



Terms of Reference: Business case and potential stewardship options of Ecological Infrastructure within Mopani and Eastern Vhembe District Municipalities of the Greater Kruger area

Kruger-2-Canyons fixed term contract: 1 year

Salary: R400 000 (14 days allocation per month)

1. Context

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Protected Area (PA) Programme for South Africa aims to improve the management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the Protected Area Network. Investment in Ecological Infrastructure for the expansion and management of Protected Areas is notably one of the key programme outputs. Core implementing partners of the GEF PA Programme include Kruger to Canyons and Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (LEDET), with a focus on the critical biodiversity in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot.

2. Purpose

To develop a business case to secure important ecological infrastructure through ecosystem based adaption, stewardship and sustainable financing options within the Mopani and Eastern Vhembe District Municipalities of the Greater Kruger Limpopo region.

3. Objectives

2.1 To develop a situational analysis report of the ecological infrastructure and ecosystem based adaption status quo, current institutional arrangements, impact of current programmes, priorities and gaps within the study area;

2.2 To identify and develop a strategic partnership strategy with government, private sector and communities, in support of ecological infrastructure programmes within the identified priority areas, including strategic water source and other land use areas;

2.3. To develop a broad scale Business Plan (resource economy report), which will lead to unlocking sustainable financing options, seeking to secure identified priorities through a range of ecosystem based adaptation, stewardship and socio-economic interventions;

2.4. To support the development of stewardship and/or other cooperative agreement between relevant entities to secure important ecosystem/strategic water source area, and/or to increase land under improved management practices within prioritised areas (as per status quo report);

2.5 To develop an implementation plan for key ecological infrastructure projects with identified partners;

2.6 To strengthen strategic partnerships with research and other identified institutions;

2.7 To support the development of institutional capacity within the Vhembe biosphere, in partnership with the K2C biosphere, with a key focus on ecological infrastructure/land use incentives and sustainable financing projects within the Greater Kruger region.

4. Scope of Work

The GSDKP as a guiding framework



The Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme is a landscape based strategic partnership approach between communities, public and private sector that seeks to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecological services, and contribute to conservation compatible rural economic growth. The Greater Kruger partnership between Protected areas, Traditional authorities, the Vhembe and K2C biospheres, private sector, NGOs and government, seeks to strengthen knowledge transfer, environmental decision-making and the building of institutional capacity, streamlined to support priority projects focussed on sustaining ecosystems and natural resource use at the livelihood and landscape level within the footprints of the Vhembe, Mopani and Ehlanzeni District municipalities.

The GKSDP spatially focuses on securing ecological infrastructure within the strategic water sources areas of the Mutale, Luvuvhu, Letaba, Olifants, Blyde, Sabie, and Crocodile river systems, as well as the downstream rangeland and wildlife economies. It furthermore seeks to improve the well-being of communities benefiting from climate change adaptation interventions, and pilot new financing mechanisms to fulfil conservation management and socio-economic objectives.

Spatial focus embedded within the GKSDP

The eastern Vhembe District and North-eastern Mopani District Municipalities within the Greater Kruger area of South Africa include the Soutpansberg and Wolkberg mountain areas, respectively. Whilst both are noted for their biodiversity value in terms of endemism and ecosystems, they also form part of UNESCO Biospheres. Importantly they are also identified as Strategic Water Source Areas in terms of both the surface water and groundwater provisioning services (Le Maitre et al., 2018). Notably there are a large number of riverine wetland systems that also contribute to this, particularly in the headwaters of the Mutale River, which includes the sacred Lake Fundudzi. Presently a very low percentage of these regions are formally conserved or under some form of catchment stewardship. This presents a risk to the future water security and the benefits that can be gained from these areas under climate change vulnerabilities. This can significantly impact the socio-economies of the region and the freshwater ecosystems of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Area (GLTFCA, Treaty 2002) and the Limpopo River Basin.

Consideration needs to be given to identify and develop potential partnerships that can lead to the long term stewardship, ecosystem based adaptation and sustainable financing options of the regions either through co-operative agreements or formal conservation management, and /or alternative forms of partnership and land use arrangements. This will note the diverse issues underlying this potential given the main stakeholder groups and diverse cultural heritage: Traditional Authorities; Municipal and urban sectors, and the largely rural population that resides in the Greater region: Mopani and Eastern Vhembe. Furthermore there is significant areas under plantation forestry, both private and state owned and large commercial agriculture for export fruit and nut crops both in headwater regions, whilst land within the adjacent Greater Kruger Protected area footprint lends itself to land under improvement management (stewardship, rangeland management and restoration practices).

The proposed work will support a number of National initiatives around identifying opportunity to leverage the maintenance and preservation of ecological infrastructure and also a number of global priorities including the CBD's Aichi Targets and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Consultation process

A stakeholder engagement strategy should be developed to informed strategic stakeholder engagement. Consultation should be done with, but not be limited to:

K2C and Vhembe Biospheres; DFFE; Mpumalanga and Limpopo Natural Resource Management Programmes; Limpopo Department of Agriculture: rangeland/restoration projects; Research institutions (ARC, University of Venda, etc.), private sector (e.g. ZZ2, the Greater Kruger Protected area network, NGOs e.g. Conservation



Outcomes, WWF, MTPA, LEDET, Traditional authority structures in the study area, Mopani and Vhembe District Municipalities), etc.

6. Reference documentation

Existing documentation should be consulted to inform the scope of work, including but not limited to the following: the Greater Kruger Strategic Development Programme (GKSDP), the K2C and Vhembe Biosphere Strategies, the National Ecosystem based adaptation report, the National Carbon sink report, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provincial NRMP priorities including new prioritisation processes, Strategic water source reports, sustainable financing solutions including but not limited to the Greater Kruger Development Fund, the K2C from the Region for the Region (K2C fRfR), etc.

7. Deliverables

- 7.1 Status-quo report (Month 1-4) with detailed literature review (grey/published) and knowledge harvesting through interviews on the historical and present management of ecological infrastructure in the project area including public sector programs such as WfW/NRM as well as any private sector initiatives e.g. partnerships or legacy projects.
- 7.2 Stakeholder Mapping (Geo-Referenced) with comprehensive contact list, and stakeholder strategy (month 4)
- 7.3 Business Case (Resource Economy Scenarios Report) (Month 7)
- 7.4 Strategy to develop institutional capacity in the Vhembe biosphere to support the ecological infrastructure programmes (month 10)
- 7.5 Initiate partnership agreement(s) with key partner(s) through stewardship and/or other cooperative agreements, which will seek to secure ecological infrastructure whilst unlocking sustainable socio-economic options (month 11)
- 7.6 Implementation plan (month 9-12) based on comprehensive interviews and discussion with potential partners, identifying key leverage points for future investments (public, public-private, private sector, NGO) to secure or steward ecological infrastructure and their provisioning and regulating services, with socio-economic downstream benefits
- 7.7 Partnership arrangements strengthened with research institutions to support knowledge management, data management and further opportunities/research pertaining to ecological infrastructure, ecosystem based adaptation and monitoring, sustainable livelihood options (month 11).

8. Reporting

The position will be appointed through the K2C Biosphere, funded by the Global Environmental Facility Protected area Programme (GEF PA). The position will therefore need to comply with the K2C Policy arrangements. The position will operationally report to the SANParks GM Regional Integration, but the position will support collaborative partnership arrangements, as guided by the line manager.

9. Appointment

The position will be appointed for a fixed term period of 1 year. The candidate will need to keep a time-sheet, working 14 days/month (8 hour day). The fixed term amount of R400 000 is all inclusive. A limited budget for



travelling is available, additional to the above. The location of the position within the study area can be negotiated, in liaison with the K2C and SANParks.

10. Submission of interest

The applicant should list all qualifications and other relevant work done in support of the application. Closing date for submissions are 31 August 2020.

Please forward your application to bufferzone@kruger2canyons.org

Postal address:

PO Box 408

Hoedspruit

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For any queries, contact: Dr Marisa Coetzee

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