



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Division of International Conservation Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program

Species Conservation Catalyst Fund

<https://www.fws.gov/service/species-conservation-catalyst-fund>

Fiscal Year: 2022

F22AS00253

Due Date for Applications: 05/09/2022

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated 04/20/2022

Please find below a list of questions that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been asked by potential applicants regarding the first **Notice of Funding Opportunity** (NOFO) for the Combating Wildlife Trafficking Program - **Species Conservation Catalyst Fund** (SCCF). The NOFO can be found [here](#) and contains detailed information on proposal requirements. To submit a proposal, use [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.grantsolutions.gov) (preferred portal; search for funding opportunity F22AS00253) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Any further queries can be sent to cwt@fws.gov addressing Tatiana Hendrix for saiga-related proposals and Yula Kapetanakos for cheetah-related proposals.

Question: When can I submit my proposal?

Answer: Applications must be submitted *between* April 11th and May 09th 2022 (11:59 PM EDT).

Question: Is it possible to extend the NOFO application deadline?

Answer: Unfortunately, we are not able to extend the deadline given internal deadlines to spend these funds by the end of our Fiscal Year. However, we are planning for a revision process with applicants (likely in July 2022), and we encourage applicants to budget for further strategy development during the project period.

Question: How many projects will be funded per each species (saiga and cheetah) and how much funding will go to each species?

Answer: We anticipate funding around 10 proposals for both saiga and cheetah, but it depends on the applications we receive and how many are recommended for funding. This NOFO is for \$3.5 million to support both species.

Question: Will future funding be available for saiga and cheetah?



Answer: We may have additional funding rounds for both species in the coming years, depending on the need and what we fund this year.

Question: How will funds be disbursed (e.g., in one lump sum or incrementally per year)?

Answer: It depends on how many proposals are recommended for award. Our preference is to obligate funds up front with access to specific lines of funding through 'budget periods' in GrantSolutions. The recipient would thus indicate their cash needs per year, which will inform how we set the budget periods. In this case, even if all the funds are obligated up front, the recipient would only be able to access a portion of the funds each year.

Question: Can the same person be represented on multiple proposals (e.g. in a coordination role)?

Answer: Yes, and we encourage organizations to coordinate on activities to prevent duplication of efforts. However, please make it clear in the proposal the specific role that this person will be playing for each proposal. If, for example, an applicant was asking for full/majority time on multiple proposals, then the Service would want to discuss this topic with the applicant.

Question: Can collaborating organizations submit distinct (individual) but complementary proposals that have overlap in personnel?

Answer: Yes, but applicants need to ensure there are no duplication of efforts across the proposals. Keep in mind that highly coordinated/integrated proposals should be able to relay their ability to operate independently from one another (e.g., if one of the coordinated proposals received funding and the other(s) don't). Please note that there is a required overlap/duplication statement (pg. 16 of the NOFO) that says, "Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel."

Question: Can a foreign government be an eligible applicant?

Answer: Foreign governments are technically eligible, though there may be more time needed during the review process to ensure we can support the specific foreign government directly. A government can also be listed as a partner, and we would want a letter of support from them anyway (as we do with all projects). If there is an individual listed from the government who will be implementing the project (e.g., part of the key personnel), the government endorsement/support letter should ideally come from someone else the government.

Question: If studentships and/or scholarships cost a significant portion of the budget, will that impact the proposal's likelihood for success?

Answer: Studentships and/or scholarships can be a meaningful form of capacity building. However, they need to be justified as the best approach for the proposed project context. If they are, the Service would be preferential towards the funding going to in-country institutions, unless there is a strong justification for why an out-of-country institution is the better/only option; this is



line with the criteria on pg. 23 of the NOFO that “Project proposals that receive higher scores in the merit reviews will: ... develop and foster lasting in-country capacity”.

Question: Are there restrictions for funding training of police or military?

Answer: We support training for rangers, police, and/or military in many cases, as needed and relevant for the proposed activities. Per the NOFO, the Service will **not** fund:

- the purchase of firearms or ammunition;
- gathering information by persons who conceal their true identity;
- buying or purchasing of intelligence, evidence or information or paying informants;
- law enforcement operations that, to arrest suspects, prompt them to carry out illegal activities (entrapment); and
- any activity that would circumvent sanctions, laws, or regulations of either the U.S. or the country of the proposed activity.

Question: Could proposed projects target saiga stockpile management in consumer, transit, or range states?

Answer: Yes. Funding could be used to support stockpile management at any point along the trade chain.

Question: We have heard that the Service may already be intending to support the CITES Secretariat work related to saiga stockpile management - how can we be sure that we do not duplicate these efforts?

Answer: We encourage potential applicants to coordinate with the CITES Secretariat to the extent that they can, and we will also help to de-conflict work during the proposal review and revision stage. We are happy to connect potential applicants to the CITES Secretariat, if needed, and we have already flagged this topic to the Secretariat.

Question: What counts as ‘community’ for demand projects related to saiga? (In the context of the NOFO requesting that applicants engage the community in which a project is proposed)

Answer: This could be in the form of a number of different groups or key stakeholders such as local governments, industry leaders, religious leaders, shopkeepers, medicinal practitioners, or the consumers themselves.

Question: Can building a collaborative consortium of key stakeholders (i.e. an organizing body that lives beyond the project lifespan) be an explicit objective/funded activity for a project?

Answer: Yes, a project objective of this nature is welcomed. As described the Program Description of the NOFO, the Species Conservation Catalyst Fund (SCCF) seeks to support project partners to “sustain conservation impact” and provide opportunities for partners to (among other things) to “develop networks of researchers and practitioners.”



Question: Can we fund enforcement activities in Ethiopia?

Answer: Yes, although it must be made clear in the proposal how political insecurity will be considered in context of the proposed activities. Further, we will require a government letter of support (as we do with all projects).

Question: Can proposed work be carried out in China?

Answer: Yes, but we require a government letter of support (as we do with all projects).