



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Division of International Conservation Africa Branch

Central Africa Regional Program

<https://www.fws.gov/service/central-africa-regional-program-bushmeat-funding-opportunity>

**Fiscal Year: 2024
F24AS00433**

Due Date for Applications: November 18, 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated November 13, 2024

Please find below a list of questions that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been asked by potential applicants regarding the F24AS00433 Central Africa Regional Program Bushmeat Notice of Funding Opportunity. To submit a proposal, use [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.grantsolutions.gov) (preferred portal; search for funding opportunity F24AS00433) or <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356337>. For any questions, please email wwb@fws.gov.

Question: What is the scope of desired result 2(b) expansion into different regions and data types, under Objective 2 in Section A3 Background, Purpose and Program Requirements?

Answer: Applicants should address the threat of unsustainable and illegal urban trade of protected species in Central Africa when proposing activities to achieve this desired result. Applicants can refer to publicly available information on this threat, including recent publications such as Nana et al. 2022 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12913>) and Ingram et al. 2021 (<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-041020-063132>), where the authors note a need for regionally led programs and more research, including new research methods and different data types, to tackle the bushmeat crisis.

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity is to address the threat of the unsustainable and illegal urban trade of protected species and target three objectives to inform overall wild meat governance to improve wildlife outcomes in Central Africa:

(1) Wild meat governance at national, regional, and international levels, informed by the best available evidence in Central Africa.

Desired results may include, as appropriate,

(1a) increased access and availability of evidence bases, toolkits, libraries and databases for



stakeholders and decision makers, and

(1b) stakeholders and decision makers are knowledgeable of these resources.

(2) A growing evidence base for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, including a better understanding of intervention effectiveness regarding reducing the illegal bushmeat trade.

Desired results may include, as appropriate,

(2a) improved evidence databases with online data visualizations,

(2b) expansion into different regions and data types, and

(2c) additional data on the monitoring, evaluation, and effectiveness of wild meat interventions.

(3) Increasing individual capacity in Central Africa for governance and evidence building activities focused on reducing the illegal bushmeat trade.

Desired results may include, as appropriate,

(3a) stakeholders and decisions makers have the skill sets to use on-line evidence bases, toolkits, libraries and databases,

(3b) data contributors have the financial resources and technical support needed to collect data and the skills set to contribute clean and valid data to the evidence database, i.e., direct support to field researchers,

(3c) government officials and major constituents (civil society, rights-holders and stakeholders) recognize research databases as a valid source of information for policy decisions, and

(3d), international bodies such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Congo Basin Forest Partnership, regional institutions such as the Central African Forest Commission (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale; COMIFAC), and national governments in Central Africa use evidence databases for policy decisions.

Question: If postdoctoral research cost is included in the budget, will that impact the proposal's likelihood for success?

Answer: Costs for post graduate research 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 in line with Section A3 Background, Purpose, and Program Requirements on page 4 of the NOFO that "Proposed project work should occur within Central Africa, or, if work is to be conducted outside of Central Africa, the proposal must explain how the work will benefit stakeholders in Central Africa, e.g., government staff, NGO staff, Central Africa graduate students and university faculty,



and local communities.” This is also addressed in Section E1 Criteria, where reviewers will be asked “To what degree does the proposed project contribute to the following: Increasing individual capacity in Central Africa for wild meat governance and evidence-building activities.”

Question: If a partner of a lead applicant has a negotiated NICRA, can the negotiated rate be applied to the partner budget?

Answer: Yes, the partner can charge its NICRA to the portion of the project they will be carrying out. A copy of negotiated NICRA should be included with the application.

Please see section 2 CFR 200.332(b)(4)(i) of the Code of Federal Regulations for details.

[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200#p-200.332\(b\)\(4\)\(i\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200#p-200.332(b)(4)(i))

Question: What is the new *de minimis* rate?

[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.414#p-200.414\(f\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/section-200.414#p-200.414(f))

De minimis rate. Recipients and subrecipients that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate of up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC). The recipient or subrecipient is authorized to determine the appropriate rate up to this limit. Federal agencies and pass-through entities may not require recipients and subrecipients to use a *de minimis* rate lower than the negotiated indirect cost rate or the rate elected pursuant to this subsection unless required by Federal statute or regulation. The *de minimis* rate must not be applied to cost reimbursement contracts issued directly by the Federal Government in accordance with the FAR. Recipients and subrecipients are not required to use the *de minimis* rate. When applying the *de minimis* rate, costs must be consistently charged as either direct or indirect costs and may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. The *de minimis* rate does not require documentation to justify its use and may be used indefinitely. Once elected, the recipient or subrecipient must use the *de minimis* rate for all Federal awards until the recipient or subrecipient chooses to receive a negotiated rate.