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## **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT (SLBP) IN NIGERIA’S NIGER DELTA**

### **FINAL PROJECT EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **1. Background**

The Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project (SLBP) aims to sustain and restore wetlands in Niger Delta. It focuses on:

1. demonstrating how the restoration of wetlands can be linked to improved livelihood opportunities in local communities and engaging local communities to integrate wetland values into development plans, with ambitions to enhance ecosystems and sustain livelihoods through incentive systems such as Bio-rights;
2. enhancing the capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) to promote and implement ecosystem-based approaches to development in Niger Delta;
3. providing insight on the distribution and values of the Niger Delta wetland ecosystems in order to inform decision making, sustainable development plans and related investments.

The project communities and sustainable livelihoods are identified in conjunction with local stakeholders. The areas for conservation and restoration are offered by the communities. The project beneficiaries are selected, using pre-determined criteria, for assessing microcredit facilities (loans) and capacity building in exchange of their involvement in sustainable livelihoods and disengagement from non-sustainable livelihoods. Microcredits provide a quick and flexible response to project beneficiary requests and priorities. The strategy for its disbursements is largely iterative, to achieve project beneficiary’s sustainable livelihood objectives and his/her involvement in conservation and restoration activities.

Using pre determined criteria, the project selected CSOs who are willing to play an active role in the promotion and implementation of ecosystem-based approach to development in Niger Delta. Workshops and training courses were organised to respond to the capacity needs of these CSOs.

Furthermore, the project conducted an ecosystem services mapping and socioeconomic valuation of wetland ecosystems in four project sites namely: Abobiri, Asarama, Obia-yagha and Opume. This is so as to raise awareness on wetlands values and promote their integration into sustainable development plans, practices and related investments at all relevant scales.

Shell international is the sole funding partner for this project. Wetlands International carries the overall responsibility for SLBP while Wetlands International Africa is the main implementing

organization, responsible for the project implementation and coordination of the activities of the participating organizations, experts and subcontractors. The project is delivered through a close working relationship between WIA and its project partners<sup>1</sup>.

SLBP Phase 1 has been successfully conducted in 2010 – 2011, while Phase 2 is to be conducted between 2013 and 2016. As regards to SLBP Phase 2, initial expectations were configured in June 2011 (Approved logframe). They were subsequently reconfigured during a stakeholder workshop in June 2013 to identify realistic results that are achievable within the time frame and in January 2015 to refine and resize project outcomes to a fully realistic level (SLBP Steering Committee Meeting, 12 December 2014). The budget for SLBP Phase 2 is €1,866,977. The detailed information of the project can be found in the Approved project proposal and budget.

## **2. Reasons for Evaluation**

The approved SLBP Proposal calls for external evaluations, in addition to periodic project reviews by the Project Coordination team. The current project evaluation is recommended to take stock on the project achievements and impacts and to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of SLBP. The evaluation will give advice and make recommendations for effective intervention strategies and implementation of future Wetlands International's biodiversity, wetlands and livelihoods projects in the Niger Delta. The recommendations shall contribute to better informed decision-making and foster an environment of learning, promote greater accountability for performance and sustain/scale up the SLBP outputs and outcomes.

## **3. Scope and focus**

The Evaluator will:

- Assess progress made towards the achievement of SLBP results, at the outcome and output levels ;
- Assess the adequacy between project duration and results ;
- Assess performance in terms of the relevance of results, sustainability, shared responsibility and accountability, appropriateness of design, resource allocation, and informed and timely action ;
- Identify lessons learned and provide recommendations for guiding Wetlands International's Bio-rights, Capacity building and Socioeconomic valuation of Wetland ecosystem initiatives.

Evaluation results are to bring a focus to the factors set out in the Project Logframe, especially Project Performance Indicators.

Elaboration on the issues to be addressed (and the questions to be answered) can be formulated, based on Annex 2 of the Approved SLBP Project Proposal (SLBP Logframe). More specifically, the evaluation is to focus on - but not be limited to -reporting on progress in achieving results relating to project outputs and outcomes as follows:

- Has the project resulted in dynamics being better positioned and equipped to champion both conservation/restoration and livelihood improvement issues?
- To what extent have partnerships to promote implementation of ecosystem-based approach to development in Niger Delta been strengthened?

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<sup>1</sup> SLBP has been managed by a core staff at Wetlands International Africa (both in Dakar and Nigeria) and is supported by key staff in Wetlands International Head Office in The Netherlands. The majority of the activities are implemented in partnership with a range of local Nigerian partners

- How have these partnerships contributed to the advancement of conservation/restoration activities and to the promotion of the need to integrate Niger Delta wetland values into decision making and sustainable development planning?
- What the project beneficiaries have achieved to justify Biorights approach?
- To what extent have training courses resulted in gains in enhancing local capacity access to information and expertise on ecosystem service values?
- Have stakeholders been actively and meaningfully involved in project implementation and monitoring?
- Have project partners (NCF and LENF) meaningfully been involved in project implementation? Were they the right choice?

#### Effectiveness

- Were the problem identification/analysis, assumptions and intervention logic (logframe) valid?
- Were the right intervention strategies chosen (studies/knowledge, policy, capacity building, livelihoods strategies)?
- Did the project aim at the right levels to achieve these outcomes? (local/national/regional/global)?
- What recommendations can be made for effective future intervention strategies on wetlands and poverty reduction issues? To both Wetlands International and Shell?

#### Efficiency

- Were the available resources used in the most economic way to deliver the SLBP?
- Are plans being used, implemented and adjusted as necessary?
- Have the project's management arrangements functioned adequately for a smooth coordination of the project activities?
- Did the projects' Operational Team and the Steering Group function adequately and add value?
- What constraints, if any, did Wetlands International and its implementing partners encounter? What has been undertaken to overcome these?
- What recommendations can be made to enhance effectiveness and efficiency for the implementation of future wetlands & livelihoods projects? To both WI and Shell?

#### **4. Key Stakeholder involvement**

Stakeholder participation is fundamental to SLBP evaluation. The Consultant is expected to conduct a participatory evaluation providing for meaningful involvement by Project Partners (e.g. Shell International & SPDC), Project beneficiaries, Advisors and other relevant parties. Stakeholder participation is an integral component of evaluation design and planning; information collection; the development of findings; evaluation reporting; and results dissemination.

#### **5. Accountabilities and Responsibilities**

The Evaluator is responsible for: 1) conducting the evaluation; 2) the day-to-day management of operations; 3) regular progress reporting to Wetlands International's Project Coordinator; and, 4) the evaluation report.

#### **6. Evaluation Process**

##### **6.1. Evaluation Work Plan**

The Evaluator will prepare an evaluation workplan that will operationalize and direct the evaluation. The workplan will describe how the evaluation is to be carried out, bringing refinements, specificity and elaboration to these terms of reference. It will act as the agreement between parties for how the evaluation is to be conducted.

The evaluation workplan will address the following reporting elements:

- Overview of Project ;
- Expectations of Evaluation ;
- Roles and Responsibilities ;
- Evaluation Methodology ;
- Evaluation Framework ;
- Information Collection and Analysis ;
- Value created for the investment made (in the overall project) ;
- Reporting ; and
- Work Scheduling.

## **7.2. Field Mission**

The evaluation is to include a site visit to project communities to consult with project beneficiaries and project stakeholders; and to collect information in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the evaluation workplan. This mission is expected to be no longer than two days per site in duration. The project staff are to be briefed on arrival and before departure from the field.

## **7. Deliverables**

The Evaluator will prepare: 1) an evaluation workplan; and, 2) an final evaluation report. These deliverables are to be:

- Prepared in English only;
- Submitted to Wetlands International Africa's Project Coordinator.

The Report should:

- Contain an executive summary (mandatory)
- Be analytical in nature (both quantitative and qualitative)
- Be structured around issues and related findings/lessons learnt
- Include conclusions
- Include recommendations

It should not exceed 15 pages in total (excluding the annexes and photos).

### **7.1. Draft Evaluation Work Plan**

A draft evaluation workplan is to be electronically submitted within six (6) days of the signing of the contract.

### **7.2. Evaluation Work Plan**

Within one (1) week of receiving Wetlands International's comments on the draft workplan, the Evaluator will produce a final Evaluation workplan. It is to be submitted electronically, in Microsoft Word (MS Word) and/or in Excel.

### **7.3. Draft Evaluation Report**

The mission begins three days after completion of the final workplan. The Evaluator will submit a draft evaluation report for review by WI within three (3) weeks of returning from mission. It is to be submitted electronically, in MS Word and/or Excel.

#### **7.4. Evaluation Report**

Within seven (7) days of receiving WI's comments on draft report, the Evaluator will submit a final evaluation report, including an evaluation abstract/executive summary. This report is to be submitted electronically via e-mail and on CD/DVD format, in MS Word or Excel and in hard copy format (6 copies).

#### **8. Timeline for conducting evaluation**

September-October 2016

#### **9. Evaluator qualifications**

The evaluation will be carried out by an independent evaluator with good local knowledge of Niger Delta and the issues related to Oil & Gas sectors. The evaluator shall be:

- a reliable and effective evaluation manager with extensive experience in conducting evaluations and a proven record delivering professional results; and
- Fluent in English.

#### **10. Wetlands International Projected level of Effort**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of working days</b>
Workplan Preparation	3
Data Collection/Field Work/Travel-Time	12
Debriefing, Analysis & Report(s) Preparation	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

#### **11. Submission**

**Send your applications by email to:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Odetola: [eodetola@wetlands-africa.org](mailto:eodetola@wetlands-africa.org)

Mr. Michael Uwagbae: [muwagbae@wetlands-africa.org](mailto:muwagbae@wetlands-africa.org)

Mrs. Aissatou Bouna Badiane : [abadiane@wetlands-africa.org](mailto:abadiane@wetlands-africa.org)