# USAID TUHIFADHI MALIASILI

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Issuance Date:          May 25, 2022

Questions Date:         June 8, 2022

Closing Date:           June 15, 2022

Dear Applicant:

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili "Preserve Natural Resources" Activity (hereafter referred to as the project), implemented by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, is seeking concept notes using innovative approaches that secure connectivity of wildlife habitats in locations that otherwise have limitations or hindrances to wildlife's movement. "Innovative approaches" can include (but are not limited to): capacity building to public and private organizations; private sector engagement or investment in those areas; improving policy frameworks related to the natural resource management (NRM) or joint land use plans (LUPs) and associated bylaws in the area/region; and the review/revision of land-use planning and/or other governance tools. The grants under this Expression of Interest (EOI) will be awarded and implemented in accordance with RTI's International Grants manual and U.S. Government regulations governing grants under contracts. The funding through this EOI shall be applicable only to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), but NOT the Government of Tanzania (GoT) or any department, ministry, or organ of the GoT, including entities or parastatals owned in whole or part by the government.

All applications with supporting documents should be submitted to grants@maliasili.rti.org at the close of business at 05.00pm local time (Eastern Africa) on June 15, 2022.

This EOI is being issued and consists of this cover letter and the following sections. Please read the EOI in its entirety before preparing and submitting your concept note to ensure if your organization is eligible and your submission complies with all the requirements. The following sections will be covered in this EOI:

Section 1: Program Description

Section 2: Award Information

Section 3: Eligibility Information

Section 4: Submission Information

Section 5: Review Information

Section 6: Application Process and Administration Information

**SECTION 1: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**1)   Background**

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili "*Preserve Natural Resources*" Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania and implemented through a contract with RTI International. The goal of the project is to address dynamics that hinder habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania. The project will strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation through the following themes: i) increases private sector engagement in conservation and NRM; ii) builds the capacity of public sector and civil society in connectivity projects and ultimately biodiversity conservation; and iii) strengthens the policy and regulatory framework for biodiversity conservation and NRM. These interventions together will reduce threats to areas of connectivity in Tanzania while moving Tanzanian institutions further on their journey to self-reliance. To achieve these goals, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project seeks to engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the targeted intervention areas/sites. Specifically, this project's interventions work in areas of connectivity or corridors only.

**2)   EOI Objectives**

This EOI is issued by USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project and seeks applications to advance conservation interventions ONLY for the following connectivity areas: Kwakuchinja, Udzungwa-Selous, Amani-Nilo, and Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA). USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili invites concept notes from CSOs; community-based organizations (CBOs); national, regional and local organizations; international NGOs; private foundations; private enterprises or firms; and business associations.

Grant applicants may wish to select more than one area of interest outlined below if they are interdependent to each other to achieve the desired conservation outcomes to the target areas of connectivity by protecting habitat and target species. Please note that all applications should indicate clearly how gender, youth and social inclusion will be promoted as well as climate change adaptation and resilience.

**Thematic Areas**

In this context, grants awarded under this EOI will support organizations to work on activities that promote connectivity in the aforementioned areas through the following main themes:

1. Institutional capacity building of conservation stakeholders,

2. Private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation, and
3. Policy, regulatory, and enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and natural resources management.

Within these themes, the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project will focus on the following sub-themes:

**1) Institutional capacity building of conservation stakeholders**

To achieve self-reliance and long-term sustainability, Tanzania requires a strong, able government as well as non-government and civil society institutions to effectively manage the country's natural resources. The USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili is looking for prospective applicants to develop concepts that will achieve the following results:

i. Strengthened capacity of civil society and local government to plan, develop, fund, and implement biodiversity conservation activities that reduce threats to biodiversity. This result could be achieved by but is not limited to: -
   - Capacity building efforts related to interventions on the ground that reduce threats to biodiversity (and please be more specific if possible).
   - Strengthen the existing community livelihood options and support the formation of new resource-based livelihoods, community forestry, and environmentally friendly agricultural activities, etc., as they relate to reducing threats to habitats and wildlife in key corridors or areas of connectivity.
   - Support Local Government Authorities (LGAs), including village councils, with formation and/or operationalization of connectivity forums to discuss connectivity issues.
   - Support paid internships for graduates, specifically young women, to cultivate Tanzania's future conservationists, providing opportunities to grow as professionals, researchers, and field practitioners. Consideration for female students is encouraged.
   - Support for women empowerment in biodiversity conservation.

ii. Develop capacity of CSOs; CBOs; NGOs; national, regional, and local organizations; local government; and business associations on natural resources management in areas of connectivity:
   - Support sustainable rangelands initiative on conservation value chain programs to promote conservation of the rangelands (that support or foster connectivity).
   - Support the use of data for designing advocacy materials to support informed policy decisions for improved management of areas of connectivity.

iii. Strengthened ability of media houses and journalists to investigate and report on NRM stories that include wildlife connectivity, tourism, etc. Activities such as:
   - Supporting themed story writing and or competition for journalists on biodiversity conservation, such as reduced levels of human-wildlife conflict, improved natural resource management practices, decreases in illegal activities, and increased benefits for people living alongside wildlife.

**2) Private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management**

Private sector investment in biodiversity conservation and NRM can generate income that can help alleviate poverty in communities and conserve biodiversity by reducing threats to habitats and wildlife in areas of connectivity. The focus of this theme is to increase private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation and NRM, and to the extent possible, the applicant to build new traditional and non-traditional private sector partnerships in areas of connectivity. Prospective applicants should contribute to the realization of any of the following results:

i. Increased economic benefits from biodiversity and NRM-related enterprise activities for local communities in priority corridor areas. This result could be achieved by but is not limited to:
   • Support existing or the formation of new NRM-related enterprises (e.g., ecotourism, beekeeping, etc.) to increase income, reduce dependence on natural resources and threats to targeted species and habitats in areas of connectivity (reduce poaching, trigger sustainable grazing, reduce deforestation, reduce fire incidents, etc.).
   • Support/facilitate market linkages in priority value chains using M4P Approach- Making Markets Work for the Poor. Support for value chains can include training of value chain actors on value addition techniques (processing and packaging) and certification procedures in order to access reliable local and international markets, increase income, improve livelihood and reduce illegal activities (poaching), and dependence on natural resources. Understanding and enrolling in certification processes will also equip smallholder farmers (e.g., spice farmers in Amani-Nilo) to adopt sustainable farming practices and thus protect habitat and species through reduced wildfires and illegal logging.
   • Provide hands-on technical assistance in strategic business plan development, financial management skills, and record keeping to empower community groups to manage and sustain NRM-related enterprises and increase income, improve livelihoods, as well as reduce dependence on natural resources and threats to habitats and species (reduce poaching, overgrazing, and unsustainable farming).
   • Support innovative activities such as snorkeling for conservation model to ensure tourism revenue is reinvested back to communities to support development and growth of other conservation-friendly activities and thus increase income, improve livelihoods, and reduce threats to biodiversity.

ii. Scaling up new and innovative models of finance in support of biodiversity conservation related enterprises in areas of connectivity (e.g., ecotourism, seaweed farming), both from traditional financial institutions (e.g., commercial banks) and non-traditional sources (e.g., Village Savings and Loans Associations). The focus of this theme could be through:

- Work with traditional and non-traditional lending institutions to unlock investment potential in rural areas and showcase the true economic potential of conservation enterprise.
- Support community conservation enterprises (CCEs) to secure funding from traditional and non-traditional sources.
- Assist corridor management with resources from private businesses and conservation funds from non-profit private sector arms.
- Support establishment and/or strengthen existing Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to reach un-bankable populations by building their capacity on strategic business planning, financial management, and record keeping.
- Develop and pilot Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) insurance schemes that protect livestock from predation, learning from experiences in Kenya and Ethiopia.

iii. Reduced wildlife and forest crime in areas of connectivity. The focus of this theme could be through activities such as:
- Support corridor-level actions and national-level coordination with the aviation, shipping and transportation, and financial sectors.
- Facilitate law enforcement operations in areas of connectivity in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), and other authorities in the area which are highly affected by poaching.
- Promote innovative approaches such as working with telecoms to disrupt wildlife crime (poaching especially for bushmeat and ivory and trafficking) in areas of connectivity. Identify and make available tools, methods, technologies, etc. which can be used by different actors such as protected areas managers, civil society organizations, or government counterparts to assist their work.
- Scale up Combatting Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) awareness workshops to aviation, industry, transport, and other stakeholders in areas of connectivity, and other areas in general, empowering them to develop and implement training programs and to share their knowledge and experience with local communities. Stakeholders include Air Tanzania and Swissport, many smaller airlines (e.g., Coastal, Auric, etc.), and shipping.
- Conduct training to financial institutions (using a 'Follow the money' model) and telecoms to provide in-house training for staff and organize a multi-stakeholder workshop with financial institutions and relevant GoT agencies (e.g., Financial Intelligence Unit, TAWA, National Prosecution Service).

**3) Policy, regulatory, and enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and NRM**

To support the long-term viability of Tanzania's wildlife and natural resources, the development and application of key policies and legislation are needed to provide the legal basis for promoting decision making on connectivity and conservation of biodiversity at large. Prospective applicants should contribute to the realization of any of the following results:

i. Key GoT agencies and officials have improved understanding of threats, drivers, and solutions to address complex and/or emerging threats to biodiversity. This result could be achieved by but is not limited to:
    - Support identification (through collection of data) and analysis to derive policy related issues on connectivity for advocacy.
    - Support formation of civil society and private sector coalitions, industry associations, and other representative platforms to craft well-defined and actionable advocacy agendas that are reflective of a nuanced understanding of the political environment, building on areas of common interest in area of connectivity.
    - Organize and manage national corridor forums to visualize data, capitalizing on the political standing of LUPs and corridors to advocate for increased support for corridor conservation in Tanzania. Such data could include wildlife movements in corridors (e.g., elephants) or frequency and location of HWC or poaching incidents.

ii. Integrated planning for conservation improved:
    - Develop LUPs to secure connectivity and ensure that connectivity and livelihood considerations drive decisions on land use exercise. The LUP must ensure tenure security for areas of connectivity via legal protection of areas of connectivity, e.g., establishment of joint LUPs, village land forest reserves, corridor designation, etc.
    - Strengthen Beach Management Units (BMU) and Shehia Fishing Committee (SFC) guideline implementation to facilitate planning among BMUs, village chairpersons, district officers, and other stakeholders for strengthening Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

iii. Key biodiversity areas and corridors better managed:
    - Monitoring of animal movement in key wildlife corridors.
    - Designing activities to involve the youth segment of the population in conservation activities as a long-lasting conservation solution.
    - Build awareness and knowledge on the importance of conserving wildlife habitat and marine for connectivity among communities.

## SECTION 2. AWARD INFORMATION

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili anticipates that each grant award may not exceed the local currency equivalent of USD 250,000 to non-governmental/CSOs, regional or local and international organizations, business associations etc. and USD 100,000 to US-based organizations to promote connectivity activities that fall in one or more of the three thematic areas detailed above. The final amount will be dependent upon grant activities and final negotiation. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be 12-24 months depending on the nature of activities. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is variable, depending on when grantees are selected.

All grants will be administered according to USAID grant regulations as managed by RTI. RTI anticipates issuing Fixed Amount Awards, Standard, Simplified, and In-kind grants under this grant program. Please note that <u>funding advances will not be issued</u>. Allowable grant expenditures will be reimbursed monthly, based on Grantee's submission of financial reports and original receipts to the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project Grants Team.

Grant applications and all deliverables must be submitted in English.

**SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

**Eligible Applicants**

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project invites concept notes from the following types of eligible organizations:

- CSOs
- CBOs
- Local, international, and US NGOs
- Private foundations
- Private enterprises or firms eligible for foreign contribution
- Business associations

**Organizations, Individuals, Activities and Costs that will NOT be Funded**

*Ineligible organizations and individuals include:*

- Government entities and employees
- Political parties, groupings, or institutions or their subsidiaries and affiliates
- Organizations and individuals that advocate, espouse, or promote anti-democratic policies or illegal activities
- Faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature

Any entity and individual whose name appear on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs.

*Ineligible activities and purchases include:*

- Any purchases that are not necessary to execute the grant activity, including any grantee headquarter expenses (for organizations) or living expenses (for individuals) that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed project
- Profit or fee
- Indirect costs; {NB: Only on Simplified Grants}
- Fines, penalties, previous obligations, or bad debt
- Activities that contribute to the destruction, deterioration, or the degradation of natural resources and/or environment
- Illegal activities as defined by the host country and/or USAID
- Subsidies to organizations that are not legally recognized

- Ceremonies, celebrations, parties, gifts, or gratuities
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under U.S. Government source/origin regulations; and
- Military equipment, police equipment, surveillance equipment, abortion equipment and services, gambling equipment, or climate modifier equipment.

Restricted purchases subject to special approval include agricultural products, motorized vehicles, pharmaceutical products, used equipment, North American surplus equipment, and fertilizer.

## SECTION 4: SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The Concept Note template is attached in Annex B of this EOI. Please submit a completed concept note and required attachments to:

USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Grants Unit - grants@maliasili.rti.org

**Concept Notes will be accepted through June 15, 2022**. The anticipated award date is October 1, 2022. Activities should be planned for 12-24 months starting from the award date.

## SECTION 5: REVIEW INFORMATION

**Criteria for Judging Technical Merits of Proposals**

The following criteria will be used to judge the technical merits of proposals received.

- **Technical approach (50%):** To what extent does the proposed project demonstrate replicability and contribute to the overall conservation and management of connectivity outcomes? How does the proposed project address the current problem in the areas of connectivity? Will the proposed activity lead to on-the-ground adaptation through increased adoption and or implementation of connectivity related practices at the field level? Will it have a positive impact on households and at the community level? Are the proposed selection criteria for participants to the project activities designed to maximize the impact of the project at the field level for both communities and biodiversity?

- **Participation (20%):** Does the proposal clearly explain how the activities will strive to incorporate women and youth among participants/beneficiaries, and how they will engage a range of public and private stakeholders?

- **Monitoring and Evaluation (20%):** Does the proposal include a feasible plan for following up to determine and report on the impact from the implemented activities? (E.g., did the training participants apply what they learned in their work?)

- **Cost (10%):** Is the proposed budget reasonable, and adequate to carry out the proposed activities?

**SECTION 6: APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

**Application Process**

This EOI will follow a two-tier process to select final applicants:
   a)   Applicants must first submit a Concept Note in accordance with this EOI. USAID
        Tuhifadhi Maliasili Project will conduct a merit review of the Concept Notes
        based on the criteria provided in Section 5 above.
   b)   Organizations with successful Concept Notes that demonstrate an alignment
        with program objectives and satisfy the minimum requirements, will be invited
        to submit a full application. The final application will be presented in a format
        that will be submitted to only successful applicants on the first round.

**Further Information**

Any questions concerning this opportunity should be submitted to the Tuhifadhi Maliasili
Grants Unit at: grants@maliasili.rti.org

**Only selected applicants will be contacted.**

Please refer to Annex A attached, for additional guidance and requirements.

**Annex A - EOI Additional Requirements**

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**
Grantees that receive more than $30,000 from RTI are required to have a UEI number before receiving a grant award.

The federal government has adopted the use of UEI numbers to track how federal grant money is allocated. The UEI number identifies your organization.

**WHAT IS THE UEI & WHY DO I NEED OBTAIN ONE?**
The US government has decided to stop using the DUNS number to uniquely identify organizational entities.  **Effective April 4, 2022,** all entities doing business with the US government will be required to use a new **12-digit Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** which is created in SAM.gov.

1.  **How will I know if an organization has a UEI?**
    - If an organization **is already registered in SAM.gov** they have already been assigned a UEI (SAM). It's viewable on their entity registration record in SAM.gov.
    - If an organization **is not a registered entity in SAM.gov**, they will have to request a UEI (SAM).

2.  **What are the ways for organizations to request a UEI?**
    Organizations have 2 options to request a UEI if they do not already have one:
    1.  By completing a full registration in SAM.gov
    2.  If an organization does not want to complete a full entity registration in SAM.gov, they can read the ***Quick Start Guide for Getting a UEI*** for additional guidance and instructions.

**Annex B – Concept Paper Template**

1) **Introduction** (1/2 page)**:**
   - Name and address of organization;
   - Type of organization (e.g., non-profit, university, etc.);
   - Unique Entity Identifier
   - Contact point (phone and e-mail);
   - Names of other organization to whom you are/have submitted the application and/or are funding the proposed activity; and
   - Signature of authorized representative of the applicant, authorized to contractually obligate the applicant.

2) **Technical Information** (2 pages maximum)**:**
   - Concise title and objective of proposed activity;
   - Discussion of the objectives, the method of approach, the amount of effort to be employed, the anticipated results, and how the work will help accomplish the Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity objectives;
   - Type of support the applicant requests from the Grant Program (e.g., funds, facilities, equipment, materials etc.).

3) **Supporting Information** (1 page maximum)**:**
   - Proposed estimated cost;
   - Proposed duration of activity;
   - Brief description of applicant's previous work and experience, both functionally and geographically;
   - Brief description of applicant's previous management of USG awards.
   - Organization Responsibility Certification: Certification that the applicant has the administrative management capacity to effectively and efficiently implement the grant activity in accordance with the financial management terms and conditions of the grant award, including relevant standard provisions. That is: the organization has appropriate policies and procedures (financial, operational, personnel, property management, etc.); and the internal controls which should provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives for (i) effective and efficient operations, (ii) reliable financial reporting, and (iii) compliance with applicable laws and regulations.