

Terms of Reference:
Assessments of Community Climate Priorities and Community Land Formalization Outcomes

Position Title: Research, Evaluation and Learning Consultant
Status: Consultant
Location: Global
Classification: Consultant
Date: April 2023

Landesa is an international nonprofit, founded in 1981, and dedicated to ending global poverty by securing land rights for the world’s rural farmers. Landesa has worked in 50 countries throughout the world, with a home office in Seattle, WA, and field offices in Monrovia, Dar es Salaam, Beijing, Nairobi, and multiple offices in India. The organization is widely supported by partners, including NGOs, foundations, donor agencies (USAID, World Bank, etc.), world leaders, educational institutions, and individual supporters throughout the world. Landesa is known for its advancement of pro-poor, gender-sensitive land rights reforms that have helped alleviate poverty, reduce hunger, and ease conflict over land for more than 540 million women and men.

Job Summary:

Assessment 1. Qualitative research on climate experience and priorities in Liberia

The Sustainable Forest Conservation Project is a two-year project focused on developing a process to support land-use planners and communities to integrate information about climate risks and existing adaptation capacities into community land use planning – supporting 15,000 rural community members relying on forests and land for livelihoods and food security and protecting approximately 93,629 hectares (234,072 acres) of threatened biodiverse ecosystems and vulnerable human settlements. The approach combines qualitative participatory research, climate data, and participatory land use planning to identify and integrate women’s and men’s land use priorities, localized climate risk, and response options into communities’ land use plans. Training for farmers and other local stakeholders in sustainable land management will enhance local capacity to implement the climate-responsive land use plans. The project will also involve crucial government engagement to draft recommendations to integrate climate change considerations into land use planning processes at a national scale.

Methodology

The Consultant will lead the design and analysis of the qualitative community assessment engaging community members to (1) identify and articulate gendered climate change priorities as concrete problems to address in the land use planning process and (2) identify and articulate gendered preferences for different adaptation strategies as potential solutions in the two communities’ land use planning processes.

Through approaches such as focus group discussions, participatory mapping, transect walks, and ranking exercises, the assessment will collate actions community members have taken or seen in response to climate changes – for example, choosing crops or varieties that are more flood-tolerant or moving cultivation to a different location – and assess gendered preferences for adaptation responses access to

resources and decision-making authority needed to implement adaptation responses. Focus group discussions will be separated by gender and note participant' ages and livelihoods. Semi-structured interviews with leaders of youth groups, women's groups, and farmer organizations will explore women's, young people's, and farmers' experiences with land governance and complement findings from community focus groups. At least 50% of the research participants will be female. The anticipated number of focus groups or participatory exercises is a minimum of 5 per community, in addition to semi-structured interviews.

The Consultant will have primary responsibility for design of approaches and tools, training Econsult on approaches and tools, analysis of data, and producing the deliverables of a summary report of findings and a matrix of community members' climate priorities and responses. Econsult will have primary responsibility for community preparation, conducting the data collection, and processing data (including translation) under the Consultant's supervision.

Main responsibilities:

- Design the assessment approach and sampling, with review and feedback from the Landesa Liberia team and the Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.
- Create data collection tools with review and feedback from the Landesa Liberia team, Landesa Climate Change Team, and the Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.
- Train Econsult in the data collection tools and approaches.
- Supervise Econsult throughout all stages of fieldwork, including holding regular debriefs during data collection to identify adjustments needed to tools and protocols.
- Ensure that all activities related to data collection and management and conduct of the field team follow Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research.
- Analyze the qualitative data collected (i.e., notes and transcripts, maps, photos, etc.)
- Prepare a report summarizing the findings of the analysis that includes a matrix of community members' climate priorities and potential responses by gender, age, and other relevant factors as a tool to facilitate their integration into land use plans. This matrix should identify the land uses, climate concerns, and preferences for potential climate responses by gender, age, and other relevant factors as a tool to facilitate their integration into land use plans.

Deliverables:

- Assessment design description
- Data collection tools
- Report of assessment findings (~10 pages)
- Matrix of community members' land uses, climate concerns, and responses with relevant social disaggregation
- Codebooks, coded data, and other relevant analysis files stored in Dedoose or similar format

Anticipated timing: Late April – June 2023

- April – Design of overall approach and sampling strategy; creation of data collection guides and tools

- May – Train Econsult on tools and approaches; data collection and processing
- June – Analysis, report writing, production of matrix

Assessment 2. Community Land Formalization Outcome Assessment, Liberia

Landesa's Land Rights for Sustainable Development (LRSD) program in Liberia focuses on supporting customary communities to obtain legal rights to their land. Landesa is partnering with the civil society organization DEN-L to support three clans in Bong County in their customary land formalization. An assessment using qualitative research will be conducted to assess the outcomes of the LRSD project's customary land formalization objective, by soliciting the perspectives of all stakeholders involved. The assessment will address the following questions:

- Did the project meet its goal of completing all steps of the Community Land Formalization process in the 3 pilot communities?
- Did the project meet its desired outcomes identified at the beginning of the project:
 - Women and youth are included and participate in the community formalization process and CLDMCs
 - Community members have improved perceptions of Tenure Security
 - Communities experience a reduction of internal and external land-related conflicts

The Consultant will be responsible for designing the assessment, creating the qualitative data collection tools, contributing technical input to the recruitment and selection of a local research organization to conduct the data collection, supervising the data collection firm, analyzing the data, and writing a report on the outcome assessment.

Main responsibilities:

- Design the outcome assessment, including all research protocols, with review and feedback from the Landesa Liberia team and the Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.
- Create data collection tools: key informant interview and focus group discussion questionnaires, with review and feedback from the Landesa Liberia team and the Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.
- Develop sampling strategy with input from the Landesa Liberia team.
- Conduct briefings with the research organization hired, on the data collection tools and research protocol.
- Supervise the research organization throughout all stages of fieldwork, including holding regular debriefs during data collection to identify adjustments needed to tools and research protocol.
- Ensure that all activities related to data collection and management and conduct of the field team follow Landesa's Ethical Guidelines for Research.
- Analyze the qualitative data collected (i.e., notes from interviews and focus group discussions).
- Write report on outcome assessment, with review and feedback from the Landesa Liberia team and the Sr. Research and Evaluation Specialist.

Deliverables:

- Design of outcome assessment
- Data collection tools

- Terms of reference for local research organization
- Codebooks, coded data, and other relevant analysis files stored in Dedoose or similar format.
- Report on outcome assessment

Anticipated timeline:

- June: design the outcome assessment and develop data collection tools; hire local research organization.
- July: supervision of data collection by local research organization
- August: data analysis and report writing.

Reporting and Relationships: The Consultant will report to Landesa’s Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist.

Availability: The consultant can be expected to work at an anticipated level of effort of 40 days (20-25 for Assessment 1, 15-20 days for Assessment 2). The Consultant may be requested to travel for one-week to Liberia in May to support and guide initial data collection, especially with respect to participatory methods and exercises in which participants engage with the local environment.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Strong understanding of land tenure issues in developing countries
- Strong qualitative research design and analysis experience and skills
- Prior field research and data collection experience
- Substantial experience working at least one of with Dedoose, NVivo, or AtlasTi for data management and analysis
- Able to synthesize complex information, understand what is most important, and communicate analytical findings in writing and orally clearly, compelling, and concise for both research and non-research audiences
- Experience designing and implementing gender-responsive and socially inclusive rigorous research with a focus on vulnerable populations in developing countries
- Flexibility and ability to work simultaneously on multiple projects
- Ability to work effectively as both a team member and a team leader
- Self-motivated and able to set and meet goals

Education and Experience:

- Experience leading socio-economic research on climate risk, traditional ecological knowledge, and/or resilience and adaptation options.
- A strong foundation in designing and conducting qualitative research
- Graduate degree in the social sciences: Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, Political Science, Natural Resource Management, Economics, Development Studies, or closely related field
- At least 7 years of progressively responsible experience in performing most or all of the duties described above

- Preference will be given to individuals with work experience on land and/or gender-related issues. Prior work experience with international or national development institutions and field research experience are considered beneficial.

To Apply: Interested candidates should send their CV (no more than 5 pages), a letter of interest describing relevant experience and expertise, and contact information for 2-3 references to Tatiana Gumucio (tatianag@landesa.org) and Catherine Macharia (catherinem@landesa.org) with “Research, Evaluation and Learning Consultant” in the email subject line by April 24th, 2023.