

A. Name of project and Project URL on Ideascade/Fund

Fund 7: SPOs Supporting Community Projects

<https://cardano.ideascale.com/c/idea/61166>

B. Name of project manager

Nori Nishigaya

C. Date project started

February 2022

D. Date project completed

November 2022

E. List of challenge KPIs and how the project addressed them

Regarding Single Stake Pool Operators, Stake Pools connected to community project & Stake Pools benefiting a public cause, which proposals would:

- Allow community funds to be used to support these stakepools through staking
- Help ADA holders to make the right decisions when choosing a stakepool
- Promote a decentralised and diverse distribution of stakepools across the globe

Possible directions:

- Design models/smart contracts to use community funds to support stakepools by staking
- Platform/organisation to help independent SPO's promote and proof legitimacy
- audit systems of SPO infrastructure/hosting
- guide/tools for self-hosting/managing a stakepool
- Develop topology models/protocols to encourage dispersed/decentralised hosting of pools

How does success look like?

A diverse and healthy ecosystem of stake pool operators from around the globe collectively run the network on a multitude of infrastructures

Key Metrics to measure

- dispersion of stakepools around the globe
- amount of community funds in ada staked to projects/ngo based SPO's
- number of verified unique hosting providers/self hosted infrastructures used for SPO's
- number of stakepools using green energy primarily

The project intent was to address the healthy ecosystem of stakepool operators primarily through helping SPOs promote and prove legitimacy through partnering with community projects, passing security and best practices audit, and by creating a community of SPOs to support them and their communities, by providing SPOs who were seeking a community a place to meet and get to know community projects.

F. List of project KPIs and how the project addressed them

The metrics that this project started with was:

Input Metrics (leading indicators):

- number of promotions for the service on public forums, telegram groups, and twitter
- number of qualifying projects (peer verified)
- number of qualifying stake pools (peer verified)

Output Metrics (lagging indicators):

- number of SPOs and projects that work together
- amount of delegated ADA to these pools before and after partnering
- amount of rewards generated before and after partnering

The project addressed these metrics by promoting the initiative to SPOs in community forums (Carbon Neutral Cardano, xSPO, Swarm) and through personal invite to those we already knew. We created a Discord server where we invited SPOs and community projects to gather and start the conversations: <https://discord.gg/3YZ5fsaTsD>

From there we started to analyze the community. We discovered that all the participating SPOs already had a community or charity that they were supporting and that communities were running their own stake pools. We were also relying on the Ryuuki network to create a center of gravity for SPOs and were planning to contribute this work to that network. That network of community projects and community projects fell apart when a few pools in the network received IOG and CF delegation and the others did not. That network could not find purpose and alignment and the knock-on effects impacted this proposal as our primary network of community SPOs became defunct. Also around the same time, SPOCRA was essentially no longer a functional community. Not a great time for SPO communities.

To help the SPOs that came to the Sakura community, we decided that the best mechanism to “address the healthy ecosystem of stake pool operators primarily through helping SPOs promote and prove legitimacy” was to help them with their business plan and organizational maturity. To this end, we partnered with Edify to bring the Sakura SPOs to the Edify SPO incubator program and build community through a shared educational experience.

This was a bit of a departure from the original intent of this proposal, but it seemed to be a viable path to build community and bring together some Community SPOs. We brought together GOMA, VROOM, FLUID, SAMON, SWARM, HODLR, PSB, SHIFT, HOLA, and a few other SPOs into a new Sakura Initiative.

We kicked off the Edify SPO incubator with GOMA, VROOM, FLUID, SAMON, SWARM pools and spent the next 6 months working through the Edify Incubator program, building up our strategic vision and plan. During this time, we created some strong trust networks between these pools and achieved the goal of community projects coming together to form a support network rallying around the material being taught by Edify.

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G. Key achievements (in particular around collaboration and engagement)

At the end of the 6 months, we decided that there was no real center of gravity for community groups and SPOs, as each SPO tends to find their charity or arises naturally from a group that requires a stake pool. There was no SPO without an existing community or charity purpose that we came across, so the basic premise of the original proposal was flawed.

We did, however, find ways of bringing SPOs together and built up some lasting relationships with each other through education and common growth goals. We found that we could help another project (Edify's) to bring together an initial cohort of SPOs from the Sakura network and engage in a 6-month accelerator program together. Afterward, we continue to engage in joint projects and initiatives. VROOM, FLUID, and SAMON pools are faction pools for the Machiavellic game, SAMON and VROOM have been hosting CIP-1694 and local Cardano Summit events, and SAMON, FLUID, and SWARM are actively contributing to and building the ODIN community.

H. Key learnings

We started with a hypothesis:

- A lot of SPOs struggle to attract enough delegation to be sustainable
- Community projects look to stake pools as a mechanism to receive some income
- This project hypothesized that it would be good to bring these two together for mutual support

What we learned:

- We learned that SPOs looking to support a community and communities wanting a stake pool are almost always the same individual or group. I.e: communities are already running their own stake pool
- Most successful community pools are successful because of IOG and/or CF delegation - community staking is rarely significant
- Helping community stake pools understand their business model and refine their purpose and vision is far more valuable than trying to match them with a community (in fact they already have a community in most cases)
- SPO community trust networks take time and commitment to develop

I. Next steps for the product or service developed

As of now, there are no next steps envisioned specifically for this proposal as the basic premise of the proposal was proven to not be true. We will be exploring how to build and strengthen SPO trust nets and community

J. Final thoughts/comments

Sometimes a good idea can turn out to be incomplete, start with wrong assumptions, and rely on other projects. This certainly happened with this one. While the foundational thought to bring SPOs and community projects together seemed like a great idea, it turned out not to

work or be needed. We did pivot a bit and try and bring SPOs some value by organizing into a learning cohort and this resulted in strong relationships being developed and other cooperative ventures growing out of the collaborations, which ultimately helped to deliver on the challenge goals.

K. Links to other relevant project sources or documents. Please also include a link to your video here.

Sakura Discord: <https://discord.gg/3YZ5fsaTsD>

Edify impact Discord: <https://discord.gg/DhAkN7HUAW>

Edify SPO Incubator example:  Miro

ODIN: <https://linktr.ee/odininitiative>

Machiavellic: <https://machiavellic.io/>

Closeout Report Video: https://youtu.be/la0_tzRIRXg