

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Competitive Solicitation under USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili's Grants Program

I. Background

The goal of the recently awarded USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project is to address dynamics that hinder habitat connectivity and the long-term persistence of biodiversity in Tanzania. This activity will incorporate a series of interventions that support and strengthen government and civil society capacity for biodiversity conservation in a manner that: i) increases private sector engagement in conservation and natural resource management (NRM); ii) builds the capacity of the public sector and civil society; and iii) strengthens the policy and regulatory framework for conservation and NRM. These interventions together will reduce threats to biodiversity in Tanzania while moving Tanzanian institutions further on their journey to self-reliance. To achieve the above goals USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity wishes to cultivate partnership with various civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have footprints in the targeted corridors.

The USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project is designed to address some of the key drivers and associated threats to improve conservation in Tanzania, particularly in six corridors: Amani-Nilo, Kwakuchinja, Nyerere Selous-Udzungwa, Kigosi Moyowosi-Uvinza, Tarangire-Simanjiro Plains, and Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA). This first RFA seeks applications to advance conservation interventions only for Kwakuchinja, Amani-Nilo, and Kigosi Moyowosi -Uvinza corridors.

During the Financial Year 2022, on a competitive basis, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will award grants to successful awardees to implement activities planned in the respective year. RTI reserves the right to extend and modify annual grants to be multi-year in nature for up to 3 years in total.

To the extent possible, awardees are encouraged to consider criteria such as gender equity, women's empowerment, youth inclusion, country diversity, and candidates' commitment to sharing their knowledge and experiences more broadly in their communities and business sectors when identifying and engaging partners in project activities in the region. Field demonstrations and exchanges should be designed to showcase practices and technologies that are innovative, equitable, affordable, and replicable. Wherever possible, the prospective grants applicants should also demonstrate how their proposed activities positively address climate change.

Project activities must take place in Kwakuchinja, Kigosi Moyowosi -Uvinza, and Amani-Nilo areas of connectivity as indicated in each of the activities.

II. Grant Type and Anticipated Funding

All grants will be administered according to USAID grant regulations by the Tuhifadhi Maliasili implementer, RTI International (RTI). RTI anticipates issuing Fixed Amount Awards, Standard, Simplified, and In-kind grants under this grant program. Allowable grant expenditures will be reimbursed monthly, based on Grantee's submission of financial reports and original receipts to the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Grants Team every 30 days.

Pending the availability of funding provided for this purpose by USAID, Tuhifadhi Maliasili anticipates awarding up to \$1,000,000 in grants to fund appropriate and eligible applications submitted in response to this announcement:

Minimum of eight (8) to ten (10) grants with budgets not exceeding \$250,000, to non-governmental, regional or local organizations and to US organizations with budgets not exceeding \$100,000, to

promote connectivity activities that fall in one or more of the three thematic areas detailed below. Grants applicants may wish to select more than one area of interest outlined below, provided that they are interdependent to each other to achieve the desired conservation outcomes to the target areas of connectivity.

A) Build institutional capacities of both public and private stakeholders

Tanzania requires strong, able government, non-government institutions, civil society institutions, and organizations to effectively manage the country's natural resources. There should be a purposeful capacity building for all organizations to develop plans, monitor, and measure human and institutional capacity development as well as measure performance. Through this RFA the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project will support prospective applicants that work in the following areas:

1. Youth internships

The awardee shall support future conservation leaders to improve and gain new skills that will shape their working skills and attitude, ultimately contributing to wildlife conservation. Internships will afford the opportunity for interns to work in conservation-focused, youth-led CSOs and to participate in hands-on conservation activities in **Kwakuchinja** corridor. This will empower future conservation leaders—young men and women to work in conservation. The internship program will target university and college graduates from different wildlife training institutions.

2. Women's empowerment in biodiversity conservation

As frontline natural resource users, women face disproportionate impacts from biodiversity loss, but are often not actively or equally involved in on-the-ground conservation activities. Tanzanian women are deprived access to decision-making power and leadership opportunities despite their potential for being important stewards of natural resources. To address this challenge, the Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity will partner with CSOs with capacity to promote gender equality or female empowerment objectives in the context of their official/formal role(s) within a public or private sector institution or organization particularly in the areas of connectivity. Women's empowerment and gender equality applications may include:

- The enhancement of women in leadership roles in conservation,
- Amplifying women's voices in conservation,
- Trainings for men and women on gender issues,
- Engaging men and boys as champions for gender equality, and Trainings on how to promote the engagement of women in conservation.

This activity shall take place in **Kwakuchinja, Kigosi Moyowosi -Uvinza, and Amani-Nilo** areas of connectivity.

B) Increase private sector engagement in biodiversity conservation and NRM

Private sector engagement in conservation is critical to leverage resources and skills for biodiversity conservation. Under this theme, the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili project will provide technical assistance, catalyze investment, and build the capacity of businesses to align their operations with wildlife corridor, local economic priorities, and land use priorities for conservation and local government authorities' (LGAs) objectives. This will address the market linkages for viable conservation enterprise value chains and then link community groups with private sector actors to leverage resources, for biodiversity conservation in Tanzania. USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will provide grants to local CSOs to support the following activities:

1. Community Conservation Enterprises (CCEs) in areas of connectivity

The USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili grants program aims to partner with local CSOs in projects that will improve income of community members, enhance their resilience, and secure targeted species and their habitats in **Kwakuchinja** area of connectivity. The prospective grantee may work in activities such as mobilizing different conservation and non-conservation value chains community groups and support them to register as CCEs. The grantee will support community groups to involve women and youth as members of CCEs.

2. Scale-up of existing and functioning funding models in areas of connectivity

The objective of these grants is to support livelihoods and sustain the community conservation groups in **Kwakuchinja**. The awardee may work in areas such as:

- Scale up, establish and support Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs),
- Support VSLAs to build capacity of the VSLA members on how to access funds from different sources, with targeted outreach to women and youth.
- Manage funds,
- Develop and manage funding agreements, and
- Marketing and value additions in selected and prioritized conservation and non-conservation value chains.

3. Awareness creation to different private sector entities on natural resources-related crimes with a focus on areas of connectivity

Private sector-led efforts to create awareness on natural resource-related crimes is still required in Tanzania. These private sector members are expected facilitate addressing the wildlife related crimes by raising flags to authorities when detecting crimes. Most natural resources-related crimes are coordinated and involve a wide range of players, including the private sector actors. Activities considered under these grants can include creation of awareness on natural resources crimes to a wide array of private sector members including major airport workers, banking and telecom sectors, etc. The grant applicants should demonstrate how they will collaborate and coordinate with private sector apex bodies in the implementation.

This activity shall take place in **Kwakuchinja, Kigosi Moyowosi -Uvinza, and Amani-Nilo** areas of connectivity.

C) Improve the 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 and conservation of biodiversity. In this theme Tuhifadhi Maliasili will partner with local organizations to support the improvement of the policy framework and the use of data for informed decisions through the following areas:

1. Establishment and operationalization of the Corridor Working Groups

Conserving connectivity at the landscape scale requires high level collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, the private sector, LGAs, and individuals from across diverse sectors to collaborate, coordinate, and learn from each other's experience in **Kwakuchinja and Amani-Nilo** areas of connectivity. The shared lessons will guide the development and review of land use plans for the benefit of corridor conservation and improve the livelihoods of the communities adjacent to the corridors and influence policies relevant to conservation of wildlife corridors. The grantees should work with LGAs to form the corridor working groups and hold discussions that will eventually lead to the legal designation and protection of the corridors. The groups should include all stakeholders involved in the long-term survival of the corridors, with emphasis on ensuring populations

who have been historically excluded from or underrepresented in conservation (e.g., women and youth) are actively included as members and/or leaders.

2. Facilitate Land Use Planning in the Prioritized Corridors

Protected landscapes are under increasing pressure from human activities, resulting in increased habitat loss and fragmentation of priority corridors as a result of poor land use planning. USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will support local partners to facilitate securing three key wildlife corridors through collaborative, participatory land-use planning, and implementation of land-use plans in the villages around the **Amani-Nilo and Kwakuchinja** areas of connectivity. The grantees should proactively solicit feedback and inputs from all community groups in land use planning and incorporate gender and social inclusion analyses to ensure land use plans represent the needs of historically excluded or underrepresented groups (e.g., women and youth).

3. Awareness raising on corridor importance among communities

Limited knowledge on the importance of conserving wildlife habitat for connectivity among communities has led to increased conflicts between wildlife and humans and unsustainable use of natural resources. It is critical that the communities living along corridor areas receive knowledge on managing human-wildlife conflict (HWC), improving livelihoods, and restoring wildlife connectivity. In addressing these challenges, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will support awareness raising activities in the **Kwakuchinja and Amani-Nilo** corridors. The prospective awardee is expected to work with communities via the wildlife corridor working groups to pursue community-driven, collaborative conservation solutions, with the focus on importance of preserving wildlife corridors. Awareness programs may include:

- public awareness events
- road shows
- dramas
- media campaigns

The selected grantees will develop outreach program strategies and ensure there is continuity of discussions on key pressing corridor issues on key local and national radio stations. Grantees will develop outreach strategies using inclusive methodologies and account for differential access to resources and education.

4. Conservation education/training in secondary schools

Involving the youth segment of the population in conservation activities is important as a long-lasting conservation solution. The grantee should develop a conservation education program involving secondary schools in two corridors – **Kwakuchinja, and Amani-Nilo**. The applicants should propose the use of creative teaching methods and fun activities in highlighting the threats facing target species and raise awareness about the importance of conserving wildlife corridors, among others. The education program may also involve Malihai Club under MNRT to train students and form the “Maliasili” youth clubs in secondary schools and wherever possible. The Roots and Shoots program may also be involved to increase learning and collaboration on environmental education.

5. Monitoring of animal movement in key wildlife corridors

Monitoring wildlife movement in key corridors is critical to understand how animals use these areas and determine their functionality. Collecting wildlife movement data also contributes to integrating wildlife corridors into village, district, regional, and national plans. Using an array of methodologies and tools, USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili will partner with local organizations to monitor the movements of key species in the **Kwakuchinja and Kigosi Moyowosi-Uvinza** wildlife corridors to determine their functionality and provide data to the design of the corridors during land use planning.

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 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;
- 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.

III. Instructions for Applicants

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

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

Applications will be accepted through February 2, 2022 for grants. The anticipated award month is April 2022. Activities should be planned for twelve months starting from the award date.

IV. Criteria for Judging Technical Merits of Proposals

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

- **Impact and sustainability (40%):** 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 of the project at the field level for both communities and biodiversity?

- **Technical approach (20%):** To what extent does the proposed project demonstrate replicability and contribute to the overall conservation and management of wildlife connectivity outcomes? How does the proposed project address the current problem in the areas of connectivity?
- **Participation (15%):** 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? Are the strategies outline in the proposal designed to ensure equitable inclusion among participants/beneficiaries?
- **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? (E.g., did the training participants apply what they learned in their work?) Does the monitoring and evaluation plan include opportunities to monitor for equity through the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, gender-responsive indicators, and/or socially inclusive indicators?
- **Cost (15%):** Is the proposed budget reasonable, and adequate to carry out the proposed activities?

V. 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 - RFA Additional Requirements

Duns & Bradstreet Number (DUNS number)

Grantees that receive more than \$25,000 from RTI are required to have a DUNS number before receiving a grant award.

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

This process should take no more than 2 business days.

WHAT IS A DUNS NUMBER & WHY DO I NEED OBTAIN ONE?

The Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number is a unique nine-character number that identifies your organization. It is a tool of the federal government to track how federal money is distributed. Most large organizations, libraries, colleges and research universities already have DUNS numbers.

Ask your grant administrator or chief financial officer to provide your organization's DUNS number. If your organization is based in the U.S., a DUNS number can be requested by phone or online.

Webpage for phone number: http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/reqDuns_phone.jsp

If your organization is located outside the United States, you can request and register for a DUNS number through the following web site.

Webpage for registration: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>

This is the information you will need to have available in order to obtain the DUNS number. (If your organization does not already have one):

- Legal Name of organization
- Name of the organization CEO
- The primary type of business your company engages in (NCIA/SIC CODE)

To obtain this code please go to www.naics.com/search.htm

(Also see list attached)

- Any other name your business might be recognized by, i.e. doing business as (DBA)
- Physical organization address (city, state and zip code)
- Mailing address if separate from headquarters
- Telephone number
- Name of the primary contact person and his or her title
- Number of employees at your location
- Is this a home-based business?

If your organization does not have a DUNS number, use this Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) online registration process to receive one free of charge.

NOTE: Obtaining a DUNS number places your organization on D&B's marketing list that is sold to other companies. You can request not to be added to this list during your application

Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of the Applicant for USAID Funded Grants

The application should incorporate any of the required certifications based on the guidance below that are required for the type of organization, level/type of funding, flow down from the prime award or where the work will be performed. For Non-USAID funded grants, RTI's Prime Award should be consulted for mandatory flow downs that should be incorporated into the application process or grant award. Please see below for information about various types of certifications.

In the certification, references to providing material support and resources shall not be deemed to include furnishing USAID funds or USAID-financed commodities to the ultimate beneficiaries of USAID assistance (recipients of food, medical care, micro-enterprise loans, and shelter, among others), *unless* RTI has reason to believe that one or more of these beneficiaries commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitated, or participated in terrorist acts.