Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Development of Wetlands Management Plan for Kinaite Watershed

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 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.

Wetlands International in Strategic Partnership (SP) with Cordaid, Netherlands Red Cross and Red Cross Climate Centre is implementing a 5-year (2016-2020) Partners for Resilience (PfR) Programme to build and strengthen community resilience in South Sudan by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) – referred to as Integrated Risk Management (IRM). The strategic partnership aims at strengthening civil society organisations to lobby, advocate and promote the application of IRM to enhance and protect livelihoods of vulnerable communities in South Sudan through the so-called 'IRM Dialogue trajectories' in 3 'Domains of Change' - Policy, Investments, and Practice. It focuses primarily on environmental degradation and climate-related hazards, whose underlying causes and potential for disasters result to a large extent from human-induced processes. The geographical area of implementation is Kinaite Watershed in Imotong State and also at national level.

2. The Assignment

Wetlands, beyond their biological functions, play a key role in helping communities cope with disasters. In South Sudan, Kinaite wetlands are of enormous importance both economically and environmentally. They serve a key role in the great wildlife migrations and provide habitat for endangered wildlife species. At the same time, they regulate water quality and deliver a significant share of the population's means of subsistence by providing food and building materials for communities within the Kinaite catchment and at national level. Kinaite wetlands are also crucial in enhancing community resilience against droughts and floods. Yet these wetlands are in danger; threatened with drainage for agriculture, degradation, pollution, and destruction at an alarming pace. As a result, many benefits that wetlands provide, such as water capture, storage, filtration, the regulation of flood flows and food production are threatened.

Sustainably managed wetland ecosystems can reduce the impact of disaster risks, such as droughts, flooding and landslides. The extent to which wetlands can buffer against extreme events depends on their health and the intensity of the event. Investments in preventative measures, including in maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems, are seven times more effective than the costs incurred by disasters. While the most extreme events will overwhelm any mitigation approach, using natural assets can provide benefits in reducing the severity of the impact of extreme weather events, while structural approaches offer little benefit once breached.

It is against this background that Wetlands International through this ToRs desires to develop a Wetlands Management Plan for sustainable management of Kinaite Watershed. The Plan will propose actions to

initiate joint measures for improved wetlands management in future including screening investments and mainstreaming regulatory and socio-economic valuations in wetlands planning and management through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Environmental Audits (EAs), Strategic Environment Anayses (SEA), among other tools.

3. Deliverables

In order to develop a comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan for Kinaite Watershed, first the current state of water resources has to be assessed and evaluated. The major challenges and opportunities which may vary in time and space, have to be identified. Disaster risks analysis such as droughts and floods will require, for example, examining trends in areas most affected and at what scale, under which conditions and in which periods drought stress develops. A proper understanding of the relation between the different elements and stakeholders engagement in the process is critical.

The consultant will work with Wetlands International staff and the Kinaite Wetlands Working Group to develop the Kinaite Wetlands Management Plan. Key deliverables will be:

- **First Deliverable** – A brief, descriptive **Plan** based on these ToRs, on how the assignment will be carried out, the methodology to be used, a tentative timescale, and other products that are expected. The Plan will also identify any advice, support or other input that might be required from the project focal point or Wetlands International;
- **Second Deliverable** – An **Inception report** detailing historical data and trends, analyses and assessments of the current situation and possible project interventions to address wetland degradation, a potential wetland use monitoring system, among other key issues to consider in plan development;
- **Third Deliverable** – Draft and Final Wetlands Management Plan document; and
- **Other deliverables** will include supporting process documents such as workshop reports, lists of participants, minutes etc.

4. Reporting Relationship and Coordination Mechanism

The Consultant will liaise with the PfR II Project Focal Point at Wetlands International South Sudan. The coordination will be facilitated by Wetlands International Eastern Africa. The periodical coordination will be in the form of in-person meetings at least every month throughout the consultancy.

5. Time frame

The total duration of this assignment is 40 man-days spread over a period of 6 months effective 1 August, 2018 and terminating by 31 January 2019.

6. Qualifications

The successful consultant will have the following qualifications:

- Post Graduate Degree in Environmental related discipline, Development Studies, Water Engineering, Water Resources Management, or Natural Resource Use with a strong development planning bias.
- Demonstrated technical experience and knowledge to undertake natural resource use/ecosystem baseline surveys and assessment work.
- At least 10 years working experience conducting research and scoping studies.
- Adequate knowledge and or experience of Horn of Africa ecosystems, their values, vulnerabilities and their legal and institutional arrangements.

- Practical and technical experience in Integrated Water Resources Management and wetlands management.
- Professional skills in preparation of research reports

7. Consultant Selection Procedure

The bidding is a competitive process. Interested Consultants are expected to respond by submitting a proposal on their understanding of this ToR, 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 before ***Friday 29th June 2018***, via email to twamae@wetlands-africa.org with a copy to kenya@wetlands-africa.org