



Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) 2015/2016 Solicitation

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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 healthcare, 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 awards 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 and selected private sector partners.

Through PEER, the Lab leverages investments by other U.S. Government-supported agencies and private sector companies in scientific research and training in order to enhance the development priorities of USAID. U.S. Government-funded partners and designated private sector 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.

Solicitation Process

PEER proposal submission has two phases:

- **Phase 1:** A brief pre-proposal is required for all applicants. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is **January 15, 2016**. Details for pre-proposal submission are provided below.
- **Phase 2:** If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will be notified by the National Academies by **February 29, 2016**. The deadline for submission of full proposals is **April 15, 2016**.

II. Role of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

PEER is implemented by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS), which will manage the proposal review process and disburse and monitor awards. 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.

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.

Applicants to all focus areas except the India/GE Partnership must have an eligible U.S. Government-supported partner. Applicants to the India/GE Partnership focus area are instead required to have a partner designated by GE India. Please see the appendix on that focus area for further details.

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 VI 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.

- **Agricultural Research Service:** The USDA Agricultural Research Service conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to: ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/main.htm>
- **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 Institute of Food and Agriculture:** The USDA NIFA strategy for global engagement centers on developing carefully considered partnerships that can advance U.S. research in agriculturally related fields. The agency administers federal funding to address agricultural issues. <http://nifa.usda.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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:** NOAA is a scientific agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce focused on conditions of Earth's oceans and atmosphere. Through its six line offices and more than a dozen staff offices, NOAA serves as a leader in environmental intelligence and applied scientific research. Using a global network of observations, models, forecasts, and assessments, NOAA puts environmental information in the hands of people who need it. <http://www.noaa.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 Forest Service:** The Forest Service is a multi-faceted agency that protects and manages 154 national forests and grasslands in 44 U.S. states and Puerto Rico and is the world's largest forestry research organization. Forest Service experts provide technical and financial help to U.S. state and local government agencies, businesses, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-federal forest and associated range and watershed lands. The Forest Service also has a dedicated International Programs office, which promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally. By linking the skills of the field-based staff of the USDA Forest Service with partners overseas, the agency can address the most critical forestry issues and concerns. <http://www.fs.fed.us/>
- **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. Private Sector Partners

The following corporations are working with the PEER program to support special focus areas for the PEER 2015/2016 solicitation. More information about how we are working with each private sector partner to offer unique opportunities for PEER applicants can be found in their respective focus area pages listed and linked below.

- **General Electric (GE) John F. Welch Technology Center, Bangalore, India** – Located in Bangalore-“the Silicon Valley of India”, the John F. Welch Technology is a GE hub for integrated multidisciplinary research including studies of wastewater treatment, energy efficiency, medical systems products, advanced engineering analysis, among others.
<http://www.geglobalresearch.com/locations/bangalore-india>
- **National Instruments Corporation (NI)** – is a US company headquartered in Austin, Texas. NI produces automated test equipment and virtual instrumentation software for scientists and engineers around the world. Through ‘Planet NI’, NI makes engineering tools affordable, accessible and relevant to researchers in emerging countries.
<http://www.ni.com/company/programs/planetni/>

V. 2015/2016 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 XI.

Global Calls

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

- [Open Call for Proposals / Multiple Research Fields](#)
- [Open Call for Proposals / Health Implementation Science](#)

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](#)
- [Middle East Region / Infectious Disease in the Middle East](#)
- [Planet NI Priority Countries / Renewable Energy and Microgrids](#)
- [RDMA Priority Countries / Rapid Assessment of Fish Stocks in the South China Sea](#)
- [RDMA Priority Countries / Rapid Assessment of Pelagic Fish Stocks in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas](#)

Country-Specific Calls

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

- [Brazil / Biodiversity in the Brazilian Amazon](#)
- [India / GE Partnership](#)
- [Indonesia / Multiple Research Fields](#)
- [South Africa / Multiple Research Fields](#)
- [Tunisia / Multiple Research Fields](#)
- [Vietnam / Biodiversity](#)

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 more than 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>.

VI. 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

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 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 for the focus area to which they are applying.

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

PIs of currently active PEER awards 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 5), this successful completion date must be prior to **July 31, 2016**.

Prior PEER Awardees who re-apply for PEER funding must justify how their proposal is distinct from their prior PEER award and/or how the proposed work builds previous PEER work address new research questions.

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: Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Science Foundation (NSF), Smithsonian Institution, United States Forest Service (USFS), or United States Geological Survey (USGS). (This requirement applies to all PEER applicants except for those applying to the India / GE Partnership focus area, who must have a partner designated by GE.) 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 remain active for at least 12 months after the expected start date of the PEER project (which may start no earlier than August 1, 2016) to ensure that both sides have resources available to support their collaboration.

The pre-proposal application requires a brief letter of support from the USG-supported partner (or the GE-designated partner, in the case of applicants to the India / GE Partnership focus area). 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.

In general, 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. In exceptional cases in which, after the award is made, travel funding for USG-supported partner is found to be essential to the training objectives of the PEER project, PEER staff may authorize the use of limited amounts of PEER funds for this travel only, not for salary support for the USG-supported partner. Applicants should not count on this option in estimating their project budgets, however.

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 or intramural researcher employed by such an agency. The USG-supported partner's award or intramural funding must remain active for at least 12 months after the start of the PEER project. If the USG-supported partner's award expires prior to 12 months of overlap with the PEER award, a no-cost extension will need to be obtained before the PEER award can be issued.
- 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), (d) a list of scientists eligible to participate as PEER partners and their contacts (Smithsonian Institution, NASA), or (e) a point of contact that can be reached to identify potential partners (NOAA). 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 and to find instructions for requesting a GE-designated partner for those interested in the India / GE Partnership focus area), applicants are encouraged to explore the website section "[Find a USG-Supported Partner](#)."

VII. 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 PEER website for a [comprehensive list](#) of projects funded in past cycles. 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 support 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 award are allowable)
- Training programs, workshops, or conferences that are not tied to the 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 with other eligibility questions.

VIII. Timeline

October 8, 2015	PEER solicitation posted on NAS website
January 15, 2016	Pre-proposals due to NAS
February 29, 2016	Selected applicants are invited to submit a full proposal by NAS, all others are notified of declination
April 15, 2016	Full proposals due to NAS
late July 2016	PEER awardees announced

IX. Budget Information

Only 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. , Annual funding installments are dependent on completion of financial and technical reporting requirements. Single institution awards are anticipated to range in size from . \$40,000 to \$80,000 (USD) 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 \$100,000 (USD) 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) before preparing their estimated budget figure at the pre-proposal stage.

X. 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 V and VI. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is **January 15, 2016**.

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 (or the GE partner, in the case of that special focus area) 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 NAS. 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 (or GE partner, in the case of the India / GE Partnership focus area only), including verification active research award or eligibility status
- Alignment with research priorities outlined in corresponding "Focus Area" section
- If a prior PEER awardee, applicant must demonstrate how the proposed work is distinct from their prior PEER award, and/or how the proposed work significantly builds off the previous PEER award to achieve broader development impact

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal form through the PEER [online system](#), completed in English. Paper and e-mail 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:

- Pre-proposal has been deemed eligible and relevant, with an invitation to submit a full proposal
- Minor issues with eligibility and relevance, with an invitation to submit with issues addressed
- 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 Award 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 award pre-proposals and full proposal process. 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 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:

- a. PEER applicant information
- b. USG-supported partner information, including the partner's USG-funded award title, number, funding agency, program officer and contact information (for the India / GE Partnership focus area only, information on the partner designated by GE)
- c. Project description (approximately 2 pages of text total), in which the following must be addressed:
 - Project aims and objectives
 - Significance of the research as it relates to a particular focus area
 - A description of how the expertise of the USG-funded (or GE-designated) partner will complement the proposed project
 - 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
- d. Estimated total budget figure and intention to apply for a single or multiple institution award. The budget for 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:
 - Single institution: U.S. \$40,000 - \$80,000/year
 - Multiple institutions: U.S. \$80,000 - \$100,000/year
- e. Appendices:
 - A brief CV of no 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.
 - A brief letter of support written by the USG-funded partner (or GE-designated partner, in the case of the India / GE Partnership focus area) explaining his or her intention to collaborate on the proposed PEER project. The letter should also include the partner's USG-funded award title, number, funding agency, program officer and contact information for his or her active USG award (or GE title and contact details, in the case of GE partners).

XI. Focus Area Appendices

FOCUS AREA: Open Call for Proposals / MULTIPLE RESEARCH FIELDS

A. Eligible Countries:

ASIA

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Cambodia
India
Indonesia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Vietnam

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Kosovo
Macedonia
Moldova
Serbia

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola
Benin
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Brazil
Colombia
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Peru

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

USAID is the U.S. government's lead development agency working to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient democratic societies. Under the PEER Open Call for Proposals / Multiple Research Fields, the PEER program will award a limited number of highly competitive, novel research projects from PIs in PEER-eligible countries that are of direct relevance to [USAID's development objectives](#). These development objectives are articulated in USAID Regional and Country Development Cooperation Strategies (RDCS and CDCS). Applicants should closely read the appropriate RDCS and/or CDCS and USAID Mission website for the country or countries where the PEER project will take place before submitting a proposal. Additional information on Development Cooperation Strategies can be found here: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>

Research proposals submitted under the Open Call can address a variety of topics, including (but not limited to): biodiversity, agriculture, environment, climate change, clean energy, disaster mitigation, food security, water/sanitation, urbanization, democracy and governance, and education. Proposals on health-related topics should be submitted under the Open Call for Proposals / Health Implementation Science.

Consistent with the goals of PEER, applicants should outline how their research findings will lead to development-related policy or programmatic change. All projects must also contribute to USAID higher education objectives by strengthening engagement with junior researchers and undergraduate/graduate students. Proposals that include multi-disciplinary research teams, multi-country collaboration, and/or engagement with policy actors and other development stakeholders are desired but not required. In addition, because USAID seeks to scale innovative development solutions to end extreme poverty through the [Global Development Lab](#), projects that develop or test new solutions, study barriers to scaling innovation, 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: Open Call for Proposals / HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

A. Eligible Countries:

ASIA

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

EUROPE AND EURASIA

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Serbia

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Angola
- Benin
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Paraguay
- Peru

MIDDLE EAST

- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

Under the PEER Open Call for Proposals / Health Implementation Science, the PEER program will award funds to a limited number of highly competitive, novel research projects from PIs in PEER-eligible countries that are of direct relevance to [USAID's](#) health programming. Additional information on USAID health objectives are articulated in USAID Regional and Country Development Cooperation Strategies (RDCS and CDCS). Applicants should closely read the appropriate RDCS and/or CDCS, and USAID Mission website in the country or countries where the PEER project will take place before submitting a proposal. Additional information on Development Cooperation Strategies can be found here: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs>

PEER would like to support implementation science projects in the following areas:

Tuberculosis (TB)

- Implementation research that aligns with USAID country health priorities in TB
- Innovative health science and service delivery methodologies which address cross-cutting and emerging TB co-morbidities
- Research questions around the implementation of Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) in poor or rural communities
- Research questions around the intersection of TB and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes or tobacco use in poor and rural communities
- TB transmission and treatment in refugee and migrant communities

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

- Increase access to and scale up the proven interventions that address the specific causes of maternal and child deaths. Including but not limited to:
 - Policy reform
 - Updating health personnel and community-based workers with necessary knowledge and skills
 - Using proven approaches to ensure necessary commodities and high quality care reach women and newborns in rural and resource poor communities
- Understand health impacts on women and children by disease and extreme poverty in Ebola-stricken countries.

Family Planning

PEER is funding social science projects with the following objectives:

- Understanding the dynamics of family planning in changing communities around world.
- Community based interventions that lead to sustainable reproductive health solutions. Some examples could be:
 - Integrating and coordinating family planning and HIV/AIDS and STI prevention
 - Linking family planning to broad-based youth development activities
 - Fostering conditions necessary to expand and institutionalize family planning services
 - Contributing to the sustainability of family planning services
 - Integrating family planning services into other health activities
 - Integrating family planning into routine health care in rural and poor communities

For more information on USAID's Family Planning Guiding Principles please visit:

<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/family-planning/usaid-family-planning-guiding-principles-and-us>

For additional resources regarding Implementation Science please see:

[Writing implementation research grant proposals: ten key ingredients](#)

[WHO Implementation Research Toolkit](#)

*Please note that the PEER program does not support biomedical clinical trials.

Consistent with the goals of PEER, applicants should outline how their 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 are desired but not required. All projects must contribute to USAID's higher education objectives by strengthening engagement with junior researchers and undergraduate/graduate students.

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

A. Eligible Countries:

- Afghanistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Pakistan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

Please see Section VI 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 methods for landscape stabilization
- Identifying best methods for groundwater recharge in specific geologic environments
- Projecting climate change impacts on flow/creating new hydrographs
- Forecasting climate change impacts on snow melt flow
- Projecting climate change impacts on vegetation cover
- Determining lateral river migration rate and/or migration propensity of transboundary rivers
- Forecasting 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/water sharing
- Identification of common approaches addressing climate change impacts that could be incorporated into existing or new water treaties

Selected research projects must focus on issues surrounding the Amu Darya River Basin and/or Kabul River Basin. If funded, PEER principal investigators are expected to participate in semi-annual forums with invited guest experts, regional counterparts, and other PEER transboundary water research awardees from each of the forum member countries to share progress, engage stakeholders, and advance the research agenda and capacity on their project topics.

Projects that incorporate regional and cross-border collaborations as well as capacity building are strongly encouraged. Applicants are also encouraged to collaborate with researchers from Kazakhstan and/or Turkmenistan if applicable. Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

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

A. Eligible Countries:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mexico
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Zambia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

SERVIR is a joint development initiative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and USAID. The main objective of SERVIR is to help developing countries use the information provided by Earth observing satellites, and geospatial technologies, for managing climate risks and land use. SERVIR does this by strengthening the capacity of local governments and key stakeholders, integrating satellite and geospatial technologies, and encouraging capacity to develop local solutions.

PEER and SERVIR seek research that will advance this objective and welcome innovative proposals that 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 resources, agriculture, food security, health, land cover, and forests.

We welcome proposals that generate and provide user-tailored geospatial information, tools, products and services, and/or a better understanding of the impact of geospatial tools and methods for the thematic areas above. We encourage proposals with creative collaborative structures.

FOCUS AREA: Middle East Region / INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A. Eligible Countries:

- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Tunisia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

PEER is seeking to support projects related to improving infectious disease prevention, detection, and response in the Middle East region. We are particularly interested in proposals that address displaced populations such as refugees from the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq. As such, PEER is requesting collaborative research proposals that aim to:

- Improve infectious disease detection among refugees both in and out of camps
- Improve infectious disease detection at refugee Points of Entry into asylum countries
- Increase awareness of infectious disease risks among refugee and non-refugee communities
- Improve access to health care of refugee and other high risk populations
- Strengthen and link community-based health systems to primary health care providers
- Increase the efficacy of surveillance efforts in refugee and non-refugee populations
- Improve laboratory and field methods for infectious disease detection
- Evaluate, test, and improve policies regarding infectious disease prevention, detection, and response

We are particularly interested in proposals that engage multiple stakeholders and expect that research results will be action oriented. Proposals are strongly encouraged to link the intended or anticipated research findings to a larger community outside of academia, including health-related government ministries and non-governmental organizations.

Proposals linking research from multiple institutions across the region are strongly encouraged. Women researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

FOCUS AREA: Planet NI Priority Countries / RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MICROGRIDS

A. Eligible Countries:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- India
- Indonesia
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- South Africa
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Vietnam

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

- Please see Section VI of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.
- Applicants are required to explain how proposed PEER project leverages NI technology

C. Objectives:

USAID and the Global Development Lab are working to test and scale technological solutions to achieve sustainable development and prosperity in emerging countries. USAID is collaborating with National Instruments (NI), a provider of automated measurement and instrument control solutions, via its [Planet NI program](#), to support PEER projects that can leverage NI technology to accelerate productivity, innovation and discovery. According to international energy statistics, there is a direct correlation between economic growth and electricity supply. In addition, it is expected that the demand for reliable sources of electricity will increase significantly in developing countries as population, urbanization, and GDP increase.

PEER is seeking to support projects that use NI technologies to increase power generation from renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency and system reliability, and enhance energy storage and overall grid integration. Specifically, PEER is requesting proposals that:

- Improve efficiency in generating electricity from renewable sources such as solar and wind;
- Design local solutions to test and validate solar and/or wind components;
- Control and monitor renewable energy plants;
- Design and deploy fault-tolerant and scalable microgrids that can operate on their own or can be integrated into existing grids; or
- Strengthen the link between local energy needs and local research/engineering capacity building.

Applicants should review the current NI technology at <http://www.ni.com/solutions> and <http://www.ni.com/power/> and consult with NI (email: planetni.peer@ni.com) prior to proposal submission to discuss the feasibility of using NI technology and tools in the proposed project.

Pre-proposals must include a description of the type(s) of NI technologies or tools that will be needed and how they would be used. Total budget figures should include an estimate of the cost of the NI technologies, if any, based on conversations with Planet NI. If there is no cost, the NI equipment should still be listed.

If after consulting NI, applicants determine that it is not feasible to use NI tools in the project, they may wish to consider submitting a pre-proposal under the Open Call for Proposals / Multiple Research Fields.

FOCUS AREA: RDMA Priority Countries / RAPID ASSESSMENT OF FISH STOCKS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

A. Eligible Countries:

- Burma
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- The Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

- Please see Section VI of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

C. Objectives:

USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) and the U.S. Mission to ASEAN (USASEAN) have identified over-harvesting, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as a leading threat to marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, and food security in Southeast Asia. Overharvesting and IUU fishing are leading to declines in abundance, size, biodiversity, and distribution of economically important marine species such as tuna, grouper, snapper, mackerel, and coral reef fishes. These declining fisheries—which are also threatened by climate change, habitat degradation, and other stresses—remain fundamental to the health, nutrition, and food security of Southeast Asian people. Rapidly assessing the current state of marine resource availability in the South China Sea is a critical first step in reversing the decline of local fisheries.

PEER will support research projects that help generate strong data and evidence around adaptation approaches in the fisheries sector, with the goal of increasing the resilience of people, places, and livelihoods associated with the marine resources of the South China Sea.

Proposals should utilize robust analytical approaches, and clearly target critical information gaps to inform decision-making. Research proposals may address critical knowledge gaps in areas including (but not limited to):

- Sustainable fishing yields
- Managing fish stocks
- Adaptation approaches in the fisheries sector
- Combating overharvesting and IUU
- Regional marine resources/food security
- Habitat degradation
- Biodiversity in the context of climate change and natural disasters

Regional collaborations among institutions in at least two of the eligible countries are strongly encouraged. Building a stronger knowledge base to inform decision-making will enable resilience of communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Proposals should therefore have plans to encourage the uptake of information produced through the PEER activity, particularly through other relevant regional and bilateral USAID activities. This research is of high priority for ASEAN members and supports the goals of USAID and USASEAN.

FOCUS AREA: RDMA Priority Countries / RAPID ASSESSMENT OF PELAGIC FISH STOCKS IN THE SULU-SULAWESI SEAS

A. Eligible Countries:

- Burma
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- The Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

- Please see Section VI of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.

C. Objectives:

USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) has identified over-harvesting, including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as a leading threat to marine biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, and food security in Southeast Asia. Overharvesting and IUU fishing are leading to declines in abundance, size, biodiversity, and distribution of economically important marine species, particularly tuna and other pelagic fish. These declining fisheries - which are also threatened by climate change, habitat degradation, and other stresses - remain fundamental to the health, nutrition, and food security of Southeast Asian people. Rapidly assessing the current state of marine resource availability in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea is a critical first step in reversing the decline of local fisheries.

In support of USAID's [Oceans and Fisheries Partnership](#), as [announced](#) by Secretary of State John Kerry in August, PEER will support research projects which help generate strong data and evidence around adaptation approaches in the fisheries sector, with the goal of increasing the resilience of people, places, and livelihoods associated with the marine resources of the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. Projects must include collaboration with the Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security ([CTI-CFF](#)) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center ([SEAFDEC](#)) whose goal is to conserve marine biodiversity and manage the fisheries potential of the Southeast Asia and Pacific region.

Proposals should utilize robust analytical approaches, and clearly target critical information gaps to inform decision-making. Research proposals may address critical knowledge gaps in areas including (but not limited to):

- Sustainable fishing yields
- Managing fish stocks
- Adaptation approaches in the fisheries sector
- Combating overharvesting and IUU
- Regional marine resources/food security
- Habitat degradation
- Biodiversity in the context of climate change and natural disasters

Regional collaborations among institutions in eligible countries are strongly encouraged. Building a stronger knowledge base to inform decision-making will enable resilience of communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Proposals should therefore have plans to encourage the uptake of information produced through the PEER activity, particularly through the Oceans and Fisheries Partnership and other relevant regional and bilateral USAID activities.

FOCUS AREAS: Brazil / BIODIVERSITY IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

A. Eligible Country:

Brazil

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

Brazil is home to 30 percent of the world's tropical rainforests, including 60 percent of the Amazon, the largest and most bio-diverse tropical rainforest in the world. USAID works to strengthen biodiversity and conservation of natural resources in designated protected areas and indigenous lands in Brazil.

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 protected areas of the Brazilian Amazon. 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 main 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, expansion of the agricultural frontier, and climate change) and propose conservation solutions for monitoring biodiversity through activities including, but not limited to, real-time data collection, watershed management, population genetics, 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
- 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 systems
- Emergent and pro-social 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 wellbeing 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.

FOCUS AREAS: India / GE PARTNERSHIP

A. Eligible Country:

India

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

- Please see Section VI of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.
- Applicants are required to partner with General Electric scientists from John F. Welch Technology Center in Bangalore

C. Objectives:

USAID is partnering with General Electric (GE) in India to offer research partnership opportunities for researchers in India. These research collaborations are geared at accelerating the use of science and technology to generate context-relevant solutions to critical development challenges in India.

Indian researchers from Indian universities and institutes will partner with GE scientists based at the John F. Welch Technology Center in Bangalore, India on research projects in the following focus areas: water purification and treatment; renewable energy; and urban sanitation.

- *Water purification and treatment:* Projects will focus on drinking water treatment solutions for urban populations and will be geared at identifying low cost technologies that are energy-neutral, use renewable energy, and which generate recyclable or environmentally benign waste streams. Water remediation technologies for arsenic, fluoride, organic compounds, pesticides, and/or heavy metal contaminants are of particular interest.
- *Renewable energy:* Projects will focus on technology/solutions to strengthen renewable energy deployment in the Indian grid, exploring feasibility of large scale and distributed generation solutions (wind/solar/hydro/biomass etc.); smart systems to alleviate grid congestion due to renewables; renewables integration and load management controls and strategies, including storage and renewables forecasting methods.
- *Urban Sanitation:* Projects will focus on the reuse-recapture portion of the urban sanitation service chain, with an emphasis on energy-neutral/low-energy solutions appropriate for India. Research collaborations are sought that can contribute to learning that positively affects not only India's urban poor, but also generate lessons from India can be shared globally.

Applicants are required to contact GE-India to identify research collaborators at the John F. Welch Technology Center in Bangalore by sending an email inquiry to eatp.grc@ge.com.

FOCUS AREA: Indonesia / MULTIPLE RESEARCH FIELDS

A. Eligible Country:

Indonesia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

PEER is seeking research projects that support the goals and objectives of USAID/Indonesia as outlined in the Mission's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS, <http://www.usaid.gov/indonesia/cdcs>).

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

- *Climate change:* PEER will support research projects with a focus on policy-relevant science and climate adaptation in urban, rural, biophysical, and natural sectors; climate adaptation policies and/or social impacts of climate change adaptation; and greenhouse gas emissions reduction from the land use sector, including deforestation, agriculture, and development.
- *Education:* PEER will support research projects with a particular focus on strengthening teaching methods and curricula in statistics, the scientific method, research methods, generation of knowledge, methods of inquiry, and evidence-based decision making. Education proposals that involve the application of the scientific method to non-research focused contexts and evidence-based decision making are also encouraged.
- *Wildlife trafficking:* PEER will support research projects with a focus on understanding the dynamics of wildlife trafficking in Indonesia and policy relevant science related to the prevention of wildlife trafficking, including the drivers of trafficking, policies or legal framework around trafficking, population distributions of affected species, ecosystem services linked to trafficked species, the economics of trafficking, law enforcement for trafficking, traceability for trafficked species, and other relevant issues.

All projects must also contribute to USAID/Indonesia's higher education objectives by strengthening engagement with junior researchers and undergraduate/graduate students. 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 research 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.

FOCUS AREA: South Africa / MULTIPLE RESEARCH FIELDS

A. Eligible Country:

South Africa

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

- Please see Section VI of the Solicitation for General Eligibility requirements.
- USAID and the [South Africa Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#) strongly encourage research proposals that include a PI or Co-PI from a Historically Disadvantaged Institution (HDI) in South Africa, or a proposal partnering a South African research institution with a co-PI from a research institution from the Southern African Development Community (SADC). <http://www.sadc.int/member-states/south-africa/>.
- Co-PIs from the SADC must also be from PEER-eligible countries, including Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, or Zambia.
- As with all PEER proposals, applications submitted under this focus area require partnership with a scientist supported by a participating USG-supported science agency.

C. Objectives:

South Africa: USAID Southern Africa and DST are pleased to announce they have partnered for the 2015 PEER call for research proposals in the following two areas:

- Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Low Emissions Development (LED)/Green Growth

All research proposals should support the goals of USAID/South Africa as outlined in the South Africa Country Development Cooperation Strategy (www.usaid.gov/documents/1860/south-africa-country-development-cooperation-strategy-2013-2017), the South Africa National Development Plan (<http://www.gov.za/issues/national-development-plan-2030>), and the National Water Resource Strategy 2 (<https://www.dwa.gov.za/nwrs/NWRS2013.aspx>) focused specifically on WASH or LED/Green Growth.

Additional relevant documents include:

- South Africa's Water Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Roadmap: 2015-2025 (available through www.wrc.co.za)
- USAID's Water and Development Strategy: 2013-2018 (available through www.usaid.gov)
- Enhancing Capacity for Low Emissions Development (available through <https://www.ec-leds.org/>)

FOCUS AREA: Tunisia / MULTIPLE RESEARCH FIELDS

A. Eligible Country:

Tunisia

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

PEER and USAID/Tunisia are seeking to support projects that lay the foundation for empowering current and new generations, strengthening civil society, and solidifying and expanding science and technology in Tunisia.

Principal investigators have the opportunity to apply for PEER funds if their research supports one of the following priority areas as outlined by USAID Tunisia:

- Biotechnology as it is applied to health and agricultural sciences
- Projects related to renewable energy, including hydropower, as well as general sustainable development issues
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as related specifically to GIS and network security

Applications with a focus on technology transfer, commercialization, and engagement with private sector stakeholders are highly encouraged. PEER projects that will result in the creation of new collaborations between Tunisian and U.S.-based researchers are viewed favorably. USAID/Tunisia is particularly interested in supporting projects that develop and/or utilize innovative approaches to addressing the Mission's development priorities.

FOCUS AREA: Vietnam / Biodiversity

A. Eligible Country:

Vietnam

B. Additional Criteria for Applicants:

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

C. Objectives:

PEER is seeking to support biodiversity conservation research proposals in Vietnam. Proposed areas of research should inform applied measures related to terrestrial biodiversity conservation, protected area management, wildlife conservation, and/or prevention of trafficking of wildlife.

Projects must have explicit biodiversity conservation objectives, with anticipated outcomes that positively affect biodiversity and ecosystem management in Vietnam. Projects should respond to identified threats to biodiversity and consider conservation solutions that could lead to improved ecosystem health or improved natural resource management leading to improved ecosystem health. Applicants are encouraged to focus on important biodiversity areas (e.g., central /southern Annamites), internationally or nationally recognized species of concern, and/or species important for monitoring ecosystem health.

USAID/Vietnam is particularly interested in supporting projects that involve collaborations with key 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 biodiversity conservation challenges in Vietnam. While the work should focus on Vietnam, in cases where the research involves trans-boundary considerations, research teams are encouraged to look for collaborators in neighboring countries. Projects should also ensure that programmed activities involve and benefit both women and men and when feasible address the underlying, gender-based constraints in biodiversity conservation.

For further information on USAID's biodiversity conservation efforts, please visit:

<https://www.usaid.gov/biodiversity/policy>

For USAID/Vietnam's CDCS:

https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1861/CDCS%20Vietnam%20public_version%20final.pdf