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Subject: Annual Program Statement Number (APS) No.: 7200AA23APS00006

Program Title: Biodiversity Annual Program Statement (Biodiversity APS)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 98.001, Foreign Assistance for Programs Overseas

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the United States Government, as represented by the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#), the [Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation \(DDI\)](#), [Natural Environment Branch, Biodiversity Division, \(DDI/NE/Biodiversity\)](#) and supporting Bureaus, is announcing the Biodiversity Annual Program Statement (APS), hereafter known as the Biodiversity APS. Through this APS, USAID aims to implement the vision and goals of the [Biodiversity Policy \(2014\)](#) to:

1. Conserve biodiversity in priority places, and
2. Integrate biodiversity as an essential component of human development.

The Biodiversity APS disseminates information to prospective Applicant(s) so they may develop and submit Concept Note(s) in response to individual Addenda issued under this APS and ultimately to be considered for USAID funding. This APS describes and provides information on: the type of activities for which Concept Note(s) will be considered; available funding, process and requirements for submitting Concept Note(s) and Full Application(s); the merit review criteria for evaluating Concept Note(s); and refers prospective Applicant(s) to relevant documentation and resources.

USAID's DDI's NE/Biodiversity Division and supporting Bureaus anticipate awarding multiple assistance awards as there is no predefined minimum or maximum number of awards expected to be issued under this APS. Issuance of the Biodiversity APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of the U.S Government (USG) to make an award, nor does it commit the U.S. Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a Concept Note and/or Full Application(s). The actual number of assistance awards, if any, is subject to the availability of funds and the interests and requirements of Mission/Bureau/Independent Office (M/B/IOs), as well as the viability of eventual Full Application(s).

The Biodiversity APS is not a Request for Applications (RFA). Rather, the Biodiversity APS requests Concept Notes in response to Individual Addenda published to this APS. Based on the submitted Concept Note(s) to specific Addenda opportunities, USAID will determine whether to request a Full Application from an eligible organization. To be competitive under an Addendum to this umbrella APS, Concept Notes and Full Applications must be fully responsive to all directions under this APS except when specifically noted otherwise in the Addendum.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to regularly check the website to ensure that the entire Biodiversity APS documents are downloaded and to ensure the latest information pertaining to this APS is received in its entirety from www.grants.gov. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion process. If you have difficulty registering on www.grants.gov or accessing the

APS, please contact the grants.gov Helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 or via email at support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

Thank you for your interest in USAID programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stella Alexander-Sergeeff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'S'.

Stella Alexander-Sergeeff
Supervisory Agreement Officer, M/OAA/DDI 1
Office of Acquisition and Assistance

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SECTION A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is issuing this Annual Program Statement (APS) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended. Any potential resulting award(s) will be subject to 2 CFR 700 and 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards and USAID’s Standard Provisions for U.S and Non-U.S Based organizations per ADS 303.

The United States Government as represented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, Natural Environment Branch, Biodiversity Division, (DDI/NE/Biodiversity) invites Concept Note(s) in response to future Addenda from a wide variety of organizations for assistance awards that advance biodiversity conservation efforts.

[USAID’s Biodiversity Policy \(2014\)](#) builds on the Agency’s long history of conserving a global biological heritage for future generations and reflects the recognition of the essential role that healthy natural systems play in advancing resilient societies and ending extreme poverty. The Policy provides a blueprint for how USAID will work to achieve the vision of conserving biodiversity for sustainable long-term development. This Biodiversity Annual Program Statement (APS) supports USAID’s Operating Units (OUs: Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices) to implement the vision and goals of the Biodiversity Policy (2014) to:

- 1) Conserve biodiversity in priority places, and
- 2) Integrate biodiversity as an essential component of human development.

All USAID programs and activities that use biodiversity funds must comply with the Agency's Biodiversity Code. The Code has four criteria:

- 1) The program must have an explicit biodiversity objective;
- 2) Activities must be identified based on an analysis of drivers and threats to biodiversity and include a corresponding theory of change;
- 3) Site-based programs must have the intent to positively impact biodiversity in biologically significant areas; and
- 4) The program must monitor indicators associated with the stated theory of change for biodiversity conservation results.

The Biodiversity Annual Program Statement is issued to assist USAID Operating Units - Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices - with a mechanism to support biodiversity conservation while upholding U.S. foreign policy objectives of promoting national security, advancing American values, and supporting global prosperity and self-reliance. The Biodiversity APS aligns with [USAID’s Acquisition and Assistance Strategy](#), which prioritizes diversifying the Agency’s partner base by engaging greater numbers of new, underutilized, and local partners. USAID encourages Applicants to work cross sectorally and addenda may include additional objectives important to other sectors.

Furthermore, the Biodiversity APS seeks to build upon Agency policy, guidance, and emerging practice in the areas of collaboration, learning, and adapting (CLA); thinking and working politically; systems thinking; and contextually informed and adaptive design and management. It aims to advance USAID’s capability to work with local partners in new ways, to learn from these engagements, and to share this learning broadly to improve conservation practice and conserve biodiversity.

This APS is designed to catalyze a process through which local and international actors can work with USAID to achieve inclusive development impact by implementing biodiversity conservation approaches,

including testing new approaches when warranted, and learning and sharing those results with the global conservation community. Recognizing that the biodiversity crisis and the global climate change crisis are inextricably linked, Applicants should describe how they will conserve biodiversity while building its climate resilience when working in contexts (e.g., species, geographic areas, or time scales) where climate change is identified as a significant threat to biodiversity.

In the activity design, Applicants should demonstrate how their approach is based on evidence; includes rigorous approaches to design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning that provides data to guide decision making; and incorporates feedback loops to support adaptive management during implementation. Applicants should also demonstrate how they have included social and environmental safeguards, including gender equity and inclusive development, in their approach. Guidance on meeting social safeguards in protected area management may be found [here](#).

Concept Note(s) should incorporate **one or more** of the following approaches to biodiversity conservation and integrated programs goals:

1. **Integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation**, by working across sectors such as health, governance, economic growth, and climate change (mitigation and adaptation), where we may improve long-term development outcomes. Applicants are encouraged to consider if, and how, when, and where integrated approaches may support their biodiversity conservation objectives.
2. **Systems-based analytical approaches**, respond to the complex environments in which biodiversity conservation operates, such as thinking and working politically, political economy analysis, or analyses incorporating spatial planning.
3. **Participatory decision-making**, which includes locally led priority-setting, collaborative design, community action planning, radical listening, collective action, or collective impact approaches. Applicants are encouraged to consider these and other demand-driven approaches to connect local needs with local resources, shift decision-making power and control to local actors, and ensure inclusive local leadership for biodiversity conservation.
4. **Tangible benefits to local communities** (both cash and in-kind) from biodiversity, and strengthening local networks, which may include understanding and supporting existing and emerging networks of local actors, supporting the work of local organizations, by strengthening the enabling conditions for conservation enterprises or market facilitation and expansion for existing enterprises.
5. **Equitable rights to resources**, including ensuring land and resource tenure and customary rights, for local people, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized and/or underrepresented groups.
6. **Private sector engagement and mobilizing local resources and buy-in**, including community philanthropy; partnerships that leverage resources from or engage the local private sector, faith-based organizations, government, civil society, academia; and other sources of local skills and finances to replace those of international donors. Applicants are encouraged to consider incorporating such approaches to facilitate long-term sustainability.

[END OF SECTION A]

SECTION B - FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Issuance of the Biodiversity APS and/or related Addenda, issued under this APS, do not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government, nor do those commit the U.S. Government to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of questions, comments, suggestions, Concept Notes, and/or Full Application. Applicant(s) submit Concept Notes/Applications at their own risk, and all preparation and submission costs are at their own expense.

Note: This APS is not a request for Concept Note(s) submission but rather a mechanism for USAID Mission or Operating Unit(s) to issue Individual Addenda under the APS as a means for such submissions.

Applicant(s) must provide Concept Note(s) in response to, and in accordance with the instructions provided in a specific Addendum issued and funded by USAID M/B/IO. Specific information and instructions for awards under this APS will appear in individual Addenda. Addenda will be the exclusive source of funding through this APS and will be posted on www.grants.gov.

1. Estimate of Funds Available and Number of Awards Contemplated

USAID anticipates awarding multiple assistance awards as a result of the Biodiversity APS. The actual number of awards, if any, under this APS is subject to the availability of funds, interests, and requirements of USAID M/B/IO, as well as the viability of eventual Application(s) received. There is no predefined minimum or maximum number of awards.

2. Start Date and Period of Performance for Federal Awards

Applications must offer a period of performance in accordance with the guidance provided in a specific Addendum issued under the Biodiversity APS. The initial period of performance of an award may be 60 months (5 years) or less.

3. Authorized Geographic Code

The geographic code for the Biodiversity APS is 937. In accordance with ADS 310, code 937 refers to any the United States, the recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source. Please see [ADS 310](#) for additional details.

The authorized Geographic Code for each Addendum issued under the Biodiversity APS and each award afterward, if any, will be established by the USAID Mission or Operating Units that funds and manages the Addendum and award.

4. Nature of the Relationship between USAID and the Recipient

The principal purpose of the relationship with the Recipient and under the subject program is to transfer funds to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation of the Biodiversity APS and its Addenda which is authorized by Federal statute. The successful Recipient will be responsible for ensuring the achievement of the program objectives and the efficient and effective administration of the award through the application of sound management practices. The Recipient will assume responsibility for administering Federal funds in a manner consistent with underlying agreements, program objectives, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

5. Selection of Instrument

Assistance awards that result from this APS may take the form of a grant or cooperative agreement. Each Addendum will define the types of award instruments available for potential partners. The [Shock Responsive Programming and Adaptive Mechanisms](#) guide can help inform how to make an award that can be responsive to a context, subject to recurrent crises or conflict.

[END OF SECTION B]

SECTION C: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

USAID defines “Implementing Partners” as U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations that can design and implement assistance activities outside the United States. All Implementing Partners must be legally registered entities under applicable law and eligible under the relevant laws to receive funding from a foreign source. Implementing Partners must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and maintain current registration in SAM.gov to be eligible to receive United States Government (USG) funding. Individuals, unregistered, or informal organizations are not eligible to be Implementing Partners.

Note: Each Individual Addenda issued under the Biodiversity APS may further restrict the eligibility if the issuing M/B/IO determines it is in its best interest.

Unless specified in Addendum, all eligible interested organizations are restricted to submitting only one Concept Note as the Prime Applicant to each Addendum opportunity. If more than one Concept Note is received with the same Prime Applicant, USAID will seek written clarification from the relevant entity regarding which Concept Note should be considered for review. If clarification is not resolved *within five (5) business days*, all Concept Notes submitted by the Applicant will be deemed ineligible.

Note: Please note that Applicant(s) can serve as sub-awardees or supporting partners on multiple Concept Notes under an Addendum.

The Biodiversity APS is designed to attract local and international actors working in all sectors to conserve biodiversity. Under this APS, USAID intends to fund a wide range of flexible, innovative, and experimental approaches to conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing through the issuance of Addendum and issuance of award(s) afterward. This APS is designed to allow the issuance of Addenda and in response submission of Concept Note(s) from a wide variety of local and international actors who bring an understanding of the biodiversity and development challenges facing their communities, countries, or regions or who demonstrate a way to determine local priorities in their approach.

Eligibility under the Biodiversity APS refers to:

1. Local or international entities;
2. Partnerships that include international entities are encouraged to include the local entity as the Prime;
3. Organizations that have not previously received financial assistance from USAID; OR
4. Faith-based organizations eligible to apply for federal financial assistance on the same basis as any other organization and are subject to the protections and requirements of Federal law.

2. Cost Sharing or Leverage

USAID has established a mandatory minimum recipient cost share or leverage for the awards issued in response to the Addenda under the Biodiversity APS. This APS supports activities that incorporate a mix of USAID, non-donor, private sector, and local resources to ensure that there is strong local support for proposed programmatic approaches both during and after the life of an award. Under the Addenda issued under this APS, the Operating Unit(s) must require one or a combination of approaches to incorporate local and non-donor resources that are appropriate for the country context. This may include cost share, leverage, and/or an activity component that strengthens the capacity of local awardees to generate or leverage resources beyond those provided by international donors.

Cost Share refers to funds that may be provided directly by the recipient; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. This may include contribution of staff level of effort, office space or other facilities or equipment which may be used for the program, provided by the recipient. For guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements see 2 CFR 200.306.

Leverage refers to resources that a nontraditional USAID partner brings to a public-private partnership, i.e., the portion not being borne by USAID. These non-traditional resource partners are typically NOT receiving USAID funds. It can be a variety of forms - anything of value that is measured, financial contributions, third party contributions, donated services or property, or intellectual property. For guidance and additional information on leverage refer to [ADS 303.3.27 Public-Private Partnerships](#).

[END OF SECTION C]

SECTION D: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Agency Point of Contact

For any questions regarding the Biodiversity APS, contact BiodiversityAPS@usaid.gov.

Questions regarding a specific Addendum, including Concept Note(s), must be submitted to the point of contact listed in that Addendum. A number of frequently asked questions and answers are available under the related documents tab for this APS at www.grants.gov.

The Agency will furnish promptly to all prospective Applicant(s), as an amendment to this APS, any information concerning this APS given to a particular prospective Applicant, if that information is necessary in submitting any Concept Note(s)/Application(s), or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

If an award is made, the Agreement Officer (AO) will appoint an Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) at that time to provide technical and administrative oversight of the specific award during implementation.

2. General Content and Form of Application

Applicants interested in pursuing an opportunity posted as an Addendum under this Biodiversity APS should follow the instructions and guidance set forth in this APS and in the specific Addendum. This APS is not supported by specific funds; therefore, the amount of resources made available under this APS will depend on the scope of any of the Biodiversity Addenda, Concept Note(s) received, and availability of funds. The awarding M/B/IO(s) of the Addendum will review any Concept Note(s)/Application(s) submission(s).

Note: USAID will ONLY consider Concept Notes that are submitted against Individual Addenda to this Biodiversity APS. USAID will not accept or consider any Concept Notes submitted against the Biodiversity APS itself.

Applicants must have established financial management, monitoring and evaluation processes, internal control systems, and policies and procedures that comply with established U.S. government standards, laws, and regulations specific to the award type. Applicants should submit Concept Notes according to the instructions provided in the APS and Addendum. All Biodiversity APS Addenda will be made available at www.grants.gov.

Concept Note Submission:

A Concept Note is a short document, not to exceed five (5) pages submitted in English, in which the Applicant provides an overview of its idea. **Concept Notes must be submitted electronically in accordance with the instructions provided in the specific Biodiversity APS Addendum.** Questions related to Concept Note submission should be directed to the point of contact listed in the specific Addendum.

Applicants should submit **ONLY** the information and materials specified in the Addendum. In the unlikely event that a specific format is not provided, the Applicant should refer to the Biodiversity APS Concept Note template found at www.grants.gov, following all directions and requirements set forth

within. Applicants should not submit any alternative document or narrative as a substitute for a Concept Note; application materials in any other format will not be accepted or reviewed.

Concept Notes will be evaluated based on the criteria and considerations set forth in the “Concept Note Evaluation Criteria and Considerations” section below. Concept notes must align with the priorities outlined in the Biodiversity APS **AND** the relevant Addenda.

USAID encourages prime Applicant(s) to have an issued UEI, www.sam.gov registration, and for non-U.S. organizations, a NATO Commercial and Governmental Entity (NCAGE) code as early as possible, although this is not required at the Concept Note stage. The registration process for a UEI, sam.gov, and/or NCAGE may take many weeks or even months to complete. Therefore, Applicants are encouraged to begin the process as early as possible.

Resources to transition from obtaining a DUNs number to a UEI can be found at:

<https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

Resources to obtain an UEI can be found at: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>

Additional resources for registering in SAM.gov can be found at <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>.

Resources for Applicant(s) who are new to working with USAID can be found at

<https://workwithusaid.org/>

Concept Note Steps Submission:

Step 1: Interested Applicants must reflect on their own experience working to conserve biodiversity in the local context and do any additional research to understand the objectives set forth in the Operating Unit (OU)-issued Addendum to the Biodiversity APS. Applicants must understand USAID’s Biodiversity Policy and the parameters of the Biodiversity Code as part of the OU-issued Addendum to the Biodiversity APS. Applicants are not required to propose a fully designed activity for this APS—an approach that suggests a process to identify and then act on solutions from the local context is fully within the intent of this APS. USAID encourages Applicant(s) to identify and collaborate with other stakeholders on the development challenge(s) in their community; cross-sectoral partnerships/consortia are especially encouraged.

Step 2: Applicants submit a Concept Note in response to an Addendum to the Biodiversity APS, following the guidance and format in **Attachment A, Concept Instructions for Applicants** and any additional information included in the Concepts may be submitted in English and/or in a language acceptable to the OU as stated in the Addendum. The OU responds with a confirmation receipt within one week of submission.

Step 3: The OU convenes a selection committee to review Concept Note(s) and selects any for further co-creation with the OU. All Concept Note(s) are reviewed based upon the criteria outlined in **Section E** below.

Step 4: If selected to co-create an activity, an Agreement Officer (AO) from the relevant OU contacts the Applicant and provides instructions for the co-creation period and pre-award requirements. Applicants not selected to advance will also be notified.

An OU may also review all concepts and decide to invite selected Applicants to enter a period of multi-stakeholder co-creation, in which they will collaborate on and refine approach(es) with one another and USAID for award consideration. Alternatively, an OU may review concepts and move directly to a request for a full application with one or more of the Applicants.

Step 5: The Applicant collaborates with the OU and prepares the necessary documentation for award consideration. Before award, the OU and Applicant must have significant interaction in-person, via phone, and/or electronically to co-create the activity. Applicants are encouraged to ensure that any technical assistance and support for capacity development proposed as part of the activity is sourced from other local entities. If in-country support is not available, Applicants are encouraged to look at possibilities in their region.

Step 6: The OU reviews the co-created documents using the review criteria at the Request for Application and makes an award determination. This determination may include an “apparently successful” designation.

Step 7: The AO informs the Applicant of the OU’s determination. The AO will also convey all other pre-award requirements. Additional negotiations regarding any technical and cost details may be necessary.

All first-time Applicants for USAID funding that are deemed apparently successful are subject to a pre-award survey to verify that the Applicant has proper procedures in place to receive USAID funding. Please see ADS 303.3.8 and ADS 303.3.9 for details.

[END OF SECTION D]

SECTION E: APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

1. Criteria

Once a Concept Note has been submitted in response to an Individual Addendum issued under the Biodiversity APS, USAID will conduct an initial review of the Concept Note(s) using the criteria outlined in this section of the APS, as well as the criteria stated in the respective Individual Addendum.

The purpose of the initial review and related communication is to determine whether USAID wishes to engage in further discussions regarding the proposed approach and activities. The initial review and communication will result in one of three outcomes:

- A decision to forego further consideration of the approach proposed in the Concept Note;
- A decision to provide the Applicant an opportunity to submit a revised Concept Note (this is very rare); OR
- An invitation to engage in more in-depth and specific co-creation discussions aimed at further developing the proposed approach and determining whether to request a Full Application.

2. Co-Creation, Collaboration, and Communication Under Biodiversity APS

The Biodiversity APS allows for co-creation. Ideally, the applicable USAID M/B/IO will identify and define jointly with the Applicant the development problems to tackle in the program, and then collaborate to determine whether and how to solve those problems and achieve the greatest degree of measurable, sustainable impact. USAID M/B/IOs share risks and responsibilities with the Applicant, and both work together to mobilize, leverage, and apply more effectively each other's respective assets, expertise, and resources¹. The co-creation process is characterized by potentially extensive engagement and communication between USAID and any key project partner(s). Key project partners as well as who are interested in providing material, financial, or intellectual support to the proposed activity may be invited to interact during the process.

For Applicants under any associated Addendum seeking to receive USAID funding to implement the proposed activities, USAID's discussions with those Applicant(s) will take place within the parameters of publicly available information.

Once a Concept Note naming the Applicant is submitted under an Individual Addendum under this APS, USAID can meet with and ask the Applicant (and other partners, if the Concept Note is proposing partnerships) extensive and highly detailed questions about the content of the Concept Note. Such questions are essential to USAID's review of the Concept Note and USAID's determination of whether the proposed Concept Note warrants further discussion. However, USAID cannot engage in highly specific, detailed activity design with the entity seeking an award of USAID funding until **after** USAID decides whether or not the Concept Note meets the minimum criteria under this APS, and any additional criteria under Addendum, and warrants further consideration and development.

Note: None of USAID's communication during the co-creation process provided by this APS should be interpreted as a commitment to making an award of USAID funding. Any costs incurred by the Applicant at this time is a responsibility of the Applicant as there will be no reimbursement from USAID for these costs.

¹ Refer to Parts 200.205, 200.207 of Title 2 of the CFR and ADS Chapter 303.3.9 for additional information.

Applicants are advised that participation in the co-creation process is entirely at their own risk; the U.S government is not responsible for any cost incurred by the Applicant if the Applicant decides to accept the invitation to co-create with USAID. A commitment to an award of USAID funding is only made when an award agreement is signed by the designated Agreement Officer.

Should co-creation result in a Request for Application (RFA), additional information on the review of the Application will be provided in the RFA. The Merit Review Criteria of the Umbrella Biodiversity APS is applicable at both the Concept Note and Application stage. The M/B/IO issuing the Addendum may set additional criteria at either the Concept Note and/or Application stage.

3. Merit Review Criteria and Considerations

USAID will use the following criteria to assess Concept Notes and Full Applications in response to Addenda issued under the Biodiversity APS. These criteria reflect the core principles outlined above and must be included in all Addenda and RFAs issued under this APS. Any Concept Note or Full Application submitted under an Addendum to this APS should propose an approach that satisfies these criteria and exhibits the characteristics set forth below.

Concept Notes and subsequent Full Applications will be assessed according to the following merit review criteria on an adjectival system; *Very Good, Satisfactory, and Marginal*, **UNLESS otherwise specified in Addenda**. *The Criteria 1-3 below are in descending order of importance.*

NOTE: In addition to the following criteria and considerations, there may be additional criteria, further clarification, or criteria importance ratings that are highlighted in the specific Individual Addendum that will be used to assess both Concept Notes and Full Application(s).

Criterion #1: Activity Design

The extent to which the activity is well designed and based on evidence (including citations, when possible), with clearly identified and measurable long-term and short-term goals and objectives, outputs, and outcomes. The extent to which results can be expected to measurably reduce threats to biodiversity; the scale of the impact is consistent with the level of threat and the financial resources requested; Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) and adaptive management is well resourced within the budget and the staffing plan, and the activity includes plans to share learning with the broader conservation community. In addition, the extent to which MEL activities demonstrate a clear plan for data management, including how data will be collected, quality controlled, cleaned, and submitted to USAID.

Criterion #2: Equitable and Inclusive Outcomes and Benefits to Local People

The extent to which the Applicant demonstrates a strong understanding of the local context and barriers experienced by marginalized groups and/or underrepresented groups, such as women, youth (with particular attention to girls), children in adversity and their families, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQI+ people, displaced persons, migrants, Indigenous Peoples and communities, religious minorities, racial and ethnic minorities, people in lower castes, and persons with unmet mental health needs. The extent to which the Applicant demonstrates approaches that are transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people they serve; such approaches may include capacity building for inclusive development, gender sensitivity, and skills needed to improve the enabling environment for all people to benefit from biodiversity conservation.

The extent to which the proposed strategy substantively responds to local priorities or demonstrates a way to determine local priorities before beginning implementation. The extent to which the strategy applied provides benefits to local people, both in cash or in-kind; the activity demonstrates a commitment to increasing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, both in terms of the participants involved in activity design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting as well as in the recipients of outcomes and benefits.

Criterion #3: Sustainability

The extent to which the Applicant presents a clear explanation for how their strategy will lead to sustainability of results, and the extent to which the work is expected to strengthen capacity of local organizations, networks, and/or communities to deliver biodiversity conservation results beyond the end of the funded activities.

At the Addenda level, the issuing Operating Unit (OU) may add up to two additional review criteria that reflect OU-specific priorities. These criteria will be weighted equally as part of the overall criteria.

[END OF SECTION E]

SECTION F: FEDERAL AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**1. Federal Award Notices**

The USAID Agreement Officer (AO) is the only individual who legally commits the U.S government to the expenditure of public funds. Applicants are prohibited from charging or incurring costs to the proposed award prior to receipt of either a fully executed award or a specific, written authorization from the AO. USAID will administer awards in accordance with Parts 700 and 200 of Title 2 of the CFR, and USAID's Standard Provisions for U.S/non-U.S. Organizations.

2. Type of Awards

USAID has multiple assistance award types available when providing funds under this Annual Program Statement (APS) to successful Applicants. The type of award and terms and conditions included therein depends upon the type of recipient organization, programmatic factors, and other due-diligence matters (including responsibility determinations).

3. Additional Information on Award Administration

- ADS Chapter 201 Program Cycle Operational Policy: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201>
- ADS Chapter 204 Environmental Procedures: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/204>
- ADS Chapter 205 Integrating Gender Equality and Female Empowerment in USAID's Program Cycle: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/205>
- ADS 252 Visa Compliance for Exchange Visitors: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/252>
- ADS Chapter 303 Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Organizations: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303mab>
- ADS Chapter 303 Standard Provisions for U.S. organizations: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/303maa>
- ADS Chapter 318 Intellectual Property Rights: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/318>
- ADS Chapter 579 USAID Development Data: <https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/500/579>
- Grant and Contract Process: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/grant-and-contract-process>
- USAID Graphic Standards Manual and Partner Co-branding Guide: <https://www.usaid.gov/branding/gsm>

[END OF SECTION F]

SECTION G: FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT(S)

1. Points of Contact

Questions regarding the substance and terms of Biodiversity Annual Program Statement (APS) umbrella should be submitted to BiodiversityAPS@usaid.gov subject line “Question – Biodiversity APS Umbrella” to the following point of contacts:

Lorena Marko
Contracting and Agreement Officer
M/OAA/DDI 1
U.S. Agency for International Development
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2. Acquisition and Assistance Ombudsman

The A&A Ombudsman helps ensure equitable treatment of all parties who participate in USAID’s acquisition and assistance process. The A&A Ombudsman serves as a resource for all organizations who are doing or wish to do business with USAID. Please visit this page for additional information: <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/acquisition-assistance-ombudsman>. The A&A Ombudsman may be contacted via: Ombudsman@usaid.gov

[END OF SECTION G]

SECTION H: OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who legally commits the U.S government to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Agency programming.

If USAID identifies opportunities to strengthen or fund a concept by connecting it with other USAID mechanisms, other potential funders, and/or external partners, USAID may make that concept available internally or externally for appropriate consideration.

Applications with Proprietary Data

Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. government except for evaluation purpose, should mark the cover page with the following:

“This application includes data that must not be disclosed, duplicated or used – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, an award is made as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. government will have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting award. This restriction does not limit the U.S. government’s right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}.”

Additionally, the applicant must mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following:

“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.”

[END OF BIODIVERSITY APS No: 7200AA23APS00006]