

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS TO RFA 517-08-010
BATEYES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
June 27, 2008

QUESTION 1. Section II. Technical Application Format, Application Contents states in # 6) “Detailed budget: Not to exceed 3 pages. “ However, Section III Cost Application Format states “The Cost or Business Application is to be submitted separate from the technical application.” Should we include detailed budget in the technical application section of our proposal?

ANSWER: The cost application and the Technical application should be submitted separately. The detailed budget is not to exceed 3 pages. There’s no page limit for the budget narrative supporting the costs budgeted.

QUESTION 2. Does the Cover Page count against the 25-page technical application limit?

ANSWER: No, it doesn’t count against the 25-page technical application limit.

Question 3. Is there a page limit on the Annexes to the technical application?

ANSWER: There’s a 10 page limit for the annexes to the technical application. Only the information on the evaluation criteria will be scored and evaluated.

QUESTION 4. The RFA mentions on p.4 the USAID/Dominican Republic (Education) Performance Management Plan indicators. On p.24 are included Basic education indicators. Are these the same as the PMP indicators? If not, is there a reference document available that has the USAID/Dominican Republic (Education) Performance Management Plan indicators?

ANSWER: The Basic education indicators on page 24 match the PMP indicators as indicated on page 4. We expect the applicants, though, to not just limit themselves to those indicators, but to also develop other indicators where they deem there will be a measurable impact.

QUESTION 5: On page 18 Introduction and Background the RFA states: *The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Dominican Republic is seeking applications from qualified national non-governmental organizations and not-for-profit and for-profit entities (including NGOs, business associations, and universities and academic institutions)....* Does this mean that only national/locally registered entities are eligible for submitting for this RFA?

ANSWER: No. We want non governmental organizations, not for profit and for profit entities that are present in country and doing significant work in country. They don’t necessarily have to be locally registered companies, as long as they can operate legally in the country.

QUESTION 6. Does USAID restrict the use of funds to the public bateyes? The RFA only mentions public bateyes, but never mentions any limitation on private bateyes.

ANSWER: Yes, we are restricting the use of funds to public bateyes.

QUESTION 7: On page 18 of the RFA it is stated "Project providing development support in "publicly" owned bateyes." Is it correct to interpret that we should only consider those bateyes in the land property of CEA and the Government of the Dominican Republic (GoDR)?

ANSWERS: We are not going to specify which Bateyes you should focus on, other than that they should be non-private bateyes (bateys that are recognized and/or on land owned by the GODR would be considered public bateys or non-private bateyes) and that we expect that they proposal will have an integrated approach to deal with the underdevelopment issues.

QUESTION 8: Can a *batey* with unrestrained public access such as the one described above qualify as a public batey for this solicitation? If not, what exactly is the definition of "publicly owned bateyes?"

ANSWER: publicly owned bateyes are those bateyes that are not privately owned, leased or operated. They also include bateys that are recognized in some way by the government of the Dominican Republic and on land owned by the GODR.

QUESTION 9. Alternatively, might one or two such *bateyes* be allowed to be part of a proposal responding to this solicitation? That is, would USAID consider modifying the requirement, so that not all proposed *bateyes* must be publically owned? That is, to allow inclusion of one *batey* or possibly two under the conditions that you might specify? For example, that these must have a substantial local contribution (you might even specify the minimum local amount to be eligible).

ANSWER: No. The purpose is to work within non-private bateyes. USAID/DR is not interested in modifying the requirements to include bateyes that are under private control.

QUESTION 10. We World like to know if the application to be submitted to your Agency needs to be in English and if we need to provide cost-share.

ANSWER: Applications must be submitted in English with a courtesy translation to Spanish. More information regarding the submission of the application will be provided soon.

QUESTION 11. The RFA indicates that the application is open to national NGOs. Does this mean that The organization must be Dominican?

ANSWER: No, we are looking at presence and experience in the DR. Please see the answer in question 5.

QUESTION 12: is this solicitation open to registered international NGOs as well?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION 13: Are international organizations with programs in the Dominican Republic but are not registered there eligible for this solicitation?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION 14: Is this a full and open competition and is a US based 501(3)(c) organization is eligible to submit an application for the single grant?

ANSWER: Yes. But we do expect that organization to have a local presence and programs currently in the DR.

QUESTION 15: Are the activities of this RFA to be completed exclusively in 'Publically Owned' bateyes?

ANSWER: Yes. See answers to 7, 8, and 9 above.

QUESTION 16: What is the anticipated start date for the activities under this RFA?

ANSWER: August 18, 2008

QUESTION 17: On page 28 and 29, the RFA refers to the Environmental Mitigation Plan to be included in an annex. On page 29, it refers to 'Guidelines for Implementing Partners on the USAID Dominican Republic Environmental Mitigation Report'. Where can I obtain an electronic copy of these guidelines?

ANSWER: These guidelines can be found in USAID/DR's website and as an attachment to this e-mail.

QUESTION 18: Is the new RFA submission date July 28th at 12:00 hours Dominican time?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION 19: Could you please provide Sharon Wayne's e-mail address?

ANSWER: Swayne@usaid.gov

QUESTION 20: Where will the answer to these and other questions on the RFA be posted?

ANSWER: The answers will be collectively responded by email on June 27, 2008. They'll also be posted in the USAID/DR website and in grants.gov. A translation to Spanish will be provided by email on July 01, 2008.

QUESTION 21: Regarding the number of bateyes to be proposed as pilot for this program it was indicated that such number must be limited. We'd like to know if USAID/DR has determined a minimum/maximum number of bateyes to be taken into account in the applications to this program. Do the components of water, education and health, construction and reconstructions exposed in the illustrative budget need to be included in the budget?

ANSWER: The applicants should look at the resources available and the need to produce a successful model batey(es) and determine how many bateyes they can work in to make it a success. With the resources available we do not expect a wide dispersion of funds with limited impact, but an impact that will make a measurable difference in the lives of Batey residents. So to the extent that can be achieved we leave it to the applicants to determine what can be done and where and whether it is cost effective and reasonable. These are factors that we will evaluate when determining the winning proposal, amongst others. Specifics with respect to water lines, health and education programs, and construction and reconstruction are all details that we believe could explain how the goals will be achieved.

QUESTION 22: In the Azua province there's a considerable number of Haitian nationals (10,000 to 12,000) living in communities like Los negros, Sabana Yegua, Estebania, Los Jovillos and others, in conditions of extreme poverty. These people live in very specific areas, and in such communities, many suffer a constant violation of their human rights and live in deplorable conditions. This situation became more blatant last year after Tropical Storm Noel when a lot of these persons were deprived of Basic services and were unprotected. Could we include these areas of Azua in the proposal?

ANSWER: Only a non-private bateyes can be included. By non-private batey we mean that is not on land owned, operated or leased by a private concern or recognized by the GODR.

QUESTION 23: OUR ORGANIZATION is interested in applying for RFA 517-08-010, Batey Community Development Project. OUR ORGANIZATION is a locally registered PVO and will implement the project, but OUR ORGANIZATION's US home office will submit the proposal as always happens for USG funding. Additionally, as is our normal practice OUR ORGANIZATION will apply our USAID agreed-to NICRA rate to the project. My question is, Is OUR ORGANIZATION eligible to apply for the Cooperative Agreement? Also, are we able to include other International NGOs in our consortium (with offices in the Dominican Republic)?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION 24: On page 3, Point II Technical Application Format, Point states "Attachments (annexes) should be lettered e.g. Attachment A and can include the resumes of key personnel, letters of support, letters from public entities, and *other supporting documents*". The following paragraph then states "The Technical Application may not exceed 25 pages in length, exclusive of the annexes (curriculum vitae, past performance references, and letters of commitment from any implementing partners". Our question is - Can USAID provide specific examples of *other supporting documents* that cannot or should not be included in the 25 page limit of the technical application?

ANSWER: The page limit for annexes is 10 pages, including past performance, CVs, letters of commitment (if applicable) and any other pertinent information. The technical approach limit is 25 pages. We have no specific examples of what should not be included as part of the technical approach, that is a determination to be made by the applicants.

QUESTION 25: On page 18 in the section entitled Introduction and Background, the RFA specifically focuses the project in "publicly owned bateyes". Does this definition include publicly owned bateyes (primarily land belonging to the state through the Consejo Estatal del Azucar) which are either (a) currently leased out to private entities related to cane production and (b) those that will likely to be leased out to private entities for cane and/or other agricultural production during the two year duration of this project? This is important for issues of sustainability and replication.

ANSWER: If it is leased to private concern, we do not consider it a non-private or public batey.

QUESTION 26: Once again related to the concept of publicly owned bateyes, much of this land is in a state of legal indefiniton since the CEA during the last 8 years has "sold" or "promised sales" of their land (where bateyes are located) to a variety of private enterprises related to real estate and tourism. To a certain extent, no one really knows who the owners are. This is very different from the leasing concept in the previous question. What guarantees does USAID expect to make sure that physical investments made with funds from this project will not end up in the hands of entities who may purchase these lands in the future?

ANSWER: We can't make any such guarantees. We may enter into an Memorandum of Understanding with the government to enlist their support for the project, but like with any land owned and entitled to the government we cannot prescribe what is to be done with the land ultimately.

QUESTION 27: As per page 3, Section II Application Contents, are No. 1 Table of Contents listing all page numbers and attachments and No. 2 Executive Summary not to exceed a one page description considered as part of the 25 page limit or are they in addition to the 25 page limit for the Technical Application.

ANSWER: The cover page is not included as part of the technical approach page limit. The executive summary is considered part of the technical approach limit.

QUESTION 28: Upon granting this award, will there be a bidding process for organizations to apply for funding for local initiatives?

ANSWER: No

QUESTION 29: Is this award targeted to a local organization only or can international organizations also apply?

ANSWER: International organizations can apply.

Question 30: Can we present proposals for Haitian migrant communities of ingenios that are currently closed (not operating) whose residents still live in inhumane conditions like Ingenio Catarey, San Luis and others?

ANSWER: See answers 7-10.

