

ATTACHMENT III

USAID Responses to Questions

received for

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:

72051721RFA00003

“USAID/Dominican Republic’s Caribbean Wildlife Trafficking Activity”

SECTION A:

1. **Geography.** Are we correct in understanding that Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Grenada would all be included within the USAID's ESC Region? Is it possible that any work could be developed within Northeast Venezuela? Or perhaps we could develop an inter-agency planning workshop in which Venezuelan officials are brought to Trinidad? We hope to build a foundation for sub-regional cooperation, and Venezuela is a major source of illegal wildlife products throughout.

USAID response: Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Grenada fall within the geographic scope of the USAID/ESC Mission. Please be mindful of countries that have restrictions that do not allow for partnerships with the USG.

2. **Scope of Enforcement Training.** Would USAID be receptive to a multi-year training and technology transfer program for wildlife enforcement officers in Trinidad and Tobago? We understand that such might be a bit unusual for the Caribbean, but that it has been used with great impact in SE Asia and other regions. Local LE partners have indicated a desire to avoid one-off workshops and instead establish a basis for periodic skill transfers, reporting and troubleshooting, and evolving needs assessments. We note that we particularly hope to improve monitoring of illegal wildlife sales on social media, illegal wildlife sales in pet shops and wild meat shops, and hunting in key biodiversity areas.

USAID response: Yes

3. **Wildlife Rehabilitation.** Would USAID entertain any supporting strategies that improve wildlife rehabilitation in the Southern Caribbean? Our research in T&T indicates that a lack of wildlife rehabilitation capacity is a major driver of law enforcement effort and corrupt processing of confiscations. In short, officers believe confiscated animals will end up euthanized so are reluctant to act according to protocol. We note that our coalition includes two leading wildlife rehabilitation centres, yet they lack sufficient facilities to rehabilitate meaningful volumes of surrendered wildlife.

USAID response: Yes.

4. **Enforcement Equipment.** Would equipment like uniforms, wildlife carrying cages, or computers be considered as within the scope of the program? Would 4x4 jeeps or regular automobiles? One serious issue is that many wildlife law enforcement officers do not have such basic equipment or automotive vehicles. Partly as a result of our campaign, there has been a recent 3x increase in personnel, from 14 to 42 officers, and yet equipment funding has not increased.

USAID response: Applicants are free to propose their approaches accordingly.

5. **Trade Assessment Report.** Would the elaboration of a wildlife trade assessment report be within the scope of the grant? It would be an essential element of any effort to reform certain laws and regulations that presently impede prosecution. Such a report could be essential to sensitizing the wildlife trade problem within the T&T legislature and judiciary, where the problem is considered less important than human trafficking and gang violence. An example of such a report would be the recent Brazilian wildlife trade assessment ([link](#)).

USAID response: Applicants are free to propose their approaches accordingly.

6. Are we allowed to apply as a consortium of partners where one partner submits a concept document on behalf of all partners, or would it be best to each submit our own concept document?

USAID response: Yes.

7. If we're submitting our own concept document, is it ok to address one component of the Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program in particular? Or are you only looking for concepts from organizations that can address all aspects of the proposed project? I ask because my organization, Rare, is well positioned to lead on the behavior change aspect of the program, and has experience doing so with USAID on wildlife trafficking projects in Philippines and Latin America, but would need to join a larger consortium during co-creation.

USAID response: See 'Section E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION'; '2. Review and Selection Process'; 'a) Merit Review'; 'Merit Review Criteria 1 - Technical Approach'.

SECTION D:

8. **Question:** The NOFO reads: "*Preparation of the Concept Paper: Each applicant must furnish the information required by this NOFO. Applications must be submitted in three (3) separate parts: a) The Concept Note Submission (Technical); and b) A notional budget. (Template format and content included as Annex I of this NOFO).*" [Italics and underline added]. Would the highlighted text mean to read there are actually "two (2)" parts? Or perhaps there is a particular supporting file that would be considered part three?

USAID response: See amendment 001 to the NOFO.