

Mekong Connections Civil Society Grant

Q&A Summary

(From emails and during the virtual Roadshow on June 8 and 10, 2022)

General questions:

Question: When is the deadline for proposal submission?

Answer: The proposal deadline is June 30, 2022, at 4 PM. Please submit your application (including technical proposal and budget) via email to thailandprocurement@pactworld.org with the subject “Mekong Connections – name of organization submitting application.”.

Question: Is there a word template for the application?

Answer: There is no template for technical proposal, but you can follow; 1) RFA as the guideline, 2) the cover page of SRRA, and 3) the budget template.

Question: Who is eligible to apply for the MC grant?

Answer: Any civil society organizations and non-profit organizations who are registered in or have legal authorization to operate in any of the Lower Mekong countries: Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Question: We are a non-profit organization registered outside the Lower Mekong countries, but legally operated under a private company in Thailand. Can we apply for the MC grant?

Answer: Yes, a private company can apply with no fee in the cost application as this grant is aimed for non-profit activities.

Question: If I'm not a registered CSO can I apply?

Answer: You need to be registered to apply.

Question: Could an organization submit more than one proposal?

Answer: Yes, there is no limited number of proposal submissions from each organization. It depends on the proposal detail.

Question: Could you provide examples of activities from the previous projects?

Answer: Examples such as one forest protection project, community forest, water governance engagement with youth community, some more on gender such as women group - engaging for water governance issue. It depends on your project design. It can be one or more of the three themes and produce at least a policy recommendation or op-eds as a result. An example of a previous project is here: <https://www.pactworld.org/blog/mekong-connections-program-works-civil-society-forests-rivers-wildlife-and-health>.

Question: Is this project only need to be a Mekong issue, or can it be Mekong countries?

Answer: It does not limited to Mekong issues. It can be any transboundary issues under the three themes: water governance, conservation crime, or health impact, within Mekong countries.

Question: How to address the security issue in the potential project area?

Answer: It depends on your project design. You have to ensure that your project can achieve the goal with safety of your staffs.

Question: How much engagement or how many local communities that we required to engage with in the project?

Answer: It depends on your project design and what you want to achieve.

About budget:

Question: Is there any equipment that cannot be bought under the MC grant?

Answer: The following cannot be bought with USG funds under any circumstances:

- Military equipment—goods or equipment to be used to meet the cooperating country's military requirements;
- Surveillance equipment—equipment such as microphones, transmitters, and recording devices (do not include general use audio-visual equipment, as long as there is a clear purpose and need for that equipment in your program);
- Commodities and services for support of police or other law enforcement activities;
- Abortion equipment and services;
- Luxury goods and gambling equipment, including alcoholic beverages, jewelry, or expensive textiles; and
- Weather modification equipment

Question: Is there any restriction that the MC grant won't fund?

Answer: The following seven restricted commodities may be purchased with USG funds but require prior written approval from the Agreement

Officer (AO) who will issue a waiver:

- Agricultural commodities,
- Motor vehicles,
- Pharmaceuticals,
- Pesticides,
- Used equipment,
- U.S. Government-owned excess property, and
- Fertilizer.

Question: Could the project cost cover more than one consultant?

Answer: It depends on your project design whether how many consultants you would need to achieve your project goal within the proposed budget.

Question: What is the DUNS number and do we need one?

Answer: Apologies, the DUNS number has been replaced by the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). When you submit the proposal and budget, you need to submit the cover page of SRRA, which asked for the DUNS number, please change this to UEI. As long as the applicant has a bank account, the applicant can take a few minutes to generate the UEI number. A UEI can be obtained directly from www.sam.gov. Instructions of which can be found [here](#).