



Review of the SiemenpUU Foundation

Assessing the Working Context and the Outcomes of Strengthening the Environmental Social Movement in the Global South 2010-2016

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This report was written by Badayl, India in close consultation with GRIP.Consulting, Palestine. The report is an Assessment of the Outcomes of Strengthening the Environmental Social Movement in the Global South 2010-2016 and Future Oriented Analysis of SiemenpUU's Working Context. The report does not necessarily reflect SiemenpUU Foundation's views.

PREFACE BY THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION

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At the end of 2016, the Siemenpuu Foundation commissioned for the first time in its history an assessment attempting to cover the whole range of its funding activities, as well as its working context. A team of experts from India (Badayl) and Palestine (Grip.Consulting) carried out the work and produced this report in hand.

The evaluation team had at its disposal the periodical evaluations and self-assessments of Siemenpuu's programmes commissioned over the period 2010-2016, as well as some individual project evaluations. Together with a field trip and interviews of selected partners, Siemenpuu's representatives and other documentation, the team was able to get both a good overview of activities supported by the Siemenpuu Foundation, and insights of the work of selected partners. This was done with a limited budget and short time-span.

The Terms of Reference for the evaluation were written with the specific intention of getting a view of Siemenpuu from a Southern perspective. This way we wanted to contribute to the South-North dialogue that Siemenpuu is committed to also in the context of evaluations. We wanted to learn about the possible Siemenpuu's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as seen from the Global South.

The aim of this evaluation carried out by the Badayl/Grip team was to gain understanding from the Southern movements' perspective on Siemenpuu's role and outcomes in strengthening the environmental movement in the Global South on the basis of the project funding granted in 2010-2016.

Currently Siemenpuu is also being evaluated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) as part of a larger evaluation round of the development CSOs receiving funding from the Ministry. The evaluation by the MFA covers the same period of time, and is done in accordance with the OECD-DAC criteria. The assessment commissioned by Siemenpuu provides complementary insights to the one commissioned by the MFA.

One clear observation by the Badayl/Grip evaluation team is that there is a Siemenpuu community, made of grass-root groups, CSOs, networks, and other actors. Most of them have benefited not only from Siemenpuu's funding, but also from a wide range of personal interactions with Siemenpuu's staff, volunteers and stakeholders, which has had an impact on the participants.

For Siemenpuu, the main lessons and results of the report include:

- to continue the strategic selection process of the projects to be supported in order to

not steer the Southern civil societies;

- to continue supporting environmental civil society movements in the South through both grants and solidarity in order to enable their empowerment;
- enabling North-South and South-South interaction is vital;
- to cautiously select the learning and monitoring approaches to be applied in order to fully understand the results of social change in complex situations; and
- to increase efforts in supporting gender equality, as well as make more visible the results already achieved in this field.

The Siemenpuu Foundation is grateful to the Badayl/Grip team led by Dr. Ranjan Solomon for the commitment it demonstrated in carrying out the evaluation. It was not an easy task to study the vast range of work that Siemenpuu had supported in the period covered. The team was able to make a field visit, produce the report and give several presentations in Helsinki, all of which are truly helpful for Siemenpuu in developing its work. This way we are confident it will also be beneficial to our partners. Warm thanks also to all partners and other stakeholders who gave their time for the interviews and interactions for this work.

The report gives a lot of useful guidance for the way forward in planning of the next phase of Siemenpuu's activities. The information and suggestions will certainly be used in Siemenpuu's process of operationalising its Long Term Action Plan 2016-2021.

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GRIP.Consulting/ Badayl are firstly appreciative to Siemenpuu for selecting our organizations as the evaluator's of this project. It must be said that we did not, at first, fully grasp the enormity of the task involved. But on studying the reports and the documents, communicating with the Siemenpuu team, and relating to selected project partners, we gained information, motivation and commitment to work to fulfill the requirements of the task at hand. Siemenpuu's support and encouragement energized our work.

There are a number of people that we must acknowledge for the support which made our work smoother.

1. Siemenpuu Secretariat for their active support in guiding us when we had questions, offering us the fullest possible information for our work, including sharing of documents and critiquing our original proposals.
2. Marko Ulvila, Chairperson of Siemenpuu, for the time he willingly allocated out of his vacation days to orient us to the work of Siemenpuu and to his expectations of the evaluation.
3. The project partners who we directly interviewed.
 - a. Seba Jagat, India
 - b. Foundation for Ecological Recovery, Thailand
 - c. INSAF, India
 - d. ZIMSOF, Zimbabwe
 - e. SADED, India
4. The project partners who offered us information through email questionnaires.
 - a. JAPESDA, Indonesia
 - b. COECOceiba, Costa Rica
 - c. Mali Folke Centre, Mali
 - d. Acbio, Argentina
 - e. Jikalahari, Indonesia
 - f. ADECRU, Mozambique
5. The like minded environmental partners who gave us valuable insights.
 - a. Rainforest Foundation, Norway
 - b. GAIA Foundation, UK
 - c. Both ENDS, Netherlands

We owe a special mention of thanks to Roy David, Director, the Coorg Organisation for Rural Development (CORD) for receiving our team and taking us to key locations in the field that extended our understanding of issues.

ACRONYMS

AcBio	Acción por la Biodiversidad
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADECRU	Acção Académica para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais
ARB	Ayeyarwady River Basin
CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
C-SEA	Community-Centered Strategic Environmental Assessment
CNDP	Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace
COECOCEIBA-AT	Asociación Comunidades Ecologistas la Ceiba – Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica
CORD	Coorg Organisation for Rural Development
CSD	Council for Social Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of OECD
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern African Small Holder Farmers Forum
FER	Foundation for Ecological Recovery
FGD's	Focus Group Discussions
FoGGO	Forum of Green Governance
FRA	Forest Rights Act
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub region
INSAF	Indian Social Action Forum
JAPESDA	Jaring Advokasi Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Alam
JIKA LAHARI	Jaringan Kerja Penyelamat Hutan Riau (Forest Rescue Network Riau)
LTAP	Long Term Action Plan
MEE Net	Mekong Energy and Ecology Network
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
NAA	National Adivasi Alliance
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPVS	Open Pollinated Varieties
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PFIFI	Peoples Forum Against International Financial Institutions
PESA	Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas
PMANE	People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RFN	Rainforest Foundation Norway
RBM	Results Based Management
SADED	South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy
SFO	Small Holders Farmers Association
SWOT	Strengths Weakness Opportunities Threats
ToR	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
WB	World Bank
WSF	World Social Forum
ZIMSOFF	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GRIP.Consulting/Badayl's report is based on a review of literature and a survey of movements that Siemenpuu supports, Siemenpuu's own ideological framework and orientation and a comparison to like-minded funders. It also includes literature independent from that provided by Siemenpuu but related to the core issues.

GRIP.Consulting/Badayl interviewed selected partners, an exercise which proved extremely instructive. More than information, it offered insights, perspectives and the pain of being involved in difficult struggles. The message was singular that *"Siemenpuu support was of value that cannot easily be quantitatively assessed but needs to continue in view of its irreplaceable value."*

Also, we continued to receive the impression that environmental degradation was worsening with corporates prying on more spaces for destructive industrial policies and eyeing profits from nature – the spaces of animals, birds, wildlife, forestlands, rivers, coastlines, water-bodies, the oceans, marine life and systems. In an unequal world even the poor have tended to resort to ecological harm only as a matter of survival.

It became clear that, the challenges for environmental protection are growing. With much respect for organizations that fund environmental protection, we wish to affirm Siemenpuu's extra-ordinary work. This relationship goes beyond mere funding because funding can often have the effect of worsening conditions and creating dependence.

Important affirmations which have been made include:

1. Siemenpuu offers itself as a collaborator and partner rather than as an external funder. This is borne out in their claim that was stated in different ways *"we love Siemenpuu, because they love our people"*.
2. Siemenpuu ensures that it first understands the project arena and context before entering into a funding partnership. Hence, the entire relationship is built on Siemenpuu holding a picture in their minds on who they are working with and what issues they address.
3. Siemenpuu offers flexibility in approaches. Approaches and strategies are contextually based and not adhering to a fixed standard or regulation.
4. Siemenpuu calls for accountability and adequate reporting. But ensures that there is dialogue involved in content and reporting.
5. Siemenpuu has created the pattern of thematic frameworks, geographical connectedness and collectives in which exchanges and learning are possible.

6. Siemenpuu has allowed for the micro and macro questions to interface and allows each to appropriately influence the other.
7. The ultimate strength of Siemenpuu has been the important decision to provide funding support in sums that are not large and thus avoid dependency to obstruct generation of local resources.

It is truly the seed that bears trees and eventually forests. Siemenpuu allows for multilateral relationships and therefore, resists being in control, rather the project control is left to the integrity of the project partner.

The report has a SWOT analysis in which most recommendations fall in the categories of strengths and opportunities. What are seen as weaknesses, are really more in the line of areas that can be enhanced and not strictly failures. This notion also applies to threats as we perceive them as those which need to be worked with.

In the chapter, ‘the way forward’, we also link our recommendations to the following categories of:

- Relevance, Effectiveness and Impacts
- Coherence and Complementarity
- Sustainability

In summary, we can read our claim for Siemenpuu to be the enablers of spreading authentic environmental democracy, capacity building, bridge builder between project partners in an international coalition, the solidarity enabler for communities at risk, the proposer for new approaches in environmental regeneration and enhancing the scope of alternative farming and the need for developing more strategic and viable campaign methodologies.

We also called for coherence and complementarity that asserts culture as a root, calls for creativity and innovation, makes environmental and human rights as correlated and non-negotiable, consciousness raising as essential to policy transitions and examination of how social enterprises can create self-reliance in the long term.

Under sustainability, we recommend lengthier Long Term Action Plans (LTAP) and a conscious building of communitarian values in economic interventions.

We have also added our critiques and projections for future strategies and action, in which we raise concerns over Siemenpuu’s processes such as RBM, logical frameworks, results chain, risks of bridging reporting formats, the limited time-frame for LTAP and for a more conscious development for a ‘praxis’ oriented approach.

In our understanding of the environmental movement and the exhaustive work of Siemenpuu and its project partners, we offer a section on emerging challenges – a proposed manifesto for environmental activists.

The Annexures include four parts. We would like to highlight some important features:

- a. Annexure 1 is the ToR is taken verbatim from what Siemenpuu provided us.
- b. Annexure 2 refers to our criteria for selecting project partners, the process which was agreed with Siemenpuu from the very start. It was helpful to have a wider reference of the organizations we interviewed than what was originally planned. It added perspective to our thinking and gave us a better understanding of the significance of Siemenpuu as a unique base of a global environmental struggle.
- c. Annexure 3 is the GRIP.Consulting/ Badayl as evaluators.
- d. Annexure 4 is the voices of like-minded partners of the environmental movements.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. About Siemenpuu Foundation

The **Siemenpuu - Foundation for Social Movements' Cooperation sr** (in Finnish Siemenpuu - kansalaisliikkeiden yhteistyösäätiö sr), in short is called Siemenpuu Foundation, Siemenpuu meaning 'Mother tree'.

The Siemenpuu Foundation was founded in 1998 by 15 Finnish NGOs and foundations working with environmental and developmental issues, along with its sister foundations Abilis, and KIOS, the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights. After much debate between NGOs and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the decision to establish these three foundations was made. The aim was to ensure flexible and small-scale directing of Finnish development funds to NGOs and civil movements working with human rights, disability and environmental issues in the South.

The overall objective of the Foundation is to:

- promote environmental protection and defend human rights
- advance people's possibilities for political participation and make political decision making more democratic and transparent in the whole world
- advocate intercontinental cooperation between civil movements, in particular environmental and alter-globalist ones
- deepen the public understanding of the possibilities and limits of civic participation, of building civil society in different parts of the world, and of the impact of institutional funding to the inner dynamics of civil movements
- provide support in particular to civil movements, NGOs and research centres which operate in the Third World and which promote environmental protection, human rights, social justice, the preservation of biological and cultural diversity and/or the democratisation of society, or which help communities in surviving and resisting the negative impacts of globalisation.

The Foundation receives its funding from the public development cooperation funds administered by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The Siemenpuu Foundation does not carry out advocacy of its own. However, through the

THEMATIC AREAS OF SUPPORT

1. Global dialogue for good living ('buen vivir')
2. India and Nepal: South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy
3. India: food sovereignty in the Tamil Nadu state
4. India: rights of the indigenous Adivasis
5. Indonesia: protection and sustainable use of forests
6. Latin America: community based forest conservation and agricultural biodiversity
7. Mali: environmental protection and awareness in the Sikasso region
8. Mekong region: sustainable energy policy

Siemenpuu learns from the south, supports enhancement, affirms alter globalization models, contests materialism and promotes sustainable lifestyles based on tradition, culture and wisdom of ancestors

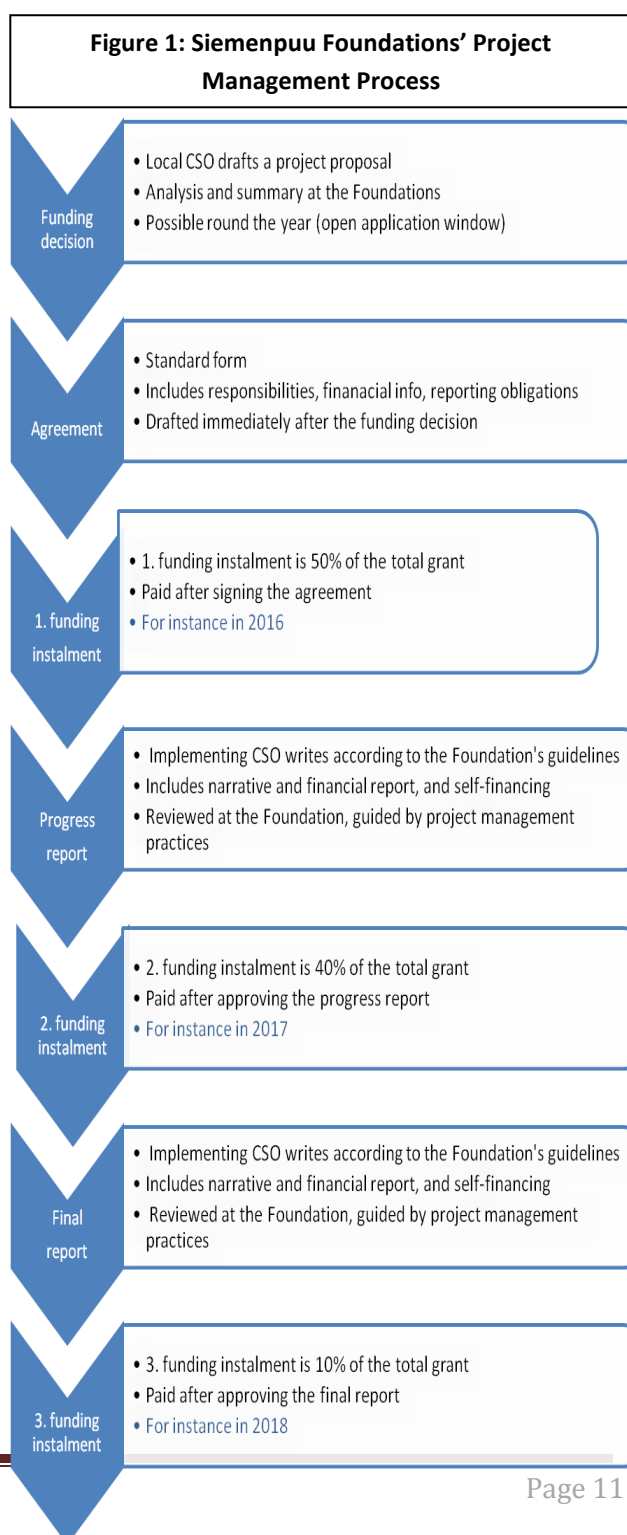
support to its project partners it enables partners to work together in areas that include development cooperation activities: programme based, project support, advocacy and solidarity.

The financing of the projects began in 2002, and between 2010 and 2016 (as of 01.11.2016), Siemenpuu granted funds to 248 environmental projects in over 30 developing countries. The support is channeled to projects planned and implemented locally by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Global South. The projects supported advocate ecological democracy, good living and environmental protection, or aim to tackle environmental threats. In addition to environmental issues, the focus is also on human rights, social justice and cultural diversity. Effective and relevant support from the Siemenpuu Foundation has enabled CSOs/CBOs/NGOs to meet their common goals.

Siemenpuu Project Management Process

The organizational structure is set up to ensure maximum effectiveness and participation through multi-levels of co-operation and decision making:

- a. **The Office** - The main duty of the Siemenpuu office is to administer projects funded by the Foundation. The Siemenpuu Foundation has seven permanent employees: a director, five programme coordinators and a financial planner.
- b. **The Executive Board** - The executive board is responsible for managing and representing the Foundation. The board of the Foundation is composed of a minimum of six, maximum of ten members. The board members are selected by the Foundation council. The board's term of office is one calendar year, and it has approximately ten meetings during the year.
- c. **The Council** - The main duty of the Siemenpuu Foundation council is to monitor and support the work of the Foundation. Each of the founding organizations of Siemenpuu has the right to appoint one member and one vice member to the council. The council's term of office is two calendar years. An annual meeting is held in October-December.



d. The Cooperation Programme Working Groups

Siemenpuu has seven volunteer-run cooperation programme working groups: the Indonesia group, the Latin America group, the Mali group, the Mekong group, the Global Dialogue group, NAA-program group, and SADED-program group. These board-appointed groups act as guidance and action groups for the respective cooperation programmes. They prepare programme-specific issues to be decided upon by the Foundation board and have an active role in monitoring and developing the programmes and in their public relations work. The groups have no formal decision-making power. Their activities are periodically shared with the wider public. Each group convenes according to its own schedule, approximately 4 to 10 times per year.

Most of the financial support is directed through the seven regional and thematic cooperation programmes. In addition, a small number of individual projects are supported yearly. The founding organizations may also propose projects to be funded.

In 2008, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland commissioned an evaluation of the Siemenpuu Foundation, Abilis and KIOS.

According to the evaluation report, all three foundations have fared well in their work: they administer small-scale funding to NGOs appropriately, they promote human-rights-based approach to development, and they are in capacity to enter into dialogue on the quality of projects with their partners in the South. By implementing cooperation programmes that are geographically more concentrated, a move has been made towards better-focused and longer-term relationships with the partners.

The 15 Finnish environmental organizations that founded Siemenpuu monitor the foundations activities through their representatives in the Foundation's executive board and council. Voluntary work is crucial to Siemenpuu's activities as well through their cooperation programme working groups and communication work

1.2. Evaluation purpose and scope

In November 2016 (Issued on 25.11.2016), the Siemenpuu Foundation issued a Call for Tenders. The tenders were for the “*Evaluation of the Siemenpuu Foundation - Assessing the Outcomes of Strengthening the Environmental Social Movement in the Global South 2010-2016 and Future Oriented Analysis of Siemenpuu's Working Context*”.

The evaluation was aimed at assessing the Siemenpuu Foundation's role and outcomes in strengthening the environmental movement in the Global South, on the basis of the project funding granted in 2010-2016. The perspective of the report is from the southern movements' perspective of the Siemenpuu Foundation. Evaluation provides a forward looking analysis and review of the operational environment and working context of Siemenpuu in the Global South. The information and suggestions are intended to be used in Siemenpuu's process of operationalising its Long Term Action Plan 2016-2021, taking into consideration the limited resources available to Siemenpuu Foundation. *Please refer to Annexure 1 for the Terms of*

1.3. The evaluator's approach

GRIP Consulting along with its on-the-field partner Badayl approached the project on an issue basis coupled with analysis and proposed policy perspectives. It offered concrete methods drawn from successful approaches that could be adapted suitably.

We describe below, the design, the prescribed objectives for the evaluation and our multiple experiences of evaluation as well as implementation.

Participatory and Collaborative Evaluation: GRIP Consulting/Badayl team worked collaboratively with Siemenpuu using a flexible implementation approach but firmly set on the core principles of GRIP Consulting and Badayl. The flexibility was applied only when enhancement of work was involved. GRIP Consulting/Badayl's shared basic method was towards "*participatory and collaborative evaluation*" which engaged different stakeholders in the evaluation process.

The primary focus of the tools of evaluation

These were used to measure the significance of the project in terms of visible and potential change. The following enquiries were pursued and applied in the final recommendations.

1. What is on the anvil in terms of new forms of social engineering?
2. Objectives and results - an audit - self audit and external audit.
3. Is the project in line with the planned objectives and relevant to the socio-economic challenges faced by the local community?
4. Do activities supported by The Siemenpuu Foundation promote challenging root causes of intricate environmental and social issues?
5. Does the partnership make space for highlighting causal relations, and, hence, advocacy at the level of donors and their partners in Europe?
6. Acting upon the actual causes. Siemenpuu aims to achieve long-term cooperation with its Southern partners and to increase interaction based on equity. The evaluation will work to propose to strengthen patterns of dialogue on environmental democracy and NGO cooperation between the Third World and the so-called developed industrialized world. The evaluation will also propose support to be channeled to projects planned and implemented locally by civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Third World.
7. Do they fill some gaps related to the socio-economic context and beneficiaries' skills?
8. What methods need revision and upgrading that will make results more effective?

A clearly defined **gender focus** was woven into the final results of the evaluation. But the focus did not take gender in isolation. It rather examined the tendency for even social movements to marginalize women in the struggles for justice, development, human rights, and in this case, ecological democracy.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology is based on a detailed process according to which the evaluation was conducted. The evaluators detail below the process by which the evaluation took place. The methods of participation and collective critiquing, towards a forward looking approach to Siemenpuu's supportive work, were pursued.

The evaluation was based on transparent, participatory and collective thinking. At the core of evaluation was the association with grass-root initiatives and projects of the partner organizations. Siemenpuu's support was assessed and appraised in terms of strengths and weaknesses (SWOT) and exploring future options for more effective working. In every case, the added value of Siemenpuu's support was examined and affirmed. The approach of the evaluators was not a typical SWOT analysis framework. It was weaved into the overall evaluation through a learning and appraisal process in which, the combined expertise of the evaluation team was able to discern strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The evaluators were conscious to identify with the aspirations of project partners and hence did not function exclusively as an external entity. It was important, in the view of the evaluators, to empathize with the oppression of the people as much as it was required to identify with the hope and courage with which the subjugation was being contested.

GRIP.Consulting/Badayl encouraged Siemenpuu's project partners to be self critical. The questions centered around emerging situations and the requisite paradigm shifts. This was helpful in enabling GRIP.Consulting/Badayl to validate successes and probe new thinking and possibilities for the work with Siemenpuu and its project partners.

GRIP.Consulting/Badayl insisted on adopting techniques of evaluation that led to assessing relevance, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and complementarity of Siemenpuu and their project partner's work.

GRIP.Consulting/Badayl selected a representative set of environmental projects funded by Siemenpuu in the Global South. Projects sampled were those which comprised of dimensions of civil society movements, adopted rights based approaches, engaged in political dialogues and strongly endorsed community-based conservation. The approach was to ensure that a cross-representation of thematic areas of work, regional influences as well as, long term, short term, small and big budget partnerships with Siemenpuu were included in the surveys/ evaluations.

Our methodology led us to the conclusion that, there requires to be continuous search for viable mechanisms with which to address the rapidly growing crises of depletion of water-related ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, overfishing, deforestation, and desertification.

In light of the above, Grip.Consulting/Badayl appraised Siemenpuu's practices in the following areas.

- Building of local leadership, enhancing local governance structures and people at large. Our methodology further inquired people's understanding of the notion of eco-justice. Through our enquiries we noted that people want to reverse the policies and practices which harm the healthy environment by affecting the ecosystems and hence, livelihoods and health, especially of the poor.
- Understanding of community-based social enterprises and the enhancement of economic gains from environmental initiatives were being formulated within the political processes.
- Advancing eco-justice with political agendas through alliances, networks, etc. Creating platforms to enhance: Immediate Outcomes → Intermediate Outcomes→ Long term Impacts.
- Appraising and evaluate the Results Based Management process.

2.1. Methods of data collection and analysis

The evaluators approached the evaluation with the focus on the question on ecological democracy. They added dimensions of analysis and proposed policy perspectives to the evaluation work. The process followed for the evaluation is as under:

Phase	Task
Phase 1	Desk Research Phase
Phase 2	Data collection and Interviews
Phase 3	Synthesis and De-briefing

2.2. Tools for evaluation

1. **Interviews:** GRIP.Consulting/Badayl conducted semi-structured in-depth dialogues with Siemenpoo's project partners, Siemenpoo staff, and people in the project areas/beneficiaries. This allowed for evaluators to probe and pursue impact assessment and viability of methods/ approaches.
2. **A field visit to a project area inclusive of multiple locations:** was carried out to get an understanding of actions, views and visible impacts from the people. A high degree of focus on assessing social, political and economic campaigns and results.
3. **Literature review of Siemenpoo's reports and sources:** Siemenpoo's staff generously supported the study process with voluminous access to documents, while pointing to

- important points-organization's, points-persons and key reports.
4. **Independent research - web and books/ documents:** through the internet, books and other relevant literature in order to draw theoretical frameworks and draw out viable/relevant models for action, coordination, advocacy/lobbying, and alliance-building-networking.
 5. **Email Interviews:** Owing to paucity of funds, it was not possible for the evaluators to make on-the-spot investigations and hence we applied the methodology of stratified sampling of email questionnaires.

The primary question in the minds of the evaluators was whether the activities supported by Siemenpuu promote radical engagement (from the root) of the political dimensions of the politics of environment. The evaluators clearly explored the factor of “**gender exclusivity**” and made their observations in the findings of the evaluation.

2.3. Sampling techniques and sample size

For the purposes of an independent and participatory evaluation, GRIP.Consulting/Badayl selected, through stratified random sampling techniques listed under two broad categories of partner organizations and like minded funders, a sample size represented in the table as under:

	Sample Size	Key Informants	Tools to be used	Criteria for selection
Project Partnering Organizations	5 project partners plus 1 field visit to CORD, Coorg	Staff and people of the community and other community leaders	Interviews, FGDs	Stratified Sampling techniques based on the partner list from 2010 - 2016
Like minded environmental funders	3 environmental funders	Agency staff	Interviews geared to understanding their approaches to funding	Siemenpuu's list of like minded funders
Siemenpuu Foundation	Siemenpuu Finland	Chairperson, Director & Staff dealing with project management	Interviews	

Tools for Evaluation	Cooperation	Total Respondents	Respondents
Interviews via Skype	Siemenpuu supported Project Partners	Five Organizations; 10 participants in total;	Seba Jagat, India
			Foundation for Ecological Recovery, Thailand (MEE Net)
			INSAF, India
			ZIMSOFF, Zimbabwe
			SADED, India
	Like minded environmental donors	Three Organizations; 3 participants in total	Rainforest Foundation, Norway
			GAIA Foundation, UK
	Both Ends, Netherlands		
Field Visit	Siemenpuu supported Project Partners	One Organization; 1 participant	Siemenpuu Foundation
Focused Group Discussions	Siemenpuu supported Project Partners	Three areas in Coorg; 10, 90, 6 participants for the FGDs respectively. Total participants are 106, of which 10 were women participants	CORD supported local groups
Email Interviews	Siemenpuu supported Project Partners	Six Organizations	JAPESDA, Indonesia
			COECOceiba, Costa Rica
			Mali Folke Centre, Mali
			Acbio, Argentina
			Jikalahari, Indonesia
			ADECRU, Mozambique
		19 Organizations, 130 participants	

	Sample Size
Long term Partnerships with big budgets	11
Short term Partnerships with small budgets	1

The Badayl Team had sent out invitations for interviews to twenty five partnering organizations in the categories in *Annexure 2: Project partners sampling criteria*. A total of twelve organizations responded, of which five were interviewed and one, CORD, was visited. Because of time restraints we were unable to interview the remaining six who responded in lieu of telephonic/ Skype interviews, we sent out email questionnaires. All the organizations to whom the email questionnaires were sent, responded with information that assisted the evaluation process.

Additionally, interviews were conducted with Like Minded Environmental Funders. Of the five email requests sent, Rainforest Foundation Norway, GAIA Foundation, UK and Both ENDS, Netherlands participated in the interview process. Their combined inputs were helpful to see points of convergence and possibilities of complementarity in working together.

3. SIEMENPUU – RELEVANCE TO AND IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

In this section, there is often reference to the achievements of Siemenpuiu. It is important to note that the reference to Siemenpuiu should be viewed as a global community of people/organizations drawn under what Siemenpuiu has emerged as – a rallying point for ecological democracy.

Siemenpuiu's contribution to the global environmental justice is remarkable. With not-so-large financial layouts, Siemenpuiu can claim credit for creating social capital that cannot be easily quantified. Siemenpuiu and its project partners can, however, claim with some degree of confidence that they have generated mass movements for ecological justice. It is based on the transition of people in the project areas from disempowerment to consciousness of rights. They can also claim that they have, in many spaces, reclaimed and restored environmental and social rights.

The findings in the table below are all based on the interviews with the project partners and the literature received from Siemenpuiu. It is our conclusion that Siemenpuiu's support enabled all the field level achievements. In the first place, the financial resources proved crucial. Secondly, the exchanges that were made possible in the international arenas and the national platforms also helped to enhance the achievements. In this regard to the evaluators noted that it was Siemenpuiu's conscious decision to promote exchanges, create opportunities for international and national exposure that enabled the achievements. Third, and a very significant factor, was the nature of the Siemenpuiu – project partner relationship. Project partners never felt the pressure of having to satisfy donor requirements of a biased nature. The support gave them the freedom to create and develop strategies that always had a multiplier effect.

3.1. Relevance, Effectiveness and Impacts

How and to what degree has Siemenpuu contributed to strengthening the environmental civil society organizations it has provided financial support to over the years 2010-2016?

And what kinds of impacts seen in civil societies at large?

Increased levels of awareness/ consciousness of the people/ communities, ability to access and analyze information	<p>Wherever Siemenpuu has supported an intervention, it has done so by accessing a location and a group where, there exists a conflict between people's interests and the interests of corporates and other powerful lobbies that subvert the State against the people. Siemenpuu's interventions have enabled CSOs/ CBOs to challenge people's aspirations by raising hopes and offering and generating courage to contest anti-development policies and practices of the Governments and corporates.</p>
	<p>Siemenpuu has been successful in shifting people from an informal understanding of ecological consciousness to a conscious recognition of their knowledge of ecosystems as the root of sustainability. They recognise in this root, life sustenance which includes all nature- animals, birds and insects and their link to livelihoods.</p>
Paradigm/ Pattern shift of communities' understanding of environmental protection and conservation as a human right	<p>This kind of intervention has created a paradigm shift in communities' self-understanding of their rights and identities from having abandoned tradition and cultural roots. CSOs and CBOS have enabled people to recapture their identities, reclaim their dignity by asserting their cultures. They have used traditional knowledge to reinstate their environmental rights and to protect and conserve their natural surroundings. Siemenpuu has actively supported the reassertion of cultural rights as a means of liberation.</p>
	<p>In Latin America indigenous communities are claiming forest rights in very emphatic terms. There is a conscious process of transferring productive agricultural diversity and protection into the hands of people. Food sovereignty is also being reached through the use of native seeds and the revival of traditional knowledge. Equally visible is the strengthening of resistance of mono-culture and commercialization of nature. In this sense, ecological democratisation has become equal to cultural diverse and small farming. Via Campesina, the International peasant's movement has brought together millions of farmers through collective empowerment.</p>

<p>High levels of participation</p>	<p>The levels of participation are invariably very high. Largely because people recognise that their struggles for rights go beyond mere survival, but into the arena of their livelihoods and their habitats and their ecosystems, which are the very essence of their survival. In what have now become mass movements, it has become evident that external leadership can only make minimal impacts and therefore, community organizations and grassroots need to be built and developed. The CSOs and CBOs have successfully done so with the external encouragement and support of Siemenpuu.</p> <p>Generally where Siemenpuu has supported project partners, Siemenpuu has worked to democratize patterns of land ownership and use. Fisher communities' in project areas have also experienced an awakening, through linkages beyond their specific communities.</p>
<p>Interlinking of communities' capacity to environmental questions to related issues of gender, health, livelihoods</p>	<p>The strength of Siemenpuu supported efforts is that it does not confine itself to single-issue approaches. It always tends to be integrated in scope and therefore an environmental intervention by any organization linked with Siemenpuu addresses the interlinked questions of livelihoods, health, social equity, and community leadership. This helps avoid the risk of a project approach in which a CSO/ CBO assists in a single aspect of people's development for e.g. health. The process on the other hand allows for people to rediscover traditional wisdom and apply it to their everyday existence.</p> <p>In the Mekong basin, which is one of the world's largest river basins, the people have fought attempts to build dams on the flimsy pretext that the dam would produce hydro-powered clean energy. The people coalesced in a wide alliance of a multi-disciplinary nature. They learnt that the dam reserves often emit methane, leave ecological footprints and destroy forests and wetlands. The direct consequences of the dams endangered the ecosystems in the region. The Mekong river system that flows through six countries - China, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam - continues for a length of 4909 kilometers. Its biodiversity is fundamental to the viability of natural resource-based rural livelihoods of a population of 60 million people living in the Lower Mekong Basin. The struggle sought to prevent all this damage and protect the river systems for water, fish, soil, land and forest. The people most vulnerable would have been the women and children.</p> <p>Siemenpuu has supported the struggle for survival and futures, thus claiming an important role in asserting values of justice and equity and peaceful co-existence between people and nature.</p>
	<p>Ability of the community to capitalize on existing policy and legislation and to explore new policy/ legislation based on the gaps in the current legislation. Siemenpuu has encouraged its project partners to study, examine and apply existing/ proposed legislation and policy to the processes of development and transformation of people's lives. When the community becomes conscious of its ability to see legislation work in its favour, the community grows in confidence.</p>

Ability of the community to capitalize on existing policy and legislation	Empowerment and self-assertion is the direct consequence of such newly gained confidence. Even more; it continuously enhances the sense of dignity that one has and helps them take pride in their social assets.
	In India, Forest communities accompanied by a wide solidarity campaign of CSOs, lobbied for the enactment of the Forests Rights Act (FRA), 2006. At the end of the day, the FRA turned out to be a dampener because the original provisions that were presented in Parliament did not materialize in the Act when it was adopted. However, the consensus now is that it remains a break-through and provides somewhat helpful grounds to reclaim forest rights for forest communities. There was need for the creation of expert committees to go into the acute failures in the implementation of the FRA. Recognising that the implementation has been poor and that many areas have still not been covered, there is now movement towards finding ways of recognising the rights of the forest communities and issuing them land titles. There is now a demand that Forest Rights Committee should be set up at the level where people live and which would definitely include women, Adivasis and forest dwelling communities.
	In India, the Council for Social Development (CSD) has directed that forest produce can be collected, processed and sold without restrictions in accordance with Gram Sabha decisions. CSD has also recommended that there should be no more legal diversion of forest land without the consent of Gram Sabhas (the ultimate source of local-democratic power). People have also succeeded in halting vague notions of joint forest management by genuine respect for community rights and powers. Also, the forest development agencies which have proved to be unworthy of trust have been successfully removed from the process of channeling Government funds for community forest management. In the same way, the CSD has come up with very strict regulations against processes that otherwise allow deforestation and forest degradation and commodification of forest and forest resources. Finally, forest communities are being given the right to grow products that they deem necessary and forest friendly rather than market oriented products determined by business and Government interests.

Are there signs of improved materialisation of community rights? What kind of signs?

There has been successful intervention/s in creating and influencing governmental policy change. Siemenpuu can claim an important place in being an enabler of this process. Examples of this were seen in Indonesia, India, Mekong Basin, Zimbabwe, Mali, Mozambique and Costa Rica. (There are probably many more examples but with the sample surveyor approach these are the names that we are confident to suggest as examples of wide mobilization that resulted in change.) Successful mass mobilization has brought to closure, projects backed by powerful political and corporate interests such as the dams. Dams are always big business and profitable to those who are contracted to build them. When a Government retracts on people's pressure, it is a clear indication that people can create popular perception against policies and practices.

People across the board in the countries named have testified to changes they have initiated through community mobilization: People are also able to enforce application of laws e.g. to restore forest rights to forest communities and indigenous people. Concrete examples include distribution of land to masses of indigenous communities who now hold legal land documents on which they cultivate crops for their sustenance for material and barter exchange.

In Coorg, South India, we saw counter movements to corporate afforestation and privatisation of forests. Forest communities and indigenous communities have also been able to fight for their rights to land that were appropriated by private business interests to produce aromatics. In this case, the aromatic company was pressured to move out by applying legislative provisions. In this way they were able to conserve the environment, as the plantation for the production of perfumes was counterproductive. By restoring that land to the indigenous peoples, the people are now able to think ahead and plan for afforestation which has socio-economic gains for the people and the environment.

We also saw in Coorg how, the private sector, often aided by the Government, seeks appropriation of forest lands for private uses. In this process they displace legitimate forest communities using the illegal support of forest guards, police and other forest enforcement authorities against the people. This was not dealt with in-depth during interviews but it was clear that the same applied to Sebajagat, India and in Indonesia.

Siemenpuu supported project partners have organized the people to resist and reclaim privatized forests. The process of re-foresting the spaces provides a challenge as very often the crops once grown in these privatized forests have damaged the soil quality and people have to find ways to restore the soil before regenerating the forests.

In all the above cases, one can see visible enhancement of material options for the people and greater sense of collective rights and ownership of their land.

The struggle for relevant forests rights legislation has borne fruit. Despite its inadequacies, the FRA in India for example has brought massive relief to the people. There is now mobilisation to create and enforce mechanisms which will see a smoother implementation of the provisions of laws and policies. It is also crucial to underline how these positive steps have allowed people to reach in large numbers, not in small pockets.

For many in these communities Siemenpuu is a household name.

In India, adivasi alliances, in particular, have been supported to implement the FRA and to confront forest department officials when they interfere. The FRA has a provision within which the Gram Sabha has more or less the last word, which is then verified by the Forest Rights Committee. But it must be noted that there is a constant struggle between the forest department, the people, revenue department and forest communities which will not disappear in the near future.

Has Siemenpuu's support resulted in meaningful political dialogue? Were for instance any new political initiatives born to address environmental challenges?

Siemenpuu's support has been the cornerstone around which project partners have stimulated and generated political dialogue. Big business and corporates control the levers of the Government, in many cases through their lobbies. But their numbers are small. Hence when people are mobilized they are able

to reverse the pressures of the lobbies and enforce their points of view. JIKALAHARI is a classic example on how the Government has been compelled to shift policy and laws in favour of the people.

Using in culturally rooted themes, one can see how in Indonesia people have been mobilized to bring decision-making power over natural resources to communities which depend on these local resources. The Indonesian example can also establish how people can force Government transparency into Natural Resource Management (NRM) and challenge Governments. It is useful to point out here the cultural instruments such as ‘buen vivir’, ‘harit swaraj’, ‘ubuntu’, ‘epistemic justice’, ‘alternativas sistémicas’, climate justice and rights of the earth.

In our learning from Siemenpuu’s project partners, people’s cultural identities were reaffirmed even though attempts to marginalize these identities were being forcefully made. We observed how people have recalled such notions as ‘Buen vivir’ (‘well living’), ‘Harit Swaraj’ (‘radical ecological democracy’), ‘Ubuntu’ (‘humanity towards others’), all of which affirm the conviction that communitarism, not individualism, matters. Each of them also refers to people in nature living in ‘commons’, a perspective that rejects that any single person or even a Government owns land. Human communities are only stewards of the land. People are re-engaging with indigenous knowledge and creating political futures based on these concepts.

Continuing this particular narrative, CSOs have downgraded the negative impacts of corporate agriculture and forestry in Indonesia and replaced them with sustainable and traditional models. The license system of privileging the rich has been challenged successfully. Indonesian partners have also worked on the challenges of climate change by restoring peat lands, mangroves which constitute carbon rich terrestrial ecosystems. Major Governmental policy level changes were instituted in this regard. Several communities have gained formal rights over the lands and forests they depend on, and community forestry bodies have been established with Siemenpuu’s support in different parts of Indonesia. Today, climate change and forestry are in the Indonesian Government’s list of priorities at number four.

Indonesian organizations have created significant and even measurable conservation gains through induced policy changes. The protection of mangroves and coastal peat swamp forests also mitigate the impact of rising sea-levels caused by climate change.

How does Siemenpuu fare in the context of supporting the environmental work of the civil society organizations in the Global South?

In almost every project across the world that Siemenpuu has supported, the notion of Siemenpuu is that of a partner and collaborator and not as traditional donor. Siemenpuu is not a funder which infuses large sums of money. In hindsight, project partners understand that this approach prevents financial dependency. On the other hand, it allows Siemenpuu funded initiatives to gain the much needed seed money to multiply into social assets which are then quantifiable. It also allows for Siemenpuu partner organizations to show credible examples of their work and thus interest other partners to augment Siemenpuu’s finances with their own.

In larger countries, it is clear that small funds provide limited options. And yet, small funds have resulted in creating manageable people’s processes without competition for resources. They have allowed for further expansion with other partners. Siemenpuu as ‘seed’ thus becomes a vital idea.

One clear illustration is how Forest Watch Indonesia established JANGKAR as a nationwide network that connects CSOs concentrating on mangrove protection and the rights of mangrove dependent coastal communities.

Siemenpuu has partnered with a wide number of project partners and alliances since the time of its inception. Siemenpuu's profile as a champion of environment democracy is above. It ranks as one of the few organizations that address environmental development issues, in a way by which it helps people in the third world to have their voices amplified. In addition to developing the idea of ecological democracy and environmental protection, it also works at causal factors mainly to prevent environmental threats.

Siemenpuu has gone beyond mere support to action programmes at grassroots levels, it has published important and influential discussion papers entitles, Ecological Democracy: Rights of the local communities to land, forests and Water; and Enriched or Impoverished: Environmental accounts about Mining in the Global South.

Siemenpuu has also supported environmental organizations around the world meeting at important international fora such as WSF, Climate Conferences in Copenhagen and Paris, Asia Europe Peoples Forum (AEPF), and others. Participating coalitions have been for instance SADED, NAA, ZIMSOFF, INSAF, MEE Net, SFOs. The strength of these alliances have been:

1. They unite large number of people from Countries where they are situated and have therefore been noticed by Policy makers. In that sense they serve as pressure groups.
2. They provide mutual learning opportunities for members.
3. They have been able to take a variety of themes within the environmental debate such as water and forests, sustainable agriculture and electricity, land reforms and land grab, privatisation of public services, etc.
4. Important position papers have been published from these networks and have had far reaching ramifications.

Hence it can be affirmed that Siemenpuu has been instrumental in:

1. Promoting environmental protection and fulfillment of human rights
2. Advance people's opportunities for participation to promote more democratic and transparent decision-making on socio-economic themes
3. To deepen general understanding of opportunities and constraints for people's action.
4. To strengthen Civil Society in all Continents to create people oriented impacts through popular movements and support civil society organizations, community groups and research groups in the third world to work from environmental advancement, human rights and social justice, biological and cultural diversity and creating the foundations for people to fight the negative impacts of globalisation and environment.

3.2. Efficiency, Coherence and Complementarity

Assess the pertinence of community based (forest) conservation supported within the projects, in comparison to other possible conservation approaches: strengths and weaknesses?

Siemenpuu and its project partners' approach to Community-based forest conservation has benefits to the community and still requires more mobilisation and investment of community and external resources. The latter includes Government resources which are a right that communities must make claims to. There is also the need to develop more cohesive strategies for regenerating forests where, forests lands have become barren due to deforestation. Example is Kushalnagar - Coorg in India, where forest communities have received land under the FRA. The land received has been deforested and has been demarcated into individual farmlands with people getting anything between 1 to 4 hectares of land. This kind of land distribution is with risks:

1. Many people have resorted to individual farming and abandoned collective farming which is itself a counter to cultures and traditions (indigenous communities are collective in their ways of living and marketing)
2. New landowners, under the present dispensation, have ignored forestation and have chosen to make their lands purely agricultural. This action may have defeated the purpose of the FRA. CORD is seeking to promote the notion of collectivity, it is also seeking to work with the Government to activate afforestation of trees that are not mere marketable value but enhance the ecosystem, produce thick forest cover to change climate, produce fresh air, attract birds and animals and other species essential to biodiversity. Also, included within this, CORD seeks to promote collective - cooperative agricultural production which will create self-sufficiency in food, as well as to grow cash crops like coffee which suitable to the climatic conditions of the area they operate.

Therefore the loss of traditional lifestyles over many decades from the colonial period onwards until now and even under the present dispensations, will take education and awareness in counter currents that change mindsets and forms of productivity, marketing and return to values – methods from the past. For example, there has to be seed generation as opposed to pesticides and chemicals. There needs to be alternate forms of water storage and harvesting that does not reduce the water table.

What are the visible trends in the environmental development funding for the CSOs in the Global South?

On the matter of complementarity, the evaluators have consulted with three different like minded funders of environmental CSOs. Each has a focus of its own, but the interdependence of one with the other, is a complementarity that needs to be built upon more consciously. Each of the funders was clear that there is need for a long term view of support. Environmental degradation has taken place over decades, sometimes centuries. To reverse this is not going to happen in short term phases of even a decade.

Like minded funders of environmental CSOs agree that they must be ready for the long haul. At a minimum, a vision must extend for a term of a decade. This does not mean that the funding should be for the same length of the period. A ten-year term can be divided into three phases. For example, phase 1 - four years, phase 2 - three years, and phase 3 – three years (4+3+3). During that period, funders must try and build in scope for developing social enterprises, production and marketing collectives, and capacity building in enterprise models that bring tangible economic benefits and link people's products to fair trade outlets within third world countries and in the western world. A ten-year term may not always suffice for a project partner to fulfill the vision that they set out with. But there definitely needs to be an in-built process that creates self-reliance and self-direction in line with the values that Siemenpuu has set out to achieve.

It is important that the core philosophy of Siemenpuu, being the mother tree, is internalized by all project partners. Just as trees of the forest grow by forming new layers of wood directly under the bark, trees are held upright in the soil by means of roots which reach great depths. Where the soil is loose and porous through delicate hairs on the roots they absorb moisture and plant food from the earth and pass them to the tree. The body of the tree acts as a passageway through which the food and drink are conveyed to the top or crown. It is from the crown that the regeneration of trees is effected. The ecosystems support all of this. For example squirrels are the most industrious foresters in the animal world. This core philosophy must redefine Siemenpuu and its project partners on a constant basis.

Like minded funders cannot be satisfied with just a knowledge-based and knowledge-sharing relationship. They must collectivize to change environmental perceptions from a global perspective in their own Countries of origin. They must add value to each other not only in terms of enhancing collective resources for environmental democracy but also to lobby for environmental justice in the industrialized West and the emerging economies in the third world that are following the same suicidal path of environmental havoc.

3.3. Sustainability

What kind of approach options (focus, themes, methods) could Siemenpuu adopt in its project funding for the 2018-2021 period, taking into account its mission and resource base?

At first it must be said that Siemenpuu must not go for a paradigm shift in its focus, themes and methods. Siemenpuu can well take credit for having adopted focus, themes and methods that are people-centric, issue-oriented, affirmative of indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge, rooted in methods that conserve and enhance ancestral knowledge, asserts the 'commons' as the centre stage of environmental democracy, orients themselves to the human rights of indigenous communities, forest-dwellers and agricultural communities including small and peasant farmers. All this falls within the framework of universal justice and justice that affirms the integrity of all creation - human beings, earth, land, seas, rivers, trees, birds, wildlife, insects and every other kind of living being. The approach must continue to

build on the theme of regenerating nature to recreate nature. It must also put the human at the centre of these developments namely to confirm stewardship as the human responsibility and the mutuality of human life with nature. Each needs the other and hence are equals and the advancement of society itself. The focus must essentially include:

1. **Consciousness of Identity** - In this identity in the case of most indigenous communities has been stolen or negated by those who deem themselves to be the modernizers and industrializes of society. The latter know that in order to enforce science and technology they must destroy traditional knowledge and people's science. Hence they discredit traditional wisdom. It is for the same reason that industrialists, the makers of science and industrialization also displace traditional communities from their spaces of human habitation. And when human habitation is displaced, their co-habitants of nature and all its forms are also displaced. Displacement also leads to dispossession and therefore from being self-sustaining communities, indigenous peoples and forest-communities are left socially and economically disempowered. It also disables their access to political spaces. Hence the focus must be on empowering the culturally dispossessed and retrieving their lost culture as a renewed base for development and achieving human rights.
2. **Siemenpuu's themes** are imperative to reiterate and strengthen, for example, the strengthening of dispossessed communities. This must include enhancing democratic values and notions, empowering civil society through local community rights, promoting human rights. Initiatives must be launched to create social and economically viable community enterprises. Fostering alliances between alternative media and mainstream media to highlight the issues contained in the struggles of indigenous assertion.

At a time when globalisation dominated economic thinking and practice around the world, major corporates, multinational corporations are hoodwinking the public with Government blessings to offer Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to obfuscate (make obscure) their crimes of exploitation of people, environmental degradation, abuse of workers and wealth creation without equity. This concentration of wealth in a few hands then spreads within a small circle of industry creating a wedge between people in the categories of 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

In India alone, the combined wealth of the richest 1 percent will overtake that of the other 99 percent of people next year unless the current trend of rising inequality is checked, Oxfam warned ahead of the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, that *"explosion in inequality is holding back the fight against global poverty at a time when 1 in 9 people do not have enough to eat and more than a billion people still live on less than \$1.25-a-day. In a research paper Wealth: Having It All and Wanting More by Oxfam, shows that the richest 1 percent have seen their share of global wealth increase from 44 percent in 2009 to 48 percent in 2014 and at this rate will be more than 50 percent in 2016. Members of these global elite had an average wealth of \$2.7 million per adult in 2014. Of the remaining 52 percent of global wealth, almost all (46 percent) is owned by the rest of the richest fifth of the world's population. The other 80 percent share just 5.5 percent and had an average wealth of \$3,851 per adult – that's 1/700th of the average wealth of the 1 percent."*

3. **Methods supported by Siemenpuu** have included consciousness raising community organization, advocacy and lobbying, alliance building - locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. All of these put together constitute a well integrated strategy of methods. The time invested in researching traditional methods is invaluable. They recreate an important cultural paradigm.

4. VOICES OF THE PEOPLE AND PROJECT PARTNERS

In addition to reviewing secondary literature, the evaluation team also conducted interviews with selected partners representing a range of environmental project holders. The objective was to learn from interaction through skype and tele-conferencing, the impressions of project partners about their work, as well as the kind of relationship they experience with Siemenpuu. For the evaluators these interviews yielded far more information than it was possible through mere reading of documents and reports. All organizations participated with the openness to the questions asked and willingly opened up information as well as impressions for the future.

With support from GRIP.Consulting, the Badayl Team also received resource support to make an on-the-ground assessment of one organization - Coorg Organization for Rural Development (CORD). This field visit demonstrated the importance of face-to-face encounters with people in the project areas as well as staff who are accompanying the work. In fact, the visit to CORD was a turning point in being able to understand the volumes of literature the evaluators were learning from and discerning Siemenpuu's philosophies, concepts, and strategies.

In all, we interviewed six organizations. But that was not all. The Badayl Team had sent out invitations for interviews to twenty-five organizations. These were selected as described in the *Sample and Sampling Techniques (Refer 2.3)*. A total of twelve organizations responded, of which we interviewed five and visited CORD. These interviews offered insights, opinions and made possible a discourse that went far beyond the literature in front of us. It is also necessary to state that because of time restraints we were unable to interview the remaining six who responded in lieu of telephonic/ Skype interviews, we chose to send out email questionnaires. We were encouraged that each organization, to all those to whom we sent questionnaires, responded with information that assisted our evaluation process.

Our encounters were not only confined to field action but also with Like-Minded Environmental Funders. We interviewed three Like-Minded Funders to understand commonalities of approach as well as divergence in approach. These interviews were helpful to see the points of convergence and possibilities of complementarity in working together.

“Siemenpuu funding goes a long way, it is like a seed. We like Siemenpuu because they love our people” ...Sattya Narayan Pattanayak, Secretary



Seba Jagat

Seba Jagat, a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit making voluntary organization, has been working in Kalahandi District in India

since 1992. The main aim of the organization is to establish a just, sustainable and participatory society by utilizing local available resources and people's organization's where each individual will live in dignity and self respect.

Their main areas of work include:

- Empowering traditional communities on land and forest rights, sustainable agriculture, soil conservation, irrigation for sustainable development. Equally integral is the emphasis health and nutrition, education, environment, employment generation, training, awareness with particular emphasis on disadvantaged sector i.e. women and children, which are seen as interlinked to the questions of environmental justice.

Highlights of their Work:

- Through intense lobbying using legislations such as the PESA ACT and FRA, they have managed to restore individual rights to 9000 indigenous people and 96 families were given community rights to the forests.
- Exploring alternate livelihood options which add value to the traditional knowledge by supporting production of non timber and other forest produce to the local markets.
- Pocket size book on forest rights was introduced and widely distributed to the people. This has been used as an effective tool for the communities to access their rights and demand accountability.
- They have also intervened in the fight against mining where, Vedanta had acquired acres of land for mining. Nearly 40 percent of mining activities was deputed in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, where forest lands, people and ecosystems were under threat. Through legislations for protections of indigenous communities, lobbying efforts with the Government the fight for the rights of the adivasi and forest dweller communities continues.
- The conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen was the link which was established to the local areas and its effect on Adivasi communities. As an outcome of the conference, FoGGO Orissa emerged, an alliance of 10 districts looking at areas such as biodiversity registrar, forest governance mechanisms, documenting traditional good practices, as well as forest medicinal and other produces.
- Small to big, hills to valley, surrounded by a lot of forest resources. Some areas on the verge of extinction. Preservation of biodiversity through a register of biodiversity encourages people to value and protect such distinct bio-diversity. Climatic weather patterns are also discussed and its effect on biodiversity analysed. Children, women and youth are also part of this dialogue.
- The Government put in place what was called 'Compensatory Afforestation Management Fund' (CAMPA) in the name of climate change. However this looks at climate change in isolation to climate justice. The people rejected this as it denied their traditional systems and in place installed mechanisms to develop and commercialize their plantation systems.

"Siemenpuu are good partners as they understand the problem as people's struggles. With their small support we have achieved a lot and want this support to continue. Adivasi people's struggle is a big struggle".

*...Sattya Narayan Pattanayak,
Secretary*

The operation of this fund would have further displaced tribals in the name of afforestation. The people felt that it was the place of the Forest Rights committee to develop any form of compensation and afforestation practices. The people saw clearly that the identification of boundaries should be based on traditional knowledge and not mere technical grounds. This advocacy is mainly done through National Adivasi Alliance (NAA) and other networks, including international forums.



MEE Net - Mixing research together with activism is the core of our work at MEE Net!

The Mekong Energy and Ecology Network (MEE Net) is Bangkok-based NGO, which cooperates with other NGOs, academics and community groups in the region. It is not a formal network. It was established to address the energy problem region-wide by developing an “energy network” to monitor the electricity sector and to develop analyses and strategies that are effective in challenging mega-infrastructure within the sector.

In the Mekong Region, government concern for rapid economic growth has led to unsustainable development projects. Large-scale investments crowd out space for more efficient, localized development projects. At the center of these large-scale investments lies the rapid development of massive electricity power projects. Unfortunately, these projects have extreme negative impacts on local communities and the environment. As well as Government operations lack transparency and accountability. Action by civil society is often difficult to coordinate effectively between countries because of distances and access to each other. Transportation between the areas of action is either absent or very difficult.

The MEE Net network comprises of over 40 partner organizations spanning across the region, bringing together partners from all six Mekong countries to address energy and power issues at a regional level.

Experts have tried to push through these technical and scientific approaches on the claim that they will get clean renewable energy, where as the people saw it was an unfounded claim and rejected it. MEE Net addresses the growing issue of unsustainable large-scale energy infrastructure in the Mekong region by bringing together activists, academia, civil society, scientists and local communities from the Mekong countries to contest the methods of corporations and governments.

Strategies of work:

- Action Research and Monitoring: Monitoring the rapid policy changes occurring in the Mekong region whilst carrying out research on sustainable energy development
- Advocacy: Disseminating research and engaging in policy debates and dialogues with decision-makers for a more sustainable development in the energy sector

- **Networking:** Bringing together organizations and local communities concerned with energy and environmental issues in order to share experiences and expertise
- **Capacity Building:** Organizing tailored workshops with partner organizations and local communities in order to enhance knowledge of power sector issues in the region

The Struggle:

Hydropower is clearly the option that Government and Industry have chosen for power generation. This is a lucrative market and favors corporates and big business. According to reports, the estimate is that 134 projects are planned for the lower Mekong. This will severely affect and completely diminish the river's capacity for generating hydro-power. This must also be seen in the context of the rising demand for power that are expected to increase by 7 percent between 2010 – 2030. The impacts of such projects are also seen in the neighboring regions as the flow of rivers have reduced, thereby allowing for sea-water to enter inland. This industry receives large sums of investments funneled by the various private funders from commercial banks and through export credits as well as multilateral agencies and (WB/ADB/etc). It is presented as people friendly but the fact is that the energy generated from the dams comes at social and environmental costs for the people who are displaced by the dams. Ultimately, the benefits of energy go to malls in the big cities of South East Asia, Malaysia, Bangkok and other such places. Indigenous communities lose livelihoods and are displaced. This is the basis of this struggle and is ongoing.



Highlights of their Work:

- **Know Your Power** - In order to foster a more democratic and participatory process for all power sector stakeholders, MEE Net supports regional civil society organizations in developing the capacity to engage in power policy planning and decision-making. They supported mapping of the river basin and how people can be affected by such power projects. It also created awareness about the energy/ power sector planning, the future forecasts and projections and demand and for whom the power development plan is made. Over projections were analysed and alternative - non conventional sources of energy as a counter to such projects were proposed.
- **Transboundary Issues:** As regionalization grows, as imposed by the Asian Development Bank's Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) project, developments within the power sector present major transboundary impacts. These transboundary impacts are linked to complex issues about sovereignty, especially in light of the lack of effective regulation for such projects by regional institutions. MEE Net studies the impacts faced by neighboring countries as a result of one country's decisions to develop energy projects,

as well as the regional mechanisms in place with respect to specific technologies and projects.

- Follow the Money Trail: MEE Net actively monitors government policy on investments and the development of the Greater Mekong Sub region grid in order to highlight the connections between capital and profit-making in the energy sector. Markets for electricity generation and export produce environmental injustice, as resources from host countries are exploited to feed industries in other more developed countries. Thus, electricity often comes at the expense of the ecosystems and livelihoods of local people.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a method used to appraise the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental impacts of development projects. Environmental impact assessments and strategic planning are internationally recommended tools, essential for securing sustainable development and focus on ensuring that the voiceless and disempowered marginalized communities get to have a say in long-term conservation strategies. The idea is to link stakeholders from local, regional, national and international levels to help ensure the sustainable management of the Ayeyarwady River Basin. The foremost goals of the Community-centered Strategic Environmental Assessment (C-SEA) is to reform strategic decision-making mechanisms through participatory action and comprehensive assessment, and to move the current natural resource governance structure and related policies towards a more sustainable and environmentally sound era. There are 41 communities on the C-SEA network (riverine and inland/upstream communities). Training is given to C-SEA community facilitators/ local activists who represent the eco system - local activists to facilitate participatory research. Using mapping & historical evolution, resources and issues are identified. From these local stories are built and presented to the public. This method has brought in more intense participation from the people surrounding the Mekong River Basin issues.
- Also, MEE Net initiated a consumer survey on how much electricity is consumed locally, a kind of energy audit. This was done through a grassroots approach. This helped to counter the ADB- WB projections.
- MEE Net participates in energy and environmental campaigns within the Mekong Region, such as "Save the Mekong" campaign!



Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF)

“They (Siemenpuu) share a good, interactive and horizontal relationship with their partners, more as comrades in solidarity with the people. We consider them as one of us, they are in solidarity with us in all international forums”

INSAF is a national forum of over 700 movements and NGOs in India. INSAF is committed to join efforts in creating an economically equitable, socially just and ecologically sustainable

democratic society. INSAF main role is to form linkages between local, national and international movements and forums. They are a membership based forum as such don't directly represent the local movements. But through their networks they support various movements all over the Country. They also help in creating platforms internationally where the local voices are heard. Advocate and support various campaigns at both national and international levels.

Highlights of their work:

- INSAF organised a People's forum against International Financial institutions (PFIFIs) in May 2013 with more than 500 people (India and Asia). 100 activists from most Asian countries were part of this forum. This forum was organised parallel to the ADB forum and as a counter to the orientations of ADB. It brought a counter current from the perspective of people. It tackled issues on how ADB and IFI are interfering with people's lives, livelihoods, countries experiences and environmental degradation. It also analysed how people have been alienated in different countries and the role of political organizations and immunity of IFIs and how to have a parliamentary oversight. Farmers and other from leftist groups were also present. Privatization of basic services was addressed. A lot of protest and actions were also part of the forum and a parallel film festival, exhibitions and other activities.
- In March 2016, INSAF organized a national convention which brought together thousands of activists from around the Country on the theme 'Shrinking Democratic Spaces and Neo-Liberal Fundamentalism'. This was not an event funded by Siemenpoo but clearly something that emanated from the thought processes of the INSAF- Siemenpoo partnership.
- INSAF's association and support to NAA has been instrumental in creating the "People's Movement against Nuclear Energy (PMANE)" with their network in south India and with other adivasi groups.

Environmental democracy is defined as "People defending the ecosystem and resting control over the ecosystem in the interest of the ecosystem from an exploitative oppressive class and state"
... Wilfred D'Costa, Convenor

Zimbabwe Organic Smallholder Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF)



"Siemenpoo's role is not in direct advocacy but in supporting advocacy. Lots of changes have been seen through the support we get. It has led to awareness building of farmers, protection of native seeds, meetings and dialogues at regional, national and international level."

Zimbabwe Organic Smallholder Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) seeks to create and nurture a dynamic alliance of Small holder Farmer Organizations, or SFOs, that promotes organic farming, processing and marketing, in partnership with PELUM Zimbabwe Service Provider Organizations or SPOs, to uplift the welfare of smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe through

participatory ecological land use planning and management.

It is a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Smallholder Farmers' Forum (ESAFF). It is also a member of La via Campesina, the global Peasant Movement, which brings together millions of peasants in their struggles to advocate against injustices. ZIMSOF was founded in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The most successful tool for promoting farmer innovation is a community-facilitated farmer-to-farmer methodology. This is an effective form of horizontal communication process of sharing and learning between innovators (those who have developed solutions to common problems) and their peers. Farmers are more likely to believe and emulate a fellow farmer who is successfully trying a new approach on his or her own farm than to take the word of an agronomist of possibly urban origin. This, even more so, when they can visit the farm of their peer and see with their own eyes the difficulties faced, the steps taken and the results achieved.

Activities

Promotion of organic agriculture
Natural Resources Management
Establishment of herbal gardens
Lobbying and Advocacy of policies in support of ecological land use practices
Product value addition
Gender mainstreaming
Seed bulking of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPVS)

Highlights of their work:

- A total of 19,000 families are currently members, organized in four regional clusters, covering the whole country except the regions of Harare and Bulawayo.
- Their initiatives are farmer-led and farmer-driven and relate to livelihoods, security issues, sustainable agricultural techniques, native seed systems, natural resources surrounding environment and other livelihood activities.
- During the past ten years, and with the support of the PELUM network (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management), they have been building and implementing basic training infrastructure and facilities in these four clusters. Members have organized and held farmer-to-farmer “look and learn” visits, group meetings and workshops, together with seed fairs and other exchange meetings.
- The secretariat team supports and facilitates decision making. The board is women-led and the gender mainstreaming is conscious and very evident. Representatives of women of the farming community see themselves as food producers, maintainers of the nutritional values of the families and caretakers of the community.



South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED)

“Siemenpuu support allowed for the organization to build alliances with different networks from different places especially the vernacular networks of India”.

SADED is an outcome of a wider collaborative and creative involvement by many individuals

and organizations forming a network or web of efforts. It encompasses democratic control of natural resources and looks upon it as integral to the expansion and deepening of democracy and to the survival of humankind. SADED is a knowledge network on ecological Swaraj and sustainability - formed by several activists, organizations and people's movements and is constantly open for engagement with new initiatives and partners. The support reaches a variety of actors and organizations through the SADED network.

Highlights of their work:

- Renowned writers served as resource persons and contributed to the discourse and knowledge capital of the alliance. Books have been translated by adivasi scholars.
- Ecological Democracy - marginalized people's image should be transformed from victims self image to participating equal members of the society. Submission to liberation with a victim's syndrome.
- SADED organized several discourses on 'Buen vivir' such as "*meaning of life, meaningful life*" at various religious levels and initiated dialogues with folk and other levels from this discourse.



Coorg Organisation for Rural Development (CORD)

*"We were people pushed out of our home lands, left to eat mud, to keep our life, our culture distorted and our identity eliminated. We craved on streets and were crushed by the mighty before we had a day's meal ...**Born in an unjust society we shall not die in it, until we change it.**"*

CORD was established for the tribes in the southern part of Karnataka State in India. CORD envisions a society founded on justice and peace, devoid of all forms of disparity, where all people enjoy equal rights and opportunities and receive their rightful share in the abundantly available resources; thus emerging economically independent and socially dignified.

The Struggle:

The Southern Region is home to 4.14 percent of the 90 million Adivasi population of India. This portion live scattered across the Western Ghats Mountain ranges covering the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Out of the 73 tribal communities recognized by the State as Scheduled Tribes; 15 are common to all the 3 states and they account for a population of 2,810,852 strong and a sizeable 1.916 million are in Karnataka.

The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as well as the declaration of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Protected Areas in sequence, came to alienate the Adivasi populations from their traditional habitats and life-support systems. The new economic policies of the government in the globalization era came to worsen the lives of tribals

throughout the country.

The enactment of 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, which envisaged democracy and devolution of powers for self-governance to the grass-root levels was historic, but its effect on the Adivasi was limited. The enactment of Panchayati Raj (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, in 1996, which allowed greater recognition of the tribal traditional economic and socio-cultural systems and autonomy for local governance, did not take the right course due to ignorance not only on the part only the tribals, but also on the part of those implementing the legislations.

MISSION

Enabling the poor and underprivileged to get opened to the realities of life; and

Discovering their own inherent potentials and exploring the avenues and opportunities to optimize these abilities and potentials

Equipping them to apply their critical consciousness and strive to take charge of their own development and thus become masters of their own identity

Prone to vagaries of nature and onslaught of the dictates of the market economy, the tribals were almost at the verge of extinction. With no marketable skills whatsoever or access to means of production, they were left groping in the dark. This is where and when CORD found itself relevant in assisting in the lives and growth of the tribal population.

The Forest Rights Act regardless of its deficiencies is increasingly used as a tool in favour of the tribals to claim their rights to their land and livelihoods.

“Development is a journey and not a destination. CORD therefore has to go still further. Whatever it assigns for itself is basically committed in the light of the prevailing situation duly falling within the purview of its articulated vision and on the strength of its proven abilities and experiences in helping people towards prosperity”.

CORD’s community based activities are listed below:

- Social education: To bring every community in a state of socio-economic deprivation into a powerful group and thus enable them emerge with a collective voice and force.
- To be a solidarity organization to the Adivasi Movement.
- To facilitate implementation of legislative measures in force relevant to local self governance and ensure greater participation on the part of the marginalized minority.
- To work for the achievement of economic self-reliance of the tribal communities.
- To institute a Formal Education System compatible with the tribal culture and identity.
- To provide marketable skills to ensure a generation of employment and income.
- To ensure greater participation of women to secure them their rights in the community.
- To operationalize training cum production units as well as field practice and bring about a sense of hope.

5. SIEMENPUU – A SWOT ANALYSIS

In carrying out the SWOT analysis, the evaluators looked at questions outlined in the ToR provided by Siemenpuu. Our analysis, which appears as under the categories of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, focus on the role and function of Siemenpuu as the core around which an environmental movement is growing. This also acknowledges the fact that Siemenpuu is one of several other Foundations that support struggles for environmental democracy and justice.

It is important to situate each of the four categories under Siemenpuu initiated impacts, visible changes in the communities where Siemenpuu engaged and the persistence with which Siemenpuu stayed with the people, CSOs and CBOs.

As evaluators, we also used an ‘appreciative inquiry’ approach to assess Siemenpuu’s work as positive and unique. We did not always see the need to search for deficits or weaknesses in Siemenpuu’s work. At the end, what we list in the column under weaknesses shows areas that Siemenpuu can add by way of competencies to their ongoing work or to emphasize more strongly in specific areas for enhanced impact. We also saw that, even though the issues were wide and did not have direct economic inputs, there were tangible indirect economic impacts. For example, there was a clear connect between enhanced economic conditions and ecological gains. These were also obvious in renewed community pride in their culture, their abilities to co-exist with each other and nature and willingness to work with unity and common struggles for justice. The support of the CSOs/ CBOs/ NGOs was significant and they became the rallying points of people’s movements for forest rights, upgrading of livelihoods, campaigning, mobilizing, lobbying and advocacy.

We noted that we could answer in the affirmative the questions about Siemenpuu’s impact, relevance and effectiveness. The same applied to the fact that Siemenpuu is efficient, coherent and complement to the efforts of project partner’s and communities that are targeted.

The evaluators had several suggestions on the matter of sustainability. With authoritarian political trends growing around the world, Governments are reluctant to see their own designs and preferences be questioned by common people and movements. They and their corporate backers want free-hand to profit from natural resources and prefer, at best, to let the poor take crumbs from under the table. Hence, we believe that Siemenpuu needs to examine ways in which self-sustenance and self-reliance can be built into the support that Siemenpuu funnels into projects through their partners.

We have also raised the question about methods of accountability and project management. Our recommendations have been for culturally oriented reporting styles and less complexity in reporting, project development, etc.

STRENGTHS

- Clarity of vision and mission.
- Clearly defined target communities with the choice of the poorest and most vulnerable. Geographical spread allows for it to impact a very wide section of the world through its interventions.
- Promotes self learning, self evaluation and information exchange.
- Focus on environment not carried out in isolation but built on foundations of culture, identity and traditional knowledge.
- Links environmental issues to livelihoods and social integration. Rejects modern science and technology when it is merely corporate and profit oriented.
- Clear cut human rights orientation and hence all projects geared towards inclusive (just) communities.
- Correlates activism, advocacy and lobbying on environmental issues.
- Ability to convert small investments/ grants into large social capital.
- The small grant approach has guaranteed that Siemenpuu does not stretch itself into a typical project pattern but presses forward with a movement approach which relies on process. The example of a much earlier income generating intervention in Uganda shows that this is neither Siemenpuu's forte nor a desired approach to environmental democracy.
- Ability to function as the seed which disappears into the ground and grows into trees which spread the essential ideas of Siemenpuu's vision (Biblical notion of the mustard seed).
- Has initiated an important discourse on the meaning of ecological democracy vis a vis the rights of local communities, the land, forest and water.
- Generally people view the process of initiating a relationship with Siemenpuu as a natural flow of common concerns into a formal relationship.
- The visits of siemenpuu related staff or consultants have always been an easy relationship with project partners as they do not feel bureaucratic about dealing with Siemenpuu.
- The practice of providing more than one grant per project partner is important because in general one time funding doesn't allow a project to reach its desired goals.
- The approach of one major grant given to a larger partner organization in allowing for it to award micro grants to grassroots organizations is an important step in decentralizing the agenda of fostering environmental democracy through projects.
- The establishment of broader umbrella groupings under which sector wide or nationwide initiatives are funded in different ways, is a significant and forward looking step.
- Participating in the international forum such as the WSF, climate change conference, etc. have enriched each movement because of the possibilities it created for wider cooperation and exchange of ideas.
- Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF) received special mention as very useful dialogue platform between European partners and Third World partners.
- Because Siemenpuu has an active working relationship with like minded funders, a lot

of mutual learning and sharing is possible.

WEAKNESSES

- Need to utilize community based knowledge for building an inventory of community, cultural, social assets.
- It would be more gainful to the communities which required Siemenpoo's funding if the funds available were increased. As such currently there are only a few organizations with Siemenpoo's empathetic style of working with partners.
- There is not a strong enough attempt to build a link between environmental democracy and livelihoods. Sometimes they occur from coincidences. There is need for Siemenpoo to study how it can build into its funding processes the linkage from movement to livelihood enhancement without being distracted into livelihood projects.
- The sense amongst partners is that the Siemenpoo's funding commitments are sometimes long lasting but the guarantee is never for more than five years. Siemenpoo itself views the long term action plan (LTAP) within a stipulation of five years. This was viewed as acceptable only because there was no other option. The overall feeling is that environmental questions belong to decades and even centuries of political processes that have disempowered and dispossessed people to reclaim and advocate for their rehabilitation through Government schemes and to be self organized to economically, politically, socially requires at least a decade term – vision.
- Gender mainstreaming is not visible or prioritized in the project partner's scheme of things. This is not about creating an emphasis 'on women's empowerment' very generally a lacking in gender inclusion which also requires a separate category of gender empowerment.
- Siemenpoo does not work with coastal communities and river based communities. It has never significantly analysed the risks that tourism has for coastal degradation. It is an area that requires significant attention as many third world countries - and almost all in the project areas that Siemenpoo supports - offer different styles of tourism options. Some project areas have actually talked about eco-tourism as an income generating options. The dangers of this easy option must be made known to people. And if tourism is to be chosen as a livelihood option it must then examine the faults of current corporate backed tourism patterns and evolve community based tourism options. In this way people benefit and ecologically is treated with the sanctity it deserves. After the 2004 Tsunami, the tourism industry has not learnt the lessons of its own contribution to the devastation caused by the Tsunami. In tourism destinations, mangroves and coastal swamp peat forests have often been eliminated along with other natural protection barriers such as sand dunes, coastal vegetation, etc. It is important also to note that the environmental movement has by and large neglected the pitfalls of tourism. And that even environmentalists enjoy tourism without seeing the pitfalls of how tourism is irreversibly causing rising sea levels and hence the certainty of storms, floods and cyclones. The thinning of coastlines remains unattended to as an issue.
- The only dominant experiment with media work is the Green Times, Zambia. Green Times competed with mainstream media and therefore, did not go far enough or long enough.

- The media in the world today is increasingly corporate controlled in the hands of vested interests. They do not communicate important social themes and therefore, large networks such as the MEE Net, Mali Folke Centre - NYETAA, should incorporate mass communication methods which do not exist in their or Siemenpuu's planning processes (possibly for financial reasons). There are a few examples of audio-visuals of themes and issues that have been produced as well as written and published books. There is need to add to this- especially through modern media techniques that do not necessarily have to cost a lot of money.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Need to popularize on wider platforms the notion of environmental democracy as a way to build just and inclusive communities.
- It may be important to build in a method to recognise the multiplier effect of Siemenpuu's work into areas where Siemenpuu is not directly present.
- Siemenpuu has the opportunity to create the elements in the project partnership by using intercontinental sharing experiences. These experiences enable vulnerable and poor communities to translate their empowerment in environmental struggles into opportunities for economic enhancement.
- Quite often local communities have opened up capacities for agricultural production but lack in knowledge of marketing know-how and skills. In the market dominated economy of today's world project partners have to advance these economic opportunities while building on their added value as a people's economic enterprise.
- It is important that Siemenpuu and its partners in Europe also do their own market surveys and studies alongside fair trade product organizations to sell popular as well as unique products that come from the Global South with added value such as the health, etc.
- Many forest communities exist in hugely biodiverse areas which are reputed for growing herbs and roots with medicinal value. Indigenous communities tend to produce these medicinal products for self use and community level distribution. Given that these are rare herbs and roots and also that, people have capacities to produce such medicinal goods; Siemenpuu can help them to increase production capacities in applying pertinent methods of production without it becoming corporatized. Markets in the South itself will be able to absorb such medicinal produce if linked to urban centers and popular solidarity organizations therein.
- Social marketing is a capacity that needs to be studied and promoted using socially conscious management science experts.
- The opportunities for training staff and local leadership are of tremendous importance. These should be in the field of human rights, gender, understanding political institutions, legal, etc. There is as much space for a barefoot lawyer, barefoot doctor as there is for a social scientist.
- The project centre visited (CORD) was persistent in its suggestion that if minimal funding were available to establish small infrastructure projects which could serve as rallying places, meeting points and become multipurpose centres for different groups to

meet and work together.

- Siemenpuu needs to lobby with MFA and other relevant Governmental departments to view project funding for a minimum of a decade. This of course should be broken up into phases without guarantees of 10 year funding.
- There is an opportunity if like-minded funders can come together, to advance environmental democracy in the Continents of the Global South by creating interface between people in different project placements especially in international fora that come through natural processes where environmental issues are discussed.
- There is need to utilize the opportunity of being trained in expert people-oriented rural development Institutes such as the Asian Rural Institute, Tokyo. However, there is need for linking to other locations beyond Japan which is an industrialized country and therefore, even methods of teaching organic farming can often be distanced from the local reality of so-called underdeveloped economies.
- At a time when the informal sectors are growing in vulnerability, there is a need to unite and link different sectors such as the fishing sector, the agricultural sector, forest communities and by interdependent practices enhance solidarity and economic opportunities even through barter systems.
- To document and publish and create audio-visuals of experiences in attractive and easy-to-learn formats with youth and students movements to highlight not-so-well known themes such as mangrove restoration, fish breeding, enriching marine ecosystems and biodiversity, tropical forests and grasslands, saving the rainforests
- Siemenpuu must encourage its project partners to create multidisciplinary cadres of activists to be conscientized and whose capacities must be built as campaigners for environmental justice. In this regard, the media must be seen as a space for creating counter currents to the mainstream discourse.
- Capacity building at all levels to understand the centrality that it is culture that gives both meaning and direction to economic activity, political decisions, community life, social conflict, technology, etc, is important. Through capacity building processes Siemenpuu can enable the recognition that it is culture that gives development its *raison d'être* and goals.

THREATS

- Some partners have expressed fears that funding requirements are moving into bureaucratic lines. The call for log frames, adoption of RBM, and the creation of concept paper forms, are moving away from the more informal/ flexible ways that Siemenpuu once related to its partners. This is sending waves of anxiety to project partners.
- There needs to be clearly culturally rooted forms of reporting. This recommendation has been stated not only by partners but by like minded environmental funders, who acknowledge that reporting must be in language that conforms to the language of the people. Reporting must therefore have cultural elements of music, dance, dramas and street plays rather than bland report writing
- Within the framework of globalisation, the World Bank and regional banks are working through Governments to create NGOs to form parallel processes of development to on-

going ones that are supported to Siemenpuu. Because of the commonality of the language the people, CBOs are confused and accept the funds they are given and thus get co-opted by the World Bank, IMF agendas basically counter development. Like minded funders need to unite and exercise strict scrutiny over these counter currents so that they can advise their partners and pre-empt counterproductive practices in environmental democracy.

- If funding monies continues to diminish, as it is now happening, there is the real risk that progressive steps being taken by CBOs/ Peoples Movements would either lose momentum and fade off or be co-opted and tempted to accept negative measures such as CSR, Government funding and the support of anti-development agencies that masquerade as NGOs

6. THE WAY FORWARD

Environmental degradation is one of the major negative impacts of modernization and industrialization in our times. Rich countries do not see themselves as needing to take responsibility for reducing emissions by their consumptive standards. Their rhetoric is about emission reduction, but the practice is the exact reverse. Cash rich corporations are prevailing over Governments and shaping policy and acquiring access to resources. But these machinations are not going unnoticed. Environmentalists, social scientists, progressive economic thinkers, youth and students, progressive and radical movements for transformation are accompanying the indigenous peoples, forest communities, marginal and small farmers, landless peasants to reverse these oppressive policies and practices. Nobody is under the false illusion that change will come in quick time. The contest between economics, social profit minus ethics, and for sustainable practices which reverse historical and colonial economic interventions that have destroyed environment, is a fierce dispute. It will need persistence and wider consciousness and mobilisation.

GRIP.Consulting/ Badayl have sought to the best of their ability to decipher the contents of environmental democracy and the odds it is positioned against. The evaluation has revealed that where there is hope and courage, change is possible. But, the people on-the-ground need accompaniers. Siemenpuu has proven to be a reliable accompanier to its project partners and the people. The words keep ringing in our ears “*Siemenpuu cares for the people and the future. It will remain a strong uncompromised solidarity partner*”.

Based on the above basic assumptions, GRIP.Consulting/ Badayl offer a way forward:

Relevance, Effectiveness and Impacts

1. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to be the enabler of which constructs and renews patterns of eco-justice by spreading authentic environmental democracy. This will

require:

- a. Policy changes
 - b. resistance and mobilisation
 - c. alternative paradigms
 - d. environmental conservation and regeneration
 - e. building wider alliances and coalitions
2. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to be the agency that offers the 'seeds' funds and human capacities which when combined with, local resources are maximized.
3. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to be the bridge between project partners around the world. Creating partnerships between projects based on common themes, similarity in struggles, and potential learnings from and with each other.
4. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to support communities who face counter currents that retard their struggles for change through creating advocacy mechanisms. Such advocacy mechanisms will need to be built on creative and innovative approaches that find the oppressed accompanied by partners in the industrialized world in fora where their impact can be felt to the maximum.
5. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to capacitate and strengthen CBOs in different ways including training methods in community organization, alternative farming practices including seed regeneration, multi-croppingⁱⁱ, afforestation with people's utility focus as opposed to Government's schemes to social forestry which often destroy the forest and add no value. Multicropping defined below is an arena that will require capacity building attention because it has new possibilities that offer inter-cropping, crop-rotation, agro-forestry, sylvo-pasture and green manuring.
6. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to enlarge its initiatives to build alliances at international forums - a space that many project partners affirm as being among the most helpful learning experiences.
7. Siemenpuu-initiated alliances should not be confined to global groupings but also regional arenas for example Africa, Asia, Latin America. These groups can meet on a continent wide basis as well as in sub-regions to cope with contextual parity.
8. Siemenpuu may consider continuing to support the building of national groupings based on thematic areas.
9. Siemenpuu should assist groups that have launched focused campaigns through national networks and encourage South to South solidarity wherever appropriate.

Coherence and Complementarity

1. Siemenpuu should support project partners in local communities to assert culture as the root of environmental development.
2. Siemenpuu may continue to facilitate the training of communities, CBOs, NGOs to adapt, create and innovate cultural tools of communicating messages of environmental conservation and advancement. Methods of communicating will be in art forms that belong to indigenous, rural and forest communities.
3. Environmental rights and human rights must be seen always within the same framework. It is necessary to acknowledge that democratizing the environment belongs in the realm of human development.
4. Siemenpuu may continue to ensure complementarity of awareness building - consciousness raising, advocacy and policy making.
5. Siemenpuu may continue to study the option of supporting the creation of small investments rooted in local resources. But which may require additional dimensions such as the knowledge of marketing, revised production methods which meet market standards and regulations and access to international fair trade avenues.
6. Siemenpuu may continue to initiate a wider discourse on environmental questions through supporting the publication of booklets, documentaries, street plays and dance-drama-music which speak to the themes of environmental democracy.

Sustainability

1. Siemenpuu needs to examine how it can obtain support for expanded Long Term Action Plans. An LTAP must ordinarily extend to a decade so that in areas where situations are complex, difficult to contest and transform, CSOs/ CBOs/ NGOs are able to work on a ten year vision (this does not obligate Siemenpuu to guarantee a decade-long funding). It can take those decisions based on creating project phases of 4+3+3 years.
2. Siemenpuu may also consider short term and one off funding processes that enable partner organizations to address ad-hoc or emergent issues. In any case, the issues chosen must always have the scope for longer term impact and not just relief, welfare type measure.
3. Siemenpuu may equip its partners to develop cooperative enterprises that help collective self-reliance and interdependence within the community and between communities (this is an important aspect of creating sustainability especially in a context where Governments are creating “individualization” as opposed to “communitarianism”)

7. CRITIQUES AND PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE STRATEGIES AND DIRECTIONS

1. Concerns about Results Based Management

One of the findings from our interviews with project partners was that partners were unanimously concerned by the shift from partnership style of managing relationships to a donor-recipient style. These include the added reporting requirements which tend to be bureaucratic and unmanageable for small organizations. It also moves away from the ‘movement-style’ relationship of the past.

The Results Based Management (RBM) module is not altogether redundant. Clearly, however, RBM approaches cannot be uniform because there are complex and unique development cooperation contexts and the challenges vary. Siemenpuu needs to work with its partners to develop mechanisms of responsibility and learning from actions and results that balance partners’ needs with the donors needs.

2. Logical frameworks & results chain

These are also problematic because the focus of these frameworks focuses on impact rather than processes. The questions arise: How can one measure results in an environmental-political-social change process? Reports under this logic obligates project partners to shift from narratives of changing language to abstract and tangible materials- the tendency to be quantitative or result-oriented in a way that disregards processes. Development is a process in which people change and, thus, influence transformation of material conditions. But, in the ultimate, it is based in a new consciousness and aspiration. That is what is essential to capture – not attractive progress reports which offer numerical or action-orientations which, otherwise, fail to capture the mind-set and attitudinal shifts of people as a result of the development/democratic evolution of a people’s movement.

3. Reporting formats

A format tends to narrow scope for free expression and almost totally negates cultural forms of narrating issues and aspirations.

4. LTAP - A 2016-2021 Long Term Action Plan

Project partners have difficulty in understanding the rationale for categorizing five years as a “long term action” in the Siemenpuu strategy. Environmental movements most often operate in situations where they are struggling to reverse decades-long oppression and /or powerful corporate/government officials who take sides with the corporates and inter-governmental agencies. Processes to reverse the negative impacts of environmental

degradation or destruction, cannot be expected to show results in the short term. It must be recognized that the struggling and deprived people are now pushed to the margins. They are disempowered and displaced and their awakening itself is a matter of time and the creation of a new consciousness is also a painstaking process of reconstructing confidence and collective mobilization. CBOs/NGOs are inclined to work on a decade-long vision process that is separated into three phases. This will demonstrate that there is no lethargy in implementation. As well, it becomes possible to follow trends in movement forwards. Therefore, it is crucial to move into a movement process rather than a project management cycle.

5. There is need to develop a **praxis oriented approach** where ‘best-practice’ is discarded as an approach. There are experiences and ideals learned in each experience. In shared learning it is possible to adopt ‘generative themes’ which find possibilities in another location. Even a duplicate is possible but not as a defined approach. Praxis oriented learning is important because it permits self learning through self-awareness/consciousness. This is why external evaluations must not be a super-imposed audit but a collective ‘future search’ process – experiential learning.

The evaluation conducted by GRIP.Consulting-Badayl was not an evaluation in the narrow sense of the term. It emerged as an assessment of the Outcomes of Strengthening the Environmental Social Movement in the Global South 2010-2016 and Future Oriented Analysis of Siemenpuu's Working Context

6. Siemenpuu and its project partners, perhaps, require an unconventional/replacement language to language such as ‘development’, ‘democracy’ etc which have been co-opted by multilateral government agencies and are, hence, abused, misused, or overused without enough content and meaning attached to the expressions anymore. Some expressions may substitute ‘transform’ rather than ‘improve, creating ‘counter current’ rather than struggle, collectivization. Language attaches meaning to action and is, therefore important to think through.
7. Siemenpuu partners have always appreciated their ability to meet in international fora and to address Finnish audiences. Their conviction that more of the same would add value to the people-to-people partnership which is the real dimension of Siemenpuu and project partner relationships.

Affirmations

1. Siemenpuu has an easy project facility to access in comparison to the heavy bureaucracy methods of other donor organizations. Forms are simple and easy to fill in. They call for basic required information. At the same time, it is necessary to avoid being shut in by technical requirements of log frames and RBM requirements as is now being proposed by back-donors.
2. Siemenpuu holds its grassroots partners with the primacy as the core to any intervention for asserting rights and empowerment.

3. Siemenpuu and its partners on rediscovering economic heritage.
4. Siemenpuu and its partners the way forward to finding new visions and paradigms for a people who have, otherwise, lost hope and courage to rediscover their future.
5. Siemenpuu and its partners are committed to models of democratization and sustainability that are not always stereo-typed but allow different expressions in different contexts.
6. Siemenpuu's ability to be contextual and encourage/enhance cultural rootedness is its greatest asset.

For example, the paradigm shifts only by alternating expressions of modern language to self-assertion of cultural paradigms such 'Buen Vivir', Ubuntu, Harit Swaraj mark radical departures from modernity that is counterproductive to tradition which enhances quality of life. They are the new language and base of a radical ecological democracy.

8. EMERGING CHALLENGES TO SIEMENPUU

The GRIP.Consulting/Badayl Team has come to some firm conclusions where emerging challenges lie. These will require the proactive planning and support of Siemenpuu.

1. Redefine democracy within the specific challenges of environmental degradation. The challenge is: How can people's power prevail over the perversions that corporate lobbies and governments use to suppress forest communities and vulnerable land holders and landless populations.
2. Communities to recoup methods by which human beings act as stewards to regenerate earth, water sources, clean air, sanctuaries for birds, insects.
3. Creation of an inventory of 'people's science' and match it with new scientific thinking.
4. Use of existing legal protocols and advancing them to attain higher human standards.

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ANNEXURES

Annexure 1

EVALUATION OF THE SIEMENPUU FOUNDATION

Assessing the Outcomes of Strengthening the Environmental Social Movement in the Global South 2010-2016 and Future Oriented Review of Siemenpuu's Working Context

Terms of Reference

Background

The Siemenpuu Foundation was founded in 1998 by 15 Finnish NGOs and foundations working with environmental and developmental issues. Siemenpuu provides support to environmental work by civil society organizations in developing countries.

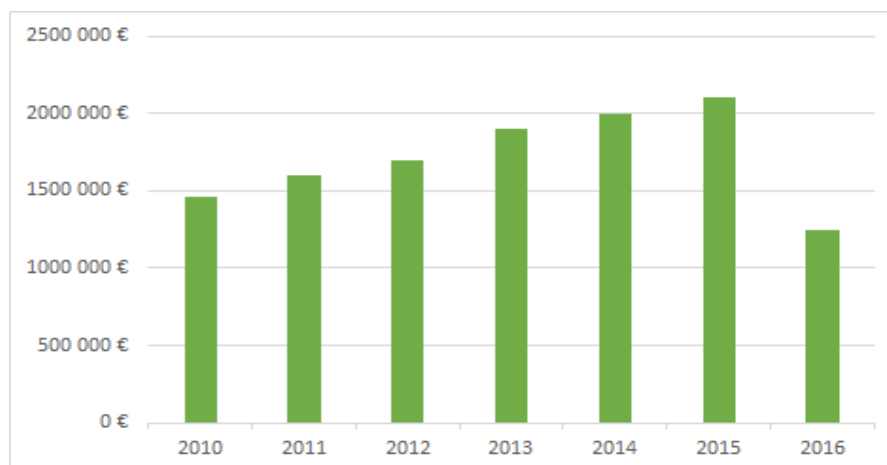
As stated in the organisation's charter, the objectives of the Siemenpuu Foundation are to:

- promote environmental protection and defend human rights
- advance people's possibilities for political participation and make political decision making more democratic and transparent in the whole world
- advocate intercontinental cooperation between civil movements, in particular environmental and alter-globalist ones
- deepen the public understanding of the possibilities and limits of civic participation, of building civil society in different parts of the world, and of the impact of institutional funding to the inner dynamics of civil movements
- provide support in particular to civil movements, NGOs and research centres which operate in the Third World and which promote environmental protection, human rights, social justice, the preservation of biological and cultural diversity and/or the democratisation of society, or which help communities in surviving and resisting the negative impacts of globalisation.

The financing of the projects began in 2002, and between 2010 and 2016 (as of 01.11.2016), Siemenpuu granted funds to 248 environmental projects in over 30 developing countries. The support is channelled to projects planned and implemented locally by civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Global South.

The Siemenpuu Foundation promotes recognising the root causes of complex environmental and social issues, highlighting causal relations, and acting upon the actual causes. The Foundation aims to long-term cooperation with our Southern partners and to increase interaction based on equality. At the same time, attempts are made to deepen substantial dialogue on environmental issues and NGO cooperation between the South and the North.

The Foundation receives its funding from the public development cooperation funds administered by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). Funding for years 2010 – 2016 is summarised in the graph below:



The decrease in the 2016 budget was due to the general cuts in the Finnish government's official development aid and funding for CSOs. At least 65% of Siemenpuu's yearly budget is channelled to project funding to Global South.

During 2010-2016, the support provided by Siemenpuu has been channelled primarily through eight regional and thematic cooperation programmes. Programmes have different dynamics and settings, and have been slightly developing over these years, but are mainly as follows:

- Indonesia: protection and sustainable use of forests
- India: rights of the indigenous Adivasis
- India: food sovereignty in the Tamil Nadu state (phase out in 2016)
- India and Nepal: South Asian dialogues on ecological democracy
- Latin America: alternatives to monoculture plantations
- Mali: environmental protection and awareness in the Sikasso region
- Mekong region: sustainable energy policy
- Global dialogue for good living ('buen vivir')

Some projects outside these programmes have also been supported.

Apart from the project funding and cooperation Siemenpuu does some information and publication work in Finland.

1. Purpose of the evaluation

Siemenpuu is currently being evaluated by the MFA as part of the larger evaluation round of the NGOs receiving funding from the Ministry. Evaluation by the MFA covers the same period of time, and is done in accordance with the OECD-DAC criteria. This evaluation commissioned by the Siemenpuu Foundation aims to compliment it from a slightly different perspective.

This evaluation aims to assess from the southern movements' perspective Siemenpuu's role and outcomes in strengthening the environmental movement in the Global South on the basis of the project funding granted in 2010-2016.

Evaluation will provide a forward looking analysis and review of the operational environment and working context of Siemenpuu in the Global South.

The information and suggestions of this evaluation will be used in Siemenpuu's process of operationalising its Long Term Action Plan 2016-2021, taking into consideration the limited resources available to Siemenpuu Foundation.

2. Scope

The scope of the evaluation will be the project funding and cooperation Siemenpuu has provided in the period of 2010 – 2016, and its future prospects. Evaluation will not cover the information work done by Siemenpuu, nor the administration processes in Finland not addressing directly the project partners.

3. Issues to be addressed

Relevance, Effectiveness and Impact of the Project Funding

- Analyse a sample set of projects funded by Siemenpuu from a perspective of strengthening civil societies, rights based approach, political dialogue and community-based conservation.
- Working Context
- Assess the operating environment of Siemenpuu, and the trends in the environmental development funding for the CSOs in Global South, taking also into account the global commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Coherence, Complementarity
- Assess Siemenpuu's strengths and weaknesses in relation to like-minded environmental funders.
- Suggest content and methods for Siemenpuu's future work, taking into account its mission and resource base.

4. Evaluation Questions

For the first set of questions a sample of the funded projects will be chosen. The questions are expected to be finalised together with the evaluators. This bearing in mind the limited resources available for the evaluation.

- How and to what degree has Siemenpuu contributed to strengthening the environmental civil society organizations it has provided financial support to over the years 2010-2016? And what kind of impacts in the civil societies at large? What kind of signs of change are there?
- Are there signs of improved materialisation of community rights? What kind of signs?
- Has Siemenpuu's support resulted in meaningful political dialogue? Were for instance any new political initiatives born to address environmental challenges?
- Assess the pertinence of community based (forest) conservation supported within the projects, in comparison to other possible conservation approaches: strengths and weaknesses?
- How does Siemenpuu fare in the context of supporting the environmental work of the civil society organizations in the Global South?
- What are Siemenpuu's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in project funding compared to the like-minded funders of environmental CSOs?
- What are the visible trends in the environmental development funding for the CSOs in the Global South?
- What kind of approach options (focus, themes, methods) could Siemenpuu adopt in its project funding for the 2018-2021 period, taking into account its mission and resource base?

5. Methodology

Due to limited resources, no field visits are planned. The budget should include one trip to Helsinki for inception or reporting purposes.

Evaluation will be based on

- Desk review of the key documents of the project funding made by Siemenpuu and other relevant materials selected by the evaluators.
- Interviews through telephone or video conferencing

Key documents from Siemenpuu

- Long Term Action Plan: LTAP 2009 and LTAP 2016-2021
http://www.siemenpuu.org/sites/prod.siemenpuu.org/files/page_files/siemenpuu_ltap_2016-2021_english.pdf
- Selection of materials on the 248 funded projects
http://www.siemenpuu.fi/sites/prod.siemenpuu.org/files/page_files/siemenpuu_funded_projects_2010-2016_01.11.2016_final_net.pdf
- Evaluations commissioned by Siemenpuu 2010-2016
- Results of the internet questionnaire by Siemenpuu, November 2016
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1R8_AdX6w1Dz5GrtnOlcUHhNWH7XXsBvwqJy4EutLsE/viewform?edit_requested=true
- TOR of the evaluation by the MFA

Interviews (VoIP)

- Selected partners who have received project funding from Siemenpuu
- Selected representatives of like-minded funders
- Other relevant actors

Siemenpuu will provide technical support for the evaluators in the collection of materials and contact details. The basis for the selection of the interviews will be finalised together with the evaluators.

6. Time schedule and reporting

The evaluation will take place between December 2016 - February 2017. The final report is due 20 February 2017. The deadline for the draft report(s) and the date for possible inception meeting will be agreed on separately. The completion of the assignment is estimated to take minimum of 25 working days in total.

7. Qualifications

Evaluation team should consist of at least two persons (at least one woman) from the Global South, and should have

- Familiarity with the southern environmental movements
- Familiarity with the environmental funding for CSOs
- Good English and working skills (reading, interviews) in either Portuguese or Spanish
- Earlier experience in CSO evaluations

8. Budget

The expenses of consultancy work should not exceed 10 000 (ten thousand) euros including taxes.

9. Proposals and selection

The interested candidates are requested to send a proposal in English, in their chosen format, but including the following information:

- Understanding of the assignment
- Work plan
- CV(s) of the consultant(s); and a description of the roles and division of labour
- Budget

The selection will be based on the proposals.

Proposals should be sent by latest on 7th December to info@siemenpuu.org.

Annexure 2

Project Partners Sampling Criteria

Long term large funding			
Sr.No.	Name of Organization		Country
1	Mali Folkecenter Nyetaa	Email Interview	Mali
2	Accção Académica para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais (ADECRU)	Email Interview	Mozambique
3	INSAF (Indian Social Action Forum)	Skype Interview	India
4	Jikalahari	Email Interview	Indonesia
5	Coorg Organisation for Rural Development (CORD)	Field Visit	India
6	Seba Jagat / NAA East Zone	Skype Interview	India
7	Foundation for Ecological Recovery (FER)	Skype Interview	Thailand
8	Asociación Comunidades Ecologistas la Ceiba – Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica (COECOCEIBA-AT)	Email Interview	Costa Rica
9	Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF)	Skype Interview	Zimbabwe
10	Acción por la Biodiversidad (AcBio)	Email Interview	Argentina
11	South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy, Nepal (SADED-Nepal)*	Delayed Response	Nepal
12	South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy, India (SADED-India)	Skype Interview	India
Short term small funding			
Sr.No.	Name of Organization		Country
1	Jaring Advokasi Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Alam (JAPESDA)	Email Interview	Indonesia

* SADED Nepal responded to our questionnaire at the time when the report writing was in progress, we still tried to contact them but the logistics did not work out for both sides.

Annexure 3

About the Evaluators

GRIP.Consulting and Badayl were simultaneously approached to consider the possibility of evaluating Siemenpuu's work. Together, we assessed our mutual strengths and decided to submit a bid for the assignment.

GRIP.Consulting and Badayl share common values and principles in-so-far as we work within the preferred arena of justice and human rights. Both agencies believe that justice-human rights organizations must perform according to organizational standards that demand insight, clarity, and strategy towards organizational coherence and integrity. The multi-disciplinary skills that GRIP.Consulting and the Badayl Team bring to the table are well suited to the requirements that Siemenpuu asks in respect of the upcoming Siemenpuu evaluation. The Badayl Team has members who understand environmental questions, legal options, and development issues in the way that people are the centre of development processes. Badayl's experiences are both grassroots and international. GRIP.Consulting and Badayl will promote creativity and innovation to development management processes and to consider out-of-the box solutions to prolonged problems in the field of development.

GRIP.Consulting is an international group of consultants that provides professional support to organizations & tailored coaching to managers and individuals. It offers services in Human Resource Development, Developing Participatory/transparent Governance patterns and systems, and Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening.

Badayl supports social transformation processes designed to unleash the full potential in organizational leaders and to create inspiring leadership models to society by using a holistic methodology and integrated design principles. It offers opportunities to build results/action-based alliances and create paradigmatic shifts.

Annexure 4

Voices of the Like-minded Funders of the Environmental Movement



Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) is one of the world's leading organizations in the field of rights-based rainforest protection, working for a world where the environment is protected and human rights are fulfilled. Their specific focus is the intersection - in the rainforest – of these two worldwide struggles.

RFN supports indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforests by assisting them in:

- Securing and controlling the natural resources necessary for their well-being and managing these resources without violating their culture
- Developing the means to protect their individual and collective rights.

RFN approach to rainforest protection:

- RFN believes that the people who for generations have developed their cultures and societies in balanced interaction with the highly complex yet vulnerable ecosystems of the rainforest have fundamental rights to these areas. Legal recognition of the collective territorial and cultural rights of forest-based peoples and communities is crucial to the fulfillment of their human rights.

RFN has three main approaches of working with groups:

- Local projects by independent NGOs/ CBOs/ CSOs with local communities.
- National level alliances.
- RFN brings national level climate change issues, indigenous rights, tenure and local community rights into the international discourse on climate change.

RFN is in the process of changing strategy. Their new focus is on the drivers of deforestation and they are now working directly with logging, pharma companies, using media, etc. RFN partnerships have all been long term. Though capacities continue to be built with ongoing and emerging struggles there is also a risk of dependence in such partnerships. RFN feels a drawback in such partnerships is that they become less flexible in the kind of work they need to consider especially if they have no partners working in that area.

In response to a query on self reliance and sustainability, RFN stated that to create social enterprises will render partners less vulnerable and dependent. They should work together to find ways to create enterprises (economic empowerment) which are built into capacity building for self reliance and sustainability

Participating in Global forums:

- Regular exchanges are organized between Norway and their partners: The sharing is very powerful both for the victimized and for the people of the West.
- Also, encouraging exchanges between partners, across countries and inside countries leads to a constant exchange of information, testimonies and learning exchanges which happen at these

Global forums. This helps bring struggles to a common global and regional platform.



The Gaia Foundation works with local and indigenous communities, civil society groups and social movements to restore a respectful relationship with the Earth. Together, they are reviving bio-cultural diversity, regenerating healthy food and ecosystems, enhancing community ecological governance, building resilience to climate change and challenging corporate dominance. GAIA works:

- With indigenous people and local communities to revive their knowledge and practices,
- To support them to link up with others movements, and then influence policy and political advocacy.
- To reverse a draconian period of colonization of the mind, earth and people over a very long time (people have internalized colonization).
- To partner and fund (support advocacy) with a commitment to the long term process.
- To promote systemic change. They believe that since change and transformation is an unfolding process it may take decades before any process changes are visible.

As the process unfolds, strategies and interventions need to be adapted; hence the commitment should be to the process rather than the outcome. This GAIA sees as their forward looking strategy. The essence is to align with the groups in the long term struggle. Quick results are corporate thinking models as such this has to be addressed. New understanding needs to be developed for even push backs in the struggles.

Processes need to be taken to the next level of the struggle i.e. from networks to movements to convergence of movements. GAIA stated that economic enterprises are critical in building local economies.

GAIA stresses on the need to differentiate sophisticated and nuanced ways of addressing local economies. Corporates have incorporated the language of the people's movement. There has to be a paradigm shift of language to indigenous terminology.

GAIA also states the importance of South and north cooperation and alliance building. Notions of "commons", de-growth and solidarity economy needs to be developed which helps in decolonizing the mind and language. The notion of Government-owned should be contested, hence the notion of collectivisation and returning to the 'commons' promoted.

GAIA sees a much needed intervention and encourages work to happen with communities seeking and acting on their own revival and enhancing their ways of life and thinking through building of communities' capacities. Collaboration between bureaucrats, professionals and academics, etc should also be developed as a knowledge base.



Together with environmental justice groups from poor and developing countries, **Both ENDS** works towards a sustainable, fair and an inclusive world. They gather and share information about policy and investments that have a direct impact on people and their livelihood, and engage in joint advocacy to stimulate the dialogue between stakeholders. They promote and support sustainable local alternatives.

Both ENDS believe that people with little or no income often depend heavily on natural resources. Their only income comes from the land they work, the forests they live in or the water they fish. They are the first to be affected by the disruption of nature and often suffer most. Access to and control over land and water determine their quality of life. Capital streams influence the usage of water and land, via investment in large waterworks such as dams and financial policies concerning agriculture and trade. Both ENDS gives civil society organizations a voice in these capital streams, so that natural resources benefit indigenous people. From this point of view, Both ENDS focuses on the themes Water, Land and Capital.

Both ENDS works with partners on alternatives based on local knowledge: Work with local people to make use of traditional power mechanisms. People can create technology and there has to be a balance between modern and traditional.

Forests are a people's resource and their use for their livelihoods is based on continuous regeneration with least destruction. Both ENDS directs its advocacy and lobbying efforts to IFIs such as the WB/ADB, to strengthen safeguards of policies of these banks which link to forestry.

Both ENDS gives small funding i.e. seed money to NGOs and grassroots. They affirm that project support of 3-4 years does not make a difference to the actual struggle. Local communities need to communicate with their funders a level at which funding is not needed and this should not exceed the amount available locally and balance their total asset value for the development of alternatives.

They believe that support funding should be given at the enterprise level through capacity building as well as opening of markets through fair trade enterprises. The seed money should be used as startup capital which then should be enhanced locally through schemes and member contributions. Mixed skill experts should be hired to teach people about merchandise & marketing and the entire process of enterprises.

ⁱ Statistics sourced from <https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2015-01-19/richest-1-will-own-more-all-rest-2016>

ⁱⁱ Multiple cropping is a form of Ecological Intensification that is potentially highly sustainable when two or more crops are grown at the same time or in a sequence. It does this by balancing three key ecological processes: competition, on the one hand, and commensalism (one plant gaining benefits from the other) or mutualism (both plants benefiting each other) on the other. Typically, farmers will plant crops as close together as possible to utilize all the available land. When different crop species or varieties are grown together, the competition may be fierce; trees grown in a maize field, for example, may shade out the crop. But this can be compensated for by determining the optimal spacing and by exploiting various forms of commensalism or mutualism, for example where the tree may be a legume, providing nitrogen for the crop plant beneath. Referenced from: <http://ag4impact.org/sid/ecological-intensification/diversification/multiple-cropping/>