

Request for Applications No. RTI-01/2019:
INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES
USAID PROTECT's Small Grants Program

I. Background

The PROTECT Project is a five-year USAID-funded project implemented by RTI International. The objective of USAID PROTECT is to address dynamics in Tanzania that threaten biodiversity conservation and inhibit private sector-led growth in the natural resources sector. USAID PROTECT activities focus on three key areas: (i) policy, research and advocacy; (ii) institutional strengthening; and (iii) increasing private investment in the wildlife sector.

Tanzania has a remarkable natural heritage with approximately one-third of its land dedicated to wildlife and natural resources conservation in a network of protected areas, including national parks, conservation areas, game reserves, game controlled areas, and the community-owned lands surrounding these protected areas —wildlife management areas (WMAs). These protected areas form the basis for a robust tourism industry that contributed about 14% of the total national GDP and accounted for 25% of the total foreign exchange in 2016. However, the biodiversity and the protected areas, upon which much of this tourism depends, are under continuous threat from wildlife poaching and trafficking, population growth and human-wildlife conflicts, land conversion, agriculture, and livestock raising.

Addressing these challenges is essential to safeguarding the future of biodiversity conservation in Tanzania. There are many strategies to do so, such as policy and legal reforms and harmonization, strengthening law enforcement, and encouraging non-state actors to become champions for conservation.

For these efforts to be successful, innovative conservation approaches are needed to address conservation threats.

USAID PROTECT aims to support innovative conservation initiatives to address conservation threats, through the award of grants to eligible entities/organizations: local civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and private sector actors.

This activity is also intended to contribute to one of USAID PROTECT's outcomes, which is to build local Tanzanian capacity to promote biodiversity conservation in Tanzania.

II. Grant Type and Anticipated Funding

All grants will be administered according to USAID grant regulations by the USAID PROTECT Activity implementer, RTI International.

USAID PROTECT anticipates awarding grants to fund eligible applications submitted in response to this Request for Applications (RFA). Applications must range between TZS 114,771,000 (USD50,000) up to TZS 459,082,000 (USD200,000).

Grants will be for (1) year to support innovative activities that address threats to biodiversity such as wildlife trafficking, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat fragmentation. USAID is interested in receiving applications that address one or more of the following priority thematic and/or geographic areas:

1. Private sector partnerships
2. Combatting wildlife trafficking
3. Conservation of the Eastern Arc Mountains
4. Conservation of the Coastal Forests
5. Conservation of marine areas

Project activities must take place in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Grant applications and all deliverables must be submitted in English.

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 appears 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;
- Fine, penalties, previous obligations or unmanageable 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;

- Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 per item;
- Any type of construction
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under U.S. Government source/origin regulations,
- Military equipment, police equipment, surveillance equipment, abortion equipment and services, gambling equipment, climate modifier equipment.

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

III. Instructions for applicants

Please submit a completed Grant Application Form and required attachments to:

PROTECT Grants Manager – grants@tzprotect.org

Applications will be accepted through February 21, 2019.

The anticipated award date is *two months after the closing date for receiving applications*. Activities should be planned through, but not beyond, *12 months*.

USAID PROTECT reserves the right to award any or none of the grants. USAID PROTECT will contact only those organizations who are in the running for receiving a grant; please do not call or contact USAID PROTECT office or staff directly. Questions will be answered on February 4 (see below for details) only.

IV. Criteria for judging technical merits of proposals

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

- **Technical approach (40%):** Does the proposal clearly explain how the technical approach is innovative and how it will address key threats in the thematic and/or geographic areas (indicated above) in order to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Tanzania?
- **Participation (20%):** Does the proposal clearly explain how the activities will engage a wide range of stakeholders?
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (10%):** Does the proposal include a feasible plan for following up to determine and report on the impact from the implemented activities? Applicants should include a detailed plan of activities or breakdown of main events during the activity in the form of a gantt chart that establishes time frame and duration, as well as the locations in which the activities will take place.
- **Outputs (10%):** Will the proposed activity generate tangible and useful outputs that will lead to improved biodiversity conservation in Tanzania?
- **Activity Sustainability (10%):** Do the proposed activities demonstrate how the proposed project will be sustained after the end of the grant?

- **Cost (10%):** Is the proposed budget reasonable and adequate to carry out the proposed activities? The budget to cover the planned activities should not exceed the total funds available.

V. Further Information

USAID PROTECT will provide an in-person discussion forum on January 31, 2019 for those grantees interested in applying for the program. This will cover evaluation criteria, programmatic and organizational requirements. Additionally, USAID PROTECT will accept questions to the email below between the dates of January 23-31 (cut off 5pm TZ time on the 31) that will be collated, responded to, and disseminated to all who submitted questions or were present for the in-person conversation. Answers will be provided to all on February 4.

Interested applicants are invited to an informational meeting on **January 31, 2019** in Dar es Salaam. Please send your participation confirmation to the meeting and questions to grants@tzprotect.org no later than January 25, 2018 and indicate if you will join the meeting in person, or remotely.