

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONDUCTING A CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (CVCA).

About shahidi wa Maji

Shahidi wa Maji (SwM) is a Tanzanian non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water resources management and WASH services. We work through systems strengthening, community empowerment, evidence-based advocacy, and accountability to improve water security and equity across Tanzania. <https://www.shahidiwamaji.or.tz/>.

Project Background

Shahidi wa Maji is implementing a six-year project (2024–2030); Her Resilience, Our Planet (HROP), in collaboration with CARE Tanzania, Worldwide Fund (WWF) for Nature, Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (AGCOT) Centre Ltd, Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP), and the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) -Tanzania. The project aims to strengthen gender-responsive, climate-smart agriculture and biodiversity-friendly food systems in Tanzania's Southern Highlands, specifically in the Great Ruaha River (GRR) sub-basin, which covers the districts of Iringa, Kilolo, Mufindi, Wanging'ombe, and Mbarali. The overarching goal of HROP is to empower vulnerable groups, including women and youth among small-scale farmers, fisherfolk, agri-entrepreneurs, pastoralists, and nature-positive enterprise owners within the Great Ruaha basin by improving access to resources, promoting inclusive decision-making, and encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices that enhance resilience and support inclusive green growth.

The project seeks to achieve three key outcomes:

- a) Increased adoption of gender-responsive, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and biodiversity-friendly food systems for nature-positive climate adaptation, particularly among food-insecure women and youth.
- b) Improved access and use of gender-responsive, climate-smart, and nature-positive agricultural business development services and resources by vulnerable communities.
- c) Strengthened leadership and participation of women and young women in shaping gender-responsive, climate- and nature-informed policies, plans, strategies, and budgets within the SAGCOT regions.

As part of the programme implementation, SwM and CARE Tanzania are collaborating to conduct a Climate Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (CVCA) to analyze the current and potential climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities of communities and their livelihoods, as well as implementation, SwM and CARE Tanzania are collaboratively planning to conduct a Climate Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (-CVCA) to analyze the current and potential climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities of communities and their livelihoods; and opportunities for adapting to climate change. The assessment will inform the design of inclusive community-led adaptation strategies through a combination of indigenous and scientific methods, information, knowledge, and experiences to build resilient communities, especially women and female, and male youth from the project districts.

2.0 Overall Objective

The general objective of this consultancy is to facilitate assessment of communities' vulnerability to climate change threats, their adaptive capacities, and opportunities to withstand the current and anticipated impacts on water security and essential livelihood activities via a community participatory research approach.

2.1 Specific Objectives

- a) To conduct a participatory assessment of climate change impacts and how climate-related shocks, stresses, and uncertainties have affected communities' livelihood activities, including understanding of seasonal and long-term climate patterns and their impacts on livelihoods, agriculture, health, and ecosystems.
- b) Assess the community's socioeconomic and ecosystem capacities to withstand the impacts of climate change and their essential livelihood activities.
- c) Assess the current responses to climate hazards, identifying existing strategies and barriers to managing climate-related shocks, stresses, and uncertainties.
- d) Facilitate formulation of Community Adaptation Plans (CAP) to increase climate resilience for sustainable livelihood activities.
- e) To conduct data analysis, compiling, and Validation.

3.0 Location

The assessment will focus on 10 selected villages within the Great Ruaha River (GRR) sub-basin covering Iringa, Kilolo, Mufindi, Wang'ombe, and Mbarali districts.

4.0 Methodology/Approach

The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) will be conducted through a combination of approaches, including desk reviews and extensive fieldwork at project sites, using participatory community assessments guided by the CARE CVCA handout. The consultant is expected to propose a robust, well-structured methodology and shall collaborate with designated staff from CARE in designing appropriate tools to deliver the full scope of the assignment.

The methodology should ensure the active inclusion of all livelihood groups, particularly women, female and male youth, and persons with disabilities, while maintaining the highest ethical standards. The consultant will work in close collaboration with the project team and local authorities to ensure relevance, accuracy, and community ownership of the process.

The approach to conduct CVCA shall involve desk reviews and extensive field work at project sites to facilitate community participatory assessment guided by the CARE CVCA handout. The consultant must propose the best and robust approach/methodology and tools to deliver the intended scope of the assignment. The consultant should design and apply appropriate methods, essential for ensuring inclusion of all livelihood groups along the agricultural production supply chain; specifically, women, female and male youth and people with disabilities with great ethical consideration. The consultant shall work closely with project team and local authorities.

5.0 Key Deliverables

The Consultant will deliver the following;

- a) Inception Report with appropriate methodology and data collection tools
- b) Draft and Final G-CVCA Reports, highlighting, among other things, the CVCA process and the findings and community-led adaptation strategies
- c) Provide recommendations on specific adaptation solutions which can be supported by the project, especially those related to CSA, biodiversity-friendly food systems for nature-positive climate adaptation, particularly among food-insecure women and youth; increase access to services and resources for gender-responsive, climate-smart, and nature-positive agricultural business development; and options to strengthen leadership and participation of women and young women in shaping gender-responsive, climate- and nature-informed policies, strategies, plans, and budgets within the SAGCOT regions.
- d) PowerPoint Presentation of findings at the validation workshop.

6.0 Timeframe

The Consultant will complete this assignment within 60 Calendar days from the contract signing date, with only 30 payable days. During the recruitment process, a detailed timeframe proposed by the Consultant shall be discussed and agreed upon with Shahidi wa Maji, CARE Tanzania, and other contributing partners.

7.0 Qualification of the Consultant

We seek a dynamic Tanzanian/firm with;

- a) Demonstrable technical expertise and understanding of climate change, including but not limited to variability, and the ability to interpret climate data.
- b) Adequate understanding and familiarity with diverse communities' vulnerability assessment frameworks and tools.
- c) Proven experience conducting CVCA or similar participatory assessments and facilitation skills
- d) Demonstrable capacities and experience in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of climate data.
- e) A proven record of effectively deploying gender-inclusive approaches, guaranteeing that community members, local government authorities, and other relevant parties actively inform the assessment process to reflect local knowledge and priorities
- f) The applicant must be familiar with relevant national and local policies, regulations, and plans regarding climate change adaptation, water security governance, disaster risk reduction, environment, climate-smart agriculture, and gender mainstreaming.
- g) Experience working with local communities and government institutions
- h) At least 5 years of experience conducting water security, gender, and climate vulnerability assessments
- i) Reputable record of compliance with the code of conduct and research ethics while undertaking similar/related assignments involving communities and other stakeholders.
- j) Ability to work under minimal supervision and deliver assignments in a timely fashion.

8.0 Submission of applications

SwM invites eligible applicants to submit technical and financial proposals, providing their interpretation and understanding of the ToR, a concise capability statement, and relevant previous experience on a similar/related assignment. Essentially, the applicant should provide a robust approach/methodology, a proposed itemised budget, realistic timelines for accomplishing the task, and a sample report of a similar/related assignment. Submit your application to info@shahidiwamaji.org, copying abeldugange@shahidiwamaji.org, by 12th September 2025.