



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
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COLOMBIA

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Issuance Date:	Thursday, December 16, 2010
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Submit Concept Papers to:	wfothergill@usaid.gov , nfarfan@usaid.gov

To Interested Applicants:

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, Public Law 111-117, the United States Government (USG), as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Colombia Mission invites applications for funding. The United States Government (USG), through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking concept papers (of up to five pages) first and then full applications from prospective partners to implement activities in support of the Colombia Alliance Program (CAP)/Programa de Alianzas en Colombia (PAC).

This APS is open for one year. Concept papers will be accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated on a rolling basis. USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance anticipates awarding multiple Grants and Cooperative Agreements to fund successful applications submitted in response to this APS. The total amount of funding currently available for this APS is approximately \$8,000,000 for a period of up to five years. Approximately \$6,000,000 of this amount is expected to be awarded for initiatives focusing in the Nudo de Paramillo region of Colombia, which includes Bajo Cauca and Southern Cordoba. USAID may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The amount of available funding and the number of awards is subject to change. USAID reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS.

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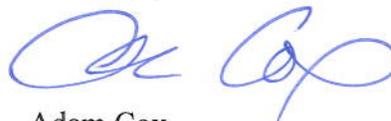
Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, USAID policy is not to award fee or profit under assistance instruments. As such, any for-profit organization receiving an award under this APS will not be eligible for fee or profit; however, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organizations, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for for-profit organizations) may be recognized.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. In addition, final award of any resultant Agreement cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated, allocated, and committed through internal USAID procedures, on which condition this APS is issued. While it is anticipated that these procedures will be successfully completed, potential Applicants are hereby notified of these requirements and conditions for award as well as that Applicants will not be compensated for any proposal preparation and submission costs. The U.S. Government reserves the right to reject any or all applications received.

The preferred method of distribution of USAID procurement information is via Grants.gov on the World Wide Web (www). This APS and any future amendments can be downloaded from the Agency website. The World Wide Web address is <http://www.grants.gov>. Click on "Find Grant Opportunities", then click on "Browse by Agency" and choose "Agency for International Development". If you have difficulty registering or accessing the Grants.gov website, please contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or via e-mail at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of this USAID initiative. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,



Adam Cox
Agreement Officer

**ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (APS)
COLOMBIA ALLIANCE PROGRAM (CAP)/PROGRAMA DE ALIANZAS EN
COLOMBIA (PAC)**

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SECTION I – PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

COLOMBIA ALLIANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

A. BACKGROUND

The USAID Mission in Colombia has a successful track record in developing strategic alliances with an extensive range of partners, international and local NGOs, the Government of Colombia, universities, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, and the private sector. Through the issuance of this APS, the USAID Mission in Colombia seeks to strengthen, enhance and create additional alliances to leverage development assistance funds and resources to address global challenges.

B. APS OBJECTIVE

The objective of this APS is to create the competitive environment for new alliances. The USAID Mission in Colombia is encouraging the private sector and the NGO community to respond to this solicitation and propose alliances or partnerships that follow the precepts below:

- Bring significant new resources, ideas, technologies and/or partners to address development problems in Colombia. The Agency is particularly interested in innovative alliances that address development challenges by leveraging the resources of non-traditional partners in replicable, sustainable and scalable ways.
- Partners are encouraged to provide a one-to-one leveraging of funding/resources (external to the applicant) for proposed development activities, although there is not necessarily a pre-established requirement. In any case, partners should offer significant new, non-public resources – whether money, ideas, technologies, experience, or expertise. Cost sharing is not required, however USAID highly encourages the use of cost sharing to the maximum extent possible. Cost sharing can include in-kind contributions.

C. AREAS OF FOCUS

This Annual Program Statement (APS) seeks to support multiple activities that will be responsive to critical developmental needs and challenges with a particular interest in Agency priorities in the following areas.

C.1. Consolidation and Livelihoods

The USAID/Colombia Mission's efforts in this area focus on supporting the Government of Colombia's National Consolidation Plan to increase state and institutional presence in key areas across the country, as well as encouraging communities to create licit livelihoods through

programs that capitalize on market linkages and aim to foster sustainable, broad-based economic growth. Proposed alliance activities can include but are not limited to:

- Support for productive activities that will generate licit economic opportunities, including short-term interventions to meet immediate economic and social needs, as well as long-term interventions aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth. Specific activities may be related to important areas such as agriculture (e.g., coffee, cacao, forestry, rubber, and/or other competitive agricultural sectors in Colombia), rural infrastructure, and/or access to finance.
- Assistance to local governments and other representative organizations to build their capacity to deliver essential government services (e.g., education, health, electricity, ect.), and to in turn strengthen the business enabling environment.
- Activities that promote a common acceptance of healthy civic values and increase community cohesion resulting in greater support for and participation in licit activities.

C.2. Environment

USAID/Colombia aims to promote the sustainable use of energy technologies while fostering social and economic improvements for those that lack access to reliable power. The Mission also aims to disseminate energy efficiency concepts and technologies to providers and to the public at large. Proposed alliance activities can include but are not limited to:

- Promote public policies encouraging the development of renewable and energy efficient projects.
- Strengthen NGOs and associations engaged in clean energy.
- Provide electricity to remote communities through renewable sources where the national grid is not economically or technically feasible.
- Save energy and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The USAID/Colombia Mission has also supported and will continue to support the conservation of ethnic territories, national parks, and protected areas essential to preserve the environment from deforestation, habitat conversion and climate change. Activities must meet the following four criteria of the Biodiversity Code, which guides USAID in determining what programs are included in the biodiversity congressional earmark (see more detailed information at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/biodiversity/code.html):

1. The program must have an explicit biodiversity objective. It is not enough to have biodiversity conservation result as a positive externality from another program;
2. Activities must be identified based on an analysis of threats to biodiversity;
3. The program must monitor associated indicators for biodiversity conservation;
4. Site-based programs must have the intent to positively impact biodiversity in biologically significant areas.

USAID/Colombia envisions a balanced alliance approach, reaching out to civil society, the public sector, and the private sector to achieve sustainable landscapes that conserve biodiversity while contributing to climate stability. Proposed alliance activities can include but are not limited to:

- Support for national parks management and communities to promote sustainability of natural resource-based livelihoods.
- Strengthening natural forest and community governance through income generation activities
- Mitigating climate change, including programs in adaptation, biodiversity, and sustainable landscapes (forestry).

C.3. Vulnerable Populations

USAID/Colombia aims to improve socio-economic conditions to mitigate the impact of conflict in vulnerable populations, including displaced persons, victims of the conflict, Afro-Colombians, indigenous communities, and persons with disabilities. With this APS, USAID would like to target an alliance approach to provide assistance specifically to persons with disabilities.

Proposed alliance activities should include:

- Support for and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

C.4. Democracy and Human Rights

USAID/Colombia seeks to promote respect for human rights, access to justice, greater political participation, and effective public policies to improve democratic governance.

Proposed alliance activities can include but are not limited to:

- Promote the effective and transparent usage of royalties for social infrastructure.
- Promote respect for human rights and increase access to justice.
- Support effective and transparent economic and governance policies, including land restitution and formalization of property rights.
- Increase political representation and promote more transparent elections.

C.5. Disaster Assistance

USAID/Colombia initiatives on Disaster Assistance are focused on facilitating and coordinating U.S. Government and its partner organizations' emergency and humanitarian assistance to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies in Colombia.

D. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

D.1. Estimate of Funds Available

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to provide approximately \$8,000,000 (eight million dollars) in total USAID funding for various awards and various amounts.

D.2. Number of Awards Contemplated

USAID/Colombia intends to award multiple grants and cooperative agreements, but reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

D.3. Period of Performance

The anticipated period of performance will vary but not exceed a period of 5 years.

D.4. Place of Performance

Place of performance for this award is Colombia as identified in the program description above.

D.5. Authorized Geographic Code

The authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services under the resultant agreement(s) is 000. The Cooperating Country, 514 (Colombia) is an eligible source in accordance with the policies in ADS Chapter 311, and 22 CFR Part 228. Any change to geographic code must be authorized by the Agreement Officer.

D.6. Environmental Compliance

All projects funded by USAID must conform to USAID Environmental Procedures (22 CFR 216) requiring evaluation to ensure that any potential negative environmental impacts resulting from the project implementation are identified and mitigated. Through development of the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and ancillary Environmental Review Reports (ERR), 22 CFR 216 (“Reg. 216”) ensures that potential negative impacts to the environment and human safety (i.e., natural resource or public health) as a result of USAID-funded activities are identified and mitigation and monitoring measures proposed.

D.7. Provisions

For U.S. organizations, 22 CFR 226 OMB circulars and the Standard Provisions apply. For non-U.S. non-governmental organizations, the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations apply.

E. OFFICIAL SOURCE DOCUMENT

This APS is the official source document for the application. Oral explanations of the applications will not be evaluated or considered; only written applications will be evaluated. Applicants should retain for their records a copy of the application and all attachments/enclosures that accompany their application. USAID will only consider applications conforming to the prescribed format.

Explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment of this APS.

[END OF SECTION I]

SECTION II: AWARD INFORMATION

A. ESTIMATED FUNDING LEVEL

The total amount of funding currently available for this APS is approximately \$8,000,000. USAID may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the selected application(s). The amount of available funding and number of awards are subject to change. USAID reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this APS.

B. ANTICIPATED START DATE

USAID anticipates that the start date will be the date of award.

C. AWARD TYPE AND SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

USAID anticipates awarding several grants and cooperative agreements (“Agreements”) to fund successful applications submitted in response to this APS. USAID will be substantially involved in the program and management performance of Cooperative Agreements (this does not apply when Grants are issued) under this APS through technical collaboration on specified program interventions. USAID, including the Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR), might provide:

- a) Collaboration in establishing annual work objectives and approval of an annual work plan.
- b) Collaboration in assessing progress and identifying issues that arise, which may impact the success of the program.
- c) Collaboration in determining corrective actions, where necessary.
- d) Approval of key personnel and any subsequent changes in the positions during the life of the award.
- e) Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system.

[END OF SECTION II]

SECTION III: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. PARTNER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This Annual Program Statement focuses on establishing public-private partnerships or alliances that provide solutions, identify needs, and combine resources to achieve far-reaching, mutually agreed upon results. The following list of potential partners is for illustrative purposes only. We welcome other types of partners. Potential partners include foundations, U.S. and non-U.S. NGOs, faith-based organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. private businesses, business and trade associations, international organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. colleges and universities, other U.S. Government agencies.

It is important to note that NGOs do not need to be registered Private Voluntary Organizations to submit an application. Potential for-profit applicants should note that USAID policy prohibits the payment of fee/profit to the prime recipient under assistance instruments. Forgone profit does not qualify as cost sharing or leveraging.

Prospective partners must be organizations with a reputation for integrity and the highest standard of conduct plus a proven track record in their particular areas of expertise. They should demonstrate a respect for human rights, gender sensitivity, integration of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, decent work conditions, environmental consciousness, and community involvement in their operational practices. They should also provide evidence of a strong commitment to the proposed alliance and experience in working in partnership with others.

Alliance partners that were funded under previous public-private alliance APS's and RFA's are also eligible to apply.

B. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for funding under this APS, proposed programs must meet the following requirements:

- I. Alliance proposals must have clearly-defined objectives agreed to by all partners.
- II. Alliance proposals will need to demonstrate significant new, non-public resources – whether money, ideas, technologies, experience or expertise – to address development challenges.
- III. Alliances must operate in Colombia and must fit within the strategic objectives of the USAID Colombia Mission.
- IV. Alliance proposals must contribute to one or more of the USAID Colombia Mission's priorities.

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V. Alliance proposals must be reasonably expected to achieve significant development impact, as measured, for example, by the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program, and sustainability by the creation of activities able to continue after the end of the project without USAID funding, and/or by the potential for replication or scaling-up over time.

VI. Alliance proposals must be feasible from a technical, economic, financial, and social perspective.

C. COST SHARE

Cost sharing is an important element of the USAID-recipient relationship. In addition to USAID funds, applicants are encouraged to contribute resources from its own, private or local sources for the implementation of this program. Contributions can be either cash or in kind (in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 and 22 CFR 226.23).

Although there is no requirement that applicants propose a specific cost share, USAID policy is that cost sharing is an important element of the USAID-recipient relationship.

[END OF SECTION III]

SECTION IV – CONCEPT PAPER PREPARATION GUIDELINES

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

USAID/Colombia invites U.S. and non-U.S., non-profit or for-profit Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit brief concept papers to create new alliances to support USAID Colombia Mission priorities under Economic Growth, Peace and Security, Governing Justly & Democratically, and Investing in People through initiatives in the following areas: 1) Consolidation and Livelihoods; 2) Environment – Clean Energy, Climate Change Adaptation, and Biodiversity; 3) Vulnerable Populations; 4) Democracy and Human Rights; and 5) Disaster Assistance.

This is a two-stage process. First, applicants are required to submit short concept papers per the instructions below. These concept papers should demonstrate the approach and describe results that could be achieved, should funding be awarded by USAID, but need not be in the format or detail of a full proposal. The submitted concept papers will be reviewed using the criteria set forth below. Those most highly rated will be invited to participate in the second stage – submission of a full application.

USAID/Colombia will keep this Annual Program Statement open for a period of one year from the date of issue and will review concept papers as submitted:

Applicants interested in being considered for funding should submit a concept paper via e-mail to wfothergill@usaid.gov and nfarfan@usaid.gov. Only those concept papers that are received by the deadline specified above will be reviewed for responsiveness to the requirements set forth in this APS.

Successful applicants will be notified in writing if USAID will ask them to expand the concept paper into a full application. Details of the requirements for a full technical and cost application will, at such time, be provided to successful applicants. Applicants should not prepare full applications unless specifically requested to do so by USAID. USAID/Colombia, through its Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA) in Bogota, Colombia, is responsible for management of the solicitation and award process.

Applicants may submit more than one concept paper for the different areas listed in the program description.

B. CONCEPT PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

All concept papers must be formatted on standard 8 ½” x 11” paper, with single space, 12 point font Times New Roman or similar font with margins no less than one inch on each border, and each page numbered consecutively.

All concept papers must contain the items below and must not exceed 5 pages in total.

All concept papers must be in English and submitted electronically via email. Concept papers that are not written in English and/or that exceed six pages will not be considered.

The concept paper shall include:

Cover Page/Introduction:

1. Include the Solicitation Number APS-514-11-000001
2. Name, address, and website of organization;
3. Type of organization (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, university, etc.);
4. Contact point (lead contact name, relevant telephone, and e-mail information);
5. Names of other proposed alliance/activity partners, if applicable;
6. Signature of authorized representative of the applicant.

Technical Information:

1. Concise title and objective of proposed activity;
2. Description, approach, and duration of activity;
3. Anticipated results and development impact;
4. How the alliance/activity will help accomplish USAID/Colombia’s objectives;
5. Brief discussion of sustainability plan;
6. Brief discussion of exploratory discussions with stakeholders, if any, including community member and other partners.

Supporting Information:

1. Proposed estimated cost;
2. Brief cost breakdown (e.g., salaries, travel etc.);
3. Proposed amount of the applicant’s financial as well as in-kind participation (clearly identify which resources are cash and which are in-kind and provide information on the nature of the in-kind contributions);
4. Proposed amount of prospective or existing partner’s (or partners’) cash as well as in-kind participation;
5. Brief description of applicant’s previous work and experience in development and/or corporate social responsibility projects, if any, as well as that of other partners.

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Applicants are reminded that applications that are: aligned with the goals of USAID Colombia Mission; feasible; and innovative will receive consideration. Proposals that identify how they plan to leverage USAID resources are considered more competitive. For information about specific USAID Colombia Mission goals and objectives you may consult: <http://Colombia.usaid.gov>.

C. CONCEPT PAPER EVALUATION CRITERIA

USAID/Colombia has established a Technical Evaluation Committee to review and evaluate all concept papers received. The concept papers will be competitively evaluated against the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
Technical Quality and Innovation, Including Clear Objectives and Goals	30 Points
Institutional Capability and Past Performance	20 Points
Project Management Capability	20 Points
Cost Realism/Cost-Effectiveness of budget and Cost Sharing (if cost sharing is applicable)	15 Points
Demonstrated sustainability of the project	15 Points

[END OF SECTION IV]

SECTION V: AGENCY CONTACTS

The points of contact for this APS and any questions during the APS process is Contracts Technician, William Fothergill, wfothergill@usaid.gov and Nubia Farfán, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, nfarfan@usaid.gov.

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this APS must request it in writing by the date listed above to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Grant or Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this APS will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment to this APS, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicant(s).

[END OF SECTION V]