

REVISED CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

USAID Uganda Biodiversity for Resilience Activity

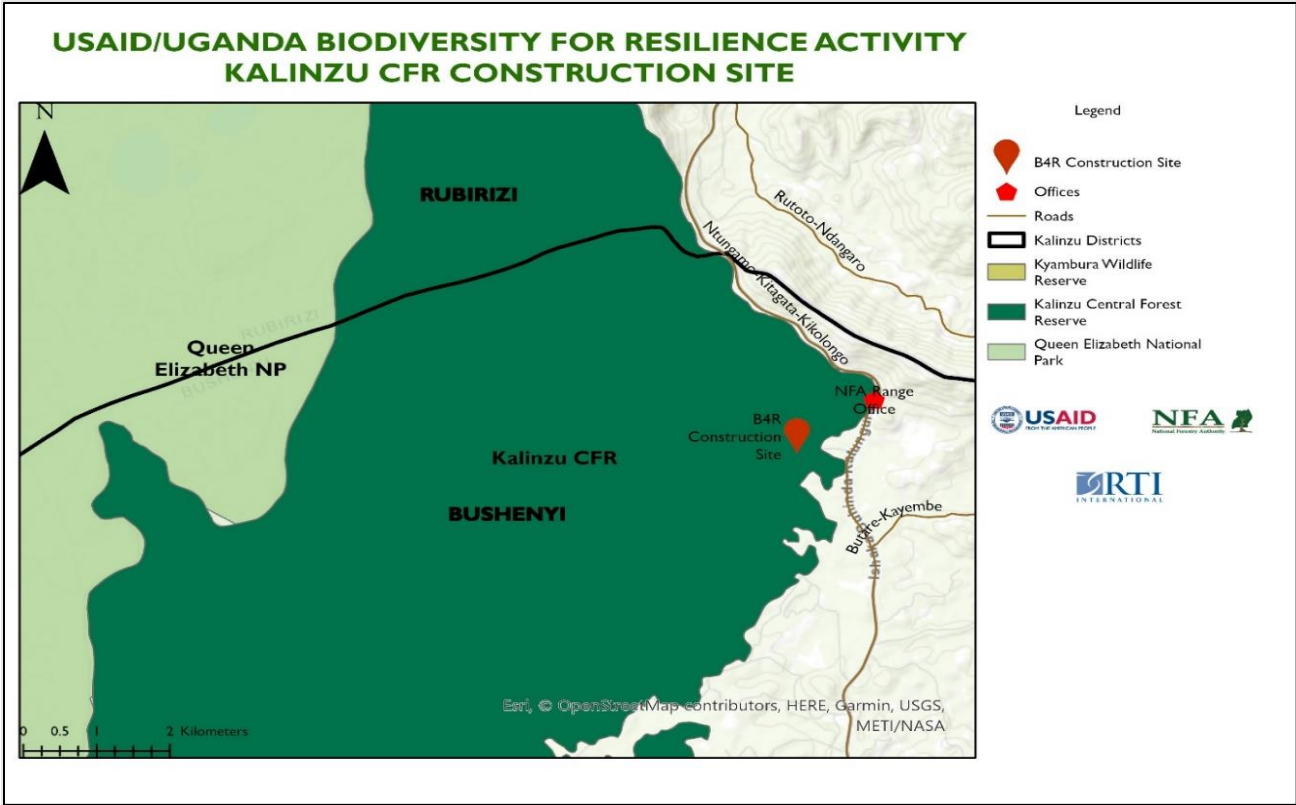
Assignment Title:	Concessions of Kalinzu Forest Eco-Tourism Center: Canopy Walk, Visitor Center, and Campsite
Country:	Uganda
Location:	Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve, Rubirizi District
Period of Performance:	10-15 years
Submit Concept Proposal to:	Construction@UgandaBiodiversity.rti.org
Date of Issue of EOI:	July 1, 2024 Documents will be issued from: www.RTI.org/current-opportunities
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	July 8, 2024
Date EOI Proposal Due:	July 15, 2024, by 17:00 hrs East African Time

I. Introduction

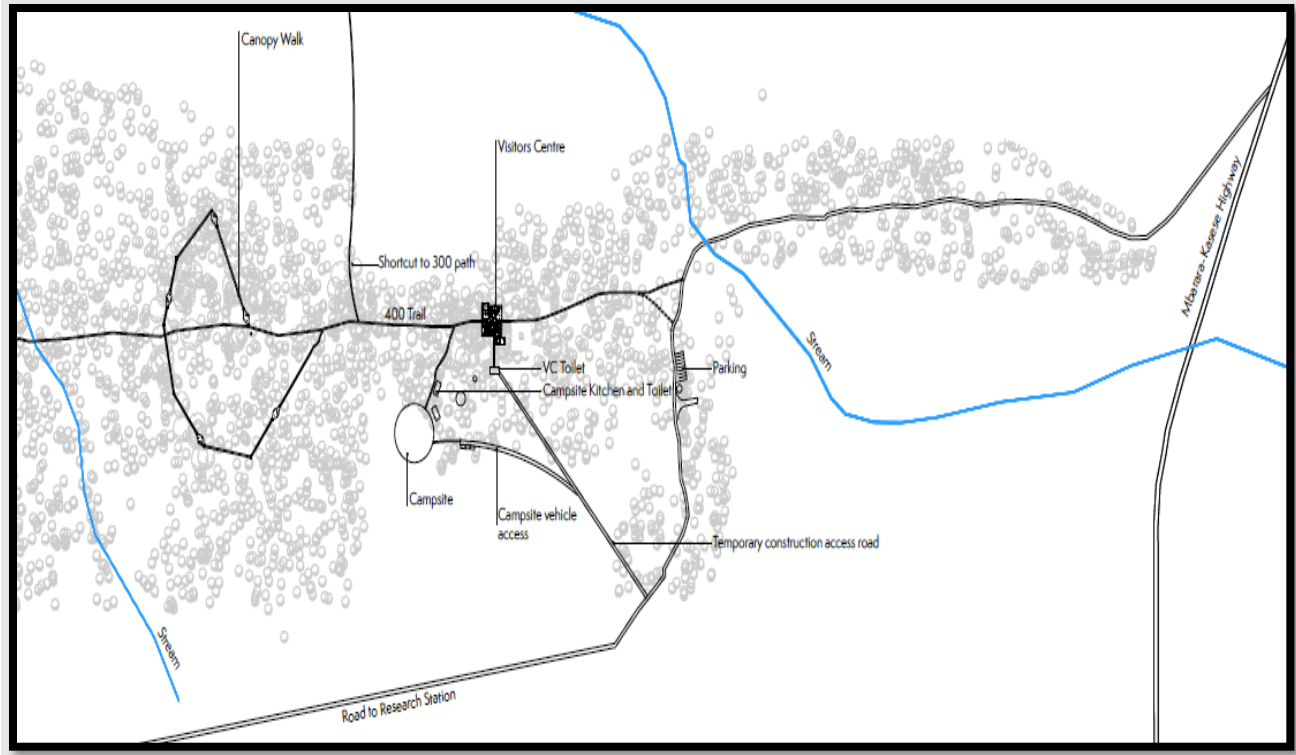
In line with the National Forest Authority (NFA) Forest Management Plan for Kalinzu Central Forest Reserve, NFA plans to establish the Kalinzu Forest Eco-Tourism Center, which shall include a Visitor Information Center, Canopy Walkway, Campsite (including toilets, showers, and a kitchen area), and borehole.

RTI International, in partnership with NFA, is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable private sector partners to manage and operate the site. This EOI is intended to establish the interest of potential private sector partners, only. At a later date, NFA will issue a separate Request for Proposals for a concessionaire to manage and operate the site under a license agreement with NFA.

The new Kalinzu Forest Eco-Tourism Center will be located along the eastern boundary of the reserve, off the Mbarara/Kasese highway. The location is near to, but not at, the location where the current visitor center and chimpanzee trekking activities are conducted. The current visitor center will revert to offices for NFA and will not be open to the public and tourism activities. An active Research Station is located well within the forest, accessed via a ~3km long driveway past where the Center will be located. The map below provides more details.



Site Location Plan



Site Plan

2. Project Background

The construction of the Kalinzu Forest Eco-Tourism Center (Visitor information Center, Canopy Walkway, Campsite, and borehole) is expected to start in late 2024 and be completed in 2025/6. Selection of a location and designs for the facilities have been completed. Construction companies are yet to be selected.

Visitor Center



The site design is rooted in an understanding of the topographic features and tree species on site. The placement of each building will take into careful consideration the needs of that specific building, but more importantly, the visitors experience moving throughout the site. The buildings are designed and situated to accommodate the needs of NFA, the concessionaire and visitors without detracting from the experience of passing through the forest.

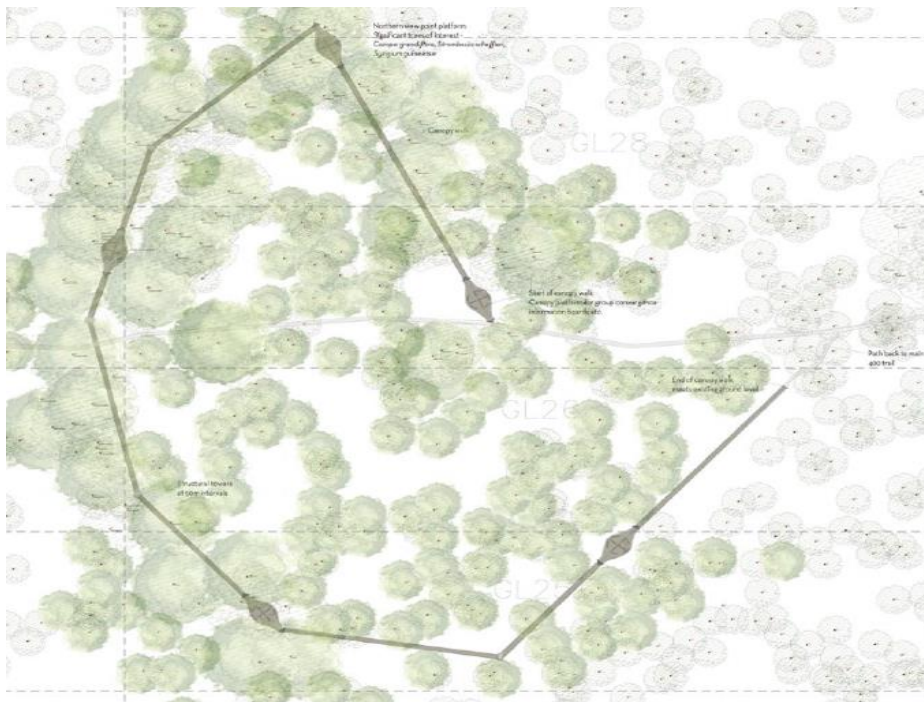
The central roof will cover four buildings, including an exhibition hall, an auditorium, cafe and WC facilities and office/reception. Between these four buildings is a central courtyard, where visitors encounter a large tree in the middle of the space that rises through an opening in the roof and into the forest canopy above.





The Canopy Walk

The Canopy Walk will offer visitors an amazing, elevated experience in and around the trees as they rise into the forest canopy. This 500m long structure has been designed to ensure the users feel comfortable in the air without compromising their ability to see and experience the plant and animal species around them.





The Campsite

The Campsite has been designed to give visitors an immersive experience in the forest. A branching forest path will open to a flat grass clearing suitable for setting up tents. This area is set back from the Visitor information Centre and will provide campers with the cooking and toilet facilities required in two small-scaled buildings nearby.

3. Licensing Agreement for Kalinzu Forest Eco-Tourism Center

RTI International, in partnership with NFA is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitable private sector partners who have pioneered and/or operated similar successful tourism ventures in Uganda and/or other parts of Africa.

This EOI is intended to establish the interest of potential private sector partners, only. NFA will conduct a competitive concessioning process for a private sector concessionaire to manage and operate the site under a license agreement with NFA.

These structures will be developed and handed over to the selected applicant (licensee/operator) to manage and operate. The operator will need to furnish, decorate, and equip the facilities to make the Center fully functional and in the EOI should be able to demonstrate their ability to finance these start up investments as well as other related start-up and operational costs. The applicant is encouraged to propose their own ideas and vision for how to operationalize the Center.

The operator will target communities in the area to ensure they are fully aware of benefits, rights, and responsibilities, and participating in the project implementation. The operator is encouraged to propose ways in which they will support and engage with local communities.

License Structure

Details on the license structure, fees, and NFA role will be provided in the full 'Request for Proposals' to be provided to organizations during the competitive concessioning process.

The anticipated license agreement term is 10 -15 years.

4. Application Requirements

The Expression of Interest should include the following components with a total document length in the range of 3-5 pages (PDF, A4 format). The EOI can be supported with additional annexes that relate to the information below, but these must be attached as a separate, single PDF document.

- A concept (3-5pages) outlining the proposed project vision and description of the operators plans for the site as well as the approach to development, launch and operations and a brief business model (including estimate of applicant’s financial commitment to operationalize the centre).

Critical Dates

Expressions of Interest should be submitted electronically to the **Procurement Manager**, at email: Construction@UgandaBiodiversity.rti.org by **17:00 hrs** East African Time, on **July 15, 2024**, with the subject “**Kalinzu Eco-Tourism Centre**”. All EOI's will be treated in confidence.