

Questions and Answers

General Annual Program Statement (APS) Addendum 002 *Southern Africa Scalable Approaches for Investing in Nature Window*

Application Requirements and Eligibility

1. We are proposing a collation between several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (registered in different countries) with support from UNDP and other NGOs and foundations. The Addendum indicates no subcontracting - consequently what management format structure should be proposed to facilitate administration at the USAID level? Would we be in compliance, to have the American company lead the proposal as the point of contact inclusive of funding flows, which would then be distributed to the other entities, who are equal partners?

CFDA is able to accept applications from consortia, as long as all consortium members are eligible for funding (note that PIOs like UNDP are not eligible). Applications should clearly delineate the lead (or “prime”) implementer and explain a clear management approach. Note that for the purposes of grant awards, if selected, lead implementers will be the award recipient. Other partner(s) included as proposed awardees in the concept budget will be subawardees and are subject to the same regulations and provisions as the lead grantee (see detail in Part I, Section VIII of the [CFDA General APS](#)).

2. Can we submit funding application as three parties, NGO, private company, and local community conservation trust?
See question 1.
3. We have highly relevant skills and track record in specific areas of our project concept. However, we do not have direct experience and track record across all areas where expertise will be required to successfully implement the project. We will establish one or perhaps two partnerships to implement the project. This additional expertise and track record will comprehensively cover the required skills and capabilities. Is this an acceptable approach?
See question 1.
4. What would not qualify as an entity according to CFDA?
Please reference Part 1, Section II of the [CFDA General APS](#) for detailed information on eligibility.
5. Does an organization that is not yet registered qualify to apply?
Please refer to question 4. Applicants must be a registered organization, formally constituted, recognized by, and in good standing with appropriate authorities in their country of operation, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations. Additionally, international organizations proposing activities in another country must be able to demonstrate that they are legally operating in the country where grant activities are proposed, or demonstrate a clear, timely and eligible path to registration in the respective country based on anticipated grant negotiations.
6. “Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. CFDA will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant. These are important and necessary criteria. Are

you able to provide a definitive commercial and eligibility checklist so that we can assess our small organization's eligibility against these criteria?

Please refer to Part 1 Section II. Eligibility Information of the CFDA General APS for detailed eligibility information and Section II – Concept Note Merit Review Criteria of Addendum 002 for merit review criteria descriptions.

7. On page 5, the fifth bullet point speaks of an APS and addendum name and number. I am uncertain of what this is and whether it holds any requirements for the submission. I'm just needing clarification on this point.

Concept notes and budgets must be completed using the template provided in Annex A and must meet the requirements listed in Section III – Information on Applying which includes the Annual Program Statement (APS) and addendum name and number. This opportunity is CFDA-2025-0016-Addendum 002, Southern Africa Scalable Approaches for Investing in Nature.

8. If the application is for a public entity would the projects need to be restructured via an NPO (which is possible as we work with an NPO and also various NGOs to implement) – or else via an SPV or similar? Or can it be submitted by the actual public entity itself (e.g., national parks)?

Please see questions 1 and 6 regarding eligibility. CFDA is unable to provide an award to a public entity, whether as a direct grantee or otherwise receiving grant funding through this funding window.

9. Can I apply as an individual?

No. Please refer to questions 4 and 5.

10. I understand from the General APS FAQ that an organization can submit multiple concepts to CFDA, as long as its one concept note per Addendum. However, is it possible for an organization to receive multiple grants from CFDA, e.g., one under Addendum 1 and one under Addendum 2?

Applications are evaluated against merit review criteria specific to each Addendum. Each application goes through a thorough merit review process corresponding to a specific solicitation; it is possible for an organization to receive more than one grant from CFDA awarded under separate solicitations. CFDA considers each Addendum to be separate, distinct solicitations.

Technical

11. In the case of a transboundary watershed, such as the Cubango-Okavango River Basin, would an entity applying for the grant who is registered and based in one of the countries be able to carry out initiatives and on-the-ground activities in another, within the same river basin?

See question 5.

12. How is Technical Assistance (TA) allocated by CFDA? For example, In the case that TA is requested in the application and is well suited to those applying for the grant, would this be remunerated by CFDA? Or, will CFDA's contracted consultants be required to provide the TA, regardless of the context and expertise required for the work?

Applicants may detail technical assistance needs that would make their concept more likely to succeed. This is an optional exercise that will help CFDA understand the spectrum of technical assistance needs and inform ongoing activity priorities. Any technical assistance needs outlined in an applicant's concept note under this opportunity may be selected to be provided through

third party support facilitated by CFDA. At this stage, CFDA is taking stock of technical assistance needs to determine the best course of action.

13. Can a third-party technical assistance facility be a subcontractor of the primary TA winner? Or of Chemonics?
Please refer to question 12. We do not envision awarding direct technical assistance awards under this Window. CFDA will review articulated needs in response to this Addendum and follow up with applicants and/or release a subsequent procurement for technical assistance providers as necessary. We encourage technical assistance providers to join the [Climate Finance Investment Network](#).
14. We would like to know what the maximum amount of aid available for the technical assistance mentioned in slide 13 is.
Please refer to questions 12 and 13. CFDA has not determined a funding pool for technical assistance at this time. We request that organizations detail their needs to the best of their ability so that we can make informed decisions.
15. On page 2 it states that “CFDA grant funding may not be used as capital”, which I presume relates to the funding of capital expenditure items. It will be helpful to understand what is considered as capital expenditure under the funding, and whether it relates to a monetary threshold. Would the purchase of assets (e.g., facility/equipment for the sole purpose of enabling training on the job and allowing for entrepreneurship) be classified as a capital expenditure?
Please see [2 CFR 200.1](#) for definitions and [2 CFR 200.439](#) for the guiding regulations on the allowability of certain capital assets or expenditures which may be accepted as budget line items. Note that grant funding may not be used as investment capital or invested as debt or equity. Please see Part 1 Section IV of the [CFDA General APS](#) for ineligible cost items.
16. Is the grant allowed to finance the purchase and installation of irrigation materials? If the irrigation material cannot be purchased directly by the grant, is it okay for the money to go to a third party that purchases the equipment and installs the equipment?
CFDA is soliciting concept notes that can achieve all objectives listed in Section II of the Addendum. It is not apparent that irrigation materials, in isolation, could achieve all objectives. However, irrigation materials that contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes in the Addendum may be considered. See question 15 for further information on allowable equipment costs.
17. Is the grant available for a company that supports conservation of biodiversity that is not an investment fund but scalable within its specific focus?
CFDA is soliciting concept notes that can achieve all objectives listed in Section II of the Addendum. Please also refer to the Concept Note Merit Review Criteria in Section II of the Addendum for a detailed description of how the concept notes will be assessed.
18. Are proposals which seek to implement sustainable finance mechanisms in coastal and ocean conservation areas (for example a marine protected area) eligible under the Southern Africa Scalable Approaches for Investing in Nature Window?
CFDA is soliciting concept notes that can achieve all objectives listed in Section II of the Addendum within the target geographies especially in landscapes under threat of biodiversity loss. Should the concepts focusing on coastal and ocean conservation areas, for example a

marine protected area, fall within the objectives and guardrails of this opportunity, they are eligible.

19. What are the main characteristics that USAID is looking for successful applications for this grant?
We encourage applicants to review the Addendum in detail to develop a responsive application. Please reference Section II – Program Objectives for detailed information on the objectives, geographic scope, and merit review criteria, Section III – Information on Applying, and Section IV – Reporting, Indicators, and Learning Requirements.
20. What is the major objective for this catalytic capital? How do applicants demonstrate meeting these objectives.
See questions 17 and 19.
21. Is indigenous forest (tropical forest preservation) eligible for application?
See questions 17 and 19.
22. Can the project cover two countries, e.g., in the case of transfrontier parks?
Please reference the Geographic Scope under Section II of the Addendum. Concepts can be at the individual or multi-country levels with preference for concepts working in landscapes under threat of biodiversity loss. Also please reference question 5.
23. What level of commitment does USAID require for the 1:1 match funding? If there are verbal commitments and a high-level terms sheet drafted, but nothing yet signed, can securing this funding be made a condition precedent (CP) of the USAID award?
Applicants are expected to demonstrate investment or a commitment to leverage at least \$1 of capital for every dollar contributed by USAID in their concept note submission. By the end of the period of performance (maximum of 2 years), all of the leverage funding must be secured. Detailed information regarding the committed leverage and/or plausible plans to secure leverage by the end of the period of performance is required. Please refer to the definition and examples of leverage in Section II of the Addendum and Section III of the [CFDA General APS](#).
24. It's often critical to keep these types of innovative finance initiatives (e.g. debt-for-nature swaps) completely confidential. How will Chemonics ensure that the grantee's plans are kept confidential? For example, will you avoid announcing the grant, and will there be a limited circle of people who know the details of the project?
CFDA and USAID recognize the importance of maintaining confidentiality in sensitive and innovative initiatives. As a general policy, the specific details of a grantee's plans are handled with a high degree of confidentiality during the merit review, co-creation, and grant negotiation stages. Public announcements about awarded grants and their scopes are typically made only with the consent of the grantee and are limited to general information that does not disclose sensitive or proprietary details. Within CFDA and USAID, access to project details is restricted to individuals directly involved in the management and oversight of the project. Grantees can also request additional specific confidentiality measures as part of the grant agreement process to ensure that sensitive information is adequately protected. These requests are considered on a case-by-case basis to balance transparency requirements with the need for confidentiality.
25. What should grantees expect in terms of maintaining intellectual property rights over the mechanisms we propose? Does this intellectual property pass to Chemonics and/or USAID?

USAID and Chemonics do not automatically assume ownership of intellectual property created under funded projects. However, USAID requires grantees to report any intellectual property developed with grant funding and may reserve certain rights to use the intellectual property for federal purposes. Please refer to Part 1, Section VIII of the [CFDA General APS](#) for more information and links to the governing regulations over USAID grant awards, including ADS 303, 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 700, and the mandatory and standard provisions for non-governmental organizations. Applicants are advised to review these regulations carefully prior to entering into negotiations for any USAID award.

26. Does CFDA also support biofuel-based projects?
See questions 15, 17, and 19. Please also review Section IV. Cost Merit Review Criteria of the [CFDA General APS](#) for a list of ineligible cost items.

Cost

27. Is there a limitation on how much of the work/grant amount can be subcontracted?
See question 1.
28. What is the ideal check size for grant requests for this grant?
Please refer to the current funding description in Section II of the Addendum. Applicants should present a budget that best fits their submitted concept (not inclusive of leverage commitment obtained).
29. Are there specific ways you'd like the proceeds of the grant utilized? Are there things the funding cannot be utilized for?
Applicants should present a budget that best fits their submitted concept. Please review Section IV. Cost Merit Review Criteria of the [CFDA General APS](#) for a list of ineligible cost items.
30. How can the grant funding be utilized as a 'performance guarantee' for securing leverage finance?
Utilizing grant funding as a 'performance guarantee' to secure leveraged finance can be an effective strategy to enhance the attractiveness of a project to potential investors and financial institutions. In this approach, grant funds may be utilized as a form of risk mitigation, providing reassurance to other financiers about the project's viability and the grantee's commitment. Specifically, the grant can be used to cover certain project risks, such as initial operational risks or to ensure the completion of critical early-stage project milestones, thereby lowering the perceived risk for other investors. This can make it easier to attract additional private or public financing by demonstrating reduced financial exposure and increased project reliability. However, it's important for grantees to clearly outline in their concept notes how the grant will be used in this capacity, ensuring it aligns with the funding guidelines provided by CFDA and USAID. The specific use of grant funds as a performance guarantee should also be detailed in the grant agreement, including any conditions or limitations on their use for this purpose. Note that grant funding may not be used as investment capital or invested as debt or equity. Please refer to question 15.

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

31. Please can you share the USAID grant management/ reporting process? Is there a template and flow which can be shared with us? This would help us understand the amount of time/ effort needed.

Please review Section IV. Reporting, Indicators, and Learning Requirements on page 6 of the Addendum. Successful applicants will be required to report on activity progress and provide data for performance indicators on a semiannual basis. Grantees selected under the Window will be expected to contribute to CFDA's learning agenda related to nature-based solutions, adaptation, private sector climate investment, and other relevant themes. Contributions may consist of participating in interviews or events, facilitating access to local partners, collaborating on short technical documents or other learning products, or sharing relevant data. Details of these engagements will be specified during award negotiation discussions.