RISE CfP 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

RISE funds and timeline

What is the ceiling for RISE Funds?

RISE has up to between USD 1,475,000 to USD 1,875,000 to award in 2022. RISE seeks to support up to six projects of USD 100,000-400,000 each. Please refer to section 7.1 in the call for proposals for more details.

When will the project start operating, and how long can it last?

Projects should be implemented over an 18 - 24 month timeline, with all projects ending by 31 December 2024. See section 7.3 in the call for proposals.

How many applications/grantees will be selected from the three geographical regions?

There are no set amount of projects for each region. Contingent on the quality and priorities of the submitted proposals, selected RISE projects will be implemented in one or more of the targeted geographies.

If successful in receiving funding for a project in this call, would there be opportunities for additional funding later to scale out the project to other countries/regions with local organisations in those countries/regions?

RISE grantees remain eligible to apply for more RISE funding in future calls for proposals. In addition, RISE grantees will participate in a learning cohort to share peer learning and increase capacities and impact.

Eligible applicants

Are United Nations agencies eligible to apply?

Yes. The United Nations is recognised as an intergovernmental organisation and is included in the list of eligible applicants in section 5.4 of the call for proposals. See sections 5.4 and 5.6 in the call for proposals to read about eligible applicants and partnership requirements.

Are CBOs/CSOs eligible to apply?

Yes, CBOs and CSOs are eligible to apply for the RISE 2022 grant. See sections 5.4 and 5.6 in the call for proposals to read about eligible applicants and partnership requirements.

Are universities eligible to apply?

Yes, public and private universities, their departments and other academic institutions are eligible to apply. See sections 5.4 and 5.6 in the call for proposals to read about eligible applicants and partnership requirements.

Are local NGOs eligible for the grant?

Yes, NGOs are eligible to apply for the RISE 2022 grant. See sections 5.4 and 5.6 in the call for proposals to read about eligible applicants and partnership requirements.

Is a health research institute eligible to apply for this call?

Yes, research institutions and think tanks are eligible to apply. See sections 5.4 and 5.6 in the call for applications to read about eligible applicants and partnership requirements.

Is there funding for individual researchers, and how much?

No, individuals are not eligible to apply. Please see sections 5.4 and 5.5 to read about eligible and ineligible applicants. Partnerships are also a requirement for the 2022 RISE call for applications. Please see section 5.6 for requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

How do we check our eligibility? I am a new leader in my organisation and do not know if there is a history with USAID

Eligibility requirements are outlined in the call for proposals. Please see section 5 of the call for proposals for eligibility requirements, including targeted geographies, eligible applicants and what RISE will fund.

Are street-connected communities eligible for this call?

Yes.

Is there any preference for local organisations over international or global organisations?

RISE is open to legally registered local, national, regional, or international organisations.

As indicated in section 5.7.2 under local presence, the applicant must already have a presence in the country where 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. See section 5.6 of the call for proposals on requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

⊖ **I have seen governments are not part of the eligible applicants. Can an NGO partner with a Government department, for example, the Department of Gender in a Government ministry?**

All partners should meet the eligibility requirements. Any government public entity or organisation is ineligible to apply, either as a lead applicant or partner. See the full list of eligible applicants in section 5.4 in the call for proposals.

→ Partnerships and consortiums

⊖ **Can organisations apply alone, without a partnership? What about organisations with local presence and networks?**

Partnerships are required for the 2022 RISE call for applications, and we encourage you to formalise partnerships to ensure partners are on board. Please see section 5.6 for requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

The applicant must already have a presence in the country where 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.

⊖ **Is the grant applicable to new partnerships/ local networks?**

Yes, RISE welcomes new partnerships and networks.

⊖ **Can consortiums apply?**

Yes. Consortiums, partnerships and other already existing forms of collaboration are eligible to apply. See section 5.6 in the CfP for requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

⊖ **Can an organisation consort to more than one lead applicant?**

There can only be one lead applicant who submits the proposal on behalf of all partners. Consortiums can be made up of several organisations.

➡ Is there a preference for an international organisation, NGO, or local organisation to be the lead applicant in a consortium?

RISE does not have a preference but encourages partnerships with community-based organisations and local NGOs. The lead applicant must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in section 5 of the call for proposals.

➡ Does the grant allow sub-granting partners?

Yes, partnerships are required, and the lead applicant will be responsible for sub-granting and reporting to IUCN.

➡ Can a selected applicant find partners after It has been selected for funding?

You will have to develop the proposal and budget in partnership - selecting a partner should occur during the drafting of the proposal. Partnerships will also be assessed during the due diligence phase of selection.

➡ Can organisations from three different countries partner?

Yes, as long as all countries of implementation are targeted in this call for RISE proposals. See annex 1 in the call for proposals for a full list of eligible countries.

➡ Is there a limit to the number of sub-awardees/partners within one grant?

There is no limit in the call for proposals. The number of partners should be realistic and based on the proposal's scope, activities, and budget.

➡ Can an international organisation consort to more than one local NGO, where the local NGOs take the lead?

Yes. However, please note that there can only be one lead applicant submitting the proposal and contracting directly with IUCN.

➡ Would a lead organisation supporting partners in different locations in different countries be granted just one grant in one locality?

Yes, an organisation can only be awarded one grant as a lead applicant. However, there are no restrictions for said organisation to also be a partner in other applications.

➡ The Foreign Currency Regulation Act in India does not allow organisations to subgrant. In the case of a partnership, sub-granting will be needed. As RISE fund will be a foreign fund, the mandatory partnership clause may be a limiting factor for Indian Agencies to apply. Any suggestions to address this issue?

IUCN will directly contract the lead applicant and disburse funds for sub-granting. IUCN will try to negotiate options for direct contracting and granting to each partner but cannot guarantee it will be possible.

➡ Can we partner with local radio stations or theatre companies?

Yes, private sector companies are eligible but must demonstrate that the proposed project pursues strictly non-profit objectives and does not generate income. See sections 5.4 and 5.5 in the call for proposals on eligible and ineligible applicants and section 5.6 on requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

⊙ Should partnerships be between environment organisations and gender-based violence organisations?

RISE seeks to fund evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related programming. Thus, it encourages partnerships between environmental organisations, gender equality and GBV-expert organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, local communities and relevant experts.

Integrating a consortium or partnership must favour the technical and operational implementation of the project. Therefore, the applicant must include a narrative describing each partner, the specific role, relevant experience and added value in its proposal. See sections 4 and 5.6 to read more about the scope of RISE and the requirements for partnerships and collaborations.

→ Proof of registration

⊙ Do all partners have to be legally registered?

According to the requirement in section 5.8.1, the direct beneficiary of the award must be a legally registered entity. This is necessary because if an award is made, it requires signing a grant agreement that includes a number of responsibilities for which legal capacity is required. The applicable legal registration requirement is the one required in the applicant's country to be able to validly enter into a grant agreement and receive funds. *This requirement applies to the lead applicant organisation and any consortium partners who will receive funding from RISE.*

⊙ Where legal registration with the government is not possible due to the in-country context, can organisations submit another form of evidence as legal registration?

According to the requirement in section 5.8.1, the direct beneficiary of the award must be a legally registered entity. The requirement is fulfilled with the formality valid in the applicant's country of origin. In every case, it will be necessary at the eligibility verification stage to study the supporting documents attached to validate that the organisation exists legally as a legal entity, has a legal representative and can operate validly.

Where governments have stopped registration services, IUCN will allow the submission of recent registration documents. However, organisations will have to clarify how they operate without valid registration and the validity of organisation bank accounts.

⊙ Are partnerships with non-registered community-based groups allowed?

As per section 5.8.1, 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 considered 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. Non-registered partners should be listed as stakeholders as they cannot receive and manage funds.

⇨ **Is there a limit to the number of years an organisation should be locally registered or the number of years for audited accounts?**

No.

⇨ **As this is USAID funding, would all partners need to be registered in SAM and have UEI/DUNS numbers?**

SAM registration and UEI numbers are required if you submit a grant proposal to the US Federal government. Since the RISE grant proposal is submitted to IUCN and the contract is between IUCN and the lead applicant, SAM registration and UEI numbers are not required to submit a RISE grant application to IUCN.

⇨ # Other eligibility requirements

⇨ **Will there be support for CBOs without implementation experience?**

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.

⇨ **Do organisations need previous experience with IUCN or USAID to apply for this call?**

No, applicants are not required to have previous experience with IUCN or USAID.

⇨ **Is there a minimum number of beneficiaries the project should address?**

There is no minimum number of beneficiaries for projects. IUCN will negotiate activities, budgets, and deliverables during due diligence.

⇨ **Can we include activities to address GBV issues among our employees and stakeholders?**

Activities that promote institutional learning within an organisation or that develop Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) policies and procedures and self-and collective care structures of frameworks are allowed. As RISE seeks to fund evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related programming, proposals should display strong linkages between gender-based violence and environment. See section 4 in the call for proposals to learn more about the RISE scope, purpose, and objectives.

⇨ **Is it necessary to have an existing environment/climate change project to integrate GBV prevention?**

No, it is not a requirement that you have an existing project.

RISE seeks to invest in: a) new interventions that address GBV in environment sectors; b) integrated approaches that embed GBV components in existing environmental programming or related activities; or c) existing GBV-environment programming that aims to continue, scale up or replicate an intervention.

⊜ If the proposed lead organisation does not have ESMS, how would RISE want us to comply with their ESMS?

As part of the due diligence process, applicants will be asked to complete IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) screening questionnaire and provide necessary information for USAID's Initial Environmental Examination, regardless of whether they have their own ESMS. All projects implemented by IUCN must adhere to the principles and standards of the ESMS; thus, RISE-supported projects must comply, with no exceptions.

⊜ Is it compulsory for co-applicants and sub-grantees to have sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) policies in place?

RISE grantees will be expected to either have Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment prevention policies and procedures – or to include their development as part of their RISE activities – to comply with IUCN.

→ Eligible countries and areas of implementation.

⊜ Is South Sudan among the priority countries?

South Sudan is an eligible country for this round of RISE. In the application platform, you will be able to select South Sudan.

⊜ Are there preferred geographical locations or population categories targeted within the country?

The targeted regions are Central America and the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa and South and Southeast Asia. See annex 1 in the call for proposals for a full list of eligible countries. RISE does not have a preference for a particular country or population.

⊜ Can organisations submit multiple applications in different targeted geographies?

Yes. 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 a lead applicant.

⊜ Can projects be specific to one locality, or do they need to cover a broad geographic area, i.e. national or regional?

They can be specific to one locality or cover a broader geographic area (national or regional). There is no preference under RISE.

➡ Can I apply if my organisation is based in a non-eligible country and my project sites are in eligible countries?

Yes, lead applicants based in a non-eligible country can apply if they are an eligible organisation, and IF: They already have a presence in the country in which the activities are proposed to be implemented; OR have a duly registered local partner that meets the requirements for consortia and partnerships.

Please see section 5.7 on the call for proposals for details on the requirement of having a local presence in the country of implementation.

➡ Will RISE support more than one project in the same region?

Contingent on the quality and priorities of the submitted proposals, RISE will be implemented in one or more of the targeted geographies. This may include funding more than one project in one or more regions.

➡ Thematic responsiveness

➡ Are proposals focusing on gender equity and social inclusion related to conservation/environment eligible?

RISE seeks to fund evidence-based strategies to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related programming. Thus, the call covers all proposals addressing any aspect of gender-based violence and environment linkages. Successful proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to the conservation, restoration or sustainable use of the environment; as well as to preventing and/or responding to gender-based violence.

➡ Does RISE support projects in urban settings?

Yes, as long as the project addresses gender-based violence and environment linkages, the proposal is eligible.

➡ Would a programme focused on gender and relationships qualify for RISE?

RISE is interested in evidence-based GBV prevention and response approaches that directly contribute to addressing GBV and builds upon gender equality programming.

➡ Could activities addressing men and boys be included in the proposal?

Yes, engaging men and boys are considered part of comprehensive gender-based violence prevention and response strategies.

➡ Would a project addressing livelihoods/ agriculture/ water sanitation/ affordable housing be eligible for RISE?

RISE is interested in evidence-based GBV prevention and response approaches that directly contribute to addressing GBV and building up gender equality programming. Successful proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to GBV prevention

and or response outcomes and environment outcomes, including the conservation, restoration and/or sustainable use of the environment. Applicants should link all complimentary activities to gender-based violence and the environment.

⊜ **Does the call cover linkages between GBV and climate actions, along with linkages between GBV and climate non-action? Does it cover research on current national and sub-national climate action strategies that increase risks of GBV?**

Yes – the call covers all proposals addressing any aspect of gender-based violence and environment

linkages. Please note that RISE will not fund strictly research-focused activities, as outlined in section 5.3 in the call for proposals.

⊜ **Do RISE proposals have to focus on all three of the RISE priority areas, or can we choose to focus on one or more of the identified priorities?**

RISE seeks to fund projects that focus on one or more of the priority areas - it is not required to focus on all three of the areas.

⊜ **Application process in SM Apply**

⊜ **What are the languages for the presentation of the technical and financial proposal? Is it possible to extend it to other languages (e.g. Portuguese)?**

English or Spanish. Unfortunately, at this time, no other languages are available.

⊜ **What documents are required for the submission of the application?**

The required documents consist of

- Proof of registration (lead applicant and partners)
- RISE declaration
- Activity plan
- Budget

⊜ **Can I download the proposal template and work offline and then fill in the online application later?**

Yes, there is an option to download each task. See the guidance on how to use SM Apply for more information.

⊜ **Does the registration on the platform require both the lead and all the partners, and can more than one user (partners) access the application?**

Only the lead applicant must register and submit the proposal on behalf of all partners. However, SM Apply offers the option to add collaborators to the proposal if a lead applicant wants partners to support the application online. See the guidance on how to use SM Apply for more information.

➡ Can the application draft be saved and then continued later before final submission?

Yes, see the guidance on how to use SM Apply for more information.

➡ Will rejected proposals be given comprehensive feedback?

We will try our best to respond to requests for feedback.

➡ Technical evaluation, due diligence and final awards

➡ Does gender balance for staff within an organisation play a role in evaluating proposals?

No, but we highly encourage gender balance within organisations. See section 6.3 of the call for proposals to read about the technical evaluation and finalist interview.

➡ Who will grantees be reporting to, IUCN or USAID?

IUCN is hosting the RISE grant challenge under its partnership with USAID on Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT). The grantees will report directly to IUCN.

➡ Who participates in due diligence, the lead applicant and partners?

Due diligence is carried out with the lead applicant but involves verifying that the partners are eligible (have registration) and are not on lists of excluded parties. IUCN will also review the partners' budgets and may ask questions and request additional information. See section 6.4 of the call for proposals to read about the pre-award and due diligence process.

➡ Cost-share and budget

➡ Is co-financing required?

No. As stated in section 7.2 of the call for proposals, co-finance is not mandatory but encouraged.

➡ Can RISE-funded projects be integrated with other projects to achieve greater goals?

RISE-funded projects can be integrated with other projects. See section 4 in the call for proposals for more details.

RISE seeks to fund 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

➡ Are equipment costs allowed? Are hardware interventions accepted?

Hardware and equipment costs are allowed in the budget; however, costs should be reasonable and linked to the technical proposal. As stated in section 5.3 of the call for proposals, RISE will not fund activities that centre around the provision of free equipment, construction, land purchase, or building new infrastructure. In the call for proposals, see Annex IV sections 4.14, 5, and 6 of the sample contract for more information.

➡ If we don't have NICRA, could we apply with the max rate of 10% indirect costs?

The budget should not include indirect costs unless the applying organisation has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). Alternatively, applicants can apply the de minimis indirect rate of 10% per 2 CFR 200.414(f).

➡ Do you have a standard ratio for activities vs operational costs?

There is no standard ratio for activities and operational costs. RISE budgets will be evaluated on their correspondence to the technical proposals, the reasonableness of the costs included, the optimisation of resources and gender responsiveness.

➡ Is the purchase of vehicles allowed under RISE?

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

Limitations include any restrictions under IUCN and USAID procurement policies.

➡ How much of the budget should be allocated to M&E?

There is no set minimum amount allocated for M&E.

➡ In the Spanish version of the call for proposals, Annex 3 (p. 34), it states, "no se admiten honorarios ni beneficios". Can proposals include salary for staff and consultants?

Yes, salary for staff and consultants is allowed. The original English version states "no fee or profit is allowed", which means that proposals should not be generating any profit for the organisation nor should the organisation charge any fee to IUCN for the implementation of the project.

→ Previous RISE cohort

→ Is this funding opportunity layering on the existing RISE Challenge project by USAID?

Yes, IUCN is hosting the third round of the RISE grant challenge under its partnership with USAID on Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT).

→ What are some learnings from previous RISE cohorts?

Lessons from previous grantees include the importance of establishing strong cross-sectoral partnerships to build capacities and broaden

interests, areas of work and networks; and the importance of engaging men, including community leaders, in GBV prevention and response. RISE also enabled organisations to champion institutional change at the policy and programming levels.

→ Would you share the successful case history from previous rounds of RISE?

IUCN did not host previous rounds of RISE, but you can check the RISE website to learn about past grantees and their projects.

→ Other questions

→ Where can I find more information about GBV-environment programming?

See further reading suggested in section 4 of the call for proposals and visit our GBV-ENV Centre webpage for information and resources.

→ Where can I learn more about gender-based violence and environment linkages related to climate change?

See further reading suggested in section 4 of the call for proposals, including our research paper on Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages and visit our GBV-ENV Center webpage for information and resources.

→ Is 6/24 the last date to submit questions? What is the method to submit these questions?

Submission of questions for RISE was extended to 1 July 2022. Questions can be submitted to the RISE email: RISE@iucn.org. Frequently Asked Questions will be updated accordingly on this website by 5 July.