



Role Description

Title: Investment Research Consultant in Southeast Asia

Location: Remote, Flexible

BACKGROUND

[Thousand Currents](#), a public foundation that funds grassroots and movement formations working on food sovereignty, economic justice, and climate justice in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific, is seeking a consultant to conduct a landscape analysis to identify and map organizations in Southeast Asia led by women, youth, LGBTQI+ peoples, and Indigenous peoples looking for investment financing.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF WORK:

As an extension of our broader work we have been experimenting in participatory impact investment that operated internationally. Up to this point we have brought together 10 grassroots organisations in the Global South and 8 investors in the Global North to form the Members Assembly, which is the governing and decision making body of the fund. To-date, 6 investments have been made in the form of integrated capital i.e. a combination of loans and grant funding. The fund's guiding principles look beyond financial returns and uplift work that builds and strengthens economic power in communities.

In the last year, we undertook a reflection exercise to analyze the learnings from our investment experiment to date. This resulted in us refining our investment strategy so as to capture our vision and role more clearly. We intend to expand our investment work and in the new phase, focus on mobilizing investment capital into two regions, Latin America and Southeast Asia. In this next phase, we will implement a more refined selection criteria that will identify groups whose work is building social and physical infrastructure that is contributing to systems change work. Our investment work will continue to uplift participatory governance and decision making.

Areas that we have identified thus far that appear to fit within a portfolio construction that would further our strategy are: local loan funds that are community owned and



governed, cooperative networks whose work contribute to the care economy frameworks and visions, agroecology market linkages, and community controlled and owned renewable energy infrastructure and digital technology tools. We are particularly interested in working with groups practicing feminist values/ frameworks and whose overarching work is rooted in building community autonomy and self-determination.

The landscape analysis and mapping will include a needs assessment of these organizations, their structural readiness to receive investment financing such as loans as well as general themes or trends observed that impact funding to these groups. As Southeast Asia is complex and each region unique in its specificity of needs, the landscape analysis will be refined in the first phase of the consultancy to focus on specific regions within Southeast Asia that present the most opportunity in terms of meeting our selection criteria in the areas we have identified .

Project Expected Output:

- Identification of geographic scope, in consultation with the Thousand Currents team.
- A report which should include:
 - A list of at least 30 recommended groups and organizations that could form the investment pipeline for our future investment work.
 - Identified themes and trends connected to investing in the region, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Potential regulatory and compliance risks of each country that we need to be aware of in order to carry out our investment work effectively. Examples include highlighting feasibility or limitations for identified organizations in receiving investment funding.

KEY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Demonstrated experience working closely with, but not limited to, worker owned cooperatives or network of cooperatives and non-profit organizations in Southeast Asia with intimate knowledge of their values and practices..
- Proven expertise in at least one of our areas of interest (cooperatives, agroecology market linkages, community controlled and owned renewable energy infrastructure, and digital technology tools).





- Demonstrated knowledge of solidarity/ alternative economy movements led by youth, women, and Indigenous peoples in Southeast Asia.
- Proven knowledge of the regulatory and compliance framework including understanding nuances in moving investment capital to grassroots organizations or NGOs in Southeast Asia.
- Excellent writing and editing skills, with an eye for detail.

PAY AND SCHEDULE:

The total fee for this consultancy is USD \$20,000. The ideal start date for this work is **September 1, 2022**. We expect the consultancy over a 8 week period, all deliverables for this consultancy must be delivered by **November 1, 2022**.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants should submit:

- A proposal (maximum 4 pages): This should include an overview of the consultant's profile and relevant experience; an outline your approach and the steps you will take to successfully complete the consultancy; and any proposed revisions to the proposed approach.
- Resume (maximum 3 pages).

Please submit materials to jobs@thousandcurrents.org with "Investment Research Consultant – Southeast Asia" in the subject line by **August 15, 2022**.

Due to the volume of applications, we will only contact applicants that have been moved to interview rounds.

