



U.S. National Science Foundation
Office of the Director

August 1, 2024

The Honorable Joni K. Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 2024, regarding the status of any funding by the U.S. National Science Foundation's ("NSF") to EcoHealth Alliance ("EcoHealth"). As you noted, on May 15, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a government-wide suspension and initiated debarment proceedings for EcoHealth. As a result of the government-wide suspension, EcoHealth is ineligible to submit any new proposals or to receive new awards during the pendency of the debarment proceedings.

At the time of the issuance of the government-wide suspension, EcoHealth had two actively funded NSF projects, consisting of:

- (1) Award 2225023 "Collaborative Research: BoCP-Design US-Sao Paulo: Land Use Change, Ecosystem Resilience and Zoonotic Spillover Risk" to EcoHealth.
- (2) Award 2200052 "Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Preparedness ("PIPP") Phase I: Predicting and Preventing Epidemic to Pandemic Transitions" to Boston University, for which EcoHealth was a subawardee.

Consistent with OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) 2 CFR part 180, NSF suspended Award 2225023 to EcoHealth. Boston University has also suspended the subaward to EcoHealth under its award, Award 2200052. We further note that there are no outstanding issues related to access to the results of EcoHealth's work under either the award or subaward.

Out of an abundance of caution, NSF has also reviewed its award portfolio to identify any awards for which EcoHealth or its personnel, while not an awardee or Principal Investigator ("PI")/co-PI, respectively, may potentially have involvement. We identified only four such awards. Of the four awards, involvement by EcoHealth or its personnel had already ceased or has been discontinued. In addition, we continue to monitor the proceedings related to the government-wide suspension and debarment process and will take any appropriate actions as warranted.

We greatly appreciate your interest in the work of the U.S. National Science Foundation. Please feel free to contact Amanda Hallberg Greenwell, Head, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at (703) 292-8070 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sethuraman Panchanathan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sethuraman" being more prominent and the last name "Panchanathan" following in a similar style.

Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director