



Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

Terms of Reference for a study on Women’s Land Rights and Vulnerabilities to Climate Change in Uganda

1. Introduction

Climate change presents one of the most challenging threats to sustainable development for all categories of individuals and communities. In respect to gender, women and girls constitute one of the most susceptible categories of populations whose sensitivity and fragility to climate shocks is of great concern to policy making and programme implementation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecasts that by the year 2025, between 15 and 120 million women and girls in Africa will be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change (IPCC, 2018). This is against the background that women and girls still—despite the implementation of a plethora of gender mainstreaming and empowerment strategies in many African countries (including Uganda)—remain among the highly vulnerable groups of individuals to climate change. Women vulnerability to climate change is worsened by limited access and control over land resources. Women generally have far less access to and control over land resource they depend upon. This situation affects women in negative ways, and further impedes women’s ability to adapt to extreme events and changes in their environment. Yet, women provide vital hope for successful adaptation through their critical knowledge, experience, agency and unique role in agriculture, food security, livelihoods, income generation, management of households and natural resources in diverse eco-systems.¹

2. Problem statement

While women and girls play an important role in agriculture and natural resource management in Uganda, they are more vulnerable to and are most affected by climate change (Care Denmark Strategy, 2019-2025). Over the years, studies have shown that women have limited access to, ownership and control over land resources. They are also not only among the first group of vulnerable individuals to starve when food is scarce but also have the least capacity and fewer opportunities to deal with the consequences of climate change than men due to their lower socioeconomic status, back-breaking fulltime gendered home chores, limited mobility, unequal access to information and limited control over economic and natural resources. Rural women’s workload—like biomass and water collection—is affected by natural disasters. A changing climate and scarce natural resources has consequences on family nutrition, child care and education, which lie almost exclusively in the purview of women’s roles in many societies. Cultural norms related to gender roles often tend to limit the ability of women to respond to and make quick decisions in the face of climatic events. For example, in some households where men are

¹ Nellemann, C., Verma, R., and Hislop, L. (eds). 2011. Women at the frontline of climate change: Gender risks and hopes. A Rapid Response Assessment. United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal.

working off-farm in cities and other major towns, women and girls may lack the power to make timely farming decisions and to convince their husbands to agree to new practices.

In Uganda, women and girls comprise 51.19% of the national population (UBOS, 2016). Gender is important in understanding the vulnerability and effects of climate change as women not only play an important role in the national and urban economies but also in the social and environmental arena. Specifically, women's triple gender roles of reproduction, economic and social roles, and their responsibilities including providing for their households and engagement in livelihood strategies make them the cornerstone of household welfare. In the rural areas where women and girls play the leading role in food production, they – more than men – risk being hit the hardest by climate change (WOUGNET, 2016). Women and girls also face greater financial and resource constraints, and lower levels of access to information and services than men and boys; which sets another of unique challenges when it comes to adapting to climate change.

Population displacement, mass migration and migration due to recurrent droughts, floods and landslides, also tend to exacerbate the climate change effects on women and girls thus presenting a compelling case for the analysis of the climate change and gender vulnerabilities before the implementation of any adaptation and mitigation measures.

In addition, issues of access to land and realisation of land rights have always existed in Uganda as women and girls are considered to be potential land owners (Ngwatu, 2010). Such rights usually have not only to do with the rights of individuals to particular plots of land, but also with rights to land held collectively. Overall, there is need to examine whether or not the marginalization in terms of ownership, access to and control of land as a productive asset further exposes women to climate change risks and impacts. Besides, there is also need to interrogate the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms for the protection of women's and girls' land rights especially in Northern Uganda which emerged from a two decade insurgency that had major repercussions on vulnerable groups and individuals. Although Uganda is implementing land reforms/ policies and programmes aimed at a more equitable distribution of land, most of these frameworks are yet to fully embrace gender sensitive approaches to key resources of production notably land. All in all, it is evident that climate change interventions – without targeted efforts to address the plight of women's and girls' rights – will not only perpetuate existing gender inequalities but also reduce their already limited access to physical, social, political and financial resources.

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) intends to conduct a study on the climate change vulnerabilities for women and girls and the interventions to make them more resilient to the climate change phenomenon in spite of their limited access to, control and ownership of land. The findings of the study will be used to support the implementation of climate resilience interventions for women and girls and in the study area. This study is part of ACODE's initiative on, "Enhancing Resilience in Vulnerable Communities and Inclusion of Women and Youth in the Governance of Uganda's Natural Assets (ERIWY) that is supported by Care International Uganda's Programme on "Strengthening Resilience and Promoting Inclusive Governance for Women and Youth in Vulnerable Communities (STRENPO) funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through Care Denmark.

3. Study objectives

The overall objective of the study is to examine the climate change vulnerabilities for women and girls and the contribution of limited access, ownership and control over land to these vulnerabilities.

The specific objectives are:

- (i) To analyze the gender-specific climate change vulnerabilities in Uganda;
- (ii) To assess the factors that perpetuate women's limited access, ownership and control of land and the underlying challenges they face in dealing with the climate change phenomenon;
- (iii) To determine the nexus of the gender specific climate vulnerabilities, and their limited access to, ownership and control over land;
- (iv) To explore the potential mechanisms for addressing the gender-specific climate change vulnerabilities and enhance their resilience to the climate change phenomenon in spite of their limited access to, control and ownership of land.

4. Methodology

The study will be based on a cross-sectional design combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Primary data will be collected from the West Nile sub-region using various data collection techniques. On the other hand, secondary data will be conducted using a Document Review Analysis (DRA) of gender and climate change policies, plans, strategies and projects to provide a detailed analysis of the gender-specific climate change vulnerabilities in Uganda. Under this approach, specific emphasis will be placed on the meaning and implications of text within the policy documents on the study subject. The data gathered will be analyzed using clearly prescribed methods.

There will be regular exchanges between the consultant and ACODE with the view of enriching the study during inception process, data collection, report writing, etc.

Ethics

Any cases of plagiarism, where found or reported, may lead to cancellation of the contract, and other penalties as may be considered fit during and after executing the assignment. The consultant is dissuaded from any temptations of plagiarism as widely understood in the research and/or scholarly community and should adhere to all the other known ethical imperatives in conducting research

5. Expected study outputs/deliverables

The consultant will be required to provide the following deliverables:

- An inception report that will describe the methodology and presentation of findings
- A draft report that will be presented to a team of researchers for comments and guidance.
- A final report not exceeding 50 pages (excluding appendices) and a 6-page briefing note on the study subject. The consultant will also be required to disseminate the findings of the study during the annual ACODE-Care national dialogue expected to take place in June 2021.

6. Duration of the consultancy

It is anticipated that the consultant should be in position to deliver the outputs specified within a period not exceeding 40 working days upon signing the agreement.

7. Reporting

The consultant will report to the ERIWY Project Manager, ACODE or his designated representative as and when necessary.

8. Experience and knowledge of the consultant

The consultant should have a minimum of a Master's university degree in natural sciences, agriculture, environment and natural resources, women and gender studies, economics, ecological/environment/agricultural economics or any other closely related field and at least 5 years of research and consultancy in financing for environment, natural resources and climate change.

Call for Expressions of Interest

ACODE therefore calls upon interested and competent consultants to express interest to undertake this study. The concise expression of interest should be in response to these ToRs, and need to consist of the following:

- An understanding of the ToRs.
- Conceptual articulation of ----.
- Proposed Methodology
- Field- and desk-research plan or work-plan for executing the assignment
- Statement of researcher's competencies to undertake the study.

The expression of interest should, in addition to the above, have, as appendices: (i) A financial proposal (indicating the resources considered necessary for executing this assignment) and (ii) detailed Curriculum Vitae of the principal consultant and co-consultants

The deadline for submission of expression of interest (should be communicated)

Response Proposal Specifications

Those interested in the consultancy must include in their application a detailed technical and financial proposal with the following components:

Technical

- a) Understanding and interpretation of the TOR
- b) Methodology to be used in undertaking the assignment
- c) Detailed work plan
- d) Personnel capacity statement
- e) Relevant experience related to the assignment
- f) Curriculum Vitae(CV)

Financial

- a) Break down of Work costs

All Expressions of Interest should be hand-delivered or emailed to:

Hand Deliveries

ACODE Offices

Plot 96, Kanjokya Street, Kamwokya

P.O. Box P.O Box 29836,

Kampala - UGANDA

Electronic Submissions

Interested consultants should send a letter of interest, a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proposed budget to amugeere@acode-u.org/mugeere2010@gmail.com or omugyenyi@acode-u.org/o.mugyenyi2@gmail.com by March 26th, 2021.