

UNST 124g spring 2012  
*global challenges, global opportunities*  
part 2

## 1 introduction

Having made billions on the patent to his invention, the Titanocycle 4000, Ned Limpopo became interested in lowering his tax liability. In pondering his options, Mr. Limpopo recalled a college assignment for which he read the 1987 *Brundtland Commission Report* (World Commission, 1987). Inspired by its themes, he donated part of his vast fortune to a philanthropic organization that finances global human development projects. The resulting Titanocycle Fund was endowed with the following mission statement:

The Titanocycle Fund supports innovative solutions to the paired global challenges of equity and sustainability. The Fund and its executive board recognize social equity as a fundamental condition for sustainable management of natural resources and the well-being of people and the ecosystems in which they live. The Fund and its executive board value diversity, thrift, practicality, and community empowerment to address environmental challenges.

## 2 request for letters of interest

The Titanocycle Fund wishes to support new projects that promote equitable sustainable development from local to global scales. The funding process begins with a call for letters of interest from organizations involved in such work. The Fund is interested in projects that address the following themes:

1. community health and reproductive rights
2. clean water
3. rural electrification
4. healthy forests
5. natural disaster planning
6. climate tipping points

The call for letters of interest cites the UN Human Development Program's 2011 report as an important document for everybody thinking about environment, equity, and human development in the 21st century.

The funding process begins with letters of interest, which outline an action plan and explain its relevance to the Fund's mission and goals. The executive board of the Titanocycle Fund will read the letters of interest and request full proposals from a subset of the letters. Knowing what you (think you) know about the chair of the Fund's executive board—Dr. Christina Hulbe—outline an action plan to address one of the listed themes on a local, regional, or global scale and explain its relevance to the Fund's mission and goals. Some things to consider as you develop your plan and rationale:

- Will you propose a program a the developed or developing economy country?
- Will your emphasis be people, technology, or ecosystems?
- Will your project focus on urban or rural issues?
- Will your project address short or long term goals?
- How are you going to ensure that the Fund's grant is well spent?
- Will your project prioritize sustainability or equity?
- Does your project rest at an intersection among different equity and sustainability issues?
- Does your project emphasize direct service, community partnerships/empowerment, regional governance, or national governance?

### **3 the pitch**

Please work with your group to develop action plan outlines for at least three projects addressing three different themes enumerated in the Titanocycle Fund's call for letters of interest. By the end of the class period each individual will be assigned one of the three projects. Each individual must prepare a short—5 minutes or less—explanation of the proposed project, its benefits, and its relevance to the Titanocycle Fund's mission. The presentations will be given in class Wednesday.

### **4 references**

Klugman, J. 2011. United Nations Human Development Report 2011. Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 176. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our Common Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.