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Subject: Global Development Alliance (GDA) Program Annual Program Statement, APS
No.: APS-OAA-16-000001

Opportunity Title: Health, Ecosystems and Agriculture For Resilient, Thriving Societies (HEARTH)
Addendum No.: 7200AA20APS00002

Amendment: Amendment 006

1. **Appendix A - USAID MISSION(S) & COUNTRY DETAILS**
As part of Appendix A, insert the additional activity for a HEARTH partnership in the Angola headwaters of the Okavango river.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.

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December 29, 2020
Date

APPENDIX A - USAID MISSION(S) & COUNTRY DETAILS
ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS) APS NO: APS-OAA-16-000001,
ADDENDUM No.: 7200AA20APS00002, HEARTH

HEARTH-Okavango

1. Background:

As the third largest river system in southern Africa, the Okavango River and its tributaries feed into the Okavango Delta, a vast and varied wetland refuge spread across 6,000-15,000 square kilometers of the Kalahari Desert in northern Botswana. The Okavango Delta is home to some of the world's most endangered wildlife and plants, and the broader Okavango Basin provides water to approximately one million people. Designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site and one of the top African safari destinations, the Delta owes its existence to the Okavango River's headwaters in Angola, which are the source of the approximately 2.5 trillion gallons of water¹ and 95 percent of the water supply² that flows downstream annually. This flow of water creates a unique desert river basin, filled with peatlands and forests, that, in addition to providing sanctuary for wildlife, acts as a carbon sink, enabling the Delta and surrounding ecosystems to sequester human carbon emissions. If the water dries up, less carbon is sequestered and is instead released into the atmosphere, contributing to an already high volume of greenhouse gases and accelerating climate change.

After decades of devastating civil war, Angola is politically stable and development is increasing at an unprecedented rate around the Okavango headwaters. Land use change, water diversion, natural resources exploitation, and urbanization now threaten the sustained flow of the Okavango River and the valuable ecosystem services it provides. Without proper planning, new development in Angola could disrupt the regular flooding of the Okavango Delta, which is essential to sensitive ecosystems thriving in an otherwise arid region.

Landmines from the civil war confound development efforts--both planned and unplanned, including conservation--by making much of the headwaters area lethal for people, livestock, and wildlife. Remaining landmines need to be cleared in order to engage safely in conservation efforts and enable life and livelihoods to return and thrive.

To ensure water security and maintain ecosystem services throughout the region, an integrated and partnership-based approach focused on the Okavango headwaters is needed. An effective approach will engage transboundary institutions, such as the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water

¹ National Geographic Society Okavango Wilderness Project,
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/11/africa-expedition-conservation-okavango-delta-cuito/>

² Andersson L, Gumbricht T, Hughes D, Kniveton K, Ringrose S, Savenije H, et al. Water flow dynamics in the Okavango River Basin and Delta—A prerequisite for the ecosystems of the Delta. Journal of Hydrology. 2003. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2006.04.039; <https://www.intechopen.com/books/water-and-sustainability/water-ecosystem-dynamics-and-human-livelihoods-in-the-okavango-river-basin-orb-competing-needs-or-ba>

Commission (OKACOM) and the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area Secretariat, to enable regional cooperation on sustainable natural resources management and pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable populations, seeking to improve the livelihoods and health of the rural communities living within the Okavango Basin.

USAID/Southern Africa supports the strengthening of regional natural resources management by enhancing the capacity of and cooperation among transboundary institutions such as river basin organizations and transfrontier conservation areas. With the passage of the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act in 2018, USAID/Southern Africa programming strives to promote sustainable economic growth in the Okavango Basin through conservation interventions. Through the Resilient Waters Program, USAID worked with OKACOM and The Nature Conservancy to launch the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) Fund to undertake, facilitate, and finance activities relating to the conservation, sustainable development, and utilization of water resources in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin. Resilient Waters is also supporting the development of the Inclusive KAZA Livelihoods Diversification Strategy, to improve livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, and is assisting the governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia in developing a Transboundary Fisheries Management Plan. Through the Resilient Kwando activity, USAID and the U.S. Department of State are jointly supporting efforts in the Kwando River Basin to increase the resilience of local communities and governments by strengthening their capacity to manage water resources and engage in transboundary water governance fora and innovative partnerships. To this end, USAID has engaged government stakeholders from Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia to generate data and analysis on the health of their shared basin landscape through the participatory Basin Health Report Card and State of Basin Report processes.

USAID/Southern Africa is interested in receiving concept papers for partnerships involving corporations, impact investors, private foundations, or other private sector actors and their collaborating and implementing partners, such as civil society and nongovernmental organizations, demining organizations, the Angolan government, and transboundary institutions in the region that bring development programming expertise. The anticipated partnership would leverage private sector resources and networks and collaborate with OKACOM as a key partner throughout the design and implementation of the activity and beyond. Potential areas of investment may include: biodiversity conservation; inclusive natural resource governance; climate change mitigation and adaptation; payments for ecosystem services; ecotourism and other conservation-compatible income generating activities, with a focus on women, youth, and vulnerable populations; off-grid/ renewable energy; small and medium enterprise development; water supply and sanitation services; conservation agriculture; health services; and education.

2. Geographic Focus:

- a. The priority geography for HEARTH-Okavango is the watershed of Okavango River headwaters in Angola, namely the Cubango and Cuito Rivers, especially the peatlands. Concepts should describe plans for better managing or reducing pressure on the Angolan part of the watershed, including benefits to communities living within it, and demonstrate linkages to long-term management of the broader Okavango Basin system and downstream beneficiaries.

3. Development Sectors

- a. USAID-funded priority sectors: biodiversity conservation, and water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- b. USAID potential sectors: climate change mitigation and adaptation, off-grid/renewable energy, governance, women's economic empowerment, and health (malaria, family planning, and HIV/AIDS)
- c. Some possible private-sector opportunities: ecotourism, agribusiness, off-grid/renewable energy, impact investment and/or voluntary carbon market finance

4. Anticipated total funding level - \$500,000 - \$1,500,000 per year for 3-5 years

5. Last day to submit concept paper - February 14, 2021 at 5pm EST

6. Additional information

- a. A single award is anticipated subject to availability of funds, competitiveness of concept papers received and productivity of co-creation in 2021. USAID funding may not be available until summer 2022, but an agreement could begin earlier using partner funds if available and appropriate.
- b. A public webinar will be held in mid-January to share information about this opportunity and to answer questions. The date, time and participation information for the webinar will be announced on the Frequently Asked Questions document as part of the HEARTH addendum to the GDA APS once finalized in early January.
- c. Significant existing efforts
 - i. The National Geographic Society and the Angolan Ministries of Environment and Tourism (now the combined Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Environment) signed [Protocol of Cooperation \(2018\)](#) committing to a four-year partnership to help safeguard the Okavango River Basin headwaters.
 - ii. USAID supports a range of health, governance, WASH, and biodiversity conservation activities in Angola and the broader Okavango Basin through bilateral and regional programming. Concepts should articulate how they will complement or build on prior and ongoing USAID support.
 - iii. Concepts should be consistent with the goals of the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) [Act](#) of 2018.

Reference:

USAID-State work in Kwando: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/winter-2020/articles/flow-lines>

Oil and Gas Exploration Threats in Namibia:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/10/oil-drilling-fracking-planned-okavango-wilderness/>

Cubango-Okavango River Basin (Story Map):

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=0926e9d88c0348968c98d8a562f31876>

The Cubango-Okavango River Basin Multi-Sector Investment Opportunities Analysis:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33074>

USAID/Angola:

<https://www.usaid.gov/angola>

USAID/Southern Africa:

<https://www.usaid.gov/southern-africa-regional>