

Scope of Work (SOW)

USAID Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity

Assignment Title	Feasibility Study for Carbon Finance in the landscapes around three proposed conservancies and Central Forest Reserves in Uganda focused on three geographic areas (Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls, and Lake Mburo).
Consultant Name	Tbd
Country	Uganda
Locations	Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo Landscapes
Level of Effort	30-45 Days
Start Date	April 25, 2022
Period of Performance	April 25, 2022 – July 22, 2022
Consultant Point of Contact	Jennifer Talbot, B4R Chief of Party, jtalbot@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org

1. Introduction – USAID/Biodiversity for Resilience Activity

The goal of the 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 B4R Activity will achieve this through three interrelated outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Economic, financial, and social investments are linked to and incentivize conservation.
- Outcome 2: Governance arrangements benefit biodiversity and enable communities to benefit from biodiversity.
- Outcome 3: GOU strengthens its sustainable management of targeted protected areas and biodiversity adjacent to protected areas.

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (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 of the Assignment

Community-based wildlife management models have been emerging in Uganda in recent years, spearheaded by the effort of Uganda Wildlife Authority. This approach has been identified as suitable in several areas in the country, which still harbor wildlife outside of the gazetted protected areas. This approach focuses on the formation and operationalization of the so called “conservancy model”, which has been successful in other countries in East and Southern Africa.

B4R has been supporting communities and relevant stakeholders in conservancy establishment in three geographical areas:

- Kidepo Valley Landscape: Karenga Conservancy as well as several Collaborative Forest Management schemes around Central Forest Reserves in the landscape.
- Murchison Falls: Murchison Community Conservancy
- Lake Mburo: Rurambira Conservancy

This conservancy model (as well as the CFM model where applicable) is new in Uganda and requires 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, renewable energy, and aquaculture. These diversified revenue streams are expected both to benefit local communities (landowners) and the management of the conservancies/landscapes.

Carbon finance could potentially be one feasible long-term revenue stream for community-based natural resource management, as demonstrated in several other similar landscape and conservation models throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Such a project would utilize and monetize improved land management practices (e.g. forest management, fire management, soil management/regeneration) in the landscape.

The proposed study should assess what carbon finance opportunities in the landscape exist and how they could be developed in line with the Uganda's REDD+ strategy. Uganda follows the approach in dividing the country into four (4) watersheds for REDD+ implementation. The project also aims to follow one of the globally accreditations, for example by Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standard (CCBS).

B4R is seeking a competent consultant firm/team to conduct a feasibility study for the development of carbon finance projects for the landscapes around the three (3) target conservancies and adjacent Central Forest Reserves.

3. Objectives of Assignment

The overall purpose of the study is to identify feasible implementation models for carbon finance in the three target landscapes, which would foster the successful implementation of management and conservation enterprises activities for the benefit of the target communities and ecosystems.

The feasibility study is expected to:

Inform and generate recommendations and strategies for development of carbon finance projects (e.g. fit with national regulations, implementation models).

- Conduct financial analysis of the proposed carbon finance models for both expected revenues, operations, and required investment.
- Identify the specific opportunities, including preparing the requisite information for their development (e.g. types of feasible carbon projects, scale).

Geographic scope is to focus specifically on these three regions:

- Kidepo Valley Greater Landscape – primarily the areas around the forming Karenga Conservancy in six (6) districts of Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Kitgum, Abim, and Agago, including about 14 Central Forest Reserves in the landscape.
- Murchison Falls and greater Western Acholi Region – areas buffering the national park, such as Murchison Community Conservancy and other surrounding areas.
- Lake Mburo – the areas bordering the national park, such as Rurambira Conservancy.

4. Specific Activities

B4R Result : Innovation in developing best practices, products and partnerships.

B4R Activity: Conduct feasibility study for carbon finance in target landscapes

The consultant shall specifically undertake the following for each landscape:

- a. Feasibility study of potential project sites, reviewing carbon sequestration baselines and potential for carbon sequestration (e.g. deforestation trends, hydrology, soil sampling).
- b. Analyze technical considerations concerning additionality, durability, avoidance of leakage

- c. Analyze other socioeconomic factors relevant for the project (e.g. population distribution/dynamics, land tenure)
- d. Generate appropriate recommendations and strategies for development of land-use-based carbon finance projects in the target landscapes, in line with both the best practices regionally in sub-Saharan Africa and with Uganda's REDD+ strategy and regulatory framework.
- e. Evaluate and propose mechanisms and models how the proposed projects could be implemented and integrated with the community-based wildlife management schemes (e.g. conservancies, CFM models) in each landscape, including proposed revenue-sharing models.
- f. Provide recommendations how other conservation enterprises (either existing or planned) could be integrated within the carbon project (e.g. forestry, climate-smart agriculture)
- g. Develop implementation, management, and financial commercial model for the project in the subsequent phases, including:
 - a. Conduct business and financial analysis of each potential carbon finance project (e.g. in each landscape) to model expected revenues, required investment (e.g. verification, carbon accounting), and operating costs. Describe strategy for securing this investment.
 - b. Develop financial projection for revenues, required investment/financing for verification and ongoing project monitoring/management, benefit-sharing, and operational expenses for each project.
 - c. Provide recommendations and structure for the further project development (e.g. carbon rights, governance, implementing organization(s) roles).
- h. Identify and describe project risks.

Methodology

- a. The consultant will use highly participatory approaches and methods to involve the partners such as REDD+ Secretariat, National Forestry Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Conservancy Management Committees, Community Wildlife Associations, and Local Governments.
- b. The consultant will undertake desktop analyses, field observations, interact with targeted beneficiaries, members of community wildlife associations, management committees, and management boards.
- c. The consultant will apply the best practices on land-use carbon projects (e.g. verification standards, benefit-sharing).

5. Deliverables and Deadlines

The following deadlines assume start of the implementation on April 25, 2022.

S/N	PLANNED ACTIVITY	Apr	May	Jun	July
1	Initial Assessment and Literature Review, Information Gathering				
2	Feasibility Study and Fieldwork in the three (3) regions: Kidepo Valley; Murchison Falls; Lake Mburo.				
3	Finalization of report following the feedback from key stakeholders (B4R, REDD+ Secretariat)				

The following outputs follow the above schedule of activities:

S/N	Deliverables	Deadline
1.	Inception Report – detailed approach, plan, initial findings	May 6, 2022
2.	Presentation of the inception report to B4R management	May 9, 2022
3.	Draft Feasibility Study Report (following the completion of field work)	June 16, 2022
4.	Presentation of the Draft Report to the relevant stakeholders (three landscapes, REDD+ Secretariat) and B4R management	June 23, 2022
5.	Presentation of the final report to the relevant stakeholders (three landscapes, REDD+ Secretariat) and B4R management	July 15, 2022
6.	Project Report outlining the process, methodology, key findings, and challenges.	July 22, 2022

Technical Direction, Management & Communication

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

Apart from the deliverables mentioned in Section 5. above, this Activity will contribute to the following USAID B4R indicator:

- Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance

7. Required Qualifications

The Consultant team/firm is expected to have professional qualifications in the relevant field with demonstrable experience in the designing research institutions/organizations. Additionally, the consulting firm/consultant team should possess the following skills/experiences:

- 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.
- Excellent financial modelling and writing skills.
- Practical experience in undertaking feasibility studies as well as sustainable use of natural resources will be added advantage.
- At least five years' experience working with projects, agencies or government institutions dealing with carbon finance and/or community based natural resources utilization.
- Demonstrate excellent interpersonal and professional skills in interacting with government and development partners.
- Skills in facilitation of stakeholder engagement/workshops.

8. Period and Place of Performance

The period of performance is about three months, expecting to commence around April 25, 2022, and ending around July 22, 2022. The period of performance is somewhat flexible. The work is to be performed in Uganda.

9. Application Procedures

Interested applicants should prepare and submit proposals including:

- Concept note, maximum of 4 pages describing how the firm/team of consultants will undertake the assignment, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Cost proposal with detailed cost breakdown. Cost proposal must be submitted in excel. including a cost proposal with cost breakdown
- CVs and cover letter for each one of the consultants proposed in the concept note

Please quote “Feasibility Study – Carbon Finance – [Name of Firm/Consultant’s name]” on the subject line. Applications should be emailed to procurement@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org to reach us not later than **Monday, April 4th 2022 at 5:00 pm Uganda (East African) Time.**

10. Travel and Logistics

The first phase of this consultancy will be executed remotely, and the second phase will require travel to the B4R landscapes and to Uganda up to 45 days of travel combined. The B4R Activity will coordinate and cover the travel logistics and lodging. The consultant team/firm will receive per diem following the B4R per diem policies.