



## Draft Terms of Reference

### Adaptation Learning Programme, CARE International

#### Impact assessment on climate information services for community based adaptation to climate change

December 2015

#### 1. Background

##### a) The Adaptation Learning Programme in Africa (ALP)

ALP aims to increase the capacity of vulnerable households in sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change, through implementing innovative approaches to community-based adaptation (CBA) in Ghana, Kenya and Niger. CBA in ALP has been premised on a theory of change and framework<sup>1</sup> which assumes that effective adaptation is a result of a holistic, integrated and multi-level approach which supports strategies towards:

- Climate resilient livelihoods
- Disaster risk reduction
- Adaptive and organisational capacity
- Addressing underlying causes of vulnerability and fostering an enabling policy environment

All of which are informed by an understanding and use of:

- Climate knowledge and information
- Climate risks and uncertainty
- Differential vulnerability and gender relations
- Adaptive capacity as the combination of knowledge and information, assets, innovation, institutional entitlements, and flexible and forward looking decision making and governance which together will enable ongoing adaptation in a changing and uncertain climate<sup>2</sup>.

Building on implementation since 2010, ALP's work from 2015 to 2017 seeks to deepen the learning, rigour and credibility of CBA and its contribution to increasing climate resilience in Africa. This is through working directly with communities and local actors on innovation in CBA approaches to strengthen adaptive capacity, resilience, and gender equality, including access to and use of meaningful climate information; building a stronger evidence base, learning and capacity for adoption of CBA approaches at scale and for their sustainability; and supporting integration of these approaches into development policies and programmes towards achieving climate resilient development and risk management in Africa.

With increasing demand for learning and evidence on practical measures to achieve climate resilient development and risk management as climate change impacts and uncertainties in Africa become more visible, challenging and urgent, ALP is now well positioned to capitalise on its success to date to generate and provide evidence which demonstrates the value and importance of using community based approaches to adaptation.

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<sup>1</sup> See ALP CBA brief [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA\\_Brief\\_nov\\_13.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA_Brief_nov_13.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See ACCRA LAC framework <http://community.eldis.org/.59d669a8/research.html>

## **b) Climate information services in ALP**

ALP's community based approaches to climate information services (CIS) have gained significant interest and engagement in Ghana, Kenya and Niger, supporting decision making processes and capacity for forward looking decisions on adaptation, livelihoods, agriculture, local development planning, early warning and disaster risk management. CIS approaches developed, implemented and promoted by ALP are:

**i. Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP)** – is a multi-stakeholder CBA approach aimed at enabling better access to and combining of seasonal climate forecasts from national meteorological services (NMS) and local forecasters, understanding and collective interpretation of the seasonal forecasts and uncertainty into locally relevant and actionable information (advisories) for decision making and planning. PSP is a process with 5 steps:

- Step 1. Designing a locally relevant and appropriate PSP process, including deciding the level (e.g. national, county/province, district etc.) at which to conduct PSP and forming partnerships for support and sustainability of the process.
- Step 2. Preparing for a PSP workshop – through discussions with stakeholders at the chosen level, bringing out their information needs for the coming season and using this to plan for targeted workshop outcomes.
- Step 3. Facilitating a PSP workshop – held soon after national seasonal forecasts are released, creates a multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together meteorologists, local forecasters, community representatives, government ministries/departments, research institutions, NGOs/CBOs, county/district/commune governments and others to access, interpret and use seasonal forecasts and advisories to make climate informed decisions and plans for a season.
- Step 4. Communicating advisories from a PSP workshop – to reach all actors who need to use the information and in good time to inform their decisions and plans. This is done through various communication channels including community monitors, chiefs, religious leaders, agricultural extension officers, community radio, print media, and email among others.
- Step 5. Feedback, monitoring and evaluation – to learn the challenges, benefits and impacts of PSP on decisions and choices and enable two-way communication and feedback between producers, intermediaries and users of climate information. This supports continuous, iterative and shared learning on climate information services and improving the PSP process and outcomes.

Essential principles of good PSP practice are:

- Involve all relevant CIS users, including women and men of different age, livelihood, ethnic or other groups, recognizing their roles and utilizing their specific knowledge and capacities to enable a participatory process that is responsive to user needs.
- Conduct PSP workshops as soon as seasonal forecasts are available from national meteorological services.
- Apply user experiences and results from previous seasons for reflection and iterative learning to inform discussions during PSP workshops, development of advisories and plans for the coming season.
- Communication, understanding and working with climate probabilities and uncertainty is essential for flexibility in decision-making on adaptation and resilience.
- Multi-stakeholder interaction, dialogue and co-production of information with scientists, communities and other stakeholders is vital for designing and developing relevant and user-responsive climate information services.
- Communication of advisories should be inclusive, reaching all genders and groups (e.g. livelihood groups, land users, vulnerable groups), local governments, organisations, private sector and other users within the chosen level. Timely communication of advisories is critical to empower stakeholders to take appropriate actions.
- Advisories should be presented as options, rather than instructions, to encourage actors to make their own decisions and take actions relevant to their contexts.

PSP has been implemented in:

- **Kenya** – Garissa County since the October to December (OND) 2011 rainfall season; this is where PSP was first piloted. Following training of Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) County Directors and adaptation practitioners including 11 implementing entities of the Kenya Adaptation Fund, PSP was then upscaled to 2 additional counties during the OND rainfall season in 2013. In 2014, training of staff from the MoALF Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) led to their collaboration with KMS to upscale PSP in all 47 counties in Kenya, and conducting the approach at national level. This has continued in all counties every season (twice per year) since 2014, with financial support mobilised by each county from a combination of sources – county development budgets, ASDSP, INGO projects, KMS and others. KMS now has plans to institutionalise the PSP approach, renaming it as County Climate Outlook Forums, borrowing from Climate Outlook Forums organised for the Greater Horn of Africa Region. PSP has been integrated in Medium Term Plans, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Ministry of Agriculture Plans for Garissa County with efforts on-going to get the approach into CIDPs for other counties, and in the Kenya National Adaptation Plan. The implementation of the PSP has been modified in various ways in relation to the agro-climatic zones in a county and in relation to the understanding and commitment of the county PSP leaders. The Kenyan experience with PSP, which has been adopted across the whole country and is attracting financing from different parties, is a good example of the value of broad stakeholder inclusion.
- **Ghana** – East Mamprusi and Garu Tempane Districts in Upper East and Northern Regions, respectively, since the rainfall season in 2012. This is through collaboration between ALP, communities in ALP pilot sites, Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMET), District Assemblies, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), agricultural research organisations, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), local and international NGOs, and other local actors, with strong participation of the media. District Assemblies and staff from MOFA have now been trained on the approach, with District Assemblies now taking lead in implementing the approach in the two districts. PSP has also been adopted and implemented in the Upper West Region through collaboration with various organisations working in the area. The approach has been integrated in East Mamprusi and Garu Tempane District Medium Term Development Plans, with budgetary allocations from NADMO, Department of Agriculture, Ghana Health Services, Information Services Department, and Ghana National Fire Service.
- **Niger** – Dakoro Department, Maradi Region since the rainfall season in 2013, by ALP in collaboration with Niger Meteorological Services (DNM) at regional and departmental, communities, local level technical services, CSOs and other actors at commune level. Advisories from PSP workshops are communicated using community radios and by community monitors at community meetings and weekly markets. CARE Niger has adopted the approach in DFID's Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) project and implemented PSP in 2015 in Tillabéri Region. PSP has also been adopted by CARE Niger's GARIC project and implemented in Zinder Region. In 2015, several actors at departmental level from the 3 regions were trained on facilitating the PSP approach.
- **Tanzania** – Mtwara District during the OND 2014 rainfall season, through collaboration between several projects implemented by CARE Tanzania and actors at district level.
- **Ethiopia** – Afar Region since the 2014 short-rainy seasons in pastoral Ethiopia (April-May). This was through the Pastoral Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) project, implemented by a consortium of organisations including CARE Ethiopia.
- **Malawi** – At the national level ahead of the rainfall season in 2015, coordinated by the Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC) with facilitation support from 'PSP champions' who have been trained on the PSP approach. The approach has been adopted by the Enhancing Community Resilience Project, implemented by a consortium of organisations including CARE Malawi. Through advocacy by CISONECC PSP has been recognised in the Malawi Meteorological Policy as an approach for supporting community resilience. PSP has been introduced to the National Technical Committee on Climate Change and the National Disaster Risk Management Platform. As a result, a national coordination team has been formed to promote widespread adoption of PSP in Malawi. In

addition the recently approved Green Climate Fund project in Malawi focuses on climate information services, which should be in support of institutionalising these.

There is growing appreciation of and demand for PSP in Africa and beyond, as a practical approach for not only making climate information usable in different contexts but also delivering needed user-responsive climate information services. In response to this demand, in March 2015, ALP organized a training of trainers aimed at building capacity to design and deliver training on and facilitation of PSP at scale in Africa. The training brought together 26 participants from 9 countries in Eastern, Southern and West Africa, drawn from NGOs and government and working in adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), agriculture, climate resilient development, environmental policy and meteorological services.

- ii. **Rain gauges** – have been installed in communities where ALP is piloting CBA. Through collaboration with national meteorological services, community monitors have been trained on taking rainfall records from the rain gauges and onward communication to national meteorological services. The data is helping to build historical rainfall data records for the specific locations, which can be useful for downscaling seasonal forecasts and generating location specific climate information products. This has been done in:
  - **Niger** – Dakoro Department in 2011, with rain gauges installed in 20 communities and monitor trained on rainfall recording, through partnership between regional meteorological services and ALP. Rainfall recording has been integrated into community systems for early warning and emergency response (SCAP/RU). The rainfall records are transmitted by community monitors through mobile phones to the regional meteorological services who then send to community and national radio for wider dissemination. Community members also call the monitors to know rainfall amounts soon as it has rained. The rainfall records serve as a decision tool for agricultural and livestock practices, and provide information to the sub-regional committee for prevention and management of food crises to enable targeting of support to at-risk communities. With the low level of annual rainfall in Dakoro the real time rainfall record is proving to be a highly valued decision making tool.
  - **Ghana** – Garu Tempane and East Mamprusi Districts in 2011, with rain gauges installed in 6 communities and monitors in those communities trained by GMET on rainfall recording. The records are then transmitted to the district meteorological offices.
  - **Kenya** – Garissa County in 2014, where ALP together with KMD conducted the first training of community monitors on weather data collection and installation of five rain gauges in ALP community sites. This was done in collaboration with the ADA consortium in the STARCK+ project. A system for transmitting, analysing and communicating the data was agreed between the community monitors, KMD and intermediaries from agricultural extension services who were involved.
- iii. **Climate Information Centres (CICs)** – have been established in Ghana in Saamini community (East Mampursi District) and Tariganga community (Garu-Tempane District). Through collaboration between ALP, Farm Radio International, local FM radio stations and GMET, the CICs aim for both men and women to have equal access to information on climate forecasts, agro-meteorological advisories from PSP workshops, agricultural extension service and markets to inform their chosen livelihood activities. The CICs are managed by the communities with technical support from GMET and Farm Radio International. They involve linking radio broadcasts to loud speakers to enable reach to wide community audiences, and links to mobile phones for call in programmes and weather information dissemination from GMET and other services such as ESOKO. Climate Information Centres (CICs) pick out transmissions from the FM stations and transmit to communities via loudspeakers and respond to community member climate information queries. This promotes further discussion within homes on these issues.

c) **ALP focus on understanding and working with uncertainty and probability for informed decision making.**

In places where scientific climate information can be accessed, it is often regarded as too complex and uncertain, therefore not practical enough for decision making. This is because uncertainty in climate information is not well communicated and understood<sup>3</sup>. Yet, climate change means that future weather/climate patterns and events will be increasingly volatile and extreme, with an increased risk of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts (IPCC AR5, 2014). Since impacts of climate change are complex and far-reaching, especially for the agriculture sector, it can be extremely difficult to foresee exactly what the consequences will be, and how they will affect different contexts, regions and sectors (CCAFS). Adaptation and resilience to climate change and variability, therefore, is about managing climate uncertainty and potential risks.

Successful adaptation requires a continuous process of review, anticipation of uncertainty of the future climate, and flexibility to respond to changes as they occur. Therefore, communicating, understanding and managing climate uncertainty is a critical part of climate information services that effectively support informed decision making on adaptation and resilience. Communicating and understanding uncertainty encourages forward-looking, anticipatory and flexible decision-making and planning. It promotes innovation, reflection, experimentation and leveraging of needed support and systems towards adaptive and resilient development. For example, deciding on a mixture of crops to plant and how much of each to plant to avoid total crop loss due to climate hazards; rearing different types and breeds of livestock; livelihood diversification and environmental management among other adaptation strategies in different sectors. Communicating uncertainty provides useful information for risk assessment, which can help to coordinate and integrate early warning, risk reduction, safety nets, emergency response, sectoral and development planning. This strengthens people's adaptive capacity and resilience to live with a variable and changing climate.

The PSP has proven to be a valuable approach for this as it has multi-stakeholder dialogue at its centre, creating space for collective discussion and interpretation of the seasonal forecast information and uncertainties in relation to existing trends and current situation in a particular locality. The PSP can enable better accuracy of the forecast information through downscaling to the local context, and has potential for enabling continuous access to improved climate products as climate science improves. It equally is a forum for deepening knowledge on how very vulnerable people can be supported to make good choices and decisions in the face of uncertainty, understanding that uncertainty will not be removed and risks and options need to be weighed up, spread and managed.

#### **d) Key findings, recommendations and ALP response to the ALP final evaluation 2010 to 2015**

Key points relevant to this TOR are:

**Broadening the scope and scale:** The participatory scenario planning (PSP) process has been successful in helping farmers understand seasonal variability, uncertainty, likelihood and risk. More work is now needed at the district-level and beyond to help decision-makers and planners understand climate risks at a landscape-level and along longer timescales. There should be more use of data from the CVCA as a source of information on community vulnerabilities when preparing the PSP process. This would better support local government to understand potential risks to investments and assets over the longer-term, helping to prioritize community needs into local and district development plans in a manner that can optimize climate-resilient development gains. Although climate projections are not currently available at timescales conducive for development planning cycles (5-10 years), some governments are moving towards defining a set of climate planning assumptions to align with planning cycles. These assumptions are a simple set of high-level observations about anticipated changes in temperature and rainfall with statements about month-to-month variability, year-to-year variability and longer-term change. They are based on the best available science at the time (and therefore are revisited as necessary) and are expected to inform future plans, strategies and decisions.

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<sup>3</sup> See Facing Uncertainty: the value of climate information for adaptation, risk reduction and resilience in Africa - [www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing\\_Uncertainty\\_ALP\\_Climate\\_Communications\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing_Uncertainty_ALP_Climate_Communications_Brief.pdf)

The PSP is a good platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on longer term and landscape level climate resilient responses, and this has been occurring spontaneously in some districts where barriers to seasonal adaptation relate to long term development gaps – infrastructure to enable marketing during heavy rains for example. Better integration of CBA planning and climate information services is an aspect of CBA refinement planned at the community and local government level in ALP sites.

ALP should now focus also on demonstrating and scaling up good practice for integrating CBA into sector specific work, specifically in small holder agriculture, local development planning and disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems. Action involves: a) innovation, refinement and testing replicability of approaches in new and existing ALP sites in Output 1 and b) scaling up through a two pronged strategy of influencing mainstream planning, agriculture sector and DRR systems together with developing and delivering capacity building and training of trainers together with relevant institutes.

**Adoption by met services:** Contributing to the knowledge base on climate information and communication, the programme has positively affected the communities and the MET Services in the four countries. ALP has made it possible to effectively disseminate climate information to local people and increase its access, uptake and interpretation. This, in turn, increased the MET service's realisation of the benefits of working with the consumers of the information and therefore making the service relevant. The Met departments also gained from capacity-building interventions from the ALP program especially on how to effectively disseminate climate information to users (ie. farmers, NGOs, extension agents, local planners) in the four countries. It is evident that making the approaches highly participatory ensured that there was a strong 'buy-in' from stakeholders and contributed to the success of the ALP approaches. However, the four countries reported challenges in accessing timely, down-scaled climate information, and also lack of long-term climate information that would be in line with the government planning cycles.

At national level PSP is strengthening the significance of national met agencies, as well as the relationship between climate information generators, disseminators and users. PSP process has introduced new means for disseminating seasonal forecasts using means and language accessible to local communities.

**Resilient livelihood outcomes:** CIS has benefits for improving livelihood resilience through increasing adaptive capacity and the range of communication approaches and support to informed decisions on adaptation strategies, in particular agriculture practices and early warning for risk reduction/management. There is evidence that ALP has enhanced community adaptive capacity through provision of social and economic safety nets and building knowledge and skills among farming communities to employ adaptation strategies using climate information.

**Maintaining the integrity of the approach:** At the CSO and local and national government levels capacity has been enhanced to monitor, analyse and disseminate climate information on climate risks, integration of climate change into policies and allocation of resources to various climate change interventions. Upscaling of PSP across Kenya and to some extent Ghana is a success, but there is a danger that the approach is implemented in ways that reduce its quality and impact. For example, ALP promoted principles of community empowerment, integration and use of local knowledge may be lost in this up-scaling process.

**Measuring productivity gains from PSP:** While there is significant testimonial evidence of impact of PSP on increased resilience as well as agricultural productivity and improved livelihoods, systematic data collection on these results has not been undertaken. Resources need to be applied to track these gains and support the evidence base for the economic and social value of local utilization of climate information through PSP. CARE should work with organizations with strong methods and complementary approaches, specifically on community engagement and climate information services and managing uncertainty as well as bringing this to engagement processes at the national level in specific countries; and on an enhanced cost/benefits analysis of CBA in various contexts.

## 2. Purpose of the impact assessment

The purpose of this impact assessment study is to support up-scaling and institutionalisation of effective 'user based' climate information services in Africa as a critical component of development and adaptation decision making at local level. The assessment will provide evidence of the value, impact and potential for future development of user based climate information services (CIS) on seasonal decision making, longer term adaptive capacity and climate resilience of vulnerable communities in selected countries and locations.

### Objectives

The assessment aims to demonstrate the value and impact of participatory scenario planning (PSP) in Kenya, Ghana, Niger and selected other countries, and impact of other CIS developed by ALP (rain gauges and climate information centres) in Ghana and Niger; compare and analyse differences, success factors and challenges, and make recommendations for further development of good practice for user based climate information services.

The main study objectives are:

- a) Analyse the success factors and challenges of different approaches used to producing, interpreting and communicating climate information with impact, including:
  - I. Analyse how and how well PSP has been adopted in relation to key good practice principles, modifications being made to the PSP approach and the reasons for them across selected Kenyan counties and other country contexts to inform good practices for further adoption, scaling and institutionalisation of climate information services.
  - II. Analyse the contribution of community raingauges and CICs to community and farmer decision making within seasons and longer term
  - III. Analyse the linkages between and added value of different CIS approaches used and community based adaptation approaches where possible.
- b) Analyse the differential reach of communication of advisories from PSPs to the intended audience of men and women users across livelihood and vulnerability groups and at local level.
- c) Assess the value and impact of participatory scenario planning (PSP) in Kenya, Ghana, Niger and selected other countries, and impact of other CIS developed by ALP (rain gauges and climate information centres) in Ghana and Niger on the lives of vulnerable people, on national met services and on intermediaries.
- d) Assess the quality, cost effectiveness and impact of the PSP approach to enable climate informed decision making at local government and community level in relevant sectors.
- e) Analyse sustainability and the above points and how it has and can be achieved to enable ongoing CIS for ongoing adaptation decisions.
- f) Make recommendations to and inform further innovation and development of user based climate information services.

### 3. Target audience

The study findings will inform present and future evolution of climate information services in Africa and will be of particular use to:

- Global, regional and national Met services and climate scientists
- CIS promoters/projects
- Development planners/sector ministries
- Adaptation programmes and adaptation finance
- CARE projects and programmes in Africa and beyond
- Communities of practice in, for example:
  - CIS: GFCS, WISER, FCFA, ClimDev
  - Early warning/DRR: UNISDR/Sendai framework, national and local drought and disaster management authorities

- Climate resilient agriculture: ministries of agriculture, CGIAR CCAFS programme, African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance, agro-ecology programmes
- Adaptation and resilience: BRACED, Partnerships for Resilience (PfR), PREPARED
- Adaptation finance and policy: AfDB ClimDev Special Fund, National Implementing Entities for Adaptation and Green Climate Funds, ACPC/UNECA, bilateral donors.

#### 4. Scope of Work

The study will follow the PSP process in the 2016 rainfall seasons for different locations, exploring how PSPs have evolved from 2011, in order to assess:

- a) **Success of implementation of PSP and other CIS in a range of selected contexts and by different actors**, the variations made in the process, and reasons for these in order to assess the critical components/good practices and success factors required for PSP to realise effective user based climate information services. This will evaluate:
- How is PSP implemented across different places/contexts and by who? What is the difference in PSP implementation in the different places/contexts? What is working well and what is not with regard to ALP CIS approaches? What are the success factors and barriers to implementing the ALP CIS approaches in different contexts?
  - What is the added value of the essential principles of good PSP practice and the steps in the process in delivering user responsive climate information services for improved decisions and outcomes? In particular, what is the extent and value of participatory and multi-stakeholder interpretation and communication of seasonal forecasts and uncertainty in delivering user responsive climate information services.
  - Integrity of the PSP process – to what extent are the essential principles of good PSP practice and the steps maintained when the approach is adopted, replicated and upscaled? What are the features and drivers of any loss in integrity of the approach?
  - What deliberate modifications and innovations to the PSP process have been made in the different places/contexts? What factors/learning informed the innovations?
  - What and how have community raingauges and CICs contributed to community and farmer decision making within seasons and longer term
  - What is the link between PSP and other CIS approaches implemented by ALP (i.e. rain gauges, CICs)? What combination of ALP CIS approaches would help to create user responsive, sustainable and self-motivating CIS systems?
  - How does the PSP build capacity to understand and respond to different forecast probabilities? For example, what is the difference in advisories and messaging when a dry forecast follows a dry period versus a wet forecast following a wet period?
  - How is the broader context incorporated into the PSP - Eg. through short term recall of past seasons or longer term assessment of rainfall patterns.
- b) **Evidence of differential (i.e. gender, level, context) reach of communication** on seasonal forecasts and advisories from PSPs to intended audiences and use of the information, considering:
- What information from PSP is reaching who, with consideration of different users at community and local level?
  - What are the range of channels being used to communicate seasonal forecasts and advisories from PSP and by whom? What is the level of user access of the channels used? What are the preferred communication channels by different users to access climate information? To what extent does the level of understanding of climate information and uncertainty relate to communication channels used?
  - How are seasonal forecasts and advisories from PSP being used in decision making and response actions by different users, sectors and at different scales/contexts considering resilient livelihoods, early warning, risk spreading and management, adaptation, agriculture and development planning?

- What is the quality of advisories communicated from PSP in relation to – responsiveness to climate information needs by different users at different levels and how well they inform decision making processes?

**The assessment in Kenya will have a special focus on assessing El Nino communications** - the information communicated and advisories developed and communicated during the October November December (OND) 2015 rainfall season, decisions made and actions taken in response to advisories and El Nino information communicated. This feeds into work under the WISER project on Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS)<sup>4</sup>, implemented by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) in partnership with ALP and others.

**c) Evidence which shows the impacts that PSP and other CIS approaches implemented by ALP have had on users, producers and intermediaries, and how it has benefited them – in other words, evidence of:**

What has changed for different users, particularly farmers and agro-pastoralists – with gender, context, sectors and level considerations – why and with what outcomes or changes in, for example:

- Capacity to access, understand and use climate information and uncertainty for decision making at different timescales and respond to changing risks in the face of climate variability and change
- Decision making factoring in flexibility to manage uncertainty
- Innovation, risk spreading and management
- Changing needs and demands for climate information at different timescales
- Relations between different users (e.g. farming and pastoral communities, gender) at different levels (e.g. communities and local level service providers)
- Climate resilient outcomes following information used and implementation of livelihood or risk reduction decisions
- Economic growth or poverty reduction, productivity gains in agriculture, asset protection and livelihood resilience, improvements in water and natural resource management, in the face of climate variability and change
- Unintended effects, negative impact on different users (those intended to benefit, or others)

What has changed for producers (NMS), why and with what outcomes in:

- Content and language of communicating seasonal forecasts and other climate information products (e.g. historical data, daily to monthly forecasts) to different intermediaries and users with impact
- Understanding different user needs and demands for climate information
- Developing user responsive climate information products and services
- Changes in knowledge, attitudes and practice
- Relations with intermediaries and users at different levels; what are the barriers/drivers for improved relations?
- Relations between local level and national level staff; national, regional and international meteorological services. What value do NMS staff assign to PSPs, comparing those exposed to/facilitating PSP and those new to PSP?
- Linkages between local, national and regional level CIS processes

What has changed for intermediaries, why and with what outcomes in:

- Capacity to understand, interpret and communicate climate information and uncertainty to different users at different levels
- Changes in knowledge, attitudes and practice
- Development and use of innovative systems for communicating climate information
- Developing and providing user responsive climate information services
- Provision of climate informed services in different sectors and to different users
- Promoting and integrating climate information services in adaptation, DRR, agriculture and development planning and decision making processes at local and national level

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<sup>4</sup> See IRI ENACTS [https://iri.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ENACTS7\\_10v2.pdf](https://iri.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ENACTS7_10v2.pdf)

**d) Evidence of the economic and added value of PSP in different places/contexts, with a focus on:**

- What are the costs and benefits of PSP considering scale/level of implementation, actors involved in the process (with gender consideration), how the process is done in different places and reach of information from PSP?
- How to what extent does PSP and other ALP CIS approaches link with the CBA planning process used by ALP, other ALP models and resultant strategies?
- Assess the range and quality of existing monitoring and evidence approaches and information.

**e) Analysis of parts a) to e) of the scope of assessment in response to the assessment purpose and objectives, and to provide insights into:**

- Evidence of sustainability of PSP in different places/contexts – that is, evidence of where and how has PSP been institutionalised and operational systems and services that are in place to support continued PSP implementation. What are the major factors that influence integration of PSP into different sectoral and development planning process, sustainable CIS systems, institutionalisation and continuation of PSP and its benefits, which are transferable to other contexts?
- What quality forecast communication and advisories should contain to enable informed decision making
- Why the high uptake and adoption of PSP in Africa? How is the approach understood in terms of its purpose and how it is done? What essential principles/steps of PSP are being adopted at scale, what are being lost and why? What would it take to maintain the ‘integrity’ of the PSP approach?
- What is emerging as new and innovative? What is the key learning in terms of designing and delivering user responsive climate information services in Africa?
- How do stakeholders perceive change in connections and relationship between different producers, intermediaries and users of CIS due to ALP?
- How does the seasonal forecast centered approach of PSP fit in a broader climate risk management approach?
- What is the value of PSP and other ALP CIS approaches in a range of application contexts, sectors and levels? How does this relate to building adaptive capacity and climate resilient development in Africa?

**f) Give recommendations with thinking of:**

- To inform further innovation and development of user based climate information services, based on analysis of relative strengths and weaknesses of the CIS studied
- What ideas can the evidence PSP and the other CIS studied contribute to future CIS and vehicles for using other climate information timescales in decision making for adaptation and climate resilient development?
- How can PSP be modified to more user responsive and link to other decision making systems/processes or policies?
- How to best monitor CIS delivery, reach, use and impacts and quality of the process followed?

### **5. Impact assessment methodology and tasks**

The successful consultant will design a detailed methodology and activities, factoring in interaction and discussions with ALP Programme and country teams, proposing required field visits and discussions with key informants as well as desk based document review. Expectations for what the consultant will include follow:

#### **Methodological considerations:**

The study will take advantage of ongoing PSPs and CIS in Kenya and Ghana to follow the process in real time and at the same time investigate past experiences. It will rely on existing documentation and monitoring information, and circumstantial evidence from strategically selected key informants and small number of communities. The ALP teams and partners will be critical to the design and implementation of the study and should be consulted and participate. Key informants and field work

should be planned strategically and should take place in Kenya with significant coverage. Some on the ground field work will be needed in Ghana, Niger and at least one other country – either Malawi, Ethiopia or Tanzania. Face to face and /or virtual interviews will be expected.

The assessment methodology should therefore include interviews with people who have had different levels of interaction with PSPs – that is PSP organisers and facilitators, NMS, range of participants in PSP forums, direct recipients of advisories (face to face) following the PSP, people who received the advisories indirectly through range of communication channels, people who did not receive information from PSPs etc and comparing years of experience in this. It will compare information from where ALP has facilitated PSP and counterfactual information from non-ALP areas, and between PSP and approaches limited to seasonal forecast dissemination without interpretation.

Areas and levels covered by the assessment are:

- Ghana, Kenya and Niger where ALP and partners have implemented PSP, and selected countries where PSP has been adopted. Focus will be on selected counties/districts in these countries.
- Community, local and national levels
- In Kenya it is expected that there will be significant in-country work and county selection will consider the new WISER programme counties, ALP, other adaptation programmes adopting PSP and counties who have independently championed PSPs.

### **Consultant team Tasks:**

#### **Inception phase:**

- Understanding ALP: access and review of key documents and publications, discussions with the ALP coordination team and others, organizing information available, identifying opportunities for follow up and gaps in ALP country documentation, and prioritizing information sources.
- Planning the assessment: developing the assessment framework, mapping the proposed assessment design, methods and analytical plan against the assessment scope, providing a detailed timeframe including field visits, identification of key actors and informants to be involved, questions and tools with ALP team.
- Submission and approval of inception report

#### **Assessment implementation phase:**

- In depth document review, in particular information produced through the ALP final evaluation report (2010-2015), targeted impact studies, baseline, monitoring and evaluative exercises, major conference outputs, donor reports and publications.
- Data collection from surveys or key informant interviews, virtual and face to face.
- Analysis and synthesis of findings from the field visits and those documented, evidence and learning in relation to the scope of the assessment.
- Regular discussions with ALP Programme and country teams, and with IRI team working on ENACTS/WISER project.
- Identification of case studies to illustrate assessment findings and learning
- Recommendations for improvements in ALP CIS approaches for CBA and resilience programming in Africa.
- Presentation of initial findings to ALP programme team, IRI and other stakeholders as relevant and available for validation and further analysis.
- Draft complete report of findings, analysis and recommendations, using short case studies to illustrate main areas of evidence.
- Finalise report based on comments from ALP team and partners, IRI, CARE and ALP donors.

#### **ALP Programme teams responsibilities and tasks**

- Provide lists of documents, stakeholders and other information as guided by the TOR.
- Compile and share all relevant reports, publications and other documentation on ALP monitoring, learning, publications, approaches, impacts etc. to date.

- Orient the consultant team, explain ALP and CBA approaches with focus on CIS, activities and results.
- Be available for regular meetings to explain and discuss details.
- Approve the inception report.
- Support the consultant to implement activities agreed; support field visits and provide introductions to stakeholders; organize logistics etc. as needed and participation in activities as agreed.
- Organise the validation meeting and invite participants
- Provide comments to the initial findings and full draft report

## 6. Consultant outputs

The consultancy report will include:

- a) An inception report with an assessment framework, detailed methodology and plan, and draft report outline for discussions with ALP teams, IRI and others
- b) Presentation of initial findings to be shared for validation
- c) Full report of assessment work done in Kenya and Tanzania (if relevant) as a stand-alone product to support WISER work in East Africa and to be provided before finalising work in West Africa
- d) Draft report of assessment of climate information services, in line with the TOR and particularly following but not limited to TOR sections 2 and 4.
- e) Final report to include:
  - a. standalone executive summary
  - b. the assessment method and analytical tools,
  - c. findings by country and in line with TOR purpose, objectives and scope of work (section 2 and 4)
  - d. Brief case studies which illustrate the findings and their meaning
  - e. analysis and lessons learnt
  - f. recommendations for future CIS practice, plans and policy, opportunities to follow and suggestions for overcoming barriers.
- f) Annexes including: final itinerary, evaluation framework and methodology used (including any manuals, models, research tools used), list of persons met/interviews made, list documents reviewed, further information gathered, visuals and other material produced.

The final outline of the report will be agreed by the consultant/consultancy team and ALP, IRI and with input from the participating CARE Country Offices.

## 7. Timeframes

The work should commence within February 2016 to ensure timing coincides with PSPs occurring for the March to May (MAM) season in Kenya and thereafter rainy season PSPs in Ghana and Niger. The period is expected to extend to approximately 6 months, with presentation of findings to be made at the GHARCOF for OND in September 2016.

## 8. Team composition and budget

Expert team to be composed of people with complementary knowledge/skills in a selection of the following: Climate information science, climate services, social development, multi-stakeholder processes and social learning, adaptation, early warning, disaster risk reduction, participatory community development, participatory M&E, communicating with impact, East and West Africa drylands, English and French proficiency.

ALP is seeking to build on and develop longer term relations with research institutions and teams engaged in climate information services, adaptation learning, early warning systems and climate informed development in Africa through this study. Independent consultant teams with the relevant expertise are also encouraged to apply.

**The total budget** is in the range of USD \$70,000, covering all consultant fees, accommodation and per diems, international travel and translation required in country. Reasonable costs for in-country travel and costs of meetings and evaluation workshops, can be added or be covered directly by ALP.

## 9. Contacts

### **Technical and operational:**

Maurine Ambani, ALP Climate Communications Advisor

Fiona Percy, ALP Regional Coordinator

[akasuvu@careclimatechange.org](mailto:akasuvu@careclimatechange.org)

[fiona@careclimatechange.org](mailto:fiona@careclimatechange.org)

### **Contract:**

Rolf Herno, CARE Denmark

[rhernoe@care.dk](mailto:rhernoe@care.dk)

Information on ALP from these contacts and here:

<http://careclimatechange.org/our-work/alp/>

<http://www.care.dk/focuscountries/globally-eng/alp-adaptation-learning-programme/>

<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-200658/documents>

## 10. Call for expressions of interest

Potential consultants who can demonstrate the required knowledge and expertise are encouraged to express interest. A team of consultants is sought. The team leader will be responsible for coordinating the team, delivering the outputs as required and ensuring quality of work done by the team. National consultants in any or all of the countries are expected to be included for relevant parts of the work. Joint bids involving several consultants are expected and speculative bids from individuals using an appropriate format and suggesting their role within a full team will also be accepted.

Tenders should include:

1. A 2 page cover letter introducing the team and how the skills and competencies described above are met, with concrete examples. The applicant should explain why they are interested in the assignment.
2. A maximum 8-page outline of the proposed assessment process including:
  - a. Outline of proposed assessment framework, methodology and plan for addressing the TOR, which demonstrate a good understanding of the TOR and how the team will achieve the ambitious goals with the resources available.
  - b. Management arrangements, with the specific role each team member or individual applicant will contribute and demonstrating the capacity of the team as a whole. This should include how any potential conflict of interest will be managed, where consultants have had previous engagement with ALP.
  - c. Comments to the TOR
3. Work plan including milestones (please provide a Gantt chart or equivalent table)
4. A budget covering the level of effort required and personnel involved (person-days) and major costs for the evaluation or part of the assignment proposed in line with section 8 of this TOR. It is preferred to pay an agreed price for the totality of the work.
5. A max 2-page CV for each team member
6. One example or link to previous relevant work

**Expressions of interest should be sent to Rolf Herno ([rhernoe@care.dk](mailto:rhernoe@care.dk) and [alp@careclimatechange.org](mailto:alp@careclimatechange.org)) by end of day CET on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.** Only winning candidates will be contacted.