

Request for Project Concept Notes 2022

The JRS Biodiversity Foundation invites the submission of concept notes for project funding from sub-Saharan Africa to enhance capacity for mobilization, and for the use and dissemination of biodiversity data in support of policymaking for sustainable development.

This RFP offers support for **four** grant types in 2022:

- Grants that establish or strengthen **Freshwater biodiversity** collaborations to increase research and data addressing local, national or regional freshwater development policy;
- Grants that further **Pollinator biodiversity** research, data use and collaborations to demonstrate the critical importance of pollinators to African economies and ecosystems;
- Grants that support **African 30-by-30 goals** for conservation (an aspirational CBD goal), using best science and data for decision-making;¹
- Grants that aim to enhance **African representation in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process** especially through building capacity in generating, analyzing, communicating, and sharing African biodiversity information.

In addition, proposals should contain common elements regardless of thematic focus:

- All proposals must demonstrate elements of **capacity-building** for African stakeholders and institutions in bioinformatics, biodiversity science and applied data use for key African stakeholders and institutions
- All proposals must demonstrate an intent and modality to **communicate** project results to key audiences and decision-makers
- All proposals should articulate ways in which scientific and biodiversity data can clearly respond to a **specific policy** need for African institutions and society

JRS grants are open to institutions based in sub-Saharan Africa. Concept notes must be submitted by **31 July 2022** through the JRS website. Following review of the concept notes, JRS will invite applicants successful in this round to submit a full proposal.

Application timeline

Initial concept notes must be submitted by **31 July 2022** via the JRS portal:

<https://jrsbiodiversity.org/how-to-apply/apply-for-a-grant/2022rfp/>

Selected applicants will be invited **later in 2022** to submit full proposals. Following final review and selection, funded projects are expected to start in **early 2023**.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework>

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General recommendations for preparing concept notes

- **Ensure that your project is clearly within the RFP focus areas** and aligns with JRS' strategic objectives and values.
- **Funding levels:** most projects are funded by JRS fall within the \$50,000 and \$250,000 range. Amounts outside this range will need clear justifications.
- **Be brief.** Summarize activities and impact proposed, with minimal background information, using links to external references rather than long explanations.
- **Key Factors.** Compelling projects will demonstrate innovation, partnerships, regional linkages and clearly aim to impact policy through data use and sharing.
- **Methodology.** Where relevant, methodologies proposed should be well described i.e. sampling design, replication, analytical approaches.
- **Data Sharing.** Data sharing modalities must be well described and preferably make use of established technologies and tools unless the project aims specifically to improve same.

General eligibility requirements

1. Concept notes and full proposals must be submitted in English through the JRS Portal by the respective deadlines.
2. Applicant project sites must be located in the sub-Saharan Africa geographic region. Eligible entities may include government agencies, conservation institutions, natural history museums, universities, research institutes, civil society networks and NGOs.
3. All JRS-funded activities must be not-for-profit. JRS funds may be used to support staff, travel, costs associated with the organization of meetings, workshops, and IT services and equipment.
4. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants must provide plans to ensure sustainability of activities after project support from JRS concludes.
5. If invited to submit a full project proposal, written confirmation from all project partners of their involvement in the project must be provided. Letters of support should be submitted through the JRS grants portal
6. All proposed project activities must fall within the stated implementation periods for each grant type.
7. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants must prepare a detailed budget. Overhead costs are limited depending on grantee category.
8. Applicants are encouraged to explore co-funding (in kind or cash) to their projects. Co-funding refers to real costs that are incurred by the applicants while executing the funded project's activities. These include in-kind contributions that directly contribute to the project activities (i.e., staff salaries, travel costs etc.) or any in-cash contributions to grant activities from other funding sources.
9. Applicants must affirm that all data mobilized through JRS grants be made openly accessible and shared on a non-proprietary data platform.



Photos by M. Bakarr

