

Call for Expressions of Interest:

Hosting the BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Eastern and Southern Africa

1. Background

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management ([BIOPAMA](http://www.biopama.org)) programme aims at improving the long-term conservation of biodiversity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries by promoting the use of the best available science and knowledge and building capacity to strengthen policy and decision-making on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management (terrestrial and marine). BIOPAMA is implemented jointly by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and EC-JRC (European Commission Joint Research Centre) and is an initiative of the ACP Secretariat funded by the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). For more information on BIOPAMA, please see www.biopama.org

In line with its overall objective to support evidence-based decision-making on biodiversity conservation and protected areas, BIOPAMA will establish a *Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas* in Eastern and Southern Africa, hosted within an existing regional organization. The Regional Resource Hub will facilitate the provision of relevant data and information to assist in better planning and decision-making, support exchange of knowledge and expertise and, in partnership with existing institutions, build regional capacity to support the use of data and information for policy and decision-making. A strong emphasis will be placed on supporting the uptake and use of information by policy-makers. Therefore, it is important that the Regional Resource Hub host has national and regional linkages and experience with approaches and mechanisms to bridge what is often viewed as a gap between science and policy.

The objective of this Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) is to identify and select a host institution for the *Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas* in Eastern and Southern Africa.

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2. Description of the Opportunity and Requirements for hosting the Regional Resource Hub

The BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub will be housed in one physical location, with suitable office space and IT infrastructure to service the whole Eastern and Southern African (ESA) region. The ESA region, as defined by IUCN, consists of 24 countries: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, eSwatini, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Criteria for the selection of the Host Institution

To qualify as the Host Institution for the BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub for Eastern and Southern Africa, the organisation must meet the following criteria:

1. **Governmental mandate.** The Regional Resource Hub host needs to be a government-mandated organisation.
2. **Geographical coverage.** The Regional Resource Hub host's government mandate needs to cover the majority of the 24 ESA countries.
3. **Relevant thematic expertise.** The Regional Resource Hub host needs to be able to illustrate that they have relevant thematic experience related to protected areas and biodiversity.
4. **In-house technical capacity in data management.** The Regional Resource Hub host needs to provide evidence of in-house technical capacity in data management and related capacity building.
5. **Experience in hosting similar regional initiatives.** Evidence needs to be provided that the Regional Resource Hub host has experience in hosting similar regional initiatives.
6. **Sustainability.** Evidence needs to be provided as regards the sustainability of the organisation beyond the life of the BIOPAMA programme (2023).

Furthermore, the Regional Resource Hub host should be in a position to:

- a) provide suitable working facilities for the Regional Resource Hub staff, when needed (BIOPAMA Project Officer and JRC Technical Developer);
- b) provide excellent telecommunications and information technology support;
- c) establish links and synergies between the global BIOPAMA Reference Information System (RIS), the hosting institution and other regional institutions and networks, regarding the development and use of data, information, and tools for protected areas management and biodiversity conservation;
- d) facilitate/support information flow to and from decision makers.

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The Regional Resource Hub is also expected to create virtual links with other institutions across the region.

The host institution should be highly committed to BIOPAMA's objectives and prepared to work in a close and collaborative partnership with IUCN, JRC, the Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and different types of users to establish the service-oriented role of the Regional Resource Hub, create synergies for delivering BIOPAMA's objectives, and secure the niche and demand to sustain the programme in the longer term.

There is start-up budget that will cover some of the essential operation and administration costs to align the Regional Resource Hub with BIOPAMA's ACP-wide Reference Information System (RIS) and other Regional RISs, as well as to support capacity building for countries to collect and submit data to the Regional Resource Hub.

The host organization will benefit from high regional and global visibility in the context of BIOPAMA, and from close interaction with IUCN and its technical networks, as well as JRC scientists and technology development specialists through various mechanisms.

3. Responding to this Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

An Eoi may be submitted by an organization with a regional mandate, located and operating in the ESA region¹ For-profit consulting firms are not eligible to apply for this opportunity.

Organizations when preparing an Eoi should complete the template provided (to download the template go to https://www.biopama.org/sites/default/files/resources-doc/submission_template_Eoi_BIOPAMA_ESA_regional_resource_hub.doc) and should consult the Regional Resource Hub Terms of Reference (see Appendix). Organizations will have to demonstrate in their submission how they meet all of the criteria outlined in Section 2 above and in the Appendix. The submission should be 5-10 pages, maximum, using single-spaced, 10-point font. For each question, guidance is provided in the Eoi template as to suggested length of response. If an organization finds it important to elaborate beyond this length, that is acceptable, provided the total response is within the 10 page limit.

Organizations are encouraged to include as appendices their latest annual report and strategic plan. If readily available, a matrix summarizing expertise of technical staff, summary of training/capacity building activities, catalogue of services the organization provides, and

¹Eastern and Southern African countries that are part of the ACP Group are eligible to apply to host the Regional Resource Hub.

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institutional data policy can be included. This supplemental information is excluded from the 5-10 page limit.

Interested organizations are encouraged to contact Dr Sue Snyman (sue.snyman@iucn.org) and cc Leo Niskanen (leo.niskanen@iucn.org) with any questions or requests for clarification prior to the closing date for responses.

All responses should be delivered electronically by 11:59 p.m., Johannesburg, South Africa time **Sunday 25th November 2018** as an email attachment sent to sue.snyman@iucn.org [attention: Dr Sue Snyman] and cc leo.niskanen@iucn.org [Leo Niskanen]. Each submission will receive an electronic notification of receipt.

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Appendix:

Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas

Terms of Reference

A. Overview

The establishment of a *Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas* in the Eastern and Southern African region is a central component of the [BIOPAMA programme](#), which has the objective of improving the long-term conservation of biodiversity by promoting the use of the best available science and knowledge and building capacity to strengthen policy and decision-making on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management (terrestrial and marine), governance and equity. A key feature of the Regional Resource Hub will be a Regional Reference Information System (RRIS). It is envisaged that the Regional Resource Hub will be focused on **policy support and capacity development, networking and communications, and providing science-based data and information to support management decisions and policy processes**. The Regional Resource Hub will primarily engage with national and regional level agencies and institutions, with additional targeted interaction with protected area managers. The Regional Resource Hub will be hosted by a regionally focused Eastern and Southern African institution.

The primary anticipated outcomes of a successfully functioning Regional Resource Hub are:

- improved availability and access to data to feed into the development of tools/applications within the RRIS;
- tailored tools meeting targeted policy/decision-makers' needs;
- strengthened capacity of target decision-makers to integrate geospatial tools and information into decision-making processes;
- enabled hosting organization acting as a facilitator in sustainable regional networks involving data collection, spatial analysis, training, and protected area management best practices and knowledge sharing;
- heightened awareness of the value of protected areas as legitimate land/resource uses, recognized and upheld in development decisions.

The effectiveness of the Regional Resource Hub will ultimately be measured by the degree to which the tools, analyses, trainings, and dialogues contribute to national and regional governments making sound protected area management and biodiversity conservation decisions.

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The BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub Team will include: IUCN, JRC, and the Regional Resource Hub host. IUCN is leading the establishment and operation of the Regional Resource Hub and the capacity building programme, and JRC will lead the design, development, and technical operation of the RRIS. The Regional Resource Hub host will work closely with IUCN and JRC in designing and executing a phased implementation approach for the Regional Resource Hub. The Regional Resource Hub host will have a strong alignment with the vision and mission (see below) for the Regional Resource Hub and will contribute knowledge and relationships to ensure wide collaboration with other, related initiatives.

Vision: To be a leading resource hub for biodiversity conservation and protected areas supporting sustainable development in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Mission: To provide decision makers at local, national and regional levels with relevant and practical data, tools, information, and services, to achieve more effective biodiversity and socio-economic outcomes for protected and conserved areas and systems. Also, to provide support through capacity building, knowledge sharing and technical expertise. To support the design, planning and establishment of conservation and protected areas and systems.

The Regional Resource Hub will form part of the BIOPAMA regional observatory network that includes Central and West Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

B. Eastern and Southern Africa: context, challenges and protected areas

The Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region is extremely rich in biodiversity. It hosts the remaining large populations of iconic megafauna and spectacular ecological processes of globally outstanding value such as the largest remaining wildlife migrations on the continent. The ESA region is host to a number of global centres of species endemism. The ESA region also hosts seven of the eight biodiversity hotspots in Sub-Saharan Africa and numerous Key Biodiversity Areas (i.e. sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems). The ESA region currently hosts 25 natural World Heritage Sites listed by the World Heritage Convention. These sites are all protected areas that are considered to be of Globally Outstanding Universal Value and are of great importance to biodiversity conservation. Much of the ESA region's biodiversity is highly threatened.

The region's diverse ecosystems provide a wide range of services that are of vital importance to the livelihoods of the people in the region. This natural capital underpins the economy of the ESA region, e.g. as the basis of the tourism industry which contributes a significant amount to the region's GDP. There is, however, an increasing risk of extinction of species and lack of data related to species and habitats, etc.

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Comprehensive and reliable information, as well as the capacity to interpret and use this information, are key elements that can support planning and sound decision-making for biodiversity and protected areas in the ESA region. Good quality data, which is comparable over time and across countries, assists in decision-making and can provide much-needed concrete evidence for existing and potential problems or challenges, as well as to highlight successes. It is critical that decisions on the use of natural resources (both terrestrial and marine) are sustainable in the long-term and do not compromise the resources upon which we ultimately depend for livelihoods and survival. Protected and conserved areas play a crucial role in safeguarding some of these resources, and therefore, decisions affecting protected areas and their surroundings need to be informed by the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available. This is one of the tasks that BIOPAMA is aiming to tackle.

Through the development of the Regional Resource Hub for Biodiversity and Protected Areas BIOPAMA will support decision makers in making sound decisions on the management and governance of natural resources in the region. This includes relevant information, data and analyses as well as the capacity to use and interpret this information to ensure that the value of protected and conserved areas as a legitimate land use is recognized and upheld in development decisions.

C. Criteria for the Regional Resource Hub host

The Regional Resource Hub host needs to be meet all of the following criteria:

7. Governmental mandate

The Regional Resource Hub host needs to be a government-mandated organisation.

8. Geographical coverage

The Regional Resource Hub host's government mandate needs to cover the majority of the 24 ESA countries.

9. Relevant thematic expertise

The Regional Resource Hub host needs to be able to illustrate that they have relevant thematic experience related to protected areas and biodiversity.

10. In-house technical capacity in data management

The Regional Resource Hub host needs to provide evidence of in-house technical capacity in data management and related capacity building.

11. Experience in hosting similar regional initiatives

Evidence needs to be provided that the Regional Resource Hub host has experience in hosting similar regional initiatives.

12. Sustainability

Evidence needs to be provided as regards the sustainability of the organisation beyond the life of the BIOPAMA programme (2023).

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D. Day-to-day operations and functionality

(i) Regional Resource Hub functions/tasks

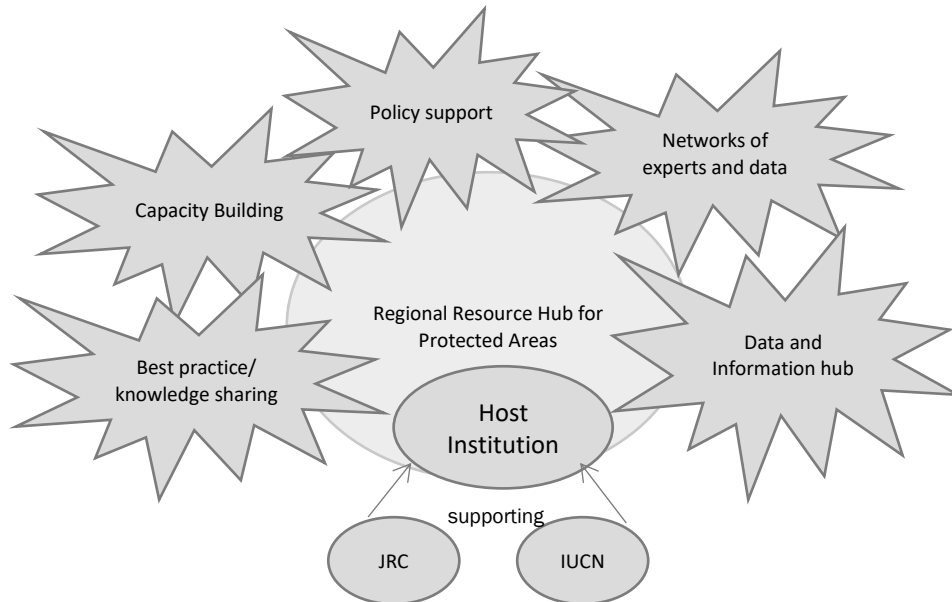
It is envisaged that the main functions of the Regional Resource Hub are to:

- 1) *Data & information:* Develop and maintain a Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) that supports data discovery, sharing and use, and responds to information needs in the region. Indicative actions include:
 - a. Facilitating regional collection, access, and sharing of data and information on biodiversity and protected areas via the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS);
 - b. Developing user-centered tools (web services and applications) that address specific management questions and policy concerns (for use in policy support);
 - c. Providing technical support and training (as part of overall capacity building programme) to stakeholders on the RRIS and associated tools, and assist with analyses directly or facilitated through JRC;
 - d. Establishing relevant data collection protocols and data sharing agreements with providers and partners in the region, building on existing discussions and agreements in the region.
- 2) *Capacity building:* In partnership with IUCN and JRC, strengthen and institutionalize technical capacity of government decision makers and protected area managers to use spatial information in their protected area and land use planning and policy decisions. Indicative actions include:
 - a. Coordinating between/among stakeholders (national government agencies, technical institutions, NGOs, and donor community) to facilitate greater awareness of existing capacity building initiatives for protected area and biodiversity professionals;
 - b. Facilitating delivery of BIOPAMA capacity building action plan in the region.
- 3) *Policy support:* In partnership with IUCN and JRC, provide policy support to national and regional decision makers, especially for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas - CBD PoWPA). Indicative actions include:
 - a. Providing policy support to national governments on implementation of, and reporting against relevant MEA commitments using spatial information collated in the RRIS and tools developed through the Resource Hub;
 - b. Developing and implementing a strategy to improve user engagement and use of products in policy and decision-making processes.
- 4) *Networking & communications:* Strengthen the network of partners to both collaborate in RRIS development and enhance the uptake and use of information and tools for decision-making. Indicative actions include:
 - a. Facilitating network(s) of protected area managers, practitioners, including between relevant government agencies to enhance sharing of knowledge, data and local solutions;

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- b. Communicating science-based protected and conserved area and biodiversity management ‘best practices’.



(ii) Management and hosting arrangements

There will be a hosting agreement for the Regional Resource Hub and the host organization will provide suitable office space where an IUCN Project Officer will be able to work, as and when required, and where a JRC-funded Technical Developer can be based. The day-to-day management of operations will be the responsibility of the IUCN Project Officer, with administrative support provided by the host institution, and financial support by IUCN BIOPAMA.

The Project Officer will be an employee of IUCN. If the Regional Resource Hub host organization is able and willing to contribute more support, beyond office space, this is something that can be explored and negotiated. For instance, the host organization could provide direct technical support and implementation of activities (e.g. workshop facilitation and training; data collection and analysis; testing and evaluation of tools, etc.).

In line with the institutional sustainability criterion outlined above, it is envisaged that over time the host organization will endeavour to sustain the Regional Resource Hub and fully incorporate the Regional Resource Hub into the host’s organizational and governance structure.

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The IUCN ESARO Office will be responsible for ensuring activities are aligned with agreed BIOPAMA project outputs, capacity building action plans, and also in line with IUCN and JRC institutional strategies. IUCN, JRC and the host institution will therefore form a steering committee to ensure effective oversight of the Observatory.

Development of the Regional Resource Hub:

- Early 2019: focus on raising awareness of function of the Regional Resource Hub; building networks; building relevance of RRIS and prioritizing information needs; focus on providing targeted policy support to selected national governments (e.g. those making specific requests).
- Mid-2019 onwards: Focus on providing targeted policy support to selected national governments; coordinate priority capacity building activities; demonstrate examples of RRIS services and its application potential and relevance to users; build capacity for data access and analysis; prioritize data and information collation based on priority needs in the region.
- 2022-2023: Institutionalize the Regional Resource Hub; solidify management and operational procedures by host organization, with IUCN and JRC providing technical and resource mobilization support.

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