



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

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SEED Initiative

supporting entrepreneurs for sustainable development

Founding Partners



2014 SEED Awards Applications – Now Open

Grassroots Green Entrepreneurs Can Win Business Support Package

Nairobi, 11 February 2014 – Start-up social and environmental entrepreneurs who have developed innovative products or services and are working with local communities can win a tailor-made business support package through the 2014 SEED Awards, which open for nominations today.

SEED Award Winners, based in emerging economies, developing and least-developed countries, will receive \$5000 towards their most urgent needs.

In addition, over a period of about 6 months, they will be offered expert advice on developing their business plans, the opportunity to take part in specially-designed workshops to enhance their skills, high-level profiling of their enterprises and access to an international network of businesses, governments and development institutions.

For the 2014 SEED Awards, SEED has received support from the European Union; the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection, Building and Nuclear Safety; the Government of Flanders; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and the international law firm Hogan Lovells. Additional support is provided by the SEED Partners.

SEED this year will make available **up to**:

- **30 SEED Africa Awards** to enterprises in Ethiopia, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda;
- **12 SEED South Africa Awards** to enterprises in South Africa, with up to four of them to enterprises in the provinces of Free State, Limpopo or KwaZulu-Natal;
- **10 SEED Low Carbon Awards** to enterprises in Colombia, India, Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam;
- **3 SEED Gender Equality Awards** to enterprises in countries that are not OECD or EU Member countries.

Winners of the 2013 SEED Awards included enterprises in Uganda for a biogas plant which utilises agricultural waste to produce renewable energy for rural communities; in Colombia for an alternative lighting system based on recycled plastic bottles for off-grid housing; in Ethiopia for improved cook stoves and briquettes for various end-users throughout the country; and in Namibia for a value-added fish and food processing facility which focuses on solar-dried food. Details about these and other SEED Winners are at: www.seedinit.org.

The deadline for applications is **08 April 2014**, 23:59 Central European Time (CET).

Applications can be filled in [online](http://www.seedinit.org) at the SEED Initiative website www.seedinit.org. Alternatively, the application form can be downloaded and emailed to seedawards2014@seedinit.org. Applicants may also contact the SEED Initiative by email or phone (+49 30 89 00 068 99) should they not be able to submit their application electronically.

For more information please contact

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You may also follow the SEED Initiative on the following social media channels:

- <https://www.facebook.com/The.SEED.Initiative>
- https://twitter.com/SEED_Initiative, Hastag: [#SEEDAwards](https://twitter.com/SEEDInitiative)
- <http://www.linkedin.com/company/the-seed-initiative>

About the SEED Initiative

SEED was founded by UNEP, UNDP, and IUCN at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It is hosted at Adelphi Research, in Germany.

Partners in the SEED Initiative, in addition to the Founding Partners, are the governments of Flanders, Germany, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the European Union; Conservation International; and SEED's corporate partner, Hisense.

The SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. It identifies and supports promising small-scale start-up social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe who, in working towards a greener economy, also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers with a view to promoting evidence-based policymaking on the green economy.