**Irish Aid / IIED Climate Change Learning Platform**

**Terms of reference for a consultant to support participatory action research on climate change adaptation in Northern Zambia**

*Second draft, 17 August 2015*

# Background to the consultancy

Irish Aid is committed to integrating climate change considerations into all its programmes. The Irish Aid / IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) Climate Change Learning Platform (LP) has therefore been developed in order to increase the understanding of IA staff and partners of climate change theory and the ability to identify and address climate risks through improved programming.

During the inception workshop of the learning platform in June 2014 it was agreed to use case studies from IA programmes to enhance IA and partners’ learning on climate change integration. The objectives of the case studies undertaken under the platform are to increase the understanding of IA staff and partners of climate change (and its impact on IA development objectives) and to improve climate change integration into IA programmes through an iterative learning approach that builds on the experiences of IA and partners. So far 4 case studies have been agreed or are under discussion, as well as some technical support to country offices on climate change integration.

A field visit to the Irish Aid Local Development Programme in Mbala and Luwingu districts of Northern Province by IA and IIED staff in August 2014 (following the learning platform workshop in Lusaka) identified a number of issues related to climate change integration into the IALDP design and implementation. It was therefore agreed by IA Zambia, IA HQ (climate change lead) and IIED that Zambia would also develop a case study around the IALDP in order to improve CC integration into the programme post-MTR and into the next CSP, whilst benefiting from the support available via the learning platform. The TOR of the case study are attached in Annex 1. The case study is entitled ***“Learning about climate change and supporting climate resilience through experiential learning by farmers and those supporting them: The role of farmer demonstration plots within a wider landscapes perspective.”*** The case study will be implemented by the IALDP partners i.e. SHA (Self-Help Africa) and CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) Consortium in partnership with MAL (Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock), farmers and other local stakeholders. Oversight will be provided by the Irish Embassy in Lusaka and technical backstopping will come from IIED and from the Irish Aid regional climate change adviser based in Nairobi.

# Objectives and responsibilities of the consultancy

**General objective**

The consultancy will support the climate change case study of IA and partners in Zambia by providing overall coordination, technical backstopping and logistical / project management support to the implementing partners (Self-Help Africa, the Zambian Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock, and the CGIAR centres). The consultancy will be on a draw-down basis as need arises.

**Time frame**

The case study will happen in two phases (see Annex 1 for details). Phase 1 will start in September 2015 and end in June 2016. Phase 2 will start in July 2016 and end in June 2017. During that period, the consultant will spend on average 5 days per month on the case study, so totally up to 22 months x 5 days = 110 days. However, the total number of days per month may be varied to accommodate periods that may require intense work.

**Responsibilities**

* The consultant will be responsible for the overall coordination of the case study, to ensure that activities are carried out according to the agreed time frame and methodology, and that expected outputs are achieved.
* He/She will work closely with SHA, who are the direct implementers in the field, providing technical support and guidance to the case study.
* He / she will report on a regular basis (every four weeks) to the Irish Aid livelihoods advisor in Lusaka to update him on progress and discuss any outstanding issues.
* He / she will be supported by IIED researchers, both remotely via email / phone and via period site visits.
* He/she will produce brief monthly update reports, highlighting key achievements/progress, main challenges and planned activities.
* He/she will produce comprehensive reports on the case study (phase 1 and phase 2), with guidance from IIED, CGIAR and IA.

Specifically, the consultant will undertake the following activities:

**Phase 1 – September 2015 to June 2016**

1. Preparation – September 2015 to November 2015

* Organise a planning workshop for project partners (SHA, MAL, IA etc.) in late 2015
* Analyse and write up information about the existing demonstrations (farmers involved – by gender, wealth category, age, resource endowment - responsible camp agricultural officers, existing treatments, challenges faced, farmer interactions) – information to be collated by SHA

1. Climate risk assessment

* Collect and analyse, with support from SHA, CGIAR and MAL, information (1) (via document review / downscaling of CC models – see Ben Smith’s report[[1]](#footnote-1)) about likely climate change trends and impacts in Northern Province and (2) specific gender-related climate risks for (different types of) LEG farmers;
* Analyse how / to what extent practices used for the existing demonstrations address (current and likely future) climate risks of different types of LEG farmers (and how these complement or compete with other livelihood strategies, in particular use of forests, livestock and wetlands).

1. Participatory assessment of adoption and adaptation of demonstrated practices so far

* Organise and orientation / training of the SHA / MAL staff participating in the research process, with support from IIED and CGIAR.
* Coordinate an assessment (to be carried out by SHA and MAL) to what extent practices promoted in the existing demonstrations are likely to address (current and likely future) climate risks of different types of LEG farmers.
* Coordinate and support participatory action research to identify options for adaptation to climate risks and determining treatments for ‘new’ demonstrations. This research would assess what other options there are both from the ‘outside’ (e.g. through a quick survey/questioning of ‘experts’ including ZARI, CGIAR and farmers) and from farmers (based on their existing practices and preferences)
* With SHA, MAL and participating farmers, determine treatments for a total of 10 new demonstrations, with 5 in each district (Mbala and Luwingu), working in LEG (Livelihood Enhancement Group) areas where there are currently no conservation agriculture demonstrations

**Phase 2: July 2016 – June 2017**

1. Demonstration on climate change adaptation[[2]](#footnote-2)

* With SHA, MAL and participating farmers, design and develop demonstration plots in suitable locations with existing LEGs (subject to land availability, farmers’ preferences and feasibility for MAL / SHA / CGIAR) to: (a) demonstrate climate adaptation practices ‘from the outside’, and (b) from farmers.
* With IIED, undertake orientation / training of SHA / MAL staff participating in the demonstrations
* With SHA / MAL, undertake orientation of participating farmers, selecting the demonstration sites and setting up the demos.

1. Monitoring, reflection and learning

* Develop, with SHA and MAL, a framework for monitoring of farmers’ learning at the demonstration plot (adoption, adaptation) using qualitative tools (interviews, simple surveys / semi-structured interviews, field visits)
* Provide guidance and support to SHA and MAL to use this monitoring to learn about farmers’ preferences, adoption behaviour, motivation for adopting or not adopting, supporting and hindering factors (in particular labour and access to other resources) and suggestions for improvements (in the way demonstrations are designed, implemented and evaluated).
* Undertake, with SHA and MAL, focus group discussions with farmers from neighbouring villages (non-LEG) about their learning from the demonstrations;
* Support SHA and MAL in undertaking participatory analysis of the findings – e.g. through group meetings around selected demonstrations;
* Write-up and feedback of findings to stakeholders (SHA and government) to adapt programme interventions to respond to farmers.

# Knowledge and expertise required

* Minimum of a first degree in climate studies, development studies, Natural Resource Management, agriculture, environment or a related discipline. A master’s degree is an added advantage,
* Understanding of and experience in working on climate change adaptation, undertaking climate risk assessment and developing resilience of smallholder farmers in Zambia (and / or other parts of Southern Africa),
* Experience in the use of participatory action research methods (desirable: experience in training farmers, NGO and field staff in using participatory research methods),
* Knowledge of and experience in designing surveys, including development of questionnaires, organising focus group discussions, and in analysing and writing up results,
* Understanding of gender issues in agriculture and of undertaking gender analysis. Experience in collecting gender disaggregated data and in promoting women’s participation in research.
* Excellent writing skills in English and experience in writing research reports,
* Excellent communication and inter-personal skills, ability to mobilise and motivate people,
* Project management skills and experience, including planning and M&E
* Willingness and ability to travel to Mbala and Luwingu districts several times per year, depending on the work programme.

Annex 1: TOR for the case study – to be inserted

1. Smith, B (2015) Climate Change in Northern Zambia & Implications for Irish Aid Programmes. London: IIED (consultancy report) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These new demonstrations would be funded out of the IALDP budget, and the IA learning platform budget supports the assessment of expended demonstration effectiveness. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)