



INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY BIDS

1.0 Introduction

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. TNC has been working in Tanzania and Africa at large for over seven years.

Under the auspices of the Tuungane Program, TNC invites qualified consultancy firms/institutions or individual consultant to undertake a formative research among young females and develop a Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) strategy which will promote educational attainment and delayed child bearing for young females in the Tuungane program area in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem as detailed in the Terms of reference below.

2.0 Terms of Reference for conducting a formative research among young females and developing a Behavioral Change Communication Strategy (BCC) for promoting educational attainment and delayed childbearing in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem in Western Tanzania

Lake Tanganyika is one of Africa's Great Lakes that contains 17 percent of the world's freshwater and is home to over 250 species of fish found nowhere else in the world. This "inland ocean" forms the western boundary of the Greater Mahale (GME) ecosystem in Tanzania—a 4.8-million-acre forested landscape that is home to approximately 93 percent of Tanzania's 2,800 endangered chimpanzees and other diverse fauna and flora. However, the rich and diverse natural resources as well as the well-being of people in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem are threatened by rapidly increasing population, inadequate access to health services, education, nutrition and clean water. According to the Tuungane project's baseline survey conducted in 10 villages around Mahale Mountains National Park in 2011, the area has one of the highest population growth rates of 4.8% per annum, only 17% of women in reproductive age using modern methods of contraception, a total fertility rate of 7.2 per woman compared to the national average of 5.4 children, at least 33% of births that were not planned; 14% of women aged 15 years that had already had their first birth and 49% of the populations below 15 years. Literacy rates are low and many families are surviving on less than \$150 per year. As the condition of the natural resource declines, villagers, usually women and children spend even more time finding the supplies they need for basic survival; causing rates of poverty, disease and environmental degradation to increase.

In order to help communities address the myriad of problems within the GME, the Tuungane project - a collaborative initiative by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Pathfinder International (PI), is implementing six (6) integrated strategies in a geographically phased approach in order to improve health, livelihoods and natural resource management in the GME. This approach is known as integrated PHE (Population, Health and Environment) programming and has an understanding that human populations can be one of the major threats to the environment they inhabit and yet human health and the environment are inextricably linked. The PHE approach also has an understanding that working across the human health and environment sectors is more effective than pursuing their interventions in isolation.

2.0 Objectives

The main objective of this consultancy is to conduct a formative research among young females and use the findings to develop a Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) strategy which will promote educational attainment and delayed childbearing for young girls in the six pilot Tuungane Program villages.

The specific objectives are:

- To conduct formative study amongst young female in the six Tuungane program villages of Buhingu, Katumbi, Nkonkwa, Sibwesa, Kalya and Kashagulu within and outside schools.
- Develop a BCC strategy which will address main causative factors for early girl child pregnancy, childbearing and poor educational attainment.
- Present the BCC strategy at the stakeholders' meeting for feedback, comments and additional inputs from the stakeholders.

3.0 Methodology and duration

The consultant (s) will work with project staff and communities the Tuungane Program area for a period of up 1 month, learning and understanding various drivers for early childhood pregnancy, childbearing and poor educational attainment. The consultant is free to use any other appropriate social research methodologies which will enable him/her understand the root causes for the issues mentioned above and thus be able to develop an appropriate and/or practical BCC strategy which will address the issues of early childhood pregnancy, childbearing and poor educational attainment. In addition to the general community, the Consultant may work with various community institutions such as Beach Management Units (BMUs), Community Conservation Banks (COCOBAs), Roots and Shoots, Village Forests scouts, Village Council members, COBET pupils and adult community members learning in REFLECT cycles and other religious leaders.

4.0 Consultancy outputs

The main output from this consultancy work is the **Behavior Change Communication (BCC) strategy** which will help the Tuungane Program promote educational attainment and delayed childbearing for young females in the Tuungane program area.

5.0 Expertise and qualifications required

This consultancy requires highly qualified and experienced consultant(s) in environment/natural resource management, reproductive health and family planning, livelihoods and communication. Knowledge and experience in PHE programs, IEC messages development and campaign, Reproductive health, Communication channels and Audience stratification and Education system in Tanzania will be an added advantage.

6.0 Supervision and Reporting

The successful consultant (s) will work under technical guidance of the Tuungane IEC & Advocacy Officer. The overall supervision of the consultancy work shall be under the Tuungane Project Manager. The consultant shall report to the project manager in timely manner and adherence to TOR duration.

7.0 Application procedure.

Suitably qualified consultants(s) should submit their resume/CV, technical and financial proposal to Africa@tnc.org subject line: Consultancy work to develop BCC strategy to promote educational attainment and delayed childbearing in the GME. **Applications must be submitted by 19th June 2015 to be considered.**