

**Terms of Reference: Research on grassroots groups’ access to finance mechanisms for international agreements**

**Background:**

Since 2022, Tearfund has been working with rightsholders groups to call for a binding Treaty on Plastic Pollution. The Treaty is now in its final stages of negotiation, and we hope to see the process conclude in the coming year.

The Treaty will include the establishment of a financing mechanism to enable implementation of Treaty obligations. The precise form this will take is currently unknown, but it will draw inspiration from the precedent set by other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Rightsholder groups, including waste pickers and Indigenous People, have been the key voice calling for just transition throughout the Treaty negotiation process. In order for the Treaty to deliver a just transition for grassroots rightsholders groups, it is essential that they are able to access the financial support allocated for Treaty implementation.

In order to inform Tearfund’s and our allies input into the ongoing Treaty process, we are seeking consultancy services to produce research on precedent for how grassroots groups have accessed finance in other MEAs.

**Task**

The consultancy task comprises two phases: Research into finance access for grassroots groups, and developing policy asks.

**1. Research into finance access for grassroots groups**

The consultant will investigate if and how finance from other Treaties (or MEAs) has been able to reach grassroots groups, looking specifically at the following agreements, funds and grassroots groups.

<b>MEA</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Grassroots group (including but not limited to...)</b>
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Global Biodiversity Framework Fund	Indigenous Peoples
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	GEF, including Adaptation Fund (AF), Loss and Damage Fund for Developing Countries, Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and; Green Climate Fund	Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers, artisanal fishermen

Minamata Convention on Mercury	GEF	Artisanal miners
The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement)	GEF	Indigenous Peoples
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	GEF	Indigenous Peoples
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund	Indigenous Peoples

Questions to explore for each agreement and attached fund:

- Has finance been accessed by grassroots groups? If so, how successful has this been (including scale and reach of funding, as well as timeline for access)?
- What challenges have groups faced in accessing funding?
- Describe the route(s) by which grassroots groups have been able to access finance. What have been the key enabling factors that have led to success?
- What wording, if any, is there in the MEA corresponding to the fund which established the mandate for grassroots groups to access finance?

The output for this phase of the consultancy project is a short research paper addressing the questions above.

## 2. Formulating key policy asks

Following completion of phase one, the consultant will apply this research to suggest key policy asks that Tearfund and allies could take forward to ensure finance is accessible for grassroots groups in the implementation of the UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution.

The output for this phase of the consultancy project is one or two pages of recommendations.

### The Consultant

To undertake this work, we are seeking a consultant who:

- Has significant experience in delivering research projects related to environmental issues and rightsholders
- Has a strong understanding of global finance mechanisms in multilateral environmental agreements
- Has a strong understanding of the challenges facing rightsholder groups in global policy forums
- Has significant experience of translating research to produce policy asks appropriate for advocating for change at the global level

### Budget and timeline

The budget for this project is up to £6000.

**Submission details**

Please submit a bid explaining:

- Your relevant experience and expertise (max 2 pages).
- A breakdown of your costs.

Please send these to [sophia.gladstone@tearfund.org](mailto:sophia.gladstone@tearfund.org)