### Assignment Title:
Establishing and Operationalizing VSLA schemes for Community Wildlife Scouts Groups by Deploying Motorbikes to Support Long Term Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Efforts.

| Result 1.2: | Innovation in developing best practices, products and partnerships.
| Result 2.4: | Communities are equipped to deal with HWC.
| Activity 1.2.7: | Set up sustainable governance and financing schemes for community scouts.
| Activity 2.4.2: | Procurement of Problem animal management equipment and training.

**Mechanism:** Consultancy

**Consultant Name:** TBD

**Country:** Uganda

**Location:**
- Kidepo Valley Landscape (Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Agago, Kitgum Districts)
- Murchison Falls Landscape (Nwoya District)

**Level of Effort**
50 Days

**Period of Performance:**
December 2021 - February 2022

**Consultant Point of Contact:**
Jennifer Talbot, B4R Chief of Party, jtalbot@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org

## Background:

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.

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
- Murchison Falls: Murchison Community Conservancy
- Lake Mburo: Rurambira Conservancy

This conservancy model is new in Uganda and requires development and implementation of both effective community-based conservation management activities and sustainable conservation enterprises generating income for people in these areas.

Community-based Conservation is led by the Community Wildlife Scouts present in both landscapes, currently focused primarily on Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation activities and expanding their role to ecological management.

Conservation Enterprise/Livelihoods aims to develop nature-based in 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.

B4R plans to provide motorbikes and ancillary safety equipment (e.g., helmets, vests) to Community Wildlife Scout groups to support their Human Wildlife Conflict mission. Speed of response is often the key determinant of success when wildlife damages of crops or people. The Scouts must be able to move quickly to the affected area and currently they do not have any means of transport. The plan is to provide 1-2 motorbikes for each CWS group in both landscapes.

Second, these motorbikes can be utilized during day hours (since most crop raiding by wildlife is at night) for local transport needs (“boda” service) in their respective area, thus earning income for the CWS groups. This income can be utilized saved within the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) scheme each CWS group forms. The savings in turn could be utilized to support other livelihoods’ projects or CWS needs.

The provision of these motorbikes would thus enhance both a) community’s ability to address HWC and manage their natural resources, b) income generation of the community members.

B4R is seeking a competent consultant to assist in establishing this scheme in both landscapes to ensure that the project is governed and managed well, and that it generates intended economic benefits for the target community members.

1. Objectives of Assignment:

The assignment is expected to:

- Establish and operationalize the VSLA for each CWS group with effective management and governance system. Expected number of CWS groups is 27 for Kidepo Valley and 11 for Murchison Falls with each receiving 1-2 bikes.
- Develop necessary systems and procedures linking motorbike provision to the VSLA operations such as savings scheme, and pooling funds for maintenance, repairs, and fuel.

2. Specific Activities:
**B4R Results:**

2.4 Communities are equipped to deal with HWC
1.2. Innovation in developing best practices, products, and partnerships.

**B4R Activity:**

2.4.2 Procurement of Problem animal management equipment and training
1.2.7 Set up sustainable governance and financing schemes for community scouts

The consultant shall specifically undertake the following for each landscape:

- Set up (or improve if in existence) the existing community-based financial institutions (such as Village Savings and Loan Associations) for each Community Wildlife Scout group, targeting:
  - 27 groups in Kidepo Valley Landscape (in six districts of Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Agago, Kitgum)
  - 11 groups in Murchison Landscape (in Nwoya District)
- Provide requisite training and assistance in setting up the governance and management of the VSLA group.
- Link the provision of the motorbikes to the VSLA and set up the scheme for repayment of the motorbike value, provision of funds for maintenance, repairs, and fuel, and the subsequent savings scheme
- Develop the operating manual for each VSLA regarding the use of savings for livelihoods and other projects
- Train members on other needed skills, e.g. use of mobile technologies (if used) for VSLA management.
- Assist in developing the operational procedures for motorbike use.
- Link the scheme with the training of the scouts in motorbike and equipment use (conducted by another a qualified trainer).

**Methodology**

a. The consultant will work directly with the target 38 Community Wildlife Scout groups in a participatory manner.

b. Other entities such as Uganda Wildlife Authority, Conservancy Management Committees, Community Wildlife Associations, and Local Governments will be involved to provide necessary support.

c. The consultant will apply the best practices on rural economic development, village finance, and community-based governance systems.

**3. Required Qualifications**

The Consultant is expected to have professional qualifications in the relevant field with demonstrable experience in working with communities in similar community-based finance schemes. Additionally, he/she should possess the following skills/experiences:

- A Bachelor or master’s degree in business, finance, economics, environmental/natural resource economics, or other relevant area of Postgraduate study.
- Practical experience and expertise in establishing and operationalizing the community based financial institutions, such as VSLAs and SACCOs.
- Familiarity and direct experience working with rural communities in the target regions.
• Experience in community-based wildlife management, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and conservation finance is a significant plus.
• Excellent training, capacity building skills.
• Excellent financial modelling and writing skills.
• At least five years’ experience working with projects, agencies or government institutions dealing with rural development, conservation and/or community based natural resources utilization.
• Demonstrate excellent interpersonal and professional skills in interacting with government and development partners.

4. Deliverables

Detailed deliverables and outputs will be developed during the assignment and will include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANNED ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Stakeholder Assessment and Information Gathering</td>
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<td>2 Fieldwork in the two (2) regions: Kidepo Valley; Murchison Falls to prepare for VSLA establishment, train scouts.</td>
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<td>3 Registration of the VSLAs, finalization of relevant procedures and operations guidelines.</td>
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<td>4 Support project launch through continued support to CWS groups</td>
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5. Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Percentage reduction of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) incidents in landscapes where B4R is implementing HWC mitigation measures
- Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation

6. Terms & Proposed Schedule

**Level of Effort:** Short-Term Technical Assistance (STTA) for up to 50 days.

**Working Arrangements:** The Consultant will work closely with the B4R staff (Private Sector Engagement Advisor, Governance Advisor, Landscape Coordinator and other B4R field staff).

**Estimated Start Date:** December 5, 2021

**Period of Performance:** December 2021 – February 2022.

**Locations:** Kidepo Valley Landscape (Karenga, Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Agago, Kitgum Districts) Murchison Falls Landscape (Nwoya District)
The following deadlines assume start of the implementation on December 5, 2021.

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<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Inception Report – detailed approach, plan, initial findings</td>
<td>December 15, 2021</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation of the inception report to B4R management</td>
<td>December 20, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bi-weekly Progress Reports</td>
<td>December 15, 2021</td>
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<td>December 30, 2021</td>
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<td>January 14, 2022</td>
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<td>January 21, 2022</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>VSLA Set Up Documentation submitted alongside the summary report</td>
<td>January 31, 2022</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Final Report post-launch outlining all results and recommendations</td>
<td>February 28, 2022</td>
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7. Travel and Logistics

The consultancy will require frequent travel to target landscapes, but some work could be performed at a consultant’s base in Uganda. The B4R Activity will coordinate and cover the travel logistics and cost for road transport and lodging. The consultant will receive per diem following the B4R per diem policies.

For additional costs associated to travel (taxis, bus fees, etc.), the consultant must submit a detailed expense report including additional costs of travel (and corresponding receipts) and the per diem calculation for a given billing period (expense report template will be provided to consultant).

8. Application Process

Prepare and submit a maximum of 4 pages describing how you will undertake the assignment including your technical approach, financial proposal and copy of your updated CV with at least three references. Please include on the subject line “VSLA Motorbikes Scouts”. Applications should be submitted to procurement@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org no later than Friday 12th, November 2021 at 5.00 pm Uganda (East African) Time.