

Crafting Futures Philippines

Woven Networks scoping grants – Terms of reference

About the programme

Woven Networks - Craft changemakers conserving forests is a one-year partnership between the Forest Foundation and British Council through its Crafting Futures global programme. It aims to strengthen the voices of local communities by highlighting their sustainable practices and vital role as artisans, thus growing forest resources and livelihood. The project advocates for more inclusive and gender-sensitive forest management by sparking exciting collaborations and knowledge-exchange between forest dependent craft communities and trusted intermediaries - designers, researchers, social entrepreneurs, leaders and the academe.

Context

Local communities play a vital role in forest conservation. According to the United Nations, almost 1.6 billion people (25 per cent of the world's population) rely on forests for their livelihoods. Out of these, 60 million are estimated to be indigenous peoples. In the Philippines, around 85% of key biodiversity areas are within ancestral domains.

Despite policies that support community-based forest management in the Philippines, there are still many factors preventing indigenous peoples from participating more in forest conservation. They often face extreme marginalisation and discrimination based on their identities and socio-economic status. The location of their homes, often in remote areas, makes it difficult for them to be represented and find livelihood opportunities. Indigenous women face even more barriers because of their gender. There is often a disconnect between resource management plans and actual practices due to a lack of community participation and cross-sectoral engagement.

Many indigenous community members are also artisans and weavers, most of whom are women. While they continue to experience extreme poverty, being an artisan offers them a pathway to personal and economic empowerment. They greatly depend on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like rattan, abaca, raffia, or pandan. However, the opportunities that commercialisation brings have drastically changed their practices, directly impacting the forests they rely on. Mass production has led to an overexploitation of natural resources, the disappearance of sustainable practices, and an increased vulnerability to climate change.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further impacted market links for crafts and other woven products. Preferences and purchasing habits of consumers continue to evolve and there is a need to assist local artisans to respond to changing markets in sustainable ways. If not addressed, there is a higher chance that indigenous weaving traditions will disappear and communities to resort to unsustainable livelihood practices.

There is therefore a big opportunity to engage with craft communities and strengthen connections with other parts of society. More than ever, they need to be heard and seen as changemakers when it comes to forest conservation, as they will also bear a heavy burden should forest resources disappear.

What are the Woven Networks Scoping Grants?

Woven Networks Scoping Grants aim to initiate new collaborations and support projects that champion indigenous knowledge systems towards sustainable resource management and improved livelihood of craft communities.

The four-month grant is for proponents to conduct scoping and research activities within Forest Foundation's focal landscapes: **Sierra Madre (Region II and Region III and some areas in Region IV-A), Palawan (Region IV-B), Samar and Leyte (Region VIII), Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental (Region X)**, in order to:

- identify relevant craft communities who rely on forest products
- understand their challenges and ambitions
- meet new partners and collaborators within the Philippines and United Kingdom
- conduct related research
- and propose ways forward.

There are three scoping grant themes that proponents can respond to:

1. **Rediscovery:** To research and develop projects that aim to develop and disseminate the importance of indigenous knowledge, innovative craft technologies and community participation in relation to forest management.
2. **Discovery:** To research and develop projects that aim to create new designs and products using non-timber forest products, alongside sustainable resource management. This can also include material innovations using regenerative approaches.
3. **Recovery:** To research and develop projects that aim to implement new organisational approaches, frameworks or partnerships between weavers, forest communities and entrepreneurial initiatives (e.g. in the areas of e-commerce or eco-tourism). It can also include projects that aim to diversify livelihood opportunities and empower craft communities by strengthening sustainable value chains and systems that they are already employing (i.e. between nature, community, technology and market).

Who can apply?

- The scoping grants are open to Philippine-based intermediaries who believe in the importance of local and international collaborations in responding to systemic challenges.
- They can be **creative social enterprises, non-governmental organisations, researchers in relevant fields** or **design leaders** propelling solutions for more sustainable livelihoods and product development within craft communities. They are digitally adept and good in developing networks on the ground.

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- Proponents can apply as an individual or organisation. The applicant will be the ones to manage the grant projects, lead the scoping activities and create connections with local and international partners.

How much are the grants?

10 grants of up to Pph285,000 each will be awarded.

What are the grants for?

Proponents can prepare scoping grant proposals based on **one** of the three themes:

1. **Rediscovery**: Projects that aim to develop and disseminate the importance of indigenous knowledge, innovative craft technologies and community participation in relation to forest management.

Scoping proposals must include:

- Research question, objectives and methodology
- Mapping of artisan communities with notable practices and knowledge systems connecting their craft to sustainable resource management.
- An all-hazards analysis based on a chosen community
- Identification of potential local or UK-based collaborators who will have the complementary expertise, shared goals, or experience needed in order to develop solutions
- More focused case studies on how communities with existing resource management plan and/or assurance for sustainable supply of raw materials are applying the plan in relation to their craft practices (if any)
- Research and analysis on the relevance and possible applications of this knowledge in contemporary craft production and wider environmental conservation
- Recommendations for knowledge dissemination, which can include either the creation of a new higher education degree, capacity-building activities, online learning offer, or others
- Needs and audience study for the different types of knowledge dissemination
- Partnership structure and roles of collaborators involved
- Ways to ensure effective engagement with hard-to-reach communities with limited digital connectivity

2. **Discovery**: Projects that aim to develop new designs and products using non-timber forest products, alongside sustainable resource management. This can also include material innovations using regenerative approaches.

Scoping proposals must include:

- Research question, objectives and methodology
- Identification of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to include and their possible uses
- An all-hazards analysis based on a chosen community
- Identification of potential local or UK-based collaborators who will have the complementary expertise, shared goals, or experience needed in order to develop solutions
- Recommendations for sustainable sourcing of the NTFPs
- Recommendations for new products and designs
- Market analysis for the new products
- Recommendations for possible business models that will ensure equitable benefit for all parties involved
- Partnership structure and roles of collaborators involved
- Ways to ensure effective engagement with hard-to-reach communities with limited digital connectivity

3. **Recovery:** Projects that aim to implement new organisational approaches, frameworks or partnerships between weavers, forest communities and entrepreneurial initiatives (e.g. in the areas of e-commerce or eco-tourism). It can also include projects that aim to diversify livelihood opportunities and empower craft communities by strengthening sustainable value chains and systems that they are already employing (i.e. between nature, community, technology and market).

Scoping reports must include:

- Research question, objectives and methodology
- Identification and situational analysis of a forest-reliant artisan community looking to diversify their livelihood beyond the selling and production of craft products. Ideally, one who already has a resource management plan and/or assurance for the sustainable supply of raw materials, and how this can be used in developing new pathways for livelihood.
- An all-hazards analysis based on a chosen community
- Identification of potential local or UK-based collaborators who will have the complementary expertise, shared goals, or experience needed in order to develop solutions
- Research and case studies on how other craft communities have successfully diversified their livelihood while helping the recovery of forest resources
- Mapping of the community's cultural, knowledge and natural assets

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- Identification and SWOT analysis of alternative livelihood model
 - Partnership structure and roles of collaborators involved
 - Ways to ensure effective engagement with hard-to-reach communities with limited digital connectivity

What can the scoping grants fund?

- Professional fees of grantees and consulted stakeholders
- Community engagement activities as needed for research
- Honoraria/speaking fees
- Public sharing activities
- Creation of toolkits, learning materials, etc. should the research methodology require it
- Audio visual documentation that may complement the written report
- Travel within the Philippines
- Communications
- Use of technical software and platforms
- Operational costs
- Post-grant reporting

What are the grants *not* for?

The grant is not to fund the delivery and implementation of a project but the scoping needed for the research and development of a project.

The grant is **not** for proposals involving communities **outside** the Forest Foundation's focus landscapes: Sierra Madre (Region II, Region III and some areas in Region IV-A), Palawan (Region IV-B), Samar and Leyte (Region VIII), Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental (Region X).

Is there an opportunity to implement the results coming out of the scoping grants?

Yes. There is a possibility that some of the successful scoping grant projects through *another* grant programme at a later time.

How will my application be assessed?

All applications will be evaluated by the British Council and Forest Foundation based on the following criteria and weighting.

Relevance – The applicant has clearly articulated the project they are trying to develop through the scoping grant and identified the problem they are trying to solve	20%
Management - The project proposal is well planned given the budget and timeline	20%
Clarity – The approach and outputs of the scoping grant are clear and aligns well with the chosen theme	20%
Track record of applicant – The applicant has a proven track record working with local communities and relevant experience/expertise needed to undertake the grant	20%
Community and partnerships - The applicant has identified the craft community and types of UK-based collaborators they want to meet during their scoping grant	20%
Total	100%

What are the important dates to remember?

Dates	Activity
26 November 2021	Launch of open call
7 January 2022, 16.00 –17.00 (PH time) / 09.00 – 10.00 (UK time)	Grant briefing and hubs matchmaking (register here)
29 January 2022	Application deadline
1 March 2022	Grant recipients announced
1 March– 30 June 2022	Scoping grant period
July 2022	Public sharing sessions
31 July 2022	Submission of reports

How to apply

Please check our [page](#) for details and information.

Please submit your application via the [Submittable form](#).

www.britishcouncil.org