



Concept Note Opportunity

The Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) Program – funded by the U.S. Department of State – is accepting proposals from non-profit organizations and academic institutions for forest, mangrove, and landscape restoration projects that increase green infrastructure and forest cover, reduce forest carbon emissions and enhance sequestration, and provide environmental and livelihood benefits to increase climate resilience. Successful projects will emphasize one or more of the following thematic areas 1) mangrove restoration; 2) upland forest restoration; 3) post-natural disaster landscape restoration; 4) fire management; and 5) urban resilience to climate change. All project proposals must benefit one or more of the following nations: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. As this is a small grant program, proposals should not exceed \$65,000.

Background

The Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) will enhance the capacity of key Caribbean island partner countries to plan, implement, and monitor restoration and natural infrastructure initiatives for emission reductions from landscapes, improved carbon sequestration, and strengthened resilience to climate change, and other ecosystems goods and services from forested ecosystems.

The project is funded by the Department of State’s Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific (OES) Affairs and will be implemented by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

USFS will solicit proposals from various non-profit organizations for technical and financial assistance for projects that emphasize one or more of the five NICaR thematic areas. USFS will provide selected organizations with technical support and facilitate regional exchanges and other capacity-building activities for the collaborating organizations to support their activities.

Project selection will consider several factors, including:

- 1) The success of the organization’s previous efforts in capacity building and training, landscape restoration, natural infrastructure and resilience to climate change.
- 2) Anticipated benefits related to the continual provision of goods and services such as carbon sequestration, water management, erosion control, moderation of temperature extremes, and provisioning for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat. Note, carbon sequestration is a topic of high interest.
- 3) Anticipated increased resilience for eco-systems to coastal storms, sea-level rise, flooding, landslides, and other hazards.
- 4) Anticipated improved ability for communities and individuals to adapt to the effects of climate change and/or implement risk-reducing actions to climate change.

Additionally, projects which seek to amend existing laws, policies, regulations or standards and/or propose new laws, policies, regulations, or standards to address sustainable landscapes and/or climate change issues are of high interest.

Eligible Applicants

USFS welcomes applications from U.S.-based and foreign-based non-profit organizations, public international organizations, private, public, or state institutions of higher education, communities and civil



society organizations. Organizations that have not previously received funding from the U.S. government are encouraged to apply.

If you are interested in applying for funding, please submit a **concept note** and proposed **project budget** using the attached budget template to USFSCaribbean@gmail.com. **The deadline for sending the required documents is May 24, 2021 at 11:59pm EDT.**

Concept Note Guidelines

The concept note should be 1-2 pages long and include the following information:

- A short background of your organization
- A description of your organization's experience and expertise as it relates to the five NICaR thematic areas.
- A description of the proposed project including a project timeline. Projects should be no more than two years in duration.
- Email and phone number of Point of Contact.

The concept note and budget will be reviewed by USFS and shortlisted projects will be contacted for a more detailed proposal and budget information.