

EMCO AWARDS Call for Grant Proposals

Call for Grant Proposals: Transformative Solutions for Environmental Conservation in Extractive Industries, Republic of Uganda

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Submissions due by July 1, 2016.

Two USAID-funded programs, the Environmental Management in the Oil Sector (USAID/EMOS) and the Center on Conflict and Development at Texas A&M University (USAID/HESN/ConDev)—together as “Emco” projects—seek to sponsor research on environmental management in Ugandan extractive industries.

Eligibility

Emco awards will be made solely to **members of the faculties of Makerere University, Kyambogo University and/or the Mbarara University of Science and Technology** as principal investigators, who may be joined by other personnel of their choice.

Objective

Emco programs seek to engage these researchers in the development of Transformative Solutions to social, economic, technical and environmental problems caused by the exploration, extraction, processing, marketing and utilization of Ugandan mineral resources. Transformative Solutions (TS) are novel research-based ideas, or variations on existing ideas, that can cause a shift in thinking, inspire change, and influence outcomes cost-effectively with the ultimate goal of scaling up across multiple countries and/or disciplines. **Researchers should describe how their proposed Transformative Solutions can help reduce conflict.**

Award Amount

Grants between \$5,000 - \$15,000 are available from the Emco programs. These awards are to be matched at 1:3 by the researcher’s respective unit (e.g. 25 % of the total project cost provided by recipient) and can include in-kind contributions.

Research Focus

The Emco projects will support research in **four primary interest areas**, including:

- **Youth Workforce Development.** Research concepts in this area will explore the sustainable employment of youth populations in extractive industries *and/or* the sustainable employment of youth populations in environmental programs related to extractive industries.

Sample Research Questions:

- *Does youth participation in the extractive industries workforce contribute to long-term socio-economic stability and growth?*
 - *How can we create entrepreneurship opportunities for youth who have returned to their home communities after previously being employed in the mining sector? How can we foster the reintegration of such youth?*
 - *How can we discourage practices in the extractive industries that exploit youth?*
- **Local Institutions.** Proposals submitted in this category will explore how legitimate local institutions can give greater voice to local interests and influence cooperation dynamics among all those affected by extractive industries.

Sample Research Questions:

- *How can local civil organizations better support individuals employed in extractive industries?*
 - *How can local institutions mediate conflict between local communities and extractive industry interests?*
 - *How can local institutions promote benefits to communities from extractive industries?*
- **Natural Resource Management.** Research concepts in this category will endeavor to identify natural resource management techniques and technologies that can be used to reduce any negative effects associated with extractive industries.

Sample Research Questions:

- *How can better natural resource management and technologies reduce the harmful effects of extractive industries on human populations and the environment?*
 - *How can local communities engage in natural resource management?*
 - *How can failures in natural resources management lead to conflict in local communities?*
 - *How can local communities benefit from the use and conservation of natural resources?*
- **Local Strategies for Food Security and Natural Resources Management.** Proposals submitted in this interest area will explore possibilities for encouraging conservation and resilience using local strategies for managing resources and coping with food insecurity.

Sample Research Questions:

- *What are local technologies used to conduct mining activities and other natural resource extraction and use?*
- *Can local strategies for natural resources management be amplified using emerging technologies, including information and communications technologies?*
- *How do traditional strategies for securing food or otherwise using natural resources contribute to, or conflict with, the sound management of natural resources?*

Research is encouraged to address cross-cutting themes:

- Generate meaningful and actionable data and analysis that fills knowledge gaps;
- Integrate gender considerations into methods and solutions;
- Identify and test innovative applications of information and communications technologies; and
- Include community organizations as partners to generate solutions for and by the local population.

Application Instructions

To apply:

- A. Submit a full proposal (6 pages max.) with the following headings:
 1. **Stated Problem**
 2. **Proposed Solution:** What impact do you believe your TS will have on the problem? What makes this idea transformative?
 3. **Method to Measure Success or Impact of Solution**
 4. **Expected Outcomes:** Is this idea scalable? If so, how?
 5. **Deliverables to Emco Projects and USAID**
 6. **Budget Estimation:** Estimated total cost and possible leverages
 7. **Contact Information:** Name, email, phone number and institution
 8. **CVs of All PIs and Co-PIs**
- B. Submit concept note to condevcenter@condevcenter.org with the subject line "Emco Projects Transformative Solutions Application."

Projects should be completed by July 2017. Staff of the cooperative projects (EMOS and ConDev) and USAID representatives will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Strategic fit: Does the question fit into the EMOS and ConDev "four primary research areas" stated above?
- Is the solution a transformative idea or a new variation of an existing idea? Will the solution cause a shift in thinking and/or inspire change? Is the solution scalable?
- Is the solution feasible? Is the solution cost effective?
- Are cross-cutting themes addressed?

- Could the solution be implemented in other areas, regions, or countries?
- Deliverables to Emco projects and USAID

When possible, Emco projects will provide a liaison for the researcher. For each awardee, a working relationship with an Emco staff person, minimum one publication, and additional deliverables (TBD by researcher) will be requested. Awards are contingent upon 1) availability of Emco projects' funding, 2) an executable research proposal, 3) appropriate internal approvals (IRB, IACUC, Emco, etc.) and external USAID Washington and Mission concurrence, and 4) an agreement to share data generated by this project publicly through a web portal.

Proposals should use the "Theory of Change" approach to problem solving promoted by USAID which, simply stated, is: the solution plans to do X in order to accomplish Y and the results will be Z. For more on Theory of Change, visit http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnads460.pdf. **Any questions related to this grant may be directed to condevcenter@condevcenter.org.**

Other Notes:

1. **The Do No Harm** principle states that interventions and pilot programs or their proposed policy recommendations must not put those living in violent contexts at greater risk than they would otherwise face without the intervention/proposed policy change. The detailed "theory of change" should enhance the livelihoods of the impoverished and victimized without negatively impacting the dynamics of the society by putting them in harm's way. For more details on do no harm, please visit the website of CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, Inc. (<http://www.cdacollaborative.org/programs/do-no-harm/>).
2. **Environmental Considerations** – The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's funded activities should consider environmental sustainability in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5 and 204 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/>). These regulations require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. The activities and interventions undertaken as a part of the individual projects are expected to have no significant adverse effect on the environment in host countries. The grantee shall be responsible for implementing all USAID environmental sustainability conditions pertaining to activities to be funded under this grant. If the recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved proposal, amended documentation must be prepared and approved by ConDev and potentially USAID before proceeding with project implementation. In addition, the project recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern. The proposal and research design should contain a section on environmental regulations.
3. **Sources of Funding** –These special Emco awards to Makerere University, Kyambogo University and the Mbarara University of Science and Technology faculty are made possible by equal contributions of \$50,000 each from USAID/EMOS and USAID/HESN/ConDev. Ancillary objectives of this activity include promoting the complementarity and integration of results from EMOS and ConDev, and also increasing cooperation and participation by the faculty of the participating Ugandan universities.
4. **Award Selection and Administration.** EMOS and ConDev staff, along with representatives from the Ugandan universities, will participate equally in the review and selection of winning proposals. Proposals may be submitted to EMOS or ConDev headquarters. For convenience in the administration of funds and activities, each successful proposal will be assigned to EMOS or ConDev for funding until all of the one-time funds totaling \$100,000 are exhausted.