



## **CALL FOR AN NGO SUPPORT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY AROUND VNP FOR RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS**

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) is responsible for the protection and management of Rwanda's national parks and protected areas, engagement of communities adjacent to protected areas, and contributing to the social and economic development in Rwanda.

RDB is pleased to announce a call for proposals, which invites Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to submit proposals to provide technical assistance to relocated community For Resilient Livelihoods under the Volcanoes National Park expansion program.

### **BACKGROUND**

Covering an area of 160 square kilometers, Volcanoes National Park (VNP) is part of a unique transboundary network of protected areas in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in central Africa.

Rwanda support globally significant wildlife, including a number of IUCN red-listed species and one of only two remaining populations of the endangered Mountain Gorilla endemic to the Virunga Massif. Created in 1925 as part of the first national park in Africa, it is managed with policy direction from a 10-year Park Management Plan (2011), as an IUCN Category II, National Park. It is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (1983).

Rwanda has demonstrated to the World and Africa that conservation, tourism and development are not mutually exclusive and is leading in holistic conservation and green growth initiatives. Its conservation is benefiting communities adjacent to national parks with one of the highest revenues sharing programs in Africa, with \$5.8 million USD invested in more than 645 projects in the past 14 years.

To ensure that this vibrant tourism economy continues to thrive, the Government of Rwanda is embarking on a well thought out plan that will ensure that conservation and communities are sustained in the long-term.

The project development and the global environmental objective is to improve the conservation and biodiversity of volcanoes national park and building resilience of surrounding community through:

**Increased habitat for growing wildlife populations:** The primary ecological issue is that this biodiverse park is small and isolated, with insufficient safe, suitable, interconnected habitat (space) for mountain gorillas and other wildlife species – a critical long-term issue that this project is intended to address through the park expansion by 37.5 SqKm.

**Sustainable and resilient livelihoods:** The area surrounding Volcanoes National Park is, however, densely populated. The viability efforts to expand, maintain and restore habitat for the gorillas hinges on the support of surrounding communities. Thus any efforts to expand habitat for the gorillas need to incorporate commensurate efforts to benefit people living around the park. That means involving communities in the park expansion plan process, providing housing and social benefits to communities

affected by the expansion, and investing in inclusive green growth with the aim of creating jobs and opportunities for people living around the park

The project will support demand-driven income-generating activities in order to increase (i) the breadth of the economic options and security of the livelihoods base of the population around volcanoes national park, thereby improving climate resilience; and (ii) the sustainability of park restoration and conservation investments

Support will preferentially be provided to livelihood options which: (i) decrease dependency on highly climate-vulnerable livelihoods; (ii) decrease dependency on unsustainable exploitation of forest resources, through provision of alternatives for products from protected forest and increased energy efficiency; (iii) depend directly on successful application of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) technologies or management of resources; (iv) add value to community eco-tourism ; or (v) provide additional income with negligible environmental impact.

A technical oversight of community projects will be critical in supporting successful implementation. Therefore, RDB undertake this call for proposal to attract competent NGOs to provide technical support to communities in preparation and implementation of income-generating activities. The following serves as minimum information that the interested applicant must provide to be eligible for consideration.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the call for proposal is to attract and invite Expression of Interest (EoI) from qualified Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that outline qualifications and highlight experiences that have adequately prepared the organization to deliver results towards a successful community-based relevant project. Specifically, the NGO is requested to submit to RDB a technical proposal on:

- Management and technical expertise and experience which will enable the organization to offer relevant support to community level related project design with operational features that support (economic, social and environmental) sustainability of the projects.
- Implementation of the livelihood improvement plans
- Business planning outlining strategies for capacitation of communities to implement projects through trainings, mentorship/ apprenticeship, etc
- Social support during the resettlement process (Technical assistance during land acquisition, use of infrastructure in the smart green village, coaching on the use of fund from expropriation, etc. .... )

In addition, the interested applicant will describe a delivery mechanism, the timeframe for effective support to project implementation and the cost estimates to support required operations in the 4 villages which fall under the park expansion pilot project.

The budget range for one proposal should be (Rwf 20,000,000 – Rwf 25,000,000), this amount may be higher in case the submitted proposal demonstrates a strong justification

### **Guidelines on responding to the call for proposal**

1. A brief summary on the rationale for the expression of interest in the call for proposal
2. Information on the Organization (profile)
3. **Description of the key activities:** (detailed planned activities)

4. **Eligibility criteria:** Demonstrated experience based on implementing community-based projects and demonstrated evidence in promotion of social protection and being an Active member of JADF Musanze is added advantage. The Applicant should be able to show an experience in Conservation, community-based adaptation, Community tourism and Community based projects.
5. **Methodology:** must clearly show how sustainability; gender mainstreaming; inclusiveness and innovation will be achieved in execution of the assignment.
6. **Funding details and use:** Demonstrated accountability in managing institutional funds
7. **Duration of the services:** Confirmation that the potential NGO will be available for 12 consecutive months
8. Profile to the team to be involved in the project

#### **Additional competencies conditions**

In order to obtain competent applicants, screening process will be carried out in a fair, transparent, and competitive multi-step process basing on demonstration of effective support to implementation at the community level based on the following capabilities:

1. Elaboration of a sound business plan template to be used by community ( a draft need to be shared in your technical proposal)
2. Ability to train and support communities in business plan development and implementation
3. Ability to support community in resettlement process
4. To establish Monitoring and evaluation framework
5. To establish reporting tools and procedures
6. To establish the conflict-of-interest management
7. To elaborate the appeals and grievances management process

#### **NGO Profile**

The Candidate NGO must fulfil the following criteria:

- The NGO must be registered in Rwanda with at least 5 years of experience in technical assistance to community in resilient livelihoods
- The NGO must operate in Volcanoes landscape for the past three years
- Having successfully accomplished similar assignments.
- Experience in project management cycle.
- Experience in business development.
- Experience in successful community-based fund management.
- A track record of community-based project support that has demonstrated reliable sustainability features

#### **How to Apply**

The interested NGOs can send their full application proposal with its annexes to the following address in a sealed envelope containing a hard copy and a soft copy on a clean flash drive:

Reception desk



Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

KG 220 St, Kigali,

Gishushu | Kigali | Rwanda

P.O. Box 6239 Kigali, Rwanda

The documents will be submitted on or before the Deadline. The Deadline for the submission is **30 June 2023 by 5:00 PM.**

The Expression of interest shall consist of the technical proposal together with its attachments. The following documents will be submitted in response to the call for proposal:

1. Technical proposal
2. Detailed budget
3. NGO registration certificate
4. References for implementing similar assignment

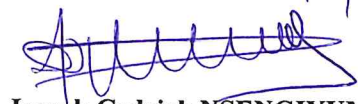
#### **Online seminar**

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, RDB will organize an online seminar in order to give interested organizations an idea of what is needed. In addition, in-depth information about the selection process and the further procedure will be provided.

Should you be interested in this information session, please send an email by 10 June 2023 to [patrick.nsabimana@rdb.rw](mailto:patrick.nsabimana@rdb.rw) with a copy to [telesphore.ngoga@rdb.rw](mailto:telesphore.ngoga@rdb.rw), indicating name, surname and email address of the persons who are going to participate as well as their organization (maximum two participants per organization).

For any further details or inquiries with regard to the application process, please contact us at email: [Patrick.nsabimana@rdb.rw](mailto:Patrick.nsabimana@rdb.rw)

Done at Kigali, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023



**Joseph Cedrick NSENGIYUMVA**  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Rwanda Development Board

