

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS - International Conservation

[https://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/
rhino-and-tiger-conservation-fund.html](https://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/rhino-and-tiger-conservation-fund.html)

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund - Africa Fiscal Year: 2021

Due Date for Applications: **06/04/2021**

****Last updated 04/20/2021****

****Please continue to refer back as this FAQ will be updated
as additional questions are received.****

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As the FY2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund – Africa differs from past opportunities, the following FAQ seeks to respond to possible queries. Please send any additional questions to: africanrhino@fws.gov

What are the FY2021 NOFO priorities?

- The NOFO prioritizes site-based conservation of Key 1, Key 2, and Important populations of critically endangered species of African Rhinoceros.

Which African Rhinoceros Species are Critically Endangered?

- According to the IUCN Red List, www.redlist.org, the black rhinoceros species, *Diceros bicornis*, is considered critically endangered. Please note that all three subspecies of black rhinoceros will be considered for support.

What is site-based conservation?

- USFWS prioritizes direct conservation activities to eliminate or reduce threats to rhinoceros at the sites that they inhabit. Biological management of rhinoceros populations is also considered.

Are certain rhinoceros populations prioritized?

- The NOFO criteria states that priority populations include indigenous rhinoceros subspecies within their natural ranges.

Is protected area status considered in the priorities?

- The NOFO criteria states that rhinoceros in protected areas with strong governance systems are prioritized.

What types of proposals are being solicited?

- This funding opportunity solicits multi-year awards (three- to five-year awards).

- This funding opportunity focuses on applicants supporting field conservation.
- Proposals can include one or more sites of Key 1, Key 2 and Important rhinoceros populations.
- If an applicant plans to submit for multiple sites (e.g. two to five sites), they are encouraged to include them in one proposal.
- Proposals can range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 USD/per year for each site

Are applicants encouraged to submit one proposal for multiple sites where they work (e.g. two to five sites) instead of individual proposals?

- Yes, applicants who work in multiple sites are encouraged to submit one proposal. If an applicant works in more than five sites then they can submit proposals compiled by country or by region.

Can rhinoceros sites in different countries be in one proposal?

- Yes. Proposals can be for sites in the same or different countries.

If an applicant applies for multiple sites in one proposal, is one overall budget for multiple years expected?

- Yes, the proposal should include one overall budget for all of the years requested and individual multi-year budgets for each site should be included as attachments.

If applicants submit individual proposals for multiple sites, will USFWS request that they combine these into one proposal?

- USFWS might come back to applicants who have submitted individual proposals for multiple sites and may request that they combine them into one proposal. If there is a compelling reason why proposals for different sites should not be combined, then please explain this in the proposal.

Will USFWS come back to an applicant with questions and ask them to re-write sections of a proposal?

- As stated in the NOFO, following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made.

Can an applicant apply for a site that does not yet have rhinoceros, but where new rhinoceros translocations are being prepared and implemented?

- The FY2021 NOFO prioritizes direct site-based conservation actions for Key 1, Key 2 and Important populations of rhinoceros. Proposals to prepare sites may be considered in future years depending on conservation priorities and funding.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Applicants can be individuals; multi-national secretariats; foreign national and local government agencies; non-profit non-governmental organizations; for-profit organizations; public and private institutions of higher education; U.S. territorial governments; and Tribes and Tribal organizations.

What are the criteria for evaluating the proposal?

- To be considered for funding, proposals must address the program's funding priorities. Program funding priorities focus on direct site-based conservation actions for Key 1, Key 2, and other populations that are important to the survival of critically endangered species of rhinoceros. Priority populations include indigenous rhinoceros subspecies within their natural ranges, found in protected areas with strong governance systems.
- In addition to whether the proposed project addresses the program funding priorities, the following criteria will be considered in review of the project proposals:
 - o importance of the project for site-based conservation actions for critically endangered species of rhinoceros,
 - o whether the project addresses national and/or regional action plans supported by the IUCN/SSC African Rhinoceros Specialist Group,
 - o identification of immediate threats to rhinoceros survival and support for direct conservation activities to eliminate or reduce those threats, and biological management of populations,
 - o the relative need and impact of USFWS funding,
 - o the applicants past interventions and history at the site (if applicable),
 - o whether the current plan of action is logical and feasible,
 - o activities and methods adequately described and realistic for the situation,
 - o appropriate and well justified budget,
 - o demonstration of financial need (including importance of Service funds relative to other potential project funding),
 - o potential for long-term sustainability,
 - o capacity of the organization and its staff to implement the project, including relevant qualifications and institutional policies of the organization and experience of key personnel,
 - o past performance of the grantee if a previous recipient of Service funds,
 - o evidence of collaboration with or inclusion of key stakeholders, including host country governments and impacted communities, and
 - o potential for measurable and positive impact.

Confidentiality

- If specific data on population size and locations is confidential due to security risks to the population, please provide only relevant information in the proposal that can be shared publicly. Sensitive or confidential data, clearly indicated as such, may be provided directly to the USFWS Program Officer separately if relevant or requested. In the proposal, please provide only relevant information that can be shared publicly.

Cost Share

- Cost share is voluntary and not required and does not impact an applicant's eligibility.

Subawards

- For each subaward, provide a detailed line-item breakdown explaining specific services in a separate tab in the Budget Table and Narrative. Subaward budgets should include the same level of detail for personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs,

and indirect costs required of the direct applicant. If indirect costs are charged on a subaward budget, include the subrecipient's NICRA. A Subaward means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract. The detailed budgets for the subawards should be included as attachments.

Can the proposal mention activities that are supported by other donors, but are not allowed by USFWS?

- No. All activities described in the proposal and indicated in the accompanying budget constitute the Federal award and project. The following items cannot be included in the Federal award either through direct or indirect support:
 - the purchase of firearms or ammunition;
 - gathering information by persons who conceal their true identity (e.g. informants);
 - buying or purchasing of intelligence, evidence or information or paying informants;
 - law enforcement operations that, to arrest suspects, prompt them to carry out illegal activities (entrapment); and
 - any activity that would circumvent sanctions, laws or regulations of either the U.S. or the country of proposed activity.

How to receive information on “How To Apply” for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund- Africa?

- <https://www.fws.gov/international/grants-and-reporting/how-to-apply.html>

How to apply?

- All applicants should apply through GrantSolutions.gov or if unable, Grants.gov.
- Applicants who are unable to submit applications through GrantSolutions.gov or Grants.gov may seek a waiver and obtain Service approval to apply via direct email to the program inbox. If you wish to seek a waiver from GrantSolutions.gov and Grants.gov, you must demonstrate that you have attempted to register in SAM and apply via Grants.gov or GrantSolutions.gov and attempted to resolve issues you experienced. This may include computer screen shots, email correspondence or other information obtained at the time of submission, before the stated deadline, that would support a waiver. Individual applicants who have received a waiver can send the application package via email to the following address: africanrhino@fws.gov