Request for Proposals

Title: The Road and Belt Initiative and its Impact on the Environment, Nature and People in Kenya

RFP No: KN005/2023

Date of Issuance: July 21, 2023

1. Background

Conservation International protects nature for the benefit of humanity. Through science, policy, fieldwork, and finance, we spotlight and secure the most important places in nature for the climate, biodiversity, and for people. With offices in 30 countries and projects in more than 100 countries, Conservation International partners with governments, companies, civil society, Indigenous peoples, and local communities to help people and nature thrive together.

The consultant will be supervised by the Global Policy and Government Affairs programme and their key duties will be to conduct in-depth research on the environmental impacts of the Road and Belt initiative in Kenya and its effect on nature and people. The consultancy team will report to the Africa Policy Director and support various initiatives in this project that are of importance to the Africa Field Division.

2. Project Overview

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is as an ambitious geopolitical undertaking by the Chinese government to put the country at the center of a global network of land, maritime and digital connectivity. The Chinese government in 2017 made a commitment to allocate a significant sum of US$ 113 billion in special funds specifically for BRI investments. In this way, China seeks to influence strategic global supply chains and to redirecting the flow of international trade via critical sea lanes and seaports.

A key aspect of the BRI is its emphasis on substantial investments in physical infrastructure, which not only spur rapid economic development but also promote cooperation, mutual development, and enhanced global governance. In the East African Community (EAC), the BRI is heavily investing in regional connectivity projects, that seek to enhance physical linkages between countries in the EAC. Despite the economic benefit of these projects, it is inevitable that these infrastructural investments will lead to an increase in negative environmental and ecological impacts.

China’s relations with Kenya are a good case study in how the BRI can function in Africa and offer some answers to these thorny questions. Kenya, a gateway to East Africa and one of the continent’s largest economies, is an excellent platform for China to broaden its reach into the rest of the continent. As one of the first major economic powers to invest significantly in Africa instead of just focusing on extracting resources, China has stolen a march on the rest of the world and gained advantages in Africa that will take patience, creativity, and political will to match.

Kenya needs better infrastructure to meet its development needs, and China has been willing to help. The project to upgrade the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) is China’s flagship investment project in Kenya. The SGR connects Mombasa, the largest port city in Kenya, to its capital, Nairobi. It also goes to Naivasha, an hour outside the capital city, and there are plans to expand it across the Rift Valley and have it reach all the way to the border with Uganda. The Export-Import Bank of China financed 90 percent of the SGR project, while the Kenyan Government contributed the other 10 percent. The China Road and Bridge Corporation led
the SGR installation process. This was supposed to signal a contribution to Kenya's developmental goals and directly spur growth in the construction sector.

Meanwhile, on Kenya's northern coast, the Lamu Port, which is part of an ambitious transport corridor between Lamu and the northern part of the country that connects to South Sudan and Ethiopia, is another project that China has invested in. The China Communications Construction Company has built the port, whose first three of 32 berths are active. China’s timely construction of the Lamu port not only reinforces its image as a development partner and boosts its political influence but is also expected to contribute towards regional GDP growth.

Despite the positive economic and developmental potential, some of the BRI projects across the globe have faced criticism as a result of the impacts that they have on the environment and the people that directly depend on it. This is unsurprising, given the diverse and extensive infrastructure investments that are capable of posing a wide range of environmental risks. It has been suggested that the BRI may have a negative impact on the right biodiversity that Kenya possesses and may also adversely impact her ambitions to tackle the climate crisis.

This consultancy seeks to assess the impact that these two BRI projects in Kenya – the SGR and the Lamu Port – have had on the environment, nature and the people that depend on it. The study will rely on environmental and other policies, other peer-reviewed literature, media articles, primary data and field observations, and reports on this subject.

3. Terms of Reference, Deliverables and Deliverables Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Activity</th>
<th>Project Deliverables</th>
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</table>
| Develop an inception report and workplan that clearly outlines the proposed approach to undertaking the study, the anticipated timeline and key milestones over the lifetime of the project. | • Deliverable 1 – Inception Report  
• Deliverable 2 – Detailed Workplan                                               |
| Review existing literature and material on the BRI and its impact on nature and those who depend on it, as well as the impact of ports and railway infrastructure globally and in Africa on natural climate solutions (NCS), as well as the BRI’s footprint in Kenya since 2010. | • Deliverable 3 – Literature Review Report               |
| This literature review should ensure to connect the economic and developmental arguments for the BRI with the political and financial challenges (i.e. ballooning debt as a result, unclear ownership model, etc.) at a high level. It should also examine, in summary, the major policy frameworks that protect and secure the environment in Kenya. |                                                          |
| Conduct a desktop baseline assessment on the state of nature prior to the construction of the projects, during the construction of the | • Deliverable 4 – Baseline Assessment Report              |
port and railway, and during the operations of the project, developing clear indicators to measure these statistics.

This study assessment shall rely on official government reports, reliable third party documents, Google Earth, and other historical GIS data. Ascertainment of the same shall be conducted in the field to verify the secondary data.

Further, the study shall also source information on the proposed Suswa-Malaba Route and the potential impacts that may be faced by nature and people.

**Conduct field visits to further understand the impacts of the BRI projects on nature and those who most depend on it.**

The field visits will focus on the following counties:

- Lamu (Port)
- Makueni (SGR)
- Machakos (SGR)
- Nairobi (SGR only in the context of the national park)

No field visits will be required for the Suswa-Malaba counties as those are speculative, but some Key Informant Interviews (KII) may be required.

Data collected should be based on a strong investigation methodology grounded on a quantitative and qualitative research design that factors for KII, focus group discussions (FGDs) and observations.

**Analyze the data and draft the preliminary findings on the scale and nature of impact that the two projects have had on nature, the environment, Kenya’s greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation efforts, and the people that depend on nature impacted by the projects. This report should outline any policy or other recommendations for future RBI in Kenya and how they may be able to mitigate environmental impacts.**

**Deliverable 5: Preliminary Draft of Report on the Impact of the RBI on nature and the environment in Kenya.**

**Upon feedback and input from Conservation International, finalize the report and ensure that all the data is accurate, is well referenced, and proofread for clarity and communicating the message. All research materials, from the completed tools, questionnaires, and any other resources should be handed over to Conservation International.**

**Deliverable 6: Final Report on the Impact of the RBI on nature and the environment in Kenya.**

This project should not take more than 21 consulting days for the consultant.
This call is for a single individual consultant. However, the individual may utilize research assistants to support with their work. This must be included in the budget. The 21 days do not apply to the research assistants but to the main consultants only.

4. Submission Details
   a. Deadline. Proposals must be received no later than 14th August 2023 at 5:00pm East African Time (EAT). Late submissions will not be accepted. Proposals must be submitted via email to procurementkenyake@conservation.org. All proposals are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in this RFP.

   b. Validity of bid: 120 days from the submission deadline.

   c. Clarifications. Questions may be submitted to procurementkenyake@conservation.org by the specified date and time in the timeline below. The subject of the email must contain the RFP number and title of the RFP. CI will respond in writing to submitted clarifications by the date specified in the timeline below. Responses to questions that may be of common interest to all bidders will be posted to the CI website and/or communicated via email.

   d. Amendments. At any time prior to the deadline for submission of proposals, CI may, for any reason, modify the RFP documents by amendment which will be posted to the CI website and/or communicated via email.

5. Minimum Requirements
   a. Advanced degree in environmental sciences, economics, statistics, political science, public policy, or any relevant field.
   b. Track record of high-quality research on any of these topics: nature, infrastructure, environmental studies, Sino-Africa relations, or Indigenous peoples and local communities.
   c. At least 5 years’ experience in written field work, research and policy work in the private or non-profit sector or related experience.
   d. Demonstrated ability to study data trends and statistics to make informed research outcomes and policy recommendations.
   e. Effective project management skills and experience, with ability to multi-task and manage competing priorities in deadline-focused, team-oriented environment.
   f. Demonstrated excellence in writing and verbal communication in English and Kiswahili.
   g. Relationship-driven, effective communicator with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to collaborate with the local community in a respectful manner.
   h. Ability to operate considerably independent, to effectively establish priorities and work efficiently under time constraints.

6. Proposal Documents to Include
   a. Signed cover page on bidder’s letterhead with the bidder’s contact information.
   b. Signed Representation of Transparency, Integrity, Environmental and Social Responsibility (Attachment 1)
c. Technical Proposal.
   i. Individual Capabilities, Experience, Past Performance, and 3 client references. Please include descriptions of similar projects or assignments and at least three client references.
   ii. Qualifications of Key Personnel. Please attach CVs that demonstrate how the team proposed meets the minimum requirements listed in section 5 (Minimum Requirements). You need not include CVs for the research assistants.
   iii. Technical Approach, Methodology and Detailed Work Plan. The Technical Proposal should describe in detail how the bidder intends to carry out the requirements described in the Terms of Reference outlined in Section 3 above.

d. Financial Proposal. Offerors shall use the cost proposal template (Attachment 2).
e. Three samples of similar or relevant research work that the consultant can disclose without violating any obligations to a third party in PDF form and compressed in a ZIP file.

7. Evaluation Criteria In evaluating proposals, CI will seek the best value for money considering the merits of the technical and costs proposals. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Score (out of 100)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the proposed approach and methodology appropriate to the assignment and practical in the prevailing project circumstances?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the proposal clear and is the sequence of activities and the planning logical, realistic and promise efficient implementation to the project?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the bidder’s past performance demonstrate recent proven experience doing similar work?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the bidder and the proposed personnel have the specific technical expertise for the assignment?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: Costs proposed are reasonable and realistic, reflect a solid understanding of the assignment.</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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</table>

8. Proposal Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Issued</td>
<td>21st July 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarifications submitted to CI</td>
<td>7th Aug 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarifications provided to known bidders</td>
<td>9th Aug 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete proposals due to CI</td>
<td>14th Aug 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final selection</td>
<td>25th Aug 2023</td>
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</table>

9. Resulting Award CI anticipates entering into an agreement with the selected bidder by 25th August 2023. Any resulting agreement will be subject to the terms and conditions of CI’s Services Agreement. A model form of agreement can be provided upon request.

This RFP does not obligate CI to execute a contract, nor does it commit CI to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposals. Furthermore, CI reserves the right to reject any and all
offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of CI. CI will, in its sole discretion, select the winning proposal and is not obligated to share individual evaluation results.

10. **Confidentiality** All proprietary information provided by the bidder shall be treated as confidential and will not be shared with potential or actual applicants during the solicitation process. This includes but is not limited to price quotations, cost proposals and technical proposals. CI may, but is not obliged to, post procurement awards on its public website after the solicitation process has concluded, and the contract has been awarded. CI's evaluation results are confidential and applicant scoring will not be shared among bidders.

11. **Code of Ethics** All Offerors are expected to exercise the highest standards of conduct in preparing, submitting and if selected, eventually carrying out the specified work in accordance with CI's Code of Ethics. Conservation International’s reputation derives from our commitment to our values: Integrity, Respect, Courage, Optimism, Passion and Teamwork. CI’s Code of Ethics (the “Code”) provides guidance to CI employees, service providers, experts, interns, and volunteers in living CI’s core values, and outlines minimum standards for ethical conduct which all parties must adhere to. Any violation of the Code of Ethics, as well as concerns regarding the integrity of the procurement process and documents should be reported to CI via its Ethics Hotline at [www.ci.ethicspoint.com](http://www.ci.ethicspoint.com).

12. **Attachments:**

   Attachment 1: Representation of Transparency, Integrity, Environmental and Social Responsibility
   Attachment 2: Cost Proposal Template
Attachment 1: Representation of Transparency, Integrity, Environmental and Social Responsibility

RFP No. KN005/2023

UEI Number (if applicable): XXX-XXX-XXX

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CI relies on the personal integrity, good judgment and common sense of all third parties acting on behalf, or providing services to the organization, to deal with issues not expressly addressed by the Code or as noted below.

I. With respect to CI’s Code of Ethics, we certify:
   a. We understand and accept that CI, its contractual partners, grantees and other parties with whom we work are expected to commit to the highest standards of Transparency, Fairness, and Integrity in procurement.

II. With respect to social and environmental standards, we certify:
   a. We are committed to high standards of ethics and integrity and compliance with all applicable laws across our operations, including prohibition of actions that facilitate trafficking in persons, child labor, forced labor, sexual abuse, exploitation or harassment. We respect internationally proclaimed human rights and take no action that contributes to the infringement of human rights. We protect those who are most vulnerable to infringements of their rights and the ecosystems that sustain them.

   b. We fully respect and enforce the environmental and social standards recognized by the international community, including the fundamental conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO) and international conventions for the protection of the environment, in line with the laws and regulations applicable to the country where the contract is to be performed.

III. With respect to our eligibility and professional conduct, we certify:
   a. We are not and none of our affiliates [members, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants] are in a state of bankruptcy, liquidation, legal settlement, termination of activity, or guilty of grave professional misconduct as determined by a regulatory body responsible for licensing and/or regulating the offeror’s business.

   b. We have not and will not engage in criminal or fraudulent acts. By a final judgment, we were not convicted in the last five years for offenses such as fraud or corruption, money laundering or professional misconduct.

   c. We are/were not involved in writing or recommending the terms of reference for this solicitation document.
d. We have not engaged in any collusion or price fixing with other offerors.

e. We have not made promises, offers, or grants, directly or indirectly to any CI employees involved in this procurement, or to any government official in relation to the contract to be performed, with the intention of unduly influencing a decision or receiving an improper advantage.

f. We have taken no action nor will we take any action to limit or restrict access of other companies, organizations or individuals to participate in the competitive bidding process launched by CI.

g. We have fulfilled our obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country where the contract is to be performed.

h. We have not provided, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that we do not and will not knowingly provide, material support or resources to any individual or entity that commits, attempts to commit, advocates, facilitates, or participates in terrorist acts, or has committed, attempted to commit, facilitate, or participated in terrorist acts, and we are compliant with all applicable Counter-Terrorist Financing and Anti-Money Laundering laws (including USA Patriot Act and U.S. Executive Order 13224).

i. We certify that neither we nor our directors, officers, key employees or beneficial owners are included in any list of financial or economic sanctions, debarment or suspension adopted by the United States, United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, or General Services Administration’s List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Non-procurement programs in accordance with E.O.s 12549 and 12689, “Debarment and Suspension”.

Name: ____________________________________________

Signature: __________________________________________

Title: ________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________
Attachment 2: Cost Proposal Template

The cost proposal must be all-inclusive of profit, fees or taxes. Additional costs cannot be included after award, and revisions to proposed costs may not be made after submission unless expressly requested by CI should the offerors proposal be accepted. Nevertheless, for the purpose of the proposal, Offerors must provide a detailed budget showing major expense line items. Offers must show unit prices, quantities, and total price. All items, services, etc. must be clearly labeled and included in the total offered price. All cost information must be expressed in Kenya Shillings (KES).

If selected, Offeror shall use its best efforts to minimize the financing of any taxes on goods and services, or the importation, manufacture, procurement or supply thereof. If Offeror is eligible to apply for refunds on taxes paid, Offeror shall do so. Any tax savings should be reflected in the total cost.

**Cost Breakdown by Cost Component (example only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit of measure (day, month etc)</th>
<th>Total period of engagement</th>
<th>Unit cost/rate</th>
<th>Total Cost for the Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assistant 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-total Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Costs (if applicable)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other related Costs (please specify)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost of Financial Proposal</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Kindly note that Conservation International shall cater to the costs of flights, long-distance travel and accommodation. The consultant should not budget for these, and instead, budget for short-distance travel (i.e. airport pick up and drop offs, etc.), communications costs, etc.