



USAID | PHILIPPINES

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DATE: September 30, 2020

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) NUMBER 72049220RFA00003, Amendment 1

PROGRAM TITLE: Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management Activity in the Pacific Region

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The purpose of this amendment is to provide answers to the questions received on September 21, 2020. Answers to questions are found in the succeeding pages.

This amendment does not obligate USAID to execute an award, nor does it commit USAID to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of applications. Furthermore, the U.S. Government reserves the right to reject any and all applications, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of the U.S. government. All other terms and conditions of this funding opportunity remain the same.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Conde

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Conde
Date: 2020.09.30 09:40:05 -04'00'

Supervisor Agreement Officer
Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance

General Questions

1. Can USAID confirm whether the AOR will be based in Manila, and can it inform applicants whether USAID has a preferred location for the implementing partner's project office?

USAID: The location of the AOR is still being determined. Given the regional nature of this activity, a number of USAID staff based in different countries in the Pacific Islands and Manila could support the AOR in activity management duties. USAID encourages the implementing partner to locate the project office in the location best suited for project management and implementation.

2. Will management of the program be conducted through the USAID Mission in Manila or other locations such as the USAID Regional Offices in Fiji or Papua New Guinea?

USAID: Please see response to question 1.

3. Does USAID have a preference on how many individual country activities are proposed, versus regional activities?

USAID: USAID has no preference on the number of country activities.

Technical Questions

4. Section C.3 mentions the number of applicants for the prime is one application. Is this referring to the institution as a whole or one per PI/project? For example, can we submit multiple proposals for consideration across Stanford University with different PI and collaborators OR only one application from Stanford University?

USAID: Only one application from an institution as a whole will be accepted.

5. We are interested in exploring the option of creating internships/placements for recently graduated lawyers that would be placed within their countries national fisheries departments. These lawyers would be tasked and supported to help develop national and subnational policies relating to coastal fisheries and would provide trainings to fisheries officers at national and subnational levels. Trainings would focus on building fisheries officers understanding on existing policies and mechanisms to enforce associated regulations. One way to operationalize this would be for the implementing partners to employ lawyers and place them in government fisheries departments under secondments. Would this be acceptable to USAID?

USAID: We leave it to applicants to propose the most appropriate interventions and technical approach to meet the objectives of the NOFO.

6. Under Factor 2, NOFO page 28, says “all proposed partners should have descriptions detailing previous work...”, and then Factor 3 page 29 mentions that the applicant and major sub-awardee should show how their experience is relevant to successfully implementing the program. Could you please clarify the difference between these requirements outlined under Factor 2 and 3?

USAID: Factor 2 is focused on the overall logic of the organizational management and staffing plan as it relates to the proposed partners’ roles and responsibilities, which in turn are justified by their proven track record. Factor 3 is on providing evidence that demonstrates organizational capability and past experience related to the technical nature of this activity.

7. Under Factor 3, both applicant and major sub-awardee need to provide project referenced information. Can applicants provide information on “past projects” as a separate annex or do we have to include all listed information (NOFO 29-30) in the one-page limitation for factor 3?

USAID: The project information (NOFO, pp. 29-30) for the applicant and all major sub-awardees should be submitted in the annex and limited to one page per organization.

8. Please confirm, for both applicant and major sub-awardee, there is no specific limitation on the number of past projects that must be provided, it can be one or more than one.

USAID: This is correct.

9. Page 32, the 2nd last paragraph, “The following sections describe the documentation that applicants for an Assistance award must submit to USAID prior to award.” Please clarify what documents will be required before Oral presentation if the concept note is selected? For example, would we only need to prepare summary costs for a draft budget, or would all the details and associated supporting documents need to be ready prior to the oral presentation?

USAID: If the concept note is selected, USAID will require a draft summary budget application before the oral presentation. The summary budget should include the budget categories found in SF 424A with costs broken down by year. Associated supporting documents are not required during the oral presentation phase.

10. Section A.2.b of the NOFO distinguishes between coastal and pelagic oriented fisheries. Does USAID include inshore tuna and other inshore pelagic species in its definition of coastal fisheries?

USAID: That is correct, inshore tuna and other inshore pelagic species are included in the definition of coastal fisheries.

11. Must the concept note propose activities in all six of the countries of interest listed on page 5? Conversely, can the concept note propose activities in countries other than those six countries of interest listed on page 5?

USAID: USAID proposes to undertake activities in the countries listed in the NOFO.

12. Please clarify how many key personnel are expected. On page 18, the NOFO says, “For this activity, USAID requires not more than three (3) key personnel and the type of skills each key personnel will need as well as their appropriateness to the technical approach outlined in the application.”

USAID: There will be no more than three (3) key personnel for this activity.

13. On page 30, the NOFO says to include as an annex “Past Experience and letter of commitment of major sub-awardees (not to exceed two pages per major sub-awardee).” Does the 2-page limit apply for the past experience of the subawardee, or for the past experience and letter of commitment combined?

USAID: The two-page limit applies to both the past experience and letter of commitment.

Cost Questions

14. Please clarify the explanation under “Contractual” regarding subaward(s). Do only major subawards need to prepare detail cost breakdowns? Or does this also apply for smaller subawards? Also, with regards to the requirement “Major partnering organization,” does this mean major sub-awardees must prepare a summary budget, detailed budget, and the SF 424 forms as well?

USAID: ALL subawards must provide detailed cost breakdowns. SF 424 forms only apply to the prime Applicant. However, Certifications, Assurances, and other Statement are required for both the prime Applicant and all subawardees.

15. NOFO page 35 “D. Risk Assessment.” What is the submission time of the documents required under this section?

USAID: Section D. Risk Assessment guide questions must be addressed and submitted as part of the cost application. Deadline of submission for both the technical/cost application is on October 19, 2020 by 12:00 NN Manila Local Time.

16. NOFO page 36, D.b. Certifications are required for all sub-awardees. Please confirm this requirement is for both major sub-awardee, and other sub-awardees with smaller budgets.

USAID: Yes. Certifications, Assurances, and other Statement are required for both the prime Applicant and all subrecipients per ADS 303.

17. Please confirm DUNS and SAM only apply to applicant and is not a requirement for sub-awardees at this stage.

USAID: The DUNS and SAM apply to both the applicant and its proposed subawardees. Approval of subaward will only be made when the proposed subrecipient has secured a valid DUNS number and has an active SAM account.