

Questions on NOFO: Combat Wildlife Trafficking in Big Cats

Opportunity # SFOP0004272

April 2018

1. We seek clarification on the following requirement from the NOFO: “*Organizations must also be able to demonstrate current (or pending) country registration in the countries they propose to work, as required by the host country.*” How does one demonstrate the country registration? Where can we get additional information on how to comply with this requirement?
 - Some countries require NGOs to either register with the government or submit certain paperwork in order to work in that country. Therefore, for INL funding opportunities, applicants must be able to comply with local regulations for legally operating in-country. Because the requirements vary depending on the country, it is incumbent upon the applicant to ascertain what is required by the countries in which they are proposing to work. Applicants may demonstrate compliance by furnishing a copy of the host countries’ required paperwork; for example, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between your organization and the host nation, certificate of registration from the host nation, application for the appropriate legal status, etc.
2. Page 7: What does the following mean: “Proposal may not include activities in the US....” Does it preclude research or development activities in the US that will be explicitly applied at the cat range host countries outside the USA (e.g., developing a better way to detect poachers at the airports)?
 - The U.S. may not be a benefitting nation under this grant. Therefore, research may take place in the U.S. if that research benefits other big cat range countries. For example, this grant can fund training for law enforcement officers in Asia, but cannot fund training for U.S. law enforcement officers.
3. Is this the first NOFO of this title or subject announced by the State Department?
 - Yes, this is the first and only NOFO of this title or subject from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).
4. Page 19: Exactly what does “Target Themes” mean? Is this a synonym for Objectives (page 8), Program Goals (page 6), Target Populations (page 12), or something else?
 - “Target Themes” refer to applicants identifying in the proposal the target audiences, specific demographics, and/or region(s) in which the project will be implemented. It is particularly important to specify the approximate number of beneficiaries (e.g., countries) that will directly and indirectly be impacted by the listed project activities in the NOFO.
5. Page 21: What precisely is a “large number of letters or MOUs” (10, 20, 100, 1000)?
 - The quantity is at the applicant’s discretion. However, the attachments are not to exceed five pages in total.

6. In the proposed budget, are there financial limits/ceilings on travel, supplies, salaries, contracts, foreign international payments, training that are proposed?
 - The total budget (award ceiling) for this program may not exceed \$2,000,000. It is up to the applicant to propose its best terms from a cost and technical standpoint. Please see Tab C: Budget Guidelines for additional details on the budget requirements.
7. Page 23: What do you mean by stakeholders? Are these collaborators, partners, trainees, law enforcement people, politicians, border patrols, lawyers, rangers? Who are they in this context?
 - A “stakeholder” refers to a person or organization with an interest or concern in this issue. It is a broad term that the applicant should define whom it considers to be key stakeholders for the proposed program and what their expected roles in the program will be.
8. Page 37: Where is Section E? What is the award notification schedule?
 - Please disregard the Section E language in the NOFO. The period of performance is two (2) years with an anticipated start date of October 2018.
9. The rather specific nature of the grant makes me wonder if this grant is targeted to a particular applicant or shall we assume it is wide-open competition?
 - This NOFO is for an open competition. All eligible organizations are welcome to submit an application.
10. I expect there will be a list of a dozen collaborative partners in our proposal. Are there explicit stipulations as to what you require from them other than CV and letters of support/collaboration?
 - As with the applicant, sub-grantee capacity must also be established. For example, please provide the roles and responsibilities of key program personnel with short bios that highlight relevant professional experience. Given the limited space, CVs are not recommended for submission.
11. There are considerable gaps and assumptions made in the data and information currently available on trade concerning Big Cats, which is evolving constantly. Please can you therefore comment on whether vital research activities to establish some of the missing elements of the evidence base would be appropriate/eligible under this NOFO. Such research would be essential to identifying law enforcement actions and other appropriate responses envisaged under the Objectives listed in the NOFO.
 - Research may be a small task under this grant. However, research and reporting may not be the primary outcome or output from this program.
12. The NOFO, at different times, refers to submitting application documents using Grants.gov (page 18 and 19) and the new SAMS Domestic systems (page 19). Which do we use to submit our application please? Or is either ok?

- Applicants must submit their grant applications on Grants.gov. In addition, applicants must also register for a SAMS Domestic account; but do not submit your application on SAMS Domestic.

13. Over the lifetime of the project, can we include components of work in China in this proposal?

- Yes, applicants may propose work in China.