



# OKACOM

*The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission  
Comissão Permanente das Águas da Bacia Hidrográfica do Rio Okavango*

## **SUPPORTING CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES IN THE CUBANGO-OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**



## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BMU - German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

CORB – Cubabgo Okavango River Basin Commission

GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

IKI - International Climate Initiative

NGO- Non Governmental Organizations

OKACOM – The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The transboundary Cubango Okavango River Basin (CORB) traverses through Angola, Namibia and Botswana. It remains one of the least human impacted river basins on the African continent. The basin supports predominantly rural communities, whose livelihoods are anchored on natural resources harvesting, subsistence rain-fed agriculture and flood recession agriculture. Employment opportunities are limited. Livelihoods of the CORB rural communities are highly at risk owing to rapid global warming which significantly affects rainfall patterns leading to recurrent droughts and occasional floods. These rural populations are highly vulnerable to impacts of climate change due to low adaptive capacity and low resilience. Meanwhile, localised land degradation with potential to spiral across the whole basin if left unchecked has been observed in various parts of the basin. On the other hand, there is compelling evidence suggesting that fisheries have either collapsed or are in the brink of collapsing in some parts of the basin due to high dependency on fisheries resources which leads to over-exploitation. Meanwhile, communities living within the basin are poverty stricken with limited ability to exploit the tourism potential presented by the CORB and its ecosystems. It is against this background that the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM) ([www.okacom.org](http://www.okacom.org)) places emphasis on the demonstrating environmentally sound “climate smart” socio-economic development and community based biological conservation aiming to improve community resilience and adaptive capacity.

In recent years, OKACOM successfully demonstrated “climate smart” livelihoods-oriented activities in selected parts of the basin as a way of safeguarding the ecological integrity of the basin while enhancing community capacity to adapt to variability and changes in climatic conditions. To replicate and upscale those “climate smart” demonstrations, OKACOM is receiving financial support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Small Grants programs in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative based on a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The funds will support communities in the CORB to adapt to climate change and promote biological conservation through “climate smart” practices.

## **2.0 THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

OKACOM is managing funding received from IKI Small Grants through a grant scheme for local organizations in its three (3) Member States. The Grant Scheme Approach adopted here is a competitive process where appropriate organizations within the member states will be identified through an Open Call for Proposals. This Open Call for Proposals invites organizations from the three (3) Member States who meet the set criteria to propose projects that support community adaptation to climate change and biological conservation in the CORB. OKACOM will award three (3) organizations with grants amounting overall to **€479,000** for the implementation of the selected projects.

### **2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL**

**The general objectives of the call for proposals are to enhance:**

- a) community adaptation to climate change and biological conservation in the CORB through demonstration of climate smart practices
- b) rural livelihoods through demonstrations of community based biodiversity conservation and nature based tourism
- c) community based sustainable fisheries conservation within the basin.
- d) awareness on biodiversity conservation and maintenance of carbon sinks through planting of indigenous and noninvasive exotic fruit trees.
- e) uptake of lessons learnt from demonstration projects in OKACOM member states that can be used for inter-basin dialogue and promote upscaling

**The Specific Objectives of the Call for Proposals are to:**

- a) capacitate local communities within the basin with climate-smart agricultural practices as an adaptation to climate change measure with emphasizes on climate smart horticulture production and conservation agriculture.
- b) encourage the development of household fruit tree nurseries in basin as a way of raising awareness on the need to maintain carbon sinks and creation of income generation opportunities for economically disadvantaged communities within the basin.
- c) support communities within the basin with fish farming equipment/facilities and skills where possible.
- d) assess the feasibility of re-introduction of selected indigenous fish species in heavily over fished areas within the basin.
- e) support community-based sustainable fisheries conservation in selected communities within the basin

**3.0 GRANTS IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.**

Each Demonstration project will be implemented for a maximum of 12 months. This period is effective from the date of contracting and does not include Preparatory Phase, Documentation Lessons Learnt and Project Closure.

**4.0 ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible for a Grant, a Applicant must:

- a) be a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) within the OKACOM members states with at least five (5) years of demonstrated experience in implementing livelihoods demonstration, preferably within the CORB.
- b) have at least a five (5) years traceable record in the formulation and/or implementation of Climate Smart Livelihoods Projects, preferably within the CORB.
- c) have at least a five (5) years traceable record in the formulation and/or implementation of climate smart livelihoods projects preferably within the CORB or similar environment.
- d) be an NGO with at least 5 years' experience in working directly and collaboratively with national and/or local government institutions to deliver livelihood projects.
- e) demonstrate stable sources of finance to ensure the continuity of their organization throughout the implementation of the proposed project
- f) demonstratable sound financial management capacity, experience in managing grant funds and well established accounting, financial reporting systems and auditing systems in place.

## **5.0 PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **5.1 Geographic Distribution of the Grants**

The selected geographic areas within the CORB are as follows:

- a) **Angola** – The Calai and Cuangur Administration Areas along the Kavango River transboundary between Angola and Namibia
- b) **Botswana** - The Panhandle part of the Delta in Shakawe and the surrounding villages and the out channels of the Delta (Boro-Thamakane-Boteti Rivers) traversing through Maun and the surrounding villages
- c) **Namibia** – The Kavango Region along the Kavango River transboundary between Angola and Namibia

## **6.0 THEMATIC AREAS**

### **a) Theme 1: Community based sustainable Inland Fisheries Management**

Fisheries resources within the basin are under tremendous pressure from local communities due high dependence and inappropriate fishing methods. Population growth and commercialization of fisheries resources increased pressure fisheries, a scenario which calls for co-management. The unsustainable exploitation of those fisheries resources which are transboundary in nature is further exacerbated by the lack therein of harmonized fisheries management practices at transboundary level. This theme therefore focuses on strengthening co-management of fisheries resources and re-introduction of indigenous fish species in community managed areas where possible as well explore the possibilities of linking community fisheries management to tourism activities along the Kavango river.

### **b) Theme 2: Climate Smart Agriculture**

Rain-fed arable agriculture remains a core livelihood within the CORB despite the risks associated with highly variable and unreliable seasonal rainfall. These scenario renders communities within the basin highly food insecure and vulnerable to climate change. This theme therefore focuses on enhancing productivity of dryland agriculture and horticulture production through climate smart practices.

### **c) Theme 3: Community Based Conservation Tourism**

The CORB offers enormous tourism potential courtesy of its diverse ecosystems suitable for nature based tourism. Meanwhile, rural poor communities within the basin have limited capacity to explore and exploit this tourism potential. This theme therefore, focus on supporting communities to meaningfully partake in the tourism business through meaningful functional partnerships.

### **d) Theme 4: Community Based Woodland Resources Management**

Deforestation remains a major environmental concern within the CORB. While harvesting woodlands for timber has been noted as a major concern, clearing of woodlands for subsistence agricultural also depletes the carbon sinks required for carbon sequestration. This theme focuses on raising awareness on the importance of maintaining carbon sink through aforestation efforts where possible.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS**

The maximum grants for projects in each country are as follows

### **Grant 1: Angola**

- Climate Smart Agriculture: **€115,000**
- Community Based Inland Fisheries Management: **€87,330**

**Total: €202,330**

### **Grant 2: Botswana**

- Climate Smart Agriculture: **€161,670**

**Total: €161,670**

### **Grant 3: Namibia**

- Community Based Inland Fisheries Management: **€ 57,500**
- Community Based Tourism and Woodland Resources Management: **€57,500**

**Total: €115,000**

## **7.0 OVERHEAD COSTS.**

The Applicants is allowed to 10% of the total grant as overhead.

## **8.0 ELIGIBLE COSTS.**

Grants applicants will be allowed to cover operational costs (staff costs and travel costs) directly associated with demonstration projects activities implementation. Grantees will not be allowed to procure vehicles, mobile phones and office space. The Total budgets for operational costs shall not exceed 20% of the total budget.

## **9.0 INFRASTRUCTURE PROCUREMENT.**

OKACOM has already mapped required infrastructures. Applicants can develop their activities cost to be implemented including infrastructure development. However, it should be noted that OKACOM will retain the contract value for all infrastructures to be procured. The procurement of such infrastructures will be conducted jointly with the Implementing Partner and respective project recipient ministries. Contracts to service providers will be awarded and administered by OKACOM. Respective Contracts supervision and progress will be conducted jointly by OKACOM, respective project recipient, ministries and Implementing Partners.

## **10.0 GRANTS APPLICATIONS INFORMATION SESSIONS.**

Questions will be fielded via email to the Project Manager until the last day before submission. Regularly, questions and answers will be compiled and shared. A webinar for information sharing and guidance of the Applicants will be scheduled and announced through the OKACOM website.

## **11.0 EVALUATION OF GRANTS APPLICATIONS.**

Applications received will be rigorously evaluated based on evaluation criteria which will annexed to this call. The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated within twenty-one days after submission.

## **12.0 DURATION OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS.**

The OKACOM call for Grants proposals will be running for a period of three weeks starting from the date of publication.

## **13.0 APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE.**

All grant proposals should reach OKACOM office by courier not later than 16:00 hours ( Botswana Time) on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**. No late submissions will be considered. All applications should be submitted by courier to the addressed provided in the guidelines for application ( Annex 1).

## **14.0 CONTACTS**

Applicants can send enquiries to the following contacts:

Dr Mpaphi Casper Bonyongo, OKACOM Senior Scientific Officer at [casper.bonyongo@okacom.org](mailto:casper.bonyongo@okacom.org).org  
copying Ms Tracy Molefi, Programmes Coordinator at [tracy@okacom.org](mailto:tracy@okacom.org).