



Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge

Open call for RISE grants challenge proposals to address gender-based violence and environment linkages – 2025



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

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

¹ 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:** The RISE grants challenge seeks proposals that embed gender-based violence risk mitigation in existing or continuing environmental projects with communities within and around marine and terrestrial Indigenous-managed lands, protected areas, and lands considered using other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- **Award:** In 2025, the RISE grants challenge has planned up to USD 600,000 to award, seeking to support projects of up to USD 200,000 - 300,000 each, implemented for up to 12 - 18 months. (Please refer to [Section 6](#) for more details.)
- **Geographic Scope:** The RISE grants challenge will invest in projects in the targeted 23 countries. 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. At least one of the lead or partner organisations must be either a **IUCN member organisation OR a past RISE grantee OR a past/present EbA Fund grantee**.
- **Application Process:** The 2025 RISE grants challenge application process includes a technical proposal, including budget, activity plan, logframe and ESMS questionnaire. The application must be submitted through the SMAApply application portal, and budget, activity plan, logframe and ESMS must be developed using the provided templates and uploaded to SMAApply.
- **Online application**²: Applications must be written and submitted using the online application platform, available at [SMAApply](#).

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**).

² **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 2025, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

RISE grants challenge 2025 timeline

Stage 1 – Technical application stage 07 August to 08 September 2025	
07 August 2025	Call for Proposals launched and timeframe for submitting questions is open via email to RISE@iucn.org
11 August 2025	Application window open. Submit your application via SMAppl y
25 August 2025	Timeframe for sending questions via email to RISE@iucn.org closes
26 August 2025	Frequently Asked Questions available online on the RISE webpage .
08 September 2025	Application submission deadline – late submissions will not be considered.
Stage 2 – Eligibility and technical screening stage 09 to 26 September 2025	
09 to 26 September 2025	Eligibility and technical screening and selecting applicants for TEC review
Stage 3 – Technical evaluation stage 29 September to 3 November 2025	
29 September to 10 October 2025	Technical Evaluation Committee review and scoring of up to 12 applications
13 to 17 October 2025	RISE Steering Committee interviews up to 8 shortlisted applications
18 October - 3 November	RISE Steering Committee selects finalists for due diligence
3 November 2025	Finalists are notified to proceed to the due diligence stage.
Stage 4 – Due diligence stage 3 November 2025 to 19 January 2026	
3 November 2025 to 19 January 2026	Selected finalists undergo a due diligence process.
Stage 5 – Grant winners finalisation 19 January to 16 February 2026	
19 January to 16 February 2026	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 granting mechanism that **supports activities designed to address gender-based violence and environmental linkages in environmental and climate-related programmes and generate evidence on promising interventions.**

The RISE grants challenge is led by IUCN with support from Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and is a direct response to a landmark study on [gender-based violence and environment linkages](#) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), commissioned by USAID through the [Advancing Gender in the Environment \(AGENT\)](#) partnership.³ With input from IUCN and diverse partners and peers, this first-of-its-kind grants mechanism was designed 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. In 2024, Norway joined the RISE grants challenge.

The **2025 RISE Call for Proposals** is the sixth RISE grants challenge open call. A new cohort of RISE grantees will join the five 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

³ **AGENT** was a 10-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](#).

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 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 (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

“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](#))

“Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination renders certain groups, such as LGBT+ persons, girls and women with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and ethnic and religious minorities, particularly vulnerable. Girls and young women with disabilities, especially those with cognitive challenges, are at greater risk of being victimised than others. Women with disabilities are four times more likely than other women to be subjected to sexual and gender-based violence. Indigenous women, in particular, have been exposed to severe gender-based violence, including forced sterilisation, human trafficking, sexual violence during migration, and in conflict situation” ([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 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](#))

“The nature and extent of specific types of GBV vary across cultures, countries and regions, expressions of GBV often overlap (e.g. physical violence to enable property grabbing), and GBV can be exerted through varied means (e.g. cyber, community, institutional). Examples of GBV include but are not limited to sexual violence, including sexual exploitation/abuse, rape and forced prostitution; domestic violence; trafficking; forced, early and child marriage; property grabbing; and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, honour killings and widow disinheritance.” ([IUCN, n.d.](#))

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, mitigating and responding to 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.
- [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 2025, the RISE grants challenge seeks to fund applications that embed gender-based violence risk mitigation in environmental projects working with or led by communities within and/or around marine and/or terrestrial Indigenous-managed lands, protected areas, and lands conserved using other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

The RISE grants challenge **encourages** applications to also deliver improved rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive conservation, climate action and sustainable

development outcomes. In 2025, **we continue to be interested in intersectional approaches that include or emphasise vulnerable groups such as Indigenous women, environmental defenders, youth, LGBTQIA+ individuals and women and girls who are underrepresented and marginalised in their communities, among others.**

Why marine and terrestrial Indigenous-managed lands, protected areas, and lands conserved under OECMs?

Area-based conservation, including protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and indigenous-managed lands, is essential for humanity's future. It safeguards biodiversity, provides ecosystem services for communities and offers powerful nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, benefiting both people and nature.

Marine and terrestrial protected areas are a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystems services and cultural values ([IUCN, 2008](#)). Meanwhile, OECMs are other de-facto conservation areas that may not be legally designated for conservation, but achieve conservation outcomes through the effective protection or sustainable use of the land ([Jonas et al., 2024](#)). As defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, OECMs are:

"A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values" ([CBD, 2018](#)).

OECMs offer an opportunity for the recognition and protection of Indigenous-managed lands and their vital contributions to the conservation of land and seascapes. The emphasis on area-based conservation to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation results aligns with Norway's goal to support the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, including rainforest and marine areas, and Norway's [Strategy for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and the fight against hunger](#) focused area on the use of Nature-based solutions, including conservation and sustainable use of agricultural soils, forests, blue forests, and wetlands for climate change adaptation.

When effectively managed and fairly governed, area-based conservation can protect nature, cultural resources and community well-being. However, when area-based conservation ignores gender power dynamics in access and control over land and resources, it can deepen gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

For instance, restricting access to marine or terrestrial areas that Indigenous and local women rely on for food and income can strain household resources, increasing risks of intimate partner violence and harmful coping strategies like child marriage or sexual exploitation. In coastal and riparian communities, livelihood loss can expose women to sexual extortion, including sex-for-fish practices. Women accessing these areas also face heightened risks of sexual assault, harassment and abuse by guards and other actors. Discrimination and gender-based violence (e.g. psychological violence and sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse) in conservation workspaces, coupled with violence at home in opposition of women's economic empowerment, limit women's safe and effective participation and benefits from conservation and sustainable management efforts. Indigenous women face even greater risks due to intersecting gender and ethnic discrimination and violence. Failing to address these issues harms local communities, undermines safeguarding efforts and threatens conservation outcomes and the effectiveness of nature-based solutions to address climate change ([IUCN, 2021](#)).

While gender-based violence prevention and response measures can be included as

complementary activities, the **RISE grants challenge in 2025 seeks to fund applications that focus on gender-based violence risk mitigation.**

What do we mean by gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response in the environment sector?

Risk mitigation: GBV risk mitigation involves identifying the factors that may increase the risk of gender-based violence and taking proactive steps to reduce them ([IASC, 2021](#); [CARE-GBV, 2022](#)). For instance, identifying women's safety concerns related to a specific conservation area or natural resource management activity and developing strategies to reduce those risks. Mitigation measures may involve gender analyses that integrate safety assessments, safety audits, community safety plans and GBV risk mitigation plans. They can also include creating or strengthening policies on sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; creating grievance redress mechanisms and referral pathways; and training staff on these protocols, among others.

Prevention: GBV prevention addresses the root causes, norms and inequalities at the individual, interpersonal, community, and structural levels to stop gender-based violence from first occurring or reducing violence that is already happening ([IASC, 2015](#); [CARE-GBV, 2022](#)). For instance, engaging fishermen in healthy masculinities programming to transform gender norms that condone the use of sex-for-fish extortion practices. Prevention measures may involve shifting harmful social norms and practices, programming to build women's economic empowerment in natural resource governance to reduce GBV vulnerabilities, engaging men and boys in accountable practices, awareness raising and capacity building on GBV-environment linkages, among others.

Response: GBV response refers to immediate interventions that address survivors' physical safety, health concerns, psychosocial needs, and access to justice, in line with the survivor-centred approach ([UNHCR, 2020](#)). For non-GBV specialist such as environmental practitioners measures may include mapping GBV services, strengthening GBV referral pathways, equipping and supporting staff to safely and ethically link survivors to available specialized services or referral pathways, establishing community-led structures to receive complaints, training national authorities and service providers on GBV-environment links and survivor-centered and trauma-informed health, mental health and psychosocial support, among others.

Technical support should be sought from GBV experts when undertaking some of these specialized GBV activities, in particular in GBV response.

In 2025, the RISE grants challenge **will support existing or continuing environmental projects that leverage RISE funding and technical support to embed gender-based violence risk mitigation in environmental work**, in an integrated manner. Applicants may seek funding to:

- a) complement an existing environmental project, specifically to integrate strategies to mitigate gender-based violence risks, or
- b) continue an existing environmental project already addressing gender-based violence and environment linkages, with a focus on gender-based violence risk mitigation strategies.

Applicants will require the specific written support of the original funder and implementing partners. The RISE grants challenge seeks to fund between two to four projects in the range of up to USD 200,000 - 300,000 each, with implementation timelines of up to 12 - 18 months.

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](#); [Norway's Strategy for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and the fight against hunger](#); [Norad's Fish for Development Policy](#); [Norway's Foreign and Development Policy \(2023–2030\) Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#), and international frameworks such as 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 2025

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 of the targeted 23 countries.**

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 of the eligible countries.

4.2 Eligible applicants

The RISE grants challenge is open to legally registered **local, national, regional or international** organisations, including:

- 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. **Lead applicants must partner with at least one partner organisation and no more than two partner organisations**. 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 lead or partner organisations must be either a IUCN member organisation or a past RISE grantee or a present/past EbA Fund grantee.
- 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.
- Partnering organisations must **not** be closely affiliated with each other (e.g., sharing the same legal representative, or consisting of subsidiaries or branches of a parent organisation).
- 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 from a **survivor-centred and trauma-informed** approach;
- Draw on, adapt and contribute to **evidence based global gender-based violence approaches tailored to environment-focused sectors** in eligible RISE countries. Strategies can be adapted from other sectors, such as health or education, but need to be tailored to and fully integrated with the environmental programming;
- Projects **must** include a **gender analysis** to assess context and inform gender-based violence risk mitigation approaches **and** a **baseline and endline assessment** that integrates proxy questions on safety perceptions to measure changes in perceptions;
- Ensure that any **women's economic empowerment** and other **capacity building and empowerment** activities **engage men and boys**, as a gender-based violence risk mitigation strategy;
- Project **must** 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.⁴

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

⁴ See [Collective Action to Reduce Gender Based Violence \(CARE-GBV\)](#) brief on self and collective care.

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.

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 2025 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);
- None of the applicants are an IUCN member organisations or past RISE grantee or a past/present EbA Fund grantee;
- 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 an existing or continuing environmental project for which they do not have written support from the 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 **countries** 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 or Norway 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
- IUCN Secretariat;
- Organisations that are closely affiliated with each other (e.g., sharing the same legal representative, or consisting of subsidiaries or branches of a parent organisation);
- 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 2025 application and award process has the following six stages:

5.1 Stage 1 – Proposal Submission

5.1.1 Technical application⁵

Proposals must be written and submitted using the online application platform, available at [SMAppl](#)y. The application window opens on **11 August 2025, at 12:00 am EST**. The technical proposal application package consists of:

- Online Application
- Proof of registration (lead applicant and partners)⁶
- RISE grants challenge declaration
- Budget
- Logframe
- Activity Plan

⁵ **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 2025 call for proposals, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

⁶ 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.

- Environmental and Social Management System assessment

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

5.1.2 Language

The application system as well as forms and guidelines, are available in English. Applicants must submit their applications in English. 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, **until 25 August 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Frequently Asked Questions, submitted to the RISE@iucn.org email, will be available to the public on the official [RISE webpage](#) by 26 August 2025.

5.1.4 Submission and deadline

The RISE application window opens **11 August, 2025, at 12:00 am EST and closes 08 September 2025, at 11:59 pm EST**. Please submit your application and supporting documents digitally via the [online application platform](#) no later than **08 September 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST**. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via 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 accepted⁷;
- 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 and Norway will not be responsible for any costs associated with the development and/or the submission of the application; and
- An organisation can submit an unlimited number of different applications 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.

⁷ 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.

5.2 Stage 2 – Eligibility screening

Applicants will undergo an eligibility screening to ensure they comply with the eligibility criteria included in [section 4](#) of the call for proposals and meet the requirements.

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 technical proposal 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 technical proposal is thematically aligned; and
- Whether the proposed activity is or is not among the interventions eligible for funding under RISE 2025 according to [section 3](#) and [section 4](#) of this call for proposals.

Eligible applicants will move forward to Technical Screening.

5.3 Stage 3 – Technical screening

Applicants will undergo a technical screening to ensure compliance and completion of all necessary documents for the technical proposal as outlined below.

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 2025 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 5.4](#) of the call for proposals.

5.4 Stage 4 – 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	%
1. Contextual Information	
<p>Problem identified by the applicant (relevance) 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>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly describes the types of GBV the project will address 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. Demonstrate why the identified problem is relevant and important to be considered under RISE. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the linkages between gender-based violence and environment issues in the identified problem. 	20
2. Proposed intervention	
<p>2a. Strategy(ies) description 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>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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). Clearly identify the country or countries and specific location of the proposed activity and provide the reasons why a particular geography has been selected. 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). Clearly state what can be achieved with the requested RISE resources. If you were previously a recipient of a RISE grant, specifically articulate how another grant builds on the learnings and results of the first. 	20
<p>2b. Theory of change 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>	10

Proposals are expected to: 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	
3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	
3a. Monitoring, evaluation and learning This criterion evaluates the manner in which progress will be measured and evaluated to fill knowledge gaps on promising practices, strategies and tools. Proposals are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminarily indicate how progress will be measured and evaluated, including data collection methods for baseline and endline data collection. 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). Indicate the potential for activities to contribute to RISE grants challenge indicators 	5
3b. Safeguards This criterion evaluates the safeguards the project will incorporate and adhere to throughout project implementation to ensure do no harm. Proposals are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the proposed project grievance and redress mechanism and how complaints and feedback will be monitored and resolved Describe the safeguards the project will incorporate to ensure do no harm, including relevant organisational policies that will be adhered to. 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 	5
4. Sustainability, scalability and replicability	
4a. Gender-based violence 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. Proposals are expected to: Clearly define how the strategy(ies) will contribute to gender-based violence prevention, response and/or risk mitigation.	10
4b. National policies and strategies 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. Proposals are expected to: Clearly identify national policies and strategies that will support and contribute to project activities.	5
5. Partnerships and collaborations	
5a. Partnership and experience	5

<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>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe relevant technical expertise of the applicant organisation and its partners and how it contributes to the proposed activities (added value). Include names, roles and a brief summary of experience of key personnel. Describe previous/current experience working in the specific geography. Identify any institutional and capacity needs to ensure the success of the strategy(ies) and any plans to address them. 	
<p>5b. Other stakeholders and actors</p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the applicant involves other cross-sector actors in the proposed strategy.</p> <p>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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 	5
<p>5c. Community-driven interventions</p> <p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which the strategy is community-driven, rights-based, participatory and inclusive and upholds a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach.</p> <p>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how survivors, community activists, leaders, etc., in particular, are involved and contributing to project design and implementation. 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. Describe how the target population participates and contributes to these interventions, including the possibilities for local and community ownership of the solution. 	10
6. Self and collective care	
<p>Self and collective care</p> <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>Proposals are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the lead and partner organisations will incorporate frameworks and structures to support staff. Describe the exact types of support that will be available for staff by all implementing organisations. 	5
Total	100

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.

The highest scoring shortlisted applications, up to 8 applicants, 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.

5.5 Stage 5 – 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.

5.6 Stage 6 – Selection of awardees

Award decision: Based on the technical evaluation, the interview, the successful completion of the due diligence process, and consideration of the overall fit within budget and thematic and geographic spread, IUCN will select the winners for funding. Awards may not be granted solely based on numerical ranking. All decisions will be final.

Communication of results: All applicants will be informed in writing via SMaply, 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 based on acceptable cash flow projection indicating cash on hand and anticipated expenses for the upcoming quarter, and a final instalment.. 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, gender analysis, baseline and endline assessments, 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 600,000 to award in 2025. 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 three projects in the range of up to USD 200,000 - 300,000 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 30 September 2027** and have an implementation period of up to 12 - 18 months.

7. Annexes

[Annex 1](#) - Eligible countries in 2025

[Annex 2](#) - Application form guidance

[Annex 3](#) - Budget form guidance

[Annex 4](#) - Sample grant agreement

Annex 1. Eligible countries in 2025

Brazil	Guatemala	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Indonesia	Sudan
Colombia	Kenya	Thailand
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mexico	United Republic of Tanzania
Ecuador	Mozambique	Vietnam
Ethiopia	Nepal	Zambia
Gabon	Peru	
Ghana	Philippines	
	Republic of Congo	

The RISE grants challenge will only accept applications proposing implementation in **one** of the eligible countries. Within that country, applicants are strongly encouraged to focus on no more than two or three sub-counties, or equivalent local administrative areas.

Annex 2. Online application form guidance

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

- The first thing to do is to enter the online application platform at this link:
<https://rise.smaply.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 application process comprises of the following sections:
 1. Download necessary forms and templates
 2. Acknowledgments
 3. Lead applicant contact information
 4. Lead applicant basic Information
 5. Applicant eligibility
 6. Technical Proposal
 7. Upload proof of registration for **all** partnered organisations
 8. Upload RISE grants challenge declaration
 9. 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.

10. Upload activity plan

11. Upload logframe

12. 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.
- 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.
- Tasks 7-12 require uploading the proof of registration, 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, quotations⁸, 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.

⁸ (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

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 the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) (hereafter the "Donor") for the implementation of Scaling the resilient, inclusive and sustainable environments (RISE) grants challenge for safe and resilient adaptation and fisheries" 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 2025 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 xx (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 authorized 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 authorization 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 2026) for the preceding twelve (12) months in the format specified by IUCN. The Annual Technical Report shall describe the Results achieved by the Project during the reporting period and shall be set up in a way that allows for direct comparison with the latest approved Project Document, implementation plan and budget.

The progress reports shall, as minimum, include:

an account of the results achieved so far by the Project, using the format, indicators and targets of the approved results framework. The overview must:

show delivered outputs compared to planned outputs

show the Project's progress towards achieving the Outcome;

if possible, describe the likelihood of the Impact being achieved.

b) an account and assessment of any deviations from the latest approved implementation plan and Project Document;

c) an assessment of how effectively Project resources have been turned into outputs;

d) a brief update on the risk management of the Project, including i) any new risk factors, ii) how materialized risks have been handled in the reporting period, iii) the effectiveness of mitigating measures, iv) how risks will be handled going forward. The update shall include both risks affecting Project achievements and the risks for negative consequences from the Project on its surroundings. Potential negative effects on the cross-cutting issues shall always be accounted for.

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.
- ii. 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.

8.3.3 The Grantee shall acknowledge Norad's support to the Project in all publications and other materials issued in relation to the Project. Norad's logotype will be provided by Norad upon request. All use of Norad's logotype must be approved by Norad.

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.

8.6 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.

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. The Grantee commits not to discriminate against persons with disabilities in performing the Project under this Agreement. The Grantee should therefore demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities.

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

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, 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, 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.

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

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 Nature and Natural Resources [Name of organization]

Date:

Date:

[Name of representative]

[Name of representative]

[Position of representative]

[Position of representative]