

Conservation Equity Limited Biodiversity Baseline Survey Consultancy Terms of Reference

Background

Conservation Equity Limited (CEL) is a first-of-its-kind Environmental Benefit Corporation that creates long-term sustainable funding for ecosystem-scale conservation programs and community social services, through investments in high-end ecotourism assets.

CEL received co-financing from USAID Africa Trade and Investment Program to implement a project titled “Carbon Neutral Community Based Tourism & Conservation” in Kitenden Conservancy, Kajiado County. Kitenden Conservancy, one of the most important wildlife dispersal corridors in East Africa, lies between Kenya's Amboseli National Park and Tanzania's Mt Kilimanjaro National Park, covering about 30,000 acres. CEL leased the conservancy from individual landowners in 2023 for purposes of biodiversity conservation and development of eco-tourism facilities for the ultimate benefit of nature and local communities. Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) is the duly appointed Kitenden Conservancy manager. These Terms of Reference (ToR) outline the objective, scope, methodology, and deliverables for conducting a biodiversity baseline survey at Kitenden Conservancy.

1. Objective

The primary objective of this biodiversity baseline survey is to generate data on the current status of both vegetation and wildlife biodiversity within Kitenden Conservancy.

2. Scope of work

The biodiversity baseline survey consultancy shall cover the following:

- **Development of indicators:** The consultant shall develop appropriate monitoring indicators for both vegetation and wildlife biodiversity in collaboration with the Kitenden Conservancy manager.
- **Generation of baseline data:** The consultant shall apply appropriate methods and tools to generate and record data on the current status of both vegetation and wildlife biodiversity within Kitenden Conservancy in line with the developed indicators.

3. Methodology

The consultant shall use a combination of the following approaches:

- **Desk review:** This shall entail review of publications, reports, permits, maps, and any other relevant documents on Kitenden Conservancy.
- **Field visits:** This shall entail traveling to Kitenden Conservancy for purposes of familiarisation and collection of primary data on both vegetation and wildlife biodiversity using appropriate methods and tools.
- **Stakeholder interviews:** This shall entail engagement with key stakeholders including conservancy manager, local community members and other relevant parties.
- **Data analysis and reporting:** This shall entail processing of both qualitative and quantitative data on biodiversity indicators and generating a comprehensive biodiversity baseline survey report for Kitenden Conservancy.

4. Deliverables

The following reports and documents are expected as part of the biodiversity baseline survey:

- **Inception report:** Outlining the survey methodology, workplan, and key deliverables.
- **Draft biodiversity baseline survey report:** A draft report highlighting relevant biodiversity indicators, baseline data, and recommended monitoring plan.
- **Final biodiversity baseline survey report:** A final detailed report including relevant biodiversity indicators, baseline data, and recommended monitoring plan for both vegetation and wildlife biodiversity in a format approved by CEL.

5. Qualification of the consultant

The consultant or lead consultant in case of a consultancy firm should meet the following qualifications:

- Postgraduate degree in applied social sciences research, natural resource economics, natural resource management, development studies, or any other relevant discipline.
- Demonstrated experience of at least 5 years in conducting biodiversity surveys, evaluations, development of conservancy management plans, biodiversity monitoring plans or other related works.
- Demonstrated competence in qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis.
- Strong presentation and report-writing skills in English language.
- Experience working with indigenous peoples will be an added advantage.

6. Timeframe

The biodiversity baseline survey is expected to take a maximum of **45 consecutive calendar days** including fieldwork, data analysis, and report submission.

7. Payment Schedule

Payments shall be made based on delivery of the agreed milestones:

%	Milestone
10%	At contract signing
30%	On submission of the Inception Report
30%	On submission of the Draft Biodiversity Baseline Survey Report
30%	On submission of the Final Biodiversity Baseline Survey Report

8. Confidentiality

The consultant must treat all project data and stakeholder information as confidential and must not disclose any information without prior written consent from CEL.

9. Application

Interested qualified consultants are requested to apply by COB Thursday 14th November 2024. The application should consist of detailed Curriculum Vitae, work plan and detailed budget for the tasks contained in the Terms of Reference. In case of application by firms, the lead consultant should be indicated, and his/her CV attached alongside those of other key personnel. All applications should be emailed to info@conservation-equity.com by the close date. Only applicants in whom there is further interest shall be contacted.



10. Equal opportunity

CEL is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against any rights protected by Kenyan laws.