

EGAP Metaketa III: Natural Resources EOI

Summary

In September/October 2016, EGAP requested expressions of interest (EOIs) for experimental research projects on the effective governance of common-pool resources in developing countries. This request for short EOIs sought to identify clusters of research projects with comparable interventions and outcome measures that would form the basis of the main Request for Proposals (RFP). EGAP received 36 EOIs that covered a vast geographical range, including Malawi, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Nigeria, among others. The EOIs, submitted by academics, scholars, Ph.D. candidates, and practitioners, fell overwhelmingly into two natural resource groups—forestry and water—and into two clusters—Provision of Information and Improvements in Community Monitoring. There were 4 “grouped” proposals that indicated a pre-formed cluster or link between individual projects.

The EOIs in the Provision of Information and Improvements in Community Monitoring clusters covered both forestry and water resource groups and assessed a combination of outcomes including the alternation in stocks and/or flows of freshwater or forest resources, the material welfare of local users, and the distribution of resources use across stakeholders. Some EOIs also included additional thematic areas such as incentives for increased or more evenly distributed payment of user fees and expanded designation of resource stakeholders and decision makers, among others.

After reviewing the EOIs, the selection committee settled on a combination of the Provision of Information and Improvements in Community Monitoring clusters to form the basis of the RFP. These clusters had the greatest number of EOIs, a reflection of where the most interest lies, and these proposals followed the most consistent logic.

The Breakdown:

Status of Applicants	Number
Faculty	21
Postdoctoral Fellows	2
PhD Students	6
Private Sector	7
TOTAL	36

Geographic Focus	Number of Applicants
Africa	19
Asia	9
Latin America	8
TOTAL	36

How many applied with an on-the-ground implementing partner? **28**

How many grouped applications were there? **4**

Natural Resource	Number of Applicants
Forestry	18
Water	16
Other	9

Thematic Focus	Number of Applicants
Provision of information or technical expertise to gov'ts on best practices	18
Improvements in private or communal monitoring	20
Official delineation of communal or individual property rights	9
Payments for "ecosystem services" such as tree-planting, reduction of irrigation water usage	11
Incentives for increased or more evenly distributed payment of user fees	8
Expanded designation of resource stakeholders and decision makers	16
Designation and enforcement of precise, graduated sanctions of violators	10
Other	14