REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Program/Activity Number: AFR/SD 6.2 Administration and Support
4.5.1 Agriculture Enabling Environment
Country/Region: Africa-wide
Program/Activity Titles:
- AFR/SD Staff Support Participating Agency Services Agreement (PASA) and
- Agriculture and Food Security Technical Support (AFSTS) PASA

Funding Begin: 6/2013    Funding End: 9/2018    LOP Amount: $ 40,000,000

IEE Prepared By: Stafford Baker/Tim Resch    Current Date: March 19, 2013
IEE Amendment (Y/N): N

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:
Categorical Exclusion: X    Negative Determination: 
Positive Determination: 
Deferral:

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS:
CONDITIONS n/a    PVO/NGO: n/a

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

This request for Categorical Exclusion satisfies the environmental compliance requirements for the (1) AFR/SD Staff Support Participating Agency Services Agreement (PASA) and (2) Agriculture and Food Security Technical Support (AFSTS) PASA. Both Agreements will be between the USAID Bureau for Africa’s Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service/Office of Capacity Building and Development/ Development Resources and Disaster Assistance Division (USDA/FAS/OCBD/DRDA) and are managed by the AFR/SD program support staff.

Both Participating Agency Services Agreements (PASAs) will secure USDA’s expert technical services to assist USAID Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development, Africa regional and bilateral missions, and other USAID Bureau’s that support Africa programs as required, in carrying out their technical leadership, program management, and field support responsibilities. USDA will provide administrative support to the PASA technical staff so that they can effectively carry out their tasks in support of USAID’s development objectives.

Either PASA may also receive transfer of funds from USAID bilateral and regional missions and other USAID bureaus such as the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and the Bureau for Global Health (GH) for activities consistent with the purposes of the respective PASA.
The technical services may be either long-term or short-term technical support as well as associated administrative support.

**AFR PASA**

The AFR PASA planned to begin in FY 2013 will provide for USDA’s provision of expert technical services for USAID in (1) economic growth, environment, and agriculture; (2) education; (3) conflict prevention, democracy and governance; (4) health; and (5) policy, outreach, strategy, and evaluation. The AFR PASA includes principal support to the Bureau for Africa (AFR) Offices of Development Planning (DP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Sudan Programs (SP). Support is also provided to AFR bilateral and regional missions and other USAID Bureaus under the AFR PASA.

**AFSTS PASA**

The President’s Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative was launched in May 2009. FTF seeks to improve the livelihoods and options of young and future generations of Africans by tackling and reducing the incidence of poverty, especially in rural areas. The Economic Growth, Environment, and Agriculture Division (AFRISD/EGEA) within the Office of Sustainable Development will manage the AFSTS PASA to support FTF programs in Africa.

The AFSTS PASA will enable the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service/Office of Capacity Building and Development/Development Resources and Disaster Assistance Division (USDA/FAS/OCBD/DRDA) to continue providing in-country technical support to the Bureau for Africa’s bilateral and regional missions that work to support the implementation of the FTF Initiative.

**Pre-Threshold Determination**

A Categorical Exclusion for further environmental review is justified for all activities under these PASAs, as they will have no foreseeable immediate effect on the biophysical environment, per 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2), the following paragraphs:

(i) Activities involving education, training, or technical assistance; social marketing; behavior change communication, etc.;

(ii) Activities involving analyses, studies, academic or research workshops, and meetings;

(v) Activities involving document and information transfers; Policy Analysis and System Strengthening, etc.

(viii) Programs involving nutrition, health care, or family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, water supply systems, waste water treatment, small gardening etc.); and

(xiv) Studies, projects, or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries and organizations to engage in development planning.

The actions flowing from the results of the technical services provided under these PASAs will generally require environmental review in addition to other analysis. PASA staff should be familiar with environmental compliance (22CFR 216) procedures and
resources such as the Global Environmental Management Support (GEMS) website (www.usaidgems.org). Because the designs and programs supported by PASA staff have the potential for negative follow-on environmental impacts, it will be important that any such negative environmental impacts be avoided, minimized, mitigated and/or monitored. USAID and PASA staff must remain diligent in assuring the establishment of environmental compliance procedures, screening and recommending appropriate environmental review for the actions they propose or develop.

If, during implementation, activities are considered under either PASA that are outside the above framework, an IEE or amended Request for a Categorical Exclusion shall be submitted, as appropriate and such activities will not be implemented until this new environmental determination is approved.

As required by ADS 204.3.4, the respective AOR will actively monitor ongoing activities for compliance as approved, and modify or end activities that are not in compliance.

**APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

**CLEARANCE:**

Office Director: ____________________________ Anthony Chan

Date: 4/15/13

**CONCURRENCE:**

Bureau Environmental Officer: ____________________________ Brian Hirsch

Date: 4/11/13

**Filename:** AFR_SD_CatEx_AFR_Staff_Support & AFSTS_PASA

**ADDITIONAL CLEARANCES:**

Bureau Environmental Advisor (AFR/SD): ____________________________ Tim Resch

Date: 4/10/2013

Activity Manager: ____________________________ Cheryl Bennett-Stokes

Date: Apr. 5, 2013

Activity Manager: ____________________________ McDonald Homer

Date: Apr. 10, 2013
DETERMINATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:
Program/Activity Number: AFR/SD 6.2 Administration and Support
4.5.1 Agriculture Enabling Environment
Country/Region: Africa-wide
Program/Activity Title: AFR/SD AFR PASA and AFSTS PASA

The purpose of this Request for Categorical Exclusion, in accordance with 22CFR216, is to provide the first review of the reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment, as well as recommended Threshold Decisions, for the development of two staff support components of the Africa Bureau Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD): (1) the Africa Bureau Staff Support (AFR) PASA that provides broad technical support for Africa Bureau development programs; and (2) the Agriculture and Food Security Technical Support (AFSTS) PASA which assists USAID agriculture programs in Africa.

1. BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITY/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This request for Categorical Exclusion determination satisfies the environmental compliance requirements for the new Africa Bureau Staff Support (AFR) Participating Agency Services Agreement (PASA) and the Agriculture and Food Security Technical Support (AFSTS) PASA. Both Agreements will be between the USAID Bureau for Africa Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service/Office of Capacity Building and Development/Development Resources and Disaster Assistance Division (USDA/FAS/OCBD/DRDA). The AFR PASA will be managed by AFR/SD program support staff and the AFSTS PASA will be managed by the AFR/SD Division for Economic Growth, Environment and Agriculture (EGEA).

Both Participating Agency Services Agreements (PASAs) secure USDA’s expert technical services to assist USAID Africa Bureau’s Office of Sustainable Development and Africa regional and bilateral missions, as required, in carrying out their technical leadership, program management, and field support responsibilities. USDA is providing administrative support to the PASA technical staff so that they can effectively implement their tasks in support of USAID’s development and humanitarian assistance objectives. The technical services may be either long-term or short-term technical support as well as associated administrative support.

Either PASA may also receive transfer of funds from USAID bilateral and regional missions as well as other USAID bureaus such as the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and the Bureau for Global Health (GH) for activities consistent with the purposes of the respective PASA.

The services or support provided by USDA may be either: (1) activity-specific services tied to a specific goal to be performed within a definite time; or (2) continuing general professional support services that have a broad objective but no specific readily measurable tasks to be accomplished within a set time.
USDA direct hire and Schedule B staff under these PASAs are expected to perform inherently governmental functions which include serving as designated Contract or Agreement Officer Technical Representatives (COR or AOR) and Program or Activity Managers for USAID activities and programs managed by the Africa Bureau; participating in the design and development of Africa Bureau offices’ and missions’ strategic plans; participating in budget and resource allocation planning and decisions within the Africa Bureau; participating in the design, development, solicitation and award of USAID-funded acquisition and assistance instruments, such as contracts, grants and cooperative agreements; and, participating in the design, development, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on USAID programs and activities.

It is recognized that, on occasion, it may appropriate for USDA to award contracts (e.g. short-terms consultants) in support of its efforts under these PASAs if, for example, adapting its domestic capabilities to the needs of developing countries requires that it acquire, by contract, support or ancillary services not otherwise available to USDA for its domestic programs. This type of contracting, however, shall be marginal and not be a significant portion of the overall Participating Agency effort.

The short-term assistance will typically fall within the following generic categories:
- Advice on strategic planning at the sectoral, institutional and national levels;
- Advice on the design, implementation and evaluation of programs;
- Research on program approaches; and,
- Dissemination of best practices and sharing of lessons learned.

**Africa Staff Support (AFR) PASA**

The AFR PASA will provide for USDA’s provision of expert technical services for USAID in: (1) economic growth, environment, and agriculture; (2) education; (3) conflict prevention, democracy and governance; (4) health and nutrition; and (5) policy, outreach, strategy, and evaluation. The AFR PASA includes principal support to the Bureau for Africa (AFR) Offices of Development Planning (DP), Sustainable Development (SD), and Sudan Programs (SP). Support will also be provided to the AFR bilateral and regional missions under the AFR PASA.

The AFR PASA will initially provide the services of 34 long-term and additional short-term technical staff that are currently on-board under the “Mega” PASA, which is scheduled to end on September 30, 2013. Sixteen of the long-term staff positions are in the AFR/SD Economic Growth, Environment and Agriculture (EGEA) division, six positions are in the Conflict, Peace building and Governance (CPG) division, two positions are part of the AFR/SD management staff, one position is in the Education (ED) division and one position is in the Health division. In addition to the staff working in AFR/SD, the PASA will also provide long-term staff for three positions in the Private Capital Group for Africa (PCGA), two positions in the Africa Bureau Office of Development Planning (AFR/DP), one position in the Africa Bureau Office of Sudan Programs (AFR/SP), one position in the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and one position in the Bureau of Global Health (GH). The number of long and short-term staff may increase or decrease over the life of the PASA.
Agriculture and Food Security Technical Support (AFSTS) PASA

The President’s Feed the Future (FTF) Initiative was launched in XXX. FTF originated with the earlier Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) and the Global Food Security Response (GFSR) which addressed the global recognition that hunger in Africa is one of the most significant development challenges facing the world today. FTF seeks to improve the livelihoods and options of young and future generations of Africans by tackling and reducing the incidence of poverty, especially in rural areas. The Economic Growth, Environment, and Agriculture Division (AFR/SD/EGEA) within the Office of Sustainable Development will have management responsibility for the AFSTS PASA.

The AFSTS PASA will enable the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service/Office of Capacity Building and Development/ Development Resources and Disaster Assistance Division (USDA/FAS/OCBD/DRDA) to continue providing in-country technical support to the Bureau for Africa’s bilateral and regional missions that work to support the implementation of the FTF Initiative.

The AFSTS PASA will continue to provide long and short-term technical support currently provided under the IEHA PASA, which is scheduled to end on September 30, 2013. USDA provides four separate individuals to fill Senior Agriculture Analyst staff for overseas assignment to designated Africa Bureau bilateral and regional missions that work to support the implementation of FTF.

AFSTS PASA short-term assistance will focus on the agriculture sector and generally include the following:

- Conducting research and disseminating analytical results on important agricultural developments and trend that have impacts in sub-Saharan Africa
- Identifying and analyzing policies for sustainably meeting the food needs of assisted countries through application of advanced agricultural technologies and practices.

Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request

A Categorical Exclusion is recommended, as per 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2), and justified above in the Summary of Findings.