



Terms of Reference (ToR) for Development of Wetlands Management Plan Mid Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin (Samburu)

1. Background

Wetlands International is dedicated to safeguarding and restoring wetlands for people and nature. We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health. In our disaster risk reduction work, we work from the principles that environmental degradation can lead to disasters and aggravation of hazards, and that the sustenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems are key to reducing disaster risk and improving community resilience.

Wetlands International Kenya in Strategic Partnership (SP) with Cordaid, Kenya Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross, is implementing a 5 year (2016-2020) Partners for Resilience (PfR) Programme to build and strengthen community resilience in Kenya by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) – referred to as Integrated Risk Management (IRM). The strategic partnership aims at strengthening civil society organisations to lobby, advocate and promote the application of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) to enhance and protect livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Kenya through the so-called 'IRM Dialogue trajectories' in 3 'Domains of Change' - Policy, Investments, and Practice. It focuses primarily on environmental degradation and climate-related hazards, whose underlying causes and potential for disasters result to a large extent from human-induced processes. The geographical areas of implementation are Ewaso Ng'iro and Tana River Basins covering Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu, Kilifi and Tana River Counties and also at national level.

2. The Assignment

Wetlands, beyond their biological functions, play a key role in helping communities cope with disasters. In Kenya, wetlands within the Ewaso Ng'iro basin are of enormous importance both economically and environmentally. They serve a key role in the great wildlife migrations and provide habitat for endangered wildlife species. At the same time, they regulate water quality and deliver a significant share of the population's means of subsistence by providing food and building materials for communities within the Ewaso Ng'iro catchment and at national level. Ewaso Ng'iro basin wetlands are also crucial in enhancing community resilience against droughts and floods. Yet these wetlands are in danger; threatened with drainage for agriculture and infrastructure development degradation, pollution, and destruction at an alarming pace. As a result, many benefits that wetlands provide, such as water capture, storage, filtration, the regulation of flood flows and food production are threatened.

Sustainably managed wetland ecosystems can reduce the impact of disaster risks, such as droughts, flooding and landslides. The extent to which wetlands can buffer against extreme events depends on their health and the intensity of the event. Investments in preventative measures, including in maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems, are more times more effective than the costs incurred by disasters. While the most extreme events will overwhelm any mitigation approach, using natural assets can provide benefits in reducing the severity of the impact of extreme weather events, while structural approaches offer little benefit once breached.

It is against this background that Wetlands International through this ToR desires to develop a Wetlands Management Plan for sustainable management of wetlands within the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro catchment. The Plan will propose actions to initiate joint measures for improved wetlands and water resources management in future including screening investments and mainstreaming regulatory and socio-economic valuations in wetlands planning and management through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Environmental Audits (EAs), Strategic Environment Analyses (SEA), among other tools.

3. Deliverables

In order to develop a comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan for the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro catchment, first the current state of water resources has to be assessed and evaluated. The major challenges and opportunities which may vary in time and space, have to be identified. Disaster risks analysis such as droughts and floods will require, for example, examining trends in areas most affected and at what scale, under which conditions and in which periods drought stress develops. A proper understanding of the relation between the different elements and stakeholders engagement in the process is critical.

The consultant will work with Wetlands International staff, the Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), the County Government of Samburu, and the Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) to develop the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro Wetlands Management Plan. Key deliverables will be:

- **First Deliverable** – A brief, descriptive **Plan** based on these ToR, on how the assignment will be carried out, the methodology to be used, a tentative timescale, and other products that are expected. The Plan will also identify any advice, support or other input that might be required from the project focal point or Wetlands International;
- **Second Deliverable** – An **Inception report** detailing historical data and trends, analyses and assessments of the current situation and possible project interventions to address wetland degradation, a potential wetland use monitoring system, among other key issues to consider in plan development;
- **Third Deliverable** – Draft and Final Wetlands Management Plan document; and
- **Other deliverables** will include supporting process documents such as workshop reports, lists of participants, minutes etc.

4. Reporting Relationship and Coordination Mechanism

The Consultant will liaise with the PFR II Project Focal Point at Wetlands International. The coordination will be facilitated by Wetlands International Eastern Africa. The periodical coordination will be in the form of in-person meetings at least every month throughout the consultancy.

5. Time frame

The total duration of this assignment is 20 man-days spread over a period of 3 months effective 21 October, 2019 and terminating by 31 December 2019.

6. Qualifications

The successful consultant will have the following qualifications:

- Post Graduate Degree in Environmental related discipline, Development Studies, Water Engineering, Water Resources Management, or Natural Resource Use with a strong development planning bias.

- Demonstrated technical experience and knowledge to undertake natural resource use/ecosystem baseline surveys and assessment work.
- At least 10 years working experience conducting research and scoping studies.
- Adequate knowledge and or experience of Horn of Africa ecosystems, their values, vulnerabilities and their legal and institutional arrangements.
- Practical and technical experience in Integrated Water Resources Management and wetlands management.
- Professional skills in preparation of research reports

7. Consultant Selection Procedure

The bidding is a competitive process. Interested Consultants are expected to respond by submitting a proposal on their understanding of this ToR, stated experience and expertise to undertake the Assignment with a clear outline of the methodology including the work plan and budget. The application should be sent on or before **Monday 14 October 2019**, via email to twamae@wetlands-africa.org with a copy to kenya@wetlands-africa.org