed these views to the international fora on biodiversity, climate and forestry. The involved communities' ability to face threats and present their community-based alternatives has grown, leading to local and national level advocacy on their rights. In Zimbabwe and Mozambique the small-scale farmers' movement has exchanged experiences on biodiverse agroecological farming and managed to hinder some threats related to peasant seed rights. Among the Focus on the Global South network in Asia dialogue on community traditions and values has taken place and the outcomes have inspired advocacy work in favour of more sustainable development models. In Cambodia Siemenpuu's support played a crucial role as Mother Nature and the local communities succeeded in stopping the hydropower dam project in the Areng Valley, which would have destroyed unique ecosystems and displaced the local communities.

### Indonesia: Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use

Grantees, such as the Jikalauhari network in Sumatra, have campaigned for community land rights and against illegal land grabbing and logging. As a result, local communities have gained formal recognition over their forest rights and possibilities for sustainable livelihoods related to non-timber forest products have been improved. Corruption cases affecting the forest conservation measures have been brought up by the CSOs. Between 2010 and 2015, with Siemenpuu's direct support, over 10,000 hectares of forest land was protected with community based arrangements. Logging and clear-cutting was avoided in even larger areas. In Riau, Siemenpuu's partners have played a key role in the political process that has led to over a million hectares of avoided deforestation over the past years. In 2016 nearly 1,000 hectares of traditional lands of the Dayak people were mapped in order to clarify land tenure relations and advance community forest conservation. Forest conservation in general, and avoidance of peat swamp forest draining in particular, has contributed to climate change mitigation. With Siemenpuu's support, some Indonesian CSOs have founded a national network of organisations working on mangrove conservation.

### India: Adivasi Peoples' Rights

Through community level work by National Adivasi Alliance (NAA) member organisations, the tenure rights and forest conservation schemes of the indigenous communities, the Adivasi, have been strengthened. The grantees', such as the Adivasi Samta Manch in Chattisgarh and the Devote Trust in Odisha, work relies on the Adivasis' traditional, forest dependent livelihoods and cultures. With Siemenpuu's support, tens of thousands of Adivasi families have gained recognition of their rights to their traditional areas. In 2016 alone, at least 27,000 hectares of forest and farmland was registered to the Adivasi families and communities with the facilitation and other support from NAA network members. Simultaneously, their awareness on the Forest Rights Act based rights, self-determination and community governance of land and natural resources have strengthened through capacity-building. In addition, the Adivasi leadership and sense of shared Adivasi identity has been vitalised.

### India and Nepal: South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy

In India, the SADED network has developed an ecological democracy model, in which the foundations for decision-making and governance related to community environments are

strengthened in an ecologically and socially sustainable way – taking into account also the most excluded people. Many actors within and outside of India have adopted the model and developed it further. For instance the Harit Swaraj action groups have advanced local democracy in India. SADED has also contributed with inputs to important national networks on climate, sustainable agriculture and health. In Nepal strengthening of democracy from local to national level has taken place through national dialogues, and ecological sustainability of post-earthquake reconstruction has been enhanced.

#### India: Food Sovereignty in Tamil Nadu

A network of organic farmers and local NGOs, JASuL (Joint Action for Sustainable Livelihoods), was founded by Siemenpuu's support in the state of Tamil Nadu. Conservation of water resources, use of organic pest control and soil improvement methods, as well as native seed varieties has increased in climate change affected areas in Tamil Nadu due to Siemenpuu's support. Small-scale farmers' crops have improved and farming costs have decreased. Small-scale fishermen have been re-granted their traditional tenure rights to some fishing areas. The Food Sovereignty in Tamil Nadu sub-programme ended in 2016. Between 2003 and 2016 the 86 projects supported by Siemenpuu in Tamil Nadu reached at least 180,000 beneficiaries and the activities gained vast publicity in local media.

#### Latin America: Community Based Forest Conservation and Agricultural Biodiversity

In the Brazilian Amazon region the gatherer and indigenous peoples' movements, CNS and COIAB, have defended their traditional areas extending currently to approximately 60 million hectares of gatherer conservation units and 115 million hectares of indigenous reserves. During 2010-2014 one new federal gatherer reserve was established in the Amazon region, whereas in 2016 gatherers received 2.6 million hectares of new gatherer unit titles. During 2010-2016 46 existing gatherer reserves received their user permits.

Alianza Biodiversidad has, together with the small-scale farmers' movement, brought to discussion environmental impacts of the industrial agriculture and demonstrated the benefits of diverse small-scale farming. Increased knowledge and dialogue have strengthened the women led small farmers' movement striving for food sovereignty in nine Latin American countries. For instance the biodiversidadla.org website has reached approximately 400,000 annual visitors.

#### Mali: Environmental Protection and Awareness in the Sikasso Region

Along with Mali Folkecenter Nyetaa's work, a hopeful atmosphere has arisen in the Sikasso Region, and causes of environmental pollution, such as large-scale logging, chemical based cotton farming and gold mining have been identified and CBOs empowered to address these problems. Simultaneously, environmentally friendlier livelihoods and more sustainable management of commons have been developed. Siemenpuu's support has led to the establishment of a regional decision-makers' network to tackle local problems caused by mining activities. Three capacity-building centres gather and relay best practices of rural environmental work and enable peer learning related to sustainable livelihoods.

#### The Mekong Region: Sustainable Energy Policies

Siemenpuu's support has led to the establishment of the Mekong Energy and Ecology Network, which focuses on energy issues in the region. It has increased the debate on energy issues and brought along new actors to promote sustainable energy production and consumption patterns. Local CSOs aim to prevent conflicts of interest and abuse related to energy investments by

demanding transparency. Recently the network has increased its focus on Myanmar, where for instance the inhabitants of 40 villages along the River Salween have become empowered through a community based environmental impact assessment process, and have started advocating on local energy decision-making.

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## LESSONS LEARNT

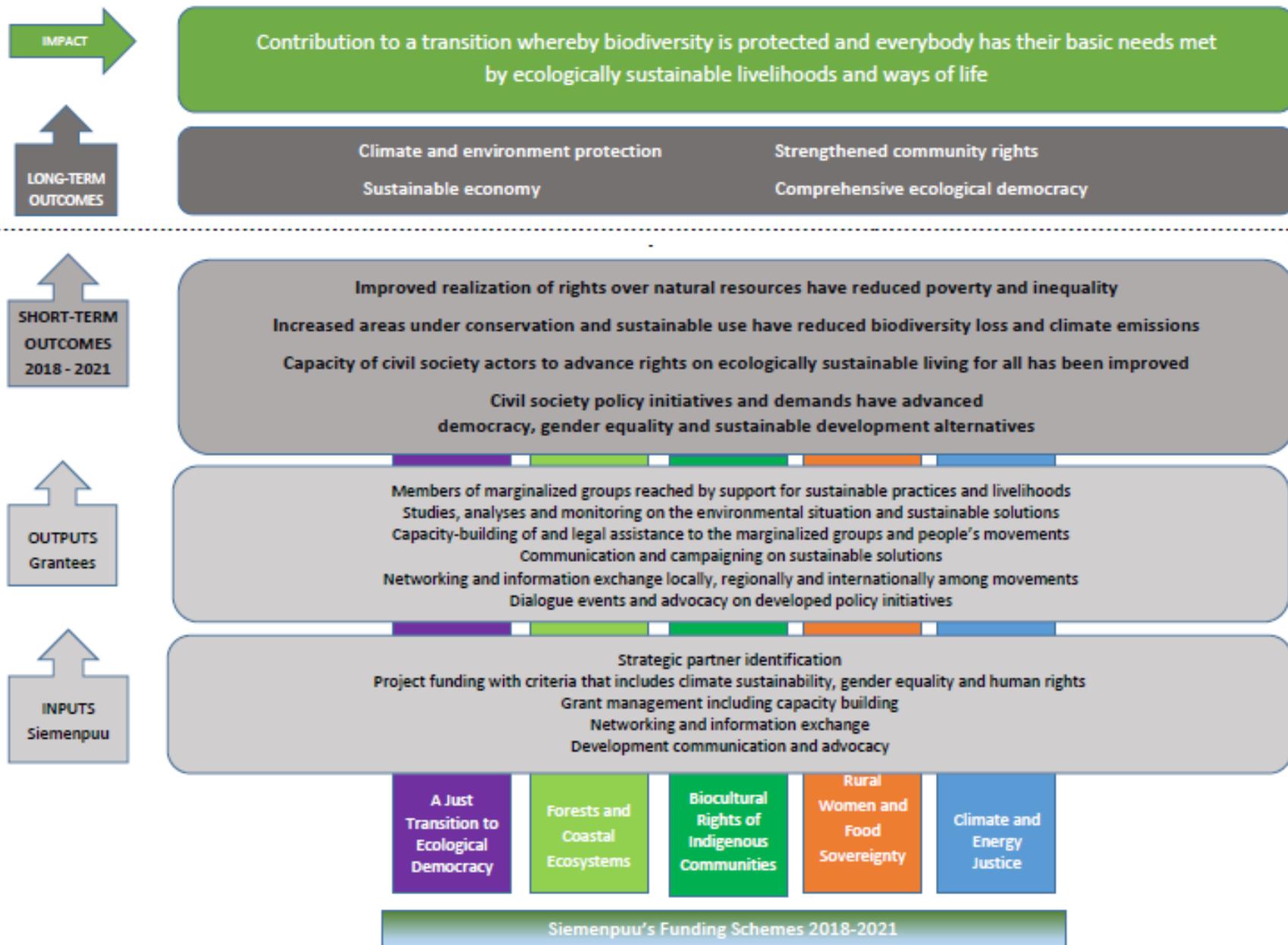
Through the experiences gained by supporting projects of the African, Asian and Latin American CSOs, Siemenpuu has deepened its understanding on how complex and intertwined the development and environmental challenges are, let alone their interconnected nature on local, national and global levels. Consequently, it is important to tackle the problems from various angles simultaneously to reach the root causes. These angles include the protection of climate and environment, community and human rights, gender equality, sustainable economy and ecological democracy. The wide-ranging interests and expertise provided by Siemenpuu's founding organisations also support this view, as well as the need to provide the Finnish society with insights from a truly global perspective.

Experiences from the funded projects feed to planning processes, especially to processes of partner identification, which leads to improved efficiency.

## 2. PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME 2018-2021

### 2.1. THEORY OF CHANGE

Previously, most of the elements of Siemenpuu's theory of change have been visible in the planning documents, but not explicitly as a comprehensive visualisation and narrative. In preparation of the programme 2018-2021 Siemenpuu has developed a more formal Theory of Change, to track the pathways to desired change. It (as the overall results framework) will be tested and further refined with the evidence and experiences gained by end of 2018 (see chapter 2.3).



Siemenpuu contributes to the aim of the Finland's development policy to support developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality and promote sustainable development. The overall goal of Siemenpuu's programme is to make a contribution to a transition whereby biodiversity is protected and everybody has their basic needs met by ecologically sustainable livelihoods and ways of life. In order to reach this impact, Siemenpuu has identified four long-term outcomes it aims to contribute to:

1. Environmental improvements: Mass extinction of species, growing concentration of greenhouse gases and pollution of the environment have slowed down through decisive multi-stakeholder action.
2. Strengthened community rights: Displacement and dispossession of indigenous and other rural communities has slowed down or been prevented through the recognition of international and nationally legislated rights to sustainable living.
3. Sustainable economy: Unsustainable extractivist practices have been replaced, especially in key sectors, such as food and energy by economic systems that are based on solidarity and ecologically sustainable governance of the commons, especially in key sectors such as food and energy provisioning.
4. Comprehensive ecological democracy: The undesirable trend of increasingly authoritarian governance has been reversed to flourishing, comprehensive and participatory democracy respecting environmental limits by broad popular movement efforts.

During the programme period 2018-2021 Siemenpuu aims at enabling change, in the communities and environments where its grantees are working, as steps towards the long-term outcomes. The intended short-term outcomes are in four categories: communities' rights over natural resources, conservation and sustainable use of the areas, capacity of the civil society to protect, defend and advance rights for sustainable living and policy level changes advancing sustainable alternatives.

Intended outputs are produced by the activities of the Siemenpuu's grantees supported through funding, capacity building, networking and communication work.

There are a number of assumptions underlying the connections.

From short term outcomes to long term outcomes:

- Civil society is a key driver of social change in all societies.
- Governments are accountable to the civil society.
- Strengthened rights of the marginalized communities over the natural resources contribute to the environmental improvements.
- Human rights based approach is essential in solving complex development and environmental problems.
- Local communities have a shared interest to sustainable use of the local natural resources
- Leaving planetary well-being to the market and financial instruments has shown to produce ambiguous outcomes. Sustainable solutions are after all locally based.

From outputs to short term outcomes:

- The interests and aims of the intended beneficiaries (communities and their members) and the CSOs supported by Siemenpuu coincide. Therefore both contribute their time and energy into the joint efforts.
- Operating environment is favourable to the interventions, i.e. there is at least some alignment in the stated objectives for rights to sustainable living and environmental protection among the powers-to-be that have influence on the communities at stake.

From inputs to outputs:

- Civil societies in developing countries require strengthening with global solidarity and external support.
- Siemenpuu receives through its networks sufficient high-quality applications from competent organisations.
- Siemenpuu's grant making process (including criteria and decision making) leads to projects with high relevance, efficiency and impacts.

## 2.2. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The overall results framework below presents the aggregated indicators developed to measure the success of the programme and the result targets up to the end of 2021.

The aggregated indicators are still more inclined towards measuring the outputs than really measuring the change created at the outcome level. They measure and highlight more the possibility of change. As such, these indicators should be interpreted as a measure indicating on which direction the programme is going, and final results should be accompanied with an analysis to interpret the results.

Some of these aggregated indicators were tested in the Siemenpuu programme reporting of 2016, and it highlighted also some of the limits involved. Results rising from the projects in 2016 include a remarkable amount (over 4 million hectares) of land areas brought under conservation and sustainable use. It is worth noting that Siemenpuu's grantees did not do this only by themselves, as this kind of decisions involve many stakeholders and usually years of advocacy. However, the grantees contributed intensively to this. The exact role of Siemenpuu's support of this result is impossible to establish in precise numbers. In the 2016 case, also the sustainability of the results is out of the direct influence of Siemenpuu's partners. For example, the current government in Brazil has weakened many environmental policies and related public institutions, and therefore has created a very challenging environment for the indigenous and gatherer peoples to achieve further improvements towards their objectives or even to maintain these areas protected. In addition, forest conservation contexts vary between regions and countries. Using a simple number of hectares under conservation as a programme indicator makes it very difficult to describe the unique characteristics of each conserved hectare.

Siemenpuu aims in 2018-2021 to fund between 25-40 new projects and 30 projects that have started before 2018. These projects are initiated, planned and implemented by the CSOs in global south. Project proposals will be received through the five thematic funding schemes, and assessed against the funding schemes priorities and the general funding criteria. However, funding decisions should not be guided by the easiness of reporting by the selected indicators, but the potential of long-lasting results.

Also to be noted that the outcome level is not in the direct sphere of influence for Siemenpuu, but property of the grantees.

Siemenpuu's results frame is built on four overall goals with several sub-goals that aim at improvements in the global South and are shared by all five funding schemes. First of them targets at positive impacts on the lives of the people whom the Siemenpuu supported CSOs interact with. Second one deals with the natural environment where the CSOs supported by Siemenpuu contribute

to improvements in biodiversity and climate protection. Third one relates to the capacity of the local CBOs and other CSOs that grow due to the support of Siemenpuu. Fourth one addresses policy level where Siemenpuu's support enable NGOs and other CSOs to make initiatives and demands that have positive impact on policies and practices of states and other formal actors. Lastly, fifth overall goal is set for the information advocacy work where the primary audiences are the Finnish public and policy makers.

Results framework (and the Theory of Change) will be tested and further refined with the evidence and experiences gained during the first years of the programme period 2018-2021 (see chapter 2.3).

## RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR SIEMENPUU 2018-2021

### Baseline

Indicators and result targets are presented here without explicit baselines because Siemenpuu's modality as a funder for initiatives from south does not reasonably allow numeric baseline studies to be made. In some project applications baseline information may be included, but they will come only in the course of the programme implementation.

### Means of verification

Data to measure the results is collected in goals 1-4 from the standard reports the projects, backed with other communication and monitoring, including occasional visits to the project areas and evaluations.

### Key for the funding schemes

A = Just Transition to Ecological Democracy, B = Forests and Coastal Ecosystems, C = Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities, D = Rural Women and Food Sovereignty, E = Climate and Energy Justice

### **Overall Goal 1: Poverty and inequality have decreased in the supported communities due to improved realization of rights over bio-cultural heritage, natural resources, food security and sustainable energy**

| Sub-goal | Short-term outcome  | Means/activities  | Targeted result                             | Indicator   | Funding schemes |
|----------|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 1.1      | Members of low-income rural communities have received information about their rights to bio-cultural heritage, natural resources, food security and sustainable energy. | Support to activities that provide information to poor women and men and their supporters through meetings, rallies, printed and digital publications and other means.                        | At least 170 000 people reached.            | Number of people who have received useful information because of the supported activities.                    | A, B, C, D, E   |
| 1.2      | Members of low-income rural communities have defended or obtained ownership or users' rights to land and made ecologically sustainable use of them.                     | Support to consultation, legal advice and other interactions. Includes defending areas against land grabbing and making use of provisions in national legislation for land and users' rights. | 35 000 have got direct land related rights. | Number of women and men who have benefited from the acquired individual and community land and tenure rights. | B, C, D         |

|      |   |  |   |   |               |
|------|---|--|---|---|---------------|
| 1.3  | Indigenous communities have documented and obtained rights to their bio-cultural heritage.  | Support to production and use of bio-cultural community protocols and forest rights claims | 20 000 direct beneficiaries.  | Number of women and men who are members of the communities where biocultural rights have been documented. | C             |
| 1.4. | Low-income female and male farmers have got improved access to indigenous seed systems, organic fertilizers and other means of agroecological production.   | Support to advice to and organising of farmers on agroecology and food sovereignty         | 3 000 direct beneficiaries.   | Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities.                                 | D             |
| 1.5  | Low-income households have obtained access to ecologically sustainable energy   | Support to solar electricity installations and other sources of clean energy               | 15 000 direct beneficiaries.  | Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities.                                 | E             |
| 1.6  | Members of low income communities have improved their well-being by improved access to socially and ecologically sustainable livelihood sources, income generating activities, public services and commons. | Combination of the activities presented above.   | Most of the beneficiaries above get the related additional co-benefits. | Qualitative change that can be observed in people's lives.  | A, B, C, D, E |

**Overall Goal 2: Biodiversity loss and climate emissions have reduced in the supported localities due to maintenance and increase of land areas under conservation and sustainable use**

| Sub-goal | Short term outcome  | Means/activities  | Targeted result | Indicator  | Funding schemes |
|----------|---|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| 2.1      | Land areas that are currently designated for conservation or are under ecologically sustainable use are maintained and not converted to | Support to community conservation initiatives and to activities that defend existing sustainable usage and tenure | 50 000 ha       | Hectares of land that have been maintained under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities. | A, B, C         |

|     |   |  |           |  |      |
|-----|---|--|-----------|--|------|
|     | monocultures or infrastructure  | systems of communities.  |           |  |      |
| 2.2 | New forest areas and other important ecosystems are formally included in regimes that maintain or improve their biological diversity and positive carbon balance. | Support to conservation efforts that emphasise on community benefits and responsibilities. | 65 000 ha | Hectares of forest land that have been brought under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities. | B, C |

**Overall Goal 3: Capacity of supported civil society organizations and community groups to advance rights to ecologically sustainable living for all has been improved**

| Sub-goal | Short term outcome   | Means/activities  | Targeted result  | Indicator  | Funding schemes |
|----------|--|---|--|--|-----------------|
| 3.1      | Community based groups and local civil society organisations develop their knowledge and skills relating the rights-based approach to ecologically sustainable well-being and organisational management. | Support to training, mapping, information sharing, exchange-visits, and analysis. | 60 CSOs and thousands of community groups.   | Number of CBOs, informal community and movement groups and civil society organisations that have taken actively part in the project activities and management. | A, B, C, D, E   |
| 3.2      | Women's role in all aspects, including leadership, is increased among the CSOs.  | Support to women-focused approaches and activities.                               | Share of Siemenpuu's support is directed to women-lead or women-focused initiatives. | Number of supported projects that are women-focused and/or women-lead.   | A, B, C, D, E   |

**Overall Goal 4: Democracy, gender equality and sustainable development alternatives are advanced by civil society policy initiatives and popular demands**

| <b>Sub-goal</b> | <b>Short term outcome</b>   | <b>Means/activities</b>  | <b>Targeted result</b>   | <b>Indicator</b>   | <b>Funding schemes</b> |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|------------------------|
| 4.1             | Popular movements and civil society organisations formulate popular demands and policy initiatives to advance the rights to sustainable living.   | Support to CBOs and CSO to formulate and make demands and initiatives (dialogues, workshops, gatherings) | At least 150 policy initiatives and formulations of popular demands.   | Number of initiatives made at any level (local, national, global).   | A, B, C, D, E          |
| 4.2             | CSO demands and initiatives have an impact on policies and practices of institutions that have impact on people's lives (governments, companies etc.)                                     | Support to advocacy and campaigning to pursue the articulated demands and policy initiatives.            | Tens of the demands lead to at least partially to the desired changes. | Number of initiatives that have an impact on policies and practices.                                       | A, B, C, D, E          |
| 4.3             | Issues and perspectives regarding rights to sustainable living are expanded by the CSO discourses, including bio-cultural life heritage, systemic alternatives, ecological democracy etc. | Support to the development of new ideas and discourses.  | Qualitative  | Expanded debates that bring forward new and innovative perspectives as well as forgotten perennial aspect. | A, B, C, D, E          |

**Overall Goal 5: Awareness of Finnish decision makers and public on overconsumption, global environmental challenges and the rights of the poor has increased through Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts.**

| Sub-goal | Short term outcome  | Means/activities   | Targeted result  | Indicator   |                                   |
|----------|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 5.1      | Siemenpuu's work, its results and the issues advocated by its Southern partners have gained publicity and more support for Siemenpuu's work in Finland                                | Updated information on Siemenpuu's work and results on website; active use of social media; publishing and circulating brochures and other printed material; organising discussions and other events; using the media channels of Siemenpuu's founding organisations | 30 000 Finnish citizens reached yearly                       | Number of visitors on Siemenpuu website; followers in facebook and twitter; visibility in media and in publications of founding organisations; participants in Siemenpuu discussions and other events | Communications & information work |
| 5.2      | Finnish people's awareness on environmental problems in the South and negative effects of overconsumption have been increased and they are motivated to act for a sustainable future. | Publishing books/materials on alternative development models and successful grassroots initiatives; facilitating field visits for Finnish students and volunteers; supporting the development information and education work of Siemenpuu's founding organisations   | Thousands of Finnish citizens reached with a personal impact | Reach of Siemenpuu's books; feedback on Siemenpuu's books; number of seminar and other event participants   | Communications & information work |
| 5.3      | Finnish decision and policy makers directly or indirectly influencing the Southern communities and partners have been influenced by Siemenpuu   | Participating the Finnish CSOs joint advocacy work (statements, comments on development policy and country programmes, campaigns); direct communication with politicians, civil servants and corporate representatives   | Key Finnish decision makers have been influenced             | Number of advocacy activities (statements, comments, campaigns); number of meetings with decision makers  | Communications & information work |

## 2.3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Theory of Change and the results framework introduced in the previous chapters will be tested in the first half of 2018 and further developed on the basis of the experiences gathered and comments received. Development of the Theory of Change and the results framework is done in connection with Siemenpuu's continuous development work of the overall results-based management system. In accordance with the terms set in the funding decision of MFA, the relationship between the Theory of Change, the results framework and the funding schemes will be clarified.

In the process the performance of the entire result-based management system will be assessed in relation to the role of Siemenpuu as a funder, the operational strategy and the volume of the activities (number of projects to be funded and resources in the project management). Developing a results framework appropriate for a funder role will be done in cooperation with other special foundations Abilis and KIOS.

In addition, the following questions will be assessed in particular:

- long-term outcomes in the Theory of Change and their link to the results framework
- result-chains of the funding schemes and their link to the results framework
- description of the overall objective of the programme
- impacts, and their assessment, of regional and international networking

Timeframe for this development plan:

- The target values of the results framework have been updated according to the level of the guaranteed funding (Jan-Apr)
- Update of the project management guidelines and forms, part 1: selection criteria and project management forms (Jan-June)
- Adjusting the result targets and plans of the funding schemes according to the level of the guaranteed funding (Feb - Sep)
- Update of the project management guidelines and forms, part 2: guidelines to the project implementers and risk management guidelines (June - Nov)
- Collecting comments from the Siemenpuu-network to the development of the Theory of Change and the results framework (partners, government, working groups, MFA, special foundations, other partners) (Feb →)
- In cooperation with the special foundations (Abilis and KIOS) workshop on result-based management (Sep)
- Internal workshop on result-based management (Oct)
- Approval of the updated Theory of Change and results framework by the Siemenpuu Board of Directors and Council in connection with the approval of the Annual Plan 2019 (Nov)

## 2.4. PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

Siemenpuu's grantees, the partners, are expected to vary also in the programme period from small community organisations to professional NGOs and international networks. Siemenpuu has lately focused project funding on larger and longer-term partnerships with well-established organisations which have strong connections to the grassroots. Smaller, administratively demanding community-based organisations are supported directly, if it is assessed that the use of administrative resources is justifiable.

In the application process, the capacity of the applicant to implement human rights approach and to adhere to the project management requirements of Siemenpuu is assessed.

Beneficiaries of the project funding are expected to be especially the disadvantaged and most marginalized rural communities, and especially women, in the developing countries. Key beneficiaries of funded projects should be communities that are directly dependent on their living environment as a source of their livelihoods and the continuity of their life form. Particular groups of beneficiaries include indigenous peoples and other forest communities in India, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Mekong region, Brazil, and East and West Africa. Many of these groups are threatened by external political and economic interests and environmental change. Climate change, prolonged droughts, abnormal rainfall, increased forest and peat fires, and rising floods caused by rising seas and saltwater have forced communities to explore alternative and complementary sources of income. It is essential to strengthen local people's ability to face these external pressures. Local communities are empowered to claim their right to participate in democratic decision making processes related to their lives. Principal duty-bearers to be addressed are states.

Long-term partnerships are important for lasting results and for managing risks. Thus previous Siemenpuu partners will be considered in the funding decisions, but the continuation of each partnership will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding periods, as well as the quality of the new application.

Siemenpuu together with its founding organisations has built strong thematic networks with the environmental movement and other environmental funders. These networks will be used in identification of new partners and proposals for funding, dissemination of the calls for applications, as well as in monitoring. Founding organisations play also an important part as partners in communications activities.

In the project management and especially in monitoring and evaluations, collaboration will take place with the other Finnish special foundations, and the programme based organisations.

With regards to fundraising deeper cooperation in the program period is foreseen at least with The Christensen Fund and Emmaus Helsinki and with the Climate Fund of the EKOenergy network. All these are also allies in the development of the thematic understanding and communications work.

The most important of these partners and allies are introduced in the presentation of the thematic funding schemes and other activities in the following chapters, and are presented alphabetically in Annex 5.

## 2.5. RELEVANCE TO THE AGENDA 2030 AND FINLAND'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Siemenpuu's goals and practices strongly support the **Agenda 2030** and are directly linked to many of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The realization of the SDGs requires the full implementation of the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change as well as the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The activities of the Siemenpuu support in particular the implementation of these agreements and the SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17.

These goals are an important part of Siemenpuu's project selection criteria. All of the five funding schemes are based on the objectives of: (1) ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; (5) achieving

gender equality and empower all women and girls; (10) reducing income inequality within and among countries (13) taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; (15) protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; and (17) strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership.

Additionally, goal 12 ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns is at the heart of a just transition funding scheme; Goal 2: ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture is the key for the rural women and food sovereignty scheme; Goal 7 ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy applies directly to the climate and energy justice funding scheme.

According to the draft report of the CSO3 evaluation draft commissioned by the MFA, the special foundations (Siemenpuu, KIOS, Abilis) are in general very well aligned with MFA and of **Finland's development policy** priorities, but there are still some areas where improvements can be made in terms of country alignment and cross cutting objectives (CCOs). During this programme period, Siemenpuu improves this coherence by, for example, communicating more actively with the ministry units and Finnish embassies, and by increasing support for the strengthening of women's rights.

With regard to Finland's development policy priorities, Siemenpuu's activities focus most closely on "Food security, access to water and energy, and sustainable use of natural resources" Also the focus theme "Democratic and better-functioning societies" is central to Siemenpuu's programme. All funded projects will promote at least one of the priority areas.

Siemenpuu's efforts with rural communities will also reduce the pressures for out-migration as livelihood opportunities and quality of life improves in the villages through better access to the basic rights.

## 2.6. FUNDING SCHEMES 2018-2021

During 2018-2021 Siemenpuu aims to fund between 25-40 new projects and 30 projects that have started before 2018. These projects are initiated, planned and implemented by CSOs in the global south. This new phase makes powerful use of the unique expertise of the Foundation in identifying and funding exceptional civil society groups in the global South that at the same time improve living conditions of marginalised communities and take care of the natural environment. Project proposals will be received through five thematic funding schemes:

- A. A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy
- B. Forests and Coastal Ecosystems
- C. Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities
- D. Rural Women and Food Sovereignty
- E. Climate and Energy Justice

Each funding scheme has its own rationale and will help Siemenpuu in its most important task - identifying civil society organisations and projects that advance the right to sustainable living and protect the environment. All funding schemes are not focused geographically. However, over half of the projects are expected to be funded in six countries: Brazil (Amazonia), India (after 2019 not with funds from MFA if not agreed separately), Indonesia, Mali, Myanmar and Nepal. Siemenpuu has a

long experience and extensive networks in these countries. See country context outlines of these six countries in Annex 6.

These five funding schemes have been developed on the basis of the experiences gained from the cooperation programmes (or clusters) in place in the previous programme periods. There is a clear continuum on the themes and partners, but the selected schemes contain also new initiatives and areas.

The funding schemes have been developed to facilitate better results orientation, as well as capacity building and networking with and among the partners. However, there has been a clear need to continue operating in several themes and regions. This is supported by the wide-ranging interests and expertise provided by Siemenpuu's founding organisations. During this programme period 2018-2021 Siemenpuu will continue to be able to provide insights to the Finnish society from a global perspective, which is needed when searching solutions to complex development and environment problems.

The schemes operationalise the provisions set in Siemenpuu's strategic document 'Long-term Action Plan 2015-2021' (LTAP). It was approved in 2015, a couple of months before the drastic cuts of the development funding by the Finnish Government. These cuts affected also Siemenpuu, and the operationalisation of LTAP slowed down remarkably. It is only now with the new plan for programme 2018-2021 that targets set in LTAP for increasing the funding to the LDC countries and addressing gender equality can be fully promoted.

The schemes have been developed and will be operated in close interaction between them. It is expected that several funded projects will share the objectives of more than one funding scheme, reflecting a search for root causes in complex and intertwined development and environment problems. This is most evident between 'Forests and Coastal Ecosystems' and 'Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities', as they address similar challenges of forest conservation and sustainable development of forest dependent communities from different angles. Objectives and many other aspects of the expected funded projects are similar, but in 'Forests and Coastal Ecosystems' the starting point is globally important tropical forest ecosystems, and in 'Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities' the biocultural rights of the indigenous forest communities. Both of them will ultimately contribute to strengthened biodiversity protection of forests.

The funding schemes are presented below with related operating environments, justifications and approaches in identifying the proposals.

It is estimated that for the funding schemes the share of the use of the budget (only programme-based support, does not include the other funding sources) for the project funding in 2018-2021 is tentatively following:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| A. A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy           | 13 % |
| B. Forests and Coastal Ecosystems                      | 25 % |
| C. Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities | 21 % |
| D. Rural Women and Food Sovereignty                    | 17 % |
| E. Climate and Energy Justice                          | 24 % |

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## A. A JUST TRANSITION TO ECOLOGICAL DEMOCRACY

In this funding scheme support is directed to promote civil society spaces to discuss, develop and present societal ideas and systemic alternatives locally and globally. Concepts of just transition and ecological democracy provide guiding frameworks for such interactions. Just transition refers to the desire of making the ecologically necessary changes, such as phasing out of fossil fuel use, in a manner that promotes at the same time employment and social protection. Ecological democracy describes in brief the key elements of the desirable society; a short hand for ecologically sustainable, politically democratic and socially egalitarian community and a world system. Through the supported projects, popular movements and other civil society actors will develop common understanding and articulation to promote, inter alia, spaces for self-governance with ecologically sound production and livelihood systems.

This funding scheme is not geographically oriented.

### Operating environment and justification

The sustainable development goals and the Agenda 2030 encourage also civil society actors to work on a systemic level and address the root causes for the environmental and social problems that the world is facing. Among civil society actors there is a clear need for developing systemic alternatives to the current undesirable trends. It will not be sufficient to work on any or even on all of the sustainable development goals separately, but there also has to be action that contributes simultaneously to all the goals.

Siemenpuu believes that part of its efforts need to be directed to work that analyses the drivers of the major problems and works out policy proposals and democratic demands that would transform the negative trends into positive ones. On the ground there is a lot of resistance to developments that would displace communities from their sustainable livelihoods and destroy valuable natural ecosystems. Many a times they have been successful in cancelling or altering such developments. However, if global aggregate demand for natural resources continues to increase, such defensive outcomes will only put more pressure to other locations. Therefore it is necessary to address also the global demand and the development model that consumes ever more natural resources.

This will be best done in a dialogic process where civil society groups and popular movements are at the centre stage. In this empowering process there is an important role for researchers and intellectuals who can bring in deep understanding and clear articulation of the complex issues. Understandings regarding destructive structures of globalised over-consumption needs to be coupled to local understandings on how communities can live, defend and sustain the life of their locality. Economic actors from the spheres of cooperative and solidarity economy are thus crucial but cooperation with political leaders and officials who have experience on how the web of power relations work in societal change is also needed.

Siemenpuu has experience in supporting this kind of action, but in this programme period this will be developed to a specific funding scheme, A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy, in order to gain better results.

The phrase 'a just transition to ecological democracy' describes the popular demand for an equitable transformation of the society to address the current ecological and development crisis. The dialogues between environmental and labour movement has created the just transition approach for transition to an ecologically sustainable society in a way that promotes at the same time

employment and other social benefits. Ecological democracy as a goal of the just transition presents the environmental angle of the idea of comprehensive democracy that incorporate all aspects of life (political, cultural, economic, social, gender and ecological) into one framework. A shift to ecological democracy would be a great leap forward from the current system, where elected representatives have only a limited scope because of the disproportionate power of the 'markets'.

Siemenpuu's partners have been spearheading civil society efforts in working out sustainable development alternatives. In South Asia the work has centred on the idea of comprehensive democracy (*swaraaj*) with a special emphasis on ecological democracy. In Latin America there has been focused effort on making a good life for all (*buen vivir, vivir bien*) the central societal objective instead of more narrow ideas such as economic growth. The World Social Forum events and process have been a central place where such ideas have been developed and cross-fertilised for joint actions, and have for instance supported movement building around the envisioning of other more socially and ecologically just economic paradigm building as that of solidarity economy and the commons. As an initiative from the Global South (namely Brazil) it has played a crucial role in democratising civil society debates and global goal setting. There have been many concrete off-shoots from the forum, such as the Tax Justice Network. CSOs in societies and communities where basic needs are met with an acceptable ecological footprint are well placed to articulate relevant demands related to ecological democracy and to guide the over-consuming sections of global society to a sustainable pathway.

With this funding scheme such efforts are intensified and the needed coordination and cooperation between the different initiatives is promoted.

#### Approach

Funding is directed to projects concerning ideas and alternatives for a systemic change both on global and local level.

Project proposals will be identified through calls for applications and with the help of the cooperation and networks build with the organisations such as EDGE Funders Alliance, Focus on Global South, Transnational Institute, European Commons Assembly process, RIPESS international Solidarity economy network and the World Social Forum process.

This funding scheme is not geographically oriented. However, given the long positive experience with the South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED India and SADED Nepal) Siemenpuu has developed expertise in movements promoting ecological democracy in the region. A focused call for applications will be organised to promote initiatives in the Least Developed Countries, especially in those countries where Siemenpuu already has good networks.

Previous Siemenpuu partners will be considered, but the continuation of each partnership will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding period, as well as the quality of the new application.

If resources allow, a special call for applications to groups and movements in the LDC and fragile countries to participate in the World Social Forum process will be made.

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## B. FORESTS AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

In this funding scheme the conservation of forest and coastal ecosystems is promoted in ways that are socially sustainable and respect the rights of indigenous and other forest-dependent communities. The general objective is to promote practices and the implementation of laws and policies that prevent deforestation and degradation of natural resources, and which advance community rights to sustainable livelihoods.

In the beginning of the programme phase, the geographical focus areas are located in Indonesia and the Brazilian Amazon region, involving tropical rainforests, peat swamp forests, mangroves, as well as seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. New partners are also sought at least from one LDC country.

### Operating environment and justification

Saving the remaining tropical forests and coastal ecosystems is of utmost importance due to the remarkable carbon stocks and unique biodiversity that they hold, livelihood opportunities and cultural basis that they provide, as well as for the intrinsic value of nature itself. In Indonesia and Brazil alone, despite many positive commitments and measures taken to halt deforestation, about 1.3 million hectares of forests have been lost annually during the recent years. This has mainly been due to logging, conversion of land to pulp and palm oil production, grazing and other anthropogenic stressors. The decrease of carbon stocks bound in peat swamp forests and other tropical rainforests has taken Indonesia and Brazil among the world's leading carbon dioxide emitters. Halting these emissions is a crucial step in the fight against climate change. Also coastal ecosystems continue to degrade at an alarming rate. In Indonesia, for example, between 30 and 40% of mangroves and seagrass beds have been lost in recent decades, mainly due to pollution, coastal development, large-scale fish and shrimp farming, destructive fishing methods, land reclamation and sedimentation as a result of deforestation.

This funding scheme builds on Siemenpuu's previous work in supporting projects by organisations that promote the conservation of tropical forests in the Brazilian Amazon and Indonesia. In both of these countries during the past decades there have been positive policy developments for the establishing of forest areas designated for conservation and sustainable use. Siemenpuu has supported both advocacy for such policy developments as well as capacity building for the local CSOs and CBOs to be establishing the areas.

In **Brazil**, the Amazonian gatherer movement, first identified merely as rubber tappers, started demanding the establishment of gatherer reserves in 1985. In their vision the reserves represented an ecological agrarian reform to satisfy the needs of a discriminated, forest dependent population, which would guarantee the conservation of the forest. Today the gatherers still aim to live free of oppression and gain a sustainable livelihood by making use of the non-timber forest products. Gatherer reserves of distinct categories currently extend to approximately 60 million hectares in the Brazilian Amazon, but there are land tenure demands by gatherers reaching 100 million hectares. In addition to the land tenure demands, granting of user permits, development of forest management plans, resolving third party interests and enhancing the gatherer livelihoods are priority demands of the gatherer movement in a national context where environmental concerns are rapidly declining in priority.

In **Indonesia**, Siemenpuu has supported environmental CSOs in activities related to conservation of

carbon-rich peat swamp forests and other rainforests, rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, and sustainable livelihoods through over 60 projects in since 2003. Much of the support has been directed to campaigning and monitoring work in Riau province in Sumatra, where Siemenpuu's support has contributed to preserving large peatland forest areas from being logged and converted into plantations.

According to an external evaluation, Siemenpuu's support in Riau during 2010-2016 enabled the local partners to create good contacts with legal enforcers and state institutions which were needed to enforce laws on forest crimes, notably regarding illegal logging and corruption. As a result of the research and monitoring carried out by the partners, several former governors and district heads have been sentenced to long jail terms for forestry-related corruption, which has then contributed to a change of behaviour of the local government officers in granting forest licenses to companies. Siemenpuu's partners actively participated in processes that eventually led to the moratorium on logging or land clearing licences for 1.25 million hectares of forest area in Riau, effectively preventing clear-cutting in these areas. In other locations in Indonesia, Siemenpuu's support has been vital in promoting community based forest conservation and management through the utilization of social forestry mechanisms (such as *hutan desa* and *hutan adat*), educating and supporting young activists, as well as gaining publicity for diverse issues through media campaigning, short films and other publications. During 2016-2017, support has been targeted also to community based mangrove protection in South Sumatra, West and East Kalimantan and northern Sulawesi through pilot projects. Also a network of CSOs working for mangrove protection has been formed by Forest Watch Indonesia with Siemenpuu's support. Expansion of the network and its advocacy work has been planned for the next programme period.

For more information about the operating environments in focus countries, see Annex 6.

### Approach

Project proposals in this Forests and Coastal Ecosystems scheme will be identified from Brazil, Indonesia and one LDC-country to be identified later by analysing the operating environment and possibilities to advance the programme objectives.

Funding is directed to advocating community based conservation of areas that possess high levels of biodiversity and carbon, i.e. tropical rainforests, peat swamp forests and mangroves. Pilot projects that combine conservation and restoration of mangroves with seagrass and coral reef ecosystems can be started as well. The aim is to find cost-effective and easily repeatable methods that could ultimately be used independently. Also networking and national level campaigning related to these themes will be supported. A specific goal for this programme period is to substantially increase the active participation of women in the project activities and administration, as particularly in Indonesia many CSOs and projects have been male-dominant and not sensitive enough on gender issues.

Networking and information exchange between Siemenpuu's partners in different countries on themes related to issues such as community based forest management, REDD+ and the sustainable use of forest resources will be encouraged. In addition to virtual communication, possibilities will be explored for a joint meeting in some of the project areas or in connection to international conferences, such as the World Social Forum.

Previous Siemenpuu partners will be considered in the funding decisions, but the continuation of

each partnership will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding periods, as well as the quality of the new application.

In the beginning of the programme period, ~~at least~~ one project in Brazil and eight projects in Indonesia that were started in 2016-2017 are still on-going.

In the **Brazilian Amazon**, the focus will be both on advocacy work and the strengthening of the gatherer movement's capacity as a civil society actor. The core advocacy themes include the establishment of new conservation units, granting of user permits for the existing ones, resolving third party involvement, enhancement of gatherer product policies (such as minimum price schemes) and guaranteeing the implementation of tailored public health, education and housing policies within the conservation units. The capacity-building of the gatherer movement includes for instance the training of young leaders, enhancing the involvement of women in decision-making and technical support on a local level related to for instance conservation unit management issues. Project proposals will primarily be called from Siemenpuu's long-time partner Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas (CNS), which is the gatherer peoples' federation.

In **Indonesia**, Siemenpuu directs its support to CSOs that are closely tied to local communities in Sumatra, Borneo and Sulawesi. The call for applications will be done through the networks built during earlier cooperation with emphasis on the Riau province which holds large peat massifs and where the pace of deforestation and peatland conversion has been very high. Influential environmental actors that work on the national level can be supported too, particularly in activities involving advocacy and joint campaigning on forest policies, networking coastal CSOs, as well as educating young activists in environmental work. New partners can be included particularly in themes related to community based conservation of coastal resources. Mangrove forests, seagrass beds and coral reefs form an important ecological link in tropical seas. Mangroves and seagrass beds are a key in providing habitat as well as breeding and spawning grounds for fish. They also contain and bind globally significant amounts of carbon.

#### Beneficiaries and stakeholders

The main beneficiaries of this funding scheme are indigenous and other local communities whose livelihoods depend on the existence and sustainable maintenance of forests and coastal ecosystems. In Indonesia, these involve people practising e.g. rubber tapping, making traditional boats and handicrafts, non-timber forest products collecting, fishing, crabbing and reef gleaning. These people belong to the poorest and marginalized sections of society whose voice is often not heard in decision-making over natural resources, which are converting forest areas to palm oil or pulp plantations, or establishing large-scale fisheries.

Other important stakeholders in Indonesia include local authorities from village to national level, private companies on the forest sector, as well as diverse NGOs and other civil society groups that work with similar themes. Siemenpuu also has a group of senior advisers in Indonesia who can comment on project proposals and strategic decisions on the basis of their long term commitment in pursuing social and environmental justice.

In the Brazilian Amazon Region the beneficiaries consist of traditional gatherer populations living in forest conservation units of distinct sustainable use categories and affiliated to one of CNS' member organisations, or in areas demanded to be established as conservation units by the gatherer

population. The traditional gatherer communities' livelihood consists of rubber tapping, gathering of a variety of fruits and nuts for food and oils, as well as subsistence hunting, fishing and manioc planting.

CNS affiliated conservation units add currently up to approximately 450, hosting a population of approximately 800 000 inhabitants. CNS affiliated member organisations, such as reserve inhabitant associations, gatherer trade unions and cooperatives add up to approximately 800. The support will contribute to building their capacity as civil society. On national level, CNS often joins forces with other indigenous and traditional peoples' movements. These include for instance the national indigenous peoples' alliance APIB, the quilombola and the maritime gatherer reserves' national confederation FONFREM. Federal and state level public institutions in charge of environmental policies, such as the national biodiversity conservation institute ICMBio, are also stakeholders.

#### Siemenpuu's allies

In the focus countries of this funding scheme, information on the supported activities and other relevant issues will be shared with other Finnish actors that work with same themes or areas, such as WWF Finland in Indonesia (and possibly Myanmar). In Indonesia, the realization of the new MoU between Indonesia and Finland on cooperation in forestry and natural resources management will be followed and Siemenpuu may provide some inputs for the cooperation if needed. Finnish embassies and consulates in the focus countries will be visited regularly during the monitoring trips in order to exchange information on the supported activities, state of the civil society and other important themes.

In 2017 Siemenpuu initiated discussions with the Finnish Atmosmare Foundation, particularly in relation to funding new initiatives for seagrass conservation and restoration.

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### **C. BIOCULTURAL RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS FOREST COMMUNITIES**

In this funding scheme the objective is to strengthen the realisation of biocultural rights and forest management capabilities of the indigenous and other forest communities. Biocultural rights recognize community's identity, culture, governance system, spirituality and way of life as embedded in a specific landscape. Through the supported projects, the aim is to strengthen communities' rights to sustainable living with more equal rights to influence decisions which affect them and Earth's life. Aim is also to promote sharing of models for sustainable living nationally and internationally.

Grantees of the scheme consist of indigenous forest communities' own CSOs and CSOs supporting them in South Asia (in India with a clear focus on low-income tribal regions and in Nepal) and Africa (at least in Kenya and Liberia), and more widely through indigenous forest communities' international cooperation.

#### Operating environment and justification

Indigenous people and traditional forest communities are important guardians of world's biodiversity and cultures that maintain it. During past decades this role has been recognized and rights established for the communities to manage the forests and biodiversity, based on the ways

how they understand the biodiversity and forest regeneration.

Even though the international agreements related to the rights of the indigenous people, including biocultural rights, have been widely recognised, and the principles been adopted to the corpus of state legislations, the practical implementation of the laws and commitments quite often turns out to be inadequate.

Without strong and coordinated pressure from the indigenous communities and the civil society the implementation of many relevant laws will remain inadequately resourced and slow. Civil society inputs are required in many fronts: in community capacity-building, in monitoring of the law implementation processes, in advocacy and campaign work, among other things. Unfortunately the space for this kind of politically natured work of CSOs is steadily shrinking around the world.

As the space of local activism around the rights of indigenous people narrows down, and the challenges are globally shared, the success of rights related work needs international support, cooperation, sharing and monitoring.

Biocultural rights are an important and growing approach in protection of biodiversity and indigenous communities. Biocultural rights can be seen as rights of life to its diversity, by which the life of human cultures and life of other living beings on Earth sustain each other. This diversity which the community wants to protect can be expressed through biocultural community protocols through which the communities can assert biocultural community rights as their internationally recognised traditional rights.

The possibilities of the indigenous groups to defend their rights are often limited due to language and cultural reasons, among others. Due to these reasons and mostly peripheral physical locations of indigenous communities, the procedures and discourse of the legal and administrative institutions are not easily available for indigenous people, making them especially vulnerable for rights violations, like displacement, malnourishment and extreme poverty.

As biocultural community rights have much recognised potential but are not yet implemented, documentation and claims on biocultural rights can set out terms and conditions on how states and other stakeholders need to engage with communities taking into account the customary, national and international laws on local rights of communities.

To express communities' life-heritages and to help external stakeholders to understand them better, biocultural community protocols need to be developed through culturally rooted, participatory processes by equal decision-making within the community based on its customary norms, laws and values. To protect biocultural diversity we need to support the ways:

- how diverse indigenous and local cultures have adapted the significance of life in their areas to local environment and its regeneration
- how such cultures can continue sustaining Earth's diversity of life and how they would understand and express the diversity of Earth's life to sustain this diversity.

The funding scheme and scope are built on experiences gained in cooperation with National Adivasi Alliance (NAA) network in India and the funding for projects under Global Dialogue thematic cooperation programme. In 2017 a set of pilot projects were started on biocultural community protocols with additional funding (besides MFA) from the Christensen Fund.

More detailed introduction to the concept of the biocultural rights in the international law in Finnish can be found in Annex 7.

## Approach

Funding is directed to projects concerning internationally and nationally recognised biocultural rights of indigenous and other forest communities as well as international cooperation to fulfil those rights. In the funded projects, the communities will be empowered to defend their rights through community level organising, capacity building and promotion of political participation as well as international cooperation. Most communities targeted are among the most marginalised groups politically, socially and economically.

The key programmatic element common to individual projects will be generation of biocultural community protocols or similar documentation and their utilisation in asserting context specific relevant community rights.

Project proposals in this Biocultural Rights scheme will be identified from India (2018-2019), Nepal, Myanmar or Bangladesh and from one or two African countries. The selection will be based on analysis of the needs, vulnerability and conditions of the indigenous communities and on their possibilities and readiness to defend and save biodiversity of the areas where they live. The support is directed through CSOs that are closely tied to local indigenous forest communities.

The scheme supports communities, whose customary forest use has sustained forest biodiversity and who would have rights to continue to sustain it but whose rights are neglected or threatened. The focus is on women as the main carriers of the communities' sustainable biocultural life-heritage, on their contribution and participation including campaigning and related networking on the enforcement of biocultural community forest rights also between the countries.

Siemenpuu will support the efforts of the communities to raise their demands in the wider consideration also to strengthen the international protection and promotion of these rights. Possibilities to participate to the international conferences will be explored such as the CBD meetings or other forums whose results may impact on biocultural rights and for joint meetings of the partners from different supported countries in context of such international meetings.

The support is provided to indigenous forest communities who face malnutrition and poverty. As they suffer for being deprived of their customary access to forest and its wild plants, roots, fruits, nuts, mushrooms, tubers, herbs, etc. as their source of food and health, we support their rights to forests where they have lived and which they have sustained but which have been increasingly taken away from them.

In India the communities are supported in particular to obtain registered Community Forest Resource areas, management plans and their other rights on forest under the Forest Rights Act to conserve the forests for sustainable use supported by communities' biocultural community protocols. Project proposals are called from several organisations from different states of India who work on these issues in cooperation, brought together on basis of zonal or thematic advocacy.

In Nepal the support is channelled to the forest communities through the community forestry users network similarly based on communities' biocultural heritage. In both countries training for indigenous communities and leaders for the advocacy on these aims is organised by the partners.

In Africa Siemenpuu supports indigenous forest communities' rights and work to sustain the forests where they live on the basis of their biocultural life-heritage and its customary rights of sustainable use and conservation. The support is provided through organisations who channel the efforts of the communities to raise their demands in the wider consideration also to strengthen the international protection and promotion of these rights.

Project proposals will be identified with the help of global networks like Global Forest Coalition, Forest Peoples programme and Friends of the Earth International, as well as the National Adivasi Alliance (NAA) in India. Given Siemenpuu's expertise related to Adivasi forest communities, more project proposals will be identified from India in 2018, for projects to be mainly ending in 2019. Otherwise the funding scheme is not strongly geographically oriented, however, other project proposals will be identified mainly from LDC and OLIC countries.

Previous Siemenpuu partners will be considered, but the continuation of the partnerships will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding period, as well as the quality of new applications.

Belonging to this scheme, there are 10 on-going projects in the beginning of this programme period, based on funding decisions made in 2016 -2017.

#### Beneficiaries and stakeholders

The main beneficiaries are indigenous forest communities whose life has been adapted to living by the regeneration of the biodiverse forests but whose rights and possibilities to continue this life and to save the local biodiversity are threatened. Such displacing processes include conversion of biodiverse forest areas to mines, mono-culture tree-plantations, dams, roads, industries and sanctuary tourism and other commercial purposes by state and private sector actors. The beneficiaries include indigenous communities who get their livelihood by gathering wild plants (roots, fruits, nuts, mushrooms, tubers, herbs, etc.), subsistence cultivation, handicrafts, traditional healing, etc. Particular attention is paid to people belong to the particularly vulnerable, poorest and marginalized sections of society whose voice is often not heard in decision-making over natural resources.

The beneficiaries in India are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) like Kutia, Panga, Baiga, Kotwaliya and Jenukuruba and other indigenous Munda, Gond, Pardhi, Oraon, Bhil and Paliyan Adivasi forest communities in poor districts of 7 states of India living in forests that have survived for ages better than elsewhere in India - even though their forests sustain also relatively high density of people who live there.

In the projects on-going in the beginning of the programme period beneficiaries include also tribal forest communities in Nepal (Tharu in lowlands and Tamang in mountain forests), in Kenya the indigenous Ogiek community at Chepkitale near Mount Elgon and in Liberia two communities around River Cess County.

Other important stakeholders include NGOs and other civil society groups and networks that work with similar themes, local and national authorities, UN organisations and researchers working on issues related to the biocultural diversity and indigenous rights. Siemenpuu also has senior advisers in cooperation countries and internationally who can comment on projects and strategic decisions on the basis of their long term commitment on indigenous rights and biodiversity.

#### Siemenpuu's allies

Siemenpuu has made a cooperation agreement with a Finnish NGO, Emmaus Helsinki, which will provide additional funding for a project in India in 2018-2021. The cooperation aims also at bringing out deeper understanding on the lives of indigenous people among the general public in Finland.

A private foundation from the USA, The Christensen Fund, is providing funding and intellectual

support for Siemenpuu 2017-2018 through a twelve month pilot project with biocultural community protocol processes in India, Kenya, Liberia and Nepal.

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#### **D. RURAL WOMEN AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**

The objective of the Rural Women and Food Sovereignty scheme is for rural women and men in targeted areas to reach sustainable livelihoods and food sovereignty through food production practices, which conserve agricultural biodiversity, mitigate climate change and help adapting to it.

Grantees of the scheme consist of small-scale farmers' own CSOs and CSOs supporting them in Eastern and Western Africa, as well as regionally in Latin America.

##### Operating environment and justification

Over the past decades in Africa and Latin America, as in all continents, land grabbing by large-scale investors has displaced millions of small-scale farmers from their land. Loss of other resources, such as forests, water, and seeds has been rampant. This phenomenon is replacing small-scale agriculture with an industrial model, in which seeds become commodities and peasants are criminalised for practicing free exchange, storage and use of seeds. This global industrial food system can be also seen as one of the causes of the climate crisis. It is dependent on fossil fuels to produce, transform and transport food. It has been estimated to cause 44-57 % of all global greenhouse emissions.

At the same time small-scale farmers face a rapidly changing climate, the predictability of which is becoming harder and extreme weather conditions more and more common. Greater seed and crop variety is crucial in agricultural climate adaptation.

In the strengthening of small-scale farmers' livelihoods and movements, women's contribution is considered integral. Women are fighting for their identity as peasants, for ownership of the land they cultivate, and against gender based violence. Simultaneously rural communities are witnessing a trend of young people from farming families moving away from agriculture and migrating to cities.

Siemenpuu already has experience in the supporting of sustainable rural livelihoods and small-scale farmers, but with the Rural Women and Food Sovereignty funding scheme this work is intensified and geared even more towards the promotion of gender equality as a crucial element for sustainable livelihoods.

The funding scheme focuses on three geographic regions. Firstly, in Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale farmers who form part of the international peasants' social movement, La Via Campesina (LVC) have identified the role of Transnational Corporations as one of the main challenges. They ask governments to hold corporations responsible when they fail to respect national laws, as well as to halt industrial farming primarily based on the use of petroleum based chemicals. Small-scale farmers commit themselves to building agroecology and food sovereignty from the grassroots, advocating land and seed laws that defend peasants' rights.

Secondly, in West and Central Africa peasants deem agroecology as the key form of resistance to an economic system that puts profit before life. Agroecological practices, such as intercropping, traditional fishing and mobile pastoralism, integrating crops, trees, livestock and fish, manuring, compost, local seeds and animal breeds are based on ecological principles like building life in the

soil, recycling nutrients, the dynamic management of biodiversity and energy conservation. Agroecology drastically reduces the use of external, industrial inputs and rejects toxic agrochemicals, artificial hormones and GMOs. They see agroecology as political, since it challenges and transforms power structures. Control over seeds, biodiversity, land and territories, waters, knowledge, culture and other commons should in their view shift towards peasants.

Seeds policy wise Africa faces challenges between conserving its native diversity and marketing of industrial varieties. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) involves 20 countries. According to the recently adopted COMESA treaty, all member countries must abide by common seed trade regulations. The regulations allow corporations to certify their seeds in one member country and automatically acquire the right to market them in all COMESA states. The COMESA seed laws contain no measures to foster local peasant seed varieties. Additionally, there are two regional draft agreements being negotiated that could restrict farmers' rights over seeds. The first is the 'SADC Protocol' and Seed Harmonisation, which would affect 15 countries of the South African Development Community. The second is the 'ARIPO Protocol' that would apply in 18 Anglophone states belonging to the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation. The protocol has been adopted, but its regulation is pending. West Africa, 17 mainly francophone countries belonging to the African Organisation for Intellectual Property (OAPI) already have a plant variety protection law based on the UPOV '91 (The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants). These agreements generally outlaw farmers' exchange or sale of seeds that are protected by PVP certificates, even if it were only in small amounts and for local use.

In the third geographic focus region, Latin America, peasants consider crucial to build democratic and participative societies free of discrimination of women and youth. They aim at a comprehensive agrarian reform entailing small-scale and indigenous agriculture based on agroecology to reach food sovereignty and to combat climate change. The reform would guarantee access to land and water to women, youth and the landless. It would also recognise the social functions of land and water by prohibiting land and water grabbing and speculation. Defence of native seeds is vital to ensure that they remain viable. Through the agrarian reform the industrial agricultural model based on financial capital, monocultures and use of chemical inputs would become obsolete.

Latin America is probably the region where social mobilisation for the defence of small-scale farmers' seed rights through seed laws is the most dynamic. There are several campaigns to block the so-called "Monsanto laws" and to promote indigenous and peasant seed systems. There have been empowered social movement campaigns for instance in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico and Venezuela. In Brazil the government has bought peasants' creole seeds through its food acquisition programme, whereas the current government has applied more hostile policies towards social movements. In 2014 Chileans celebrated a victory against a PVP law that would have privatised peasant seeds in accordance with UPOV '91. In Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico free trade agreement rules and the industry lobby have led to immense pressure in favour of seed laws.

For the small-scale farmers' movement in general peasant agroecology is a way of life, a method for transforming food production into something more beneficial to humans and to biodiversity. It is built on ancestral knowledge and practical experience of peasants and takes into account the diversity of food production, gathering and consumption. It challenges power and places local communities at the centre of food production, aiming at a just food system. To tackle the challenges posed by centralised, industrial agriculture peasants are building alternatives; processing and marketing at local levels and direct sales to consumers to provide healthy food to local people at a fair price.

The food production and sovereignty related challenges identified by the small-scale farmers' movement include the gap between a narrowly technical vision and the broader, more political view based on peasant agriculture. Thus the battle to gain broader recognition of peasant agroecology by governments and international institutions, like FAO, is crucial. Thus, negotiations for a UN Declaration for the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas are at an advanced stage within the United Nations. The process was initiated by LVC more than a decade ago and the Declaration is expected to provide a tool for peasants to strengthen, further protect and give global recognition of their rights.

### Approach

In the Rural Women and Food Sovereignty scheme the funding is directed to projects concerning conservation of agricultural biodiversity through the application of the agroecological approach, materialisation of small-scale farmers' rights and reaching for food sovereignty. Particular attention in project proposal assessment will be paid on improving rural women's position. It is expected that the grantees aim at increasing women's stand within the small-scale farmer movement's decision-making fora and at halting gender-based violence. Majority of the communication and analysis material to be produced within the supported projects is expected to entail an explicit gender approach.

Project proposals will be identified mainly from Least Developed countries in Western and Eastern Africa, as well as within regional initiatives in Latin America. Focused call for applications is done through and with the help of the earlier built collaboration with Mali Folkecenter Nyetaa (MFC) in Mali, and with the global peasants' social movement La Via Campesina (LVC) and its allies in Western and Eastern Africa and Latin America.

Previous Siemenpuu partners will be considered, but the continuation of the partnerships will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding period, as well as the quality of the new application.

During the programme period South-South collaboration and exchange of experiences will be promoted between the partners of the scheme. Themes of particular interest include agroecological practices, ways of strengthening the small-scale farmers' movement as well as analysis of seed law contexts.

In the beginning of this programme period four projects based on previous funding decisions are still on-going.

Other stakeholders of the funding scheme include other strategic donors and organisations active in analysing themes related to agricultural biodiversity and food sovereignty, such as GRAIN and the Agroecology Fund. In Finland information exchange will be continued with the FoodAfrica programme coordinated by the Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE).

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## **E. CLIMATE AND ENERGY JUSTICE**

In this funding scheme the objective is to actively promote socially and ecologically sustainable energy both on policy level and on community level in selected areas.

The focus countries for projects are Mali, Myanmar and Nepal.

### Operating environment and justification

Climate change has been identified by many as the biggest environmental problem of our times. For 25 years world governments under the auspices of the United Nations have taken some action to prevent a dangerous climate change, but the measures have been inadequate and at times socially and environmentally problematic. Therefore there is need for new and better climate and energy policies and actions that are socially just and ecologically sound.

Seeing climate change mitigation and adaptation in broader ecological, human rights-orientated context is necessary. For example, at best mitigation reduces both greenhouse gas emissions and resource depletion along with improvements in air quality and more efficient use of all resources in production and consumption.

Siemenpuu considers it important to advance climate protection with an energy justice perspective. Energy discussions and policies often assume access to existing national grids, overlooking the fact that at least 1.3 billion people globally lack basic electricity access and 2.7 billion lack clean cooking facilities. The WHO estimates that almost four million deaths annually from pneumonia, chronic lung disease and lung cancer in developing countries, are associated with indoor air pollution from biomass and coal cookers. Women in most developing countries experience energy poverty differently and more severely than men, often performing basic subsistence tasks including time-consuming and physically draining tasks of collecting biomass fuels. Access to energy is gendered: it is determined by intra-household decision-making and women's social position. Unequal gender relations limit women's ability to participate and voice their energy needs in decision-making at all levels of the energy system.

Furthermore, aggregate national approaches often favour large-scale infrastructural developments that are routinely accompanied by human rights abuses and ecological degradation, including biodiversity loss. In contrast to this, small-scale renewable energy and energy efficiency projects can deliver huge benefits to local communities, particularly those without access to grids. Such projects thus do not contribute to worsening climate change, while benefitting rights to life, health, adequate living standards and work, and building resilience against ecological crises by contributing to universal energy access that is the foundation for other adaptive development initiatives.

Nearly all support by Siemenpuu addresses climate protection in one way or another. On energy related aspects Siemenpuu has in the past supported some local energy and climate justice initiatives in several countries, but the main support has been to the work on sustainable energy issues in the **Mekong region**, where energy production, and electricity generation in particular, has rapidly turned into a regional business. The Mekong River Basin is currently suffering from a sudden and massive increase in dam building, and Thailand and China are pushing for several dam projects in Myanmar, which would harm the ecosystems and basis of livelihoods, as large rivers in the Mekong Region are essential for millions of fishers and small-holder farmers.

In addition to large scale projects' significant damage to nature and local communities, energy projects are planned in a highly centralised manner, and decision makers often have a conflict of interest; and the official energy plans have led to excess power plant capacity in many countries. Thus, civil societies in the Mekong countries, especially in Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar, have begun to influence official plan making already at the 'upstream' of the energy sector. In order to generate public debate and to influence decision making, both scientific knowledge and active

awareness raising has been employed, first, on interests contributing to the growth of energy production, and, second, on cross-border capital flows and the negative impacts of energy projects.

### Approach

Funding is directed to projects concerning development and promotion of local, decentralized and ecologically sustainable means of energy production in both technical and political level. On policy level objective is to reduce the environmental and social impacts of energy economy by influencing the decision-makers and supporting of preparing alternative sustainable energy plans by CSOs. On community level, the supported projects are expected to enable communities to produce their energy sustainably so that women's rights have been promoted, and this local energy production is supported by authorities and spaces for democratic decision making on energy and climate change policies are developed.

Project proposals will be identified mainly from Myanmar, Mali and Nepal.

In Myanmar, the previous Siemenpuu partner, the regionally operating Mekong Energy and Environment Network (MEE Net) will be given priority, but the continuation of the partnership will be based on the assessment of the results of the previous funding period, as well as the quality of the new application.

Call for proposals on the local level promotion of the renewable energy, especially solar power for the poorest communities/households, will be organised in Mali, Myanmar or Nepal.

In the beginning of this programme period three projects based on previous funding decisions are still on-going.

The Climate Fund of the international EKOenergy network (hosted by the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation) funded Siemenpuu in 2017 for energy projects, and this cooperation will continue during the programme period. Siemenpuu and EKOenergy will also benefit from each other's knowledge regarding operational environments, partner identification, energy sector development and projects' technical issues, thus improving efficiency and impact. Also collaboration on the promotion of renewable electricity ecolabel can be envisaged.

Collaboration in project identification will be also done with a Finnish-Indian organisation the International Solar Innovation Council. It aims at pursuing research and development in the field of affordable energy solutions for low-income communities. Such innovations are likely to relate to integration of micro-solar domes to clean stoves as well as integration of photovoltaic panels with crop production.

## 2.7. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION WORK

### OBJECTIVES, ANTICIPATED RESULTS AND INDICATORS

Overall goal: Finnish public's and decision-makers' awareness of global overconsumption as well as Southern environmental challenges and community rights issues has increased through Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts.

Short term objectives of Siemenpuu's communication and advocacy efforts:

- Siemenpuu's work, its results and the issues advocated by its Southern partners have gained publicity and more support for Siemenpuu's work in Finland
- Finnish people's awareness on environmental problems in the South and the negative effects of global overconsumption have been increased and they are motivated to act for the sustainable future
- Finnish decision and policy makers directly or indirectly influencing the Southern communities and partners have been reached by Siemenpuu

Planned activities:

- Sharing updated information on Siemenpuu's work and results on website; active use of social media (facebook and twitter); publishing and circulating brochures and other printed material; using the media channels of Siemenpuu's founding organisations
- Organising discussions, seminars and other events;
- Publishing books/materials on alternative development models and successful grassroots initiatives; facilitating field visits for Finnish students and volunteers; supporting the development information and education work of Siemenpuu's founding organisations, and training/educational cooperation with universities and other CSOs
- Participating the Finnish CSOs joint advocacy work (statements, comments on development policy and country programmes, campaigns); direct communication with politicians, civil servants and corporate representatives

Indicators and targeted results:

- Number of visitors on Siemenpuu website; followers in facebook and twitter; amount of produced communication material; visibility in media and in publications of founding organisations; participants in Siemenpuu discussions and other events (minimum 30 000 Finnish citizens reached yearly, doubling of the number of fb followers and newsletter recipients in two years),
- Visibility, reviews and reception of Siemenpuu's books; number of seminar and other event participants (thousands of Finnish citizens reached with a personal impact),
- Number of advocacy activities (statements, comments, campaigns); number of meetings with decision makers (key Finnish decision makers have been influenced).

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## COMMUNICATING PROGRAMME RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNT

The general aim of Siemenpuu Foundation's communication and advocacy efforts is to increase Finnish public's and decision-makers' awareness of global overconsumption as well as Southern environmental challenges and community rights issues.

Siemenpuu's and its Southern partners' work and work results will be communicated through different communication channels, events and other fora. The aim is to increase the awareness of Siemenpuu's work and its results in Finland and increase the interest on development issues in Finland. At the moment, Siemenpuu's communication reaches especially the Finnish people interested on the environmental issues, but aim is to widen the spectrum of people reached. Tens of thousands of individual people are expected to be receiving information via Siemenpuu's communication channels and events during the four year period.

The responsibility of the Siemenpuu-supported project planning, implementation and results are with the partners in the South. Also the local beneficiaries/communities participate in the planning, implementing and monitoring the work. In the funding agreement, minimum visibility is agreed, and in the produced information material, Siemenpuu funding must be mentioned.

During the funding period, the communication between Siemenpuu and Southern partners will be strengthened, and cooperation among partners and exchange of experiences will be increased as part of Siemenpuu's project support work and part of Siemenpuu's general information work.

Social media is rather efficient way to reach other actors, and many Siemenpuu partners are very active users of twitter and facebook.

The most important channels for communicating about Siemenpuu's programme and results are:

- Siemenpuu's webpage: news, podcasts, blogs, and information about Siemenpuu's funding schemes, supported projects and partners' work and publications. Website will be upgraded by 2021. Contents will be published in Finnish and English and in few occasions in Swedish, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
- Social media: active use of facebook and twitter for introducing the work of Siemenpuu and its partners, publications and operational environment. Many partners are active in twitter.
- Brochures and other printed media: During the programme period, the general printed brochure in Finnish will be renewed and possibly an English brochure will be produced. The publications about the work and results of the Southern partners (pdf or printed leaflet or booklet) will be produced in 2018 and possibly in 2020. Publication/materials will be done at least in Finnish and preferably also in English and possibly in Swedish.
- Discussion events and seminars: Siemenpuu will organise its own discussion events at regular intervals, during the visits of Southern partners to Finland, and during the World Village Festivals and Finnish Social Forum events. During the programme period, a public event under each funding scheme will be organised. Siemenpuu will also participate actively to produce content for events organised by others.
- Communication channels of Siemenpuu's founding members: communication cooperation with the member publications of founding organisations will be increased (Finlands Natur, Luonnonsuojelija, Nuorten Luonto, TEP-tiedote, Tiira, Ympäristökasvatus-web magazine).

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## DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

Siemenpuu Foundation's development communication and education work aims at raising Finnish people's awareness on severe environmental challenges in the South and motivating them for working for the more sustainable world. The Southern voices, different kinds of realities (how the communities themselves see and experience living in them) and voices of less consuming cultures are introduced into the Northern discourse.

Development communication will be furthered in cooperation with Siemenpuu's founding organisations and other relevant actors for Siemenpuu's communication, such as other NGOs, universities and research institutes. When asked and if possible, Siemenpuu will participate in the development communication and education projects (VGK) by others, especially founding organisations.

During the programme period, two publications/materials as development communication projects will be published in 2019 and 2021. For the 2019, a proposed theme is “Systemic Alternatives” (about deepening the analysis and strengthen the alternatives that are being developed by grassroots movements and thinkers, e.g. *vivir bien*, the commons, degrowth, deglobalization, eco-socialism, solidarity economy, ecofeminism, food sovereignty), and in 2021 “The Real Green Growth” (or examples of sustainable living and production models on grassroots level). The aim is to bring new voices and positive examples in the Finnish public discussion. Materials reach thousands of readers.

During the programme period, Siemenpuu will facilitate a self-financed volunteering or field-working opportunity for Finns with Siemenpuu's partners or their collaborators in the South. The participating self-financing students and volunteers will learn and share their insights on the environmental and development issues and Siemenpuu's partners' work in the South.

During the programme period, Siemenpuu will increase cooperation with universities and academics regarding the research and studies on global issues close to Siemenpuu's themes. There will be cooperation eg. on courses and conferences on indigenous studies and development studies of Helsinki University. In 2018, an example of this cooperation will be participating in organising a panel discussion during the World Ecology Conference on 15-18 August in Helsinki.

Training will be also conducted with Kepa, Siemenpuu acting as contents provider, especially on the issues of environment and societal change.

In the first years of the programme, Siemenpuu will help distributing the documentary film shot during the book launch tour (Sep-Oct 2017) and produce its own video material on the topic “introductions to South-North dialogue” especially for training events.

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## ADVOCACY WORK

Siemenpuu's advocacy work aims at influencing the Finnish direct or indirect decision-making regarding the communities and partners in the global South, as well as the related attitude climate and discussion in Finland. The target groups are politicians, civil servants, Finnish companies and other stakeholders regarding the decision-making of Finnish development and environmental policy. Also Finnish taxpayers are one of the target groups.

Advocacy work is a continuation for the communication about the programme and its results. Siemenpuu's advocacy work focuses especially on adding the Finnish people's understanding on the environmental challenges and bringing forth the negative impacts of the global overconsumption. More sustainable alternatives promoted by Siemenpuu's partners will be brought forward.

Cooperation with Siemenpuu's founding organisations will be increased on intertwining of the development and environmental issues. As an example of this is the cooperation with WWF Finland on the role of environmental issues in the Finnish development policy. Also, cooperation with the other development policy NGOs will be close; Siemenpuu will participate the joint advocacy work of CSOs, like statements, commenting development policy and country strategies and campaigning for the sustainable development financing. Regarding climate and corporate responsibility issues, cooperation will be active especially with Kepa, with utilizing the experience and materials from Siemenpuu's Southern partners, their projects and networks.

## 2.8. DEVELOPING PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Siemenpuu's overall principles and methods for result based management and grant management are described in detail in the first section of this document (chapter 1.3.). Planned further developments in these processes in 2018-2021 are outlined in this chapter.

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### PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT

Key project cycle tools will be revised in the beginning of this programme period. Forms used by the grantees (concept paper, application and reporting) will be updated to better contribute to the results based planning and reporting. Also forms used internally in Siemenpuu in the assessment of the plans and reports will be aligned accordingly.

Siemenpuu's database for project management will be updated to facilitate the monitoring and reporting of the results.

Gender guidelines will be developed together with the other special foundations Abilis and KIOS.

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### EXIT STRATEGIES

In the beginning of this programme period principles for exit strategies in long-term partnerships will be formulated. Exit strategies will be described for all relevant projects and partners.

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### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation on the level of each funding scheme will be developed. In this work it is planned to cooperate with other like-minded funders working in the same themes and areas.

Also principles and methods for an evaluation on the programme level will be investigated together with other organisations, especially with other special foundations and Kepa. Together with Abilis and KIOS a programme level external evaluation will be commissioned in 2019. This evaluation aims to assess the results and modalities of special foundations' activities as funders. This evaluation will feed into the planning of the following period of the programme 2022-2025.

Siemenpuu's cooperation in development communication work with disciplines of development studies and indigenous studies of Helsinki University will also contribute into the development of the monitoring and evaluation methods.

## 2.9. FINANCES

For the funding period 2018-2021, Siemenpuu is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) for 3 080 000 euros. It consists of 920 000 euros in 2018, and 720 000 € in each of the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. For the year 2018 in use are also transferred funds from the MFA funding in 2017, 135 000 €. Other funding consists of 230 660 € self-financing by the organisations receiving project grants and 503 500 € support from other organisations and individuals.

### Programme Budget

| €            | Project funding  | Project self-financing | Communications & Information | Planning, M&E  | Administration | Total            |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>2018</b>  | 757 750          | 75 775                 | 53 000                       | 249 250        | 106 000        | <b>1 241 775</b> |
| <b>2019</b>  | 474 850          | 47 485                 | 56 000                       | 152 650        | 73 000         | <b>803 985</b>   |
| <b>2020</b>  | 542 000          | 54 200                 | 56 000                       | 159 500        | 73 500         | <b>885 200</b>   |
| <b>2021</b>  | 532 000          | 53 200                 | 66 000                       | 157 000        | 75 000         | <b>883 200</b>   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2 306 600</b> | <b>230 660</b>         | <b>231 000</b>               | <b>718 400</b> | <b>327 500</b> | <b>3 814 160</b> |

Of the MFA funds 62-64 % is budgeted yearly to project funding, 5 % to communications and information work, 21-23 % to planning, monitoring & evaluation and 10 % to administration.

Project funding consists entirely of grants given to CSOs based on applications approved by the Siemenpuu board and, as set in the funding decision of the MFA, by the MFA.

Communications and information work is about promoting Siemenpuu's programme and results but also raising awareness of overconsumption and environmental challenges. It includes a separate development communications projects. Communications and information work includes also some advocacy work, but not as a separate budget line, since it intertwines with other communication.

Planning and M&E is expenses related to grant and project management. These are personnel costs of programme coordinators, travel expenses of monitoring visits and networking, and costs of evaluations. Some expenses that could be also considered as administrative expenses are included in the planning and M&E, as these expenses are directly related to grant and project management (i.e. accounting and bank charges of project payments etc.). This practice is agreed with the MFA. There is also some communications work in the responsibilities of all programme coordinators as it is elementally linked with the project management, though budget-wise included in budget heading of Planning and M&E.

Administration is all administrative expenses like office expenses, meeting costs and depreciation. It includes also travel cost of volunteers in Finland and percentages of personnel costs (60 % of director's and 80 % financial officer's salaries and social security costs).

#### Programme Financing

| €            | Total income     | Project self-financing | Other financing sources | Fundraising from individuals | MFA Programme Based Support |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>2018</b>  | <b>1 241 775</b> | 75 775                 | 93 500                  | 17 500                       | 1 055 000                   |
| <b>2019</b>  | <b>803 985</b>   | 47 485                 | 26 500                  | 10 000                       | 720 000                     |
| <b>2020</b>  | <b>885 200</b>   | 54 200                 | 96 000                  | 15 000                       | 720 000                     |
| <b>2021</b>  | <b>883 200</b>   | 53 200                 | 80 000                  | 30 000                       | 720 000                     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3 814 160</b> | <b>230 660</b>         | <b>296 000</b>          | <b>72 500</b>                | <b>3 215 000</b>            |

Siemenpuu requires its grant receiving partners to provide minimum of 10 % of self-financing in the funded projects. It is counted from the Siemenpuu grant. The self-financing can be in cash, material gifts or voluntary work, or a combination of these. This project self-financing is included in Siemenpuu's total self-financing and calculated in the tables above, even though the money does not go through Siemenpuu bookkeeping. These are computational sums on the yearly level, as the exact amount of self-financing is only verified in the final reports of the funded projects, and at that time included in the reporting of Siemenpuu. Grantees report it in their project reporting, and in most cases it is part of the project audit. After approval of the final report by Siemenpuu, the verified sum is documented in the separate yearly monitoring document. Rest of the self-financing is gained from other institutions and individuals.

For fundraising from other institutions Siemenpuu has started co-operating with three organisations so far. These sources are The Christensen Fund (from USA), Climate Fund of EKOenergy Network and Emmaus Helsinki. During this funding period Siemenpuu seeks also actively other sources.

From individuals Siemenpuu is seeking donations with grass-root level campaigning. For this purpose, Siemenpuu has got a fundraising permit granted by The National Police Board.