

## Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) 2014/2015 Solicitation

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*PEER is implemented by*

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

## I. Program Synopsis

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the U.S. Government's preeminent foreign assistance agency. The agency is dedicated to helping nations meet the needs of their citizens by providing health-care, education, and economic opportunity to end extreme poverty and promote democratic, resilient societies. The U.S. Global Development Lab (The Lab) at USAID is bringing together a diverse set of partners to discover, test, and scale breakthrough solutions to address critical challenges in international development (<http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab>). A key element of this strategy is the support of scientific and technological research through the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program. PEER is a competitive grants program that invites scientists in developing countries to apply for funds to support research and capacity-building activities on topics of importance to USAID and conducted in partnership with U.S. Government (USG)-funded partners.

Through PEER, the Lab leverages investments by other U.S. Government-supported agencies in scientific research and training in order to enhance the development priorities of USAID. U.S. Government-funded partners must be investigators who will contribute to the scientific merit and impact of PEER projects through expertise, skills, methodologies, laboratory access, and synergies with ongoing projects.

Beginning with the current solicitation, PEER has consolidated PEER Health and PEER Science into one unified PEER Program. Additionally, the program is extending its reach across the U.S. science community to include the following partner agencies: NASA, NIH, NSF, Smithsonian, USDA, and USGS. This exciting opportunity expands the scope of research supported under PEER and creates more opportunities for cross-disciplinary and multi-sectoral research collaborations. As is explained in Section IX, the new PEER program will include the submission of a pre-proposal. Selected pre-proposal applicants will be invited to submit full proposals in early 2015.

### Solicitation Process

***PEER proposal submission now has two phases:***

- **Phase 1:** An initial two-page pre-proposal is required for all applicants. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is **January 9, 2015**. Details for pre-proposal submission are provided below.
- **Phase 2:** If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will be notified by NAS in late February 2015. The deadline for submission of full proposals is **April 13, 2015**.

## II. Role of the National Academy of Sciences

PEER is implemented by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which will manage the proposal review process and disburse and monitor grants awarded. Beyond the current program cycle, it is expected that solicitations for PEER will be issued annually in the fall, with details to be posted at <http://www.nationalacademies.org/peer>.

For further information, please contact the program staff at [peer@nas.edu](mailto:peer@nas.edu).

## III. U.S. Government-Supported Agency Partners

The PEER program aims to leverage U.S. Government scientific investment in R&D to support USAID's development goals in priority countries. For this reason, developing country researchers are required to partner with a U.S. Government-funded researcher in order to apply for a PEER award. Through these partnerships, PEER applicants benefit from the skills, laboratory access, and other resources of their U.S. Government-supported partner. Both the PEER applicant and the U.S. Government-supported researcher benefit from one another's expertise, and partner on truly collaborative research.

The following U.S. Government-supported agencies have entered into an agreement with USAID and are participating in the PEER program. With some exceptions, researchers supported by these agencies are considered eligible as U.S. Government-supported partners. Additional eligibility requirements apply for each agency; please see Section V for additional information on U.S. Government-supported partner

criteria. Further information on U.S. Government-supported agencies participating in the PEER program can also be found on each agency's homepage.

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration:** NASA's vision is "to reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind." Within the Earth Science Division, NASA aims to "advance knowledge of Earth as a system to meet the challenges of environmental change and to improve life on our planet". <http://www.nasa.gov/>
- **National Institutes of Health:** NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. <http://www.nih.gov/>
- **National Science Foundation:** NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense." NSF is the only federal agency whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering. <http://www.nsf.gov/>
- **Smithsonian Institution:** The Smithsonian's mission is to increase the diffusion of knowledge through a focus on discovery, creativity, excellence diversity, integrity, and service. Smithsonian science examines some of the world's most complex—and time-sensitive—problems. Whether they are protecting imperiled natural resources, assessing the consequences of climate change or keeping aircraft safe from bird strikes, Smithsonian scientists apply what they learn to improve the quality—and quantity—of life on Earth. More than 500 Smithsonian staff scientists, augmented by an equal number of fellows and hundreds of international collaborators, conduct research in field stations and laboratories on all seven continents and serve as national and international experts in a wide scope of disciplines including anthropology, astronomy, biology, geology, and paleontology. As a trust instrumentality of the United States, the Smithsonian Institution is pleased to participate in this program with agency partners. <http://www.si.edu/>
- **United States Department of Agriculture:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management. There are three USDA agencies participating in PEER this year: the Agricultural Research Service, the Forest Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. <http://www.usda.gov/>
- **United States Geological Survey:** The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life. <http://www.usgs.gov/>

#### **IV. 2014/2015 Focus Areas**

The PEER program is accepting research proposals in the following focus areas. PEER-eligible countries are listed for each Focus Area; applicants should review eligible country criteria carefully. More information for each focus area can be found by using the links below or reviewing the Focus Area appendices in Section X.

##### ***Global calls***

Global calls are open to researchers from multiple USAID priority countries.

- [Open Call for Proposals / All Research Fields](#)
- [U.S. Global Development Lab / Water Resource Management](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation in the Maldives Islands](#)

##### ***Regional and Priority Focus Area calls***

Regional calls are open to researchers from specific USAID regions or priority countries.

- [Central and South Central Asia / Transboundary Water Research](#)
- [SERVIR Priority Countries / Environmental Management and Climate Change Resilience](#)
- [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene \(WASH\) Priority Countries / Urban Sanitation](#)

### **Country-Specific calls**

Country-specific calls are only open to researchers in specific countries.

- [Brazil / Biodiversity in the Brazilian Amazon](#)
- [India / Forestry and Climate Change](#)
- [Indonesia / Multiple Sectors](#)
- [Kenya / Wildlife Conservation and Anti-trafficking](#)

PEER funding will be awarded to projects related to the USAID and partner agency focus areas specified above. When writing pre-proposals, applicants should also consider how their proposed research and/or capacity building activities will contribute to USAID's strategic priorities in development. *Collaborative projects involving multiple developing countries that explore regional development issues are also encouraged.* More information on USAID's strategic priorities can be found on the USAID website: <http://www.usaid.gov/>.

With a presence in over one hundred countries around the world, each USAID Mission also has development objectives specific to country needs. Country-specific development objectives are reflected in Country Development and Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) reports that are posted publicly on each USAID Mission's homepage. Each CDCS lays out high-level strategic priorities for each bilateral USAID Mission over a five-year time frame. We encourage PEER applicants to review CDCS reports and other documents specific to USAID Mission priorities and reflect how their proposed research may contribute to these high-level objectives. A link to USAID-approved CDCS reports can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>.

A directory of USAID Missions and links to home-pages can be found here: <http://www.usaid.gov/mission-directory>.

## **V. General Eligibility Information**

The information included in this section is relevant to applicants to the PEER program in general. The country-specific focus areas have specific eligibility requirements and applicants are encouraged to review eligibility criteria under specific focus areas of interest. Additional information can also be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

### **PEER Applicants**

PEER applicants who submit pre-proposals to PEER must be based at an academic institution, non-profit organization, or government managed research laboratory, center, or institute in a PEER-eligible country. Applicants in government ministries who conduct research are also eligible, but will be screened for compliance with bilateral agreements on a case-by-case basis. We encourage applicants from government ministries to consult with PEER program staff at [peer@nas.edu](mailto:peer@nas.edu) prior to submitting their pre-proposal.

PEER applicants must hold a career-track position or equivalent at their respective institution or organization. Applicants should be working in the country from which they are applying and should be nationals (citizens or permanent residents) of a PEER-eligible country.

Researchers from non-eligible countries and employees of for-profit firms in PEER-eligible countries may participate in projects using their own resources but are not permitted to serve as PIs, as PEER grants will

not be issued to such organizations. All institutions will be vetted to determine compliance with USAID policies for receipt of funds. PEER grants will be issued to institutions or organizations, not to individuals. Female applicants are encouraged to apply.

PIs of currently active PEER grants are not eligible to apply to serve as PIs in future cycles of PEER until their first funded project has been successfully completed. For the current cycle of the program (Cycle 4), this successful completion date must be prior to **July 31, 2015**.

#### ***PEER Applicant Eligibility Summary***

- National of a PEER-eligible country
- Meets country specific eligibility criteria for focus area to which applying
- Affiliated with and permanently based at an academic institution, non-profit organization, government-managed research laboratory or relevant government ministry in a PEER-eligible country

#### ***U.S. Government-Supported Partners***

PEER applicants are required to partner with a U.S. Government-supported researcher from one of the following agencies: NASA, NIH, NSF, Smithsonian Institution, USDA, or USGS. The role of the U.S. Government-supported partner is to provide complementary expertise and skills to the PEER project. While partnerships are generally based on topical or disciplinary similarities, many PEER partnerships also provide access to specific methodologies or instrumentation otherwise unavailable to the PEER applicant.

PEER pre-proposals are not accepted from U.S. based researchers.

USG-supported partners may either be intramural researchers or serve as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator of an active USG-funded research award. Active awards may include grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts. In order to be eligible, the USG-supported partner's award must be active during the period of the PEER project (which may start no earlier than August 1, 2015) to ensure that both sides have resources available to support their collaboration. In addition, the requested duration of the proposed project may not extend more than twelve months beyond the official termination date of the USG-supported partner's award. USG award duration will be checked for compliance with this policy at the PEER pre-proposal submission phase. PEER proposals not compliant with this requirement will be rejected without further review.

The pre-proposal application requires a brief letter of support from the USG-supported partner. For USG-supported partners serving as co-PIs of an active USG research award, a written letter of support from the lead PI must also accompany the application at the full proposal stage. For more information on USG co-PIs see the Partner Eligibility section of the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the PEER website.

PEER funds may not be used to cover the USG-supported partner's salary, travel, or other expenses. USG-supported partners are encouraged to seek supplemental funds from their funding agencies. However, supplemental funds for USG-supported partners are not guaranteed by the PEER program and must be determined on a case-by-case basis by each participating agency.

#### ***U.S. Government-Supported Partner Eligibility Summary***

- Primary PI or co-PI of an active research award from USG-supported agency participating in the PEER program. The USG-supported partner's award must be active for the duration of the PEER project, which may extend no more than 12 months past the end date of the USG-supported partner's award. If the USG-supported partner's award expires more than 12 months prior to the planned end date of the PEER project, the USG-supported partner should contact the award manager at his or her funding agency to request written confirmation that a no-cost extension for the necessary duration would be authorized, should the PEER project be selected for funding. This written confirmation (e-mail is acceptable) should be uploaded in the same file along with the USG-supported partner's support letter.
- PI or co-PI meets agency-specific eligibility criteria
- USG-supported partner's expertise aligns with and contributes to the PEER proposal.

To help PEER applicants find USG-supported partners, each participating agency has provided links to either (a) a searchable database of active awards (NSF,NIH); (b) a searchable database of agency staff eligible to participate as PEER partners (USGS), (c) searchable databases of both agency staff and recipients of active awards eligible to participate as PEER partners (USDA), or (d) a list of scientists eligible to participate as PEER partners and their contacts (Smithsonian Institution, NASA). Intramural researchers at NIH are also eligible to participate as PEER partners, although their work may not be captured in the NIH Reporter database.

To learn more about which researchers are eligible to participate as USG-supported partners, applicants are encouraged to explore the website section "[Find a USG-Supported Partner](#)."

## VI. Types of Research Activities Supported by PEER

PEER can be used to support a wide range of research methodologies, as long as pre-proposals are responsive to the priorities outlined in the focus areas. Examples of PEER projects may include: the development of new technologies or instruments, proof-of concept proposals, formative studies, surveys, operational and implementation research, social science and behavior change research, systems research, and policy studies, among others. PEER also supports research awards from a wide range of academic disciplines including the natural, physical social, economic, and behavioral sciences as well as engineering.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the list of projects funded in [Cycle 1](#) , [Cycle 2](#) , and [Cycle 3](#) of PEER Science; [Cycle 1](#) and [Cycle 2](#) of PEER Health, and the special [PEER-PIRE Cycle](#) on the NAS website for examples of previously supported projects. Proposals focused on basic science topics without clear relevance to USAID development objectives will not be eligible for PEER funding.

Examples of research related activities that PEER will support include:

- Research projects with the potential to yield impact in low and middle income countries
- Approaches that employ new or novel applications of existing methods, practices, or protocols in a developing country context
- Primary data collection for undergraduate and graduate students or support for other field visits necessary for data collection by a member of the research team;
- Exchanges and data analyses with PEER partners.

In addition to research, PEER projects may also be used to request support for capacity building activities that contribute to research objectives including: education and training support for students, postdoctoral associates, and researchers; international travel; conference and workshop attendance; and communications; equipment, materials, and supplies for developing country institutions and research networks.

There are some categories of research that PEER will not support. PEER will **NOT** support:

- Dissertation or master's work of the PEER principal investigator (however, justified costs for students supported under the grant are allowable);
- Training programs, workshops, or conferences that are not tied to a proposed research project;
- Randomized control trials (RCTs) for biomedical interventions such as vaccines, drugs, etc.;
- Research conducted principally in the United States;
- Research led by the U.S. Government-supported partner;
- Projects that are not likely to yield any impact in low and middle income countries;
- Basic research not directly linked to potential development impact;
- Approaches that present unacceptable ethical or safety risks.

Please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of the program web site for additional details, or e-mail [peer@nas.edu](mailto:peer@nas.edu) with other eligibility questions.



## VII. Timeline

<b>October 1, 2014</b>	PEER solicitation posted on NAS website
<b>January 9, 2015</b>	Pre-proposals due to NAS
<b>February 27, 2015</b>	Selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal by NAS, all others are notified of declination
<b>April 13, 2015</b>	Full proposals due to NAS
<b>late June 2015</b>	PEER awardees announced

## VIII. Budget Information

A total estimated budget figure is required at the pre-proposal stage. Detailed budget requests and further justification will be requested from applicants invited to submit a full proposal. Total estimated budget numbers should be developed commensurate with the support needed to achieve the project goals. A [budget template](#) is available on the PEER website to help applicants better estimate anticipated total budget costs.

Most projects are anticipated to run for one to three years, with release of each year of funding dependent on the project meeting annual financial and technical reporting requirements. Single institution awards are anticipated to range in size from U.S. \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year for one to three years. A few larger and more complex projects (those involving multiple institutions and/or multiple countries, with one of them serving as the lead) may receive between U.S. \$80,000 to \$120,000 per year for up to three years. Requested funds can only be used to support costs for developing country researchers and institutions.

Applicants whose funding requests do not fit within these parameters are encouraged to contact PEER staff ([peer@nas.edu](mailto:peer@nas.edu)) before preparing their estimated budget figure at the pre-proposal stage.

## IX. Pre-Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Pre-proposal applications are required for the PEER program. Pre-proposal submissions will be reviewed to ensure that invited full applications meet the eligibility criteria and focus area requirements articulated in Sections IV and V. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is **January 9, 2015**.

When drafting a pre-proposal, applicants should convey the development impact of their proposed research for the focus area to which they are applying. Successful pre-proposals will include a clear statement of the project goals and explanations of how these goals will be achieved. Successful pre-proposals will also highlight the collaborative nature of the U.S. Government-funded partner and how the partnership will contribute to successful completion of the project.

### Pre-Proposal Review Criteria

The pre-proposal review process will be managed by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Pre-proposals will be evaluated by USAID and NAS based on the following criteria:

- PEER applicant compliance with eligibility requirements
- Participation of U.S. Government-supported partner including verification active research award or eligibility status
- Alignment with research priorities outlined in corresponding "Focus Area" section

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal form through the PEER [online system](#), completed in English. Paper submissions are not accepted. Applicants are encouraged to review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) section of the program website for additional details. After the pre-proposal review, applicants will receive notification from PEER program staff that indicates one of the following:

- A. Pre-proposal has been deemed eligible and relevant; with an invitation to submit a full proposal

- B. Minor issues with eligibility and relevance, with an invitation to submit with issues addressed
- C. Pre-proposal deemed ineligible or insufficiently relevant to USAID objectives and not eligible for full proposal invitation

### **Policy on Fraudulent or Plagiarized Data and Documents in Grant Submissions**

Applicants to PEER are advised that the program has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the submission of fraudulent or plagiarized data and documents as part of grant pre-proposals and proposals. Any such cases discovered by PEER staff or brought to their attention by program sponsors, review panelists, partners, or members of the public will be investigated immediately. If the presence of fraudulent or plagiarized materials in a submission is verified, the following actions will be taken:

- The pre-proposal or proposal will be removed from further consideration for funding.
- The applicant will be notified of the findings of the investigation and will be placed on a debarment list prohibiting him or her from submitting any future pre-proposals or proposals to PEER.
- An appropriate official at the applicant's institution will be advised of the case and provided with copies of the fraudulent or plagiarized materials for use in any further investigations or actions in accordance with that institution's policies.
- The USAID Agreement Officer's Technical Representative assigned to PEER will be notified so that information may be forwarded to the USAID Office of Inspector General to assist them in determining the applicant's eligibility for any future support from USAID directly or through other implementing partners.

### **Pre-Proposal Template**

The pre-proposal submission template includes the following sections:

1. PEER applicant information
2. USG-supported partner information, including the partner's USG-funded grant title, number, funding agency, program officer and contact information
3. Project description (no more than 2 pages), in which the following must be addressed:
  - a. Project aims and objectives
  - b. Significance of the research as it relates to a particular focus area
  - c. A description of how the expertise of the USG-funded partner will complement the proposed project
  - d. Other potential partners with whom the applicant will collaborate on the project (for example, government agencies, USAID Missions, co-PIs, research networks, laboratories, and other implementing partners) and the nature of the planned collaborations
4. Estimated total budget figure and intention to apply for a single or multiple institution award. The budget of PEER projects varies depending on the proposed research scope, and the duration of projects may be up to three years. Typical projects fall within the following ranges:
  - o Single institution: U.S. \$40,000 - \$80,000/year
  - o Multiple institutions: U.S. \$80,000 - \$120,000/year
5. Appendices:
  - a. A brief CV of more than two pages, for the PEER applicant. Please use the attached [standard format for CVs](#). The CV should provide citations for no more than 5-10 recent and relevant publications.
  - b. A brief letter of support written by the USG-funded partner explaining his or her intention to collaborate on the proposed PEER project. The letter should also include the partner's USG-funded grant title, number, funding agency, program officer and contact information for his or her active USG award.

### **X. Focus Area Appendices**



## FOCUS AREA: Open Call for Proposals / ALL RESEARCH FIELDS

### A. Eligible Countries:

#### ASIA

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Burma  
Cambodia  
India  
Indonesia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Mongolia  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam

#### EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Georgia  
Kosovo  
Macedonia  
Moldova  
Serbia  
Ukraine

#### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola  
Benin  
Cameroon  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

#### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda  
Brazil  
Colombia  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

#### MIDDLE EAST

Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Morocco  
Tunisia  
West Bank/Gaza  
Yemen

### B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Indonesia: Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to receive PEER funding. While laboratories managed within government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, it is encouraged that proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions include potential collaborations with government-managed laboratories.

### C. Objectives:

In addition to the specific country and regional proposal calls, PEER intends to support a limited number of highly competitive, novel research projects from any PEER-eligible country that are of direct relevance to [USAID's development objectives](#). Applicants should closely read the USAID website, including the website of the USAID Missions in the countries where the PEER project will take place. Consistent with the PEER program goals, proposals should be application-oriented such that research findings will lead to development-related policy or programmatic change. Proposals that include multi-disciplinary research teams, multi-country collaboration, and/or engagement with policy actors and other development stakeholders is highly desired but not required. In addition, because USAID seeks to scale innovative development solutions to end extreme

poverty through the [Global Development Lab](http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab), projects that develop or test new solutions, study barriers of scaling proven interventions, or research how a proven intervention can be adapted to a new setting, are of particular interest.

For further information on the Global Development Lab, please visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab>.

## FOCUS AREA: Global Development Lab / WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### A. Eligible Countries:

#### ASIA

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Burma  
Cambodia  
India  
Indonesia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Mongolia  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam

#### EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Georgia  
Kosovo  
Macedonia  
Moldova  
Serbia  
Ukraine

#### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola  
Benin  
Cameroon  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

#### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda  
Brazil  
Colombia  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

#### MIDDLE EAST

Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Morocco  
Tunisia  
West Bank/Gaza  
Yemen

### B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Indonesia: Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to receive PEER funding. While laboratories managed within government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, it is encouraged that proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions include potential collaborations with government-managed laboratories.

### C. Objectives:

The USAID Water Strategy identifies the availability of water to sustain human life and natural systems as integral to the success of many foreign policy and development goals. The focus of this call is to support research collaborations that will enable capacity building and evidence-based decision making for sustainable utilization of water resources for competing needs i.e., people, agriculture, industrialization, and

ecosystems. It is also intended to assist Missions in elevating their use of science and technology to address local and global development challenges in the area of water resource management.

The program will establish long-lasting research relationships that build capacity and enable collaborators to become better partners in development. We aim to support and reinforce the use of existing platforms, programs and initiatives such the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), the Feed the Future Initiative (USAID), and other international water activities within the portfolios of partner agencies. The program strongly supports research teams that utilize these platforms. Consortia and research teams across agencies, national boundaries, and scientific disciplines are also strongly encouraged.

# FOCUS AREA: Maldives / CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MALDIVE ISLANDS

## A. Eligible countries:

### ASIA

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Burma  
Cambodia  
India  
Indonesia  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Maldives\*  
Mongolia  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Turkmenistan  
Uzbekistan  
Vietnam

### EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania  
Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Georgia  
Kosovo  
Macedonia  
Moldova  
Serbia  
Ukraine

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola  
Benin  
Cameroon  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Liberia  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
South Sudan  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda  
Brazil  
Colombia  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

### MIDDLE EAST

Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Morocco  
Tunisia  
West Bank/Gaza  
Yemen

\*Researchers from the Maldives are especially encouraged to apply to this focus area.

## B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Indonesia: Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to receive PEER funding. While laboratories managed within government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, it is encouraged that proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions include potential collaborations with government-managed laboratories.

## C. Objectives:

USAID/Sri Lanka is seeking to support research projects that focus on climate change adaptation in the Maldives. Research projects should support increased resilience of people, places, and/or livelihoods to

climate change impacts in the Maldives and should be consistent with the strategic development objective of USAID/Sri Lanka in the Maldives. USAID is committed to providing assistance to the Maldives to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change.

The Maldives is comprised of more than 1,000 small islands, with an average elevation of only 1.5 meter above sea level. This unique geography means the country is particularly vulnerable to a range of climate-related impacts including rising sea levels, droughts, extreme rainfall, damaging winds, and elevated water and air temperatures. High population density, rapid population growth, and dependence on climate-sensitive industries such as fisheries and tourism add to the country's vulnerability. USAID/Sri Lanka will provide assistance to selected islands in the Maldives with the goal of developing a robust "climate-resilient islands" model that may be replicated both in the Maldives and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The program will support the sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of island ecosystems, and foster diversified, climate-smart livelihoods. Illustrative examples include building capacity for the sustainable management of agricultural and marine resources; building capacity for environmental monitoring; piloting ecosystem-based approaches to island restoration; improving water security through integrated water resources management; improving disaster preparedness; and building capacity for sustainable marine-based livelihoods.



## **FOCUS AREA: Central and South Central Asia / TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESEARCH**

### **A. Eligible Countries:**

Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

### **B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:**

Regional collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

### **C. Objectives:**

Transboundary water research in Central and South Central Asia: PEER is seeking to support projects of the wider Indus Basin that focus on climate change and transboundary water-related research in the Amu Darya and Kabul River Basins over a period of up to three years. Research projects can address hydrological issues such as:

- Pairing climate data and historical and modern climate data to statistically create a hydrograph
- Assessing and identifying best practices for methods for landscape stabilization
- Identifying best methods for groundwater recharge in specific geologic environments
- Projected climate change impacts on flow/hydrograph
- Projected climate change impacts on snow melt flow
- Projected climate change impacts on vegetation cover
- Lateral river migration rate and/or migration propensity of transboundary rivers
- Water availability and use

Projects may also include socioeconomic, policy, or legal research topics such as:

- Water rights
- Projected impacts of climate change on transboundary water treaties/sharing
- Identification of common approaches addressing climate change impacts that could be incorporated into existing or new water treaties

Selected projects will be limited to research on issues surrounding the Amu Darya River Basin and the Kabul River Basin. Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. Funded research program grantees will receive additional funding to participate in and organize annual PEER research seminars/workshops regionally to share progress, present and discuss findings, engage other stakeholders, including other grantees, and advance the research agenda and capacity across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia Republics on these topics.

If funded, PEER principal investigators are expected to participate in two forums held annually with invited guest experts, regional counterparts, and other PEER grantees from each of the forum member countries to share progress, engage stakeholders, and advance the research agenda and capacity on their topics. Detailed budget submissions are required at the full proposal stage. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants should be sure to include participation in the forums in their budget requests.

## FOCUS AREA: SERVIR Priority Countries / ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

### A. Eligible Countries:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia

### B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

1. PEER applicant must be from one of the countries stated above, but the research team and USG-supported partner can be from any country.
2. PEER applicants are encouraged to look for research collaborators across the [SERVIR](#) and [SilvaCarbon networks](#).
3. Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.
4. Use of new approaches, methods, innovative applications/technologies is strongly encouraged
5. Proposals must demonstrate robust methods, clear understanding of users of the information generated, and the uptake of the information being produced through the PEER activity
6. If funded, PEER principal investigators are expected to participate in relevant research conferences to share progress, engage stakeholders, and advance the research agenda and capacity on their topics.
7. Budget submissions should reflect participation in relevant local fora.

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Indonesia: Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to receive PEER funding. While laboratories managed within government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, it is encouraged that proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions include potential collaborations with government-managed laboratories.

### C. Objectives:

SERVIR's objective is to *strengthen capacity of governments and other key stakeholders to integrate earth observation information and geospatial technologies into development decision-making*, with the ultimate goal of improved environmental management and resilience to climate change. SERVIR seeks research that will advance this objective, and welcomes innovative proposals to use geospatial data and tools to investigate climate change impacts and adaptation and/or ways to reduce emissions from land use in the following areas: disasters, water, agriculture, food security, health, land cover and forests. We welcome proposals that generate and provide user-tailored geospatial information, tools and products, or a better understanding of the impact of geospatial tools and methods for the thematic areas above, and encourage proposals with creative collaborative structures.

## **FOCUS AREA: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Priority Countries / URBAN SANITATION**

### **A. Eligible Countries:**

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

### **B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:**

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Indonesia: Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to receive PEER funding. While laboratories managed within government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, it is encouraged that proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions include potential collaborations with government-managed laboratories.

### **C. Objectives:**

PEER seeks to support projects related to the challenges and opportunities in reaching scale with commercially viable and sustainable sanitation solutions for low-income, urban environments. Research projects can address development-related issues through the perspective of technical, operational, social/behavioral, and/or enabling environment considerations across the sanitation service chain (waste capture, storage, transport, treatment, and reuse/disposal).

Projects detailing the needs and opportunities of specific cities within eligible countries are encouraged.

Proposals should be aligned with the objectives of USAID's Water and Development Strategy (<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/water-and-sanitation/water-and-development-strategy>) and the current concept note for USAID Urban Sanitation Problem Set team ([http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga\\_152266.pdf](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_152266.pdf)).

## **FOCUS AREAS: Brazil / BIODIVERSITY IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON**

### **A. Eligible Countries:**

Brazil

### **B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:**

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

### **C. Objectives:**

Biodiversity in the Brazilian Amazon: PEER is seeking to support interdisciplinary research proposals that bridge the social and natural sciences that will advance knowledge on the efficacy of community-led environmental sustainability in the Brazilian Amazon protected areas. PEER may support research proposals that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and address issues of sustainability through a systems approach, building bridges between academic inquiry, economic growth, and societal needs. A goal of the Program is to support research that would not fit neatly into a single disciplinary research program.

Projects must have explicit biodiversity conservation objectives, with anticipated outcomes that positively affect biodiversity and ecosystem management in the Brazilian Amazon, especially on indigenous lands located in that region. Projects must respond to identified threats to biodiversity (e.g. deforestation and expansion of the agricultural frontier) and propose conservation solutions for monitoring biodiversity through activities such as real-time data collection, watershed management, population genomics, and community engagement that will lead to improved natural resource management. Projects must also ensure that programmed activities involve and benefit both women and men, and address the underlying, gender-based constraints to their full and equitable engagement.

Research areas may include, but are not limited to, community or ecosystem resilience, sustainability, or productivity; investigating climate change impacts (adaptation and mitigation) on Amazon biodiversity; ecological response to anthropogenic disturbances including climate change; carbon, nitrogen, and other biogeochemical cycles; rates of evolution; understanding multi-dimensional threats to biodiversity; improving the economic valuation of ecosystems; leveraging indigenous peoples' traditional practices and knowledge to protect the Amazon's unique biodiversity; and informing environmental governance systems for improved biodiversity conservation. Proposals should incorporate a broad array of concepts that underlie biodiversity research, such as complex adaptive systems theory, multi-scale processes, the vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and resilience of coupled human-environment system, and emergent and prosocial behavior or other studies of behavior change. In addition, a primary goal of the program is to address the largest unknowns related to biodiversity. Proposals seeking to advance science, engineering, and education to inform the societal actions needed for environmental and economic sustainability and sustainable human well-being while creating the necessary workforce to address these challenges or that have the potential to fill large gaps in our understanding of biodiversity are encouraged.

For further information on the development objectives and biodiversity conservation programs of USAID/Brazil, please visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/brazil>

## **FOCUS AREA: India / FORESTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **A. Eligible Countries:**

India

### **B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:**

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

### **C. Objectives:**

USAID/India is seeking to support applied research projects led by Indian researchers that focus on forestry and climate change issues in India. Research areas may include, though are not limited to:

- Forecasting the vulnerability of forests to changes in climate
- Modeling the mitigation potential of forest ecosystems
- Improving the valuation of forest ecosystems

For further information on the development objectives and climate change priorities of USAID/India, please visit: <http://www.usaid.gov/india>.

For further information on USAID/India's CDCS:

[http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/India\\_CDCS.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/India_CDCS.pdf)

## FOCUS AREA: Indonesia / MULTIPLE SECTORS

### A. Eligible Countries:

Indonesia

### B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

Universities and non-governmental research institutions are eligible to apply for PEER funding. While Indonesian government agencies are not eligible to apply for PEER funding, they can be involved in proposed research submitted by universities and non-governmental research institutions.

### C. Objectives:

USAID/Indonesia is seeking research projects that support the goals and objectives as outlined in the mission's Country Strategy: <http://www.usaid.gov/indonesia/cdcs>.

Principal investigators have the opportunity to apply for PEER funds if their research supports one of the following priority areas for USAID/Indonesia:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change and the environment
- Education, with particular interest in strengthening teaching methods and curricula in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields
- Natural disasters
- Water management

USAID/Indonesia strongly encourages applicants to submit proposals that improve the quality of tertiary education and research (i.e., capacity building and/or research opportunities for junior researchers) in support of country development priorities that fall under the goals and objectives defined in the Country Strategy. Biodiversity proposals should propose research that can directly inform national and district level policy-making or applied actions in Indonesia related to marine, fisheries and coastal conservation, forest conservation, the conservation of wildlife, and the prevention of trafficking of wildlife. PEER projects that will result in the creation of new collaborations between Indonesian and U.S.-based researchers are encouraged. USAID/Indonesia is particularly interested in supporting projects that involve collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders including private sector partners and civil society organizations, as well as projects that have the potential to inform government policy at the national and/or local level and develop and/or utilize innovative approaches to addressing the Mission's development priorities.



## **FOCUS AREA: Kenya / WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING**

### **A. Eligible Countries:**

Kenya

### **B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:**

Please see Section V of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

### **C. Objectives:**

PEER is seeking to support research related to strengthening ecosystem management, law enforcement, legal systems and prosecution capacity with the ultimate aim of promoting wildlife conservation and combating wildlife poaching and trafficking to preserve Kenya's natural biodiversity. We are particularly interested in proposals which engage multiple stakeholders in employing participatory research methods and expect that research results will be action oriented in order to influence policies and programs in Kenya to reduce incidence of wildlife trafficking and poaching. Proposals must link the intended or anticipated research findings to a larger community outside of academia, including government or non-governmental stakeholders. As such, PEER is requesting multi-disciplinary, integrated research proposals spanning fields related to conservation biology, ecology, human/nature interaction, biological anthropology, geospatial studies, and other social, behavioral, biological, and economic sciences as they pertain to the specific research question focused on wildlife conservation and anti-poaching/trafficking. We are also interested in projects incorporating trans-disciplinary research methods and innovative quantitative models (for example, using earth observing systems or other big data sources) that can be used to understand motivations and drivers for participation in poaching and wildlife tracking, as well as to improve spatial and temporal data sets and geospatial analyses to inform decision-making.

The principal investigator must be from a Kenyan institution, but the research team can be from any country. PIs are encouraged to look for research collaborators in neighboring East African countries, where the research hypothesis and methodology requires trans-boundary considerations. Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. Funded research programs are expected to participate in annual PEER research fora in Kenya to share progress, engage stakeholders, and advance the research agenda and capacity in Kenya on this topic. Budgets should include participation in this annual process.