

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS ON LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM

ADDENDUM #18 TO

LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT APS No.: 7200AA19APS00007

APPLICANTS - PLEASE NOTE: This is an addendum to an existing announcement. All interested organizations must carefully review both this addendum AND the full announcement, which can be found here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=314757>
Important information contained in the full worldwide announcement is not repeated in this specific addendum.

This program is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

Through this Addendum to the Locally Led Development Annual Program Statement (APS) No. 7200AA19APS00007 USAID/Vietnam is making a special call to local actors for the submission of concept papers focused on enhancing countering wildlife trafficking law enforcement; increasing political will and securing commitments from the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to address wildlife trafficking; and reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife products at provincial level. The deadline for concept submissions is **9am, July 05, 2023**, Hanoi time.

The goal of this activity is to support the GVN in reducing wildlife trafficking and illegal wildlife consumption and in strengthening partnerships between local organizations and the GVN at provincial level to counter wildlife trafficking. The activity is also intended to contribute to the following higher-level outcomes: increased arrests and prosecutions for illegal wildlife trafficking and reduced consumer demand for illegal wildlife products.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID may allocate up to USD \$3,200,000 to make multiple awards (not expected to exceed \$1.5 million each, likely less) to one or multiple applicants. The proposed period of performance of each activity is for up to three years, beginning on or around October 1, 2023. Each applicant is limited to one concept paper submission under this announcement. Each concept paper may address all or at a minimum one of the three objectives listed in Section 2: Objectives.

Unless otherwise stated herein, all terms and conditions of the Locally Led Development APS apply (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=314757>).

Section 1: Background

Despite strong efforts to combat wildlife trafficking over the past two decades, Vietnam remains a global hub for the illegal wildlife trade and is both a major demand and supply country.¹ Recently, in March 2023, customs officers confiscated about 7.6 tons - more weight than a 48 ft semi trailer - of ivory in Hai Phong city port. In January 2022, customs officers in Tien Sa port, Danang city, seized 456 kg of ivory and 6.2 tons of pangolin scales. The size of these confiscations demonstrates the serious scale of the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam.

International crime syndicates perceive the illegal wildlife trade to be a high value, low risk enterprise. Sophisticated networks, some of which are Vietnamese-led, traffic illegal wildlife products through all of the country's major airports and seaports.² Although the authorities make large confiscations and Vietnam's updated penal code now severely punishes wildlife trafficking, the illegal wildlife trade continues unabated.

As Vietnam has grown into a middle-income country, trafficking of high-value wildlife products has increased across the country. Vietnam's economic growth has led to higher purchasing power, which may exacerbate the illegal wildlife trade by contributing to its profitability. Vietnamese consumers can afford more high-value wildlife products, and wealthy Vietnamese have more access to markets of exotic wildlife products sourced from abroad.³ Some high-income earners consider wildlife products such as rhino horn or tiger glue as panacea to cure diseases. For them, wildlife products are popular gifts used to establish and maintain business relationships. The value associated with certain wildlife products by Vietnamese consumers protects the profitability of the industry and arguably ensures it does not stop, since it has strong economies of scale.

There are many drivers both associated with consumption and governance that have significantly contributed to illegal wildlife trafficking and trade in Vietnam. Weak law enforcement by relevant government agencies is the primary driver. Although the GVN has improved its legal framework for addressing poaching and trade of protected species within Vietnam, the enforcement of these laws and regulation is still limited.

A lack of political will at specific levels in the government system to address the illegal wildlife trade is also limiting progress in countering wildlife trafficking. The lack of political will has a significant effect on the fight to counter illegal trafficking and consumption regardless of how well law enforcement personnel are trained or how many resources are invested. One of the consequences of low political will is weak coordination among law enforcement agencies at both the central and provincial level.

¹ [PAN NATURE. \(2018\). *Policy Review: Vietnam's wildlife: drained and unsustainable*. People and Nature Reconciliation, Hanoi, Vietnam.](#)

² [EIA. \(2019\). *Running Out of Time: Wildlife Crime Justice Failures in Vietnam*. London, Environmental Investigation Agency. London, Environmental Investigation Agency.](#)

³ [MILLIKEN, T., SHAW, J., EMSLIE, R.H., TAYLOR, R.D. & TURTON, C. \(2012\). *The South Africa-Vietnam rhino horn trade nexus*. TRAFFIC, Cambridge. 134-136.](#)

A third driver is the prevalence of unchecked wildlife farms. According to the Forest Protection Department (FPD), there are currently about 8,600 wildlife farms established nationwide with 2.5 million individuals and 300 species raised. Commercial wildlife farms have in fact become a threat to the existence of wildlife populations. As some species may not breed or grow well in captivity, species from natural forests are hunted and collected to meet the demand of those farms.⁴ If the issue of wildlife farms is left unchecked, wildlife populations in natural habitats of Vietnam will be seriously and devastatingly reduced, and the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks will continue to grow.

An emerging driver of the wildlife trade in Vietnam is Chinese tourists who purchase wildlife products while in Vietnam because such purchases are limited in China as a result of stronger wildlife laws there. Before the COVID 19 pandemic, roughly 5.5 to 6 million Chinese tourists visited Vietnam annually and this figure has been increasing. China, once the world's largest consumer of ivory, has seen two years of diminishing domestic demand since a nationwide ban was imposed in 2017; therefore, Chinese tourists are showing more interest in buying the prohibited products in other countries.⁵ There is a growing number of Chinese consumers buying elephant tusks abroad.⁶

Moreover, availability of wildlife products online is another serious driver. In addition to traditional trade practices, the wildlife trade is changing more and more with advances in online platforms. The wide access of the social networking platforms has become "fertile ground" for criminals to commit wildlife violations.⁷ According to a survey conducted by USAID's Saving Species activity, in just about one month during 2021, 46 advertisements were observed on social networks offering a total of 397 items including ivory and pangolin scales. However, preventing animal trafficking on Facebook has faced many difficulties as traders and trafficking groups are finding increasingly sophisticated ways to protect their illegal activities. In particular, authorities have very little information about trafficking on social networks. If wildlife trade on the internet continues unabated, it will cause many wildlife species to become extinct, leading to a serious ecological imbalance.

Over the last decade, the GVN has substantially improved its legal framework on wildlife protection. [The 2015 penal code \(revised in 2017\)](#) has useful developments in wildlife protection. Article 234 of the penal code covers criminal violations against wildlife protection, while article 244 specifies appropriate punishments for criminal violations on protected species, with the strictest punishments for wildlife trafficking set at 15 years imprisonment and a 15 billion VND fine. In addition, other decrees on wildlife protection and management have been issued that make the legal framework on combating wildlife trafficking comprehensive.

Local organizations play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection, and their dynamic roles have been growing in recognition in Vietnam. These organizations are actively contributing to the implementation of poverty reduction, social security, and

⁴ ENV. (2017). *An analysis of wildlife farming in Vietnam*. Education for Nature Vietnam. Hanoi.

⁵ WWF, 2019. [Demand Under the Ban -- China Ivory Consumption Research](#)

⁶ WWF, 2020. [Opinion Survey on Covid 19 and Wildlife Trade in 5 Asian Market](#)

⁷ USAID, 2020. [Report on the online trade of wildlife products in Vietnam](#), Hanoi.

environmental protection and have been effective in contributing to the policy making process. For example, amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, 14 local and international organizations collectively requested the GVN to take action to address the threats stemming from the illegal wildlife trade. As a result, the GVN issued [Directive 29](#) outlining urgent measures to manage wildlife, which paves the way for implementing stricter law enforcement in wildlife protection.

Many local organizations are actively working to conserve wildlife through their programming. They have been working with and supporting government agencies and local communities to protect wildlife. Local organizations have been closely working with forest rangers on rescue and rewilding of species, providing care for rescued wildlife, and building capacity for forest rangers, conservationists and local communities. Although many local organizations have made significant achievements in wildlife conservation, they have been facing many difficulties to maintain their operations. Since 2010 when Vietnam became a low middle income country, Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Vietnam has been substantially decreasing, leading to lower funding levels for local organizations. In addition, it is sometimes hard for them to retain their staff because they cannot pay well enough to keep experienced people. Many people in their early career consider local organizations places to gain experience and then leave for better jobs with international organizations after becoming more experienced.

In summary, the legal framework on wildlife conservation and protection in Vietnam has improved with severe penalties introduced. Despite this and the active engagement of local organizations, wildlife crimes associated with trafficking and consumption still remain an issue due to the lack of law enforcement, low political will from GVN leaders at both the central and provincial level, and continuing high consumer demand for wildlife products.

Section 2: Objectives

The goal of this activity is to support Vietnam in reducing wildlife trafficking and illegal wildlife consumption and in strengthening partnerships between local organizations and the GVN at provincial level to counter wildlife trafficking. This activity includes the following three objectives:

- 1- Enhance countering wildlife trafficking law enforcement at provincial level;
- 2- Increase political will and secure commitments from the GVN at the provincial level to address wildlife trafficking; and
- 3- Reduce consumer demand for illegal wildlife products at provincial level.

The objectives are also intended to contribute to the following higher-level outcomes: 1) increased arrests and prosecutions for illegal wildlife trafficking and 2) reduced consumer demand for illegal wildlife products. In order to prioritize activity resources to achieve the expected results, the scope of this activity is limited to targeted species that are sourced from or trafficked through Vietnam, or that have Vietnam as their intended destination. The activity will focus on conserving wildlife species that are regularly poached and traded domestically such as pangolins, primates, muntjacs, and big cats, etc. Pangolins are potentially sourced within the country but are mostly trafficked through and destined for Vietnam from elsewhere. Although the primary activity focus will be domestic species, activities will also benefit a variety

of African and Asian species such as elephants and rhinos through a general improvement of policy and governance, law enforcement, and a reduction in consumer demand.

Local actors are not required to propose a fully designed activity for this addendum -- a concept that suggests a process to identify and then act on solutions from the local context is fully within the intent of the Locally Led Development APS.

Objective 1 - Enhance countering wildlife trafficking law enforcement

Stakeholder consultations with environmental NGOs, development partners, and relevant GVN agencies indicate that Vietnam has a strong legal framework in place to address wildlife crimes, but it has yet to be effectively implemented on the ground. By supporting activities to strengthen law enforcement in hotspot areas where wildlife is sourced, transited, and consumed and with the partnership of key stakeholders namely local communities, social organizations, and government agencies, the activities should significantly reduce wildlife trafficking efforts. This will be done by increasing the risk for those who commit wildlife crime, in particular trafficking of wildlife into, through, and out of Vietnam. Together with a supportive legal and regulatory environment and efforts to change behaviors, increasing the capacity of and coordination between law enforcement agencies over time will result in increased arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and sentencing of those committing wildlife crime.

To date, a number of international donors and NGOs have already provided support to build the capacity of Vietnamese law enforcement agencies through a large number of training programs in wildlife crime enforcement. However, there remains a lack of capacity in wildlife rescuing and rehabilitation. With sound experiences at hand, local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can provide such capacity strengthening to forest rangers so that they can better take care of confiscated wildlife and rewilding when appropriate. In addition, CSOs may provide training to local communities so that they can actively and effectively engage in forest patrolling. While individual training activities remain needed in Vietnam, CSOs may emphasize institutionalization of capacity strengthening in law enforcement in all activities, for example by integrating wildlife crime enforcement into the curricula of law enforcement academies and standardized protocols for crime scene investigations.

CSOs may need to develop and implement interventions to increase coordination among relevant environment crime law enforcement agencies with a focus at provincial level since this is one of the identified barriers to ensure effective wildlife crime law enforcement in Vietnam. CSOs may study and draw lessons learned from law enforcement interventions conducted at the provincial level under the USAID Saving Species Activity, including the provincial wildlife enforcement network model established in Lao Cai province.

Illustrative Interventions

- Provide capacity strengthening focused on law enforcement for forest rangers;
- Support the government in legal harmonization and policy development related to wildlife conservation; and

- Introduce cooperation mechanisms at the provincial level for better collaboration among law enforcement agencies.

Objective 2 - Increase political will and commitment of GVN to address countering wildlife trafficking at the provincial level

While enjoying rapid economic growth, Vietnam has faced many environmental issues such as climate change, water pollution as evidence of many dying rivers, severe air pollution in some big cities, solid and plastic waste, biodiversity loss, and illegal wildlife trade and consumption. Among them, biodiversity conservation and tackling illegal wildlife trade and consumption receive the least attention from the government. In order to raise the importance of wildlife issues on the national agenda, this Objective should engage both traditional and non-traditional actors and approaches to address countering wildlife trafficking.

For example, the provincial people's council provides an important oversight function for the implementation of decisions and policies of one province. CSOs may consider supporting the provincial council to collect and update information through reports, policy briefs and recommendations on certain environmental issues including illegal wildlife trafficking so that it can perform its supervision role more effectively.

Considering the Communist Party of Viet Nam's role in Vietnamese civil society, CSOs may also engage Vietnam's Provincial Fatherland Front in countering wildlife trafficking initiatives through partnerships with mass organizations such as Youth Union, Women's Union, Farmer's Union, and volunteer units in countering wildlife trafficking via public health, poverty alleviation and environmental protection dialogues. Following on one successful example in Hue city, CSOs may work with the provincial party committee to issue a kind of directive that prohibits public servants from consuming wildlife meat.

Also, there are many models that CSOs could introduce to engage the whole political system of one city or province in addressing countering wildlife trafficking issues. In cities where tourism is a top priority to boost the local economy, they must take care of environmental protection and protect biodiversity and wildlife if available. Currently, USAID Saving Threatened Wildlife is working with Dak Lak province to introduce the model "Buon Ma Thuot city says no to illegal wildlife products." Its objectives are to raise awareness of communities about wildlife protection and reduce the demand for wildlife consumption. The project organized various activities such as photo exhibitions about risks that are relevant to wildlife and wildlife crimes for citizens and communities and delivering leaflets to educate the public about laws on wildlife protection and consequences they might face if committing wildlife crimes.

Illustrative Interventions

- Engage provincial local political leaders to issue policies or directives on wildlife protection;
- Support cities/provinces to introduce models of wildlife conservation;

- Organize workshops/meetings to update government officers/political leaders on the situation of wildlife consumption and get their support in carrying out wildlife conservation programs; and
- Work with respected public figures and leaders to spread messages for wildlife conservation.

Objective 3 – Reduce consumer demand for illegal wildlife products

There is significant consumer demand for wildlife and wildlife products in Vietnam, and the high demand for using wild animals as traditional medicine, pets, high status food, gifting, and other consumer products has triggered illegal hunting inside the country. This has also increased illegal imports of wildlife and wildlife products from other countries, including but not limited to tiger body, tiger bone, pangolin scale, pangolin body, rhino horn and elephant ivory.

Given the large scale of the problem and despite efforts in countering the illegal wildlife trade by focusing on both the demand and supply sides, success at scale has not been observed in Vietnam. High demand for wildlife and wildlife products still exists. Wildlife in the country's protected areas are still declining at an alarming rate and wildlife and wildlife products continue to be illegally trafficked into Vietnam. Addressing the demand for wildlife has become even more complicated with the enforcement of stricter wildlife laws in China driving many tourists from China to now purchase wildlife products, especially ivory, from Vietnam.

Under this strategic approach, USAID seeks innovative and creative solutions to measurably reduce demand for wildlife and wildlife products in Vietnam, focusing on the multiple consumer demand motivations of the activity's priority biodiversity species.

Illustrative Interventions

- Initiatives to make buying, gifting, and using rhino horn socially unacceptable;
- Targeted campaigns to dispel medical misinformation related to consuming threatened and endangered species;
- Information campaigns to raise awareness of the public on updated penal codes and other related laws on wildlife protection; and
- Development and implementation of education programs for primary and secondary school students.

Section 3: Eligibility Criteria

USAID welcomes concepts from a wide variety of local actors who bring an understanding of the development challenges facing their communities, countries, or regions or who demonstrate a way to determine local priorities in their approach. Eligible applicants:

1. Must be local entities in Vietnam. When determining if an entity is a "local entity" for the purposes of this APS, USAID will consider:
 - a. Whether the entity is legally organized under the laws of Vietnam;
 - b. Whether the entity has its principal place of business or operations in Vietnam;

- c. Whether the entity is majority owned and controlled by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Vietnam; and
 - d. Whether the entity is managed by a governing body, the majority of whom are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Vietnam.
- 2. Cannot have received more than \$5 million in direct funding (as a prime awardee) from USAID in the previous five fiscal years.
- 3. Cannot be a U.S.-based organization. U.S.-based organizations are not eligible as prime awardees under this APS.

Note: For purposes of this definition, “majority-owned” and “-managed by” include, without limitation, beneficiary interests and the power, either directly or indirectly, whether exercised or exercisable, to control the election, appointment, or tenure of the organization's managers or a majority of the organization's governing body by any means.

Section 4: Locally Led Development Approaches

Applicants are encouraged to incorporate one or more of the following approaches in submissions, or propose a different approach(es) that reflects the Applicant’s own locally led development learning goals.

1. **Mechanisms** that improve the flow of information among the applicant and its own constituents, partners, and USAID to strengthen accountability to local constituents for achieving and sustaining results.
2. **Participatory analytical approaches**, which may provide a better understanding of the complex environments in which the program will operate.
3. **Participatory decision-making**, which includes locally led priority-setting, collaborative design, and other means of shifting decision-making power and control to local actors, including people who have traditionally been marginalized, such as women, youth, religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+, and gender diverse people, ensuring inclusive local leadership.
4. **Mobilizing local resources**, which includes local philanthropy; partnerships that leverage resources from the local private sector, faith-based organizations, government, civil society, and academia; and other sources of local skills and finances to replace those of international donors.
5. **Strengthening local networks**, which may include understanding and supporting existing and emerging networks of local actors, supporting the work of local organizations, market facilitation, collective action, collective impact, and other demand-driven approaches to connecting local needs with local resources.
6. **Locally/community-led approaches to design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning** that prioritize local/community definitions of success and enhance local actors’ role in managing and using data and learning related to development solutions, the development process, and the sustainability of results achieved.
7. **Strengthening local capacity**, which includes strengthening the role of local institutions and actors to sustain development outcomes with an eye toward ending the need for foreign assistance.

8. **Adapting and problem solving in non-permissive environments**, where uncertainty, instability, inaccessibility, or insecurity constrain the ability to operate safely and effectively. This may include environments such as those affected by natural disasters, inaccessible physical geographies, active conflict, corruption, closing political spaces, criminality, and pandemics, where local approaches are essential for long-term resilience and sustainability.

For further information on USAID's Locally Led Development Initiatives and locally led approaches, please visit the [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub website](#).

Section 5: Budget Considerations

As stated in its [Local Capacity Strengthening Policy](#), USAID must consider the potentially disruptive role that foreign assistance plays in local systems and support these systems to eventually move beyond the need for international donor funding. It is not USAID's intention to temporarily flood a local organization with funding, artificially expanding its size beyond what can reasonably be supported through local resources after an award ends. As part of concept submissions, Applicants must propose a budget that reasonably reflects their existing resources and capacity to grow in a sustainable way (sometimes referred to as "absorptive capacity").

Section 6: Evaluation and Merit Review Criteria

1. Technical Evaluation

Concept papers that meet the eligibility criteria (see Section 3, Eligibility Criteria) will be evaluated based on the merit review criteria below.

Please note that A. Locally Led Development is most important. B. Sustainable Approaches to Counter Wildlife Trafficking and C. Technical Experience are of equal importance. Concept papers will be evaluated using an adjectival evaluation rating.

A. Locally Led Development Merit Review Criterion

The Applicant demonstrates a strong understanding of the local context and priorities and is transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people they serve. The proposed approach and any teaming arrangements effectively shift priority-setting and decision-making power to diverse local actors, including people who have traditionally been marginalized, such as women, youth, religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+, and gender diverse people. The Applicant demonstrates a strong commitment to learning that advances the practice of locally led development for themselves, their constituents, and the wider development community. USAID's investment in this work is expected to strengthen the capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver results beyond the end of the funded activities.

In addition, the following evaluation criteria specific to USAID/Vietnam will be used:

B. Sustainable Approaches to Counter Wildlife Trafficking Merit Review Criterion

The Applicant demonstrates a thorough understanding of issues of wildlife trafficking and illegal wildlife consumption in Vietnam. The concept paper should convincingly articulate the

Applicant's proposed activities to accomplish one/two or all three stated objectives presented in Section 2, focusing on what is technically and politically feasible within the three (3) years of the activity. The Applicant should not merely repeat what is already described in the Program Description but should convincingly describe how the Applicant proposes to achieve the objectives, detailing the results to be achieved and methodology to be employed.

C. Technical Experience Merit Review Criterion

The Applicant must demonstrate relevant technical experience in addressing countering wildlife trafficking and biodiversity conservation activities in order to successfully implement the approaches proposed in the concept paper. For the purposes of this solicitation, "countering wildlife conservation and biodiversity conservation activities" include but are not limited to those activities implemented during the last five (5) years that convincingly demonstrate:

- Engagement with relevant stakeholders in Vietnam, including authorities and local communities to develop plans and implement those plans, which include rescuing wildlife, building conservation capacity, and reducing demand for wildlife and wildlife products, etc.
- Increased functionality of law enforcement systems for forest and wildlife crimes.

2. Cost Evaluation

While merit criteria are paramount, cost considerations may also be a factor for award. The U.S. Government is not obligated to make an award on the basis of lowest proposed cost or to the Applicant with the highest merit evaluation score.

Section 7: Submission Instructions

- Concepts are to be sent to USAID/Vietnam at hdang@usaid.gov and tronning@usaid.gov. Concepts must be submitted by 9am, July 05, 2023, Hanoi time to be considered.
- Concepts must be submitted as a concept paper not exceeding five pages in total length, excluding the cover page. Concept papers must be written in Calibri 12-point. Applicants must use only 8.5 inch by 11-inch (210mm by 297mm) paper, with margins no less than one inch on each border.
- Concepts must be submitted in English.
- Applicants must provide the following information in concept submissions:

A. SUMMARY INFORMATION (to be included in the cover page of the concept paper submission, which does not count against the overall page limit)

- A. Name and contact information of the Applicant
- B. Organization type and country of legal registration
- C. Statement that the Applicant is a "local entity" per the definition in Section 3, Eligibility Criteria.
- D. Statement that the Applicant has not received more than \$5 million in funding from USAID in the previous five fiscal years as a prime recipient.
- E. Title of proposed activity

F. Location of proposed activity

G. Name, contact information, and country of legal registration for other partner organizations collaborating on concept (if any)

H. Overall objective and locally led development approach of activity (2-3 sentences)

I. Amount of funding requested from USAID \$ _____

J. Explanation of how the requested funding amount reasonably reflects the organization's existing resources and capacity to grow in a sustainable way. (Consider: your organizations' current budget, existing human resources, whether/how you'd like your organization to grow over the next several years, and what local resources are available to support your growth after USAID funding ends). (2-3 sentences)

B. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Successful narrative descriptions will include a clear and logical overview of the applicant's proposed technical approach. They will include discussion of the components below. Please note that each component aligns with a specific merit review criterion described in Section 6, Merit Review Criteria.

Locally Led Development:

- What are the local challenge(s) that this concept addresses? How do local people experience the challenge(s), and what is important to them? How do you know?
- How will you enable diverse local actors, including marginalized people and any partners, to lead priority-setting and decision-making?
- What is your approach to learning? How will you share what you learn? With whom?
- How will you strengthen the capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver results beyond the end of the funded activities?

Sustainable Approaches to Counter Wildlife Trafficking:

- What is your strategy for addressing the challenge(s) and what result(s) will you achieve?
- How will your locally led development approach(es) and activities lead to expected results?
- How will you adapt your strategy based on what you are learning during implementation, especially when realities shift in the local context?

Technical Experience

- What are the technical expertise and experience that your organization possesses relevant to the approaches that you propose in the concept paper?
- How will these relevant technical expertise and experience enhance the likelihood of successful activity implementation?

Section 8: Selection Process and Co-Creation

USAID/Vietnam is responsible for the selection process and management of any awards issued under this Addendum. USAID/Vietnam will confirm receipt of the concept within one week of submission.

USAID/Vietnam will evaluate all concept papers received from eligible entities by the stated deadline in accordance with Section 3: Eligibility Criteria and using the evaluation method and merit review criteria listed in Section 6, Evaluation and Merit Review Criteria.

USAID/Vietnam will invite selected Applicants to enter a period of co-creation, in which they will collaborate on and refine approach(es) with USAID/ Vietnam and relevant stakeholders for award consideration.

If selected to co-create an activity with USAID/Vietnam, the Applicant will be contacted by an Agreement Officer (AO) from USAID/Vietnam and given instructions for the co-creation period and pre-award requirements. Applicants not selected to advance will also be notified. Prior to award, USAID/Vietnam and the Applicant must have significant interaction in-person, via phone, and/or electronically to co-create the activity. USAID/Vietnam anticipates that the co-creation process will last 03 (three) weeks.

Section 9, Federal Award Information of the Locally Led Development APS includes the requirements that an applicant must meet if they are requested to co-create an activity and receive an award from USAID. Please note that **these requirements do not have to be met in order to submit a concept under the APS.**

Section 9: Sharing of Concepts

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a concept or application by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that concept or application available internally or externally for up to one year from receipt of the concept for appropriate consideration.

Section 10: Questions and Further Assistance

Questions regarding this addendum may be directed to hdang@usaid.gov and tronning@usaid.gov.

Before submitting a concept, applicants are encouraged to read through USAID's resources for organizations seeking funding and partnership opportunities, including [How to Work with USAID](#) and workwithusaid.org.

For additional information on the Locally Led Development APS objectives and requirements, please refer to the Locally Led Development APS, which can be found at the following website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=314757>