**Namati’s *Community Land Protection Program*: Call for New Partnerships**

Namati’s *Community Land Protection Program* is pleased to announce that we are seeking new partners to support communities to document and claim their customary/indigenous land rights. Our approach involves facilitating communities to follow national legal procedures to attain formal documents for their lands. In the process, we support communities to draft and adopt rules for good land governance, sustainable natural resource management, and intra-community equity and justice.

We are looking for partners that:

* Are mission-driven and have long-term, committed management and field staff;
* Operate from a nuanced understanding of the complex economic, cultural, and socio-political dynamics of land in rural areas;
* Have a proven track-record of effective fieldwork in communities;
* Are well-trusted by and have deep relationships with the communities in which they work;
* Demonstrate strong legal analysis skills and are keen to creatively find ways to link community land protection efforts to existing national laws; and
* Have the capacity to translate the impacts of our land protection work into national policy advocacy.

In the course of our partnership, Namati will provide intensive technical assistance: we will work with partners to collaboratively confront challenges, innovate solutions, and devise practical strategies to ensure that community lands are documented and that all community members’ rights are protected. To this end, we will provide training and access to guidebooks, forms, templates and advocacy tools, as well as foster opportunities to network and learn from other Namati partners. All of our partners will receive access to a fully developed and tested online platform for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), customizable to each partner’s context. Joint analysis of the data gathered will help us to improve our fieldwork, track the outcomes and impacts of our work, and advocate for changes to national law, as appropriate.

To support new partner organizations to apply Namati’s community land protection approach in their own contexts, Namati will provide a one-time funding disbursement of up to $15,000 USD to each new partner organization. This funding is intended to help organizations pilot community land protection activities in several communities and establish sustainable community land protection programs. Applicants should have a strategy of how they will raise complementary funds to sustain and expand their community land protection program over the long term.

**About Namati’s *Community Land Protection Program***

In a world where billions of people live outside the protection of the law, Namati is dedicated to putting the law in people’s hands. We are building a global movement of grassroots legal advocates who work with communities to advance justice. These advocates are fighting on the front lines to ensure that people can protect their land, access essential services, and take part in the decisions that govern their lives.

Namati’s Community Land Protection Program works to proactively strengthen communities’ ability to protect and defend their customary and indigenous land rights. We promote genuine legal protections for community lands and the recognition of customary and indigenous land rights as legally enforceable ownership claims. We do this by:

1. Working in partnership with civil society organizations to support community land protection efforts;
2. Supporting governments to enact and implement legislation promoting community land documentation; and
3. Advocating for increased global policy emphasis on community land and natural resource protection.

Our work goes beyond land documentation. Our integrated community land documentation model includes activities designed to stimulate positive intra-community changes, such as:

* Resolution of land conflicts;
* Improved land governance and increased downward accountability of local leaders;
* Increased community participation in local decision-making;
* The creation of intra-community mechanisms that protect women’s land rights;
* Sustainable natural resource management and community-based conservation efforts;
* Heightened community capacity to negotiate for and actualize equitable, prosperous partnerships with outside investors;
* Increased community ability to vision, plan for and actualize community-defined local development, among other potential impacts.

Namati works in partnership with national and local organizations, providing training, resources, technical support, and legal advocacy assistance. Together with our partners, we produce and publish a wide range of resources, practical guides and reports. For more information about our work, visit <http://namati.org/programs/land/>.

**Namati’s Partnership Model**

Namati takes our partnerships with local and national organizations very seriously and expects the same of our partners: we aim to co-create and co-implement community land protection work together. We engage in our partnerships as true equals: each organization may play a different role, drawing on its unique experience and expertise, but all partners have an equal stake and voice in the program. Because community land protection efforts can be very challenging, we seek partners who do not shy away from difficulty, but rather thrive on collectively identifying challenges and innovating solutions. Our goal is to learn just as much from our partners’ experiences as they learn from ours. Namati’s partners’ field experiences directly impact our evolving understanding of how best to support communities to protect their customary and indigenous land rights. Through regular jointly produced publications, we will share our learning with Namati’s global network of grassroots legal advocates.

**New Partner Selection Timeline**

**March 16, 2015**: Call for new partnerships distributed

**April 15, 2015**: New Partnership applications due

**April 15 – May 30**: Interviews with applicants, reference checks

**June 1, 2015**: Successful applicants notified

**July 2015 – September 2015**: In-depth training to all new partners.

**October 2015 – October 2016**: Program implementation

**New Partnership Program Selection Process**

This opportunity is open to all current and prospective members of Namati’s Legal Empowerment Network. New members are invited to sign up online at [namati.org/join](http://www.namati.org/join).

New Partnership Program applicants should submit the following items to communitylandprotection@namati.org

1. Completed New Partnership Program Application
2. Completed program and organizational budgets
3. Organizational financial management policies
4. Two recent organization publications (if available)

**Namati’s *Community Land Protection Program*: New Partnership Application**

*(Please type in the grey fields. Save the document to save your answers.)*

1. **Organization Information**

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Address:

Physical Location of Office:

Website:

1. **Head of Organization/Contact Person for Community Land Protection Partnership**

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

Skype:

Contact Person For Community Land Protection Partnership (if different)

Name:

Position:

Email:

Telephone:

Skype:

1. **Staff, Board, Volunteers and funding**

## Is your organization community-based, regional, national or international?

## Please list all staff members, including their position and gender.

##

## Please list your organization’s board members, including their name, genders, and occupations.

## What languages do your staff members speak?

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## What is your organization’s annual budget in local currency for the current year? Who are your main funders?

1. **Organizational Background** *(there is no word limit, please be as detailed as possible)*

## When and why was your organization founded? How long has your organization worked on land and natural resource issues? What is your organization’s mission?

##

## Please list and describe all of your current programs and projects.

##

## Please tell us about a program or project your organization carried out that was particularly successful. What were the outcomes and impacts of that project? What challenges did you encounter along the way and how did you resolve them?

## Please describe a situation in which your work had unintended results, or failed to achieve the outcome that you desired. What went wrong? What did you learn from this experience that helped you improve your work going forward?

1. **Organization’s Proposed Community Land Protection Program**
2. Why does your organization want to partner with Namati’s Community Land Protection Program and what does it hope to gain from the partnership?

1. Where would you pilot this project? Why would you choose that region?

1. How would you select the communities that you would work with? Why would you select these particular communities? How would your organization “define” these communities? What is the population of the communities where you would work and what are some characteristics of the expected beneficiaries? (For example, are they farmers, pastoralists, members of a marginalized group, etc.)

1. What kinds of land protection challenges do these communities face? What have been the impacts of these difficulties? What kinds of solutions are necessary to address these challenges?

1. Please describe your understanding of Namati’s Community Land Protection model. Please be as detailed as possible. How would you adapt Namati’s approach to your local context? Why would these adaptations be necessary?

1. What steps or actions would you take to make sure that all community members, including women and marginalized groups, participate in all aspects of the community land protection process?

1. To fully protect community land, there must be a legal “hook” that communities can use to seek formal legal documentation of their lands. Is community land legally recognized in your country? If yes, please cite the law(s) that give communities rights over their customary and indigenous lands. If there are no specific laws that provide for legal recognition of community land rights, what other legal mechanisms might you use?

1. Have you engaged in national policy advocacy efforts to strengthen legal recognition for community land rights? If yes, please describe.

1. **Logistics**
2. What types of support and assistance do you foresee needing as you work with communities to protect their land and natural resource rights?

1. One of the few non-negotiable requirements of a partnership with Namati is that partners must enter M&E data into our online database. Does your staff have experience using digital databases? If not, what type of support would your organization need to use our database?[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. What resources will your organization devote to the program to complement Namati’s financial and technical support? (For example: staff time, vehicle use, petrol, office equipment, etc.)

## Will your organization implement community land protection activities with its current staff or hire new staff? If your current staff will implement the proposed program, please include the name, gender, job title, and professional background of the staff member that will lead the program.

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1. Does your organization have a reliable vehicle? If not, how will you travel to the communities you will work with?

1. Funding provided by Namati is not intended to fully support community land protection programs. Please describe your strategy for raising additional funds to sustain and expand your community land protection program.

**7. Administration and References**

1. Does your organization have financial management and administrative policies? If yes, please attach your policies to your application.

1. Please list two references (preferably funders) that your organization has worked with closely in the past.

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Relationship to your organization:

Phone:

Email:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Relationship to your organization:

Phone:

Email:

1. Please note that if your organization does not have a reliable Internet, you should include the monthly costs of an Internet connection in your budget proposal. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)