

Revised Expression of Interest

USAID Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity

Assignment Title:	Forest Carbon Project Investment Readiness Development in Kidepo Valley Landscape
Result:	Result 1.2 Innovation in developing best practices, products, and partnerships.
Activity:	Activity 1.2.4 Finalization of the Forest Carbon Project Investment Readiness
Country:	Uganda
Location:	Kidepo Valley Landscape (KKAKKA CWA)
Period of Performance:	November 2023 – October 2024
Submit Concept Proposal to:	procurement@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org .
Date of Issue of EOI:	September 7, 2023
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	September 14, 2023
Date Concept Proposal Due:	September 29, 2023, by 17:00 hrs East African Time
Consultant Point of Contact:	Jennifer Talbot, B4R Chief of Party

1. Introduction

The goal of the 5-year (2020-2025) USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) Activity, implemented by RTI International, is to assist communities, the Government of Uganda (GOU), and the private sector to conserve and manage biodiversity in target ecosystems for lasting environmental and economic sustainability and increased community and household resilience. The Activity supports community wildlife conservancies and protected area management while promoting market-based solutions, including nature-based tourism and other conservation enterprises, to improve stewardship of the natural resources necessary to sustain Uganda's economic development.

Additional cross-cutting activities include promotion of resiliency strategies; inclusion of women, youth, and other marginalized people; private sector engagement; capacity building; and deliberate use of collaborating, learning, and adapting techniques.

B4R Activity provides direct financial support in the form of sub-awards from its Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) to private sector and other community-based enterprises towards achieving biodiversity conservation objectives in Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo, and Budongo Forest landscapes. The B4R SIF aims to stimulate investment in nature-based economies in target landscapes.

2. Background

The community conservation models are new in Uganda and require partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms for their successful management and financial sustainability. In collaboration with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and National Forestry Authority (NFA), the USAD/Uganda B4R Activity has been supporting communities through relevant stakeholders (KKAKKA Community Wildlife Association, Collaborative Forest Management [CFM] mechanisms) to establish conservancies in the Kidepo Valley Landscape, which covers parts of six-district areas of Karenga, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Kitgum, and Agago.

These community conservation models require the development and adoption of detailed sustainable business models and plans, relying on viable and diversified conservation enterprises and other funding streams. The approach is multisectoral to develop nature-based enterprises e.g., in eco-tourism, consumptive use of wildlife

(such as sport hunting and wildlife ranching), climate- or regenerative agriculture, forestry, and renewable energy. These diversified revenue streams are expected both to benefit local communities (landowners) and the management of the conservancies/landscapes.

Carbon Finance is seen as one of the feasible long-term revenue streams for community-based natural resource management, as demonstrated in other similar landscapes and conservation models throughout sub-Saharan Africa. A forest carbon finance project would utilize and monetize improved land management practices (e.g., forest management, fire management, soil management/regeneration) in the landscape. Thus, The B4R Activity is seeking to develop a forest carbon finance project in the Kidepo Valley. In order to launch this initiative, the B4R Activity, in partnership with Terra Global Capital, conducted a feasibility study regarding forest carbon finance opportunities in Kidepo Valley landscape in line with the Uganda's REDD+ strategy, which was completed in March 2023. The study assessed what forest carbon finance opportunities exist in the landscape and how they could be developed & implemented.

In the next phase, B4R is seeking to engage an experienced forest carbon development firm with experience in sub-Saharan Africa to complete the Investment Readiness assessment and activities for this project. Investment readiness will guide the subsequent project development and verification process.

3. Objectives of Project / Assignment:

The purpose of this assignment is to lead and complete tasks to make this carbon finance project investment ready, including taking comprehensive steps to proceed with the project development, implementation, and verification phases. Specifically, the assignment is expected to refine and improve investment ready carbon estimates, set up the project governance and implementation structures, finalize the project's financing/investment model, and prepare necessary workplan and monitoring plans and systems. This work is expected to be confirmed by executing the relevant agreements for project implementation. The Section 4 outlines the details of these steps.

Geographic scope is to focus specifically on this one region: Kidepo Valley Greater Landscape – primarily the areas around the forming KKAKKA Community Wildlife Association coverage area in the districts of Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Kitgum, Abim, and Agago, including about 14 Central Forest Reserves in the landscape.

4. Activities / Scope of Services

The implementing firm is expected to fully develop and implement all planned projects and activities as follows:

- Develop investment ready carbon estimates
- Develop and agree on the implementation structure of the project as for the governance, project management, and implementing partner roles
- Develop the financing/investment model for the project development comprising both private climate finance and donor funds (blended finance)
- Prepare long-term project implementation workplan & budget
- Develop detailed project Benefit Allocation Plan or Benefit Sharing Principles based on stakeholders' input
- Engage with the target community stakeholders and develop detailed community engagement plan,
- Develop relevant monitoring plans such as Carbon & Impact Monitoring Plan and Program Operational Performance Monitoring Plan (based on work plan)
- Develop relevant policies necessary for project implementation:
 - a. Fiscal, Procurement and Fleet Management Policies
 - b. Program Operational Manual
 - c. Job Positions, Procurement, Anti-Corruption
 - d. Gender and Unrepresented Population Policy and Actions
- Grievance Redress Mechanism Procedures and Tracking
- Design and execute Program Implementation and Carbon Development Agreements

- Liaise with the Uganda's Climate Change Secretariat of the Ministry of Water & Environment and other regulators to obtain necessary government approvals.

5. Deliverable and Deadlines

Detailed deliverables and outputs will be developed during the assignment.

Technical Direction, Management & Communication

The USAID B4R COP will provide overall technical direction, with support from other USAID B4R personnel.

6. Required Experience

The firm is expected to have primarily long-term implementation experience in forest carbon development in Sub-Saharan Africa, with specifics as follows:

- Expertise in land-use and/or forest carbon projects design, development, and verification (including compliance and application of the best verification standards).
- Successful track record in commercialization, project monitoring, and implementation of land-use and/or forest carbon projects, including sales and marketing of verified carbon offsets.
- Practical knowledge and experience in conservation management with an integrated land-use carbon component.
- Experience in conservation finance, such as financing conservation initiatives through private sector initiatives.
- Experience in benefit-sharing mechanisms related to carbon finance and conservation, including negotiations with the communities and government.

7. Period and Place of Performance

The period of performance is about 6-12 months. The period of performance is flexible.

8. Application Guidelines

The applicants shall submit the following:

- Concept Proposal (2-4 pages) outlining the proposed project approach and methodology. This should include the description of the planned implementation activities as described in Section #3 and #4, and timelines for implementation and results
- Company profile highlighting the applicant background and required experience
- Proposed project budget, with itemized costs, backup documentation and/or quotes. Budget should include all cost and items needed to complete the proposed scope of work.

Questions should be submitted to procurement@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org by September 14, 2023. The concept proposals should be submitted by 17:00 hrs. East African Time, September 29, 2023; to procurement@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org, with the subject "Kidepo Carbon Investment Readiness". All concept notes will be treated in confidence. Selected applicants will be invited to co-develop detailed project proposals.

9. Supplementary Information

The following feasibility study has been completed and serves as the basis of the investment readiness phase:



Terra Global - Kidepo
Valley Uganda - Feasi