



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

WATER AND CLIMATE

Return water to the earth to restore the climate

France Libertés –Danielle Mitterrand Foundation is launching a call for proposals to support projects, led by non-profit organizations, promoting the link between water and climate.

LIGNES DIRECTRICES

France Libertés –Danielle Mitterrand Foundation

France Libertés Foundation was set up by Danielle Mitterrand in 1986. It has always defended human rights and supported oppressed peoples' resistance struggles. Today the Foundation is still defending fundamental rights. It develops its activities around two main programmes: « Indigenous Peoples rights » and « Water – humanity's Common Good ». This call for proposals is part of the second program with a focus on the climate thematic and human activities.

France Libertés acts through awareness-raising and advocacy activities (including at the United Nations' Human Rights Council) and through support to field projects.

1. Overall context of this call for proposals

France Libertés

Since its creation in 1986, France Libertés actively promotes **human rights**. This historical commitment has focused on promoting the right of peoples to self-determination when confronted with oppression by authoritarian regimes. This mobilization with concerned populations increasingly resulted in supporting their struggle to have control over their natural resources, against their lands' spoliation or to preserve their traditional knowledge. About fifteen years ago, this dialogue with oppressed populations led us to concentrate on the right to water for all as our main line of work.

Water is essential to life and is a Commons, both of humanity and of the living. The Foundation stands clearly against its commodification and considers that this Common Good has to be managed in a democratic, public, participative and sustainable way. A symbol of sharing, water is vital for all, poor and rich alike. Danielle Mitterrand used to say that depriving anyone of their fundamental right to access water is a crime. This is why France Libertés has strongly supported recognition of the right to water and sanitation and calls for full implementation of this right by States and other parties¹.

According to Danielle Mitterrand, *“Protecting the future of humanity and of our earth implies a paradigm shift and a radical change in the way we manage our natural resources in order to pool them for the benefit of all, north and south countries alike.”*

France Libertés has always supported the struggles of oppressed peoples, indigenous peoples or minorities for the respect of their fundamental rights. This has been a central commitment, especially since their natural resources, cultures and traditional lifestyles tend to be threatened by the dominant system. Extractives activities count among the threats on these peoples as they often endanger their right to water.

Climate change is currently at the heart of our societal challenges: it calls into question the entirety of our way of life, which is recognized as a major cause of climate disruption. If we perceive more and more the threats and consequences of the climatic disturbances, it is by the water that these are the most visible: extreme events, droughts, floods, desertifications ... The water and the climate are intrinsically linked. Thus France Libertés wishes to highlight the importance of protecting the balance of the water cycle for the preservation of this natural resource, common good of humanity. France Libertés is committed to return water to the earth to restore the climate and that communities can become actors of a positive change to preserve their way of life and their access to water.

The issue of access to water is at the heart of many actions carried out by France Libertés as part of our program on the right to water and the rights of peoples' program. Today access to water is endangered by the climate change. We want to continue the dissemination of our advocacy but also support actions in the field working for the balance of the water cycle as a lever for action against climate change.

¹ The Right to water and sanitation has been officially recognized by the UN general Assembly resolutions 64/292 on July 28th 2010 and 68/157 on December 18th 2013 and by the Human Right Council resolution 15/9 on September 30th 2010.

The call for proposals

In this call, we focus on **the interrelations between water and climate** and taking into account their links, **in order to integrate the protection of this natural resource in the fight against global warming**. The links between Water and Climate have been regularly demonstrated and highlighted, the disruption of one or the other modifying the distribution of water on Earth.

The current context only reinforces the importance of a comprehensive approach linking these two themes. There is an intensification of extreme events directly related to climate change, these events occur throughout the globe and are caused by lack or excess of water. The frequency and violence of these events lead to a growing awareness of the impact of human activities on the climate, but also to the weakening of our way of life through climate change. The current consequences highlight the absence of climate justice and social justice contributing to the increase of inequalities. This call wishes to promote the projects and alternatives allowing everyone to choose their place of living including sustainable and resilient habitats in a quality environment.

Human responsibility in the modification of natural cycles including the water cycle is undeniable and raises the question of lifestyles and possibilities to restore their equilibrium. Changes in the local water cycle are affecting the global cycle of water on Earth by changing water transfers around the planet and creating increasingly constrained access to the resource. Human activities have a direct impact on the balance of the water cycle, through the modification or suppression of natural processes (condensation, infiltration, evapotranspiration), the reduction of water quality, the destruction of natural areas and the disruption of ecosystem services, these consequences then have repercussions on the climate.

Yet local solutions, **adapted to each context, emerge in many places on the planet** ([see our publication Water and climate](#)). These alternatives demonstrate an opportunity to "do otherwise" and lead to a paradigm shift that promotes sustainable development models, integrated into our environment, into the water cycle and focused on living spaces that respect fundamental human rights. This call for proposals aims to **highlight human solutions related to the interconnections between water and climate**.

This is why **France Libertés wants to support the work of actors who are sources of knowledge, initiatives and alternatives** that allow the restoration of the water cycle as a lever for action against climate change. Through the selected projects, France Libertés intends to defend modes of development that are sustainable from both a social, human, environmental and economic point of view, the rights of peoples and the common goods of life.

Access to the rights to water and sanitation is essential for the realization of other human rights, including women's rights. In an intervention at the Human Rights Council, Leo Heller, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights to Water and Sanitation, recalls that gender inequalities related to water, sanitation and hygiene are ubiquitous and occur at all stages of a woman's life - through childhood, adolescence, parenthood, illness and old age. There is an urgent need to ensure that women and girls, throughout their lives, have the same opportunities to lead healthy, self-determined lives. **Women are at the heart of family balances cultural, health and social services and often play a central role in development**

and education. This is why France Libertés will study with particular attention the projects carried by women or benefiting them.

The aim of this call for proposals is to learn from these projects, both on the threats to the water cycle caused by human activities and on the actions taken to protect the balance of this cycle in the fight against climate change.

Through the panel of supported projects, we want to gather ideas to rethink the dominant paradigms in these areas and promote the actions and solutions implemented solutions benefiting them.

2. Selection criteria

General characteristics of projects

Eligibility of applicants: any non-profit making organisations (organised local communities, associations, representative structures, NGOs, universities, research institutes, trade unions...)

We give priority to proposals directly from peoples themselves or organizations working directly with them.

Applicants must be in charge of undertaking the projects and not be simple intermediaries.

Eligible geographic area: no restrictions (France included).

Project period: between 6 and 18 months.

Fields of action: awareness raising, information, advocacy, capacity building, legal work, research, field activities and initiatives, or the establishment / strengthening of management systems, governance, way of life and habitat, for the preservation of the water resource and its access.

Whatever the types of activities that the submitted project provides, the actions must include the existing relationships between water and climate.

Support will not be given to projects that are purely scientific or technical, nor purely ecological or environmental. The human being must be at the center of the project (based, for example, on notions of environmental justice, of environmental inequalities, dealing with the dispossession or repossession of populations' natural resources etc.).

Projects centered on making a film or documentary and then broadcasting it will not be considered. Films or documentaries can however be a minor part of a much wider project.

Project objectives:

- participate in the protection and preservation of the local water cycle
- promote and implement practices and alternatives that respect our environment, natural resources and integrated into the local water cycle;
- promote a right of access to water, participatory, democratic, transparent and sustainable water use and management and its common good character;
- defend the management and sustainable use of natural resources;
- encourage consideration of social aspects, including the possibility of everyone choosing their place of residence including decent standards, and environmental in the political and economic choices of development.

Expected methodological project characteristics :

Projects should:

- **meet the needs and aspirations** expressed by concerned local populations;
- ensure **direct involvement of local populations** in project definition and undertaking;
- **be adapted to the local and national context;**
- **be feasible** (their programme and schedule should be consistent with the organisation's financial capacity and available human resources and with local capacity for project management);
- Include an **evaluation process** and intend to build upon and use its results.
- **Include audio-visual materials**

List of criteria :

The projects' selection will be based on 5 criteria:

- **Relevance** (to principles and values defended by France Libertés, to the needs and aspirations of concerned populations, to the local context and to characteristics outlined in this call for proposals) : 25 points
- **Organisation's operational and financial capacity, cost-effectiveness ratio and the budget** : 25 points
- **Project methodology** : 20 points
- **Intended impact** : 20 points
- **Communication strategy proposed**: 10 points.

3. Financial aspects

Grants

The grant requested should be between **8000 € and 12000 €**.

The grant will not exceed 80% of total costs of the estimated project budget.

Budgetary criteria

Applicants' minimum financial contribution should be 5% of total costs of the estimated project budget.

Indirect costs (administrative costs of applicant and its partners) are accepted but should not exceed 7 % of total costs of the estimated direct expenses.

Estimations of the monetary value of contributions in kind in the budget are accepted (maximum 25% of total costs of the estimated project budget).

Eligible expenditures are all expenses that are necessary for project implementation and that can be recorded, proven and accounted for.

Grant payment

First instalment of 70% of the grant will be made after the partnership agreement is signed. **The balance** will be paid at the end of the project, **after the expenditure justification and the approval of the final report**, established according to the terms of the partnership agreement.

The terms of payment will be more specified in the partnership agreement.

The grant should be registered in the summary of accounts of the applicants. An accountancy copy could be required.

4. How to apply

Schedule

The deadline for the presentation of the proposals is **26th October 2018**. All proposals must be received before midnight (Paris time).

Incomplete or late applications will not be studied.

A first selection of the results of analysis of applications will be published on **3rd december 2018**.

Afterwards, partnership agreements will be drawn up with successful applicants.

A second selection of the results of analysis of applications will be published on **March 2019**. Afterwards, partnership agreements will be drawn up with successful applicants.

List of documents to be attached

In order for your application to be considered, please provide the following documents:

- **Filled-in application form**. This should not exceed 15 pages length (Times New Roman 12pt or Calibri/Arial 11pt), not including appendices ;
- **Additional documents attached** (see the full list in the application form).

Forms may be filled in using English, French or Spanish.

All these documents should be sent by e-mail to: **justine.richer@france-libertes.fr**

The « object line » of the e-mail should be composed as follows: **name of the organization – application – n°** (the number will be added if many sending are necessary to apply because of the appendices for example).

5. Follow-up and monitoring of selected projects

The selected project promoter undertakes to report on the progress of the project by sending e-mails on a regular basis and to send a final report according to the terms of the agreement.

The production of photos and small video films as well as documents and communication tools will complement the monthly reports and the final report.