



The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is an international non-governmental environmental organization that has been operating in Uganda for more than 50 years. WCS works to conserve biological diversity and ecosystem function through applied research, management of natural resources, and providing technical support to Ugandan organizations and agencies.

Conservation Finance Consultant to deliver training on innovative biodiversity financing solutions involving the private sector

Terms of Reference

WCS Country Program: Uganda

Background

With support from USAID through the closed USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund Activity cooperative agreement, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) implemented activities that established the Uganda Biodiversity Trust Fund (UBTF), also known by the brand name Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBF). In 2020, UBF received a follow-up five-year award running from May 2020 to May 2024 direct from USAID intended to develop UBF further into a reputable, well-functioning, sustainable entity capable of generating and managing funds for biodiversity conservation in Uganda.

Grant-based financing of biodiversity conservation initiatives from philanthropists and other conventional donors is less reliable than in the past, due to several factors such as changes in donor priorities, geographies, political interests, among others. It is increasingly becoming clear that conventional grant funding is not adequate to address all the fundamental threats to biodiversity across the globe, and that while government spending constitutes a significant portion of available funding for biodiversity, it also cannot fully meet the funding need. It is therefore important to pursue innovative approaches to secure the requisite financial resources to sustain biodiversity conservation impact. The private sector is poised as a substantial player to leverage finance to realize conservation aims. To be a viable and sustainable institution, UBF is pursuing a mix of approaches involving conventional donors on one hand and developing innovative solutions to generate funds particularly those involving the private sector. The implementation of financing innovations involving the private sector requires a specialist (s) to provide and accustom such knowledge and skills in institutions where such capability is non-existent. To this end, WCS, using funds from a sub award from UBF and a grant from NORAD, is seeking the services of an experienced conservation finance specialist to train members of the Board of Trustees and management of UBF on effective approaches to raise funds from the private sector for biodiversity conservation.

Objectives and scope of the consultancy

The goal of the training is to strengthen UBF's knowledge and skillset on innovative financing mechanisms that involve the private sector for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services. The main objective is to deliver a training course on effective approaches to raise funds from the private sector for biodiversity conservation, capitalizing on some known financing innovations such as impact

investments, management of biodiversity offsets, payments for ecosystem services, to mention but a few.

Activities/Tasks

1. Identify the potential sources of funding that could be available from the private sector and outline those that would be most feasible in Uganda.
2. Train the participants to gain an understanding of impact investment and Positive Impact Finance for Business and Biodiversity explaining the possibilities and challenges of developing such programs to protect biodiversity. Provide examples of successful impact investing programs for conservation.
3. Guide participants to understand mitigation banking and investments in conservation to deliver offset benefits and the how such programs might be developed in Uganda.
4. Train the participants in biodiversity and social business management, including options such as social and environment performance bonds, and others.
5. Train participants in the operation of carbon markets for forest protection and restoration in Uganda, describing potential market opportunities and the role that UBF could play (market analysis, demand analysis, risks and opportunities, financial analysis, scaling and product development and branding).
6. Provide referenced literature on safeguards and standards for nature-based financing mechanisms.
7. Train participants in techniques for management of offset funds, and oversight and management of offset projects.
8. Develop a training manual covering the above aspects with case studies.

Deliverables

- Training materials.
- Deliver a training organized by WCS (Due to COVID_19 pandemic, standard operating procedures as approved by the ministry of health, as well as the World Health Organisation, shall be respected).
- Reference materials for the participants.

Timing for the training

The training shall be carried out within the quarter starting April and ending in June 2021. The duration of the activity will not be less than a week.

Qualifications, skills, and competencies required

The consultant will have:

- a) At least a master's degree in the field of natural resource management, environmental economics, or a similar field, and with experience in conservation finance.
- b) At least 10 years' experience participating in the development or implementation of impact investment, biodiversity offsets, or PES projects.
- c) Experience in delivering training to top managers and policymakers of institutions.
- d) Excellent verbal and communication skills.
- e) Knowledge of best practices and ability to suggest effective financing solutions appropriate to UBF, and documenting them.

Duration of the work

The work is expected to involve between 10 and 15 working days, including travel to Uganda (if permitted at the time).

Submission

The proposal should include a description of the approach, description of the personnel, and estimated personnel and travel costs.

The deadline for submission is Monday, 10 May 2021, 17:00 Pacific Daylight Time.

Applications should be sent to Katy Mathias (kmathias@wcs.org).