RCMRD/SERVIR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)

RFP NO. ESA-03

ISSUANCE DATE: APRIL 4, 2022

Dear Applicant:

SERVIR Eastern & Southern Africa (SERVIR E&SA) is a joint initiative of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), which partners with countries and organizations in eastern and southern Africa to address critical challenges in climate change, food security, water and related disasters, land use, and air quality. Using satellite data and geospatial technology, SERVIR E&SA co-develops innovative solutions through collaborations with regional and national institutions to improve resilience and sustainable resource management at local, national and regional scales. SERVIR E&SA is seeking **concept papers,** from persons in organizations interested in applying for a small grant to facilitate their use of Earth observation (satellite) data, geo-spatial analysis and GIS applications to address societal challenges in four (4) thematic areas in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions: Agriculture & Food Security, Land Use/Land Cover & Ecosystems, Water Resources & Hydro- climatic Disasters, and Weather & Climate. Applicants are encouraged to include aspects of gender and social vulnerability as it pertains to the geospatial applications.

The small grants will be awarded and implemented in accordance with USAID and US Government regulations governing grants under contract and RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA's internal grant management policies. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA employees may not ask for, and applicants are prohibited from offering, any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation to obtain or reward improper favorable treatment regarding this solicitation. Any improper request from an employee should be reported to serviresagrants@rcmrd.org.

SECTION I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

IA. BACKGROUND

SERVIR, a joint initiative of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and leading geospatial organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, SERVIR partners with countries and organizations in these regions to address

critical challenges in climate change, food security, water and related disasters, land use, and air quality. Using satellite data and geospatial technology, SERVIR co-develops innovative solutions through a network of regional hubs to improve resilience and sustainable resource management at local, national and regional scales. The SERVIR network comprises the following regional hubs: the Eastern and Southern Africa, the Hindu-Kush Himalaya, the Mekong, West Africa, and the Amazonia regions.

The SERVIR Eastern and Southern Africa project (SERVIR E&SA) is implemented by the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). The all-encompassing goal of SERVIR E&SA is to improve environmental management and resilience to climate change by strengthening the capacity of governments and other key stakeholders to integrate Earth observation information and geospatial technologies into development decision-making. Basing development decisions on better information in the Eastern & Southern Africa regions helps to achieve more resilient outcomes in the thematic areas noted below.

RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA Small Grants Program Objective

The **objective** of the RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA Small Grants Program is to support organizations in the Eastern and Southern Africa region to generate innovative ideas for applying Earth observation data and geospatial methods/tools for development decision-making in the Eastern and Southern Africa region. The anticipated outcome of the grant activities is to stimulate the innovative use of geospatial tools and information to translate science into sustainable policy and practice that addresses the development challenges posed by environmental and climate stresses. Of particular concern is a recognition that environmental and climate stresses impact communities and populations unevenly, with women, girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, and other groups are especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of these stressors. The grant program is managed by RCMRD, and applicants will be working with representatives from RCMRD.

IB. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA plans to award grants to organizations in **Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia** who desire support in the use of Earth observation (EO) and GIS applications to address development challenges in the four (4) thematic areas within these countries. The applications should either have a local, country-specific, or regional reach (where trans-boundary issues are addressed among neighboring countries). In addition, applicants are encouraged to propose activities that involve working with vulnerable communities and populations. SERVIR defines vulnerable communities as groups of people with minimal ability to withstand adverse impacts from multiple stressors to which they are exposed e.g., weather variability and climate change impacts (floods, droughts, climate sensitive diseases). Vulnerable communities and populations within those communities may

include, but are not limited to: women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, and those living in extreme poverty.

Building on the ideas within the SERVIR E&SA https://servirglobal.net/ServiceCatalogue/ is encouraged but not a requirement for selection. The following are brief descriptions of the thematic areas for which RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA would wish to support through the SERVIR E&SA Small Grants program.

(1) Agriculture & Food Security
Agriculture is the most important livelihood sector in Africa, contributing to over 50% of GDP. In sub-Saharan Africa, over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture renders the smallholder farmer and agricultural decision-makers particularly vulnerable to climate variability. Food security issues continue to attract attention especially in the Greater Horn of Africa region where 75% of the land is classified as arid. The impacts of climate change and extreme weather patterns which cause floods and droughts are projected to affect food security in the region. Improving the accessibility, reliability, and use of information used for planning and decision-making can bolster food security. There is a need to prioritize development of robust agriculture information systems, up-to-date products to inform food security outlooks, and agricultural decision support systems. Earth observation data has the potential to be effectively applied in agricultural assessments and monitoring, and in development of tools and products at different spatial extents as an input to agricultural decision-making processes. In addition, the development of effective communication systems closely linked to relevant national agencies working with agriculture related services (e.g., agricultural extension and advisory services) is vital to support the timely use of information in decision making at respective levels of government, community-based organizations and farmers. Working in collaboration with other initiatives on agricultural monitoring may also present opportunities to advance food security objectives. Key topics under this theme include agricultural monitoring, drought management, crop productivity, climate and weather information translation and dissemination for early warning alerts, rangeland decision support, and aquaculture and fisheries decision support. Topics addressed under this theme should be gender-sensitive and consider the ways in which men's and women's farming practices as well as the most effective way to communicate with men and women may differ.

(2) Land Use/Land Cover & Ecosystems
Land ecosystems (including tropical forest, grasslands, rangelands) in Africa continue to experience rapid changes leading to huge environmental impacts, contributing significantly to climate change and biodiversity loss. In east and southern Africa, the key drivers of land use change (e.g., deforestation and degradation) include demand for land for agricultural expansion (both small-scale and large-scale commercial ventures), livestock production, extraction of wood for energy (charcoal and firewood fuel) and logging for timber. It is estimated that farmlands in East Africa have increased by about 50% in recent decades. In arid and semi- arid areas of Eastern Africa, invasive species colonization, establishment, and spread is another concern because invasive species out-compete indigenous vegetation which can also

negatively impact indigenous fauna and adversely affect livelihoods. In response to these issues, a number of international initiatives have been set up to combat anthropogenic forest loss and improve rangeland management. One such initiative, the REDD+ programme, features results-based payments to mainly tropical countries who implement activities to stem CO_2 (carbon dioxide) emissions arising from deforestation and forest degradation. Monitoring deforestation and forest degradation is central to assessing changes in carbon storage, biodiversity, and other ecological processes. To increase monitoring accuracy and transparency, spatially-explicit information on forest cover change at large scales must be derived from satellite images. With new satellite sensors, and better capacity to analyze satellite imagery, satellite mapping of land use and land cover change continues to improve, and may be considered routine for mapping and estimating area affected by land use conversions. Additionally, remote sensing is a cost-effective way to monitor changes in forest cover and degradation over large geographic areas. Key topics under this theme include: Land cover/land use change mapping, ecosystem services and ecosystem management (including invasive species analyses and management), REDD+ decision support, land use decision support, and low emission development planning, human wildlife conflicts related to land use patterns and urbanization. Topics addressed under this theme should be gender-sensitive and consider the way that gender differences in farming, livestock production, wood gathering and use, use of invasive and other species, and other gender considerations with respect to land use/cover & ecosystems.

(3) <u>Water Resources & Hydro-climatic Disasters</u>

Climate shocks and stresses, including droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall are a reality across much of eastern and southern Africa. Almost all countries in this region face water insecurity, including water scarcity, in-accessibility, and pollution. These problems are exacerbated by environmental degradation resulting from increased land use, urbanization, deforestation, poor agricultural practices, and the intensification of water abstraction. These practices can lead to reduced water retention periods, increased surface runoff, higher rates of soil loss, and changes to the natural hydrograph of streams and rivers. Relatedly, water-borne diseases are the main cause of morbidity in all the countries in the region, and poor sanitation compounds health problems in both urban and rural environments. Furthermore, as populations grow so does the potential for conflict over water use and access. Such conflicts may be aggravated by climate change impacts on water resources. To facilitate proper planning and use of inadequate water resources, as well as mitigation of water-related disasters, African governments require reliable data and tools that provide timely information that is integrated into national systems for effective decision-making and response. Use of Earth observation data and geospatial technologies can help to bridge this gap. However, this will require dedicated efforts in building the capacity of government and private sector institutions to work with Earth observation data and geospatial technologies to derive tools and information necessary for water resource monitoring and management. Key topics under this theme include: water resources monitoring and forecasting, flood management and response, hazard monitoring and forecasting, fire monitoring, and water quality monitoring, water allocation planning for domestic, agricultural and commercial purposes, and ground water use monitoring. Topics addressed under this theme should be gender-sensitive and consider the ways in which men and women may be differently impacted by

hydroclimatic events, e.g., men, especially young men may be more likely to be drawn into conflict, and girls may be more likely to be removed from school and sold into early marriage.

(4) <u>Weather & Climate</u>

The impacts of climate change have the potential to damage and reverse developments achieved in improving the socio-economic well-being of many countries in Africa. A number of human- related factors compound the negative impacts of climate change, including but not limited to high population density, aging infrastructure, widespread poverty, and diseases. In many parts of Africa, the demand for food, water and livestock forage is expected to double within the next 30 years. In eastern and southern Africa, the populace is increasingly faced with extreme climatic events such as droughts and floods. These events have had severe negative impacts on multiple economic sectors across the sub region and tend to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations. Evidence suggests that future climate change may lead to a change in the frequency or severity of such extreme weather events, potentially worsening these impacts. The development of evidence-based decision support tools that incorporate current and future vulnerability is important for communities, governments, and the private sector to plan for the impacts of weather variability and climate change in the region. Key topics under this theme include: weather monitoring and forecasting, climate modeling and scenario planning, climate services, air quality monitoring, and adaptation planning. Topics addressed under this theme should be gender-sensitive and consider the ways in which men and women may respond to weather and climate events differently due to their societal roles, e.g., men may be inclined to play a "heroic" role in disasters, placing them at greater risk of death or injury, and women are likely to bear added responsibility as caretakers of children and elderly.

SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA anticipates awarding 12-16 grant awards with each individual grant award in the range of 25,000 USD - 30,000 USD. However, the final amount will be dependent upon grant activities and final negotiation and may be lower than that range. The implementation period of any grant award under this solicitation is expected to be no more than 14 months. The type of grant will be determined during the negotiation process.

SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY

IIIA.   ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Applicants must be a **registered organization** formally constituted, recognized by, and in good standing with appropriate authorities in **Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia**, and **compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations**.

- Individuals are not eligible to receive grants under this solicitation. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA encourages applications from potential new partners.

- Each organization must submit only **one (1)** application under this RFP.

- Eligible organizations include: Government organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Public and Private Universities, Private Companies, and Private Institutions, Community-Based Organizations.

- 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 be able to demonstrate successful past performance in the production of Earth observation and GIS applications related to the RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA's thematic/technical areas.

- 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. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will assess this capability prior to awarding a grant.

- The following are required to be submitted as part of the application package, and can be found in Annex B:
    - Certification of "Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction (AAPD 14-03, August 2014)"
    - Prohibition on Providing Federal Assistance to Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements – Representation (May 2017)

- Applicants must sign other required certifications prior to receiving a grant. The certifications will be provided to applicants selected for the full proposal stage.
- For any grant award(s) resulting from this solicitation that is other than in-kind and equivalent to $25,000 USD or more, grantees will be required to provide a **Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)** number at the time of award. If the applicant already has a DUNS number it should be included in their application. Otherwise, applicants will be expected to get a DUNS number before an award is made. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will assist successful applicants with this process. DUNS numbers can be obtained online at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/pages/CCRSearch.jsp

- The project will work with the successful grantee to draft a marking and branding plan which will be annexed to the grant agreement.

- Cost sharing is desirable but is not required.

IIIB. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

The RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA grant funds may not be utilized for the following:
- Construction or infrastructure activities of any kind.
- Ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or "representation" expenses.
- Purchases of restricted goods, such as: restricted agricultural commodities, motor vehicles including motorcycles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, contraceptive products, used equipment; without the prior approval of SERVIR, or prohibited goods, prohibited goods under USAID regulations, including but not limited to the following: abortion equipment and services, luxury goods, etc.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases of goods or services restricted or prohibited under the prevailing USAID source/ nationality regulations.
- Any purchase or activity, which has already been made.
- Purchases or activities unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA.
- Prior obligations of and/or, debts, fines, and penalties imposed on the Grantee.
- Creation of endowments.

SECTION IV – CONCEPT PAPER AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

IVA.   INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

This is a two-stage application process. The first stage is for the applicant to submit a concept paper. **Concept paper forms (Annex A) will be evaluated against the merit review criteria listed in Section V below**. If the applicant successfully meets or exceeds the merit review criteria, they will be invited to submit a full proposal. For those who make it to the second stage of the application process, templates to be utilized when developing the proposal will be provided.

Please Note: For those selected for grant award, RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will conduct a pre-award risk assessment and technical and cost negotiations with the recipients. Subsequently, the grants will be submitted to USAID for approval, and will be awarded once that approval is received.

IVB.   CONCEPT PAPER AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

- Concept papers shall be submitted in **English.**

- The concept paper may not exceed the page length requirements listed in the concept paper form (Annex A).

- **To apply for this RFP, you must register and submit your Concept papers via https://serviresagrants.rcmrd.org/. Concept papers should be submitted in MS Word, Times New Roman, Font Size 12. Concept papers must be submitted no later than 17:00 Nairobi time on 5ᵗʰ May, 2022. Late or unresponsive applications will not be considered.**

- A **complete submission** will have the following attachments:

    ✓ Completed & Signed Concept Paper Form (Annex A) *****
    ✓ Completed & Signed Certifications (Annex B) *****
    ✓ CVs for Project Personnel (Using the template provided in (Annex C)
    ✓ A copy of the Applicant's valid legal registration.

- Please submit all questions concerning this solicitation to SERVIR E&SA Grants, via email to serviresagrants@rcmrd.org. Questions will be accepted throughout the application process. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will assist applicants in understanding the application process.

* Please note that the concept papers and certifications must be signed by an authorized agent of the Applicant's Organization. An authorized agent is someone who has the legal authority to sign documents on behalf of the organization.

SECTION V.   APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

As described above, 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, you will be asked to submit a full proposal (RFP).

All concept papers and full applications will be reviewed by an internal and external review panel. Concept papers will be evaluated against the criteria below. Merit review criteria for full applications will be shared with applicants whose concept papers are selected to move to the second stage of the evaluation process.

The proposed project activities must be within the framework of the thematic/technical areas listed in Section IB above, and must align with the grants program's overall objective described in Section IA.

Merit Review Criteria	Rating (Points)
1. Technical Approach	**70**
a. Problem Statement (including Vulnerable Communities and populations)	*20*
b. Innovation	*10*
c. Methodology	*10*
d. Stakeholder Engagement	*20*
e. Sustainability	*10*
2. Past Performance	**10**
3. Project Team	**20**
a. Qualifications	*10*
b. Gender Balance	*10*
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	**100**

These merit review criteria elements are described more fully below.

1a. Problem Statement. Issue or problems that the activity will address is/are clear and correspond to a SERVIR E&SA thematic area described in this solicitation (section IB above). Objectives of the activity are clear. Additionally, the extent to which the proposed activity includes a component focused on vulnerable communities, or represents a strong commitment to vulnerable communities and population as participants or beneficiaries. SERVIR defines vulnerable communities as groups of people with minimal ability to withstand adverse impacts from multiple stressors to which they are exposed e.g., weather variability and climate change impacts (floods, droughts, Clear description of how the activity uses Earth observation and other geospatial data to overcome the identified problem and improve development outcomes. Vulnerable communities and populations within those communities may include, but are not limited to: women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, and those living in extreme poverty (20 points)

1b. Innovation. Uniqueness of the proposed activities in terms of subject matter, technical approach, and/or applications developed are clearly stated and defined. (10 points)

1c. Methodology. The quality and feasibility of the application in terms of the viability of the proposed technical approach, i.e., the proposed technical approach can reasonably be expected to produce the intended outcomes in the time allotted. Outputs are realistic and align with overall objectives. It is expected that all datasets, scripts, models, in situ observations, and all related outputs of the project will be made freely available to the public at the end of the project execution. Clear information about the data dissemination plan is expected. (10 points)

1d. Stakeholder Engagement. Decision-making context for the geographic region clearly stated. Beneficiaries, partners, stakeholders to be engaged are detailed and strategic. Engagement activity or dissemination plan included. (20 points)

1e. Sustainability. The extent to which the funded activity will result in building and strengthening the capacity of the community and local organizations, and whether the activity itself is sustainable or will promote sustainability of the organization. (10 points)

2. Past Performance. Previous or ongoing experience implementing similar activities. This examines the organization's experience, which is a critical factor in assessing the capacity of the organization to implement the activity. (10 points)

3a. Project Team Qualifications. Evidence of the capability of key personnel (through academic and project management qualifications and past experience) to undertake and accomplish the proposed activities. (10 points)

3b. Project Team Gender Balance. RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will take into consideration your organization's approach to gender-balance in the selection of staff proposed to work on your activity. (10 points)

Additionally, **RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will consider the maximum geographic breadth possible.** RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA will also ensure environmental soundness and compliance in design and implementation as required by 22 CFR 216.

SECTION VI. AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

✔ All grants will be negotiated, denominated, and funded in US Dollars. RCMRD will only pay the amount quoted and included in the Grant Agreement. All costs funded by the grant must be allowable, allocable and reasonable.

✔ Issuance of this RFP and assistance with application development do not constitute an award or commitment on the part of RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA, nor does it commit RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

✔ RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received and reserves the right to ask for further clarifications from the offerors. Applicants will be informed in writing (via email) of the decision made regarding their application.

✔ Grant agreements will be awarded by and between Regional Centre for mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). The grants administration will also be conducted by RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Section VII. AUTHORITY/GOVERNING REGULATIONS

Awards made to non-U.S. organizations will adhere to guidance provided under ADS Chapter 303, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations" and will be within the terms of the USAID Standard Provisions as linked in the annexes, as well as RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA grants procedures.

ADS 303 references additional regulatory documents issued by the U.S. Government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development:
- 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E
- Full text of 2 CFR 200 can be found at http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA is required to ensure that all organizations receiving USAID grant funds comply with the guidance found in the regulations referenced above, as applicable to the respective terms and conditions of their grant awards. Under the RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA grants program, USAID retains the right at all times to terminate, in whole or in part, RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA grant-making authorities.

ANNEXES:
Annex A – Concept Paper Form
Annex B – Required Certifications
- Certification of "Representation by Organization Regarding a Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Criminal Conviction (AAPD 14-03, August 2014)"
- Prohibition on Providing Federal Assistance to Entities that Require Certain Internal

Confidentiality Agreements – Representation (May 2017)

Annex C – CV Template

Annex D – Mandatory and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions [Links Included for Reference]

- Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed through the following URL: http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mat.pdf

- Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental recipients receiving all other types of grants can be accessed through the following URL: http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303mab.pd

Annex E – Additional Materials

- ✓ SERVIR E&SA Services ─ https://servirglobal.net/ServiceCatalogue/

- ✓ SERVIR E&SA Website ─ https://www.rcmrd.org/projects/servir-esa

- ✓ RCMRD Website ─ https://www.rcmrd.org/

- ✓ RCMRD Apps Portal ─ http://geoportal.rcmrd.org/

- ✓ SERVIR Global ─ https://www.servirglobal.net/