



USAID



**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
USAID/UGANDA BIODIVERSITY FOR RESILIENCE ACTIVITY**

The Project:

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) Activity (June 2020-June 2025) is implemented by RTI International together with consortium members African Wildlife Foundation, (AWF), Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), and Viamo. The main goal is to support communities, the Government of Uganda (GoU), and the private sector to conserve and manage biodiversity in target ecosystems for lasting environmental, economic sustainability, increased community, and household resilience.

The B4R Activity works collaboratively with key government agencies that include Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and National Forest Authority (NFA) and other related ministries and departments, as well as district and local authorities in support of community wildlife ranches, collaborative forest management areas and protected area management while promoting market-based solutions to improve stewardship of the natural resources necessary to sustain Uganda’s economic development.

B4R provides direct financial support in the form of sub-awards from its Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) to private sector and other community-based enterprises. This support is tied to achieving the biodiversity conservation objectives in Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo, and Budongo Forest landscapes.

Description of scope of work:

This is a call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the **pre- selection** of local partners for the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) Activity in Uganda. The (B4R) Activity will provide direct financial support in the form of sub-awards from its Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) to private sector and other community-based enterprises for the following target landscapes and sectors in Uganda.

<p>Target Landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidepo Valley National Park (NP) area: Karenga Community Wildlife Area (KCWA) and Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) of Timu, Morungole, Nyagea Napore, Lwala, and Rom. Districts: Karenga, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Kitgum, and Agago • Murchison Falls NP area: Murchison Community Conservancy (MCC) and Budongo CFR. Districts: Oyam, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Buliisa, Nwoya, and Amuru • Lake Mburo NP area: Rurambira Conservancy. Districts: Isingiro, Kiruhura, and Mbarara and Rakai 	<p>Target Sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-smart, Organic and/or Restorative Agriculture – across the entire value chain with focus on value-added crops. • Eco-Tourism – nature-based tourism (both accommodation and activities). • Forestry – sustainable indigenous tree planting, non-timber forest products (e.g. honey, shea nut), and sustainable timber harvesting. • Wildlife-based Enterprises – game ranching and other ancillary products from wildlife (e.g. crafts). • Renewable Energy – products/services both in biomass and solar sectors. • Aquaculture – environmentally-compliant fish farming. <p>Other sectors could be eligible if they contribute to the B4R objectives.</p>
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At this stage, RTI International is calling for initial Expressions of Interest from private sector and community-based enterprises.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

General Qualifying Criteria

The B4R SIF will target primarily private sector organizations, as well as eligible non-profit and community-based entities with business activities, which are owned and/or operated by individuals, entrepreneurs or cooperatives, and are officially registered as private enterprises and legally allowed to conduct business in Uganda.

In addition, applicants must have:

- A functioning governance and management structure
- Physical presence in the target landscapes
- Other co-investment for the project (e.g. by owners, members, or others)
- A clear and compelling business/project and financing plan.

Biodiversity & Social Impact Criteria

The B4R SIF aims to stimulate investment into the nature-based economies in its target landscapes. Thus, applicants must:

- Operate or plan to operate in or around one of the B4R target landscapes.
- Demonstrate plans to make a positive and measurable impact and contribute to biodiversity conservation in the B4R target landscapes, for example:
 - Integrate conservation planning into its business models to support landscape-level conservation goals
 - Address the specific conservation threats (e.g. stop deforestation, reduce human wildlife conflict, adopt land use planning guiding agricultural practices).
 - Contribute to sustainable management / utilization of conservancies and/or ‘buffer’ and ‘corridor’ landscapes
 - Produce direct income for the management of a biodiversity area (such as a lease or fees)
 - Value biodiversity by generating nature-based revenue flows to relevant stakeholders
- Develop resilient and diversified local economies, with participation of women, youth, and other disadvantaged groups.

Award Terms

- Awards range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per project with specific results-oriented milestones
- Award duration is between 24 to 36 months

Technical Assistance

B4R will provide Technical Assistance to applicants for the application process, business/financial planning and social, conservation and environmental compliance. B4R will guide awardees on both how to successfully implement their projects and how to achieve tangible biodiversity impact.

Application and Appraisal Process

Expression of Interest Announcement → Concept Note Submission → Screening → Full Application for short-listed Applicants - → Appraisal Process → Grant Award

It takes approximately 120 days from the submission of the Concept Note until the approval of the award.

Concept Note Template

Instructions

Please submit the Concept Note following the exact template/content structure provided below. Maximum three (3) written pages will be reviewed and accepted.

1. Organization Particulars

- Address, locations, and point of contact information; including the specific location of business operations and how they relate to B4R target areas.
- Ownership/Type of Entity
- Description of the organization and its main activities (history of operation, milestones)
- Management Team – brief on key staff

2. Project Title

3. Product / Service Description / Target Market – including your competitive strengths, advantages, and plans for growth

4. Target Beneficiaries and Social Inclusion Impact – including the involvement of the youth, women, and indigenous groups

5. **Biodiversity Conservation Impact**

- How does your business benefit or positively impact nature in the B4R landscape?
- How can your business positively contribute to conservation management (e.g. conservancies, forests, buffer zones and other natural resources)?
- How green are your operations (e.g., energy, waste, water use)?

6. **Economic Impact on Local Livelihoods**

- How will the project create economic incentives for conservation and improve local livelihoods?

7. **Sustainability and Scale**

- How will future activities and investments continue and scale up to achieve the desired impact and profitability?

8. **Financials**

- Annual Revenue (Historical and Projected Growth)
- Total Project Cost
- Award Amount Requested
- Applicant Match / contribution (Match B4R funds 1:1)
- Use of Funds (e.g., capital expenditures, field extension, marketing, other)
- Summary financial statements could be provided as Annex if available.

9. **Timeline** – anticipated start date and period of project performance March 2020 for a period (24 to 36 months).

How to apply

Interested organizations should submit completed **Expression of Interest** in PDF format in English to: SIF@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org.

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest: **November 30, 2020 Close of Business 17.00hours**

For inquires and clarification, please contact.

Jujhazy@rti.org

Annex

- Concept Note Template



Concept Note
Template B4R.docx

- Budget template



Summary Budget
Template.xlsx