



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of International Conservation**

[MENTOR-Bat](#)

<https://www.fws.gov/service/mentor-bat-notice-funding-opportunity-2022>

Fiscal Year: 2022

F22AS00398

Due Date for Applications:

09/09/2022

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated

08/03/2022

As the **FY2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** for **MENTOR-Bat** is a new opportunity for a **global MENTOR fellowship program**, the following FAQs seek to respond to possible queries.

The NOFO can be found on **GrantSolutions.gov** or **Grants.gov** (search funding opportunity **F22AS00398**) for detailed information on proposal requirements. To submit a proposal, use **GrantSolutions.gov** (preferred portal) or **Grants.gov**. Please send any additional questions to: nancy_gelman@fws.gov or wwb_africa@fws.gov The FAQs will be updated to respond to new inquiries.

What is this Notice of Funding Opportunity about?

This funding opportunity solicits proposals for co-developing a **MENTOR-Bat** fellowship program. This funding opportunity will award a single cooperative agreement with an expected period of performance of two to three years and a range of \$300,000 to \$500,000 USD/per year and covering multiple countries.

What the MENTOR-Bat Fellowship Program is?

MENTOR-Bat is a **multi-country conservation fellowship program focused on the linkages between the health of bats, people, and the environment**. MENTOR-Bat is inspired by the Africa program's MENTOR model, see [here](https://www.fws.gov/program/mentor-fellowship). (<https://www.fws.gov/program/mentor-fellowship>). The Service will work with the selected applicant on the design, creation, and implementation of the fellowship.

What the MENTOR-Bat Program is not?

MENTOR-Bat is not:

- a research program
- a competitive scholarship/individual fellowship program
- a virus detection program
- a bat project funding program.

What is the USFWS MENTOR Model?

The MENTOR model combines academic and field-based training, conservation planning, and project implementation. For each program, 8-11 Fellows are selected from a competitive applicant pool. Depending on the threats and needs, Fellows may include business, law, public administration, urban planning, health, social science and communications professionals alongside wildlife biologists. MENTOR connects these transdisciplinary teams of Fellows with long-term Mentors: senior conservation leaders and international experts who guide the Fellows, teach problem solving techniques, and foster the development of creative solutions in a learning partnership that continues throughout the careers of both Mentors and Fellows. Since 2008, MENTOR programs have developed conservation leadership across a range of issues, including the bushmeat trade, extractive industries, fisheries management, and the unique challenges of manatee, great ape, fish, and pangolin conservation.

What are the Bat/One Health Priorities for MENTOR-Bat?

As described in the NOFO, the team of MENTOR-Bat Fellows will work together to address Bat/One Health Priorities including:

- Reducing Bat Persecution
- Bushmeat and Bat Trade
- Communications and Outreach
- Community Engagement
- Wildlife Health
- Habitat Restoration and Protection
- Ecosystem Services.

Are certain bat populations prioritized?

While no specific bat populations are prioritized, the NOFO shows priority for countries and geographic regions with high species richness and abundance.

Are any countries or geographic regions prioritized?

Priority will be given to projects that will recruit Fellows from multiple foreign countries where bats are significantly threatened and show high species richness and abundance, and where a high probability of bat-to-human zoonotic disease spillover exists and has led to disease outbreaks in the past. Ideally, a team of about 12 international MENTOR-Bat Fellows will include representation from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Priority regions for bat conservation and One Health include West, Central and East Africa; Southeast Asia; northern South America; Central America, and Mexico. While projects including countries in these regions may be given preference, proposing to include Fellows and organizations with suitable bat expertise from other countries around the world will also be considered with justification. As part of the co-design process, the Service will work with the recipient on the final selection of countries involved in MENTOR-Bat.

Is the NOFO open to applicants from all regions?

The NOFO is open to qualified applicants from all regions.

Is MENTOR an Africa only program?

The previous MENTOR programs have taken place in Africa. MENTOR-Bat will be the first **global MENTOR program** with approximately 12 Fellows from Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Can applicants apply for individual bat research and One Health projects through MENTOR-Bat?

No, they cannot.

Will future funding be available for bats from USFWS International Affairs?

We do not know if future funding will be available to support bat conservation projects at this time. Any future funding opportunities will be posted on the USFWS International Affairs [webpage](https://www.fws.gov/program/international-affairs) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/international-affairs>) and Grants.gov.

Regarding the co-design process, as MENTOR-Bat is an extension of the MENTOR Model, is there an expectation that USFWS will be involved in the planning or advising the assembly/training of teams? Or are applicants meant to study and follow the MENTOR program to the best of their ability?

Yes, once the recipient is selected, USFWS will be involved in all aspects of the MENTOR-Bat program applying the learning and approach of the series of MENTOR programs.

When can I submit my proposal?

Applications must be submitted *between July 25th 2022 and September 09th 2022 (11:59 PM EDT)*.

Is it possible to extend the NOFO application deadline?

Unfortunately, we are not able to extend the deadline given internal deadlines.

How many projects will be funded and how much funding is available?

This funding opportunity will solicit a single award of up to \$1,000,000 with an expected period of performance of two to three years and a range of \$300,000 to \$500,000 USD/per year.

Does the NOFO allow multiple subgrantees/subawardees?

Subawards are a normal part of the USFWS grant making process. See page 19 of the NOFO for more details about subawards, especially regarding needed budget information