



# Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge

Open call for RISE grants challenge proposals to address gender-based violence and environment linkages – 2024



ADVANCING GENDER IN THE ENVIRONMENT – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES CENTER



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## **About IUCN**

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,500 Member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development. Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

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# Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>AGENT</b>	Advancing Gender in the Environment
<b>EOI</b>	Expression of Interest
<b>ESMS</b>	Environmental and Social Management System
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence <sup>1</sup>
<b>GBV-ENV Center</b>	Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages Center
<b>GenDev</b>	USAID Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>Norad</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
<b>RISE</b>	Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEAH</b>	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
<b>TEC</b>	Technical Evaluation Committee
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USD</b>	United States Dollars

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<sup>1</sup> This Call for Proposal uses the acronym *GBV* where brevity supports the reader, it otherwise attempts to use the full term *gender-based violence* throughout.

## Summary of key information

- **Thematic Scope:** In 2024, the RISE grants challenge seeks proposals that adopt strategies to prevent, mitigate and respond to the risk of gender-based violence and environmental linkages in the context of the dual global biodiversity and climate crises. The RISE grants challenge will accept applications spanning diverse biodiversity and climate sectors and contexts, however, this year, there is also a specific earmark for at least several projects to specifically address gender-based violence in fisheries sectors.
- **Award:** In 2024, the RISE grants challenge has planned up to USD 1,800,000 to award, seeking to support up to six projects of USD 100,000-400,000 each, implemented over an 18-24 month timeline. (Please refer to [Section 6](#) for more details.)
- **Geographic Scope:** The RISE grants challenge will invest in projects in one or more of the targeted 18 countries and/or non-area based projects focused on global policy. See [Annex 1](#) for the full list of eligible countries. Please note that any country of implementation must be included in the list.
- **Eligibility Requirements:** The RISE grants challenge **requires partnerships** between environmental organisations, GBV experts or organisations, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, local communities and/or other relevant experts. Please note that all projects require a staff member, consultant and/or partner organisation that focuses on addressing GBV.
- **Application Process:** The 2024 RISE grants challenge application process will follow a two-step approach. Eligible organisations can apply through an expression of interest (EOI) application. Selected EOIs will be invited to submit a full proposal.
- **Online application<sup>2</sup>:** **Expression of interest** applications must be written and submitted using the online application platform, available at <https://rise.smapply.io>.

### 1.1 Who can apply?

RISE is open to legally registered local, national, regional or international organisations, including but not limited to:

- Local and International non-governmental organisations (NGOs/ INGOs)
- Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)
- Community-based organisations (CBOs)
- Civil Society organisations (CSOs)
- Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs)
- Universities and other academic institutions
- Research institutes and think tanks
- Private sector companies (International, regional, national, local)

Please note: the applicant must already have presence in the country in which the activities are proposed to be implemented, OR be a local organisation, OR have a duly registered local partner that meets the requirements for consortia and partnerships. (Please refer to [Section 4](#) for details on [eligibility requirements](#)).

Please note that some organisations are **not eligible** for participating in this Call for Proposals as applicants or partners but may be engaged as project stakeholders. (Please refer to [Section 4.8](#) for details on **ineligible applicants**).

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<sup>2</sup> **Data protection.** IUCN takes data protection and management seriously and is committed to safeguarding and protecting Personal Data of private individuals. As such, the entirety of RISE in 2024, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

## RISE grants challenge 2024 timeline

<b>Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI) submission stage</b> 10 May to 7 June 2024	
25 April 2024	Call for Proposals launched and timeframe for submitting questions is open via email to <a href="mailto:RISE@iucn.org">RISE@iucn.org</a>
9 May 2024	Information webinar - <a href="#">register here</a>
10 May 2024	Application window open. Submit your Expression of Interest through <a href="#">SMAApply</a>
17 May 2024	Timeframe for sending questions via email to RISE@iucn.org closes
22 May 2024	Frequently Asked Questions available online on the <a href="#">RISE webpage</a> .
7 June 2024	EOI submission deadline – late submissions will not be considered.

<b>Stage 2 – Eligibility screening stage</b> 10 to 29 June 2024	
10 June - 29 June 2024	Eligibility screening and selecting applicants for full proposal development

<b>Stage 3 – Invited proposal submission stage</b> 1 to 31 July 2024	
1 July 2024	Technical application and timeframe to submit questions to <a href="mailto:RISE@iucn.org">RISE@iucn.org</a> opens
15 July 2024	Timeframe for sending questions via email to <a href="mailto:RISE@iucn.org">RISE@iucn.org</a> closes
31 July 2024	Proposal submission deadline – late submissions will not be considered

<b>Stage 4 – Technical evaluation stage</b> 1 August to 9 October 2024	
1 August - 16 August 2024	Technical screening to longlist up to 12 applications.
19 August - 4 September 2024	Technical Evaluation Committee review and scoring of up to 12 applications
6 September - 27 September 2024	RISE Steering Committee interviews up to 8 shortlisted applications
30 September 2024	Finalists are notified to proceed to the due diligence stage.

<b>Stage 5 – Due diligence stage</b> 30 September to 1 December 2024	
30 September - 1 December 2024	Selected finalists undergo a due diligence process.

<b>Stage 6 – Grant winners finalisation</b> 1 December to 31 December 2024	
1 December - 31 December 2024	Grant agreements are signed. All applicants will be informed about the results.

## 1. About the RISE grants challenge

The [Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments \(RISE\)](#) grants challenge is a first-of-its-kind grant fund that **supports activities designed to address gender-based violence and environmental linkages in environmental and climate-related programmes and generate evidence on promising interventions.**

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and managed by IUCN, the RISE grants challenge is a direct response to a landmark study on [gender-based violence and environment linkages](#) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which [USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub](#) (GenDev) commissioned through the [Advancing Gender in the Environment \(AGENT\)](#) partnership.<sup>3</sup> With input from IUCN and diverse partners and peers, USAID designed this first-of-its-kind grants mechanism to fill knowledge, cooperation and investment gaps at the gender-based violence and environment nexus. In complement, IUCN launched the [Gender-based Violence and Environment Linkages Center](#) (GBV-ENV Center), which brings together resources and tools, mobilises learning, provides tailored technical support and forges collective action to build knowledge, capacities and improved policies. Since 2022, the RISE grants challenge has been managed and hosted by the IUCN, in conjunction with the GBV-ENV Center.

The **2024 RISE Call for Proposals** is the fifth RISE grants challenge open call. A new cohort of RISE grantees will join the four previous cohorts, growing a community of practice and contributing to critical knowledge and strategies toward meeting interlinked global goals of eradicating gender-based violence and securing a healthy and peaceful planet.

## 2. Gender-based violence and environment linkages

Our globe counts on each of us to sustainably manage nature – and in every part of the world, women and girls play key roles in nature conservation and climate change action. Yet, for far too many, gender-based violence is used to reinforce who can engage, who can benefit – and who is left behind – when it comes to the control, management and use of natural resources.

Gender-based violence is a violation of human rights, rooted in deeply entrenched discriminatory gender norms and shrouded in impunity. It affects every country and community around the world as a means of control, subjugation and exploitation. Global data estimates that at least one in three women and girls experiences physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner or non-partner at least once in her lifetime ([WHO, 2021](#)). In

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<sup>3</sup> **AGENT** is a 15-year collaboration between IUCN and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's (DDI) Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub (GenDev) that was established in 2014 to improve environment programming through gender integration and leverage environment programming for women's empowerment and gender equality outcomes. Read more about AGENT [here](#), and check its last [Annual Report](#).

many contexts, the prevalence of violence is far higher, with dire impacts on individual and collective safety and well-being, security, agency and resilience (**see box**).

### **Defining gender-based violence**

An expression of gender inequality and a means to sustain it, gender-based violence is any harm or threat of harm perpetrated against a person or group on the basis of gender ([Castañeda Camey et al., 2020](#)).

"Gender-Based Violence is any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity. Although individuals of all gender identities may experience gender-based violence, women, girls, and gender non-conforming individuals face a disproportionate risk of gender-based violence across every context due to their unequal status in society." ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2022](#))

"Gender-based violence (GBV) is a harmful act towards an individual based on their gender. Sexual violence, such as rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment, is a significant aspect of GBV together with physical violence and psychological violence. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV. Men and boys may also be subjected to GBV, especially if they are nonconforming in gender identities, gender expressions or sexual orientation." ([Norwegian guidelines for sexual and reproductive health and rights](#))

### **Drivers and Contexts**

"Gender-based violence is a human rights abuse, a form of discrimination, a manifestation of unequal power, and a public health crisis in the United States and globally. Gender-based violence is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances. It has direct and indirect costs to individuals; families; communities; economies; global public health; development; and human, national, and regional security. Gender-based violence is a systemic global problem: it occurs in every country and level of society. It happens in public and private settings, including the home, work environments, transit, educational settings, and schools; criminal justice settings, including correctional facilities; the military and security sector; and digital and online spaces. Members of some populations face overlapping forms of discrimination that put them at an even higher risk of experiencing gender-based violence, including Indigenous peoples; historically marginalized racial and ethnic populations; religious minority populations; LGBTQI+ persons; persons with disabilities; older persons and widows; children and youth; low-wage and informal sector workers; migrants, refugees, and internally displaced peoples; and persons in fragile and conflict-affected states." ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2022](#))

"GBV is rooted in negative gender norms and gendered social discrimination. It takes place in every country and context, although the threat of GBV is higher in contexts where violence is normalised and gender inequality is high. GBV is known to be underreported, with survivors being doubly affected by stigma and insufficient access to services and support systems." ([Norwegian guidelines for sexual and reproductive health and rights](#))

"Sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices are structural issues that involve the regulation of girls' and women's sexuality. This is connected to discriminatory legislation, culturally and religiously based gender roles, family traditions, coercive control, and unequal power distribution among genders." ([Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Norway's Foreign and Development Policy 2023–2030](#))

### **Types of gender-based violence**

"Gender-based violence is characterized by the use or threat of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, legal, political, social, and other forms of control, coercion, and/or violence. It can occur across the life course and is perpetrated by a diverse array of actors, including intimate partners; family members; persons in positions of power, authority, or trust; friends; acquaintances; or strangers. Types of gender-based violence include: child, early, and forced marriage; child sexual abuse; female genital mutilation/cutting; gender-related killing of women and girls, including "femicide" and female infanticide; so-called "honor"-based violence, including acid attacks and killings; some forms of human trafficking; intimate partner violence, including domestic and dating violence; reproductive coercion, including forced sterilization; sexual exploitation and abuse; sexual harassment; stalking; all forms of sexual violence, including sexual coercion, conflict-related sexual violence, rape (including marital rape; so-called "corrective" rape related to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression; and rape as a weapon of war), and forced or coerced physical



examinations (including virginity testing); and all forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including gendered online harassment and abuse. Other types of violence that can be gender-based include: abandonment; bias-motivated violence or hate crimes; bullying; child abuse, including corporal punishment; elder abuse; and so-called “conversion” therapy practices that seek to change or suppress a person’s gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or sex characteristics. The prevalence of different types of gender-based violence varies across contexts and over time.” ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2022](#))

“Gender-based violence refers to all types of violence: physical, digital, sexual, psychological, economic, and domestic forms, alongside gender-based and sexual harassment...Harmful practices like child and forced marriages, as well as female genital mutilation, are also gender-based violence.” ([Action Plan for Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in Norway’s Foreign and Development Policy 2023–2030](#))

Please, see the [Gender-based violence and environment linkages: summary for policy makers](#) for more information on gender-based violence and environment linkages.

Across environment sectors and contexts, gender-based violence, in all its forms, is used as a tool to maintain and exert power over access and management of natural resources and environmental roles. These dynamics are further exacerbated in the face of stressors and threats such as climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Altogether impacting women’s ability to adapt to these threats and to fully and safely participate in environmental and climate action. **Gender-based violence is preventable.** Gender-based violence and environment linkages are complex and multi-layered; however, these threats to human rights and healthy ecosystems are not insurmountable. The RISE grants challenge demonstrates how preventing, responding to and mitigating the risk of gender-based violence across environmental contexts through environment and climate-focused programming, directly contributes to preventing harm and unlocks opportunities for enhanced inclusive and equitable conservation, climate resilience, advancing sustainable development and realising human rights and gender equality.

## Further reading

Key resources on gender-based violence and environment linkages include the following:

- [Gender-based violence and environment linkages: the violence of inequality](#) [EN | ES | FR] is an in-depth study across environment sectors, issues and themes documenting gender-based violence and environment linkages.
- [Gender-based violence and environment linkages: summary for policy makers](#) synthesises IUCN's research, focusing on key findings on how gender-based violence and environment issues are interlinked across sectors to inform policymakers and will be a key tool for applicants.
- [IUCN Issue Brief: Gender-based violence and the environment](#) is a 2-page factsheet reviewing the main findings of IUCN's study.
- [Advancing Gender in The Environment: Gender in Fisheries](#)—A Sea of Opportunities summarises research on the intersection of gender and wild-caught fisheries, exploring the ways in which fisheries offer important entry points to enhance gender equality and women's economic empowerment, address gender-based violence, while also contributing to more effective interventions and more sustainable outcomes.
- [Gender Analysis Guide: A technical tool to inform gender-responsive environmental programming for IUCN, its members, partners and peers](#). This guide provides information, tips and tools that can help conduct and apply the findings of gender analyses.
- [Strengthening safeguards: strategies for addressing gender-based violence in environmental projects](#) presents a set of interventions and strategies that environment programs, donors and practitioners could consider strengthening attention to addressing GBV across environment-related contexts.
- [Gender-Based Violence and Environment Webinar and Conversation Series](#) (2020 - Present) from awareness raising dialogues to presentations from experts, to moderated interviews with environmental projects working on linkages, this series sheds light on issues, strategies and learning from around the globe to address gender-based violence and environment linkages.

See additional recommended reading at the [GBV-ENV Center](#) and [Gender and Environment Resource Center](#).

## 3. RISE grants challenge scope, purpose and objectives

The overarching purpose of the RISE grants challenge is to fund projects that address gender-based violence that is occurring within and linked to environment and climate-related sectors.

**In 2024, the RISE grants challenge seeks to fund applications that adapt strategies to prevent, mitigate and respond to the risk of gender-based violence and environmental linkages in the context of the dual global biodiversity and climate crises. This year, RISE will accept applications addressing gender-based violence across biodiversity and climate contexts, challenges and sectors, with a specific earmark for at least several projects to address gender-based violence in fisheries sectors.**

The RISE grants challenge **encourages** applications that also deliver improved rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive conservation, climate action and sustainable development. In 2024, **we continue to be interested in intersectional approaches that include or emphasise vulnerable groups such as Indigenous women, environmental defenders, youth, and women and girls who are underrepresented and marginalised in their communities, among others.**

## Why fisheries?

Addressing gender-based violence in fisheries is crucial as it directly impacts the well-being and safety of women and girls in fishing communities. Women engage in the fisheries sector in a range of roles, comprising 18% of the workforce involved in harvesting and up to 85% in certain segments of the processing sector, making up about 50% of employees in the entire value chain (FAO, 2022). While fisheries play a crucial role in sustainable development and economic opportunities, it's marred by pervasive gender inequalities and gender-based violence, including exploitative practices such as extorting sex-for-fish. In other contexts, women's economic empowerment activities in relation to sustainable fisheries management have inadvertently led to increased intimate partner violence, as tensions arise over managing financial opportunities, alternative livelihood income generation, women's savings initiatives and natural resources. Human, child and sex trafficking linked to fisheries also pose significant challenges. Closed fishing seasons or the creation of restrictions to areas important for women's fisheries activities can also face risks when traveling and gleaning in increasingly remote areas or when dealing with guards. Entrenched structural inequalities and harmful social norms can contribute to a heightened risk of gender-based violence and reinforce gender differentiated roles. Failure to address gender-based violence not only perpetuates these inequalities but also undermines the effectiveness of fisheries management and development efforts. By prioritizing interventions to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in fisheries, we can create safer and more inclusive environments, ensuring that women and girls can fully participate in and benefit from fisheries activities. This, in turn, can contribute to more sustainable and resilient fisheries and communities ([IUCN, 2019](#)).

The RISE grants challenge seeks to build evidence and cross-sector collaborations in three primary ways, investing in: a) **existing environmental projects that leverage RISE funding and technical support to embed gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and/or response in an integrated manner to environmental work**; b) **existing gender-based violence and environment programming that aims to continue, scale up or replicate an intervention**; or c) **new projects that address gender-based violence and environment linkages at the global policy level** (see box below). The RISE grants challenge seeks to fund up to six projects between USD 100,000 - USD 400,000 each, with implementation timelines of 18-24 months.

**The RISE grants challenge will support strategies to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related programming through:**

**a) Existing environmental projects that leverage RISE funding and technical support to embed gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and/or response in an integrated manner to environmental work**

Applicants may seek funding to complement an existing environmental project, specifically to integrate strategies to address gender-based violence. In this case, the grant will support efforts related to addressing gender-based violence in relation to the concurrent biodiversity and climate change crises. Applying for this type of support requires the specific written support of the original funder and implementing partners. This additional grant will fund interventions, such as GBV-integrated training; policies; policy reform, including developing robust organisational sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment safeguarding practices; partnerships; M&E collection and communication; and/or other activities to be determined by the applicant.

**b) Continuing, scaling-up or replicating existing projects addressing gender-based violence in environment sectors**

Applicants may seek funding to complement an existing project already addressing gender-based violence in the environment sector or environmental programming. In this case, the grant will support efforts to continue, scale-up or replicate the existing project. This additional grant will fund interventions, such as GBV-integrated training; policies; policy reform, including developing robust organisational sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment safeguarding practices; partnerships; M&E collection and communication and/or other activities to be determined by the applicant. Applying for this type of support requires the specific written support of the original funder and implementing partners and will need to specifically articulate how this grant builds on the learnings and results of the first grant or programme.

**c) New programming that addresses gender-based violence and environment at the global policy level**

Applicants may seek funding to implement strategies at the global policy level to address the intersection of gender-based violence and the environment. In this case, the grant will support the unique development of a new project focused on developing, contributing to, or implementing a global-level policy to address gender-based violence in environment programming. This could include activities such as policy analysis, advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement to influence and/or implement global policies and frameworks that integrate GBV considerations into environmental programming. Currently, global policies and documents produced by global policymaking that recognise GBV and environmental linkages include:

- [Convention on Biological Diversity, Gender Plan of Action, Objective 1.5](#)
- [IPCC AR6 - Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)
- [CSW66 Agreed Conclusions](#)
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Action Plan](#)

Through the [GBV-ENV Center](#), RISE grantees will benefit from technical support, a community of practice, and spotlight attention in global, regional and national convenings. Impact and learnings from RISE-funded projects will contribute to [IUCN's Gender Equality](#)

[and Women's Empowerment Policy](#), [IUCN's Resolution 115 on protecting environmental defenders](#), the [United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally](#), the [USAID Climate Strategy](#), [USAID 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy](#), [National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality](#), [Norway's Foreign and Development Policy \(2023–2030\) Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#), [Norad's Fish for Development Policy](#) and the newly adopted [Gender Plan of Action of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#), which includes provisions to address gender-based violence and environment linkages.

## 4. RISE eligibility requirements

### 4.1 Eligible geographies in 2024

The RISE grants challenge is global in overarching scope and aims to foster and share learning across global, regional, national and subnational levels. **RISE grants challenge projects must be implemented in one or more of the targeted 18 countries or be non-area based global policy focused projects.**

Please refer to [Annex 1](#) of this Call for Proposals for the full list of eligible countries. Contingent on the quality and priorities of the submitted proposals, RISE will be implemented in one or more of the eligible countries. Please note that all proposed countries of operations must be on the eligibility list. Please also note that non-area-based projects must be non-area-based and focused on global policy – this category is not a stand-in for ineligible countries.

### 4.2 Eligible applicants

The RISE grants challenge is open to legally registered **local, national, regional or international** organisations, including but not limited to:

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Grassroots, local and community-based organisations (CBOs), including women, and youth-led organisations;
- Civil society organisations (CSOs);
- Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs);
- Women-owned/women-led enterprises;
- Faith-based organisations (FBOs);
- International non-governmental organisations (INGOs);
- Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs);
- Universities and other academic institutions that are NOT publicly funded;
- Research institutes and think tanks;
- Private sector companies (international, regional, national, local) (for-profit organisations must clearly demonstrate that the proposed project pursues strictly non-profit objectives and does not generate any income);
- Consortiums, partnerships and other already existing forms of collaboration;
- Organisations that are members of IUCN and/or others with track record improving environment outcomes; and

- Organisations that have previously applied for and/or received RISE funding (these applicants must specifically articulate how another grant builds on the learnings and results of the first).

### 4.3 Requirements for partnerships and collaborations

The RISE grants challenge requires partnerships between environmental organisations, gender and GBV-expert organisations, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, local communities and/or relevant experts. Please note that governments and public entities are not eligible partners but can be engaged as project stakeholders. Previously existing or new partnerships or consortiums must meet the following requirements:

- One organisation must be identified as the lead organisation, responsible for the project, and the sole signatory of a potential grant agreement.
- At least one of the member organisations must have a local presence in the proposed country of implementation. (Please see section 4.4)
- At least one of the member organisations must have GBV expertise and/or all organisations must commit to hiring a GBV expert as staff or fully integrated consultants.
- The integration of a consortium or partnership must favour the technical and operational implementation of the project. Therefore, the applicant must include a narrative describing each partner, the specific role, relevant past experience and added value in its proposal.
- The collaboration or partnership must be supported by documents confirming and describing the collaboration, which will need to be signed after acceptance of the grant and which will be required by IUCN to confirm the partnership.

### 4.4 Requirement for local presence

The applicant must already have a presence in the country where the activities are proposed, OR be a local organisation, OR have a duly registered local partner that meets the requirements for consortia and partnerships. It is preferred that at least one of the partners is a grassroots, locally-led organisation; that is, local people and institutions who possess the capability, connectedness and credibility to drive change in their own countries and communities. IUCN will require supporting documentation to demonstrate legal status to operate where the intervention is taking place.

### 4.5 Programmatic requirements

#### 4.5.1 Thematic responsiveness

Proposals must address the scope, purpose and objectives of the RISE grants challenge, which are defined in section 3 of this Call for Proposals. Additionally, the RISE grants challenge requires interventions that:

- Integrate **locally- or community-led or driven** approaches, in line with rights-based principles and approaches;

- Integrate promising practices for **survivor-centred and trauma-informed** approaches;
- Draw on, adapt and/or contribute to **proven or promising strategies** to address gender-based violence in environment-focused sectors in eligible RISE countries. Strategies can be adapted from other sectors, such as health or education;
- Integrate approaches to **engage men and boys on positive masculinities** to address gender-based violence and environmental linkages and related harmful social norms;
- Integrate **women’s economic empowerment** activities that include gender-responsive approaches, such as engaging men and the wider community, as a gender-based violence prevention strategy;
- Coordinate with existing mechanisms to address gender-based violence such as existing **referral pathways and service providers**;
- Integrate approaches to advocate for and support the integration of risk mitigation and response measures, including **strengthening safeguards in environmental programmes and training environmental stakeholders**;
- Promote **institutional learning** on promising practices and lessons learned in addressing gender-based violence across environment-focused contexts, toward overall improved implementation and scale-up of rights-based gender-responsive environment approaches and outcomes;
- Foster or leverage **favourable enabling conditions** to implement interventions to reduce gender-based violence and support survivors, for example through legislative action, infrastructure or institutionalisation, or mobilising political will;
- Contribute to **filling knowledge gaps**, for example through deepening local and contextual knowledge of gender-based violence and environment linkages; showcasing context-specific promising practices for preventing, mitigating and responding to this issue through RISE grants challenge global learning and documentation efforts; and/or demonstrating how RISE grantees’ interventions and learning will **influence** national, regional or global policy and programming agendas.

#### 4.5.2 Operational and administrative capacity

Eligible applicants must have sufficient capacity to allow for professional and timely implementation of proposed projects. Applicants will be asked to answer some initial due diligence questions as part of their application.

Please refer to **section 5 RISE application and award process**, stage 5, for more information on the due diligence process.

Compliance with eligibility requirements will be verified with supporting documentation.

#### 4.5.3 Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) policy

In accordance with IUCN’s Policy on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment, IUCN will “encourage its partners involved in IUCN-related

activities to abide by this Policy or adopt policies and procedures that are consistent with this Policy, with the purpose of safeguarding against SEAH in IUCN-related activities” ([IUCN, 2019](#)). Applicants to RISE will be expected to either have SEAH policies and procedures – or to include their development as part of their RISE activities – in order to be in compliance with IUCN.

#### **4.5.4 Self- and collective care**

Self and collective care is an important strategy for ensuring the well-being of those working on gender-based violence. RISE applicants have an ethical responsibility to do no harm and mitigate risks to the psychological well-being and safety of staff. RISE applicants will be expected to incorporate structures or frameworks to strengthen broader efforts to support staff, such as spaces for learning and discussing stress and trauma, or flexible work arrangements and leave policies for mental health as a part of their proposals and budgets.<sup>4</sup>

### **4.6 Administrative requirements**

Grant recipients are required to adhere to administrative and legal requirements, including completion of the Due Diligence Questionnaire.

#### **4.6.1 Legal entity / judicial person status**

The direct beneficiary of the grant must be a recognised registered legal entity. The applicant must have the legal capacity to enter into contracts in its own name. Partnerships or associations that do not have legal capacity cannot be taken into consideration as direct recipients of financing, even if they sometimes act as executing agencies for public-benefit projects. This requirement applies to both the lead applicant organisation and any consortium partners who will receive funding from RISE.

#### **4.6.2 Accounting requirements**

All grantees must keep accounting records. Organisations must have an accounting system that meets their respective national standards.

#### **4.6.3 Eligibility of expenditures**

Expenditures must be identifiable, verifiable and based on the final negotiated and approved budget. Grant recipients should be prepared to present documentation in the case of a financial audit. Expenditures must be detailed in accounting records, backed by supporting evidence (e.g. invoices, receipts, contracts, timesheets, etc.) and in accordance with the accounting standards of the country of registration of the recipient and its usual accounting practices. Expenditures must be reasonable, justified and in line with the principle of sound financial management.

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<sup>4</sup> See [USAID’s Collective Action to Reduce Gender Based Violence \(CARE-GBV\)](#) brief on self and collective care.



#### 4.6.4 Internal controls

Grantees are expected to have internal controls which are evidenced in processes, policies, manuals and guidelines that govern the main processes of the organisation, such as procurement, hiring of personnel, payments, prevention of conflicts of interest and accounting processes, among others.

#### 4.7 What RISE will not fund

The RISE grants challenge 2024 call for proposals will not fund interventions that:

- Violate in any way IUCN's policies or safeguards, (for example inability to demonstrate compliance with [zero-tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment policy](#));
- Are duplicative activities already fully funded and not explicitly co-funded;
- Centre around the provision of equipment, construction, land purchase, or building infrastructure;
- Centre around the procurement or provision of agricultural inputs, including the purchase and distribution of seeds, tree planting, purchase of agricultural equipment/inputs;
- Are strictly research focused;
- Resettle or displace any populations;
- Focus on a single component of the issue (e.g., standalone programmes that address gender-based violence that are not connected to access, use, control and management of natural resources);
- Interventions that address gender-based violence and/or environment linkages in siloes (e.g., gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and/or response activities that are not linked back to the environment and vice versa)
- Do not establish partnerships with relevant stakeholders (i.e., environmental organisations/groups, local/indigenous community groups, gender/GBV organisations and relevant experts);
- Include interventions that run a significant risk of exacerbating gender-based violence while improving environmental outcomes; harming environmental outcomes; or exacerbating both gender-based violence and environmental harm;
- Propose 'Integration into an existing program' approaches that do not have written support from their original underwriting organisation;
- Are affiliated with a political party or engaged in political parties or electoral interests/activities;
- Are focused solely on religious or faith-based activities; and/or
- Are to be implemented entirely or exclusively outside the eligible **geographies** included in section 4.1 and [annex 1](#) of this call for Proposals.

#### 4.8 Ineligible applicants

Please carefully note that the following organisations are not eligible for participating in this Call for Proposals as applicants or partners (but may be engaged as project stakeholders):

- Political parties, groupings, or institutions, or their subsidiaries or affiliates;
- Organisations that advocate, promote or engage in illegal activities or anti-democratic activities;
- Any entity that has been found to have misused IUCN, USAID or Norad funds in the past;
- Applicants whose staff include an individual currently employed by, or closely related (i.e. immediate family) to, an IUCN employee or an employee of one of the IUCN collaborators involved in the management of the RISE program or the AGENT program;
- IUCN Secretariat;
- Any government public entity or organisation, including publicly funded universities and other academic institutions; and/or
- Individuals.

## 5. RISE application and award process

The RISE grants challenge 2024 application and award process has the following six stages:

### 5.1 Stage 1 – Expression of Interest

#### 5.1.1 EOI application<sup>5</sup>

Expressions of interest must be written and submitted using the online application platform, available at <https://rise.smapply.io>. The application window opens on **May 10, 2024, at 12:00 am EST**. The EOI application package consists of:

- Application
- Proof of registration (lead applicant and partners)<sup>6</sup>
- RISE grants challenge declaration

The application form consists of specific questions for applicants to present the identified issue they plan to address, proposed activities, and partnerships. The application form will also include eligibility questions. For further guidance on the online application form, please refer to [Annex 2](#).

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<sup>5</sup> **Data protection.** IUCN takes data protection and management seriously and is committed to safeguarding and protecting Personal Data of private individuals. As such, the entirety of the RISE 2024 call for proposals, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

<sup>6</sup> Proof of registration of lead and partner applicants is required at this stage. Documents such as a copy of the registration document, the articles of association or articles of incorporation, but also other documents as applicable under the local regulations of the country of registration may serve as proof of existence and registration as a legal entity.

### 5.1.2 Language

The application system as well as forms and guidelines, are available in English, French and Spanish. Applicants can submit their EOIs in English, French or Spanish. Hand-written documents will not be accepted.

The primary working language for the RISE grants challenge and related trainings and cohort peer learning is English.

### 5.1.3 Questions and answers

Prospective applicants can submit questions and requests for clarifications via email to [RISE@iucn.org](mailto:RISE@iucn.org), **until May 17, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Frequently Asked Questions, submitted to the [RISE@iucn.org](mailto:RISE@iucn.org) email, will be available to the public on the official [RISE webpage](#) by May 22, 2024.

### 5.1.4 RISE grants challenge information webinar

A virtual webinar covering the purpose, eligibility criteria, EOI components and questions submitted through the [RISE@iucn.org](mailto:RISE@iucn.org) email will be held **on May 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. EST**. The webinar will be recorded and uploaded to the RISE grants challenge website.

### 5.1.5 Submission and deadline

The RISE EOI application window opens **May 10, 2024, at 12:00 am EST and closes June 7 2024, at 11:59 pm EST**. Please submit your EOI digitally via the [online application platform](#) no later than **June 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via the [RISE webpage](#). Be aware that:

- EOIs will not be accepted after the stated application window date and time;
- Modifications or changes will not be accepted after the application is submitted or after the submission deadline;
- EOIs sent by means other than the online application platform will not be accepted<sup>7</sup>;
- The applicant is solely responsible for any errors that occur in the EOI preparations and submission;
- PDF files or scanned documents included with your application need to be legible (make sure they are prior to submission and keep a copy of the application package for your files);
- All supporting documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an English translation;
- IUCN, USAID and Norad will not be responsible for any costs associated with the development and/or the submission of the EOI; and
- An organisation can submit an unlimited number of different EOIs under this call as lead applicant and/or co-applicant during the application window. Nonetheless, an organisation can only be awarded one grant as lead applicant.

## 5.2 Stage 2 – Eligibility screening

Applicants will undergo an initial eligibility screening to ensure they comply with the eligibility criteria included in section 4 of the call for proposals.

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<sup>7</sup> In the past, RISE has offered email submissions to those who cannot access SM Apply, however, as the RISE grants challenge team has found that all previous applicants were able to access SM Apply and has removed the option for email submissions to ease the management of EOIs.

The eligibility screening will be performed based on the application form and the supporting documents submitted as part of the application package. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the narrative included by the applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application.

During this step, the following criteria will be assessed:

- Whether the applicant and partners are each an eligible organisation;
- Whether the EOI is complete, i.e., contains all the information and attachments required under this call;
- Whether the proposed country(ies) of implementation is/are within the eligible geography(ies) for RISE as per the list included in [Annex 1](#);
- Whether the applicant or its partner(s) has a local presence in the country or countries proposed as an area of implementation;
- Whether the EOI is thematically responsive; and
- Whether the proposed activity is or is not among the interventions eligible for funding under RISE 2024 according to section 3 and 4 of this call for proposals.

Up to 25% of EOIs will be selected for the full proposal development stage based on overall eligibility and alignment with RISE grants challenge 2024 objectives.

### 5.3 Stage 3 – Limited invitation for technical proposal submission

Up to 25% of select EOIs will be requested to provide detailed technical proposals using a proposal template **by July 1, 2024**. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via the [RISE webpage](#).

#### 5.3.1 Application

The technical proposal application package must be written and submitted using the online application platform, available at <https://rise.smapply.io>. The application system and forms and guidelines are available in English, French and Spanish. Applicants must submit their proposals in English, French or Spanish. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. The technical proposal application package consists of:

- Technical Proposal
- RISE grants challenge declaration
- Budget
- Logframe
- Activity Plan
- Environmental and Social Management System assessment

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to complete the IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) screening questionnaire. The purpose of the IUCN ESMS is to provide a systematic procedure to anticipate potential adverse environmental and social impacts of IUCN projects and to ensure that these negative impacts are avoided or their effects are minimised as much as possible while positive effects are encouraged. All projects implemented by IUCN must adhere to the principles and standards of the ESMS; thus, RISE-supported projects must comply, with no exceptions.

### 5.3.2 Questions and answers

Applicants can send questions and requests for clarifications via email to [RISE@iucn.org](mailto:RISE@iucn.org) **from July 1 until July 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. All questions and answers will be summed and shared with all proposal applicants.

### 5.3.3 Submission and deadline

The RISE grants challenge technical proposal application window opens on July 1 and closes on July 31. Please submit your proposal package digitally via the [online application platform](#) **by July 31, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via email and the [RISE webpage](#). Be aware that:

- Applications will not be accepted after the stated application window date and time;
- Modifications or changes will not be accepted after the application is submitted or after the submission deadline;
- Applications sent by means other than the online application platform will not be accepted;
- The applicant is solely responsible for any errors that occur in the application preparations and submission;
- PDF files or scanned documents included with your application need to be legible (make sure they are prior to submission and keep a copy of the application package for your files);
- All supporting documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an English translation;
- IUCN, USAID and Norad will not be responsible for any costs associated with the development and/or the submission of the application; and
- An organisation can only be awarded one grant as lead applicant.

## 5.4 Stage 4 – Technical screening

Applicants will undergo a technical screening to ensure compliance and completion of all necessary documents for the technical proposal as outlined in section 5.3 of the call for proposals.

The screening will be based on the application form and supporting documents submitted. Missing documents, incomplete forms or inconsistencies between the applicants narrative and supporting documents may result in rejection.

The following criteria will be assessed:

- Completeness of the technical proposal application package
  - Including completeness of logframe, activity plan, budget (inclusive of partner budgets), and ESMS questionnaire
- Thematic responsiveness of the technical proposal
- Eligibility of the proposed activity under RISE 2024 guidelines

Up to 12 applications will be longlisted for review and scoring by the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) based on the criteria outlined in section 5.5 of the call for proposals.

## 5.5 Stage 5 – Technical evaluation and finalist interview

The proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC). Each application will have the same judges, at least three, TEC reviewers that will assess each of the proposals against the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	%
<b>1. Contextual Information</b>	
<p><b>Problem identified by the applicant (relevance)</b> Under this criterion, the problem proposed by the applicant and the extent to which it is relevant to the technical context and problem proposed in the RISE grants challenge call for proposals are evaluated.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the problem described in the call for Proposals.</li> <li>● Provide sufficient information about the identified problem, the context in which it occurs, the ways in which it manifests itself, how it affects a specific population, identified causes, including data, identification of the specific area and population, as well as all relevant information. Please refrain from only describing general national and/or global information and data — please focus on how gender-based violence is directly linked with environmental sectors, issues and/or themes within the context of where your proposal is based from and include locally relevant data and/or examples wherever possible.</li> <li>● Demonstrate why the identified problem is relevant and important to be considered under RISE.</li> <li>● Demonstrate a clear understanding of the linkages between gender-based violence and environment issues in the identified problem.</li> </ul>	20
<b>2. Proposed intervention</b>	
<p><b>a. Strategy(ies) description</b> This criterion evaluates the extent to which the proposed strategy addresses the identified problem and represents a promising opportunity for the achievement of the objectives pursued by this edition of the RISE grants challenge.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Describe in detail what the solution consists of, whether it is a best practice, strategy, tool, etc., and how it draws on, adapts to and/or contributes to proven or promising strategies to address gender-based violence in the proposed environment-focused sector and geography.</li> <li>● Provide sufficient context-based justification and evidence to substantiate feasibility, how the proposed strategy has great potential to address the specific identified problem in the specific context (i.e. research, metrics for environmental and social impact).</li> <li>● Clearly identify the country or countries and specific location of the proposed activity and provide the reasons why a particular geography has been selected.</li> <li>● Indicate how many women and men will directly and indirectly benefit from this project (i.e. engaged as agents of change, stakeholders and/or rightsholders).</li> <li>● Clearly state what can be achieved with the requested RISE resources.</li> </ul>	20

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you were previously a recipient of a RISE grant, specifically articulate how another grant builds on the learnings and results of the first.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>b. Theory of change</b> This criterion evaluates the theory of change and the extent to which the set of outcomes, outputs and activities align with the strategy(ies) and contribute to address the identified problem.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Describe in a clear and schematic way the theory of change and describe how the main project outcomes, outputs and activities will lead to the intended result</p>	10
<p><b>3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning</b></p>	
<p><b>a. Monitoring, evaluation and learning</b> This criterion evaluates the manner in which progress will be measured and evaluated to fill knowledge gaps on promising practices, strategies and tools.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminarily indicate how progress will be measured and evaluated, including data collection methods for baseline and endline data collection.</li> <li>Explain how data collection and information will support knowledge and learning at multiple levels (e.g., at local, national and international levels and/or contributing to the knowledge and learning of the GBV-ENV Center via RISE and GBV-ENV Center knowledge products and communications activities).</li> <li>Indicate the potential for activities to contribute to RISE grants challenge indicators</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>b. Safeguards</b> This criterion evaluates the safeguards the project will incorporate and adhere to throughout project implementation to ensure do no harm.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the proposed project grievance and redress mechanism and how complaints and feedback will be monitored and resolved</li> <li>Describe the safeguards the project will incorporate to ensure do no harm, including relevant organisational policies that will be adhered to.</li> <li>Describe the organisations Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) policies, and/or incorporate activities to develop PSEAH policies that comply with the IUCN PSEAH Policy</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>4. Sustainability, scalability and replicability</b></p>	
<p><b>a. Gender-based violence</b> This criterion evaluates which type(s) of approaches to address gender-based violence will be implemented and the extent to which they will support long-term goals to prevent, mitigate and/or respond to gender-based violence and environment linkages.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Clearly define how the strategy(ies) will contribute to gender-based violence prevention, response and/or risk mitigation.</p>	10
<p><b>b. National policies and strategies</b></p>	5

<p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which national policies and government-supported strategies creates an enabling environment and opportunities for the proposed project strategies and activities.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Clearly identify national policies and strategies that will support and contribute to project activities.</p>	
<p><b>5. Partnerships and collaborations</b></p>	
<p><b>a. Partnership and experience</b></p> <p>Under this criterion, the capacity and experience of the proposed team is evaluated, as well as the relevant technical experience of the applicant organisation and its partners, in relation to the proposed solution and the capacity to implement it.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe relevant technical expertise of the applicant organisation and its partners and how it contributes to the proposed activities (added value).</li> <li>Include names, roles and a brief summary of experience of key personnel.</li> <li>Describe previous/current experience working in the specific geography.</li> <li>Identify any institutional and capacity needs to ensure the success of the strategy(ies) and any plans to address them.</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>b. Other stakeholders and actors</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the applicant involves other cross-sector actors in the proposed strategy.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify other stakeholders and actors that can influence, support, collaborate with the activity and those with whom it will coordinate for the proper development of the activity.</li> <li>Describe how the applicant will foster meaningful partnerships, collaboration or alliances between environmental, those with expertise on addressing GBV, Indigenous Peoples and/or community-based organisations, networks or decision-makers (identified actors) in favour of the proposed strategy</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>c. Community-driven interventions</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which the strategy is community-driven, rights-based, participatory and inclusive and upholds a <a href="#">survivor-centred</a> and trauma-informed approach.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how survivors, community activists, leaders, etc., in particular, are involved and contributing to project design and implementation.</li> <li>Explain how the proposed activity would involve the target population (rightsholders) but also other populations that may be impacted, with an emphasis on most marginalised and at-risk populations.</li> <li>Describe how the target population participates and contributes to these interventions, including the possibilities for local and community ownership of the solution.</li> </ul>	10
<p><b>6. Self and collective care</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">Self and collective care</a></p>	5



<p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which the applicant incorporates structures or frameworks to strengthen broader efforts to support staff, such as spaces for learning and discussing stress and trauma or flexible work arrangements and leave policies for mental health as a part of their proposals</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the lead and partner organisations will incorporate frameworks and structures to support staff.</li> <li>Describe the exact types of support that will be available for staff by all implementing organisations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Budgets, logframes, activity plans and the environmental and social management system (ESMS) assessment will be analysed for its correspondence to the technical proposal, including the reasonableness of the costs included, the optimisation in the use of resources, environmental and social impacts and gender responsiveness. See [Annex 3](#) for budget form guidance. Budget, logframe, and activities adjustments can be negotiated during the due diligence process. The ESMS form will be finalised during the due diligence process.

Up to eight shortlisted applications will be invited to participate in a virtual interview with IUCN. The purpose of the interview is to complement the evaluation carried out by the Technical Evaluation Committee and is an opportunity to go deeper into relevant aspects of the proposal.

### 5.6 Stage 6 – Due diligence process

Finalists will be asked to participate in a due diligence process which requires the applicant to complete IUCN’s Due Diligence Questionnaire, participate in a due diligence calls, submit required documentation, and revise proposal documents based on feedback and comments.

With no exception, the final selection is conditional on a successful due diligence process. Based on source of funds, additional requirements for applicants will be communicated during the due diligence process.

During the due diligence stage:

- Administrative, operational and financial capacity of the selected finalist is assessed;
- Environmental and social management system assessments are assessed and finalised;
- Detailed review and final negotiation of the proposal, budget, logframe, and activity plan is performed; and
- Compliance with all administrative requirements is verified.

IUCN’s Due Diligence Questionnaire and assessment covers some of the following topics:

- Legal registration as applicable in the country of incorporation (lead and partners);
- Legal right or authorisation to work in the target country/countries, if applicable;
- Governance structure, including names of governing body members, managers and key personnel;

- CVs of key staff, if applicable;
- References of past performance;
- Bank Account information;
- Tax ID Number;
- Articles of Incorporation;
- Annual budget (last completed year, current year);
- Publications, if any;
- Administration, accounting and control procedures;
- Procurement practices for purchasing goods, works and services;
- Sources of revenues, if/when applicable;
- Audited financial statements for most recently completed fiscal year, if any;
- Current auditing arrangements or equivalent (tax documents), if any;
- Environmental and social safeguard policies, if any;
- Written support of initial donor(s) (if applying to RISE to support existing activities) and implementing partners, if applicable.

At the due diligence stage, all documents in a language other than English should be accompanied by an English translation.

### 5.7 Stage 7 – Selection of awardees

**Award decision:** Based on the technical evaluation, the interview and the successful completion of the due diligence process, IUCN will select the winners for funding. All decisions will be final.

**Communication of results:** All applicants will be informed in writing via email, about the results of the evaluation of their proposals.

## 6. Awards under RISE

Awards made under this call for proposals will be cost-reimbursement grants. All grants, if any, are subject to the availability of funds. Funds will only cover expenditures necessary to implement the project. The payment schedule will include an initial instalment, quarterly payments and a final instalment, based on acceptable cash flow projection indicating cash on hand and anticipated expenses for the upcoming quarter. The specific amounts and timelines will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis (please refer to [Annex 4](#), for a sample grant agreement for further information).

Grants agreements will also include financial and progress reporting activities, the development of a monitoring, evaluation and learning plan, communications materials, among other requirements.

Grantees will participate in a community of learning, contributing regularly to mutual learning calls, knowledge products and community of practice.

Based on the due diligence process some requirements and conditions may or may not be included in the grant agreement.

## 6.1 Funding information

RISE has planned up to USD 1,800,000 to award in 2024. Depending on the number of high-quality applications, RISE reserves the right to allocate more or less to grants during this period.

RISE seeks to fund up to six projects in the range of USD 100,000 - USD 400,000 each.

Please note that the final amount arises from a technical review and negotiation process and will correspond to the final negotiated size, scale and duration.

## 6.2 Cost-share

Co-finance is not mandatory but encouraged.

## 6.3 Period of implementation

All activities under RISE should conclude by 31 December 2026 and have an implementation period of 18- 24 months.

# 7. Annexes

[Annex 1](#) - Eligible countries in 2024

[Annex 2](#) - Application form guidance

[Annex 3](#) - Budget form guidance

[Annex 4](#) - Sample grant agreement

## Annex 1. Eligible countries in 2024

Brazil	Indonesia	Philippines
Colombia	Kenya	Thailand
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Madagascar	United Republic of Tanzania
Ecuador	Mexico	Vietnam
Ghana	Mozambique	Zambia
Guatemala	Papua New Guinea	
	Peru	

The RISE grants challenge will also accept non-area based applications focused on global-level policy to address gender-based violence in environment programming.

## Annex 2. Online application form guidance

This annex provides guidance for applicants on how to apply to the RISE grants challenge via the SM Apply platform.

- The first thing to do is to enter the online application platform at this link:  
<https://rise.smapply.io>
- The system requires a username and password so if you are entering for the first time you must go to the REGISTER button. The system will ask you for some data and will take you step by step.
- You will be a user of the platform, and you will be able to log in, save, go back, review and edit until you submit your application.
- You will be able to give access to other users within your organisation or your partnering organisation as collaborators, who will also be able to access the content of your application and edit/review it before submission.
- Once you have clicked the SUBMIT button you will no longer be able to make changes to your application.
- The Expression of Interest application process comprises 6 sections, as follows:
  1. Download necessary forms and templates
  2. Acknowledgments
  3. Lead applicant contact information
  4. Lead applicant basic Information
  5. Applicant eligibility
  6. Technical Expression of Interest
  7. Upload proof of registration for all partnered organisations
  8. Upload RISE grants challenge declaration
- The first task, “Download necessary forms and templates” includes all the templates and forms that you need to download, fill in and upload at the end.
- Sections 2 to 6 contain a series of questions and spaces for you to complete. At the end of each section, you will be able to mark the task as COMPLETE. The system will indicate if there are any errors or missing items. In the left panel of the platform,

you will be able to see your task as complete. **It is highly recommended that you complete the tasks in the order established in the application.** You can always go back to previous tasks and edit them before submitting your application.

- In section 7-8, the system will require you to upload the proof of registration of the lead applicant and partners. Proof of registration of the lead applicant and partners is required at this stage. The system will also require you to upload a signed copy of the RISE grants challenge declaration form that you can download from task 1 in English, Spanish or French.
- Applicants should keep a copy of the online application for their own records.
- Questions related to the application platform use can be directed to SM Apply.
  
- The technical proposal application process comprises eight tasks, as follows:
  1. Download necessary forms and templates
  2. Acknowledgements
  3. Technical proposal
  4. Upload RISE grants challenge declaration
  5. Upload budget, ensuring each partner organisation receives an equitable share of the budget and includes partner budget(s) in the RISE partner budget tabs within the budget template. Failure to include budgets for each identified partner will result in a disqualified application.
  6. Upload activity plan
  7. Upload logframe
  8. Upload ESMS form
  
- The first task, “Download necessary forms and templates,” includes all the templates and forms that you need to download, fill in and upload at the end (tasks 4-8).
- Tasks 2 and 3 contain a series of questions and spaces for you to complete. At the end of each section, you will be able to mark the task as COMPLETE. The system will indicate if there are any errors or missing items. In the left panel of the platform, you will be able to see your task as complete. **It is highly recommended that you complete the tasks in the order established in the application.** You can always go back to previous tasks and edit them before submitting your application.
- Tasks 4-8 require uploading the RISE grants challenge declaration, budget, activity plan, logframe and ESMS forms.
- Applicants should keep a copy of the online application for their own records.
- Questions related to the application platform use can be directed to SM Apply.

### **Annex 3. Budget form guidance**

The cost proposal must be expressed in the budget form available to download from the application platform.

The budget must be accompanied by explanatory budget notes which must be included in the "Budget Notes" column.

Each partner organization should receive a share of the budget and must include their budget in the RISE partner budget tabs within the budget template. Failure to include budgets for each identified partner will result in a disqualified application.

Any costs proposed under this open call for proposals must be reasonable, allocable and allowable. This means asking yourself for each line item: what do I want to pay here? Do I really need it? Is the unit cost in line with the local market? Whoever reviews this budget will understand it? Please consider the following specific rules:

Each cost must be:

- Necessary for the implementation of the proposed project activities;
- Reasonable and justified in accordance with the good and prudent exercise of the best and most efficient use of money, cost realism and cost-effectiveness;
- Incurred during the approved lifetime of the grant agreement (costs incurred before the official starting date of the project or after the official end date of the project are not acceptable);
- Compliant with local laws and applicant's procurement policies or guidelines if any; and
- Realistic and in line with market prices. To this end, applicants are advised to base their estimates on actual current or recent supporting documentation and/or cost experience like paystubs, quotations<sup>8</sup>, etc. Recent paid invoices can also be used as realistic cost reference.

Other instructions:

- Supporting documentation may be requested to pre-selected applicants on the due diligence process, to justify proposed costs.
- The budget must be in US dollars and, if applicable, in the local currency. Applicants must clearly indicate the exchange rate used from local currency to US dollars at the bottom of the budget form.
- No fee or profit is allowed under this call of proposals.
- Not eligible under this call: credit costs, luxuries, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceutical materials, procurement of land, exchange rate losses, loans, credits in favour of third parties, debts or interests, payments for lawsuits, claims, fines, contingencies, among others.
- No lump sums are allowed in the budget. Therefore, costs should be disaggregated from the beginning to facilitate budget analysis.

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<sup>8</sup> (Quotations obtained online are also useful)

IUCN will conduct a review of the budget and request justification, explanation, corrections and changes where appropriate.

#### **Annex 4. Sample grant agreement**

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THIS AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND FINAL APPROVAL. FOR PRELIMINARY REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

\*\*\*

### **GRANTEE AGREEMENT**

(the "Agreement")

between

IUCN, INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, an international association established and existing under the laws of Switzerland, with World Headquarters located at Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland, operating in the U.S. through its North America Office with its offices at 1630 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009 (hereinafter "IUCN")

and

[INSERT FULL LEGAL CORPORATE NAME OF THE OTHER PARTY] established and existing under the laws of [name of country], with [headquarters/offices] located at [full office address] (hereinafter the "Grantee")

IUCN and the Grantee shall be referred to herein each as a "Party" and together as the "Parties".

#### **PREAMBLE**

Whereas the mission of IUCN is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable;

Whereas IUCN has received a donation from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) (hereafter the "Donor") for the implementation of on Advancing Gender in the Environment's (AGENT) project;

Whereas Research from IUCN conducted under its partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Advancing Gender in the Environment's (AGENT) Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages Center (GBV-ENV Center) shows that gender-based violence and environment (GBV-ENV) issues are interlinked and require focused attention and action. The RISE (Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments) grants challenge is a direct response to this need. In its 2024 phase, the RISE grants challenge will support strategies to address GBV in environment-related programming and projects, toward improved rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive conservation, climate action and sustainable development.

Whereas IUCN has selected the Grantee for implementation of [project title];

And Whereas the Grantee is willing to accept the obligations set forth hereunder and acknowledges that any continuation of this Agreement and any payment are subject to the availability of Donor funds;

Now therefore the Parties agree as follows:

## **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is the implementation by the Grantee of the [Project Title] (the "Project") which is described in more detail in the Project Document attached to this Agreement as Annex 1.

## **2. TERM**

This Agreement shall come into effect on the date of signature by both Parties (the "Effective Date") and shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2026 (the "Expiration Date"), unless terminated or extended in accordance with articles 17 and 20.5 below, respectively.

## **3. TASKS AND DELIVERABLES**

Tasks to be performed and/or deliverables to be delivered by the Grantee (hereafter the "Tasks" and "Deliverables"), together with the relevant schedule for their completion and delivery, are set out in Project Document and Technical Deliverable attached to this Agreement as Annex 1 and Annex 2.

## **4. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

4.1 The budget for this Agreement is set forth in the Project Budget attached as Annex 2 to this Agreement (the "Budget"). The Budget Funds (as defined under article 4.2 below) shall only be used to cover the expenditures which are necessary to achieve the objectives of the Project.



4.2 Subject to the receipt of funding by the Donor, IUCN shall pay to the Grantee a maximum total amount of USD xx [US Dollars xx] (the “Budget Funds”) for expenditures in accordance with the Budget and incurred on or prior to the Expiration Date.

4.3 Any expenditure over and above the Budget Funds shall not be reimbursed or otherwise covered by IUCN. If resources additional to the Budget Funds are made available to the Grantee for the same purpose from any other source, the Grantee shall immediately inform IUCN in writing.

4.4 IUCN shall make the following payments:

#### 4.4.1 Initial Instalment

An Initial Instalment of USD xx [US Dollars xx] upon signature of this Agreement by both Parties and submission of an advance payment request. The amount of the Initial Instalment should be sufficient to cover the first reporting quarter in accordance with article 7.3.2.i.

#### 4.4.2 Quarterly Payments

Quarterly payments thereafter on the basis of an acceptable cash flow projection indicating cash on hand and anticipated expenses for the upcoming quarter, subject to article 4.4.3. Cash flow projections shall be submitted along with Financial Progress Reports as specified by article 7.3.2.i. 80% of previous payment must be spent for the release of next grant payment

#### 4.4.3 Final Instalment

A Final Instalment equal to no less than ten percent (10%) of the Budget shall be withheld until the Grantee’s delivery and IUCN’s written acceptance of the Final Financial Report (7.3.2.ii) and the Final Technical Report (7.3.1.iii)

4.5 IUCN shall make payments to the Grantee’s bank account as follows:

Complete Account name: [xxx]

Account type and currency: [xxx]

Bank name: [xxx]

Bank address: [xxx]

Account No.: [xxx]

SWIFT Code or other bank routing code: [xxx]

IBAN No: [xxx]

[if there is an international correspondent bank, the same information must be provided for that bank as well].

4.6 The Grantee shall bear any bank charges associated with any transfer of funds that IUCN may make hereunder. The Grantee must exercise prudent management of Budget Funds by drawing only those funds that are required for current use. The timing and the amount of the drawdown must be as close as is administratively possible to the actual disbursements by the Grantee for direct Project or activity costs and the proportionate share of allowable indirect costs.

4.7 Funds (including any interests thereon) that remain unused at the Expiration Date or termination date of this Agreement must be returned to IUCN within sixty (60) days following either of such dates, as applicable and Grantee shall reimburse IUCN for any disallowed expenditures.

4.8 All expenditures shall be reported in accordance with the Budget as provided for under this Agreement. It shall be under Grantee's responsibility to report any ineligible expenditure that the Grantee might have noticed and to return the corresponding funds to IUCN.

4.9 Any re-allocation of funds between/amongst Budget lines, exceeding 10% within a budget line, will be permitted only upon IUCN's prior written approval, to be given in each instance at IUCN's sole discretion.

4.10 Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, the Grantee shall maintain all financial records pertaining to this Agreement for a period of ten (10) years.

4.11 The Grantee is responsible for the payment of all taxes, as required by law, which may arise from or in connection with this Agreement. Only taxes incurred for the performance of this Agreement that cannot be reclaimed by the Grantee will be accepted as eligible costs.

4.12 The Grantee shall ensure that the financial reports as defined under article 7.3.2 are easily reconciled to the accounting and bookkeeping systems and to the underlying accounting and other relevant records. For this purpose the Grantee shall prepare and keep appropriate reconciliations, supporting schedules, analyses and breakdowns for inspection and verification. These reconciliations should be updated at minimum on a quarterly basis.

4.13 All Budget Funds provided under this Grant in USD that are exchanged to local currency must be exchanged at the best available rate through the channels authorised by applicable laws and regulations. Transactions must be verified through bank receipts or other documents or publications sufficient to demonstrate the legality of such transactions.

4.14 The Grantee must use the Budget Funds provided by IUCN for costs incurred in carrying out the purposes of this Agreement which are reasonable, allocable and allowable.

(1) “Reasonable” means the costs do not exceed those that would ordinarily be incurred by a prudent person in the conduct of normal business.

(2) “Allocable” means the costs are necessary to the performance of this Agreement.

(3) “Allowable” means the costs are reasonable and allocable and conform to any limitations set forth in this Agreement.

The recipient is encouraged to obtain IUCN’s written determination in advance whenever the Grantee is uncertain as to whether a cost will be allowable.

## **5. PROCUREMENT, TRAVEL AND SUBCONTRACTING**

5.1 All procurement of goods, materials and equipment, if any, under this Agreement shall be made in accordance with IUCN’s Procurement Policy and Procedure for Grant Recipients attached to this Agreement as Annex 5.

5.2 Selection and engagement of sub-grantees to work under this Agreement shall be done by the Grantee up to a limit of fifty thousand US dollars (USD 50,000) (or equivalent in any other currency), with the exception for co-applicants named in the grant proposal. Purchases of goods and services with a cost in excess of fifty thousand US dollars (USD 50,000) are only allowed with separate written authorisation from the relevant IUCN Project manager, as detailed in section 3.d of IUCN’s Procurement Policy and Procedure for Grant Recipients.

5.3 Travel shall only be undertaken when necessary, further IUCN’s prior written approval and by the most cost effective means. Air travel must be by economy class with the following exception: economy plus or premium economy class, where offered by the airline, is allowed for the total flying time of over eight (8) hours. Reasonably priced, mid-range hotels, in a safe location, should be used where possible.

5.4 Grantee shall ensure that its sub grantees will comply with all terms of this Agreement.

## **6. OWNERSHIP OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

Any and all equipment, supplies, materials and other property purchased with the Budget Funds provided under this Agreement shall remain IUCN’s property at any time and shall be retained, returned or disposed of as decided and advised in writing by IUCN at the expiration or termination of the Agreement. The Grantee shall maintain an inventory of all such equipment, supplies, materials and other property with an individual cost of five hundred US dollars (USD 500) or over and submit a signed copy of the inventory to IUCN with the final financial report, or promptly at any time upon IUCN’s request, or upon expiration or termination of the Agreement.

## **7. COMMUNICATION, REPORTING AND AUDIT**

7.1 All correspondence in connection with the implementation of this Agreement (excluding notices as per article 17 below) must be directed as follows:

Name	Name
Title	Title
[Name of counterpart ]	[Name of counterpart ]
Address	Address
Phone	Phone
Fax	Fax
Email	Email

7.2 The Grantee shall promptly inform IUCN of any event or matter of which it becomes aware that, in its opinion, is likely to materially affect or interfere with or seriously hinder or impair its ability to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement.

7.3 Reporting requirements of the Grantee are as follows and should be consistent with the reporting format specified by IUCN:

7.3.1 Technical Reporting

i. Quarterly Technical Report

The Grantee shall submit Quarterly Technical Reports to IUCN within fifteen (15) days following the end of each calendar quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31) for the preceding three (3) months, in the format specified by IUCN in Annex 6. The Quarterly Technical Report shall include the status of activities, outputs delivered, results/impacts achieved and an assessment of whether the Project is being implemented

in accordance with the agreed Project Implementation Plan and the Project Budget, a description of any obstacles to full and timely implementation of the Project, and, where applicable, any changes to potential risks as outlined in the final ESMS Screening Questionnaire

ii. Annual Technical Report

The Grantee shall submit an Annual Technical Report within forty-five (45) days following the end of the first calendar year (31 December 2024) for the preceding twelve (12) months in the format specified by IUCN. The Annual Technical report shall include the status of outputs delivered, results\impacts achieved, an assessment of whether the Project is being implemented in accordance with the agreed Project Implementation Plan and the Project Budget, a description of any obstacles to fully and timely implementation of the Project, and, where applicable, any changes to potential risks as outlined in the final ESMS Screening Questionnaire.

iii. Final Technical Report

The Grantee shall submit a Final Technical Report within sixty (60) days following the expiration or termination of this Agreement in the format specified by IUCN.

Final report shall, as a minimum, include:

- a) the items listed for the progress reports described in article 7 covering the entire Support Period;
- b) an assessment of the Project's effect on society (Impact);
- c) a description of the main lessons learned from the Project;
- d) an assessment of the sustainability of the results achieved by the Project.

### 7.3.2 Financial Reporting

i. Financial Progress Reports. The Grantee shall submit Financial Progress Reports within twenty (20) days following the end of each calendar quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31) in the format specified by IUCN in Annex 7.

li. Annual Financial Report. The Grantee shall submit a Financial Report covering the period from January to December for approval by the end of February each year iii.

Final Financial Report. The Grantee shall submit a Final Financial Report including an independent audit report within sixty (60) days following the expiration or termination of this Agreement. This report shall be submitted in the format specified by IUCN.

The Financial reports shall comprise financial statements with a comparison to the latest approved budget for the reporting period, as well as explanation of any deviation from the Budget. It shall be certified by Chief Finance Officer.

The financial statements shall be set up in a way that allows for direct comparison with the latest approved Budget, using the same currency and budget line items.

7.4 The Grantee shall maintain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records and all other records relevant to the Project in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles to sufficiently substantiate all direct and indirect costs of whatever nature involving transactions related to the Budget Funds provided by IUCN under this Agreement.

7.5 All financial records and other relevant documents relevant to or pertaining to this Agreement may be subject to inspection and/or audit at the discretion of IUCN or of the Donor. The Grantee agrees to allow IUCN or Donor's auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. In the event of inspection or audit, IUCN or Donor shall provide the Grantee reasonable prior written notice. Further, the Grantee agrees to include a similar right of IUCN or the Donor to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this Agreement.

7.6 An audit is considered independent if the auditors are determined by the Donor's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to be independent in accordance with the standards established in International Auditing Standard (IAS/IFAC) Section 290, "Independence – Audit and Review Engagements," (<http://www.iasplus.com/ifac/0707ethicsed.pdf>) International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA). For recipients for which the CFO determined in its pre-award audit the recipient's internal auditors meet the tests of independence in accordance with IAS standards and for recipients that are Category 1 PIOs, internal auditors may be used to satisfy the audit requirement. For recipients for which the CFO determined in its pre-award audit that the recipient's internal auditors do not meet the tests of independence, the recipient will be required to engage an independent audit firm to satisfy the audit requirement. All auditors must be considered competent under International Education Standard (IES) 8, "Competence Requirements for Audit," (<http://www.iasplus.com/ifac/0504educationies8.pdf>) International Federation of Accountants.

7.7 If any audit by IUCN or the Donor reveals that expenditures incurred by the Grantee are not consistent with the terms of this Agreement, IUCN shall be entitled to recover all such expenditures.

## **8. PROPERTY OF RESULTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **8.1 Property of results**

8.1.1 All notes, computer disks and tapes, memoranda, correspondence, records, documents, data, datasets, graphic, audio and visual materials and other tangible items made, used or held by the Grantee in the course of implementation of this Agreement (the “Results”) will be and remain at all times the property of IUCN. At any time, even after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, the Grantee shall, upon request, promptly deliver to IUCN all such tangible items which are in his possession or under his control and relate to IUCN and he may not make or retain copies.

8.1.2 The Grantee shall, when providing the Tasks and/or Deliverables relating to Intellectual Property, keep appropriate and sufficient invention records in a form agreed with IUCN.

## 8.2 Intellectual Property rights

8.2.1 Intellectual Property rights are any and all rights and prerogatives, registered or not, arising from the Swiss and international legislation on the protection of notably patents, design, trademark, as well as know-how and trade secrets.

8.2.2 Pre-existing Intellectual Property (Pre-existing Rights”) of a Party means any rights, title and interests in, to and under any and Intellectual Property that have been conceived or developed by such Party prior to the Effective Date or that is conceived or developed by such a Party at any time wholly independently of the implementation of this Agreement. Subject to the rights and licenses expressly granted under this Agreement, each Party shall retain ownership of its Pre-existing Rights. The Grantee hereby grants to IUCN a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, royalty free, sub-licensable license to use Pre-existing Rights incorporated in the Results. The Grantee shall ensure that it has obtained all the rights to use any background Intellectual Property rights belonging to third parties that are necessary to implement this Agreement.

8.2.3 All Intellectual Property rights, including copyright, in the Results produced under this Agreement are vested in IUCN and the Grantee hereby assigns and agrees to assign to IUCN, with full title guarantee, all rights in and to any Intellectual Property resulting from the implementation of this Agreement for the full duration of such rights, including, without any limitations, the right to use, publish, license, translate, sell or distribute, privately or publicly, any item or part thereof wherever in the world enforceable.

8.2.4 IUCN will grant to the Grantee a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, educational and non-commercial license to use the Intellectual Property rights generated during the term of this Agreement.

8.2.5 To the full extent permitted by law, the Grantee waives moral rights arising from and as a result of the implementation of this Agreement.

## 8.3 Acknowledgements

8.3.1 The Grantee represents and warrants that it has all the necessary rights, licences or authorisations enabling him to perform this Agreement including but not limited to the right to provide the Work to IUCN for all the purposes provided for under the Agreement.

8.3.2 In addition to the Results and Deliverables, all other events and outputs in connection with this Agreement shall acknowledge the support from IUCN and the Donor.8.4 Notwithstanding article 8.3.2 above, use of IUCN's name and logo for any purpose in connection with this Agreement requires prior written approval from IUCN in each instance of use and shall always conform to IUCN's Brand Book to be provided by IUCN to the Grantee further signature of this Agreement by both Parties.

8.5 If the Grantee intends to identify USAID's contribution to any publication, video, or other information/media product resulting from the performance of the Agreement, the product must state that the views expressed by the author(s) do not necessary reflect those of USAID. Acknowledgements must identify the sponsoring USAID Bureau/Independent Office or Mission and the U.S. Agency for International Development substantially as follows.

"This [publication, video, or other information/media product (specify) was made possible through the support provided by the Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub, Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No. AID-EGEE-IO-13-00004. The opinions expressed in this [publication, video, or other information/media product] are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development."

8.6 The Grantee must provide IUCN and the Donor with two (2) copies of all published works developed under the Agreement and with lists of other written works produced under the Agreement.

8.7 The Grantee shall indemnify IUCN from and against any and all claims, suits, liabilities, injuries, loss, damages or expenses (including reasonable legal fees) arising out of the Grantee's infringement or violation, or allegations thereof, of any third party's intellectual property rights in connection with this Agreement.

8.8 As a condition of receipt of the Budget Funds, branding and marking with the USAID's Identity (as shown in Annex 4) of a size and prominence equivalent to or greater than IUCN's, Grantee's, or other donor's or third party's is required. In the event IUCN chooses not to require marking with its own identity or logo by the Grantee, USAID may, at its discretion, require marking by the Grantee with the USAID Identity.

## **9. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

9.1 "Confidential Information" means any and all tangible or intangible information, privileged or proprietary information or trade secrets given to one Party by or on behalf of



the other Party and explicitly designated, either orally or in writing, as confidential, either at the time of disclosure or, if disclosed orally, confirmed in writing within thirty (30) days following the original disclosure, including, without limitation:

9.1.1 Customer lists, services, products, manuals, business methods and practices;

9.1.2 Proprietary software, hardware, firmware and documentation owned by either Party, or owned by third parties but developed, produced or distributed by either Party subject to relevant licences;

9.1.3 Processes, prices, profits, contract terms and operating procedures, and compilations of data or information.

9.2 Either Party shall keep confidential and not disclose to any third party any Confidential Information of the other Party.

9.3 The Confidential Information shall remain the property of the disclosing Party, and the receiving Party agrees to use it only for the purpose of performing its obligations under this Agreement.

9.4 Confidential Information as defined in this article 9 shall not include information which:

9.4.1 Was in the public domain at the time of its receipt by the receiving Party;

9.4.2 Was at the time of its receipt already in the receiving Party's possession or known to the receiving Party and not qualified as Confidential Information;

9.4.3 Becomes part of the public domain after its receipt by the receiving Party, but not through a breach of this Agreement by the receiving Party or the receiving Party's employees; or

9.4.4 Is rightfully given to the receiving Party by a third party on a non-confidential basis.

9.5 The receiving Party shall disclose the other Party's Confidential Information only to those of its employees or independent Grantees who are directly and necessarily involved in the performance of this Agreement and who are bound to the receiving Party by obligations no less stringent as the ones mentioned in this Agreement. The receiving Party is responsible for ensuring that there is no breach of such confidentiality obligations by any such employees or independent Grantees.

9.6 Notwithstanding the above requirements, IUCN shall have the right to publish the following information in the IUCN Open Project Portal (Portal) as well as on the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Registry: a) Project name, description and objectives; b) Project total budget and timeline; c) Donor name; d) Implementing partner(s); e) Recipient country; f) Project contribution to IUCN programme targets and SDGs and g) Annual budget

and expenditures. In a second phase, the Portal will disclose additional information as follows: a) Project results; b) Procurement of goods and services; c) Social and environmental safeguards. For the avoidance of doubt, this Agreement and/or subsequent agreements entered into between the Parties will not be publicly shared.

## **10. INDEMNIFICATION**

10.1 IUCN shall not be held liable and accepts no liability for any damage caused or sustained by the Grantee, including any damage caused to its employees and / or third parties as a consequence of or during the implementation of the project or the implementation of the present Agreement.

10.2 The Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless IUCN, and its employees, agents or subGrantees, from all suits, claims, demands, prosecution, liability of any nature or kind whether in contract, tort or otherwise, and costs and expenses (including legal fees), arising out of or in connection with the Grantee's actions or omissions or those of its employees, agents, officers, directors or subGrantees, in the performance of this Agreement. Such indemnity shall not lapse on expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## **11. INSURANCE**

11.1 The Grantee shall procure and maintain, until all of its obligations under this Agreement are satisfied, insurance against claims for injury to persons or damage to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Grantee, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors. The insurance shall cover at least general commercial liability, business automobile liability, workers' compensation and employer liability. The insurance requirements herein are minimum requirements for this Agreement and in no way limit the indemnity covenants contained in this Agreement. IUCN in no way warrants that such insurance is sufficient to protect the Grantee from liabilities that might arise out of the performance of this Agreement by the Grantee, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors, and the Grantee is free to purchase additional insurance.

11.2 Written proof, satisfactory to IUCN, of the Grantee's compliance with requirements of article 11.1, shall be promptly furnished to IUCN upon IUCN's request.

## **12. ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

12.1 IUCN has developed and applies an environment and social management system ("ESMS") which guides all projects implemented and supported by IUCN. The purpose of the ESMS is to systematically screen projects on potential environmental and social risks and identify ways to avoid, minimise or mitigate them while enhancing positive impacts.

12.2 In the context of implementation of the Project, the Grantee shall abide by the ESMS Standards and Principles available at

<https://www.iucn.org/resources/project-management-tools/environmental-and-social-management-system> which by signing this Agreement, the Grantee confirms it has reviewed and accepted and shall comply with any specific requirements resulting from ESMS screening and assessments, including, as relevant, measures to manage environmental and social risks and impacts, information disclosure, stakeholder engagement and grievance redress. Where the indigenous peoples standards is triggered the Grantee shall comply with the measures to implement this Policy specified in the ESMS screening and clearance report, including, as relevant, free, prior and informed consent, meaningful consultation, information disclosure, stakeholder engagement and grievance redress.

### **13. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND POLICY ON THE PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (SEAH POLICY)**

13.1 IUCN recommends the Grantee to apply non-discriminatory practices in terms of benefits and remuneration for both men and women employees in the performance of this Agreement.

13.2 The Grantee will comply with the principles and standards of protection equivalent to those set out in the Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Policy available at [https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/seah\\_revised\\_version\\_2020apr27\\_0.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/seah_revised_version_2020apr27_0.pdf)

13.3 The Donor requires that any entity participating in the performance of the Project not discriminate against persons with disabilities in the implementation of USAID-funded programmes and make every effort to respect the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (<https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.) in performing the Project under the Agreement. One of the Objective of the Donor's Disability Policy is to engage other U.S. Government agencies, host country counterparts, governments, implementing organisations and other donors in fostering a climate of non-discrimination against people with disabilities. To that end and to the extent it can accomplish this goal within the scope of this Agreement objectives, the Grantee should demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities.

### **14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST, FRAUD AND CORRUPTION**

14.1 The Parties shall practice zero tolerance towards any financial irregularities within and related to the Project. The zero-tolerance policy applies to all staff members, consultants and other non-staff personnel, contractor, implementing partners and beneficiaries of the Grant.

- a) "Financial irregularities" refers to all kinds of:
- b) corruption, including bribery, nepotism and illegal gratuities;
- c) misappropriation of cash, inventory and all other kinds of assets;

- d) financial and non-financial fraudulent statements;
- e) all other use of Project funds not in accordance with the latest agreed Project Document, implementation plan and budget.

The Grantee shall comply with the principles and expected standards of conduct equivalent to those stipulated in Section 4 of the Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics for the Secretariat, available at [https://www.iucn.org/downloads/code\\_of\\_conduct\\_and\\_professional\\_ethics.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/downloads/code_of_conduct_and_professional_ethics.pdf), which by signing this Agreement, the Grantee confirms it has reviewed and accepted.

14.2 The Grantee is firmly committed to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest.

14.3 The Grantee represents and warrants that there are no potential or actual conflicts of interests in relation to the implementation of this Agreement. If, during the course of this Agreement, the Grantee becomes aware of facts which constitute or may give rise to a conflict of interest, the Grantee shall promptly inform the IUCN Contact Person in article 7.1 in writing, without delay. The Grantee shall immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. IUCN reserves the right to verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken within a specified deadline.

14.4 The Grantee is firmly committed to avoid fraud and corrupt practices in implementing this Agreement. The Grantee shall comply with the standards of conduct equivalent to those stipulated in IUCN's Anti-fraud Policy, available at [https://www.iucn.org/downloads/anti\\_fraud\\_policy.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/downloads/anti_fraud_policy.pdf), which by signing this Agreement, the Grantee confirms it has reviewed and accepted.

14.5 The Grantee shall cooperate fully in any investigations linked to events under this article which may be carried out by IUCN and/or the Donor and shall give access to all records (and to its staff if applicable) in the event that this is needed to support investigations of complaints of unethical behaviour, fraud or corruption. IUCN reserves the right to take necessary legal action and/or terminate the Agreement in accordance with article 17 if it determines that any suspicion of financial irregularities, fraud, corruption and/or unethical behaviour has occurred. Any repayment claim may also include interest, investment income or any other financial gain obtained as a result of the fraud.

## **15. REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES**

15.1 The Grantee represents and warrants compliance at any time with any laws that apply in the jurisdiction in which Grantee is operating or carrying out this Agreement, including, but not limited to, anti-bribery laws, employment and social security laws and tax laws.

15.2 The Grantee represents and warrants that it is legally registered, authorised to do business and/or has procured any necessary permits or licences required to carry out this Agreement in the jurisdiction of Project implementation and to grant IUCN the rights described in article 8 (Property of Results, Intellectual Property Rights and Acknowledgement).

15.3 The Grantee represents and warrants that no part of the Budget Funds shall be provided to, or used to support, individuals and organisations associated with terrorism as identified on any sanction list published by the European Union, the United States Government, the United Nations Security Council or other relevant agency or body.

15.4 The Grantee must make such reasonable efforts, as are necessary, to ensure that no fund of the Budget Funds are diverted in support of drug trafficking. IUCN reserve the right to terminate assistance to, or take other appropriate measures with respect to, any of the Grantee's employee or sub-contractor found to have been convicted of a narcotics offence or to have been engaged in drug trafficking. As defined in 22CFR Part 140 ([http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2002/aprqtr/pdf/22cfr140.3.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/aprqtr/pdf/22cfr140.3.pdf)), drug trafficking means "any activity undertaken illicitly to cultivate, produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, finance or transport, or assist, abet, conspire, or collude with others in illicit activities, including money laundering, relating to narcotic or psychotic drugs, precursor chemicals, or other controlled substances.

15.5 Budget Funds provided under this Agreement may not be used to finance the travel, per diem, hotel expenses, meals, conference fees, or other conference costs for any member of a foreign government's delegation to an international conference sponsored by a public international organization, unless approved by the Donor.

## **16. DATA PROTECTION**

16.1 Parties agree that the personal data they submit to each other, including but not limited to, names, address, email, phone, fax, signature, job title, gender ("Personal Data") may be processed, shared and otherwise used exclusively for the purposes of and in connection with the implementation of this Agreement. The Parties shall comply with their applicable obligations under the Data Privacy Laws (any Laws or Regulations relating to the processing, privacy or use of Personal Data as applicable when processing Personal Data in the context of this Agreement).

16.2 Parties agree that processing of Personal Data shall be done in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and the applicable law. In particular, it shall be processed in a manner that ensures the security of the Personal Data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

16.3 In the event Personal Data is transferred to jurisdictions, which may not offer adequate level of protection, Parties shall take necessary steps to provide appropriate safeguards in accordance with the Data Privacy Laws. Parties have implemented all appropriate security measures to protect Personal Data against accidental, unlawful, or unauthorised (i) destruction (ii) loss, (iii) alteration, (iv) disclosure, or (v) access (including remote access) and will protect Personal Data against all other forms of unlawful processing, including unnecessary collection, transfer, or processing, beyond what is strictly necessary for the performance of the Agreement.

16.4 The Parties may grant to their personnel access only to personal data that is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring their tasks within the Project. The Parties must also ensure that any supply of personal data to any other party is legitimate and compliant with Data Privacy Laws. Parties shall ensure that persons authorised to process the Personal Data have committed themselves to confidentiality. In the event that, in the course of implementing this Agreement, a controller to processor or processor sub-processor relationship is created, the Parties undertake to enter into an appropriate data processing agreement which complies with Article 28 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personal Data subject requests shall be sent to IUCN using the online form here (<https://portals.iucn.org/dataprotection/requestform> ).

## **17. TERMINATION AND EFFECTS OF TERMINATION**

### 17.1 Termination for cause

17.1.1 IUCN reserves the right to terminate this Agreement in whole or in part, upon written notice with immediate effect in the event that the Grantee:

- i. has falsified or provided inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information in any documentation provided to IUCN, including in any proposal or any due diligence documents IUCN requested;
- ii. defaults in carrying out any of its obligations under this Agreement including but not limited to the delivery of Tasks and Deliverables in accordance with article 3;
- iii. has engaged in illegal acts, including, without limitation fraudulent or corrupt actions as defined in Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics for the Secretariat and IUCN's Anti-fraud Policy (hereafter referred to as a "Fraud");
- iv. has not satisfactorily accounted for the use of the Grant
- v. has, after having been granted an extended deadline, failed to provide the agreed reports
- vi. enters into liquidation or dissolution other than for the purpose of an amalgamation or reconstruction; or

v. ceases to carry on business, has a receiver or administrator appointed over all or any part of its assets or undertaking, enters into any composition or arrangement with its creditors or takes or suffers any similar action in consequence of a debt or other liability, or undergoes any process analogous to the foregoing in any jurisdiction throughout the world

17.1.2 If it is determined that the Grantee has committed Financial irregularities, fraud, grave professional misconduct or illegal activity in competing for or in the performance of this Agreement, all expenditures incurred under this Agreement shall be undue and the Grantee shall promptly reimburse IUCN for all expenditures incurred in the performance of this Agreement.

#### 17.2 Termination for lack of Donor funds

IUCN shall have the right to terminate this Agreement with immediate effect and without any liability for damages to the Grantee in case the agreement between IUCN and the Donor is terminated and/or the Budget funds become unavailable to IUCN.

#### 17.3 Termination for force majeure

17.3.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any failure of or delay in the performance of this Agreement for the period that such failure or delay is due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God, war, government regulations, pandemics, epidemics, disaster, strikes (excluding strikes of respective Parties' personnel), civil disorders, curtailment of transportation facilities, embargoes, acts of terrorism, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies making it illegal or impossible for either Party to perform its obligations (a "Force Majeure Event").

17.3.2 Where there is a Force Majeure Event, the Party prevented from or delayed in performing its obligations under this Agreement must immediately notify the other Parties giving detailed complete information on such Force Majeure Event and the reasons for the Force Majeure Event preventing that Party from, or delaying that Party in performing its obligations and that Party must use all reasonable efforts to mitigate the effect of the Force Majeure Event upon its performance of the Agreement and to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement. Parties may agree to a suspension or an extension of the Agreement as deemed appropriate. Upon completion of the Force Majeure Event, the Party affected must as soon as practically possible recommence the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.

#### 17.4 Effects of Termination

In the event of termination under article 17, the Grantee shall within thirty (30) days of termination, and at IUCN's request:

17.4.1 To the extent possible, complete the Tasks and deliver the Deliverables subject to the Budget Funds made available until the date of termination and stop all ongoing activities

under the Project. The Grantee may not enter into any additional obligations after receiving the notice of termination, other than those reasonably necessary to affect the close out of the Project and the termination of the Agreement;

17.4.2 Refund to IUCN any advance payments received in excess of the total expenditure incurred as evidenced in the invoices submitted to IUCN,

17.4.3 Reimburse IUCN for any expenditures made in breach of the terms of this Agreement and

17.4.4 Submit final technical and financial reports and any other materials, Deliverables, Works or other outputs created as at the date of termination under this Agreement.

17.5 In the event that IUCN elects to transfer part or all of the responsibilities of the Grantee for the management of the Project to another institution, the Grantee shall cooperate with IUCN and the other institution in the orderly transfer of such responsibilities and equipment procured using Budget Funds.

## 18. NOTICES

All notices under this Agreement shall be sent to the following representatives of the Parties:

Name	Name
Title	Title
[Name of counterpart]	[Name of counterpart]
Address	Address
Phone:	Phone
Fax:	Fax



Email:	Email
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## 19. APPLICABLE LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

19.1 The performance and interpretation of this Agreement shall be subject exclusively to the laws of Switzerland, excluding its conflict of laws principles.

19.2 The Parties to this Agreement shall make every effort to resolve through dialogue any disputes arising from the execution, interpretation and implementation of this Agreement.

19.3 Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in relation to this Agreement, including the validity, invalidity, breach or termination thereof which cannot be settled amicably by the Parties, shall be submitted to mediation in accordance with the Swiss Rules of Commercial Mediation of the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution in force on the date when the request for mediation was submitted in accordance with these Rules.

The seat of the mediation shall be Gland, although the meetings may be held in IUCN Headquarters.

The mediation proceedings shall be conducted in English.

19.4 Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of, or in relation to, this Agreement, including the validity, invalidity, breach, or termination thereof, that cannot be settled by way of mediation by the Parties within three months from the date on which one party notifies the other of the existence of the dispute, shall be resolved by arbitration in accordance with the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration of the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution in force on the date on which the Notice of Arbitration is submitted in accordance with these Rules.

The number of arbitrators shall be one;

The seat of the arbitration shall be Lausanne;

The arbitral proceedings shall be conducted in English.

## 20. GENERAL PROVISIONS

20.1 This Agreement is the complete understanding between IUCN and the Grantee and replaces all other agreements and understandings in reference to the subject matter of this Agreement.

20.2 All notices between IUCN and the Grantee that are permitted or required by this Agreement shall be in writing, in the English language and may be sent by email with the signed original sent by prepaid priority post to the designated representative indicated in

article 17. Any notice or other communication sent by email shall be deemed received on the next business day in the jurisdiction of the recipient following the day of its transmission.

20.3 The legal relationship of IUCN and the Grantee to each other under this Agreement shall be that of independent Grantees and nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed in any way to create a partnership, an employee-employer relationship, an agency or joint venture between IUCN and the Grantee. Neither Party shall have any power or authority to bind or commit the other.

20.4 The headings of articles are for convenience only, and neither shall they be used to interpret nor shall they otherwise affect the provisions of this Agreement.

20.5 This Agreement shall only be amended by a written agreement signed by the authorised representatives of both Parties.

20.6 This Agreement and the Grantee's rights and obligations hereunder shall not be assigned and transferred by the Grantee without prior written consent of IUCN.

20.7 IUCN shall have the right to assign and transfer any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without seeking the Grantee's prior written consent.

20.8 Either Party waives all and any rights of set-off against any payments due hereunder and agrees to pay all sums due hereunder regardless of any set-off or cross claim.

20.9 A Party's failure to exercise or delay in exercising any right, power or privilege under this Agreement shall not operate as a waiver; nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, power or privilege preclude any other or further exercise thereof.

20.10 This Agreement shall be constituted of this agreement proper and all its annexes .

20.11 The following provisions shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement: 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19.

20.12 In the event that any provision of this Agreement, or any portion thereof, shall be held invalid, illegal or unenforceable under applicable law, the remainder of this Agreement shall remain valid and enforceable.

20.13 In case of conflict between this Agreement proper and any of its Annexes, the Agreement proper and the Annexes shall be interpreted and applied in the following order:

1. This agreement proper
2. Annex 1: Project Document
3. Annex 2:

4. Annex 3:

**In witness whereof,** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement. We agree that the signed counterparts may be delivered by e-mail in a ".pdf" format data file, and that in this case such signature shall create a valid and binding obligation of the party executing with the same force and effect as if such ".pdf" signature page were an original thereof.

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of [Name of organization]  
Nature and Natural Resources

Date:

Date:

[Name of representative]

[Name of representative]

[Position of representative]

[Position of representative]