

USAID BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Species Conservation Fund

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

Round 3 – November 2023

Deadline of Submission: 7 December 2023 at 17:00 pm.

The Species Conservation Fund (SCF) of the USAID Biodiversity Conservation project implemented by WWF-US, in collaboration with the project partners WWF-Viet Nam, ENV, Fauna & Flora Vietnam, IUCN Vietnam, Re:wild and IZW, is currently accepting Project Proposals from local not-for-profit organizations, civil society organizations (CSO) and community-based organizations (CBO) with proven capacity and experience to implement the projects that address the biodiversity conservation in the 21 sites in seven project provinces that meet the criteria set out in this Call.

Background

The USAID Biodiversity Conservation project (the Project) is a 5-year project (2020 – 2025) that aims to maintain and increase forest quality and protect and stabilize wildlife populations in high conservation value provinces: Ha Tinh, Lam Dong, Ninh Binh, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien-Hue. The project targets 14 special-use forests (SUFs) and seven protection forests (PFs), linking forest management units across the landscape to maintain forest cover and connectivity of habitats vital for the protection of Vietnam's threatened and endemic species. The project is implemented by WWF-US, in collaboration with the project partners WWF-Viet Nam, Education for Nature Vietnam (ENV), Fauna & Flora (formally Fauna and Flora International – FFI) Vietnam Programme, Re:wild, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Vietnam (IUCN), and the Leibniz-Institute for Zoo and Wildlife (IZW).

The project has four strategic approaches (SA):

- SA1** Promote Conservation-Friendly Enterprises in Forest Dependent Communities
- SA2** Strengthen Management of Special-use and Protection Forests
- SA3** Increase Functionality of Law Enforcement Systems for Forest and Wildlife Crimes
- SA4** Reduce Local Demand for illegal wildlife products through Behavior Change Methodologies

SA2 and SA3 aim to strengthen the management of special use and protection of forests in project provinces. In this context, the project has established the *Species Conservation Fund* (SCF) through which it will award small grants to project proposals that contribute to the conservation of wild animals in target provinces. **The SCF** aims to strengthen the biodiversity conservation of Vietnam through the participation of grassroots organizations. It does so by creating an opportunity for local not-for-profit organizations, civil society organizations (CSO), community-based organizations (CBO), research organisations, semi-government institutions, and university departments or institutions to conduct activities that contribute to conserve priority species in the field. With this grant program, local organizations will conduct projects from 1 to 1.5 years to strengthen their capabilities in species conservation. This opportunity will enable these organizations to contribute to the conservation of globally threatened species.

SCF is a joint initiative of WWF-US, WWF-Viet Nam, IUCN, and Re: Wild. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in the conservation of species in protected areas and protection forests in target provinces. Applicants are encouraged to read the **Application Guidelines**, particularly the sections on **Eligibility**, **Before You Apply**, and **How to Apply**.

Opening Date

7 November 2023

Closing Date

7 December 2023

Grant Size

Standard projects: **USD20,000 to USD50,000**. Larger-sized projects (up to **100,000USD**) should contact the SCF Focal Point no later than two weeks before the proposal submission deadline to discuss the project idea. The SCF focal point may ask for additional clarifications before advising submission of a full proposal.

All grants are managed and overseen by the SCF team of the USAID Biodiversity Conservation project.

Eligible Project Activities

Eligible activities must do at least one of the following:

1. Generate new information about a priority species leading to improvement in its management.
2. Demonstrably reduce threats to a priority species.
3. Lead to a demonstrable increase in a wild population of a priority species.
4. Put in place the conditions that allow a priority species to be reintroduced to the wild.

Eligible (Priority) Species

The SCF supports to conservation initiatives that are critical for the conservation of one or more priority species as following:

No	Priority Species	Common Name
	MAMMALS	
1	<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	Asian Small-clawed Otter
2	<i>Chrotogale owstoni</i>	Owston's Civet
3	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>	Smooth-coated Otter
4	<i>Muntiacus vuquangensis</i>	Large-antlered Muntjac
5	<i>Muntiacus rooseveltorum/truongsonensis</i>	Annamite Dark Muntjac complex
6	<i>Nesolagus timminsi</i>	Annamite Striped Rabbit
7	<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>	Northern White-cheeked Gibbon
8	<i>Nomascus siki</i>	Southern White-cheeked Gibbon
9	<i>Pseudoryx nghetinhensis</i>	Saola
10	<i>Axis porcinus</i>	Hog Deer
11	<i>Pygathrix cinerea</i>	Grey-shanked Douc
12	<i>Pygathrix nemaeus</i>	Red-shanked Douc
13	<i>Trachypithecus delacouri</i>	Delacour's Langur
14	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	Large-spotted Civet
	BIRDS	
1	<i>Carpococcyx renauldi</i>	Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo
2	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Yellow-breasted Bunting
3	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Lesser Adjutant
4	<i>Lophura edwardsi</i>	Edwards's Pheasant
5	<i>Rheinardia ocellata</i>	Crested Argus
	REPTILES	
1	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	Siamese Crocodile
2	<i>Cuora bourreti</i>	Bourret's Box Turtle
3	<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	Indochinese Box Turtle
4	<i>Cuora mouhotii</i>	Keeled Box Turtle
5	<i>Cyclemys pulchristiata</i>	Eastern Black-ridged Leaf Turtle
6	<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>	Elongated Tortoise
7	<i>Mauremys mutica</i>	Asian Yellow Pond Turtle
8	<i>Manouria impressa</i>	Impressed Tortoise

9	<i>Palea steindachneri</i>	Wattle-necked Softshelled Turtle
10	<i>Pelochelys cantorii</i>	Asian Giant Softshell Turtle
11	<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	Big-headed Turtle
12	<i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i>	Four-eyed Turtle
	FISHES	
1	<i>Schistura spiloptera</i>	Spot-finned Loach
2	<i>Scleropages formosus</i>	Asian Arowana

If you are interested to develop a project for a species not in the USAID BCA priority list, consult with the SCF Focal Point at least 2 weeks before the proposal submission deadline to discuss the project idea.

Eligible Sites

No.	Project site	Province
1	Cuc Phuong National Park	Ninh Binh
2	Vu Quang National Park	Ha Tinh
3	Dong Chau – Khe Nuoc Trong Nature Reserve	Quang Binh
4	Phong Nha- Ke Bang National Park	
5	Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve	Quang Tri
6	Dakrong Nature Reserve	
7	Huong Hoa-Dakrong Protection Forest	
8	A Luoi Protection Forest	Thua Thien-Hue
9	Bac Hai Van Protection Forest	
10	Nam Dong Protection Forest	
11	Bach Ma National Park	
12	Phong Dien Nature Reserve	
13	Thua Thien-Hue Saola Nature Reserve	Quang Nam
14	Song Thanh National Park	
15	Elephant Species and Habitat Conservation Area	
16	Quang Nam Sao La Species/Habitat Conservation Area	
17	Dong Giang Protection Forest	Lam Dong
18	Tay Giang Protection Forest	
19	Bidoup Nui Ba National Park	Dong Nai
20	Da Nhim Watershed Protection Forest	
21	Cat Tien National Park	

Eligible Languages

SCF accepts **grant applications** in either Vietnamese or English.

Environmental and Social considerations

All SCF grants will be screened against the [WWF's Statements of Principles \(SoPs\)](#) and [Environmental and Social Safeguards \(ESS\)](#) and the [USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US, Non-governmental Organizations](#), which are intended to prevent or mitigate any harm to people or the environment that might inadvertently arise during the project.

Applicants whose project triggers one or more safeguard policies will be asked to prepare the relevant safeguard document(s) and incorporate preventative measures into the project's design.

Additional information

This call is open to local not-for-profit organizations (NGO), civil society organizations (CSO) and community-based organizations (CBO) in Vietnam. Individuals wishing to apply must work with civil society organizations to develop applications, rather than apply directly.

Grants cannot be used for: (i) purchase of land; (ii) removal or alteration of any physical cultural property (including those with archaeological, palaeontological, historical, religious or unique natural values); (iii) relocation of people or any other form of involuntary resettlement; or (iv) capitalization of trust funds. All activities must comply with the [WWF's Statements of Principles \(SoPs\)](#) and [Environmental and Social Safeguards \(ESS\)](#) and the [USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US, Non-governmental Organizations](#).

How to apply

Before applying for a grant, applicants should carefully read the **Application Guidelines** to understand the eligibilities regarding species, organizations, activities and evaluation criteria. Please make sure that your project submission clearly identifies with these requirements and contains all the requested documents. **Applicants** can apply in English or Vietnamese, using the offline template attached to this call. Applicants are advised to prepare proposals of the projects that are up to 12 months in duration with an estimated start date of 1 February 2024.

Completed project proposals and budget should be sent as an e-mail attachment to the **SCF Focal Point** at bcfocalpointscf@wwf.org.vn. The file name of the project proposal submitted should be as follows: **Organisation acronym_SCF**. For example, **WWF_SCF**. The receipt of the application will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants will be contacted thereafter as to how to proceed. Questions or concerns during this process can be sent to the SCF Focal Point or Dr. Le Khac Quyet at quyet.lekhac@wwf.org.vn.

All applicants must submit their project proposal and budget no later than 5:00 PM on 7 December 2023. The project proposals received after this time will be rejected. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of their project proposals at the time of submission.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

Species Conservation Fund – USAID Biodiversity Conservation

WWF-Viet Nam – Ha Noi Office

No 6 Lane 18, Nguyen Co Thach, Nam Tu Liem, Ha Noi

Email” bcfocalpointscf@wwf.org.vn

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