



## **USAID Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Project**

### **Annual Program Statement (APS) No. I/2024**

#### **Support Implementation of USAID Heshimu Bahari Project Activities in Target Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar Seascapes**

The USAID/Tanzania Heshimu Bahari (Respect the Ocean) Project is a five-year project that aims to improve the ecological resilience and productivity of Tanzania's high marine biodiversity areas. Tanzania's coral reefs are among the world's fifty most climate-resilient reefs based on biological and oceanographic characteristics, and Tanzania's marine and coastal ecosystems support a diverse range of coral reefs, seagrasses, open-ocean pelagic habitats, and mangroves. Not only do the ecosystems support species such as dugongs, sea turtles, and sharks and rays, but they also support a variety of livelihoods such as artisan fishing, aquaculture, and marine/coastal-related tourism activities. Overfishing, poorly planned infrastructure projects, and climate change all threaten not only these ecosystems and their fauna and flora, but also livelihoods and food security. These obstacles, together with the lack of a functional marine management area (MMA) framework, underdeveloped governance systems, insufficient funding, and an unincorporated private sector, severely limit effective management and measurable impact in marine biodiversity conservation.

To help address these challenges, Heshimu Bahari aims to establish an enabling environment and science-driven framework for sustainable MMA and wild-caught fishery co-management by government, communities, and the private sector. The Activity has four integrated objectives:

1. Strengthen an enabling framework for a network of MMAs and fishery replenishment zones (FRZs) for resilient biodiversity conservation, climate resilient communities, and enhanced wild-caught fisheries production.
2. Community co-management of MMAs/wild-caught fisheries and climate resilience strengthened.
3. Private sector investment in MMAs and wild-caught fisheries expanded.
4. Integration of relevant science to MMA and fisheries policy and management improved.

#### **Objective:**

Heshimu Bahari seeks to award grants to companies, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, and other organizations to undertake implementation of activities that will enhance sustainable biodiversity conservation and socio-economic outcomes from Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) in Tanzania. In particular, the Project aims to collaborate with the private sector, local communities, Marine Protected Area (MPA) management, and key stakeholders to establish and strengthen Fisheries Replenishment Zones (FRZs). Additionally, it seeks to provide supplemental livelihood opportunities that reduce pressure on marine resources and enhance community resilience to climate change and empower women and youth.

#### **Eligible Recipients:**

Applicants must be a registered NGO, companies or organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit formally constituted, recognized by and in good standing with appropriate United Republic of Tanzania authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.

- Applicants may only submit one application per prime organization under this APS.



- Applicants from the private sector must include the value of funds they will contribute towards the activity.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate successful past performance in implementation of integrated development programs related to Heshimu Bahari priority areas.
- Applicants must have established outreach capabilities with linkages to the beneficiary group(s) identified in the program description. This should be reflected by the incorporation of the beneficiary perspective in the application.
- Applicants must display sound management in the form of financial, administrative, and technical policies and procedures and present a system of internal controls that safeguard assets; protect against fraud, waste, and abuse; and support the achievement of program goals and objectives. Heshimu Bahari will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind, equivalent to \$25,000 USD or more, and has no anticipated subawards, grantees will be required to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) at the time of award. If the applicant already has a UEI number, it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a UEI number before an award is made. Heshimu Bahari will assist successful applicants with this process.
- The Project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.
- Faith-based and community groups will receive equal opportunity for funding in accordance with the mandated guidelines laid out in ADS 303.3.28 except for faith-based organizations whose objectives are for discriminatory and religious purposes, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature.
- Applicants must sign the required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications are attached to this solicitation (Annex B) for informational purposes only; Heshimu Bahari will review them with applicants selected for a grant award.
- Applicants will also be required to provide a list of their current USG funding sources.

*USAID Heshimu Bahari* encourages applications from new organizations who meet the above eligibility criteria.

### **Funding:**

It is anticipated that each grant award may range from between Tanzania Shillings 50M-400M, but the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities, number of themes applied, and seascapes applied, however final negotiation and may be lower or higher than that range. The duration of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than two years. The estimated start date of grants awarded under this solicitation is variable, depending on when grantees are selected. Heshimu Bahari anticipates that grant implementation will begin within 45 days following grantee selection. The types of grants awarded will be determined during the negotiation process with selected grantees

### **Application and Submission Information:**

Interested agencies are invited to request the APS, along with additional materials, via email at [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com). The additional materials include the concept paper template, list of seascapes, list of required certifications, and the self-assessment form.



The Concept Paper must be submitted in English and must follow the guidelines for page limits included within the template. The Concept should be submitted electronically to USAID Heshimu Bahari at [HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com](mailto:HBAprocurement@HeshimuBahari.com) and should reference APS No. I/2024.

Applicants should note the important dates in the schedule of events below:

Submission Period	Due Date	Activity	Due Date
Cycle 1	September 16, 2024 – October 17, 2024	Written Questions Submitted	September 23, 2024
		Responses to Questions	September 30, 2024
		Proposal Evaluations	October 21-30, 2024
		Notification of Applicants	October 30, 2024
Cycle 2	March 1, 2025 – March 30, 2025	Written Questions Submitted	March 10, 2025
		Responses to Questions	March 15, 2025
		Proposal Evaluations	March 16-21, 2025
		Notification of Applicants	April 10, 2025
Cycle 3	June 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025	Written Questions Submitted	June 10, 2025
		Responses to Questions	June 15, 2025
		Proposal Evaluations	June 16-21, 2025
		Notification of Applicants	Jul 10, 2025

Heshimu Bahari will continue to accept concept papers through **05:00 PM** local time, on **each cycle closing date (October 17, 2024, March 30, 2025, June 30, 2025)**, or until funds are no longer available. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.

Applications will be evaluated in a two-step evaluation process:

- The first step is for applicants to submit a concept paper.
- If the concept paper is accepted, successful applicants will be asked by USAID Heshimu Bahari to submit a more detailed application.

Issuance of this APS does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Heshimu Bahari, nor does it commit Heshimu Bahari to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. Further, Heshimu Bahari reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the applicants.