

This is NOT a notice of funding opportunity or solicitation. This is a description of a potential activity that CFDA might implement in the future and is provided for informational purposes only. Issuance of this notice does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CFDA, nor does it commit CFDA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a future application.

Notice of Future Funding Opportunity

Background: The impacts of climate change are increasingly threatening Southern Africa's diverse ecosystems and key economic sectors, putting its populations and their livelihoods at risk. Countries in Southern Africa face threats of droughts and water shortages, increased flooding and extreme weather events that threaten wildlife habitats, notably in the Okavango and Limpopo River basins. These countries face barriers to address these threats, including limited access to funding, insufficient institutional capacity, and challenges adopting low-carbon adaptation measures, as they seek to preserve their rich biodiversity.

Addressing these challenges requires strengthening institutional frameworks, advancing green policies and practices, and enhancing governance structures. Faster progress can be made by identifying and leveraging innovative, replicable and scalable financing mechanisms that advance effective climate adaptation and resilience building. Opportunities across Southern Africa exist in eco-tourism, community-based conservation, payment for ecosystem services, and partnerships with the private sector and international organizations to support biodiversity, conservation, water resources management, and sustainable development across these countries and landscapes.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA) under the Southern Africa Sustainable Finance Activity (SASFA) anticipates requesting grant applications to support such innovative and scalable models for investing in conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable landscapes through the Scalable Approaches for Investing in Nature Window (SAIN).

Geographic scope: The Window will consider concepts that focus only on Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and/or South Africa. Concepts are expected to be at the individual or multi-country levels with preference for concepts working in landscapes under threat of biodiversity loss.

Procurement Mechanism: CFDA anticipates requesting grant applications and budgets via an open call for applications. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up with CFDA's [Climate Finance Investment Network \(CFIN\)](#) to receive the solicitation and supplemental documents upon release. There is no cost to join, and membership does not involve any commitment or obligation.

Estimated Release Date and Response Timeframe: CFDA anticipates releasing a call for applications o/a October 22, 2024, with a deadline of o/a December 13, 2024. CFDA anticipates selecting finalists to participate in a co-creation process o/a January 10, 2025, and announcing an initial set of successful applicants o/a March 7, 2025.

Estimated Size and Number of Grants: CFDA anticipates issuing 3-5 grant awards that range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 USD. Exceptionally impactful, scalable, and innovative concepts may be considered for funding over this range. CFDA is unable to award a U.S.-based partner a grant valued over \$500,000 under any circumstances.

Anticipated Purpose and Leverage: The purpose of the Window is to support high-potential initiatives such as nature bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, results-based-finance and other innovative nature-based solutions and financial mechanisms that can be launched, scaled, or replicated effectively – enhancing their impact on nature conservation and sustainability in the target countries. High-quality, high-integrity projects that adhere to global principles that generate revenue from sustainable financing, e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity credits, are welcome. CFDA will prioritize concepts that move beyond standalone projects funded by donors and philanthropies. CFDA grant funding may not be used as capital or invested as debt or equity in new financial mechanisms.

CFDA will require a minimum 2:1 match or leverage with each grant award. The type of grant issued will be determined at the negotiation stage. Creativity regarding specific grant concepts is encouraged from applicants.

Merit Review Criteria: CFDA anticipates using the following to evaluate the technical merits of SAIN concepts: (1) expected impact; (2) scalability or replicability; (3) additionality of USAID support; (4) engagement and inclusion of social, economic, and environmental concerns from highly climate vulnerable populations, including women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, or other marginalized and/or underrepresented groups; (5) ability to meet 2:1 match or leverage (6) track record of the partner and team; and (7) approach to measuring, evaluation, and learning. The final call for applications will provide the definitive set of merit review criteria.

Feedback and Questions: Interested applicants are encouraged to share feedback on the proposed concept, indicate interest in this opportunity, or ask questions ahead of the solicitation release via [this Airtable form](#).