

TERMS OF REFERENCE

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL RESOURCE HUB (RRH) COUNTRY/REGIONAL TEAMS

Important Terms to note

The Regional Resource Hub (RRH) – a knowledge hub for the Eastern and Southern African region that supports better decision making for fair and effective management and governance of protected and conserved areas.

The Regional Resource Hub Portal (RRH Portal) – A web portal that facilitates exchange of data and information for informed decision and policy making on protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa.

TEAM - Torchbearer, Enthusiastic, Available and Motivated

CONTEXT

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected and conserved areas and surrounding communities. BIOPAMA is an initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the 11th European Development Fund, jointly implemented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Building on the first five years of activities funded by the 10th European Development Fund, the second phase of BIOPAMA offers tools for data and information management, services for the improvement of knowledge and capacities for protected area planning and decision-making, and funding opportunities for specific local actions (www.biopama.org).

The programme focuses on two aspects for promoting more effective and sustainable protected and conserved area management and governance. The first is the establishment of Regional Observatories (in Eastern and Southern Africa referred to as Regional Resource Hub) to facilitate the provision of relevant information and data to support policies and guide more effective decision-making on protected and conserved areas. The second is the capacity development of managers and decision makers of protected and conserved areas to use the data and information effectively.

The Regional Resource Hub (RRH) supports conservation actors such as managers in the field and at the central level (national protected area management agencies), NGOs, academics and private sector to improve the effectiveness of protected area management and, more generally, the conservation of biodiversity.

In this context, the Regional Resource Hub proposes to establish a pilot group in the region that comprises key persons from the above-mentioned organisations/agencies/entities who will be a *Torchbearer, Enthusiastic, Available and Motivated* (TEAMs). They should believe in and be willing to promote the RRH as a **One stop shop resource for fair and effective management of protected and conserved areas**. The members of the pilot group will

be selected based on an application process from each of the 24 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region. As pilot users, they will try out the services and tools available - acting as data providers and data users - and are expected to provide feedback to improve the development of the RRH, and to work as champions in the promotion of this environmental observatory in their respective country.

Development of the Regional Resource Hub

At the moment, the majority of information showcased within the Regional Resource Hub Portal (RRH portal) is provided by the Protected Planet Initiative which is a joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and IUCN, managed by The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP-WCMC](https://www.unep-wcmc.org/)). The intention is for the RRH Portal to pull in additional information in the future. It has been noted that the information presented for some countries and protected areas can be inaccurate and/or incomplete. The RRH aims to use its regional position and national networks to bring together accurate, up-to-date and validated data/information, which in turn will be used to update Protected Planet for the region. The vision is to showcase relevant information related to all areas of conservation interest not simply those that meet the IUCN definition of a protected area, but also those that are 'other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PATRS-003-En.pdf>

The RRH is a platform developed for the countries in the region and will continue to operate and provide services even after the BIOPAMA Programme comes to an end. It is therefore important that it is driven and fostered by the countries and regional commissions. The proposal to have TEAMS is therefore geared towards the premise that depends on the countries and regional commissions making data and information available in order to be used to inform decisions.

An online demonstration scheduled for **May 2020** will be a first of a sequence of events with the TEAMS. The information provided in this demonstration will allow the TEAM members to understand the RRH and what we intend to accomplish together. Following this demonstration phase, RRH campaigns will be implemented that include strong content building and training on use of the platform tools among others.

Rationale for country/regional TEAMS

Pertinent and up-to-date data/information/knowledge are key elements required for effective conservation, management, decision and policy making when it comes to biodiversity and protected areas. These crucial elements reside within countries, with persons/organisations that have vested interests and operate on-the-ground. Such organisations include Government organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), academic/research organisations, funding agencies, regional and sub-regional entities. Such organisations/agencies/entities usually possess pockets of data/information/knowledge, but in many instances rarely work together or even collaborate to formulate the 'big picture' which is needed for effective conservation, management and decision making.

The foreseen benefits of the TEAMS (to all biodiversity and PA organisations and practitioners) include, but are not limited to:

- Better networking, collaboration and sharing of data/information/knowledge within and across countries and regions;

- Minimisation of duplications of efforts and better utilization of limited resources;
- Increased opportunities for accessing funding, trainings etc.;
- Better representation of protected area information (especially at local and national levels) on the RRH Portal and Protected Planet;
- Development of tools and knowledge products needed to support improved natural resource management and governance;
- Easier tracking of progress made towards international, regional, national and even local conservation targets;
- Informed decision and policy making;
- Easier fulfilment of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) reporting obligations (e.g. NBSAPs and National Reports).

Functioning of TEAM Members

Being part of a country TEAMS is completely voluntary and should be driven by one's involvement in the biodiversity and protected areas arena, a sense of stewardship and the potential benefits to be had. The TEAMS will be comprised of key persons from a wide-cross section of organisations/agencies/entities to ensure inclusion and the bringing together of crucial data, information, knowledge, expertise, opinions, insights, networks, opportunities. The primary functions of TEAMS will be to:

- Provide accurate, up-to-date data (ecological, socioeconomic and governance) on protected areas and other recognised, managed conservation areas within a country;
- Provide advice on the functionality and usefulness of the proposed design of the RRH Portal
- Identify management capacity gaps and areas in which training and capacity building are needed;
- Identify tools and analyses currently utilised or in need of development;
- Periodically monitor the content published on the RRH Portal to ensure information is indeed accurate and up-to-date;
- Identify country or regional success stories to be shared;
- Champion the RRH as a one stop shop for Protected Areas and Conserved Areas data and information in the country and region.

Required Qualities of country/regional TEAMS

1. Intrinsic qualities
 - a. Good communicator
 - b. Enthusiastic
 - c. Goal oriented
 - d. Intrinsically motivated
 - e. Reliable
2. Have experience in the management or monitoring of protected areas. Training in protected area management would be an asset;
3. Experience in data and/or knowledge management will be an asset;
4. Knowledge of computer equipment and basic software like GIS is desirable but not compulsory;
5. Be at least one of the following
 - a. Cadre of a national administration or agency or network of protected areas, or be duly mandated by that authority;

- b. An expert in a non-governmental organisation in the natural resources management field;
 - c. Member of the faculty of a university or research center specialized in protected area (PA) or natural resource management;
 - d. An independent consultant working in the area of Protected and conserved Areas.
6. Have time available and the necessary authorizations from employer to present the RRH to national administration and key PA stakeholders, and conduct the training and the implementation of RRH campaigns according to national and regional priorities;
 7. Come from an Eastern or Southern African ACP country;
 8. Knowledge of the BIOPAMA Programme and/or the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and /or equivalent regional and national datasets is an asset.

The applications, consisting of a **completed application form and contacts of a reference** should be sent by email to beryl.nyamgeroh@iucn.org and mkimani@rcmrd.org.