



USAID | INDIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Strengthening Landscape Management and Conservation (NOFO No. 72038622RFA00002) Responses to the Questions 2 September 2022

1. Our organization is designated by USAID as a Category 1 Public International Organization (PIO) under ADS 308. ADS 308 sets forth USAID's mandatory policies and required procedures on assistance awards to PIOs. In accordance with ADS 308, IARCs are Category 1 PIOs. As a PIO, we would like to confirm that if we participate as a sub-awardee under a prime applicant, in accordance with ADS 303.3.21 (d) "for sub-awards to PIOs", it would be subject to the terms and conditions contained in the "Standard Provisions for Cost-Type Awards to PIOs in ADS 308".

USAID Response: Yes, a subaward made to a PIO must use the Standard provisions for cost-type awards to PIOs in ADS 308, Awards to Public International Organization.

2. As a partner if we have Collaboration with any State Government ? Will they also be part of the recipient of this grant along with the other organization?

USAID Response: This NOFO is open to U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations. Therefore, no, the State Government will not be part of the recipient of the grant.

3. This would be a single FCRA grant as mentioned in the NOFO, however if we have three consortium partners and Indian FCRA does not allow us to subgrant - so could a US based HQ of our organization be the prime?

USAID Response: As stated in the NOFO, "USAID/India is seeking Concept Papers for a Cooperative Agreement. USAID encourages participation, to the maximum extent possible, of all local and international organizations." The applicant is responsible to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of India." The Prime applicant is solely at the discretion of the applicant.

4. Question primarily based on FCRA limitations - One agency cannot transfer money to another agency ? How will this mechanism work ? (FCRA))

a. Can Indian Entities do subgranting - Question primarily based on FCRA limitations.

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USAID Response: The applicant is responsible to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of India.

5. Section D.4.1. Phase 1: Concept Paper Format, C. Concept Technical Approach bullet 2 instructs applicants to “describe the anticipated results and/or impact of the proposed intervention”. At this stage of the process, does USAID expect applicants to present numerical targets for the results and indicators we present?

USAID Response: The applicant in the concept must discuss and provide their intended approach to monitoring and evaluating the activity’s outcomes. The indicators in Section B provide examples of USAID’s standard biodiversity and sustainable landscapes indicators, but the full list of indicators will be jointly developed during co-creation. Numerical targets are not expected at this stage.

6. Regarding the leverage requirement, would USAID please confirm this is not cost share?
OR

In the Concept Note, are the applicant organizations required to provide any evidence for the organization approached for leverage (such as an agreement copy)?

OR

The NOFO states that the concept paper must include the “total amount leveraged, including from what sources.”

OR

Do I need to show a clear breakdown of the proposed leveraged amount? Or will you accept a general summary at this point?

OR

Do you need supporting documents from organizations providing the necessary resources?

OR

Will I be allowed to show leveraged sources from my place of employment in the United States (not from the U.S. government) or will only local sources be acceptable?

USAID Response:

Leverage is not cost share. Please refer to Section C.2 for definition of leverage. No leverage agreement is required at this stage, the applicant is required to clearly describe their intended approach to leveraging the required amount. However, USAID/India requires that the applicants highlight their proposed approach to leverage funds, the various sources of leveraged funds, and the associated percentage. Additionally, for Phase 1, applicants are not required to submit any supporting documentation from leveraged resources. Lastly, this NOFO requires that at a minimum the applicant is required to leverage 10% of the award amount from other sources, external to the United States Government. Yes, leverage may come from U.S. firms (not from the U.S. government).

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7. My proposed project will have a second co-author/co-PI. If there are two co-authors of the concept papers (to be listed as CO-PI's), is that acceptable?

USAID Response: Co-authors are acceptable, but only one award will be made under this NOFO.

8. Can a Joint Venture agreement be signed between the organization, interested in applying for the funding opportunity, and the Forest Department of the State where the activities, as per the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), are to be conducted?

USAID Response: No, this award is for local and international **non-governmental** organizations, not-for-profit and private sector organizations. While for-profit organizations may participate, pursuant to 2 CFR 700.13(a)(1), Prohibition against Profit, no profit will be paid to any for-profit entity receiving or administering Federal financial assistance as a recipient or subrecipient.

9. In a Joint Venture, how will the flow of funds work? Will the associated organizations be receiving funds from USAID separately?

OR

As joint ventures and consortium are allowed and the funding is FC type in which subgranting is prohibited, whether USAID will make separate agreements with all consortium partners and transfer money directly to all partners of consortium?

USAID Response: A joint venture is a combination of two or more parties that seek the development of a single enterprise, sharing the risks associated with its development. As such, the parties would register as a **single entity** and USAID in-turn transfers funds through this **newly established entity**. A consortium is a more informal agreement between two or more different businesses, rather than creating a new one.

The consortium should determine who will be the Prime recipient **as only one award will be made** as a result of this NOFO. Applicants are reminded that Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of comments/suggestions or an application.

10. Can private sector companies be a part of the consortium?

USAID Response: Yes, private sector companies can be part of the consortium. As stated in Section C.1 of the NOFO, "Pursuant to 2CFR 200.400(g), it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as Cooperative Agreements. While for-profit organizations may participate, pursuant to 2 CFR 700.13(a)(1), Prohibition against Profit, no profit will be paid to any for-profit entity receiving or administering Federal financial assistance as a recipient or subrecipient."

11. One may apply as a lead applicant or as a member of a consortium? How many applications can one agency be part of?

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OR

Is there a cap on the number of organizations forming a consortium? Also, in case the contract is awarded, will there be any restriction on sub-contracting of certain task to any individual or a grass-root level NGO?

USAID Response: As stated in Section C.1 of the NOFO, “organizations participating as a member of a consortium may elect to participate in another consortium under a different Concept Paper.” There is not a cap on the number of organizations in a consortium. The resulting award, if any, will be a Cooperative Agreement. For sub-contracting, the prime recipient will have to follow the host government laws.

12. Section D.4.1. Phase 1: Concept Paper Format: A. Concept Paper Cover Page bullet 8 asks for us to include a certification of incorporation. Should we include this as an annex or is reference to our type of registration and date sufficient?

USAID Response: The applicant must include the certification of incorporation in the annex.

13. If applying as part of a consortium, do all consortium partners need to register in SAM?

USAID Response: The prime is required to be registered in the SAM; the other consortium organizations should have an UEI number.

14. If applying in a consortium, in history of performance do we need to give experience of the lead partner or can mention experience of all the consortium partners?

USAID Response: The applicant is to describe the contributions of each member of the consortium and their past experiences on similar types of activities.

15. No budget has to be submitted along with the concept note in the 1st phase. Is the understanding correct?

USAID Response: Yes, that’s correct. As stated in D.4.1.A, the concept paper cover page is to include “Total Amount of Funding Requested for USAID”; no detailed budget is required in Phase I.

16. In the case of Objective 3 more clarity is required on whether there is already some knowledge management system with USAID wherein this whole thing would fit in/in sync with GOI or an entirely new platform has to be created?

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USAID Response: There is not a knowledge management system within USAID, so applicants would need to elaborate on their proposed approach to accomplishing the goals outlined in objective 3.

17. “Nature of Relationship between USAID and the Recipient” highlights the fact that USAID role will be to “transfer the funds” to the recipient for the implementation of the activities. Will USAID also help in the technical domain such as acquiring data and information from governmental entities?

USAID Response: During the life of this activity, USAID will be substantially involved in the activity’s implementation. This includes: providing technical guidance on the concepts intended approach; approving of recipient’s implementation plans during performance; and approving of key recipient personnel. USAID will also facilitate the relationship between the Government of India and the implementing partner, **but the responsibility of acquiring and collecting data and information** from governmental entities would be the responsibility of the implementing partner, **for example**.

18. Are the organizations applying for this funding opportunity required to provide a working plan (such as a timeline, number of fieldworks required etc.) in the Concept Note?

USAID Response: At this stage, applicants are required to follow the instructions in Section D for Phase 1.

19. GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The NOFO says that the geographic scope of this project will be a terrestrial ecosystem in the central Indian landscapes, though the “final geographic selection will be made during co-creation.”

OR

Does the proposed project need to cover all the states mentioned in the Central India Region? Can the project be proposed in a few of the states mentioned?

OR

Is it possible to conduct a comparative project where one geographic region is situated in a coastal ecosystem and the second in a terrestrial ecosystem?

USAID Response: Please refer to the revised geographic scope requirements in the Amendment #1 of NOFO Section ‘A.2.6 Geographic Scope.’

20. If both field locations broadly focus on “strengthening conditions for institutionalizing landscape conservation goals” as described by the NOFO, can I propose a comparative project in two different ecosystems in neighboring states?

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USAID Response: In the concept note, applicants can propose any approach(es) that allows them to accomplish the three primary objectives of this activity and provide the proper justification for their intended interventions.

21. In Section B.2, page 11 of the NOFO, can USAID please confirm the indicator: Greenhouse gas emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through clean energy activities supported by USG assistance?

OR

In Section B.2, page 11 of the NOFO, can USAID please provide indicator definitions for the non-standard indicators:

- a. Number of people consulted to plan for livelihood needs related to sustainable landscapes with USG support
- b. Number of people trained in adaptive strategies with USG support

USAID Response: The indicators in Section B provide examples of USAID's standard biodiversity and sustainable landscapes indicators. The full list of indicators will be jointly developed, and the associated definitions of each indicator will be determined during co-creation.

22. In Section D.4, page 18 of the NOFO, would USAID allow 10-point font for text boxes?

USAID Response: As stated in the NOFO, *"a 10 point font can be used for graphs and charts."* Please refer to Section D.4.

23. In section D.4.1, page 20 of the NOFO, would USAID allow an organizational chart to be included as an annex to the 8-page concept note to depict the proposed organizational structure and role of the consortium members in support of section "Organizational Structure and Management"?

USAID Response: Yes, this is acceptable. Please refer to the amended NOFO.

24. Will USAID be providing the Local Compensation Plan (LCP)?

USAID Response: No, a LCP will not be provided at this Phase.

25. Does the proposed project need to cover all the three objectives?

USAID Response: Yes, the proposed project needs to cover all the three objectives, as stated in the NOFO, "Concept papers should describe your organization's approach for tackling the challenges and **objectives described in Section A** of the NOFO."

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26. Whether the funds are grant in nature? Will the agreement be a grant agreement or consultancy agreement?

USAID Response: [The mechanism for this activity is a cooperative agreement.](#)

27. Whether the funds are Indian or FC?

USAID Response: [This activity is funded through foreign funding for development assistance appropriated by the United States Congress.](#)

28. No budget has to be submitted along with the concept note in the 1st phase. Is the understanding correct?

USAID Response: [Yes, that is correct.](#)

29. This NOFO is only for protected forest areas or also applicable for unprotected and reserved forest areas?

USAID Response: [This activity's goal is to enhance biodiversity conservation, human well being, and climate benefits from ecological landscapes. Consequently, the landscapes could include different land-uses and legal categories of forests.](#)

30. Lot of indigenous communities live in the forest fringe areas and are dependent on forest. For protection and rejuvenation of forests, one needs to develop the resources of these communities by developing the landscape of these villages and providing alternate livelihood opportunities. Will this initiative allow working on the revenue lands of these communities to develop their resource base for better livelihoods?

USAID Response: [Please refer to Objective 2 of this NOFO: Improved Livelihoods from Ecosystem Services.](#)