The **Equator Prize 2012** will recognize 25 local initiatives that demonstrate leadership in advancing innovative solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. All winning initiatives will be honored with the Equator Prize 2012 and US $5,000. Ten winners will receive special recognition and a total of US $20,000 each. Representatives of recipient communities will participate in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Brazil in June 2012.

**Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for the Equator Prize 2012, nominees must:
- Be in operation for at least 3 years;
- Be a community-based and/or local group, operating in a rural area; and
- Be within a country receiving support from United Nations Development Programme, excluding countries with a high level of development. (For a list of eligible countries, please click here or visit [www.equatorinitiative.org](http://www.equatorinitiative.org))

**Selection Criteria**

Final selection of Equator Prize 2012 winners will be determined by a Technical Advisory Committee. Nominations will be assessed based on the following selection criteria:

**Impact**: Initiatives that have improved community wellbeing, livelihoods, and resilience through the sustainable management of natural resources and the ecosystems on which they depend.

**Sustainability**: Initiatives that can demonstrate enduring institutional, operational and financial sustainability.

**Innovation and Transferability**: Initiatives demonstrating new approaches that overcome challenges and offer knowledge, experience and lessons of potential relevance to other communities.

**Leadership and Community Empowerment**: Initiatives demonstrating leadership that has inspired action and change consistent with the vision of the Equator Initiative, including policy and/or institutional change, the empowerment of local people, and community management of natural resources or protected areas.

**Empowerment of Women and Social Inclusion**: Initiatives that promote the equality and empowerment of women and/or marginalized groups.

**Resilience, Adaptability and Self-Sufficiency**: Initiatives demonstrating resilience in the face of external pressures, adaptability to environmental, social and economic change, and improved capacity for self-sufficiency.

**Please Note:**
- Nominators are encouraged, where possible, to quantify results and include data which demonstrates impacts and positive changes in socio-economic and environmental conditions.
- Nominations may be submitted either directly by the initiative, by a partner organization, or by any third party that is sufficiently familiar with the activities and achievements of the initiative.
- Nominated initiatives will undergo a verification process which may require nominees and/or nominators to provide additional information and/or materials.
- Special Recognition prizes will be determined by a jury of eminent persons – a panel of highly distinguished international figures who have demonstrated leadership in sustainable development.
- Nominations may be submitted in: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.
- Completed nominations must be submitted by **31 October 2011**.

The nomination is available [online](http://www.equatorinitiative.org). Completed nominations may be submitted through our online nomination system or via e-mail, fax, or post to:

**Equator Initiative**
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
304 East 45th Street, Room 640 New York, NY 10017
Tel: +1 212 906-6206
Fax: +1 212 906-6642
Email: prize@equatorinitiative.org Web: [www.equatorinitiative.org](http://www.equatorinitiative.org)
Please complete the following nomination in no more than five pages.

1. **Name of the group or organization being nominated.**

2. **Nominee is best described as:** (choose all that apply)
   - Community-based organization
   - Community-based enterprise or cooperative
   - Community-based initiative associated with a conserved area or other biological reserve
   - Indigenous group
   - Non-governmental organization
   - Women's group
   - Youth group
   - Other (please specify)

3. **Thematic Areas:** (Please select up to three thematic areas that are relevant to the initiative’s work)
   - Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and/or Access and Benefit Sharing
   - Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change
   - Food Security, including Ecoagriculture
   - Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Waste
   - Sustainable Energy
   - Sustainable Forest Management, including REDD+
   - Sustainable Land Management in Drylands
   - Water Resource Management, including freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems

4. **Initiative Description and Innovations (300 words or less):** Provide a description of the origin of the initiative and its purpose, activities, and achievements. Identify the main social and environmental issues and challenges addressed by the initiative and describe what innovative approaches are being taken to address them.

5. **Community Wellbeing and Sustainable Livelihoods (200 words or less):** How has the initiative improved the socio-economic conditions (livelihoods, incomes, etc) and wellbeing (health, food security, education, etc) of the community? Describe how these wellbeing and livelihoods improvements are linked to environmental conservation, sustainable natural resource management and to local self-sufficiency.

6. **Environmental Impacts (200 words or less):** How has the initiative contributed to sustainable natural resource management and environmental conservation? Describe how these conservation efforts are linked to improved community livelihoods and wellbeing.

7. **Resilience and Adaptability (200 words or less):** How has the initiative improved the community’s ability to adapt and respond to environmental, social and economic change? What specific elements of the initiative help to ensure community resilience in the face of external pressures?

8. **Sustainability (200 words or less):** Describe the operational sustainability of the initiative. When did the initiative begin? What are the key social, institutional, financial, and ecological elements that make this initiative sustainable over the long term? Describe any plans for expansion of the initiative.

9. **Empowerment of Women (200 words or less):** Describe how the initiative has facilitated the empowerment of women in its approach to community wellbeing, livelihoods, and environmental conservation.

10. **Social Inclusion and Governance (200 words or less):** Describe how the initiative has facilitated the involvement of indigenous and/or economically marginalized segments of the community in its governance. What specific elements of the initiative promote community empowerment, community co-ownership, and participatory decision-making?

11. **Partnerships (200 words or less):** If the initiative works with partner organizations, briefly describe the nature of the partnership, its origins, and how the partnership has contributed to the success of the initiative.
Please answer questions 12 and 13 if they apply to the initiative.

12. **Influencing Policy (200 words or less):** Describe the initiative’s impact on policy development or change at the local, national, regional or international levels. Has the initiative successfully influenced changes in land use policy or contributed to national environment and development strategies, or been used as an example on which policy change was based?

13. **Knowledge Sharing and Replication (200 words or less):** Describe how the initiative has successfully shared its knowledge and innovations with other local and community-based groups. Has the initiative’s model been replicated by other groups? How many individuals and groups have benefited from the initiative’s willingness to share its knowledge?

14. **Other Information (200 words or less):** Include any other information you wish to convey about the initiative.

15. **Contact Information:** Please provide name, position, organization, street address, city / town, postal code, province or state, country, telephone, fax, email, website for the following individuals:

- Contact person(s) for the nominated initiative
- Contact person(s) for all partner organizations
- Nominator (if different from nominated initiative)
- Two references who are well informed about the initiative’s activities and achievements and who are willing to be contacted by the selection committee during the verification process.

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