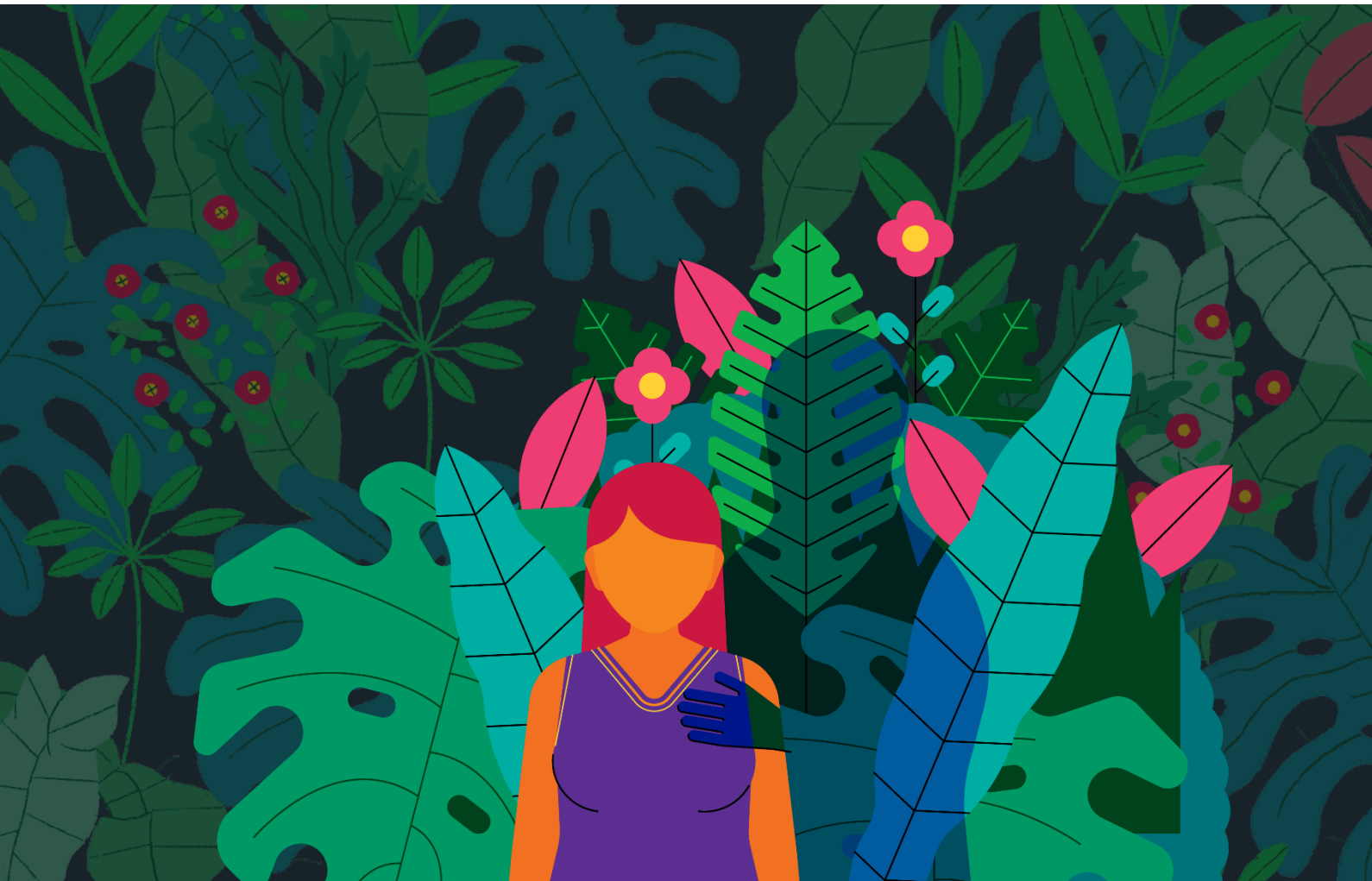




# Resilient, inclusive and sustainable environments

Open call for RISE proposals to address gender-based violence and environment linkages – 2022



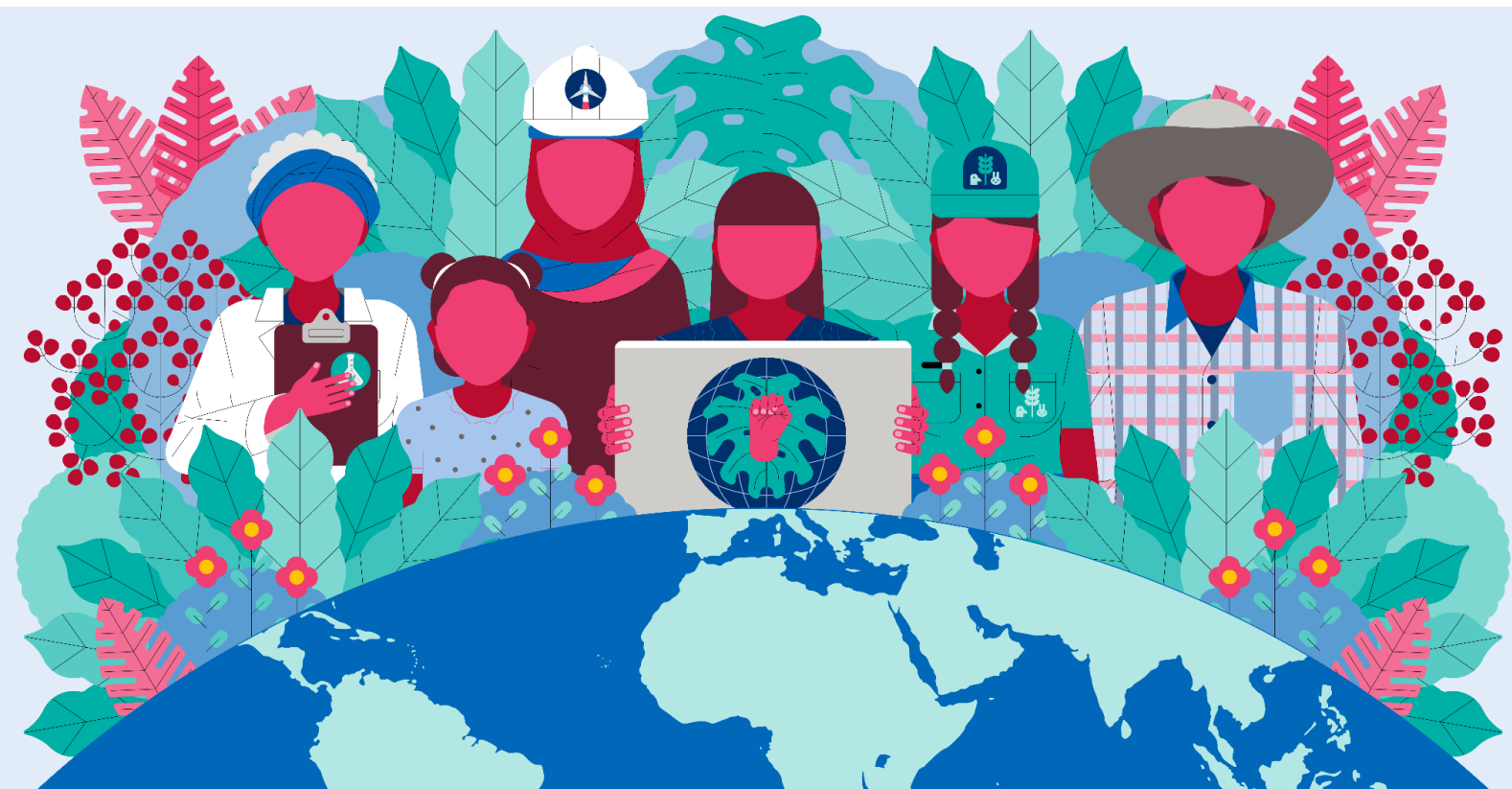
A PART OF THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES CENTER



# **Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE)**

**Open call for proposals to address gender-based violence  
and environment linkages**

**Call for proposals 2022**



## **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.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

# Table of contents

<b>1. Summary of key information</b>	<b>5</b>	5.7.5 Self- and collective care	18
1.1 Who can apply?	5	5.8 Administrative requirements	18
1.2 RISE 2022 milestones	6	5.8.1 Legal entity / judicial person status	18
<b>2. Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>	5.8.2 Accounting requirements	18
2.1 About RISE	7	5.8.3 Eligibility of expenditures	18
<b>3. RISE 2022 context</b>	<b>8</b>	5.8.4 Internal controls	19
3.1 Problem description	8	<b>6. RISE application and award process</b>	<b>19</b>
3.2 Exacerbating dynamics – the compound impacts of COVID-19 and climate change	11	6.1 Stage 1 – Proposal submission	19
<b>4. RISE scope, purpose and objectives</b>	<b>12</b>	6.1.1 Online application	19
<b>5. RISE eligibility requirements</b>	<b>14</b>	6.1.2 Language	20
5.1 Targeted geographies in 2022	14	6.1.3 Questions and answers	20
5.2 What RISE will fund	14	6.1.4 RISE informative webinar	20
5.3 What RISE will not fund	15	6.1.5 Submission and deadline	20
5.4 Eligible applicants	16	6.2 Stage 2 – Eligibility screening	21
5.5 Ineligible applicants	16	6.3 Stage 3 – Technical evaluation and finalist interview	21
5.6 Requirements for partnerships and collaborations	17	6.4 Stage 4 – Pre-award and due diligence process	25
5.7 Other eligibility requirements	17	6.5 Stage 5 – Selection of awardees	26
5.7.1 Thematic responsiveness	17	<b>7. Awards under RISE</b>	<b>26</b>
5.7.2 Local presence	17	7.1 Funding information	27
5.7.3 Operational and administrative capacity	17	7.2 Cost-share	27
5.7.4 Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) policy	18	7.3 Period of implementation	27
		<b>8. Annexes</b>	<b>27</b>

# Acronyms and abbreviations

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

---

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

# 1. Summary of key information

- Research from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (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](#)) demonstrates that gender-based violence (GBV) and environment issues are interlinked and require focused attention and action. Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge is a direct response to this need.
- **In its 2022 phase, RISE will support evidence-based strategies to address GBV in environment and climate-related programming** in ways that improve rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive conservation, climate action and sustainable development.
- RISE will support either: a) **new interventions that address GBV in environment sectors**; b) **integrated approaches that embed GBV components** in existing environmental programming or related activities and c) **existing GBV-environment programming that aims to continue, scale up or replicate an intervention**.
- RISE fosters cross-sector collaboration, peer learning and building the evidence base on promising practices to address GBV in environment and climate-related sectors.
- In the current grant-making period in 2022, RISE will award up to USD 1,875,000 in total, seeking to support up to six projects of USD 100,000-400,000 each, implemented over an 18-24-month timeline. (Please refer to section 7.1 for more details.)
- Global in overall scope, RISE will invest in projects in one or more of the three targeted geographies: Central America and the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa and South and Southeast Asia. (Please refer to Annex 1 for the full list of countries).
- RISE grantees participate together as a RISE learning cohort and benefit from technical support and community of practice from IUCN and partners via the GBV-ENV Center.
- **Online application<sup>2</sup>:** Proposals must be written and submitted using only the online application platform, available at <https://rise.smapply.io>

## 1.1 Who can apply?

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

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

Please note: the applicant must already have presence in the country in which the activities are proposed to be implemented, OR be a local organisation, OR have a duly registered local partner that meets the requirements for consortia and partnerships. **(Please refer to Section 5 for details on eligibility requirements).**

---

<sup>2</sup> **Data protection.** IUCN takes data protection and management seriously and is committed to safeguarding and protecting Personal Data of private individuals. As such, the entirety of RISE in 2022, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

## 1.2 RISE 2022 milestones

<b>Stage 1 – Proposal submission stage</b> <b>07 June to 18 July 2022</b>	
07 June 2022	The call for RISE 2022 proposals is launched.
22 June 2022	Information webinar – register <a href="#">here</a>
24 June 2022	Window for sending questions via email to RISE@iucn.org closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT.
28 June 2022	Frequently Asked Questions available online.
18 July 2022	Proposal submission deadline – late submissions will not be considered.

<b>Stage 2 – Eligibility screening stage</b> <b>19 to 29 July 2022</b>	
19 - 29 July 2022	Eligibility screening to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria.

<b>Stage 3 – Technical evaluation stage</b> <b>01 August to 27 September 2022</b>	
01 - 19 August 2022	The Technical Evaluation Committee longlists the top 20 applications.
22 August - 12 September 2022	RISE Steering Committee shortlists the top 10 applications for interview.
13 - 23 September 2022	Interviews with shortlisted applicants.
26 - 27 September 2022	Finalists are notified to proceed to the due diligence stage.

<b>Stage 4 – Pre-award and due diligence stage</b> <b>27 September to 08 November 2022</b>	
27 September - 08 November 2022	Selected finalists undergo a due diligence process. With no exception, final selection is conditional on a successful due diligence process.

<b>Stage 5 – Grant winners finalisation and announcement stage</b> <b>09 November to 10 December 2022</b>	
09 - 11 November 2022	Grant agreements are signed with RISE winners. All applicants will be informed in writing via email about the results of the evaluation of their proposals.
14 - 25 November 2022	Implementation begins – grantees submit first deliverables and first grants are disbursed.
21 November - 10 December 2022	Initial communications, virtual announcement events are held.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 About RISE

Since 2019, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the [Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments \(RISE\)](#) grants challenge **has supported activities designed to address gender-based violence in environment-focused programming and generate evidence on promising interventions.**<sup>3</sup>

#### Supporting Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments – impact to date from RISE’s latest Annual Report

“RISE aims to foster widespread awareness around the nexus between GBV and the environment, supporting and promoting interventions that prevent and respond to GBV across environmental sectors. The nine [current] RISE grantees range from community-led organisations to data-driven think tanks, exemplifying the RISE Challenge’s goal of engaging and encouraging non-traditional partnerships in order to build a strong evidence base for interventions. To date, RISE grants have impacted more than 5,000 direct beneficiaries through GBV capacity building trainings, social dialogues, awareness activities, gender-sensitive conflict resolution, and land demarcation. Additionally, the Challenge prioritises collaboration within the cohort, engaging its grantees in co-creation workshops and participatory sessions to share learnings.”

Source: USAID – [RISE Annual Report 2021](#)

USAID launched the RISE grants challenge as a direct response to key findings uncovered during a two-year research study on [gender-based violence and environment linkages](#)<sup>4</sup> by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which USAID’s Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub (GenDev)<sup>5</sup> commissioned through the IUCN-USAID partnership called [AGENT – Advancing Gender in the Environment](#).<sup>6</sup> Together with input from IUCN and diverse partners and peers, USAID designed this first-of-its-kind grants mechanism to fill knowledge, cooperation and investment gaps at the GBV and environment nexus. In complement, IUCN developed and launched the [Gender-based](#)

<sup>3</sup> See a previous USAID press release [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> Castañeda Camey, I., Sabater, L., Owren, C. and Boyer, A.E. (2020). [Gender-based violence and environment linkages: The violence of inequality](#). Wen, J. (ed.). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 272pp

<sup>5</sup> [USAID Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment](#).

<sup>6</sup> **AGENT** is a 15-year collaboration between IUCN and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation’s (DDI) Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub (GenDev) that was established in 2014 to improve environment programming through gender integration and leverage environment programming for women’s empowerment and gender equality outcomes. Read more about AGENT [here](#), for example in its last [Annual Review](#).

[Violence and Environment Linkages Center](#) (GBV-ENV Center), which brings together resources and tools, mobilises learning and forges collective action to build knowledge and capacities; advocates improved policy, programming and partnerships; and provides tailored technical support to address gender-based violence and environment linkages.

This **RISE 2022 Call for Proposals** is the third consecutive RISE open call for proposals, which on this occasion is being implemented by IUCN under AGENT's GBV-ENV Center.<sup>7</sup> A new cohort of RISE grantees will join the two 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.

## 3. RISE 2022 context

### 3.1 Problem description

A violation of human rights, rooted in gender inequality and shrouded in impunity, gender-based violence is a pervasive problem that affects every country and community around the world. Global data includes, for example, 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 – and considering the many often-overlapping types of gender-based violence – the prevalence of violence that shapes diverse peoples' lives is far higher, with altogether dire impacts on individual and collective safety and well-being, security, agency and resilience (**see box**).

---

<sup>7</sup> RISE 2022 is adapted and implemented in compliance with IUCN grant-making policies and procedures.

### **Defining and understanding gender-based violence**

An expression of gender inequality and a means to sustain it, GBV 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 an umbrella term for any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived biological sex, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances. GBV is typically characterized by the use or threat of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, legal, political, social and other forms of control and/or abuse. GBV impacts individuals across the life course and has direct and indirect costs to families, communities, economies, global public health, and development." ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2016](#))

### **Populations affected by gender-based violence**

"Women and girls across the life course are most at-risk and disproportionately affected by GBV. It is experienced by individuals across the spectrum of gender identities and gender expression. Men and boys also experience GBV. Certain already vulnerable populations may experience increased risk of GBV including, but not limited to: children and youth; people affected by conflict or crisis; people with disabilities; indigenous, ethnic and religious minority communities; low-wage and informal sector workers; those who are or are perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI); migrants, refugees, the internally displaced; older persons; and widows." ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2016](#))

"All human beings should be treated with respect and dignity and should be able to live without fear no matter who they are or whom they love. Around the globe... brave lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) activists are fighting for equal protection under the law, freedom from violence, and recognition of their fundamental human rights." ([White House, 2021](#))

### **Types of gender-based violence and settings where it occurs**

"GBV is a global problem: it occurs in every country and society. It happens in public and private settings, including but not limited to digital and online spaces, educational settings and schools, the home, workplaces and in transit. Types of GBV include, but are not limited to: child, early, and forced marriage; female genital mutilation/cutting; so-called "honor"-based violence and killings, and other harmful practices; acid violence; dating violence; domestic violence; female infanticide; femicide or gender-related killing of women and girls; all forms of human trafficking; intimate partner violence; sexual harassment; stalking; all forms of sexual violence, including reproductive and sexual coercion, and rape, including marital rape, so-called "corrective" rape, and rape as a tactic of conflict. Other types of violence that are sometimes gender-based include, but are not limited to: abandonment; neglect; bullying; child abuse; corporal punishment; and elder abuse." ([U.S. GBV Strategy Update, 2016](#))

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

Meanwhile, climate change and biodiversity loss represent a parallel – and interlinked – global emergency. Environmental degradation, loss of ecosystem services and unsustainable resource-use at local and global scales are creating multi-faceted crises all over the world, undermining progress toward meeting global goals. As billions of people rely on natural resources and ecosystems to sustain their daily lives and livelihoods, the potential impacts to human systems are unprecedented, with disproportionate effects on women and girls.

Gender-based violence and environmental issues are interlinked. National and customary laws and structures, societal gender norms and traditional gender roles often dictate who can access, control and benefit from natural resources. This predominantly results in the marginalisation of women compared to men and increases vulnerabilities women, girls and those of diverse gender identities can face in relation to violence ([Castañeda Camey et al.,](#)

2021). [Evidence](#) shows that while women and girls can be disproportionately at risk of gender-based violence when collecting or managing resources like water or fuel, gender-based violence is also employed across a wide range of contexts to assert or maintain control over natural resources (e.g., domestic violence to prevent women's land ownership or sex-for-fish exploitation in fishing communities). Gender-based violence can be exacerbated in the face of environmental stressors, such as climate change, extractives and environmental crimes, when the control over increasingly scarce or degraded resources and livelihood opportunities results in higher tensions (e.g., exacerbating domestic violence), increased negative coping strategies (e.g., child marriage in the aftermath of disasters) and reduced resilience for families and communities (e.g., risks of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in legal and illegal extractive industries). Social norms and gendered power dynamics allow for gender-based violence to be used to manage land and property (e.g., widow disinheritance or property grabbing through physical, psychological or other means). Gender-based violence is used to negotiate or reinforce inequitable power in all contexts, including as a weapon against environmental defenders (e.g., rape threats and smear campaigns). Gender-blind or otherwise siloed programming that does not take into consideration gender and power disparities can inadvertently miss these risks — unintentionally shifting power dynamics related to natural resource access and control — and even directly create conditions for misconduct or abuse, including sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. In doing so, such programming can cause direct harm to individuals, families and communities and undermine rights-based, socially inclusive, gender-responsive strategies and progress to meet interlinked global goals ([Castañeda Camey et al., 2021](#)).

**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. Urgent action to end gender-based violence, promote gender equality and social inclusion and protect the environment is crucial – and requires cooperation and shared commitment across sectors. RISE asserts that preventing, responding to and mitigating the risk of gender-based violence across environmental contexts, including 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 policy makers.
- [IUCN Issue Brief: Gender-based violence and the environment](#) is a 2-page factsheet reviewing the main findings of IUCN's study.
- [Gender-based violence and environment linkages during COVID-19: Information note. Second edition: November 2020](#) documents emerging examples on how the pandemic is further impacting gender-based violence and environment links to support and inform practitioners.
- [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 to strengthen attention to addressing GBV across environment-related contexts.
- [Gender-Based Violence and Environment Webinar and Conversation Series](#) (2020 - Present) [EN | ES | FR] 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](#).

## 3.2 Exacerbating dynamics – the compound impacts of COVID-19 and climate change

In 2022, the world is arguably facing the overlapping pandemics of COVID-19, gender-based violence, climate change and biodiversity loss. Resilience in the context of each of these conditions is significantly limited by community and individual capacity to reduce poverty and secure sustainable livelihoods, access support and services and reverse gender-based discrimination and inequity. There is widespread evidence that COVID-19 has escalated incidence of various forms of gender-based violence around the world<sup>8</sup>, including in relation to natural resource management, environment conservation and climate change. For example, lockdowns, market impacts and food shortages have increased pressure on water, food and fuel collection and management activities – leading to increased household tensions and domestic violence in Latin America, sub-Saharan

---

<sup>8</sup> UN Women [The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19](#)

Africa and the Asia-Pacific regions ([IUCN, 2021](#)). Across Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, employment and livelihood losses have been seen to increase pressure on common resources and natural resource management and use-related roles, increasing sexual exploitation and abuse, such as survival sex when women's roles in activities are eroded and diminished ([IUCN, 2021](#)). Compounded vulnerabilities due to climate change are also evident, for example, increases in child marriage due to food shortages and school closures mirror and intersect with those in drought and post-disaster contexts, which have been documented in Central and South Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa ([IUCN, 2021](#)).

## 4. RISE scope, purpose and objectives

The overarching purpose of RISE is to support dedicated action to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related sectors. RISE seeks to support evidence-based strategies to prevent, mitigate and respond to the risk of gender-based violence in the context of natural resource access and control, including in relation to uses of, benefits or harms derived from and decision-making power and influence over these resources, tailored to the local context in which the action is undertaken.

Following lessons and promising practices from the previous two RISE phases, **RISE will continue to support evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related programming**, in ways that improve rights-based, gender-responsive, socially inclusive and equitable conservation, climate action and sustainable development. For this open call in 2022, RISE priorities include: generating learning on promising practices for addressing gender-based violence in climate-vulnerable contexts and in relation to protecting the rights and safety of environmental defenders, as well as adaptive management in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

RISE seeks to build evidence and cross-sector collaborations in three primary ways, investing in: a) **new interventions that address GBV in environment sectors**, b) **integrated approaches that embed GBV components in existing environmental programming or related activities** and c) **existing GBV-environment programming that aims to continue, scale up or replicate an intervention** (see box below).

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

**a) Developing new programmes addressing gender-based violence in environment sectors**

Applicants may seek funding to implement evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence in a new environmental programme. In this case, the grant will support the unique development of a new environment-focused programme that incorporates promising or proven GBV prevention or response interventions. It is expected that the grant will support natural resource stewardship activities, staffing and overhead, as well as integrated GBV capacity building and training, policies, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) collection and communication and/or other activities to be determined to test and learn the effects of a programme that incorporates GBV interventions from the outset.

**b) Integrating work to address gender-based violence in existing environment programmes**

Applicants may seek funding to complement an existing environmental programme, specifically to integrate evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence. In this case, the grant will support efforts related to natural resource access, use, control and management, in either design or implementation phase. Applying for this type of support requires the specific written support of the original funder and implementing partners. This additional grant will fund interventions, such as GBV-integrated training; policies; policy reform, including developing robust organisational sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment safeguarding practices; partnerships; M&E collection and communication; and/or other activities to be determined by the applicant.

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

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

**What do we mean by evidence-based?**

Evidence-based practices may reflect/include validated strategies (e.g., Raising Voices' SASA! research trial<sup>9</sup>) or vetted learning that is based on systematic research, or has come through project experience (e.g., an evaluated programme that is seeking to scale). The applicant must explain how the proposed intervention draws on and adapts proven or promising evidence-based strategies.

**What do we mean by environment-focused programming?**

Environment programming includes interventions that focus on the restoration, sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems; climate mitigation and adaptation and other nature-focused work to achieve a more prosperous, healthy, just and equitable planet for all.

For example, sustainable use of land and coastal and marine resources through climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, low impact fishing, etc.; sustainable and equitable natural resources governance, including forests, watersheds, etc.; mangrove and coral reef restoration; wetland and forest conservation through protected areas, species conservation, etc.; and combating illegal wildlife trade, deforestation, degradation and environmental and plastic pollution, among others.

<sup>9</sup> See for example [Raising Voices](#) (n.d.) or [Michau and Namy](#) (2021).

RISE seeks to fund up to six projects in the range of USD 100,000 - USD 400,000 each, with implementation timelines of 18-24 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. An in-person or virtual RISE Learning Summit is anticipated for all members of the RISE cohort in late 2022/early 2023.

## 5. RISE eligibility requirements

### 5.1 Targeted geographies in 2022

RISE is global in overarching scope and aims to foster and share learning across global, regional, national and subnational levels. However, **RISE-supported projects must be implemented in one or more of the following targeted geographies** and likewise commit to participate in respective regional community(ies) of practice:

- Central America and the Caribbean
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- South and Southeast Asia

Please refer to **Annex 1** of this Call for Proposals for the full list of countries. Contingent on the quality and priorities of the submitted proposals, RISE will be implemented in one or more of the targeted geographies.

### 5.2 What RISE will fund

**RISE seeks partnerships** between environmental organisations, gender equality and GBV-expert organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, local and grassroots communities and relevant experts, who, by **working together, can bridge knowledge gaps, contribute to an evidence base of effective practices and implement effective interventions**. RISE also seeks insights and learnings from other development and humanitarian sectors that have proven or promising practices to address gender-based violence; for example, applicants can draw from learnings and best practices from sectors such as health and education to apply in environmental sectors. Finally, RISE aims to support a broad range of approaches that are sustainable, scalable and applicable for IUCN and/or USAID – and replicable among a range of donors and implementers.

In summary, RISE seeks to fund interventions that:

- Foster meaningful **partnership** between environmental, gender equality and GBV-expert, Indigenous Peoples and/or community-based organisations, networks or decision-makers;
- Implement contextually appropriate, **locally- or community-led or driven** approaches, in line with rights-based principles and approaches;

- Integrate promising practices for **survivor-centred and trauma-informed** approaches;
- Draw on, adapt and/or contribute to **proven or promising strategies (i.e., evidence-based strategies)** to address gender-based violence in other sectors or geographies for application in environment-focused sectors and targeted RISE geographies;
- Build on existing or new gender-responsive environmental programming and practice to strengthen **strategies, tools and capacities** to address gender-based violence, contributing to the overall global knowledge and capacity base to address gender-based violence and environment linkages;
- 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;
- Present **innovative collaborative arrangements** – e.g., via partnerships, institutional enabling conditions, policy reform, social protection measures – that contribute to existing evidence on addressing gender-based violence in conservation, climate change and/or sustainable development work and workplaces;
- 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; and/ or demonstrating how RISE grantees' interventions and learning will **influence** national, regional or global policy and programming agendas.

## 5.3 What RISE will not fund

The RISE 2022 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 free equipment, construction, land purchase, or building new infrastructure;
- 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);

- Do not establish partnerships with relevant stakeholders (i.e., environmental organisations/groups, local/indigenous community groups, gender/GBV organisations and relevant experts);
- Include interventions that run a significant risk of exacerbating gender-based violence while improving environmental outcomes; harming environmental outcomes; or exacerbating both gender-based violence and environmental harm;
- Propose ‘Integration into an existing program’ approaches that do not have written support from their original underwriting organisation;
- Are affiliated with a political party or engaged in political parties or electoral interests/activities;
- Are focused solely on religious or faith-based activities; and/or
- Are to be implemented entirely or exclusively outside the targeted **geographies** included in section 5.1 and annex 1 of this call for Proposals.

## 5.4 Eligible applicants

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

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Grassroots, local and community-based organisations (CBOs), including women, youth-led and LGBTQI 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;
- 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).

## 5.5 Ineligible applicants

The following organisations are not eligible for participating in this Call for Proposals:

- 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 USAID funds in the past;
- Applicants whose staff include an individual currently employed by, or closely related (i.e. immediate family) to, an IUCN employee or an employee of one of the IUCN collaborators involved in the management of the RISE program or the AGENT program;
- IUCN Secretariat;
- Any government public entity or organisation; and/or
- Individuals.

## **5.6 Requirements for partnerships and collaborations**

RISE encourages partnerships between environmental organisations, gender equality and GBV-expert organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, local communities and relevant experts. Previously existing or new partnerships or consortiums must meet the following requirements:

- One organisation must be identified as the lead organisation, which will be 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 5.7)
- The integration of a consortium or partnership must favour the technical and operational implementation of the project. Therefore, the applicant must include in its proposal a narrative describing each partner, the specific role, relevant past experience and added value.
- The collaboration or partnership must be supported by documents confirming and describing the collaboration, which will be required by IUCN to confirm the partnership.

## **5.7 Other eligibility requirements**

### **5.7.1 Thematic responsiveness**

Proposals must address the problem, purpose and objectives of RISE, which are defined in section 4 and 5.2 of this Call for Proposals.

### **5.7.2 Local presence**

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. 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.

### **5.7.3 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 6 RISE application and award process**, stage 4 for more information on the due diligence process.

Compliance with eligibility requirements will be verified with supporting documentation.

#### **5.7.4 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.

#### **5.7.5 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 either a part of their proposal or part of the due diligence phase among selected applicants.<sup>10</sup>

## **5.8 Administrative requirements**

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

#### **5.8.1 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.

#### **5.8.2 Accounting requirements**

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

#### **5.8.3 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

---

<sup>10</sup> See [USAID's Collective Action to Reduce Gender Based Violence \(CARE-GBV\)](#) brief on self and collective care.

supporting evidence (e.g. invoices, receipts, contracts, timesheets, etc.) and in accordance with the accounting standards of the country of registration of the recipient and its usual accounting practices. Expenditures must be reasonable, justified and in line with the principle of sound financial management.

#### 5.8.4 Internal controls

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

## 6. RISE application and award process

The RISE 2022 application and award process has the following five stages:



### 6.1 Stage 1 – Proposal submission

Before applying, please make sure you are clear about the type of activities and applicants that are eligible for funding under RISE and each of the requirements explained in this document.

#### 6.1.1 Online application<sup>11</sup>

Proposals must be written and submitted using only the online application platform, available at <https://rise.smapply.io>. The online application package consists on:

- Online application
- Proof of registration (lead applicant and partners)<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> **Data protection.** IUCN takes data protection and management seriously and is committed to safeguarding and protecting Personal Data of private individuals. As such, the entirety of the RISE 2022 call for proposals, including the application submission process, is in accordance with the [IUCN Data Protection Policy](#).

<sup>12</sup> Proof of registration of lead applicant is required at this stage. Proof of registration of partners is recommended at this stage and will be required at the pre-award and due diligence stage. Documents such as a copy of the registration document, the articles of association or articles of incorporation, but also other

- [RISE declaration](#)
- [Activity plan](#)
- [Budget](#)

The online application form consists of specific questions for applicants to present their project and activities, describing to the RISE team how the proposed activity meets the selection criteria and what can be achieved if selected for funding. The online application form will also include eligibility questions and an initial environmental and social risks assessment. For further guidance on the online application form, please refer to Annex 2. For further guidance on the budget form, please refer to Annex 3.

#### **6.1.2 Language**

Applicants must submit their entries in English or Spanish. The application system as well as forms (budget, activity plan and RISE declaration) and guidelines are available in English and Spanish. Hand-written documents will not be accepted.

#### **6.1.3 Questions and answers**

Prospect applicants can send questions and requests for clarifications via email to [RISE@iucn.org](mailto:RISE@iucn.org), no later than June 24, 2022, Friday at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

#### **6.1.4 RISE informative webinar**

A virtual webinar explaining the purpose, eligibility criteria and application components will be held on June 22, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. EDT. It will be recorded and uploaded on the RISE website, as well. During the session there will also be time to answer the questions submitted until the day before and other additional questions from the audience. These and any other questions coming after the webinar no later than June 24, 2022, Friday at 11:59 p.m. EDT will be answered by June 28, 2022 in the Frequently Asked Questions that will be available to the public on the official [RISE website](#).

#### **6.1.5 Submission and deadline**

The RISE application window opens June 7 and closes July 18. Please submit your proposal digitally via the [online application platform](#) no later than July 18, 2022 at 11:59 pm EDT. Any changes to these dates will be communicated via the [RISE webpage](#). Be aware that:

- Proposals 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;
- Proposals sent by means other than the online application platform will not be accepted;
- The applicant is solely responsible for any errors that occur in the proposal 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);

---

documents as applicable under the local regulations of the country of registration may serve as proof of existence and registration as a legal entity.

- All supporting documents that are not in English or Spanish must be accompanied by an English or Spanish translation (notarised translations are not required at the application stage);
- IUCN and USAID will not be responsible for any costs associated with the development or/and the submission of the proposals; and
- An organisation can submit an unlimited number of different proposals 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.

## 6.2 Stage 2 – Eligibility screening

Applicants will undergo an initial eligibility screening to ensure they comply with the eligibility criteria included in section 5.

The eligibility verification will be performed based on the online 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 on that sole basis.

During this step, the following be assessed:

- Whether the applicant is an eligible organisation;
- Whether the 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 targeted geography(ies) for RISE as per the list included in Annex 1;
- Whether the applicant or its partner(s) has local presence in the country or countries proposed as an area of implementation;
- Whether the proposal is thematically responsive; and
- Whether the proposed activity is or is not among the interventions eligible for funding under RISE 2022 according to section 5.2 and 5.3 of this call for proposals.

## 6.3 Stage 3 – Technical evaluation and finalist interview

Eligible proposals will be further evaluated and ranked by a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) comprised of up to 20 evaluators who will assess them against the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	%
<b>1. Problem statement</b>	
<b>Problem identified by the applicant (relevance)</b> Under this criterion the problem proposed by the applicant and the extent to which it is relevant to the technical context and problem proposed in the RISE call for proposals are evaluated.  <b>Proposals are expected to:</b>	20

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the problem described in the call for Proposals.</li> <li>• Provide sufficient information about the identified problem, the context in which it occurs, the ways in which it manifests itself, how it affects a specific population, identified causes, including data, identification of the specific area and population, as well as all relevant information.</li> <li>• Demonstrate why the identified problem is relevant and important to be considered under RISE.</li> <li>• Demonstrate clear understanding of the linkages between gender-based violence and environment issues in the identified problem.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Proposed intervention</b>	
<p><b>a. Strategy(ies) description</b></p> <p>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 RISE.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe in detail what the solution consists of, whether it is a best practice, strategy, tool, etc., and how it draws on, adapts to and/or contributes to proven or promising strategies (i.e., evidence-based strategies) to address gender-based violence in the proposed environment-focused sector and geography.</li> <li>• Clearly describe what type of intervention it is (whether it is a new programme, integrates actions to address gender-based violence into an existing environmental programming or continues, scales-up or replicates an existing intervention already addressing gender-based violence in environment programming).</li> <li>• Provide sufficient context-based justification and evidence to substantiate feasibility, how the proposed strategy has great potential to address the specific identified problem in the specific context. (i.e. research, metrics for environmental and social impact).</li> <li>• Clearly identify the country or countries and specific location of the proposed activity and provide the reasons why a particular geography has been selected.</li> <li>• Indicate how many women and men will directly and indirectly benefit from this project (i.e. engaged as agents of change, stakeholders and/or beneficiaries).</li> <li>• Clearly state what can be achieved with the requested RISE resources.</li> <li>• If you were granted a RISE grant, specifically articulate how another grant builds on the learnings and results of the first.</li> </ul> <p><b>*Proposals generating learning on proven or promising practices in climate-vulnerable contexts and in relation to protecting the rights and safety of environmental defenders, as well as adaptive management in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, will be more highly weighted.*</b></p>	15
<p><b>b. Activities</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which the set of activities presented align with the strategy(ies) and contribute to address the identified problem.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Describe in a clear and schematic way the main activities to be carried out during the life of the project, reflecting how they contribute to the achievement of specific results. Applicants are also required to fill in the activity plan form with more detail.</p> <p><b>*See section 6.4 for further information on RISE communications, peer learning and community building expectations to be considered in budget and activity plans.</b></p>	5

<p><b>c. Monitoring, evaluation and learning</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which progress will be measured and evaluated to fill knowledge gaps on promising practices, strategies and tools.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminarily indicate how progress will be measured and evaluated, including data collection methods for baseline and endline data collection.</li> <li>Explain how data collection and information will support knowledge and learning at multiple levels (e.g., at local, national and international levels and/or contributing to the knowledge and learning of the GBV-ENV Center via RISE and GBV-ENV Center knowledge products and communications activities).</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>d. Adaptability</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the applicant will be able to adapt the strategy(ies) to health, climate and security risks.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Describe how the strategy(ies) will be adapted in the context of COVID-19, gender-based violence risk(s), weather-related disasters or other security risks, including any plans for providing self- and collective care to staff working on gender-based violence.</p>	5
<p><b>e. Sustainability, scalability and replicability</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the potential for sustainability, scalability and replicability of the strategy(ies).</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Explain how planned outcomes (that contribute to gender equality, improved gender safety and environmental sustainability) can be sustained after the period of implementation.</p>	10
<b>3. Expected outcomes (impacts)</b>	
<p><b>a. Environment outcomes</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the intervention will contribute to a healthy and sustainable environment.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Describe how the strategy(ies) will contribute to sustainable natural resource management, climate mitigation or adaptation and/or women environmental defenders' protection.</p>	5
<p><b>b. Gender equality and women's rights and empowerment outcomes</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the intervention will contribute to gender equality and women's rights and empowerment goals in the environment context</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Describe how the strategy(ies) will contribute to women's rights, empowerment and overall gender equality in the context of natural resource access and control, including in relation to uses of, benefits derived from and decision-making power and influence over these resources.</p>	5
<p><b>c. Gender-based violence outcomes</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates which type(s) of approaches to address gender-based violence will be implemented and the extent to which the proposed strategy(ies) will contribute to them.</p>	5

<b>Proposals are expected to:</b> Clearly define how the strategy(ies) will contribute to gender-based violence prevention, response and/or risk mitigation.	
<b>4. Partnerships and collaborations</b>	
<p><b>a. Partnership team and experience</b></p> <p>Under this criterion, the capacity and experience of the proposed team is evaluated, as well as the relevant technical experience of the applicant organisation and its partners, if any, in relation to the proposed solution and the capacity to implement it.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe relevant technical expertise of the applicant organisation and its partners and how it contributes to the proposed activities (added value).</li> <li>Include names, roles and a brief summary of experience of key personnel.</li> <li>Describe previous experience working in the specific geography.</li> <li>Identify any institutional and capacity needs to ensure the success of the strategy(ies) and any plans to address them.</li> </ul>	10
<p><b>b. Cross-sectoral collaboration</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the manner in which the applicant involves other cross-sector actors in the proposed strategy.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify other stakeholders and actors that can influence, support, collaborate with the activity and those with whom it will coordinate for the proper development of the activity.</li> <li>Describe how the applicant will foster meaningful partnerships, collaboration or alliances between environmental, gender equality and GBV-expert, Indigenous Peoples and/or community-based organisations, networks or decision-makers (identified actors) in favour of the proposed strategy</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>c. Community-driven interventions</b></p> <p>This criterion evaluates the extent to which the strategy is community-driven, rights-based, participatory and inclusive and upholds a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach.</p> <p><b>Proposals are expected to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how survivors, community activists, leaders, etc., in particular, are involved and contributing to project design and implementation.</li> <li>Explain how the proposed activity would involve the target population (direct beneficiaries) but also other populations that may be impacted, with an emphasis on most marginalised and at-risk populations.</li> <li>Describe how the target population participates and benefits from these interventions, including the possibilities for local and community ownership of the solution.</li> </ul>	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Budget will not be scored, but will be analysed for its correspondence to the technical proposal, the reasonableness of the costs included, the optimisation in the use of resources and gender responsiveness. Budget and activities adjustments can be negotiated during the due diligence process.

The longlisted top 20 applicants will then move to the RISE Steering Committee, which will select a shortlist of no more than 10 applications to move to the interview stage may be informed by the following:

- Focus on the priority topics in 2022 (climate change, safety and rights of environmental defenders and adaptability to COVID-19);
- Potential of the activity to be locally or community-led or driven by the participating community;
- Diversity across or within targeted geographies and/or strategic approaches.

The shortlisted applications – no more than 10 – will be invited to participate in a virtual interview with members of the Steering Committee. The purpose of the interview is to complement the evaluation carried out by the Technical Evaluation and the RISE Steering Committees and is an opportunity to go deeper into relevant aspects of the proposal.

## **6.4 Stage 4 – Pre-award and 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 call and submit required documentation.

With no exception, final selection as a grantee is conditional on a successful due diligence process. Finalists will also be reviewed and approved by relevant USAID Missions. With no exceptions, Mission Concurrence is required for final selection and awards.

During the pre-award and due diligence stage, the administrative, operational and financial capacity of the selected finalist is assessed, IUCN and USAID's environmental and social impact assessments are conducted, a detailed review and final negotiation of the budget and activity plan is performed and compliance with all administrative requirements is verified. This stage is intended to be interactive and is the opportunity to get to know the applicant organisation better, interact with the team, provide feedback and guidance.

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.

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

The final budget and activity plans will be agreed at this stage. The final activity plan will include the technical activities necessary for the project development as well as activities necessary to support RISE objectives, such as communications, peer-learning and community building.

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

## 6.5 Stage 5 – Selection of awardees

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

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

# 7. Awards under RISE

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

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

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

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

## **7.1 Funding information**

RISE has up to between USD 1,475,000 to 1,875,000 to award in 2022. Depending on the number of high-quality applications, RISE reserves the right to allocate more or less to grants during this period.

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

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

## **7.2 Cost-share**

Co-finance is not mandatory but encouraged.

## **7.3 Period of implementation**

All activities under RISE must conclude by 31 December 2024 and have an implementation period from 18- 24 months.

# **8. Annexes**

Annex 1 - Targeted geographies in 2022 – full list of countries

Annex 2 - Application form guidance

Annex 3 - Budget form guidance

Annex 4 - Sample grant agreement

## **Annex 1. Targeted geographies in 2022 – full list of countries**

### **Central America and the Caribbean**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

### **Eastern and Southern Africa**

- Angola
- Botswana
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Reunion
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

### **South and Southeast Asia**

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- India
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam

## Annex 2. Application form guidance

This annex provides guidance for applicants on how to apply to RISE via the SM Apply platform. Additional guidance on how to use the platform is available [here](#).

- The first thing to do is to enter the on-line application platform at this link:  
<https://rise.smapply.io>
- The system requires a username and password so if you are entering for the first time you must go to the REGISTER button. The system will ask you for some data and will take you step by step.
- You will be a user of the platform and you will be able to log in, save, go back, review and edit until you submit your application.
- You will be able to give access to other users within your organisation or your partnering organisation as collaborators, who will also be able to access the content of your application and edit/review it before submission.
- Once you have clicked the SUBMIT button you will no longer be able to make changes to your application.
- The application process comprises 11 sections or TASKS, as follows:
  1. Download necessary forms and templates
  2. Acknowledgements
  3. Lead applicant contact information
  4. Lead applicant basic Information
  5. Applicant eligibility
  6. Environmental and social impact assessment
  7. Technical proposal
  8. Upload proof of registration
  9. Upload RISE declaration
  10. Upload activity plan
  11. Upload budget
- The first task “Download necessary forms and templates” includes all the templates and forms that you need to download, fill in and upload at the end (tasks 9-11). You can also find these forms [here](#).
- Tasks 2 to 7 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. Especially as task 6 should inform task 7.** You can always go back to previous tasks and edit them before submitting your application.
- In task 8, the system will require you to upload the proof of registration of the lead applicant and partners. Proof of registration of the lead applicant is required at this stage. Proof of registration of all partners will be required at the pre-award and due

diligence stage, but it is recommended to upload it at the application stage, if available.

- In task 9, the system will require you to upload a signed copy of the declaration form that you can download from task 1 in English or Spanish.
- Finally, in tasks 10 and 11, the system will require you to upload the budget and activity plan, which must be filled out completely using the templates provided in task 1. The forms have been designed and formatted in a standardised manner. Do not change the formulas in the budget template unless it is to add additional rows to the formula.
- 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 in the application platform, [RISE website](#) and directly [here](#).

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

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

Each cost must be:

- Necessary for the implementation of the proposed project activities;
- Reasonable and justified in accordance with the good and prudent exercise of the best and most efficient use of money, cost realism and cost-effectiveness;
- Incurred during the approved lifetime of the grant agreement (costs incurred before the official starting date of the project or after the official end date of the project are not acceptable);
- Compliant with local laws and applicant's procurement policies or guidelines if any; and
- Realistic and in line with market prices. To this end, applicants are advised to base their estimates on actual current or recent supporting documentation and/or cost experience like paystubs, quotations<sup>13</sup>, etc. Recent paid invoices can also be used as realistic cost reference.

Other instructions:

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

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

---

<sup>13</sup> (Quotations obtained online are also useful)

## **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 United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (hereafter the "Donor") for the implementation of on Advancing Gender in the Environment's (AGENT) project;

Whereas Research from IUCN conducted under its partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Advancing Gender in the Environment's (AGENT) Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages Center (GBV-ENV Center) shows that gender-based violence and environment (GBV-ENV) issues are interlinked and require focused attention and action. The RISE (Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments) grant is a direct response to this need. In its 2022 phase, RISE will support

evidence-based 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 [project title / reasons leading IUCN to select this Grantee];

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 [name of the project] (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] [or] [as of DDMMYYYY] (the "Effective Date") and shall remain in full force and effect until [specify the date on which the Agreement will expire] (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 [name of document] attached to this Agreement as Annex [insert annex number].

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

4.1 The budget for this Agreement is set forth in the [name of document] attached as Annex [insert annex number] 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 [currency+amount in numbers followed by the amount written out in words] (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 [currency+amount in numbers] [(amount written out in words)] upon signature of this Agreement by both Parties and submission of an advance payment request. The amount of the Initial Instalment should be sufficient to cover the first reporting quarter in accordance with article 7.3.2.i.

##### 4.4.2 Quarterly Payments

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

##### 4.4.3 Final Instalment

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

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

Complete Account name: [xxx]

Account type and currency: [xxx]

Bank name: [xxx]

Bank address: [xxx]

Account No.: [xxx]

SWIFT Code or other bank routing code: [xxx]

IBAN No: [xxx]

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

4.6 The Grantee shall bear any bank charges associated with any transfer of funds that IUCN may make hereunder. The Grantee must exercise prudent management of Budget Funds by drawing only those funds that are required for current use. The timing and the

amount of the drawdown must be as close as is administratively possible to the actual disbursements by the Grantee for direct Project or activity costs and the proportionate share of allowable indirect costs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name	Name
------	------

Title	Title
[Name of IUCN programme/office]	[Name of counterpart]
Address	Address
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. First Technical Report

The Grantee shall provide to IUCN the First Technical Report which shall consist of [please include requirements] at the latest on [date].

##### ii. Second Technical Report

The Grantee shall provide to IUCN the Second Technical Report which shall consist of [please include requirements] at the latest on [date].

##### iii. Third and Final Technical Report

The Grantee shall provide to IUCN the Third and Final Technical Report which shall consist of [please include requirements] at the latest on [date].

### 7.3.2 Financial Reporting

i. Financial Progress Reports. The Grantee shall submit Financial Progress Reports within thirty (30) days following the end of each calendar quarter in the format specified by IUCN in [Annex number].

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

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.

7.6 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 USAID.

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

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

"This [publication, video, or other information/media product (specify) was made possible through the support provided by the Office of \_\_\_\_\_, Bureau for \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No. \_\_\_\_\_. The opinions expressed in this [ publication, video, or other information/media product] are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development."

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

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

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

## **9. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

9.1 “Confidential Information” means any and all tangible or intangible information, privileged or proprietary information or trade secrets given to one Party by or on behalf of the other Party and explicitly designated, either orally or in writing, as confidential, either at the time of disclosure or, if disclosed orally, confirmed in writing within thirty (30) days following the original disclosure, including, without limitation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.6 Notwithstanding the above requirements, IUCN shall have the right to publish the following information in the IUCN Open Project Portal (Portal) as well as on the International

Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Registry: a) Project name, description and objectives; b) Project total budget and timeline; c) Donor name; d) Implementing partner(s); e) Recipient country; f) Project contribution to IUCN programme targets and SDGs and g) Annual budget and expenditures. In a second phase, the Portal will disclose additional information as follows: a) Project results; b) Procurement of goods and services; c) Social and environmental safeguards. For the avoidance of doubt, this Agreement and/or subsequent agreements entered into between the Parties will not be publicly shared.

## **10. INDEMNIFICATION**

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

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

## **11. INSURANCE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **15. REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES**

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

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

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

15.4 The Grantee must make such reasonable efforts, as are necessary, to ensure that no fund of the Budget Funds are diverted in support of drug trafficking. IUCN reserve the right

to terminate assistance to, or take other appropriate measures with respect to, any of the Grantee's employee or sub-contractor found to have been convicted of a narcotics offence or to have been engaged in drug trafficking. As defined in 22CFR Part 140 ([http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2002/aprqrtr/pdf/22cfr140.3.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/aprqrtr/pdf/22cfr140.3.pdf)), drug trafficking means "any activity undertaken illicitly to cultivate, produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, finance or transport, or assist, abet, conspire, or collude with others in illicit activities, including money laundering, relating to narcotic or psychotic drugs, precursor chemicals, or other controlled substances.

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

## **16. DATA PROTECTION**

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

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

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

16.4 The Parties may grant to their personnel access only to personal data that is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring their tasks within the Project. The Parties must also ensure that any supply of personal data to any other party is legitimate and compliant with Data Privacy Laws. Parties shall ensure that persons authorised to process the Personal Data have committed themselves to confidentiality. In the event that, in the course of implementing this Agreement, a controller to processor or processor

sub-processor relationship is created, the Parties undertake to enter into an appropriate data processing agreement which complies with Article 28 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personal Data subject requests shall be sent to IUCN using the online form here (<https://portals.iucn.org/dataprotection/requestform> ).

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

### **17.1 Termination for cause**

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

- i. has falsified or provided inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information in any documentation provided to IUCN, including in any proposal or any due diligence documents IUCN requested;
- ii. defaults in carrying out any of its obligations under this Agreement including but not limited to the delivery of Tasks and Deliverables in accordance with article 3;
- iii. has engaged in illegal acts, including, without limitation fraudulent or corrupt actions as defined in Code of Conduct and Professional Ethics for the Secretariat and IUCN's Anti-fraud Policy (hereafter referred to as a "Fraud");
- iv. 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 Fraud 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 IUCN programme/office]	[Name of counterpart]
Address	Address
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, the undersigned, being duly authorised to do so, have executed this Agreement in the English language in two (2) originals.

IUCN, International Union for  
Conservation of Nature and  
Natural Resources

[Grantee]

Date:

Date:

[name of representative]

[name of representative]

[position of representative]

[position of representative]