



**NIGERIAN
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**
For nature...for people...for Nigeria

Call for Tender:

Feasibility Study for a planned project on Mangrove Conservation for Climate Resilience and Economic development in Nigeria's Coastal Communities

For more than hundred and twenty years, **NABU (The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union)** has been promoting the interests of people and nature, drawing on its unwavering commitment, specialised know-how and the backing of 820,000 members and supporters. NABU is Germany's oldest and largest conservation NGO with its Headquarters based in the capital and 15 regional branch offices in almost every federal state of Germany. As ecosystems and species know no borders, NABU is committed to conservation also internationally, with geographical foci on Africa, Asia and Russia.

The **Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)** is dedicated to nature conservation and sustainable development in Nigeria. Established in 1980, the Foundation was registered in 1982. The organization's mission is to preserve the full range of Nigeria's biodiversity which includes species, ecosystems and genetic biodiversity; promote the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and advocate actions that minimize pollution and wasteful utilization of renewable resources.

Both NABU and NCF are the respective national partners of the worldwide BirdLife network and share values and goals of BirdLife International.

NABU and NCF are seeking therefore a well experienced expert or expert team for conducting a feasibility study for the planned project 'Mangrove Conservation for Climate Resilience and Economic development in Nigeria's Coastal Communities'.

Please send your offers electronically and as pdf by 30 September 2021 to joseph.onoja@ncfnigeria.org. For questions, please contact Joseph Onoja through +2348069211645.

The submitted offers should not exceed 10 pages and should contain CV/s of the proposed expert/s.

Terms of Reference

Feasibility Study

1. BACKGROUND OF THE PLANNED PROJECT

The Nigerian mangrove ecosystem is the third largest in the world. It provides livelihood and climate resilience for over 10 million coastal dwellers. It provides habitat for highly endangered species such as sea turtles, manatees, and birds. In addition to the endangered species, the mangroves support many other fauna and flora species which are the sources of livelihood for the people of Nigeria. In the last 15 years, almost 40% has been lost to oil exploration, logging, infrastructure and agriculture; poverty levels in the area have also risen from 19.2% to 33% in the last five years and biodiversity is severely threatened. Among the major mangrove areas, the Bakassi Mangrove Estuaries in Cross River State and the Akassa in Bayelsa State are most significant. They support the livelihoods and socio-cultural wellbeing of more than 350,000 people in 30 communities in six local government administrations. Sadly, high rates of deforestation and mining in these locations are posing severe threats to the mangroves and related ecosystem services. The last remaining mangrove areas in Nigeria are under enormous threat of being completely lost. Local communities are facing a dire situation from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic coupled with high vulnerability to climate change. Therefore, **restoration and rehabilitation as well as adapted sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystems** for maintaining ecosystem services for communities and increasing climate resilience of Nigeria's coasts is urgently required. Alternative income opportunities through **value chain addition** can help to minimize the unsustainable utilization of the mangrove ecosystems. Furthermore, **payments for ecosystem services** can effectively promote environmental friendly practices through which the rural communities are further rewarded for protecting their environment.

In this context, NABU and NCF are planning to initiate the following project: 'Mangrove Conservation for Climate Resilience and Economic development in Nigeria's Coastal Communities' (2022-2025). Two project sites have carefully been selected: The site **Bakassi Mangrove Forest Reserve** is one of the largest mangrove ecosystems in Nigeria, home to many endangered species and providing essential ecosystem services to 300,000 people living in the Bakassi Peninsular. The total area of 258.48 km² is located in Cross-River State (Southern Nigeria) and covers five municipalities: Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Odukpani, Akpabio and New Bakassi Local Governmental Areas (LGAs). The site **Akassa Mangroves**, located in Bayelsa State, supports a population of 30,000 people spread across 19 villages. The local communities both at Bakassi and Akassa want to restore and conserve the mangrove ecosystem for maintenance of ecosystem services for livelihoods as well as resilience to climate change. Potential project components include restoration of degraded mangrove vegetation, conservation of critical species, creation of economic value chain of some resources for livelihood improvement, piloting a scheme of payment for ecosystem service, development of sustainable land use practice and public sector engagement on strengthening policy development, adoption and implementation.

2. COLLABORATION OF NABU AND NCF

Nature conservation and sustainable development in developing countries are the cord of relationship between The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF). Both organisations are partners at the worldwide BirdLife network and share same values and goals. Apart from joint projects in the past ('AfriBiRds'), the partners are currently collaborating in the project 'Securing a green and just global recovery for nature and people' lead by BirdLife International partnering up with BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, BirdLife Africa, BirdLife Asia,

Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF) and Nature Society Singapore (NSS) promoting a green and just post COVID 19 recovery. In the framework of this project, NCF and NABU thrive to promote conservation/ restoration and sustainable development for the integration and implementation into Nigeria's policies and strategies. The planned project is part of the goal of the partners to bring a green and just post COVID 19 recovery into realisation.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLANNED PROJECT

The overall objective of the planned project is to restore, improve and protect the mangrove ecosystem so as to achieve biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. At the same time, livelihoods of the numerous communities in Bakassi and Akassa will be improved. The project will develop sustainable measures to address the direct drivers of hunger, poverty and mangrove degradation by working with the target groups and critical stakeholders by:

- restoration and rehabilitating of degraded mangrove vegetation,
- conservation of critical species,
- development of appropriate green local value chains to improve livelihoods,
- establishing a payment for ecosystem services,
- development of sustainable mangrove use practice and promotion of potential for climate resilience of coasts and climate mitigation and adaptation,
- public sector engagement on policy development and enforcement and targeted implementation management measures for mangrove systems as a model for upscaling at national level and beyond.

4. SCOPE OF THE PLANNED PROJECT

The target areas of the project are the Bakassi mangrove forest reserves in Cross River State, and the Akassa mangrove in Bayelsa State, Southern Nigeria.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The overall objective of the assignment is to assess the feasibility of the planned project in terms of planning, organizational structure, approach and viability of planned activities as well as target groups and stakeholders to be involved.

The specific objectives are

- To analyse the current situation in the area relevant to the project taking into account former projects/ interventions and their impacts.
- To identify potential risks and challenges to the project implementation
- To conduct an in-depth target group mapping and description
- To develop recommendations for amendment of the project (activities, target groups, budget, impact matrix/ indicators for impact measurement) and for the success of the project.
- To analyze the proposed project implementing partners with regards to capacity and suitability.
- To identify, also based on the above, planning gaps, additional stakeholders and improve the organizational structure of the intended project.

- To account for project feasibility to donors, government bodies, stakeholders and other interest groups.

6. SPECIFIC TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The specific tasks of the assigned expert include amongst others:

- Analysis of existing documents/ literature.
- In-depth briefings at the beginning of the mission with NCF and NABU Headquarters.
- Situational analysis focussing on overall project setting, current problems and needs of the target groups (community and government), threats to the area, forest resources, flora and fauna (in particular in relation to the neighbouring Cross River National Park), current and former intervention with regards to conservation and sustainable development, suitability of planned measures for reaching planned objectives, alignment with national policies and strategies taking, analysis on context micro, meso, macro level.
- Assessment and analysis of identified target groups (details to be supplied by NCF/ NABU) through on-site interviews and focus groups discussions with target groups and stakeholders regarding composition of target group, their background (gender, income situation, occupation, ethnic/ religious grouping, knowledge and capacities on project topics...) illustrated in a table.
- Analysis of external factors, risks, preconditions and potential activities to increase sustainability for the project.
- Assessment of the general feasibility of the project, with a focus on scope, objectives, activity planning, structure (incl. NCF as implementing organisation), approach etc.
- Assessment of project planning following DAC criteria (see Annex 1) and guiding questions (see Annex 2).
- Identification of indicators for impact measurement for planned activities.
- Development of clear recommendations on how to amend the project's content and planning following questions such as
 - What concrete amendments can be made on the basis of the analysis' results and the evaluation according to the DAC criteria for the concept of the project in the specific context?
 - Which planned components are not suitable and/ or sustainable and for what reasons?
 - Which components, if any, are missing in the project concept in order to sustainably achieve the planned objectives in the long term?
 - Do the assumptions on impacts and sustainability underlying the project concept seem plausible and viable for the project concept; how might they need to be adapted?
 - Which baseline data are recommendable as a basis to be included in the project logic (impact matrix)?

7. METHODOLOGY

NCF can supply literature and other background material if required (national strategies/ policy papers, background papers, documents from preceding projects etc.).

- The feasibility study needs to critically assess the planned project (project approach/ goals, theory of change, target groups, stakeholders to be involved, measuring results and impacts, opportunities and risks) using OECD DAC criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/49756382.pdf>). Crucial questions that need to be addressed by the feasibility study can be found in Annex 1.
- The study should present the context on several levels (micro-, meso-, macro-) and should also include essential baseline data relevant to the project (e.g. as an appendix). If the planned project approach includes structure-building effects at the meso level, data on the existing structures (institutions, networks, umbrella associations, etc.) must also be collected.
- Concrete recommendations for adjustment of the project concept, target groups and measures are expected.
- The feasibility study report should not exceed a maximum of 30 pages. All products and services must be written in English and submitted in Word format, the final report has to be submitted in addition in pdf format.
- Some of the field interviews might need local languages' or a local translator (can be arranged by NCF).

The final report needs to contain:

- An executive summary presenting core findings
- introduction (purpose and objective, short presentation of expert/s)
- Methodologies (data collection) applied, interviewees (list) and consulted documents (list)
- Analysis (incl. context, capacities of the project, capacities of NCF, project-relevant needs of the target group, stakeholders)
- Final evaluation according to the OECD DAC criteria
- Recommendations for adjustment of project (amongst others activities, target groups, stakeholders, geographical locations)
- List of conducted interviews and contact information of interviewed people
- CV of experts involved and signed declaration of independence and correctness of the study report

8. DELIVERABLES AND TIMING

#	Deliverables	To be delivered until
1.	Submission of a detailed work plan for approval, including travel plans and intended interviews.	
2.	Submission of draft report and interview data.	
3.	Submission of final feasibility study of max. 30 pages answering to all listed requirements.	

9. EXPECTED TIME REQUIRED

The time frame for the feasibility study will be approximately 22 working days.

Task	Expected time required
Preparation phase, in-depth briefings (NCF, NABU), studying of documents/ literature, online research, trip planning	3 working days
In-depth analysis of project scope, objective, activity planning, structure, gaps etc. (incl. travels to the site)	8 working days
In-depth analysis of target group, partners (incl. interviews while on site)	2 working days
Writing of interim report	1 day
Identification of potential indicators and expected impacts	2 working days
Analysis of external factors, risks, preconditions and potential activities to increase sustainability	2 working days
Writing and compilation of final report	4 working days

The areas of operation are Bakassi mangrove forest reserves in Cross River State, and the Akassa mangrove in Bayelsa State in Nigeria.

10. EXPECTED QUALIFICATIONS OF CONSULTANT/S

The feasibility study must be carried out by independent expert/s with technical, methodological and practical expertise as well as regional knowledge.

The expert/s is expected to have experiences in feasibility studies and corresponding stakeholder analysis. Knowledge of the project region is an advantage.

Experiences in the following topics are an asset

- Mangrove ecology and mangrove restoration methodology
- Sustainable development, in particular community-based value chain development
- Community empowerment and gender mainstreaming

Very good command of English is a prerequisite, knowledge of local languages of advantage.

11. MANAGEMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The consultant/ team of consultants is/ are responsible for carrying out the feasibility study as well as for time and administrative organisation. A contact to NCF's partners will be established for logistical planning on site.

On-site transport and accommodation in the region as well as contact to potential stakeholders can be organised by NCF staff. Travel expenses must be included in the offer.

At NCF following contact person is available: joseph.onoja@ncfnigeria.org, at NABU the following person will be in charge for the assignment: Svane.Bender@NABU.de

12. ANNEX

Annex 1: DAC criteria – guiding questions

Annex 2: Guiding questions for assessment

Annex 1 - DAC criteria

Also refer to <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/49756382.pdf>

a) Relevance:

- *Are the planned activities appropriate for addressing the problem? Which other activities should be conducted?*
- *Does the project approach address a key development problem or constraint in the partner country or region?*
- *Is the approach in line with the needs of the target groups?*
- *What changes are planned to be accomplished by the project?*

b) Effectiveness:

- *What is the most suitable approach to achieving the objectives?*
- *What structure is necessary, which actors should be involved?*
- *Are the measures and the chosen methodology suitable for reaching the objectives? On which level (meso and/or macro level/multi-level approach) should the project focus in order to make it more sustainable?*
- *Will use be made of synergies with interventions supported by other donors or programs? How better to use synergies?*
- *What measures/adjustments does the study recommend with a view to achieving objectives?*
- *What impact logic/impact hypothesis should the project be based on? What could a meaningful logical framework look like, including suitable and informative indicators (presentation of a first rough draft of indicators and baseline data)?*
- *Who should monitor impacts? When? At what intervals? (Impact monitoring)*

c) Efficiency:

- *Can the objectives be achieved in an economically efficient way through the planned project? What would increase economic efficiency?*
- *What financial, institutional and human resources will be needed?*
- *Will it be possible to implement the planned measures within the time allocated for the project and based on the resources that are planned? Please also refer to the Dialogic Change Model in your assessment.*
- *Will it be possible to achieve the desired impacts, and will all that be possible in an economical and efficient manner (in terms of cost-benefit ratio)?*

d) Significance / overarching development impact:

- *Will the project help achieve broader development impacts? Which ones are those or should be added?*
- *Which objectives and impacts derived from the problem/needs analysis are to be achieved, and for what target groups? Which objectives are missing or which might be omitted?*
- *To what extent will the project have a structural impact, to what extent can it serve as a model, and to what extent will it have a broad-based impact?*
- *Would it be advisable to pursue a multi-level approach (micro, meso and macro levels) in order to increase significance and effectiveness?*
- *To what extent have aspects relating to gender sensitivity, inclusion of persons with disabilities, cultural sensitivity, conflict sensitivity and human rights need to be incorporated in the project's objectives?*

e) Sustainability:

- *Which positive impacts of the project will remain after a first phase without additional external support? How to increase the positive impacts?*

- *How can sustainability of results and impacts be ensured and reinforced (in institutional, economic, social and environmental terms)?*
- *What are the roles and responsibilities of governmental and/or civil society institutions? To what extent will the project be able to build on local potential, institutions and procedures? What measures and instruments are best suited to harness and strengthen local ownership and initiative, participation, and capacity?*
- *Which socio-cultural barriers may impede the planned approach, and how can they be overcome?*
- *What negative consequences and impacts might result from the project implementation? To what extent will it be possible to consider and address these risks in the project/project concept (e.g., Do No Harm approach, conflict-sensitive impact monitoring, etc.)?*
- *What risks are involved in the implementation of the project (personal risk for those implementing, institutional and reputational risk, contextual risk)? How can they be minimized?*

Annex 2: Guiding questions for assessment

1) Purpose, objectives and use of the feasibility study

- *What is the rationale/the specific reason for the feasibility study?*
- *Which approach is to be tested for its feasibility?*
- *Project application/project concept and project implementation?*
- *What is the temporal and geographical scope of the feasibility study?*
- *(sub-) areas/sectors should be particularly investigated?*
- *What previous experience from similar programmes/projects, other studies and analyses, etc. should be used as a basis for the feasibility study?*

2) Methodology

- *Which methods, instruments and resources will be used for data collection and analysis?*
- *Which procedures will be used to gain knowledge?*
- *Which and how many actors with which backgrounds and interests have direct involvement in the information gathering process?*

3) Initial situation and problem analysis (at macro, meso, micro level)

- *What is the (initial) situation in the sector, in the region, in the country? What is the socio-economic, political, cultural context?*
- *What problems have been identified? What are the causes and what impact they have?*
- *What are the causes of these problems and what impact do they have on the living conditions of which population groups?*
- *What needs were derived from the problem analysis? How was/is it determined?*
- *What is the background and history of the planned development measure and its impact logic?*
- *From whom did the project idea come?*
- *What are the socio-cultural obstacles to the approach and how can these be overcome?*
- *What other risks are seen and how can these be addressed?*
- *Are there alternatives to the planned project or its subcomponents?*

4) Project executing agency in the partner country (NCF)

- *What skills and experience (institutional, technical, personnel, financial) does NCF have?*
- *What measures are needed to strengthen the organisation and capacity of the local partner?*
- *What self-interest/ownership does NCF have in the success of the project?*
- *What is the relationship between NCF and the target group and other actors?*
- *Are there any convergences or conflicts of interest? How can the interplay be improved?*

5) Target groups and other actors (at micro, meso and macro level)

- *Who is the target group? If applicable, are there different target groups at several levels?*
- *What are the criteria for selecting the target groups? How is the do-no-harm approach taken into account?*

- *What is the composition of the respective target groups? How homogeneous or heterogeneous are they in terms of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, language, capacity, etc.?*
- *What are the specific needs of the target groups and how can these be addressed?*
- *What role do the target groups play in the social context? Which conflicts of interest could arise from the funding vis-à-vis other population groups?*
- *What potential do the respective target groups have, especially in terms of self-efforts and local problem-solving capacities? How can these be strengthened?*
- *Who are the important governmental and non-governmental actors in this sector and beyond? at the project site, in the planned project region, the project country?*
- *What is the relationship to the development strategy of the government in the project/ country?*
- *What interests do the actors have? Are conflicts of interest recognisable? What are the interactions with other projects of the actors? How do they find their way into the project conception?*
- *Do the actors have a common understanding of the problems and the resulting goals of the project?*
- *How strong is the support of the different actors for the project? How can they influence the project? Are there already agreements between actors?*