



# Request for Proposals: Project Funding through the Nature For Justice Africa Nature-based Solutions Program

Deadline: 14 January 2023, 24h00 GMT

## 1. CONTEXT:

### 1.1 About Nature For Justice

[Nature For Justice](#) is a non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating globally to support socially just, ecologically, and economically sustainable climate transitions. A central pillar in our approach is to advocate for at-risk communities, especially indigenous peoples. A core part of our work is facilitating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) investments that operate at the nexus of inclusive socio-economic livelihood opportunities and development, ecological restoration and protection, and climate resilience.

### 1.2 Our Africa NbS Program

We have established an Africa NbS Program, through which we aim to develop at least 30 high quality community-based carbon projects by 2024.

Our first NbS projects have been developed in partnership with Ghana's Nature Conservation Research Centre, and the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve in South Africa. These projects are funded by investors which Nature For Justice has contracted with to provide funding for NbS project development, establishment, and full-scale implementation.

### 1.3 Our focus on Fair Benefit Sharing

Nature For Justice differentiates from other organizations operating in the carbon markets space in three ways:

1. By co-creating projects with our local partners at the earliest incubation stage of a project;
2. By ensuring project beneficiaries receive a fair share of the financial returns from carbon revenue generated by their projects; and
3. By supporting our local partners (these may include businesses, non-profits, co-operatives, civil society and community-based organizations) to strengthen their organizational capacity over time.

Our fair benefit sharing approach principally seeks to de-risk project investments and secure meaningful benefits over the long-term.

<p><b>2. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:</b></p>	<p><b>2.1 Purpose of this Request for Proposals</b>  Nature For Justice has contractually secured major investor commitment to provision of tens of millions USD in funding for the development and implementation of socially inclusive NbS projects at significant scale in sub-Saharan Africa. This Request for Proposals is intended to identify suitable partner organizations with high quality project proposals that could qualify for project funding through our Africa NbS Program.</p> <p><b>2.2 Support available for Selected Project Partners</b>  Partners and their project proposals selected as successful through this Request will receive financial and technical support from Nature For Justice to undertake an expert pre-feasibility assessment for their proposed projects.</p> <p>Projects passing pre-feasibility review will receive a second round of financial and technical support from Nature For Justice for detailed project design and full feasibility analysis. This includes registration of the project with agreed, high quality carbon standard program(s) (e.g., VCS, Gold Standard and/or CCB).</p> <p>Projects passing full feasibility review will receive project establishment and implementation funding. The value of this funding will relate to an agreed share of the verified carbon credits from the project flowing back to investors over time. Our program provides for the up-front costs of project establishment and implementation, prior to any verified carbon credits being generated.</p>
<p><b>3. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCESS:</b></p>	<p><b>3.1 How to submit your project proposal</b>  Organizations wishing to submit project proposals must use the format presented in the <b>ATTACHED PROPOSAL FORM</b> and submit it to <a href="mailto:AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org">AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org</a> before the stipulated deadline time and date. Only one project concept can be presented in each Proposal Form submitted. Each question in the form has an associated word limit which is intended to encourage concise responses. Guidance on what we are looking for from your answers to each question is provided in the form.</p> <p><b>3.2 You can submit more than one project proposal</b>  Organizations wishing to submit more than one project proposal must complete and submit the Proposal Form separately for each project (i.e., multiple project Proposal Form submissions from a single organization is acceptable).</p> <p><b>3.3 Deadline date and time</b>  This call closes on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 24h00 GMT. Submissions received after this time and date will not be considered. Only complete proposals received at the stipulated email address before this deadline and using the Proposal Form attached to this RFQ will be considered in the evaluation process.</p> <p><b>3.4 How we will evaluate your proposals</b>  Complete submissions received in the required format, and before the deadline time and date, will be reviewed using a two-step evaluation process:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Step 1 – Eligibility Test</b> will assess applicants and their project proposals based on a range of organizational and project-related eligibility criteria. These are set out in Section 4 of this Request. Only applications passing the eligibility test will be progressed to Step 2 of the evaluation.</li> <li>• <b>Step 2 – Technical Evaluation</b> will assess eligible partners and their project proposals based on organizational track record and ethical due diligence, and the potential type and scale of benefits, complexity and risk associated with proposed projects. The full set of evaluation criteria are set out in Section 5 of this Request.</li> </ul> <p><b>3.5 Review timeline</b> Nature For Justice will review all submissions within 4 weeks of the deadline date and notify applicants of the outcome of their application by email. Nature For Justice may request additional information from applicants before finalizing the review process.</p> <p><b>3.6 How many projects will be selected</b> It is anticipated that between six and ten projects will be selected for support through this Request for Proposals. Fewer or more than this number may be selected, depending on the number and quality of submissions received.</p>
<p><b>4. STEP 1 ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT</b></p>	<p><b>4.1 Organizational eligibility</b> In Step 1 of the application review process, Nature For Justice will evaluate whether applicants have demonstrated that they meet the following organizational eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must be legally registered business, non-profit, or community-owned entities. <i>Governments, parastatals, and government / state-owned enterprises are not eligible to apply.</i></li> <li>• Applicants must pass a basic due diligence check, including demonstrating tax compliance and labor/social law compliance relevant to their country of registration.</li> <li>• Applicants must have a track record of having worked in the country in which their project is proposed for implementation.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.2 Project eligibility</b> In Step 1 of the application review process, Nature For Justice will also evaluate whether applicants have demonstrated that their project proposals meet the following technical eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects must be in one of the following sub-Saharan Africa countries: Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Angola, Burundi, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Zimbabwe.</li> <li>• Projects must be clearly defined in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Geographic location, spatial extent, and land ownership status of the project area(s)</li> <li>○ Proposed project activities</li> <li>○ Potential scale of carbon benefits</li> <li>○ Proposed project partnerships and governance arrangements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only bona fide NbS projects qualify. For clarity, the IUCN definition of NbS is used by Nature For Justice: <i>Nature-based Solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature. Nature-based Solutions address societal challenges through the protection, sustainable management, and restoration of both natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting both biodiversity and human well-being. Nature-based Solutions are underpinned by benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems. They target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, biodiversity loss and human health, and are critical to sustainable economic development.</i> For example, ecosystem restoration, avoided ecosystem loss, sustainable agroforestry and forestry, regenerative agriculture, and blue carbon.</li> <li>• Projects may be at concept / pre-feasibility stage, feasibility stage, or already in implementation and requiring of scale-up support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. STEP 2 TECHNICAL EVALUATION</b></p>	<p><b>5.1 Evaluation Criteria</b></p> <p>Only applications that pass the eligibility test in Step 1 will be subject to Technical Evaluation in Step 2 of the review process. As such, eligible submissions will be evaluated against the following technical criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational track record</li> <li>• Project status and institutional design</li> <li>• Scale and significance of social, ecological and climate protection benefits</li> <li>• Project sustainability and / or permanence of benefits</li> <li>• Additionality and measurability of the anticipated carbon sequestration / avoided emissions benefits</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement/consultation status</li> <li>• Project operational complexity</li> <li>• Potential for project to generate verifiable carbon credits under the VERRA VCS, Gold Standard, or Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (other high-quality standards may be considered)</li> <li>• Potential to replicate / scale the project</li> <li>• Potential risk significance and mitigability, including political and social stability, safety and security, environmental and natural disaster</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>Clarification questions may be submitted to <a href="mailto:AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org">AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org</a> up until 24h00 on 10 January 2023.</p>
<p><b>7. PROPOSAL FORM</b></p>	<p>The Proposal Form is attached to this RFQ. A Microsoft Word version of the form is available for download at <a href="https://www.nature4justice.earth/">https://www.nature4justice.earth/</a> If you have a Google Account, you can complete the form and upload the attachments here: <a href="https://forms.gle/zmWirZTw7E1MYEaq9">https://forms.gle/zmWirZTw7E1MYEaq9</a> Alternatively, a link to a word version of the form can be emailed to you on request from <a href="mailto:AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org">AfricaRFP@nature4justice.org</a></p>

## ANNEX 1

### PROPOSAL FORM

QUESTIONS	YOUR ANSWERS
<b>A – APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>	
<p><b>A1 - Organization name</b> Provide the name under which your organization trades or is commonly known. Also provide the registered name if different from the trading name. This must be the organization / legal entity through which you would contract with Nature For Justice if your application were successful.</p>	
<p><b>A2 - Organization type</b> Indicate whether your business is a: registered for profit business (any size); registered not for profit business (any size); registered charity; registered co-operative; other registered community-based organization; civil society organization; membership organization; informal collaborative / unregistered organization; government department; parastatal / state-owned enterprise.</p>	
<p><b>A3 - Registered address</b> Provide the registered address of your organization.</p>	
<p><b>A4 - Certificate of registration and tax compliance status</b> Include in your submission a copy of your organization’s proof of legal registration or certificate of incorporation and a valid tax clearance/status certificate.</p>	
<p><b>A5 - List the owners / directors / major shareholders who own and / or exercise control over the organization</b> Provide each controlling individual’s full legal name, date of birth, and whether each person is an employee, director, owner or shareholder. Please indicate the percentage ownership / shareholding of each person.</p>	
<p><b>A7 – Track record</b> Attach a word document, powerpoint or PDF containing a succinct description of your organization’s track record in the country / countries in which your project is proposed; and your organization’s track record in the kinds of project that you are proposing to develop / implement.</p>	

QUESTIONS	YOUR ANSWERS
<b>B – ETHICAL DUE DILIGENCE</b>	
<p><b>B1 - Is there in your home country or elsewhere currently any pending or threatened material litigation or other proceedings connected with your organization, its owners or office bearers?</b> Indicate yes or no.</p>	
<p><b>B2 - Is your organization or any organization, its owners or office bearers, or any of its associated organizations, currently sanctioned by, barred or suspended from doing business with any government, national or public international organization?</b> Indicate yes or no.</p>	
<p><b>B3 - If you have answered “yes” to question B1 and/or B2, please give details</b> Provide a brief explanation of the issue(s), including who was involved, when the issue(s) occurred and what has been done to resolve these issue(s). If you answered no to B1 and B2, leave this blank.</p>	
<p><b>B4 - In the last 10 years has your organization or have any of its owners or office bearers ever been investigated for, charged with, convicted or otherwise implicated in:</b> Indicate which of these apply (delete those not applicable or circle the applicable choices).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fraud</li> <li>b. Bribery</li> <li>c. Corruption</li> <li>d. Money laundering</li> <li>e. Human rights violations (including issues related to safeguarding)</li> <li>f. Environmental harm</li> <li>g. Non-payment of taxes</li> <li>h. None of the above</li> </ul>
<p><b>B5 - If “Yes”, please explain?</b> If you have answered “Yes” to any of Question B4 a) through g) above, provide a brief explanation of the issue(s), including when the issues(s) occurred, and what has been done to resolve the issue(s).</p>	
<p><b>B6 - Does your organization have internal processes that allow for incidents related to modern slavery or human trafficking to be detected?</b> Indicate yes or no.</p>	
<p><b>B7 - If “No”, please explain?</b> If you have answered “No” to question B6, provide an explanatory statement on how your organization is made aware of potential incidents related to modern slavery or human trafficking.</p>	

QUESTIONS	YOUR ANSWERS
<b>C – PROJECT PROPOSAL</b>	
<p><b>C1 – Project country / countries</b>            Indicate all that apply from the following list: Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Angola, Burundi, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Zimbabwe.</p>	
<p><b>C2 – Project location</b>            Upload a .kmz file / files showing the outside boundary of your project area / areas. .kmz files can easily be created on Google Earth, which is a free software package. Instructions on how to do this can be viewed online on the Google Earth Outreach site here:  <a href="https://www.google.com/earth/outreach/learn/packaging-content-in-a-kmz-file/">https://www.google.com/earth/outreach/learn/packaging-content-in-a-kmz-file/</a></p>	
<p><b>C3 – Proposed project</b>            Provide a concise description of your proposed project, including all activities and associated actors that will need to be involved. Explain what you think are the timelines applicable to the project, including any major phasing of project activities.</p>	
<p><b>C4 – Project motivation</b>            Provide a brief but specific motivation for why your project is beneficial in the context of social, ecological or economic needs, and / or climate related risk, in the country and location where you have proposed it.</p>	
<p><b>C5 – Project development / implementation status</b>            Explain the stage of development that your project is at by selecting the most applicable description from the list: concept-stage; feasibility stage; pilot underway; pilot completed; implementation phase; ready for scale-up.</p>	
<p><b>C6 - Describe the partnerships and institutional structuring of your project</b>            Explain which groups and organizations are expected to be involved in your project, and the role that each will play. Provide a brief description of how you propose to govern the project (e.g., through contract agreements with partners; through MOUs; through specific collaborative governance structures etc.).</p>	
<p><b>C7 – Land ownership</b>            Provide a brief explanation of the land ownership context within which the project would operate. For example, is the land private, government or community owned, and how does this affect project implementation?</p>	

<p><b>C8 - Socio-economic benefits</b>  Explain the socio-economic benefits that your project is expected to generate, including an estimate of the number and location of people that would benefit, and the significance of these benefits in the local / country context.</p>	
<p><b>C9 - Ecological benefits</b>  Explain the ecological benefits that your project is expected to generate, including the scale and significance of ecosystem and biodiversity gains.</p>	
<p><b>C10 - Other benefits</b>  Explain any other important benefits that your project is expected to generate. For example, improved agricultural productivity, or reduced exposure to climate change related risks such as flooding or coastal storm surge.</p>	
<p><b>C11 – List project activities which are expected to generate carbon credits</b>  List all project activities that you think have the potential to generate verifiable carbon credits, e.g., REDD+, ecosystem restoration, agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, rangelands management etc.</p>	
<p><b>C12 - Carbon potential</b>  Upload a spreadsheet or word document setting out an estimate of the total annual carbon emissions reductions / avoided emissions that you believe the project could generate (in tCO<sub>2</sub>/annum). Ensure that you substantiate your estimate by showing the assumptions and formulae used in these calculations.  Include references to all published scientific data that you've used to calculate the estimate.  Please aim to include an estimate of the carbon potential per activity if there are multiple carbon-related activities proposed in your project (e.g., REDD as separate to ARR carbon if both avoided deforestation and forest restoration activities are proposed).  Also include a motivation for the additionality and permanence of the carbon gains you believe the project offers.</p>	
<p><b>C13 – Carbon standard</b>  If you have already chosen or are registered with a carbon verification standard for the project, provide details. If not – leave blank.</p>	
<p><b>C14 – Carbon ownership / benefit sharing</b>  If you have already determined ownership or benefit sharing arrangements for carbon credits / revenue from the project, provide details. If not – leave blank.</p>	
<p><b>C15 – Existing funding</b>  Indicate whether you already have funding for the project.</p>	



<p><b>C15 – If “Yes”, explain the additional funding needs for the project</b></p> <p>If you have indicated that the project is already funded, explain the additional funding needed for the project.</p>	
<p><b>C16 – Potential to upscale</b></p> <p>If you think your project has potential to be replicated / upscaled following an initial phase of implementation, explain the scale and location of this opportunity.</p>	
<p><b>C17 – How you will manage the top 3 project risks</b></p> <p>Describe the top 3 risks associated with your project and how you plan to manage these.</p>	
<p><b>C18 – Other risks</b></p> <p>Provide a list of other risks you are aware of in relation to your project.</p>	