



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Q&A End Date: July 17, 2021
RFA Issued Date: July 6, 2021
Closing Date/Time: August 6, 2021, 12:00 AM EST

Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Q.1 How can local organizations participate in this project from the beginning? Is there any criteria to have a local partner for bidders?

USAID Answer: There are two aspects to answer this question.

1. The RFA is unrestricted so it is open to all so a local organization can submit an application directly as a part of the competition.
2. Also, an applicant may add local organizations as a part of the project's implementation. Successfully arranging for local partners as a part of an application with a variety of partners including a lead partner is possible. Having local partners is not a selection criterion, however local institutional capacity and human capital will be key to sustained development impact, so the successful applicant should plan to engage local institutions and provide entry points for organizations to contribute to USAID's SNRS Activity goals at different stages of implementation. The applicant is encouraged to identify and establish partnership with local Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations. Please refer to Section D: Application and Submission Information -d-5) Subawards – Specify the budget for the portion of the program to be passed through to any subrecipients. See 2 CFR 200 for assistance in determining whether the sub-tier entity is a subrecipient or contractor. The subrecipient budgets must align with the same requirements as the applicant's budget, including those related to fringe and indirect costs

Q.2 Could you please advise us on whether the application can be submitted without a USA partner or PI. Currently we do not have any one in our mind to be partnered with a USA organization. We found this is a very interesting invitation and we could work on it by building interesting cases of hydro power, road network, river diversion projects in Nepal.

USAID Answer: The RFA is unrestricted so it is open to all so a local organization can submit an application directly as a part of the competition.

Please refer to Section D: Application and Submission Information -i) Dun and Bradstreet and SAM Requirements.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Q&A End Date: July 17, 2021
RFA Issued Date: July 6, 2021
Closing Date/Time: August 6, 2021, 12:00 AM EST

Q.3 Would you consider slight changes in the title of the project to make it more specific and inclusive?

Our Suggestion:

“Sustaining Nexus of Biota and Natural Resources (SNBNR): Safeguarding Investment on Large-Scale-Linear Infrastructure in Asia (SILIA)”

USAID Answer: The title is flexible and can be adjusted to fit the mutually agreed-upon statement of objectives upon award. Currently the RFA title will remain the same as issued because the intent is to strengthen safeguards compliance and capabilities to ensure integration and protection of biodiversity, habitats.

Q.4 Who is the current US contractor for the LISA Activity?

USAID Answer: Perez, APC and Center for Large Landscape Conservation.

Q.5 Would you consider some changes to the development hypothesis-theory of change to make it more inclusive of climate change sensitivities?

Development Hypothesis-Theory of Change (SEC A, pg. 6).

If environmental safeguards for most of the LI, currently being planned in Asia, is more effective in conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem integrity;

And if capacity to implement improved infrastructure safeguards is sustained;

And if climate resilience of human and ecological communities is strengthened;

In a manner that improves gender equity and social inclusion; builds capacity of stakeholders for self-reliance; and improves policies, systems, and standards at all levels.

Then environmental security and resilience will be improved, and the Asia region will continue to harbor the abundant biodiversity upon which long-term economic growth depends.

Our suggestion:

If environmental safeguards for most of the infrastructures currently being planned in Asia are more effective in conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem integrity;

And, if the capacity to implement improved infrastructure safeguards is sustained; And, if climate resilience of human and ecological communities is strengthened;



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Q&A End Date: July 17, 2021
RFA Issued Date: July 6, 2021
Closing Date/Time: August 6, 2021, 12:00 AM EST

And, if in a manner that improves gender equity and social inclusion; builds the capacity of stakeholders for self-reliance; maintains good and transparent governance, accountability, promotes volunteerism, leadership, entrepreneurship, and adopts improved policies, systems, and standards at all levels;

Then, the SILIA will bring inclusive prosperity in the region, enhance environmental security and resiliency; thus Asia region will continue to maintain the abundant biodiversity upon which long-term economic growth depends.

USAID Answer: Yes, we are open to new Development Hypothesis-Theory of Change suggestions upon award and discussion with awardee. We will not change for the current RFA.

Q.6: The six disciplines below do not match the development hypothesis or theory of change. Would you consider our suggestions of adding more experts in other areas and the creation of geodatabase for modeling and testing the hypothesis described above?

Specialized Expertise (SEC A, pg. 9).

The ideal partner will be a well-coordinated team comprised of highly qualified experts, who are competent on the basis of training, education, and experience, in most or all of the following disciplines:

- a) Road ecology.
- b) Public- and Private-sector capacity building.
- c) International environmental and social safeguard standards and best practices.
- d) Government and private-sector infrastructure investment.
- e) Multilateral development bank processes.
- f) Environmental economics.

Geospatial database is the only basis for modeling and developing standards and procedures of the above six activities. Moreover, the cut and paste of the regulations and standards that may be good for North America and Europe will not be appropriate for Asia. There are no experts mentioned for geodesy, geology, geophysics, remote sensing, civil-agriculture, and geospatial engineering, which should be essential components of the proposed study.

USAID Answer: Yes, we are open to suggestions of adding more experts in other areas and the creation of geodatabase for modeling and testing the hypothesis. All applicants are welcomed to identify their own technical approach.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Q&A End Date: July 17, 2021
RFA Issued Date: July 6, 2021
Closing Date/Time: August 6, 2021, 12:00 AM EST

Q.7: What is the basis of the exact budget allocation below? Is this the budget proposed by the current LISA contractor? What are the deliverables of the budget?

Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated (SEC B, pg. 10).

USAID intends to award one (1) Cooperative Agreement pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. Subject to funding availability and at the discretion of the Agency, USAID intends to provide \$6,037,311 in total USAID funding over a four (4) – years year period.

USAID Answer: The budget is a government cost estimate overall for the implementation of the activity over the four-year period. The budget was not proposed by the LISA contractor, but by USAID staff.

As this will be a cooperative agreement, the implementation of the project must meet and succeed in accomplishing the three stated objectives:

Objective 1: Legal Frameworks and LI Safeguards Strengthened.

Objective 2: Implementation and Enforcement of Compliance Requirements Improved.

Objective 3: Effectiveness of Private-sector and IFI LI Safeguards Increased.

Q.8: Does this RFA open for participation of the Central Asian countries in partnership with Asia countries (initiated by LISA)?

USAID Answer: Yes.

Q.9: Do we need partners from the USA and Canada for this project?

USAID Answer: No.

Q.10: Where we can look at LISA reports or/and plans?

USAID Answer: Please see LISA fact sheet. LISA reports are being drafted now and will be made available via the internet after they have been prepared and approved.

Q.11: Does the program consider the following infrastructure:

- a. electricity grids, including transboundary grids.
- b. inner waterways including navigation canals.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Q&A End Date: July 17, 2021
RFA Issued Date: July 6, 2021
Closing Date/Time: August 6, 2021, 12:00 AM EST

- c. water transmission projects and associated dams.
- d. gas pipelines.
- e. complex transportation\economic corridors proposed by Belt and Road Initiative, for example China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor.

USAID Answer: Yes.

Q.12: How does the program address cumulative impacts from many different projects in the same area, including non-linear facilities enabled by linear infrastructure (e.g. hydropower dams enabled by long-transmission grids)?

USAID Answer: This would be a legitimate area of investigation that could contribute to the success of the activity.

Q.13: Does the project address safeguards at the level of Strategic Environmental assessments of complex programs such as economic corridors proposed by the Belt and Road Initiative?

USAID Answer: This would be a legitimate area of investigation that could contribute to the success of the activity.

Q.14: Does USAID want applicants to present resumes for all proposed staff, or only Key Personnel?

USAID Answer: Resumes for all proposed staff.