



PublicPrivate  
Partnership  
Commission

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## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR MWABVI WILDLIFE RESERVE**

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### **1. BACKGROUND**

The Government of Malawi (GoM) identifies the Tourism sector as a key driver for sustainable economic growth and development in the country (Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III and Malawi 2063). The Policy and legal frameworks provide an enabling environment for the involvement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the conservation and management of wildlife. However, the management of country's wildlife estates requires a significant cost in terms of infrastructure development and maintenance for protected area management and ecotourism to improve service delivery. In addition, with limited Government funding, there is need to identify other innovative ventures such as such as protected area management concession among others in order to secure the long-term viability and financial sustainability of protected areas.

Private sector expertise has proved to be successful in development, operation and management of protected areas, like at Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Government has identified Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve as a candidate for private sector participation in its development and management.

#### **Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve**

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Wildlife through Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is managing various protected areas and ecotourism facilities in the country. Amongst the protected areas is Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve located in Nsanje District. It shares an ecological corridor with Matandwe Forest Reserve where animals migrate.

It was established in 1953 and was extended in 1975. Mwabvi known as forest ordeal tree is one of the rare species from which the reserve derives its name. It is the smallest wildlife reserve in the country. The reserve was originally established to protect a small population of black rhinos which is extinct. It is 135 km<sup>2</sup> in size and dominated by Mopane tree species. Currently, the major animals available are buffalo, impala, kudu, suni, and common duiker. The reserve has limited equipment, unreliable transport, poor road network, inadequate radio communication system and poor network connectivity. Most of the infrastructure requires new development e.g. Mwabvi ecolodge. The Reserve offers economic opportunities but lacks necessary financial resources to meaningfully implement its significant development plans and provide the required basic infrastructure for economic development. Hence the need for a private investor to partner with Government in the development of the reserve.

Currently, there is a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project - Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) implemented through the World Bank aimed at developing the reserve at a lower level.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The objectives of this protected area management project shall be to:

- a. Manage, rehabilitate, finance and develop the reserve for the benefit of Malawians and the economy at large.
- b. Improve the sustainability with an improved visitation of the reserve; and
- c. Help achieve conservation of the natural resources in and around the site and activity areas.

## **3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The potential bidders will among other things be expected to:

- Assess the reserve on the current status
- Compile a report and recommend appropriate interventions
- Cost the proposed interventions
- Manage, rehabilitate, finance and develop the reserve

## **4. REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- a. Interested firms should provide information indicating the core business and number of years in the business.
- b. Be a registered firm/consortium operating under either international regulations or the laws of Malawi (if a consortium, they should submit a duly signed Memorandum of Understanding by the interested parties).
- c. Financial capacity, which should specifically include the evidence of successful sourcing of finance for the previous projects or demonstrate having adequate source of finance (credit lines) for the successful implementation of the Project
- d. Demonstrable experience in development and provision of services in the area of interest especially in protected area management.
- e. Technical and managerial capability of the firms (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key members of staff)

## **5. THE INVITATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

The Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Wildlife invite interested and qualifying protected area management both local and International firms to submit their expression of interest to enter into a PPP agreement with GoM through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Wildlife with the aim of investing in the development and management of the reserve and associated services to the public. The expression of interest should contain a brief profile of the firm, the relevant projects that the firm has undertaken in the region and emerging markets, and the profiles of the key technical experts.

Interested Investors are free to bid for any or all of the sites.

Submissions can be done through electronic transmission or through hard copies. Interested Investors submitting hard copies are advised to submit four (4) hard copies of expressions of interest to the address below by **Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 14:00hrs** local time clearly marked “**Expression of Interest for the Public Private Partnership for Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve**”.

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