

Siemenpuu Foundation

Results Report 2018

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Summary

The overall goal of Siemenpuu Foundation's programme is to make a contribution to a transition whereby biodiversity is protected and everybody have their basic needs met by ecologically sustainable livelihoods and ways of life. In order to achieve this impact, Siemenpuu has identified four long-term outcomes to be achieved: Climate and environmental protection, Strengthened community rights, Sustainable economy and Comprehensive ecological democracy.

Siemenpuu contributes to these outcomes by granting funds for environmental and democracy initiatives of civil society organisations in the global South. Key beneficiaries of funded projects are 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 and women. In addition to funding, Siemenpuu provides support to capacity building of the grantees, and enables networking in the global South and North. Moreover, Siemenpuu's communications work in Finland supports reaching of the programme goals.

In the funded projects, geographic and thematic diversity, as well as a variety of approaches and working methods are present. Programme level results build up from the individual projects from different countries and themes. In the beginning of 2018, Siemenpuu had 33 projects ongoing. During the year final reports were approved from 19 projects. 17 new projects were funded, based on the applications received through thematically and geographically targeted open calls, and partly as follow-up projects with previous project partners. The main target countries for cooperation in 2018 were Brazil (Amazon), India, Indonesia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar and Nepal.

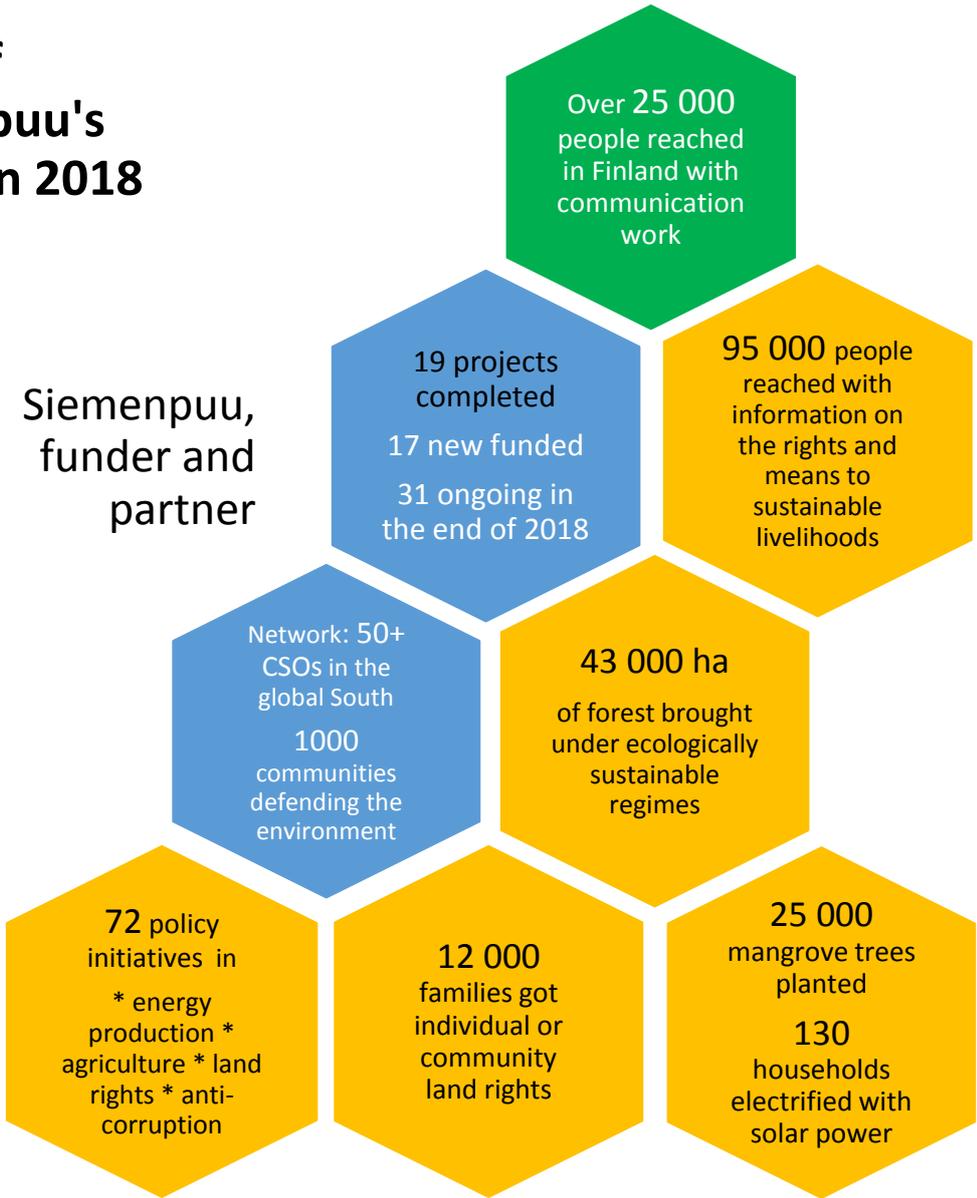
Highlights of the results of 2018, as reported from the 19 finalized projects, are presented in the graph below. The graph also includes some of the results of the communications work in Finland.

Total realised direct funding from Siemenpuu for these completed 19 projects was 967 786 €, the total self-financing by the partners 114 791 € and other funding 103 852 €. Total expenses of the programme in 2018 were 1 062 107 €. Of the expenses, 90 % were covered by the programme support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Analysis of the project results and lessons learned the grantees points out to the importance of long-term commitment and strong networking as well as strong involvement of the local communities as a prerequisite. The gained results are a good step forward, enabling larger and stronger movement for the change towards sustainable livelihoods.

Some of Siemenpuu's results in 2018

Siemenpuu,
funder and
partner



Approach

Siemenpuu Foundation and its development cooperation programme supports developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality and to promote sustainable development.

The overall goal of Siemenpuu's programme is to make a contribution to a transition whereby biodiversity is protected and everybody have their basic needs met by ecologically sustainable livelihoods and ways of life. In order to achieve this impact, Siemenpuu has identified four long-term outcomes to be achieved: Climate and environment protection, Strengthened community rights, Sustainable economy and Comprehensive ecological democracy.

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Basic assumptions in the work include understanding that civil society is a key driver for social change in all societies and human rights based approach is essential in solving the complex development and environmental problems.

Funded projects and their results have a strong local ownership, as the funded projects are planned and implemented by local NGOs, and one requisite for funding is that also the communities involved take part to the definition, design and implementation of activities.

Siemenpuu's approach to effectiveness and lasting impact is based on the diversity. It has been a deliberate choice to value in the funded projects geographic and thematic diversity, as well as a variety of approaches and working methods. Programme level results build up from the individual projects from different countries and themes.

Project funding in 2018

Overview

In the beginning of 2018, Siemenpuu had 33 projects ongoing. During the year, final reports were approved from 19 projects and 17 new projects were funded, thus by 31.12.2018 there were 31 projects ongoing. Overall in 2018 there were more than 60 direct grantees/partners in 50 different projects. The main target countries for cooperation in 2018 were Brazil (Amazon), India, Indonesia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar and Nepal. Siemenpuu has a long experience and extensive networks in most of these countries. At the end of 2018, there was also a project in Liberia and a regional project in South America, as well as projects waiting for administrative finalization in Kenya, Mexico, Palestine, Senegal and Tanzania.

Funded projects have been from 2018 onwards grouped and identified through five funding schemes (see Box below).

Funding schemes

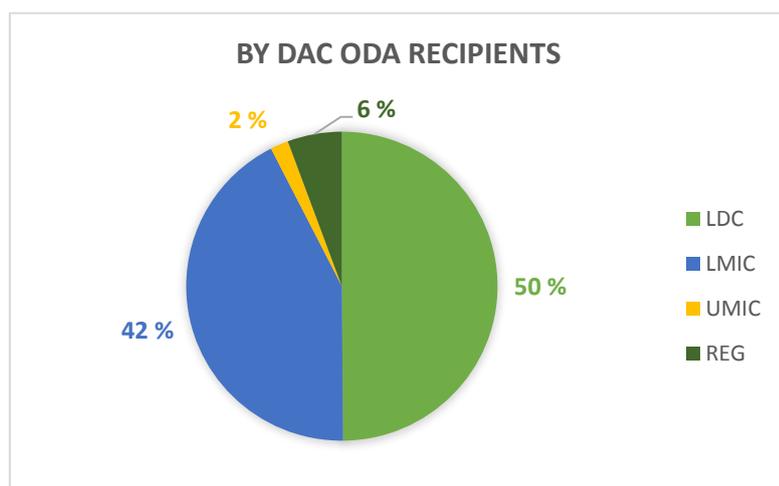
- A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy: activities that promote discussion, presentation and implementation of people's movements' and other civil society actors' views and motions for systemic development alternatives locally and globally.
- Forests and Coastal Ecosystems: activities that promote socially sustainable protection of forests and coastal ecosystems, while respecting the rights of indigenous and other local communities dependent on these ecosystems.
- Biocultural Rights of Indigenous Forest Communities: activities that strengthen the biocultural rights and capacity of indigenous and other local communities for the sustainable use and protection of forests.
- Rural Women and Food Sovereignty: activities that support sustainable rural livelihoods and food sovereignty through food production practices that protect agricultural biodiversity, mitigate climate change and support adaptation. The specific objective is to improve the position of women.
- Climate and Energy Justice: activities that promote socially and environmentally sustainable energy solutions both at policy level and in local communities.

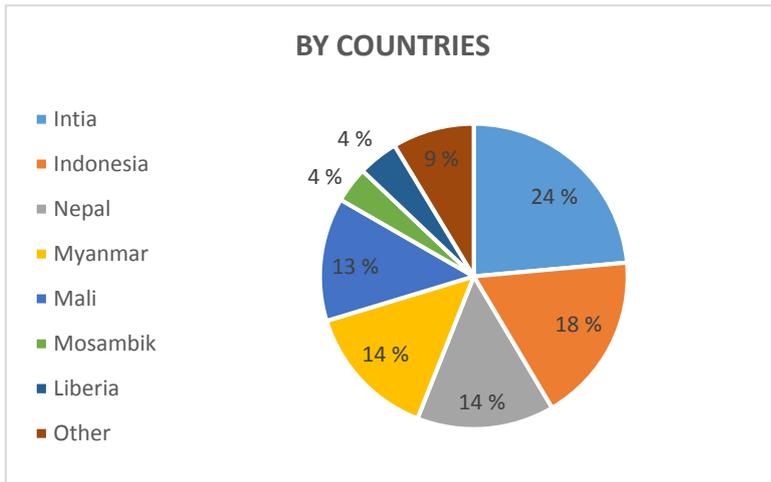
The funding schemes are interconnected, and optimally the funded projects could fall under several schemes, even if for administrative reasons main "ownership" is only within one scheme. Funding schemes have their own voluntary expert groups which have an active role in M&E, communications and developing the schemes in the support of the board and the office.

The funding schemes have been developed on the basis of the experiences gained in the previous programme periods and they reflect the multifaceted challenges of the development, and the wide-ranging interests and expertise provided by Siemenpuu's founding organisations and voluntary experts. Funding schemes aim to facilitate better capacity building and networking with and among the grantees and other partners and within Finland, as well as for facilitating better results orientation. Due to the relatively small size of the schemes (number and size of the projects) the funding schemes do not, however, have distinct results frameworks, but contribute to the programme level results framework.

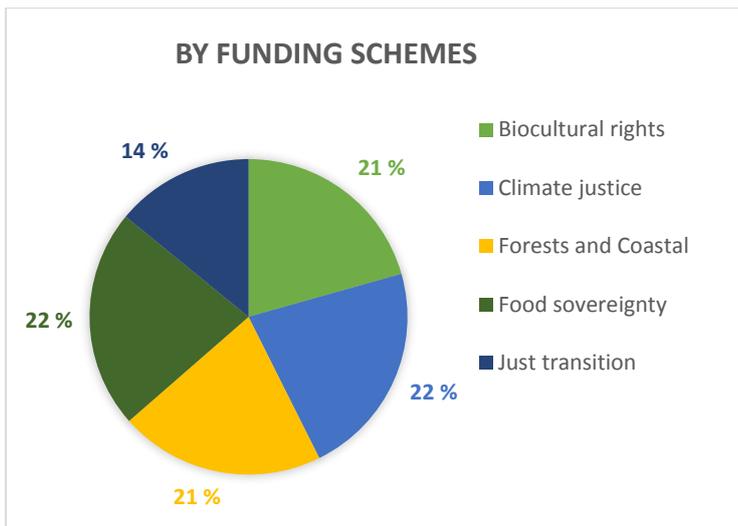
Payments to the projects in 2018

Payments to the supported projects in 2018 were altogether 718 881 €. Half of the payments were made to the projects in the Least Developed Countries (according to the DAC ODA definition), 42 % to Lower Middle Income Countries. Biggest recipients by countries were India (24% of the payments), Indonesia (18 %), Myanmar (14 %), Nepal (14 %) and Mali (13%).





From the funding schemes, “A Just Transition to Ecological Democracy” was the smallest with the 14 % share of payments. Each of the other four funding schemes had a share of 21-22%.



Siemenpuu’s funding is released to a project by several instalments throughout the project span. The self-financing of the partners and the other funding they have received for the projects are reflected only in the Siemenpuu’s project management, not in the Foundation’s bookkeeping.

For the completed 19 projects, the total realised funding from Siemenpuu was 967 786 €, the total self-financing by the partners 114 791 € and other funding 103 852 €.

For the new funding decisions (17 projects) Siemenpuu’s funding commitment is 1 072 000 € and the self-financing a minimum of 107 200 €.

Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation in 2018

New funding decisions (17 projects) were based either on the applications received through the

thematically and geographically targeted open calls or as follow-up projects with previous project partners. In 2018 Siemenpuu had four calls, which resulted 9 new projects.

- Small-scale Renewable Electricity Projects (Mali, Myanmar, Nepal),
- Peatswamp Forest Conservation in Riau, Indonesia
- Protection and Sustainable Use of Coastal Ecosystems in Indonesia
- Women's Rights, Food Sovereignty and Ecological Democracy (Mali, Mosambik, Nepal).

Follow-up project applications were called from 8 grantees (India, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal and South America regional project), and those all were accepted and funded.

Final reports were approved from 19 projects. Results of the projects presented in the final reports of the grantee were verified with the data collected during the whole project cycle from the communication with the grantee, during the monitoring visits and information received through the networks.

Monitoring of the funded projects was based on regular reports received and other communications directly with grantees and other stakeholders. Monitoring visits were made in 2018 directly by Siemenpuu to 11 funded projects.

Important part of the monitoring of the situation in the country level was also coordination and information exchange with the other Finnish actors active in the country, including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Internationally information exchange was active with a few likeminded funders. In Finland Siemenpuu initiated networking of NGOs active in Mali and Nepal, and continued to co-coordinate the Myanmar focused network of NGOs, activists and researchers. In addition, information exchange in the form of dialogues and meetings was initiated by Siemenpuu on all five themes.

Siemenpuu did not carry out any evaluations in 2018. In the 3 of the 19 completed projects a formal evaluation was done during the project period before 2018, evaluations supported the improvement of the project activities.

Siemenpuu's results framework was refined, as well as RBM-tools during the year. However, as the completed projects, of which the results are reported, had all began before 2018, the steering impact of the set result objectives was not yet fully experienced.

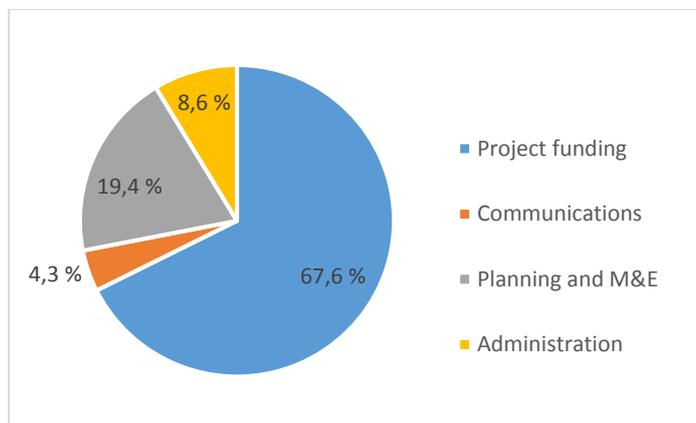
Communications in 2018

Siemenpuu reached out to the general public with information on the funded projects and general developmental and environmental news. Siemenpuu's social media accounts were actively used and website regularly updated. Siemenpuu organised and participated in several discussions and seminars (mainly in Helsinki) on all of its funding themes, reaching out to activists, researchers, students, civil servants, politicians and the general public. As a new development communications project, parts of the earlier published book on correspondence between activists in the global South and North were turned into podcasts. Next publishing project (muutosvaihtoehdot.fi –website) was prepared for publishing in 2019. Advocacy work formed a continuum of the other communications activities.

Administration and Finances in 2018

Permanent personnel (5 persons in 2018) was supplemented by some short-term project staff in the communications and project monitoring tasks. The Board of Directors (7 regular members and 4 deputy members in 2018) had nine meetings, and the Council (14 regular members and their alternates) one meeting. Contribution of Siemenpuu's board members and other volunteers in the working groups of the funding schemes and communications was essential in the activities. The chairman of the board received a trustee fee, no other trustee remuneration was paid.

Total expenses of the programme in 2018 were 1 062 107 €. Of the expenses, 90 % were covered by the programme support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Donations and other funding from individuals, firms, foundations and NGOs covered 10 % of the expenses.



Results 2018

Theory of Change and Result Indicators

Siemenpuu's theory of change guides implementation in the programme in a principled level, as it is geared towards communicating our approach and how desirable change is seen happening. Theory of change, and the supporting general funding criteria, guide the selection of the funded projects and planning of other activities.

Indicators do not cover all aspects of results produced in the projects, but give a programme level view on the results of the work of Siemenpuu Foundation. A challenge remains how to measure more directly the outcome level, as now the indicators are more on the output level. Programme level analysis, both quantitative and qualitative will be developed as the programme develops. Made assumptions in the theory of change were supported by the evidence gathered through the funded projects and from the other actors in the field.

Results of the completed projects in 2018 contributed to the achievement of the objectives and goals as set in the theory of change, and as interpreted to the indicators in the results framework. Work is well in line with the programme period (2018-2021) target levels. Local ownership is the corner stone of the approach in the funding of the projects.

All projects had begun well before 2018, so the collection of the result information in form of indicators developed in 2017-2018 was challenging, and the reported results are minimum numbers. In the following years data gathering will support better the analysis of the results. Current result indicators have been discussed and included to the reporting requirements with the new funded projects from 2018 onwards.

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

- Indicators show that remarkable number of people was reached by the completed projects with the support for sustainable practices and livelihoods. Indication is clear on improved realization of rights, and with fewer cases evidence also support the understanding that the projects have been

able to reduce the poverty and inequality.

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

- Indicators show that more land area is under sustainable use and conservation measures. Not possible to count on direct amount of reduced loss of biodiversity and climate emissions.

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

- Indicators show the number of the active partner organisations and more profoundly involved communities in the completed projects. Partners report advancements on their capacity to address the issues and lessons learned.

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

- Indicators show the amount of wider demands and initiatives, and among those which have resulted in clear adaptation of the initiative or other change with the policies and practices. Initiatives have been contributing with alternatives to the discussions. With most of the initiatives it is a long-term process for actual change to happen. These indicators do not cover all the advocacy work done in the projects. Nor do they cover the demands or initiatives for the assertion or demand on a recognition or registration of a specific land area rather than to initiate public policy debate to advance the policies on rights or conservation, those are reported under the goal 2 by the hectares gained.
- These indicators were developed to measure civil societies' policy capacity. They are new for both Siemenpuu and its partners, so we are in the process of learning to interpret which initiatives to include as achieved results out of the multitude of actions carried out by our partners.

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.

- Indicators show that remarkable number of people in Finland was reached, though below the set yearly target level, as some of the planned activities were not realised. Indication is not that clear on actual increasing of the awareness. However, steady increase in the number of people engaging more in the discussions and other communications activities show felt value for the information received from Siemenpuu.

Risk Assessment

Developed guidelines for risk assessment were in use, however, deliberate choices have been made to fund also high-risk projects. Variety of the projects, countries and themes lowers the risk to major impacts on the programme level. As regards the financing of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, there are risks of possible decisions by the Ministry, to claw back some of the grant, based on the Ministry's interpretation of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers. These decisions concern in particular projects funded by the Ministry where the Foundation has made its own decision to claw back, but no money is recovered from the grantee. On the projects, in 2018 no new cases occurred.

In country level, in 2018 worrying developments for narrowing the space of civil society in Brazil and India were monitored and analysed with the grantees and other funders.

Results Framework 2018

| 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 - number of funded projects contributing to the indicator | Indicator | Targeted result for 2018-2021 | Results 2018 |
| 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. | All 19 funded projects - activities that provided information to poor women and men and their supporters through meetings, rallies, printed and digital publications and other means. | Number of people who have received useful information because of the supported activities. | At least 170 000 people reached. | At least 25 000 people directly involved + 70 000 reached |
| 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. | 6 of the 19 funded projects -activities including consultation, legal advice and campaigning for defending areas against land grabbing and making use of provisions in national legislation for land and users' rights. | Number of women and men who have benefited from the acquired individual and community land and tenure rights. | 35 000 have got direct land related rights. | At least 12 000 families (4783 households and 93 communities) |
| 1.3 | Indigenous communities have documented and obtained rights to their bio-cultural heritage. | 3 of the 19 funded projects - production and use of bio-cultural community protocols and forest rights claims | Number of women and men who are members of the communities where biocultural rights have been documented. | 20 000 direct beneficiaries. | At least 40 000 |
| 1.4. | Low-income female and male farmers have got improved access to indigenous seed systems, organic fertilizers and other means of agroecological production. | 2 of the 19 funded projects - advising and organising of farmers on agroecology and food sovereignty | Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities. | 3 000 direct beneficiaries. | (No direct beneficiaries in the sense of the indicator, though communities supported with information, campaigning and juridical aid) |
| 1.5 | Low-income households have obtained access to ecologically sustainable energy | 1 of the 19 funded projects - installing solar electricity installations | Number of women and men who have benefited from the supported activities. | 15 000 direct beneficiaries. | 130 households |
| 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. | 17 of the 19 funded projects -with a combination of the activities presented above. | Qualitative change that can be observed in people's lives. | Qualitative | (Projects report improved well-being, but not yet on a level of allowing analysis on programme level) |

| 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 | Indicator | Targeted result for 2018-2021 | Results 2018 |
| 2.1 | Land areas that are currently designated for conservation or are under ecologically sustainable use are maintained and not converted to monocultures or infrastructure | 5 of the 19 funded projects. - formulation of community conservation initiatives and activities that defend existing sustainable usage and tenure systems of communities. | Hectares of land that have been maintained under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities. | 50 000 ha | 64 000 ha |
| 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. | 7 of the 19 funded projects - conservation efforts that emphasise on community benefits and responsibilities. | Hectares of forest land that have been brought under ecologically sustainable regimes with the help of the supported activities. | 65 000 ha | 43 000 ha |

| 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 | Indicator | Targeted result for 2018-2021 | Results 2018 |
| 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. | All 19 projects - training, mapping, information sharing, exchange-visits, and analysis. | Number of CBOs, informal community and movement groups and civil society organisations that have taken actively part in the project activities and management. | 60 CSOs and thousands of community groups. | 28 CSOs directly and hundreds of communities involved in the activities |
| 3.2 | Women's role in all aspects, including leadership, is increased among the CSOs. | - support to women-focused approaches and activities. | Number of supported projects that are women-focused and/or women-lead. | Growing share of supported projects | (One of the projects includes in the consortium two indigenous women lead organisations. All 19 projects include women as actors in the projects, but none as a clear dominant focus, nor women lead) |

| Overall Goal 4 Democracy, gender equality and sustainable development alternatives are advanced by civil society policy initiatives and popular demands | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sub-goal | Short term outcome | Means/activities | Indicator | Targeted result for 2018-2021 | Results 2018 |
| 4.1 | Popular movements and civil society organisations formulate popular demands and policy initiatives to advance the rights to sustainable living. | 5 of the 19 funded projects -formulation of and campaigning with demands and initiatives (dialogues, workshops, gatherings) | Number of initiatives made at any level (local, national, global). | At least 150 policy initiatives and formulations of popular demands. | 71 initiatives (not including the general negotiations and permit processes and those demands resulting under other |

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| | | | | | indicators with the administration and other duty bearers) |
| 4.2 | CSO demands and initiatives have an impact on policies and practices of institutions that have impact on people's lives (governments, companies) | 4 of the 19 funded projects - advocacy and campaigning to pursue the articulated demands and policy initiatives. | Number of initiatives that have an impact on policies and practices. | Tens of the demands lead to at least partially to the desired changes. | 2 initiatives (including only the initiatives clearly adapted by the duty bearers) |
| 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. | Expanded debates that bring forward new and innovative perspectives as well as forgotten perennial aspect. | Qualitative | (On programme level not enough material on the reports from projects for analysis, as projects building on earlier work) |

| 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 | Indicator | Targeted result for 2018-2021 | Results 2018 |
| 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 | 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 | 30 000 Finnish citizens reached yearly | Estimation of 25 000 individual people reached (Siemenpuu's channels, events, & videos, cooperation e.g. with Maa ilma.net & Kepa, Radio Helsinki podcasts & live interviews) |
| 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 | Reach of Siemenpuu's books; feedback on Siemenpuu's books; number of seminar and other event participants, people met | Thousands of Finnish citizens reached with a personal impact | at least 1000 people |
| 5.3 | Finnish decision and policy makers directly or indirectly influencing the Southern communities and partners have been influenced by Siemenpuu | Agenda 2030 analysis report (with Kepa etc), Open letter on Kenya Forest Service to the Minister of Development, Cooperation, Communication on WTO meeting in Argentine, several meetings/seminars with ministers and civil servants | Number of advocacy activities (statements, comments, campaigns); number of meetings with decision makers | Key Finnish decision makers have been influenced | 3 major activities |