

The Next Level Grant Facility (NLGF) – Voices for Climate Action (VCA)

PROJECT PROFILE 2024

Objectives and Expected Outputs:

The Voices for Climate Action (VCA) program is a global initiative to empower local communities and grassroots organizations to participate in climate decision-making processes. It aims to amplify the voices of marginalized groups in the development and implementation of climate solutions, promoting a bottom-up approach to climate action.

In Indonesia, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are the front lines and the most significant contributors to preserving nature, including forests and bio-cultural diversity. It has been documented that 80% of the world's biodiversity is protected and managed by IPLCs. However, direct support for them has been minimal. Forests, the guardians of our planet's health, are under threat. Yet, it is the Indigenous Peoples who have been the primary protectors and administrators of these vital ecosystems. Their territories, increasingly under threat due to weak protection and government recognition, face administrative constraints in managing the area due to bureaucracy. Meanwhile, the seizure of the area is increasing due to regulations that focus on investment by any means necessary. This can lead to social and environmental conflicts and the displacement of communities from their lands. Therefore, a Fund for IPLCs in Indonesia is needed to support their efforts and initiatives in protecting and managing their lands, territories, and resources. This support will enable them to continue their crucial role in reducing deforestation and forest degradation emissions, increasing carbon stocks, and improving the local economy. It will also help them resist the seizure of their territories by harmful social and environmental investment regulations.

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The Next Level Grant Facility (NLGF) is a financing tool created within the framework of the Voices for Climate Action (VCA) program. The NLGF aims to foster a bottom-up approach to decision-making, where communities and local allies play a key role in identifying priorities and defining solutions. The facility is implemented by contracted local partners in the seven VCA implementing countries, including Indonesia. These organizations work to expand civic space and include traditionally excluded voices.

The NLGF is an important tool for achieving VCA's strategic objectives and addressing the funding challenges faced by small and/or informal groups and individuals addressing climate change. It provides flexible and rapid financial support, enabling grassroots organizations and individuals to respond effectively to climate emergencies and unforeseen opportunities.

Project Site:

The priority locations are DKI Jakarta, DI Yogyakarta, East Nusa Tenggara, and Tanah Papua, which are the implementation locations of existing VCA partners and alliances. And other locations outside the priority areas, considering the urgency and level of emergency.

Project Donor

Hivos, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Project period

March 2024 to August 2025



The NLGF will specifically contribute to:

- Ensure local civil society and underrepresented groups continue to play their vital role in local climate solutions and decision-making processes. This includes defending defenders and expanding civic space for marginalized voices;
- Build widespread societal support for locally shaped climate solutions;
- Influence national and global policies and financial flows in support of local climate action and inclusion;

The NLGF grants are made available to:

- Environmental defender, human right defender, front line defender, activist, journalist, local community, indigenous groups, small farmers, fisherfolks, and other vulnerable groups that facing persecution or human rights violations due to climate injustice, as well as environmental and land conflict;
- Small organisations/ groups/ individuals especially from grassroots and marginalized communities that have an opportunity to influence climate-related decision-making processes and strengthen their locally shaped climate solutions (e.g., local food system, effective adaptation, coastal management, local natural resource management, etc.). It recognizes small organizations that do not necessarily have the financial and management capacities like larger organizations, but represent local rights-holders;
- Groups and individuals include hard-to-reach youth, informal youth groups, young women and individual climate actors who, by their informal nature of operations, are not able to access the more formal funding programs and resources;
- Vulnerable communities face climate change impacts, such as drought in East Nusa Tenggara, flooding in Jakarta, landslides in Jayapura, or other areas experiencing disaster threats.