



CLIMATE RESILIENT FLYWAY PROJECT – ETHIOPIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultant to conduct an assessment of the current and potential Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity of Abijatta-Shalla Lakes National Park

1. Background

Wetlands International is dedicated to safeguarding and restoring wetlands for people and nature. We are driven by the knowledge that safeguarding and restoring wetlands is urgent and vital for water security, biodiversity, climate regulation, sustainable development and human health. In our biodiversity conservation work, we focus on migratory species depending on a chain of healthy wetlands. These wetlands in turn depend on healthy wetland landscapes, which imply taking into account wider economic and development goals into account to make conservation truly sustainable. In our disaster risk reduction work, we work from the principles that environmental degradation can lead to disasters and aggravation of hazards, and that the sustenance and restoration of healthy ecosystems are key to reducing disaster risk and improving community resilience.

Currently, Wetlands International is implementing Climate Resilient Flyway Project in Ethiopia in collaboration with other partners - Rift Valley Lakes Basin Authority (RVLBA), Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoAREC& N). The aim of the project is to guide the development of a coherent and climate resilient network of protected or otherwise managed areas that are internationally important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Africa Eurasia Flyway (AEF). In Ethiopia, the overall goal of the project is to safeguard and restore the internationally important biodiversity values of Abijatta – Shalla Lakes National Park.

This National Park supports more than 400 bird species, and is of international importance for both migrants and resident birds. Lake Abijatta is the most important wetland for waterbirds in Ethiopia (including 200,000 Lesser Flamingos, many migrating ducks and waders) . It is one of the most important breeding sites for Great white pelicans in Africa. Abijatta is disappearing fast (30-50% decline since 2000) due to over use of water by the Soda -Ash Factory bordering the park, but mainly through over abstraction and erosion/sedimentation in the upstream Lake Ziway catchment, also the source of most of Abijatta’s water. Bird species depending on fresh water coming from Ziway are in rapid decline. Fish populations have already collapsed. Vegetation is badly degrading due to overgrazing, collection of firewood and unsustainable agriculture by large concentrations of settlers and their livestock.

Wetlands International is supporting EWCA in the development of a climate change adaptation plan and restoration plan, as part of the first overall management plan for the National Park. This includes a study on the economic benefits of the biological biodiversity and ecosystem services of the National Park

The study will follow the framework set out in the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB); TEEB is an international initiative that provides an approach that helps to capture the economic and

social benefits of ecosystem services and biodiversity by highlighting the tremendous costs of their degradation and loss. Overall TEEB strives to provide facts for policy makers that enable them to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity issues in their development planning and decision making.

2. Objectives of the study

The aim of the study is to give insight into the current and potential economic value of the ecosystem services the Abijata-Shalla National Park provides and subsequently improving the conditions of the park by attracting more attention and resources (political and administrative support, infrastructure, manpower and finance) to the park while boosting the revenue from the tourism.

The results are expected to inform the management plan of the National Park, stimulate conservation/restoration action and collaboration between the Park Management, Federal, Regional and woreda governments and communities in the park, and inform processes around the economic development of the Ziway-Shalla sub-basin. This includes the development of a Water Allocation Plan for the Ziway-Shalla Sub basin and possible development plans/relocation of the Soda-ash Factory located next to and impacting Lake Abijatta or replacement of the job opportunities and revenue from the Soda-Ash Factory by improving the eco-tourism activities in the area or creation of a win-win scenario that leads to the co-existence of the park and the Soda-Ash Factory by setting maximum production threshold for the factory. The study also takes into account climate change adaptation measures proposed for the area.

3. Activities:

- a. Describe the key biodiversity (bird and mammal species, habitats) of the park in terms of (inter)national importance (numbers, threat status), their value in maintaining the ecosystems and attractiveness for tourism or local use.
- Describe the current human use (habitation, land use, livelihoods and other activities in the park).
- b. Describe and monetize the value (monetary, number of people supported, descriptive) of the ecosystem services and biodiversity in the National Park in two scenarios:
 - i. The current situation
 - ii. If the business as usual scenario continue: Lake Abijatta will disappear and the bushland will degrade further through overgrazing, logging and other activities
- Do this describing for each scenario the values of provisional (water, fodder, wood, etc, salt, sand), regulatory (watershed buffer against drought, erosion, etc) supporting (soil formation, etc) and cultural (tourism, religious, etc) services.
- Describe the current status of the park's key biodiversity and the impact of the business as usual scenario.

4. Process and deliverables

1. Scoping: to ensure the study is building upon existing work. A scoping report should be produced 3 weeks after signing of contract
2. Kick off and stakeholder consultation workshop to finalize the work plan (at least Park Management, communities and other relevant stakeholders are present) – delivery of final work plan.
3. Desk review and data availability and gap identification report (including designing of methods how to fill the data gaps). Progress report to EWCA and Wetlands International
4. Field work, including socio-agro-economic and eco-physical surveys, interviews with key stakeholders (incl. focus group discussions throughout the park and park stakeholders)
5. Regular internal updates with EWCA and Wetlands International

6. Production of draft report
7. Validation workshop with stakeholders (at least EWCA, Park Management and Communities)
8. Final report

5. Qualifications and experience

The work will be undertaken by multidisciplinary team with different specializations: Environmental Economics, Agricultural economics, Tourism, Wildlife & Ecology and Development studies. The team leader shall have the following qualifications and experience:

- Have work experience of at least 10 years on similar work
- Have proven experience with TEEB studies or TEEB like studies
- Have experience with Ecotourism in Africa and the Ethiopian context are important. Have excellent writing skills and a proven reporting capacity (evidence required: technical reports and publications)

Ideally, the team shall have both Ethiopian and international expertise.

6. Duration and fees

The total duration of the study is 3 months after granting the project. The kick-off workshop and finalized work plan shall be produced in April, 2018 and the first intermediate report shall be published by the end of May/early June, 2018.

The consultants will be paid as per the above

7. Selection of consultant

Interested consultants are expected to respond by submitting a proposal on their understanding of this ToRs, stated experience and expertise to undertake the Assignment with a clear outline of the methodology including the work plan and budget. The application should be sent on or by *5th April, 2018*, via email [to communicationsEA@wetlands-africa.org](mailto:to_communicationsEA@wetlands-africa.org) with copies [to a.mulugeta@wetlands-africa.org](mailto:a.mulugeta@wetlands-africa.org) and jmulonga@wetlands-africa.org

