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USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) Activity



Activity Overview

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience (B4R) Activity (2020-2025) provides technical assistance to communities, the government of Uganda, 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 Activity supports community wildlife conservancies and protected area management while promoting market-based solutions, including nature-based tourism and other conservation enterprises, to improve stewardship of the natural resources necessary to sustain Uganda's economic development.

Additional cross-cutting activities include promotion of resiliency strategies; inclusion of women, youth, and other marginalized people; private sector engagement; capacity building; and deliberate use of collaborating, learning, and adapting techniques.

Target Landscapes

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity will initially prioritize the conservation of key biodiversity in four landscapes with possibility for future expansion to Queen Elizabeth National Park and Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve. The four target landscapes are:

- Kidepo Valley National Park area: Karenga Community Wildlife Area and Central Forest Reserves of Timu, Morungole, Nyagea Napore, Lwala, and Rom. Districts: Karenga, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Kitgum, and Agago.
- Murchison Falls National Park area: Murchison Community Conservancy in Packwach and Nwoya districts.
- Budongo Central Forest Reserve in Masindi, Hoima, Buliisa districts.
- Lake Mburo National Park area: Rurambira Conservancy in districts of Isingiro, Kiruhura, Rakai, and Mbarara City.

Duration: June 1, 2020 – June 1, 2025

Funding level: \$15,000,000

Implementing Partner: RTI International

Consortium Partners:

- African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)
- Viamo.

Target Species

- Elephant • Lion • Giraffe • Hippo
- Cheetah • Chimpanzee

Our Vision

Our work aims to create landscapes where wildlife populations, natural habitats, and empowered communities are resilient and prosperous.



Strategic Approaches

1. Economic, financial, and social investments are linked to and incentivize conservation.
2. Governance arrangements benefit biodiversity and enable communities to benefit from biodiversity.
3. The Government of Uganda strengthens its sustainable management of targeted protected areas and biodiversity adjacent to these areas.

Projected Impact

- Increased capacity to manage biodiversity.
- Economic and other benefits that incentivize conservation; and
- Enhanced coexistence and reduced conflicts with wildlife.

Expected Results

- Reduced threats to biodiversity and more resilient ecosystems and species populations in critical landscapes.
- Sustained financial capital through innovation, diversified livelihoods, and income generating activities.
- Fully funded and professionally executed conservancy management.
- Development and improvement of biodiversity-friendly integrated land use plans.
- Increased awareness of risks and effects of invasive species and disease outbreaks by communities, private sector, and local governments.
- Strengthened conservancies, protected areas, and local government coordination frameworks.

Snapshot: The Strategic Investment Fund

The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) is a flagship B4R initiative that aims to stimulate investment in nature-based economies in target landscapes. The SIF targets primarily private sector companies, as well as non-profit and community-based entities with business activities in or around the B4R target landscapes. Selected private sector companies or organizations will make positive and measurable impact and contribute to biodiversity conservation. Overall, SIF awardees are expected to develop resilient and diversified local economies, with participation of women, youth, and other disadvantaged groups.

The Activity provides technical assistance to applicants for the application process, business/financial planning, and social, conservation, and environmental compliance. B4R guides awardees on both how to successfully implement their projects and how to achieve tangible biodiversity impact. Awards range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per project for a duration of 24 to 36 months.

The USAID/Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity issued the first SIF request for proposals in November 2020, tied to achieving biodiversity conservation objectives in Kidepo Valley, Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo, and Budongo Forest landscapes.

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Strategic Investment Fund

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.



Eligibility Criteria

Private sector organizations, as well as eligible non-profit and community-based entities with business activities, which are owned and/or operated by individuals, entrepreneurs, or cooperatives, and are officially registered as private enterprises and legally allowed to conduct business in Uganda. In addition, applicants must have:

- A functioning governance and management structure
- Physical presence in target landscapes.
- Other co-investment for the project (e.g., by owners, members, or others)
- A clear and compelling business/project and financing plan.

Biodiversity and Social Impact Criteria

- Demonstrate plans to make a positive and measurable impact or contribution to biodiversity conservation in the B4R target landscapes.
- Develop resilient and diversified local economies, with the participation of women, youth, and other disadvantaged groups.

Target Landscapes

- Kidepo Valley National Park area
- Murchison Falls NP area
- Lake Mburo NP area
- Budongo Forest area

Award Terms

- Awards range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per project.
- The award duration is between 24 to 36 months (about 3 years).

Application and Appraisal Process

Expression of Interest Announcement → Concept Note Submission → Screening → Full Application for short-listed Applicants → Appraisal Process → Grant Award

Target Sectors



Technical Assistance



Technical Assistance is provided to assist with the application process, business/financial planning and social, conservation and environmental compliance. B4R will guide awardees on both how to successfully implement their projects and how to achieve tangible biodiversity impact.

For more information, please contact SIF@ugandabiodiversity.rti.org

