U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS-Program Name: Asian Elephant Conservation Fund

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)

NOFO Name: Asian Elephant Conservation Fund FY24

Fiscal Year: 2024

NOFO Number: F24AS00146

Due Date for Applications: 01/31/2024

A. Program Description

A1. Authority: Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997, 16 U.S.C. § 4261 et seq.

A2. Assistance Listing Number: F24AS00146

A3. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) mission is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The International Affairs Program delivers on this mission through its financial assistance programs by supporting strategic projects that deliver measurable conservation results for priority species and their habitats around the world.

The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund solicits project proposals for the conservation of the Asian elephant (Elephas maximus) throughout its range. Asian elephants have disappeared from an estimated 95% of their historic range, with current wild distribution covering only 486,800 km2. Of the remaining 5% of their range, only 51% is considered wildland, with the rest impacted by agriculture, linear infrastructure, fire, and other human activities. Only 16% of these wildlands are protected and, therefore, most Asian elephants exist outside of protected areas in fragmented, human-dominated landscapes. This interface leads to human-elephant conflict, a major threat to both people and elephants. In addition to habitat loss and human-elephant conflict, poaching and the illegal trade in elephants pose significant challenges to the species. Climate change is expected to exacerbate current threats facing Asian elephants.

In 1997, with awareness of increasing threats to the welfare of the already endangered Asian elephant, the Asian Elephant Conservation Act was signed into law (16 U.S.C. §4261). The Act provides for the conservation of wild Asian elephants by supporting conservation programs in countries within the range of Asian elephants, and the projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of wild Asian elephants. The goal of this program is to perpetuate healthy populations of Asian elephants in their native range by supporting the conservation programs of range states.

The Asian Elephant Conservation Fund recognizes the common goals and priorities of the 13 Asian elephant range state governments as stated in the Kathmandu Declaration for Asian Elephant Conservation and supports projects that promote conservation of Asian elephants and their habitats through:

- Support of protected area and habitat restoration and management in Asian elephant ranges;
- Promote coexistence by minimizing the negative impacts of humans on Asian elephants and their habitats, address the root causes of human-elephant conflict, and develop solutions to minimize such conflict;
- Engage with local communities to gain their participation in biodiversity conservation and land-use planning, and provide sustainable and alternative livelihoods;
- Ensure effective protections across the species' range to prevent illegal killing of Asian elephants and the illegal trade in live Asian elephants, ivory and its derivatives, and other elephant body parts;

- Enhance cooperation between the 13 range states to promote transboundary conservation of Asian elephants;
- Develop and execute elephant conservation management plans;
- Compliance with CITES and other applicable treaties and laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of elephants or regulate the use and management of elephant habitat;
- Improve habitat connectivity by establishing wildlife corridors and minimizing the impacts from linear infrastructure; and
- Applied research on elephant populations and their habitats, including surveys and monitoring.

Guidelines for Proposed Projects:

- Projects should focus on wild, rather than captive, populations of Asian elephants and occur within the range of the Asian elephant. If work is to be conducted outside of the range, the proposal should show a clear relevance to wild Asian elephant conservation.
- Project activities that emphasize data collection and status assessment should describe a direct link to management actions and include an explanation on how the lack of information has been a key limiting factor for management actions in the past.
- Applicants should clearly indicate how data generated by proposed activities will be made available to the Asian elephant conservation community.
- Applied research projects should address specific management needs and actions.
- Projects proposing to address human-elephant conflict (HEC) should follow the key principles and good practices detailed in the IUCN SSC guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and co-existence and demonstrate prior meaningful engagement with stakeholders such as local communities.
- Projects that propose prevention of damage from HEC must show that the intervention is known to be functionally effective, ethically and culturally appropriate, feasible, and perceived as effective, and the relevant stakeholders are aware of the limitations.
- Proposals should identify specific conservation actions that have a high likelihood of creating lasting benefits.
- Proposals that do not identify how actions will reduce threats or that do not demonstrate a strong link between data collection and management action will be rejected.

A4. Funding Opportunity Goals:
The goal of the USFWS Asian Elephant Conservation Program is to perpetuate healthy populations of Asian elephants in their native range by supporting the conservation programs of range states.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding
Estimated Total Funding
$7,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount
***Maximum Award**
$750,000

***Minimum Award**
$300,000

B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates
Expected Award Funding
$500,000
Expected Award Date
Projects should start no earlier than June 1, 2024.

The approximate amount of funding available under this program is $7,000,000 USD. The amount of funding per Federal award may range from $300,000 - $750,000 USD. The amount of funding per award, on average, will be $500,000 USD. The amount of funding requested must match the scope of the activities, anticipated results, and the length of the project period. For multi-year projects, project activities should be clearly articulated in phases/years and support for future phases/years will be contingent on project performance, satisfactory reporting and financial management, and availability of program funds. The anticipated start dates for awards will be June 2024 or later, and periods of performance may range from 3 – 5 years.

Current recipients of awards are eligible to apply for renewal of existing, ongoing projects and will compete with applications for new Federal awards.

In the event of a successful project, the Service may consider the option of extending the program to future years, subject to availability of future funding. The Service may extend the award for additional years contingent on Service priorities, good performance of the recipient, FWS management approval, and funding availability.

B4. Number of Awards
Expected Number of Awards
15
It is anticipated that 10 to 25 awards will be issued this fiscal year.

B5. Type of Award
Funding Instrument Type
G - Grant
C - Cooperative Agreement
Under cooperative agreements, the Service will be substantially involved, which may include participating and collaborating jointly with the recipient or other personnel in carrying out the scope of work. This may include trains recipient personnel or details Federal personnel to work on the project effort; reviews and approves one stage of work before the next stage can begin; reviews and approves, prior to recipient action, proposed modifications or subawards; helps select project staff or trainees; directs or redirects the work because of interrelationships with other projects; has power to immediately halt an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met; and limits recipient discretion with respect to scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award.

To submit a proposal for consideration as a cooperative agreement, provide a justification statement in the project proposal as to the type and duration of assistance requested by the Service and a rationale for why substantial involvement of the Service is needed to fulfill the project objectives.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

Applicants can be individuals; multi-national secretariats; foreign national and local government agencies; non-profit, non-governmental organizations; public and private institutions of higher education; U.S. territorial governments.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Voluntary committed cost sharing is not required, but encouraged and priority will be given to projects for which there exists some measure of voluntary committed cost share or match funds.

Cost sharing is the portion of program costs not borne by the Service. Under this program, cost share is not required but may be committed voluntarily. Cost share should be necessary and reasonable to accomplish project objectives, and allowable in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E—Cost Principles.

Applicants may consider all types of cost sharing, including in-kind and public-private partnerships. Examples include the use of office space owned by other entities; donated or borrowed supplies and equipment; (non-federal) sponsored travel costs; waived indirect costs; and program activities, translations, or consultations conducted by qualified volunteers. Assign a monetary value in U.S. dollars to each in-kind contribution. The values of offered cost-share should be included in the detailed budget and explanations of contributions should be included in the Budget Narrative, whether cash or in-kind.

If the proposed project is a component of a larger program, identify other funding sources and the specific funding amount to be provided by those sources. In addition, it is recommended that the Budget Narrative address the overall cost-effectiveness of the proposal, including leveraging institutional or other resources.

Funds provided by another U.S. Federal Government agency or another Service award cannot be reported as cost share. Those contributions should be noted and explained in detail in the Budget Narrative.

If cost share is included in the budget, written records must be maintained to support all allowable costs that are claimed as its contribution to cost share, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit.

C3. Other

Foreign Entities or Projects:

State Sponsors of Terrorism: This program will not fund projects in countries determined by the U.S. Department of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism and therefore are subject to sanctions restricting receipt of U.S. foreign assistance and other financial transactions.
Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions: This program will not fund projects in countries subject to comprehensive sanction programs administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control without proper licenses.
In-Country Licenses, Permits, or Approvals: Entities conducting activities outside the U.S. are responsible for coordinating with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities as necessary to obtain all required licenses, permits, or approvals before undertaking project activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the foreign country in which they are conducting work.
Excluded Parties: The DOI conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The DOI cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

This funding opportunity contains everything needed to apply. To request paper copies of materials, please contact mscf_asianelephant@fws.gov.

Program Website Link

Asian Elephant Conservation Fund | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must submit the Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form is available with the announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. The form must be complete and signed by an Authorized Representative. For all applicants except individuals and commercial entities, the Authorized Representative's signature on a standard application form submitted to the Service represents their certification that the entity's financial management system meets 2 CFR §200.302 financial management requirements. The non-Federal entity's financial management system must be sufficient to:

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in 2 CFR §200.302(b); and
4. Comply with §200.334 Retention requirements for records, §200.335 Requests for transfer of records, §200.336 Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and §200.337 Access to records.

If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature on or submission of the SF-424 form in GrantSolutions also represents their certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of funding in Box 18e. Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b. Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444." Individuals may register in SAM.gov but are not required to have a SAM.gov registration. For individuals without a SAM.gov registration enter in Box 8c. the substitute Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) "KA5HQCLKUVW1"

Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)Applicants must complete and submit the Project Abstract Summary form. The Project Abstract Summary form must provide a brief award description. The description must be in plain language that the public can understand without viewing the full application proposal. It should include a brief, simple description of the project purpose, activities to be performed, deliverables and expected outcomes, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient activities, if known at the time of submission.

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

For applicants applying through Grants.gov: Applicants must download and complete the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form from the full text announcement. To submit the Grants.gov "Project Abstract Summary" form with the application, applicants must add the form as an attachment to the Grants.gov "Attachments" form that is included in the application package.

For applicants applying through GrantSolutions-Grants Management Module (GS-GMM): Applicants must enter the information in the Project Abstract Summary screen. Do not upload a document in place of entering the information directly into GS-GMM Project Abstract Screen.

Project Narrative
Please note: Project narratives should be fifteen pages or less. Pages should be numbered. Project summary, figures, tables, maps, curriculum vitae, and required standard forms do not count toward the fifteen-page limit, and applicants are encouraged to utilize appendences as appropriate.

1. Project title - Provide a basic description of the project, including the location and country, in the title. If this is a continuation of an earlier funded proposal, use the same title and include the appropriate number to denote that this is a subsequent proposal such as: "Save the Asian Elephants – 2."

2. Statement of Need: This section should answer the question, "Why is this project

necessary?" Clearly identify:

- the wildlife, habitat, or biodiversity targeted for conservation (including any existing estimates of population size, geographic range, or extent);
- a description of the direct threats that affect the targeted species at the project site; and
- the specific threats that the project will address.

This section should describe how the proposed activities are expected to lead to desired conservation outcomes, such as the reduction of direct threats or improvement of the status of species and habitats. Summarize previous or ongoing efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) that are relevant to the proposed work, including how the proposal differs from past work, or builds upon it, and how the applicant plans to expand upon the successes, failures, and lessons learned from past efforts.

It is important for applicants to show that conservation project proposals are based on the best available evidence. Applicants are encouraged to describe and cite the evidence base for the most important conservation activities within a proposal. For example, applicants should describe the existing evidence that suggests proposed activities will be effective, with a focus on activities that may have substantial or sensitive consequences or activities that are considered high risk by the project.

To identify evidence for conservation activities, applicants are encouraged to search and cite the Conservation Evidence database (https://www.conservationevidence.com/). The evidence base may also include published or grey literature, previous personal experience, Indigenous and/or traditional knowledge, evidence review and synthesis libraries (e.g., CEEDER, Evidence for Nature and People Data Portal), or species assessments published under the Endangered Species Act and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

If a proposed activity is considered sensitive or high risk, but has little to no existing evidence base among these information sources, applicants are encouraged to discuss where new evidence is needed to understand effectiveness. Further guidance and examples are available in Parks et al. (2022) Funding Evidence-Based Conservation and its supplementary materials.

If you have received funding previously from the Service for this specific project work or site, provide a summary of the funding, associated activities, products, outcomes, and associated measurable conservation results. A table may be the most efficient way to convey this information: including columns for donor, reference number, amount funded, year of activity, and bullet points of major activities, outcomes, products, and associated measurable conservation results.
Projects with funding from any other government source or eligible for any other government source should add a section describing the activities supported and the added value of Service support. Please note how the proposal differs or builds upon funding available from other major donors.

Former recipients of Service support should note that every proposal is expected to be a stand-alone document. Not all proposal reviewers may be familiar with past grants and a summary of activities and accomplishments helps all reviewers to better understand the proposal in context.

3. **Project Goals, Objectives, Activities and Methods**: This section should answer the question, "What do you want to achieve and how are you going to do it?" State the long-term goals of what your project aims to achieve.

   Objectives are the specific steps that you will take to reach your stated goals. Your objectives must be attainable within the project period and should be specific, measurable, and realistic.

   Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) used to carry out each activity.

   The following format is recommended:

   GOAL:

   Objective 1.

   Activity 1.1

   Activity 1.2

   Objective 2.

   Activity 2.1

   Objective 3.

   Activity 3.1

   Activity 3.2

   Activity 3.3

   Consider including activities that meet one or more of the following conditions:

   a. Activities that clearly address the specific direct threats described in the above section titled: Statement of Need;
   b. Activities that are feasible and likely to be successfully implemented as stated;
   c. Activities that apply the best scientific and/or technical information and methods available;
   d. Activities that include the participation of local partners in project activities, including meaningful involvement of government, community, or civil society stakeholders; and
   e. Activities resulting in benefits continuing beyond the period of performance of the

project.

4. **Project Timetable:** This section should answer the question, "Over what period will project activities be implemented?" Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or project milestones are to be accomplished. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets, or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments). The timetable should not propose specific dates, but instead group activities by month for each month over the entire proposed project period.

5. **Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement:** This section should answer the question, "Who are you going to work with?" As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations, local community groups, or individuals in planning the project. Detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results, and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities. Please describe any previous work with these stakeholders and how working with them relates to the specific threats and target audiences. Where multiple groups are working in the same site or are listed as stakeholders in the proposal, letters of endorsement specifically referring to this proposal and the proposed collaboration from each partner organization will strengthen your proposal and may be requested by reviewers.

6. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** This section should answer the question, "How will you evaluate the progress and success of this project?" Detail the monitoring and evaluation plan for the project. Building on the stated project objectives, which must be specific and measurable, identify what you will measure (i.e., quantitative/quantifiable indicators) and how you will measure (i.e., methods, sample size, survey tools). Note that outputs (or products) should generally NOT be used as indicators, including Service performance reports. Indicators should reflect a change in capacity, human behavior, threat, or status of the target species. If the current status of the indicator is known, and the applicant identifies the indicator's desired status or qualitative condition, providing this information will strengthen the proposal.

   The following table format is recommended:

Objective	**Indicator** (i.e., what you will measure to track your progress toward achieving the objective)	**Monitoring Method** (i.e., how you will measure the indicator)	**Current Status** (if known)	**Desired Status**

The Service values projects that report both the success and failures of efforts as a means by which an applicant can improve their performance and provide lessons learned to improve our efforts to conserve wildlife.

7. **Description of Entities Undertaking the Project**: This section should answer the question, "Who will carry out the project, and what are their specific qualifications?" Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all participating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. On the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, provide complete contact information for the individual within the organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis. Provide brief (**1-page**) *curricula vitae* for key personnel, identifying their qualifications to meet the project objectives. To prevent unnecessary transmission of Personally Identifiable Information, ***DO NOT include Social Security numbers, the names of family members, or any other personal or sensitive information including marital status, religion, or physical characteristics in the description of key personnel qualifications.***

8. **Sustainability:** This section should answer the question, "What is your long-term plan for this project beyond the Service funding period?" As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work or act on the results achieved, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.

9. **Literature Cited:** (if applicable) include as an addendum and not within the text of the proposal.

10. **Map of Project Area:** This section should answer the question, "Where is the project located?" The map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative.

11. **Government Letter of Endorsement:** For projects implemented outside of the United States, non-governmental applicants must include a recent letter of support (no older than two years) from the appropriate local, regional, or national government wildlife or conservation authority. A current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the applicant and the government authority may be accepted, as long as the MOU references the proposed work. Where appropriate, letters of support from local communities or project beneficiaries should be provided. Endorsement letters should be in English and make specific reference to the Service and the proposed work. If a support or endorsement letter is not in English, applicants must also provide an English translation of the letter.

SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this

announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In "Section A – Budget Summary" on the SF-424A form enter in the first row the funding requested from this Federal program. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

Budget
Applicants must include an itemized Budget. An example budget spreadsheet and budget narrative are available on our website. These are optional documents to serve as an example of what information applicants must include in their budget and budget narrative and how to convey that information.

If the proposed project is a component of a larger program, identify leveraged funds and other resources available and/or needed to accomplish the desired objectives (leveraged funds are funds that run parallel to or outside of the proposed SERVICE project budget). Include the specific funding amount to be provided by those sources and the relevant activities they will contribute to. In addition, it is recommended that the Budget Narrative address the overall cost-effectiveness and feasibility of the proposal, including leveraging institutional or other resources.

The itemized budget should provide enough information for reviewers to be able to understand the cost basis and calculation at a glance. For example, a $3,300 charge for lodging should include the formula for how the cost was calculated (e.g., *Lodging for 20 nights x 11 people x $15/night = $3,300)*. For personnel salary costs, include the baseline salary figures and the estimates of time (e.g., *50% time on project*).

For any salaries, staff time, or contractors for which Service funds are requested, the person should be identified, and their qualifications described in the Project Narrative (Description of Entities Undertaking the Project). For any training, a description of the training should be included in the Methods section. For any meetings, a description of participants, a draft agenda, and desired outputs should be provided.

Expenses listed as "Miscellaneous" or "etc." are unallowable. Unless conditions listed under 200.433 Contingency provisions are applicable, "contingencies" are unallowable. Expenses listed as "Other" must be clearly identified and described in the Budget Narrative.

Applicants should be aware of and comply with the requirements of 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.

Equipment: Equipment is defined as an item with a per-unit cost of $5,000 or more and a service life of more than one year. If the item meets these criteria, all federal procurement policies and procedures must be followed. If an item does not meet these criteria, it should be considered a supply and listed under cost category E. Justify any equipment purchase/rental in the budget narrative. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project,

provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. For expensive items or large single purchases, provide detailed technical specifications or a pro forma invoice.

Supplies: List items separately using unit costs and the percentage of each unit cost being charged to the award for photocopying, postage, telephone/fax, printing, and office supplies (e.g., Telephone: $50/month x 50% = $25/month x 12 months).

Contractual:
1. Subawards: For each subaward, provide a detailed line-item breakdown explaining specific services in a separate tab in the Budget and Narrative. Subaward budgets should include the same level of detail for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, and indirect costs required of the direct applicant. If indirect costs are charged on a subaward budget, include the subrecipient's NICRA.

2. Consultant Fees: For example, lecture fees, honoraria, travel, and per diem for outside speakers or independent evaluators: list number of people and rates per day (e.g., *2 x $150/day x 2 days*). Consultant/outside expert fees/honoraria should be consistent with the level of experience and based on a fair market value.

Budget Narrative
Applicants must include a budget narrative that describes and justifies requested budget items and costs. In your budget narrative, describe how the SF-424 Budget Information, "Object Class Category" totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, generally describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute to the project (in hours or workdays). Describe any proposed items of cost that require prior approval under the Federal award cost principles, including any anticipated subawarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any third-party cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, identify the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See 2 CFR §200.306 for more information.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), 2 CFR §1402.112, applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

a. *Applicability*.
    1. This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
    2. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR§200.318 apply.

b. *Notification*.
    1. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass- through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112.
    2. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.
c. *Restrictions on lobbying*. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and 31 USC §1352.
d. *Review procedures*. The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.339, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR §180).

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement
All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non- profit organizations expending $750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System, in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non- profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying
Applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for

lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form **if** the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement
Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regard to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with "We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing."

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)
Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:
This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) which replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients **must** also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov "Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations". See the "Submission Requirements" section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

Applicants can register on the SAM.gov website. The "Help" tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov "Register with SAM" page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity's IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., ET, on January 31, 2024.

Application Due Date Explanation

Applications must be submitted electronically through GrantSolutions by 11:59 PM ET on January 31, 2024 Applications must be submitted in English. **Late applications will not be accepted**. A confirmation email containing an assigned application number beginning with "FWS-" will be sent to applicants upon submission. If you do not receive this email within five days of the opportunity closing date, contact **mscf_asianelephant@fws.gov.** Do not submit your application more than once. Duplicate applications will be discarded. Please see more information about submission requirements in section D7. Other Submission Requirements.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372. The State Single Point of Contact list is available on the OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website.

D6. Funding Restrictions

The Service will not fund:

- The purchase of firearms or ammunition;
- Gathering information by persons who conceal their true identity;
- Buying or purchasing of intelligence, evidence, or information or paying informants;
- Law enforcement operations that, to arrest suspects, prompt them to carry out illegal activities (entrapment); and
- Any activity that would circumvent sanctions, laws, or regulations of either the U.S. or the country of the proposed activity.

The following cost elements **are not allowable** under this program:

- Publication of materials for distribution within the United States that are not related to the program;
- Pre-award Costs - Expenses incurred before the specified dates of award period of performance (unless prior written approval is received);

- Programs designed to advocate policy views or positions of foreign governments or views of a particular political faction;
- Entertainment and/or alcoholic beverages;
- Purchase of land;
- Direct support or the appearance of direct support for individual or single-party electoral campaigns;
- Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government;
- Activities or interventions that have been proven ineffective (e.g., beehive fencing in Asia) or escalates aggression in HEC (e.g, crackers, firecrackers, projectiles).

Indirect Costs: Individuals
Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

Indirect Costs: Organizations
The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:

U.S. state or local government entities receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding must include the following statement in their application and attach a copy of their most recently negotiated rate agreement:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than $35 million in direct Federal funding. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. Attached is a copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement/certification.

U.S. state or local government entities receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding must include the applicable statement from this list:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert

rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving $35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2 CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

All other organizations must include the applicable statement from the following list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.
- We are an organization submitting a [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a

current negotiated (including provisional) rate we must charge the program's capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement, per 2 CFR §1402.414. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1.

- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

The Service uses the GrantSolutions system to manage financial assistance applications and awards. Applicants must register in and conduct any subsequent award business with the Service in GrantSolutions. To apply, your organization and organization officials must be established in GrantSolutions. To register your organization in GrantSolutions, send an email to help@grantsolutions.gov with the following information:

Subject: New Organization Request

- Organization/Individual Name
- Point of Contact first and last name, email, and phone number
- Organization Type
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals or Service-waived entities)
- Organization Employer Identification Number (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS DO NOT include your social security number)
- Address

Organizational details should match those in the organization's SAM.gov registration. To establish organization official accounts and user role(s), complete a Recipient User Account Request Form for each official and email it to help@grantsolutions.gov. The GrantSolutions entity user roles are: Authorizing Official (ADO); Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD); Support Specialist (GSS); Financial Officer (FO); and Financial Support Staff (FSS). All roles can do the following: enter applications, amendments, and reports, view awards, and view and create notes. The ADO and the PI/PD roles can also submit applications, amendments, and reports. The FO role can also submit reports. At a minimum, registered organizations must assign someone to the ADO and PI/PD roles. For more information, see the GrantSolutions Recipient Training and FAQs web page. For GrantSolutions registration, submission, and other assistance contact their Customer Support by telephone at 1-866-577-0771 or by email at help@grantsolutions.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: If you experience problems registering or submitting an application in GrantSolutions, you may be granted a waiver. If you wish to seek a waiver, you must submit supporting documentation to demonstrate the issues you are experiencing. Documentation may include computer screenshots showing error messages or email communication with the GrantSolutions Help Desk attempting to resolve the issue. The request must be submitted at least **three** days before the submission deadline. Please send your waiver request to **DIC_GRANTS@fws.gov**. If you are granted a waiver, you will submit your application to the Asian elephant program mailbox: mscf_asianelephant@fws.gov.

Organizations that plan to submit separate applications for multiple projects are encouraged to **combine project proposals into one single application**. Each component of the application will be reviewed, and we reserve the right to negotiate the inclusion or exclusion of any component.

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

The Service ranks proposals by scoring how well each addresses program objectives as listed in the "Description of Funding Opportunity," as well as the requested elements listed in the Project Narrative section above. Well-justified and feasible projects that make a significant contribution to the protection of Asian elephants and their habitats and include all the requested proposal elements will receive higher scores. The Service will consider the following criteria, listed in priority order, in evaluating proposals:

1. Likelihood of conservation impact in support of the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund's goals and objectives outlined in Section A: Background, Purpose and Program Requirements. Specifically:

- To what degree does the proposed project contribute to at least one of the following:
    - Addresses a conservation need identified by a specialist group, or by a regional, national, or global strategy?
    - Improvements to effective management and governance in the relevant site?
    - Strengthening individual and organizational capacity in the relevant site?
- The objectives, activities, and methods are well-defined, measurable, statistically valid, realistic, and apply the best scientific and technical information available.
- The proposal provides benefits beyond the life of the grant.
- The budget is reasonable and realistic for proposed activities.

2. Technical, logistical, and institutional capacity of the organization and staff to implement the project, including:

- Does the proposal demonstrate that the applicant can implement the proposed activities effectively (e.g., activities are logistically feasible, resourced, and under the authority of the applicant)?
- Does the proposal provide sufficient detail regarding relevant qualifications and institutional policies of the applicant, including experience of key personnel, relevant policies such as codes of conduct, clear management structure, etc.?
- If applicable, the applicant has a positive record of accomplishment with the Service based on previous grant support, including timely submission of financial and performance reports.

3. Sufficient evidence of collaboration with or inclusion of key stakeholders, including host country governments and impacted indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Where relevant, does the application reference specific consultation, input, facilitation, or participatory activities with stakeholders?

- Does the proposal have sufficient detail regarding coordination of project activities with similar, ongoing, or planned activities of other stakeholders?
- Does the proposal promote networking, partnerships, and/or coalitions?

Reviewers may also consider the following sub-factors to break ties and further distinguish between applications with equivalent scores:

- Geographical and project diversity in the Service portfolio.
- Inclusion of non-Federal matching funds.

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the FWS may choose not to fund the selected project.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR §200.206. Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in 2 CFR §200.208 should be applied to the award.

The Service's International Affairs program evaluates proposals by scoring how well each proposal addresses the program priorities and the requested elements listed in E1. Criteria section above.

The following describes the review and selection process:

Merit review to evaluate and select proposals for funding: Applications that meet minimum programmatic requirements will be reviewed by the approved merit review panel with specific subject area and/or regional expertise.

After reading proposals, reviewers will individually assign a 1-3 score to each application, based on the degree to which the application meets the criteria described in Section E1. Criteria. The scoring system is as follows:

- Category 1: Excellent, highest priority to fund: Excellent proposal with no issues or minor revisions needed. Important, critical, compelling, high-priority project and

proposal meets all program requirements. Minor revisions are allowed before funding is finalized.

- Category 2: Acceptable, lower priority to fund: Acceptable to fund it additional funds become available. Proposal meets program requirements but is not the highest conservation priority. Concerns and conditions for the proposal should be described in detail by the reviewers.

- Category 3: Do not fund. Reject proposal. Project does not address a priority or is unlikely to achieve the desired impact, and/or proposal has other fundamental issues or problems that make it unsuitable for this program.

Each review panel submits their individual scores to the panel chair prior to the review. The panel chair will organize the scores to identify trends and areas of alignment amongst the reviewers. These trends and areas of alignment may be used to facilitate the panel discussion (i.e., the highest ranked proposals may get discussed first). During the review, the panel will briefly discuss each proposal and agree on a consensus score using the same 1-3 scoring system above. The panel recorder will document any pertinent discussion items that demonstrate how a panel reached consensus to provide sufficient support for the consensus score. Ultimately, it is the consensus score of the review panel that will determine whether the proposal is recommended for award. The Service will attempt to fund all projects in the highest ranked category (Category 1). If available funding is insufficient to fund them all, proposals within the highest ranked category will be further ranked, then funded in order of that ranking.
Proposal revisions: Following review, applicants may be asked to provide revisions to the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Applicants whose project is recommended for funding may be asked to demonstrate financial capabilities to manage Federal funds in accordance with standards set in 2 CFR 200.302 Financial management.

Communication of funding decisions: Successful applicants will receive an official Notice of Award sent via GrantSolutions. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email from the Program Officer stating the application was not recommended for funding. If the proposal was not recommended for funding, the applicant can request feedback. Funding decisions are typically made within 180 days. If we have not contacted you regarding our funding decision within 180 days, you may contact the Service Program Officer using the contact information in section G.2.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information
See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates
Awards under this program are anticipated to be announced by June 2024.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices
Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made.

Successful applicants will receive a written notice of award document. Notices of award are issued electronically by Grantsolutions via email. Successful applicants will also receive an additional email from the awarding program email address. Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by email, within 180 days of the final review decision.

Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

Applicants are not authorized to incur pre-award costs without prior written approval. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of award are incurred at the applicant's risk. The Service is not required to reimburse such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive a Federal award or if the Federal award is less than anticipated and inadequate to cover such costs.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
See the DOI Standard Terms and Conditions for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

See the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

F3. Reporting
Financial Reports
All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Non-Construction Performance Reports
Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim performance** reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Construction Performance Reports
For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be relied on to monitor progress for construction. Additional performance reports for construction activities may be required only when considered necessary. However, awards that include both construction and non-construction activities require performance reporting for the non-construction activities. See 2 CFR§200.329 for more information. The USFWS will describe all performance reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Significant Development Reports
Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity, including any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of such a development. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports
Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in 2 CFR §200.318 apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures
The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal

criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non- Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance
If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact
For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:
First and Last Name:
Forrest Miller
Email:
mscf_asianelephant@fws.gov

G2. Program Administration
For **program administration assistance**, contact:
First and Last Name:
Forrest Miller
Email:
mscf_asianelephant@fws.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support
For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:
Grants.gov Customer Support
Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726
Support@grants.gov

For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:
GrantSolutions Customer Support
1-866-577-0771
Help@grantsolutions.gov

H. Other Information

Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

OMB Control Number: 1018-0100

Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) collects information in accordance with program authorizing legislation to conduct a review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement: This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

Estimated Burden Statement: We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov.

Application Checklist

- ☐ SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance form (signature of authorized representative must match first and last name)
- ☐ Project Abstract Summary
- ☐ Project Narrative (Items 1-10)
- ☐ SF 424A
- ☐ Itemized Budget
- ☐ Budget Narrative
- ☐ Conflict of interest disclosure (If applicable)
- ☐ Uniform Audit Reporting Statement (Domestic applicants)
- ☐ SF-LLL form (If applicable)
- ☐ Overlap/Duplication statement
- ☐ Indirect Cost Statement
- ☐ Active registration in System for Award Management (Initiate at least 30 days before the submission deadline)
- ☐ Registration in GrantSolutions (New registrants)
- ☐ Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration (India applicants only)