

Request for Statements of Interest  
Funding Opportunity  
Announcement

Federal Awarding Agency:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Engineer Research and Development Center  
3909 Halls Ferry Road  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

**Funding Opportunity No: W81EWF-20-SOI-0012**

**CFDA No: 12.630**

**Statutory Authority: 10 USC 2358**

**Project Title: Monitoring and Control of Invasive Reptiles and Amphibians**

**Announcement Type: Initial announcement**

**Issue Date: 1 January 2020**

**Statement of Interest/Qualifications Due Date: 30 April 2020**

**Full Application Package Due Date, if Invited: 31 May 2020**

**Estimated Total Funding: \$215,000 dollars initially and up to \$450,000 per year for potentially 4 following years for a total of \$2,015,000.**

**Estimated Number of Awards: 1 award**

## Section I: Funding Opportunity Description

**Background:** Florida has more nonnative reptiles and amphibians than anywhere else in the world with 180 introduced species and more than 60 that are established (i.e., actively reproducing) (Krysko et al. 2016). South Florida is particularly predisposed to non-native invasions as a result of its subtropical climate, peninsular geography, thriving exotic pet trade, and sporadic destructive hurricanes that increase risk of escapes. Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*) and tegu lizards (*Salvator spp.*) are already established in many CERP project areas and spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) have been found in isolated canals in Biscayne Bay project area. Impacts from these species are preventing the Corps from efficiently reaching the restoration goals of CERP.

Currently the Corps has no consistent or systematic way to collect, visualize or analyze invasive reptile data, and methods to intercept, monitor and control them have not kept pace with increasing risk. Green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) and red agama (*Agama agama*) control has begun on certain Corps managed lands, but no efforts to control some of the most threatening invaders have been undertaken as of yet, nor is there a strategy in place for the Corps to react quickly to new species of invaders before they become established. Preventing introduction and establishment of invasive species is the first line of defense against new invasions and is a must for ensuring survival of native species in Florida. Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) efforts increase the likelihood that invasions will be successfully contained or eradicated while populations are still localized (ECISMA 2009).

Responses to this request for statements of interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to implement an EDRR, removal and monitoring program for invasive wildlife and their impacts within USACE-authorized areas of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to include the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP).

Successful applicants should have extensive knowledge of Southern Florida ecosystems, reptile trapping methods, safe handling procedures for large reptiles, and maintain all relevant permits to do so. Candidates should have prior experience with invasive species management concepts, to include: early detection, monitoring and alert systems. The candidates will be required to monitor, track, and control the spread of invasive reptiles across applicable CERP lands. The candidates will need to coordinate closely with USACE staff and provide biannual progress updates.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:** Implement an EDRR, monitoring and control program for invasive wildlife and their impacts on CERP project lands. Targeted species include (but are not limited to) Burmese pythons, green iguanas, tegu lizards and spectacled caimans. The ability to target new species in EDRR efforts is also a major priority.

**Objective 1:** Develop and implement a consistent method to monitor existing status and spread of invasive species populations, while identifying occurrence of new species.

**Objective 2:** Provide EDRR efforts, enhance control and monitoring capabilities to better detect new invasions, with a focus on invasive reptiles and amphibians in associated lands.

**Objective 3:** Document and analyze biometric data for removed specimens, and provide data management for removal and monitoring efforts.

**Objective 4:** Provide reports and input for CERP's REstoration COordination & VERification (RECOVER) documents, including the system status report, Everglades report card and associated performance metrics.

**Objective 5:** Compile results in an adaptive framework to increase removal of invasive species and their impacts on native wildlife.

**Public Benefit:**

The reduction in invasive reptile populations will allow the public to realize the full benefits of the multi-billion dollar Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The EDRR strategy is essential for efficient invasive species management, because as invasions grow in size, so too does the cost of removal. While invasions are new, it is reasonable to work towards eradication within a realistic budget. Furthermore, controlling invasive reptiles within CERP is essential to maintaining flood risk management structures, thereby protecting the homeowners of South Florida.

**Section II: Award Information**

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for studies to be sponsored by the Jacksonville District to carry out objectives 1-5 in Section I. The estimated level of funding for FY20 is approximately \$215,000. Additional funds of \$450,000/year for 4 additional years may be available, providing the potential funding of \$2,015,000.00 over 5 years to the successful recipient/awardee. Depending on findings in the early years of this effort, funding needs may increase above the anticipated \$300,000 /year in subsequent years of this project; however, total funding will not exceed \$2,015,000 over the life of this cooperative agreement.

**Government Involvement:**

USACE personnel will be extensively involved in the design and planning of the proposed project. They will be involved in fieldwork as the opportunity presents itself. USACE staff also will be involved in analysis of data, and the preparation of reports, publications, and presentations.

### Section III: Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants – This opportunity is restricted to non-federal partners of the South Florida and Caribbean Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU).
2. Cost Sharing – This action will be 100% funded by USACE.

### Section IV: Application and Submission Information – Two Phase Process

#### Phase I: Submission of a Statement of Interest/Qualifications.

1. Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:
  - a. Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to:  
[Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil)  
(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).
    1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
    2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
      - Biographical Sketch,
      - Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
      - Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
      - Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A proposed budget is NOT requested at this time.

The administrative point of contact is Specialist;  
[Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil)

2. Statement of Interest/Qualifications shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 12:00 midnight CST on 30 April 2020.

Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to move to Phase II which is to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

#### **Phase II: Submission of a complete application package to include a full technical proposal including budget, if invited.**

Address to Request Application Package

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).

The administrative point of contact is Deberay Carmichael – Phone: 601-634-5337. Email: [Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil)

### 3. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

- a. SF 424 R&R - Application for Federal Assistance
- b. Full Technical Proposal – Discussion of the nature and scope of the research and technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, data and facilities, and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included.
- c. Cost Proposal/Budget – Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror’s financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit cost element breakdowns in sufficient detail so that a reasonableness determination can be made. The SF 424 Research & Related Budget Form can be used as a guide. The cost breakdown should include the following, if applicable:
  1. Direct Labor: Direct labor should be detailed by level of effort (i.e. numbers of hours, etc.) of each labor category and the applicable labor rate. The source of labor rates shall be identified and verified. If rates are estimated, please provide the historical based used and clearly identify all escalation applied to derive the proposed rates.
  2. Fringe Benefit Rates: The source of fringe benefit rate shall be identified and verified.
  3. Travel: Travel costs must include a purpose and breakdown per trip to include destination, number of travelers, and duration.
  4. Materials/Equipment: List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.
  5. Subrecipient costs: Submit all subrecipient proposals and analyses. Provide the method of selection used to determine

the subrecipient.

6. Tuition: Provide details and verification for any tuition amounts proposed.
7. Indirect Costs: Currently the negotiated indirect rate for awards through the CESU is 17.5%.
8. Any other proposed costs: The source should be identified and verified.

Application package shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 12:00 midnight CST on 31 May 2020.

9. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or Grants.gov. Choose ONE of the following submission methods:

- a. Mail one unbound copy of your complete proposal to:  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center  
Attn: Deberay R. Carmichael  
3909 Halls Ferry Road  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

b. E-mail:

Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11”) paper. E-mail proposal to [Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil)

c. Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/>:

Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety.

All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have an account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>.

## Section V: Application Review Information

1. **Peer or Scientific Review Criteria:** In accordance with DoDGARS 22.315(c), an impartial peer review will be conducted. Subject to funding availability, all proposals will be reviewed using the criteria listed below (technical and cost/price). All proposals will be evaluated under the following two criteria which are of descending importance.

a. **Technical (items i. and ii. are of equal importance):**

- i. Technical merits of proposed R&D.
- ii. Potential relationship of proposed R&D to DoD missions.

b. **Cost/Price:** Overall realism of the proposed costs will be evaluated.

### 2. Review and Selection Process

a. **Categories:** Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of the source for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

i. **Selectable:** Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available.

ii. **Not Selectable:** Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

b. No other criteria will be used.

c. Prior to award of a potentially successful offer, the Grants Officer will make a determination regarding price reasonableness.

## Section VI: Award Administration Information

### 1. Award Notices

Written notice of award will be given in conjunction with issuance of a cooperative agreement signed by a Grants Officer. The cooperative agreement will contain the effective date of the agreement, the period of performance, funding information, and all terms and conditions. The recipient is required to sign and return the document before work under the

agreement commences. **Work described in this announcement SHALL NOT begin without prior authorization from a Grants Officer.**

2. Administrative Requirements

The cooperative agreement issued as a result of this announcement is subject to the administrative requirements in 2 CFR Subtitle A; 2 CFR Subtitle B, Ch. XI, Part 1103; and 32 CFR Subchapter C, except Parts 32 and 33.

3. Reporting

See 2 CFR Sections 200.327 for financial reporting requirements, 200.328 for performance reporting requirements, and 200.329 for real property reporting requirements.

Section VII: Agency Contact

Deberay Carmichael, Grants Specialist  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center  
3909 Halls Ferry Road  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199  
[Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil](mailto:Deberay.R.Carmichael@usace.army.mil)  
601-634-5337