

April 2012

Funding opportunity - Kenya

Greetings from everyone at ARC! We are very excited to be able to tell you about a funding opportunity in Kenya for civil society organisations. A Kenyan NGO, ACT! (which stands for Act, Change, Transform) is based in Nairobi and works to develop strong civil society organisations by capacity building and grant management.

It is now inviting applications for funding for **Natural Resources Management – deadline May 14, 2012**) but they also have other funding opportunities. Check out their website <http://www.act.or.ke> to find out what other project areas they support.

These projects should contribute to achievement of **Kenya's Vision 2030** as well as **improve participation of citizens**, including the poor, in the **governance** and **sustainable utilization of natural resources** in Kenya.

How much and for how long?

Small grants: **7.5 million KES** for projects of **12-18 months**
Medium grants: **15 million KES** for projects up to **24 months**

What kind of projects do they want?

While I was in Nairobi, ACT!'s Chief Executive Anthony Kariuki told me that ACT! wants to support projects that bring about a more wide-reaching change in Kenyan society and also strengthen the ability of citizens to hold the Government to account, to manage natural resources themselves and improve their livelihoods.

So, for example, a water project should not simply be about digging a borehole but should also look at the wider water catchment area and engage the community in how to protect this, as well as look at how the improved water resource would be used at community and farm level to improve what they're doing.

ACT! is also moving towards advocacy delivery – ie, strengthening communities' ability to hold government to account. Anthony told me: "We want civil society and citizens becoming engaged more." These projects also often require community sensitisation and awareness-raising as a first step to enable them to do so.

How to apply

There are two ways to apply for funding. The main one is by competitive bid responding to a call for applications (notified in the local daily paper or on the ACT website - called <http://www.act.or.ke> - once a year). ACT! also has a Targets Of Opportunity (TOO) window, through which people can apply for funding; details will be announced soon on the ACT! website.

There are very specific instructions on who is eligible, how long your initial concept note must be, even what type and size of type. I imagine there will be a lot of people chasing this funding, so it is vital to make sure that you follow the exact procedure.

More information: Umeme Plaza Ground floor, Naivasha Road, off Ngong Road, P.O.Box 76390-00508 Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254-20- 3878271/3/4 or +(254) 722 203 721 0717748488 or email: crm.rfa@act.or.ke