# **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

# **U.S.-Morocco Trade-related Environmental Cooperation Green Entrepreneurship in Morocco**

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# **Green Entrepreneurship in Morocco**

# Section A. Funding Opportunity Program Description

Announcement Type: New Grant

Funding Opportunity Title: Green Entrepreneurship Morocco

Funding Opportunity Number: OES-OTE-15-001

Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance Number: 19.017

Funding Amount: One award of up to \$250,000 U.S. Dollars

Key Dates: 1. Applications must be submitted by 5 P.M. EDT on

July 8, 2015

2. Application review and selection expected by August

2015

3. Notification of project approval and grant signing

expected by September 2015

#### **Executive Summary:**

The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs' (OES) Office of Environmental Quality and Transboundary Issues (EQT) at the Department of State announces the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a new grant: Green Entrepreneurship in Morocco.

Through the implementation of this award, OES and the Recipient will strive to support Morocco's efforts to build a green economy by developing innovative commercial solutions to pressing environmental issues, such as waste management, recycling, and energy efficiency, among others, which not only support the development of Morocco's entrepreneurial eco-system but also create green jobs. The recipient will help spur green business and job growth through strategies such as the formation of collaboration partnerships and networks, education and training, innovation, and/or green technology transfers, among others.

Guided by the Trade Act of 2002, the United States and Morocco concluded both a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation in 2006. The FTA and Joint Statement facilitate environmental protection while promoting economic growth that integrates environmental concerns. Trade opens markets, creates business and employment opportunities, and can increase economic growth, which can lead to increased wealth and provide greater markets for U.S. goods and services. The FTA improves commercial opportunities for U.S. exports by reducing and eliminating trade barriers and supports the significant economic and political reforms underway in Morocco. The FTA has contributed to an increase in the U.S. goods trade surplus from \$85 million in 2012 to \$1.3 billion in 2013, representing a 6.8% increase. In general, promoting green jobs abroad helps support market access for U.S. environmental technologies, goods, and services. In addition, green companies in our FTA-partner countries are better equipped to meet similar environmental standards as U.S. companies, helping to level the playing field.

Eligibility is limited to non-profit/nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) subject to section 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. tax code, low-profit limited liability company (L3Cs), foreign not-for-profit organizations,

educational institutions, and public international organizations. Applicants must have significant experience working on initiatives that have advanced green growth, green business, and/or green jobs in Morocco or a similar context. Applicants are encouraged to partner or to engage with other institutions to leverage available funds. Proposals should demonstrate creativity, substance, and relevance to OES's goal of promoting sustainable economic growth that integrates environmental concerns.

An award for up to \$250,000 U.S. Dollars (USD) in FY 2014 Economic Support Funds (ESF) will be made for work consistent with this request. The initial period of performance will be for 24 -36 months. Funding authority rests in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. Future funding may be available for further work, possibly in other countries in the region, and competitive applications received but not selected as a result of this NOFO may also be considered for future funding.

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Please read carefully the entire solicitation package, <u>including Proposal Submission Instructions</u>, if you plan to submit an application; there are steps that you should take immediately in order to make your submissions by the deadline.

## A.1. Background

The United States has negotiated Environmental Cooperation Mechanisms (ECMs) in parallel with Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to facilitate the protection of the environment, while expanding sustainable development and bilateral trade and investment. The ECMs serve as frameworks within which each of the Parties commits to cooperate in the field of environmental protection and to promote the conservation and protection of the environment, the prevention of pollution and degradation of natural resources and ecosystems, and the rational use of natural resources in support of sustainable development.

The United States and Morocco signed a Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation in 2006, and the 2014-2017 Plan of Action reflects the current priorities for trade-related environmental cooperation activities (see: <a href="http://www.state.gov/e/oes/eqt/trade/morocco/index.htm">http://www.state.gov/e/oes/eqt/trade/morocco/index.htm</a>). The Plan of Action covers four main priority areas:

- Institutional and policy strengthening for effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws;
- Biodiversity conservation and improved management of protected areas and other ecologically important ecosystems;
- Improved cleaner production processes, building resilience to climate change, and encouraging the adoption of sound environmental practices and technologies; and
- Environmental education, transparency, and public participation in environmental decision-making and enforcement.

Creating a sustainable economy that spurs green job growth is a cross-cutting theme that can reinforce any of these thematic areas of the Plan of Action. More specifically, one of the major goals of the Plan of Action is to build a culture of environmental protection and compliance with environmental laws through, among other things, the promotion of economic opportunities, voluntary measures to enhance environmental performance, and job creation.

Morocco has set a goal of becoming a good example of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region by 2020, with an emphasis on creating green jobs in: renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, environmental and natural resource management, and improvement in environmental technologies. Morocco's green growth strategy focuses on three major areas: energy security, food security, and environmental security. This includes solar and wind power, energy efficiency, intensive and communal sustainable agriculture, solid waste and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and waste value recovery. Within these thematic areas, the recipient will help spur green business and job growth through strategies such as the formation of collaboration partnerships and networks, education and training, innovation, and/or green technology transfers, among others, which are all key to spurring green innovation partnerships in developing countries. This project could leverage Morocco's technical industrial centers, international financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, and/or recently completed projects such as "Yes Green" to increase the number of green jobs.

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has set aside \$ 250,000 in U.S. dollars of FY 2014 trade-related environmental cooperation funds to help support a green economy in Morocco and advance job creation and entrepreneurship. Through this competition, the DOS is seeking to enter into a grant with an organization to establish and implement this project, in coordination with the Moroccan government and other entities working on related issues.

As appropriate and with OES approval, the selected grantee also may use grant funding to pay for attendees from other FTA-partner countries to attend relevant events.

For the Environment Chapter and Environmental Cooperation Agreements, please refer to: <a href="http://www.state.gov/e/oes/env/trade/morocco/index.htm">http://www.state.gov/e/oes/env/trade/morocco/index.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Strategy of the sector of tourism: Vision 2020" – Kingdom of Morocco Ministry of Economy and Finance, 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Nathan Hultman, Katherine Sierra, Jason Eis, and Allison Shapiro, "Green Growth Innovation: New Pathways for International Cooperation," Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, November 2012.

# A.2. Program Goals

Through the implementation of this award, OES and the Recipient will strive to support Morocco's efforts to build a green economy by developing innovative commercial solutions to pressing environmental issues, such as waste management, recycling, and energy efficiency, among others, which not only support the development of Morocco's entrepreneurial eco-system but also create green jobs.

## A.3. Expected Results

Specific results will depend on the strategy and activities identified by the applicant, but could include the following:

- Increased number of successfully launched green businesses that have strong potential to be sustainable;
- Increased number of green jobs, particularly for youth and women in industrial centers, that have strong potential to be sustainable (number of green jobs created, types of jobs, etc.);
- Quantifiable environmental results as a result of innovation (energy and water use savings, reduction in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of waste, increased natural resource conservation, etc.);
- Strengthened knowledge and capacities of local actors (NGOs, institutions, local government, private sector, etc.) so that they take meaningful steps during the grant period to advance in measurable ways Morocco's green economy, green entrepreneurship, and green jobs goals;
- Innovative partnerships that take steps to stimulate in measurable ways green economic and job growth;
- Increased technical capacity to take action during the grant period to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, water management, waste management, recycling, sustainable agriculture, pollution prevention, and/or greenhouse gas emissions reduction; and
- Increased commercial activity in renewable energy, energy efficiency, water management, waste management, recycling, sustainable agriculture, pollution prevention, and/or greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

#### A.4. Main Activities

To achieve the goals and expected results, the program could include, but is not limited to, activities such as the following to:

- Engage partners in entrepreneurial approaches to promote innovation in the adoption of environmental technologies in the private sector;
- Provide opportunities for green job skills training and education;
- Catalyze access to capital available to small- and medium-sized enterprises for activities that support green jobs;
- Identify suitable NGOs, institutions, public and private stakeholders with which to partner;
- Use in-country expertise (government private, non-governmental, and/or academic) when designing and implementing the program;
- Leverage existing initiatives in renewable energy, recycling, waste management, sustainable agriculture, environmental and natural resource management, and environmental technologies;

- Focus on boosting jobs in industrial centers;
- Facilitate international knowledge exchanges on environmental technologies and best practices;
- Strengthen relationships between authorities, non-governmental actors, the private sector and the general public to promote sustainable economic and green job growth; and
- Develop, coordinate, and implement a training plan to increase green job skills.

In addition, the program should include:

- Developing a comprehensive implementation plan, in coordination with key partners and/or stakeholders, which will include, key partners'/stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, methodologies to develop projects, and communication guidelines and strategies to coordinate specific activities;
- Designing a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to effectively measure the baseline, progress, and impact of the program on an on-going basis. This should include performance indicators and methodologies for collecting data. Performance indicators should be time-bound and measurable;
- Developing a sustainability plan; and
- Disseminating success stories and lessons learned from the implementation of projects and partnerships.

#### A.5. Performance Indicators

The project should monitor and report on performance indicators that are specific, measurable over time, achievable, and reasonable. Establish, where possible, performance baseline data and expected performance targets for each expected result and include details on what sources of data will be used to document performance, how the indicators will be measured, frequency of measurement, and units of measure. Potential indicators for this project could include:

- Number of green entrepreneurs trained (or number of startups supported with mentoring, training)
- Number of green jobs created (separated by gender and age);
- Environmental indicators, such as reductions in levels of waste sent to the landfill, energy and water use and pollutant emissions from private sector partners in Morocco;
- Number of collaborations with Moroccan public and private sector representatives;
- Number of people trained with skills directly related to green jobs (separated by gender and age);
- Number of environmental technologies and processes implemented;
- Number of workshops, seminars and or trainings held; and
- Economic savings due to improved environmental technologies and practice.

The Project should monitor all applicable U.S. foreign assistance indicators (disaggregated by sex and age where possible). Potential Foreign Assistance Indicators for this project could include, but are not limited to:

4.8.1-6 Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance

4.5.2-42 Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and CBOs that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance

4.6.3-2 Number of persons receiving new employment or better employment (including better self-employment) as a result of participation in USG-funded workforce development programs

4.8-7 Quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in metric tons of CO2e, reduced or sequestered as a result of USG assistance

The State Department takes into consideration the quality of data reported by grant recipients as part of the award activities, therefore applicants should be aware that recipients will be subject to data quality assessments.

## A.6. Additional Strategic and Program Principles

<u>Community Involvement</u>: The project should demonstrate efforts to reach out to local communities in order to increase awareness of green job growth, highlighting how protecting the environment can support jobs and economic growth. Outreach may include partnerships with local governments, NGOs, international organizations, and other relevant entities that may provide additional capacity for this effort.

<u>Utilizing Local Resources and Expertise</u>: When possible, the applicant is encouraged to utilize local country nationals in order to promote local training capacity, reduce cultural barriers, and build local knowledge. Also encouraged is the leverage and involvement of regional institutions and expertise such as educational institutions.

<u>Program Sustainability</u>: The program strategy should be sustainable, with impacts that will continue beyond the lifespan of the project. If possible, projects should be designed to be scalable and replicable without additional funding. Applicants may also consider how their project might leverage further additional funding through international organizations.

<u>Gender:</u> Grantees should provide a short paragraph for how the organization integrates, or takes into consideration, gender. Specifically, how gender is taken into consideration at the program inception, implementation, management and evaluation (if applicable). This can include, but is not limited to, the organization's gender policy, gender monitoring tools, or output indicators. Activities under this award should be in harmony with USG standards outlined in the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy of USAID: <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/GenderEqualityPolicy\_0.pdf">http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/GenderEqualityPolicy\_0.pdf</a>.

## Section B. Federal Award Information

## **B1.** Available Funding

Overall grant-making authority for this project is contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. OES has funding available for a single award of up to \$250,000 USD for work with the Moroccan public and private sector to advance green entrepreneurship. The initial period of performance will be 24-36 months. Depending on the quality of performance and other factors, OES may consider additional supplemental funding to continue activities and extend the period of performance, or to support work on additional activities and/or in additional countries, if funds are available and OES and the Recipient mutually agree.

#### **Summary of Award Information**

Type of Award	Grant
Fiscal Year Funds	FY 2014
Approximate Total Funding:	\$ 250,000 USD
Approximate Number of Awards:	1
Anticipated Award Date:	September 2015
Anticipated Project Completion Date:	September 2017

#### Timeline for Award Adjudication

Deadline for Applications	July 8, 2015
Application review and selection	August 2015
Notification of Project Approval/Disapproval and Grant Signing	September 2015

## **B2.** Award Management

The successful applicant awarded under this NOFO will need to routinely collaborate with the U.S. Embassy in Morocco and a variety of in-country partners and organizations.

The Recipient must ensure that all funds are used in a manner consistent with U.S. Government laws on the use of foreign assistance funds, including any applicable restrictions on funding.

# **Section C. Eligibility Information**

## **C1.** Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is limited to non-profit/nongovernmental organizations subject to section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. tax code, L3Cs, foreign non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and public international organizations. Applicants must supply evidence that they have significant experience working on initiatives that have advanced green entrepreneurship in Morocco or a similar context.

See Appendix 1-A1.1 for Technical Eligibility.

#### C2. Cost Share

Cost share is not required for this application.

# Section D. Application and Submission Information

## D1. Address to request Application Package

Please read carefully the entire announcement and follow the guidelines of the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document in Appendix 1 before sending inquiries or submitting proposals.

Once the NOFO deadline has passed, OES staff may not discuss this competition with an applicant until the proposal review process has been completed.

# D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Please read the entire NOFO and follow the guidelines for proposal preparation in the Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI) document in Appendix 1.

Any prospective applicant who has questions concerning the contents of this NOFO should submit them by email to Eloise Canfield (CanfieldME@state.gov). Please refer to the funding opportunity number OES-OTE-15-001. Any updates about this NOFO will also be posted on <a href="https://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>.

# D3. Unique entity identifier (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR §25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR §25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. The Federal awarding agency may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity

identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Federal awarding agency is ready to make a Federal award, the Federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

#### **D4.** Submission Dates and Times

Completed applications should be submitted electronically through <a href="www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a> and Grantsolutions.gov. Please follow all NOFO instructions carefully and start early to ensure you have time to collect all of the required information. All applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on <a href="July 8">July 8</a>, <a href="2015">2015</a>. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

## **D4. Proposal Narrative Guidelines**

An important part of the application is the Proposal Narrative. The Proposal Narrative, which shall <u>not</u> <u>exceed ten pages</u>, should be organized using the following section headings: Executive Summary, Organizational Capacity and Past Performance, Program Strategy, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, and Management Plan. CVs, budget components and the SF-425 do not count as part of the 10 page limit). The point value shown for each section indicates its relative importance in the application review process. Please see Section E for more information. Evaluation values are based on five narrative components and two budget components. See Appendix 1 for additional guidance on the Proposal Narrative.

#### **Narrative Components**

#### 1. Executive Summary (10 points)

This section should be a succinct one-page summary containing information that the applicant believes best represents its proposed program and includes: the name and contact information for the project's main point of contact; the project's purpose and expected results and sustainability; and a one-paragraph program description.

#### 2. Organizational Capacity and Past Performance (20 points)

This section of the application provides information about the applicant organization and any proposed key partners. It provides evidence that the applicant has the ability to successfully carry out the program activities of the grant.

- Provide a description of the applicant organization including its general purpose, goals, annual budget (including funding sources), and major past and current activities and projects undertaken.
- Moroccan organizations are encouraged to apply, and applicants should consider partnerships with local organizations.

- Include a description of all key partners for this project and proposed working relationship with them. Applicants should clearly distinguish between partners with whom they intend to enter into a sub-granting relationship and those with whom they intend to collaborate, but not transfer program funds.
- Discuss the applicant organization's and key partners' past experience in designing, implementing, monitoring, and/or evaluating programs similar to that requested.
- As an attachment (which does not count as part of the 10 pages), please provide at least one past performance reference which describes any contracts, grants, cooperative agreements which the applicant organization has implemented involving similar or related programs over the past three years. Please provide the reference in an attachment and include the following information: name and address of the organization for which the work was performed; current telephone number and email address of responsible representative from the organization for which the work was performed; contract/grant name and number (if any), annual amount received for each of the last three years and beginning and end dates; brief description of the project/assistance activity and key project accomplishments/results achieved to date.

#### 3. Program Strategy (25 points)

- Propose a clear and realistic implementation plan to significantly address the Program Goals in Section 1B. Program strategy should demonstrate significant understanding of the green economic growth and the expansion of green jobs in Morocco in the context of a growing trade relationship with the United States and explain why the project is appropriate for the circumstances found in-country. The proposal should further outline the expected and achievable results for the project which could include suggestions in Section 1C. It should also outline the relevant and appropriate Main Activities to accomplish the goals and expected results, which could include those found in Section 1D. Explain the assumptions on which the success of the project depends, and the involvement of other stakeholders. Be sure the plan also addresses each of the strategic and program principles described in Section 1F.
- Proposals should consider the level of awareness among stakeholders, government engagement, and effectiveness of previous green economic growth projects in Morocco and region. The successful applicant will work with local partners to build on existing activities in Morocco, design projects to increase green job growth, and build local capacity for continuing implementation of sustainable practices in the future. Additional consideration will be given to applicants that: provide an opportunity for high-level government buy-in, serve as models that can easily be replicated, mobilize additional resources, and establish long-lasting partnerships between U.S. and Moroccan organizations.
- In table format, please present a brief, one- to two-page work plan matrix (which does count as part of the 10 pages), with a timeline including target dates for activities for the life of the grant, which reflects the overall program approach, and objectives.

#### 4. Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and Sustainability (15 points)

Discuss how progress towards the expected results will be measured, as outlined by the

Performance Indicators in Section 1E. Identify which performance indicators will be measured and how data on these indicators will be collected, analyzed, and used for program management. Present indicators linked to specific project objectives in table format and include source of data and proposed frequency of collection. See additional guidance in Appendix 1 A1.5. Also describe how the activities will be sustained after grant activity has concluded.

#### 5. Management Plan (10 points)

- Describe the proposed management structure for this project and provide a project organizational chart in the attachments. Include in the narrative a description of the responsibilities of all principal organizations and staff involved (including potential key partners), reporting relationships, authority and lines of communication within and between each of these organizations.
- Include job descriptions and CVs of key staff (Project Director, etc.) as attachments (do not count as part of the 10-page limit), which demonstrate that the proposed key staff are consistent with the requirements and needs of the project. The project should have a designated Project Director who will be expected to have lead responsibility for communicating with OES and the U.S. Embassy in Rabat. Note the location where key staff will be based.

#### **Budget Components**

#### 1. Budget Appropriateness (10 points)

 Budgeted items are necessary to the achievement of the goals and activities as presented in the proposal.

#### 2. Cost-effectiveness (10 points)

- Proposals keep estimated overhead and administrative costs as low as possible and have
  proposed expenditures that are reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the proposed project
  activities and reflect the applicant's understanding of the allowable cost principles established by
  Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-122. Amount of funding contributed by the
  applicant, sub-awardees, and other partners shows a commitment to the success of the project.
- As per Section C2 cost-share is not required, however, should applicants incorporate cost-share, this can be achieved through leveraging existing projects, partnering, and/or providing in-kind goods and services.

See additional guidance on Budget preparation in Appendix 1.

# Section E. Application Review Information

#### E1. Criteria

Each application will be evaluated and scored on the five part Proposal Components and the two part Budget Components using a 100 point scale by a peer review committee of Department of State and other experts, as appropriate.

*Proposal Narrative*: The committee will score each of the five sections of the Proposal Narrative based on how completely they address the bulleted points described in the Proposal Narrative Guidance in Section 4D. The importance of each section is indicated by the maximum score as follows:

- Executive Summary 10 points
- Organization Capacity and Past Performance 20 points
- Program Strategy 25 points
- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and Sustainability 15 points
- Management Plan 10 points

*Budget*: The committee will also review the budget components in Section 4D in order to assign up to 20 points for the overall program budget and cost-effectiveness.

- Budget Appropriateness 10 points
- Cost-effectiveness 10 points

#### E2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a panel convened by the program office. The applications will be scored based on the strengths and weaknesses of the aforementioned criteria and response to the NOFO.

#### Section F. Federal Award Administration Information

#### F1. Federal Award Notices

The award shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is the Government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document and it will be provided to the Recipient through either mail or facsimile transmission. Organizations whose applications will not be funded will also be notified in writing.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

## F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Prior to submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award to ensure that they will be able to comply. The terms and conditions are available on the State Department's procurement website at: http://fa.statebuy.state.gov/

Applicants should plan to coordinate with OES throughout the course of the agreement to ensure assistance is provided only to eligible participants.

## F3. Reporting

The Recipient, at a minimum, shall provide OES with the following reports (Please note that all data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Bureau upon request):

#### **Financial Reports**

The Recipient is required to submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period, using Form FFR SF-425, the Federal Financial Report form, as well as forms suggested by the Grants Officer Representative. If payment is made through the Payment Management System, all financial reports must be submitted electronically through the Payment Management System. The grantee is also required to upload to Grantsolutions.gov a pdf version of all financial reports (Federal Financial report) they have submitted in the Payment Management System. Form FFR (SF-425) can be found on OMB's website here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants\_forms/.

Financial reports are due 30 days after the end of each quarter.

#### **Progress Reporting**

The grantee is required to upload all progress reports to the award file in Grantsolutions.gov. Progress reports must be submitted semi-annually. Grantees must submit Page 1 of the Performance Progress Report (Form SF-PPR), signed, and completed as a cover page to progress reports, which should be compiled according to the objectives, outcomes, and outputs of the project as outlined in the statement of work below, consistent with the project proposal and monitoring and evaluation and sustainability plans. Reports should also include an update on expenditures during the quarter. OES/EQT will provide a progress report template that will include:

- Significant activities of the period and how activities reflect progress toward achieving goals;
- Evaluation of progress on goals/objectives with quantitative and qualitative data, as appropriate;
- Any problems/challenges in implementing the project and a corrective action plan;
- Evaluation of accomplishments with quantifiable information on goals and objectives to date as available, including reporting on agreed-upon indicators;
- An update on expenditures during the reporting period; and
- Supporting documentation or products related to project activities (such as surveys, travel, etc.).

Semi-annual progress reports should also reflect the grantee's continued focus on measuring the project's impact on the overarching goals or problems the project set out to address. An assessment of the overall project impact, as appropriate, should be included in each quarterly project report.

#### **Final Report**

The final report will be due no later than 90 days after completion or termination of all project activities. The Final Report shall include the following elements: executive summary, successes, outcomes, how the project works within the larger effort to promote green entrepreneurship, green jobs, best practices, how the project addresses gender issues and marginalized communities, how the project will be sustained, and a final financial report.

# Section G. Agency Contact

Any prospective applicant who has questions concerning the contents of this NOFO should email them to Eloise Canfield (CanfieldME@state.gov).

Note that once the Request for Proposals deadline has passed State Department staff in Washington DC and overseas at U.S. Embassies/Missions may not discuss this competition with applicants until the review process has been completed.

# Section H. Other Requirements

# **H1.** Applicant Vetting

Applicants are advised that proposals will be evaluated against the potential risk that federal funds may inadvertently be passed to the wrong hands and that funds may benefit terrorists groups or their supporters. Applicants may be asked to submit information required by DS Form 4184, Risk Analysis Information (attached to this solicitation), about their company and its principal personnel. Vetting information is also required for all sub-award performance on assistance awards identified by DOS as presenting a risk of terrorist financing. When vetting information is requested by the Grants Officer, information may be submitted on the secure web portal at:

https://ramportal.state.gov, via Email to RAM@state.gov, or hardcopy to the Grants Officer

Questions about the form may be emailed to RAM@state.gov. Failure to submit information when requested, or failure to pass vetting may be grounds for rejecting your proposal.

# **H2.** Branding and Marking Policy

Applicants are advised that recipients and sub-recipients of Federal assistance awards are subject to the State Department's Marking Policy. More information on this policy can be found on:

https://www.statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/MarkingPolicy.aspx