



**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS INVENTORY**

Date: 1st April 2021

1.0 BACKGROUND

Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) is a young membership Organization comprising of 33 ranches/conservancies. TTWCA vision is to “Improve livelihoods through conservation and sustainable rangeland management across the Taita Taveta -Tsavo landscape.” with a mission to “support all members through conservancies to improve livelihoods through the effective and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources in the Taita Taveta -Tsavo landscape”

TTWCA received support from its development partners towards development of biodiversity inventory assessments for targeted ranches i.e. Maungu, Mbale, Bura, Dawida and Kambanga Ranches. These five ranches are located in Taita Taveta County and are part of TTWCA. The Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association, as collectively known.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

TTWCA is interested in undertaking a biodiversity inventory assessment and subsequently developing wildlife management plans for the targeted ranches. Thus this process being part of compliance with requirements of registering a conservancy. The targeted ranches are members of the TTWCA as mentioned above. Currently these ranches are practicing livestock keeping as their main land use and economic activity. The process of establishing a wildlife conservancy will add to the existing land use activities, diversifying their existing sources of income through non consumptive use of wildlife i.e. tourism development game farming, game ranching, research, cropping, culling etc. The establishment of the conservancy will assist exploit this resource base.

The purpose of the assignment therefore will include the following;

1. Assist the ranches in compliance with statutory requirements governing conservancy establishment and management and;
2. Conduct and develop a biodiversity inventory assessment of the targeted ranches.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The aim and objectives of the baseline biodiversity assessment will therefore be;

1. To establish the state of representative biodiversity in the ecosystem

2. To guide resource planning and decision making during the management plan development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation focused on flowering plants, mammals, reptiles, birds and butterflies and;
3. Any other task that may become readily available, identifiable and varied in nature.

The assessment will be within the geographical scope of the ranches. This inventory will form part of the resource base information that will be required for the management planning process. It will also document the conservation values that are inherent in the five ranches and define the purpose for conserving them.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The consultants will work with the ranches and the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association to enable an exchange of assignment, information and to establish an execution plan towards development of the Biodiversity Inventory Assessment.

The process entails the following, among others:

- 2.1 Inception/Kick-off Meeting- establish a comprehensive execution plan
- 2.2 Desk Top & Literature Review
- 2.3 Scoping workshop/ Focused Group Discussion (FDG) and interview with Key informants and experts
- 2.4 Reconnaissance/ Field Survey and Data Collection based on select ecosystem blocks, priority transects and site characterization
- 2.5 Field Work: Conducting geo-referenced sampling on selected sites/ zones
- 2.6 Conduct Statistical Analysis and Computation of data
- 2.7 Compilation and development of Technical reports

3.0 PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology will be a Rapid biodiversity assessment (methodology sometimes called rapid ecological assessments or REAs, RAPs or BIORAPs). This is because it is an important technique for terrestrial ecosystems management, especially in areas where there is very little time, resource constraints or published or unpublished information. A BIORAP is essentially a reconnaissance, a preliminary baseline inventory, which may lead to more detailed study and action depending on the results of the "recce". It focuses on overall biological diversity rather than extensive or detailed information about specific taxa or habitats. Rapid assessments of biodiversity require the development of a conceptual framework for the design and implementation of the

assessment based on the Convention on Biological Diversity Expert Meeting on Methods and Guidelines for the Rapid Assessment of Biological Diversity of terrestrial ecosystems (SCBD (2005) guidelines).

4.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

At the end of this consultancy, the consultants will be expected to have submitted the following key deliverables:

- 4.1 Final Biodiversity Resource Inventory Assessments for;
Maungu, Mbale, Bura, Dawida and Kambanga Ranches

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS

- 5.1 Environmental planning and management expert
- 5.2 Botany and ecology expert.
- 5.3 At least 5years experience in the field.

6.0 TIMING OF ASSIGNMENT

The assignment will be carried out over two months' period.

7.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested and suitable candidates should forward their proposals to:

Email: info@ttwakenya.com

Or

Hardcopies addressed to:

**Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association
(TTWCA)**

P.O BOX 26 -80300, Voi

On or before 14th April 2021