



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT & AUDIT ASSESSMENT IN HOMA BAY AND SIAYA COUNTIES

ORGANIZATION: ECHO NETWORK AFRICA KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE

PROGRAMME CENTRE: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS

INTRODUCTION:

Echo Network Africa Kenya Country Office (ENA) is a woman-led, women-serving catalyst for development institution that empowers, positions, and advocates for women to enable them improve their economic status, livelihoods, and hence the wellness of their families. ENA is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Company's Act (2015) Laws of Kenya. ENA works with other like-minded stakeholders to empower, position, and advocate for women, specifically focusing on young women, women with disabilities, and women from marginalized communities.

ENA's focus is a catalyst for development that propels the empowerment agenda by collaborating with broad community-based organizations called Local Implementing Partners (LIPs) and networks to develop viable initiatives that enable women to advance their security and prosperity. ENA is led by an all-women Board of Directors comprising lawyers, financial experts, trainers, development experts, experts in ICT, and entrepreneurs. The board retires on a rotational basis to ensure good corporate governance. The day-to-day running of the organization is the responsibility of a lean team of competent staff (70%) of these are women.

ENA utilizes a private sector approach for development to achieve sustainability of the organization while simultaneously building capacity for LIPs to accelerate the attainment of results and guarantee the future of both the initiatives and the institutions. This approach also ensures a wider reach of ENA's target.

ENA's programs focus on five major areas: Community Resilience and Livelihoods, Women's Leadership, Political Participation and Governance, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Girls Excel Initiative, and Financial Inclusion. ENA maintains its edge by employing a private sector-driven model to work with individuals and communities to catalyze societal change.

1.1 Vision

An Inclusive society where girls and women enjoy full rights and participate fully in the life of Society

1.2 Mission

A Pan - African Organization which works with like-minded partners to catalyze development towards positioning, empowering, and advocating for rights for girls and women to attain their full potential and enjoy their full rights as members of the society

1.3 Core Values

Dignity
Integrity
Respect
Honesty

Professionalism
Inclusion
Teamwork
Learning
Innovation

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Environmental Audit Assessment (EAA) is the assessment of the compliance of environmental administration and performance of an operating business with environmental protection requirements, with sound environmental practice in general, and with the principles of sustainable development. Environmental auditing is mandatory only in cases stipulated by law¹. EA is being used as a tool and an aid to test the effectiveness of environmental efforts at the local level.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic assessment conducted to determine whether or not a program, activity, or project will negatively impact the environment². Environmental impact assessment is the mandatory assessment of the compliance of planned activities, such as planning documents, programs, and projects, with environmental protection requirements and with the principles of sustainable development to determine the optimum solution.

BACKGROUND

Environmental issues have no boundaries, and any human endeavor will likely have negative environmental impacts if not properly monitored. With the burgeoning population coupled with a myriad of strategies targeted at meeting humanity's needs, the planetary earth's capacity to meet these demands will not be sustainable unless all use EIA/EAA as a technique for environmental management. Despite the application of Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audits as a tool in environmental management in Kenya over the past two decades, environmental problems continue to persist as manifested by incessant incidences of floods and drought conditions, climate change, the proliferation of informal settlements, deforestation, collapsing buildings and dams. This underscores the need for interventions using EIA/EA for environmental enhancement.

Homa Bay and Siaya Counties are riparian counties known for their substantial involvement in aquaculture, particularly fish farming. The counties' location on the shores of Lake Victoria provide access to water resources that can be used for aquaculture activities. Tilapia, Nile perch, and catfish are common fish species farmed in the area. Local fish farmers often engage in both pond-based and cage-based aquaculture, utilizing freshwater sources and the lake itself. These counties have promoted sustainable aquaculture practices, improved fish farming techniques, and addressed environmental concerns associated with increased aquaculture activities. Local governments, NGOs, and international organizations have been involved in initiatives aimed at capacity-building, infrastructure development, and adopting best aquaculture practices.

In the past, ENA has successfully implemented aquaculture interventions in several regions in the country. ENA implemented a program funded by The Ford Foundation in six zones, namely Funyula, Migori, Nyatike, Busia, Kakamega, and Kirinyaga, in 2010-2014. The program aimed to develop home-based aquaculture to help women build and secure assets, enabling them to increase income, improve food security, and reduce gender inequality and human rights abuses. It focused on strengthening women's voices through the Anchor-cluster model to enhance market access and linkage and sensitize women on women's rights violations through local radio listening programs.

¹ Return to the Impact Assessment page. Contact: Hari Srinivas - hsrinivas@gdrc.org

² Challenges and opportunities in environmental impact assessment and environmental audit practice in Kenya
Ngetich J. K.1 * and Ndiema A. C

ENA also built capacity for Gatundu Fish Farmers' Cooperative, funded by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in 2015-2016. ENA has trained 533 beneficiaries (450 - Ford Foundation, 83- GAIN) fish farmers on Financial Literacy and Integrated Fish Farming opportunities. It covered four counties supporting the 55 (52 – Ford Foundation 3- GAIN) women cluster groups who managed 595 ponds. In addition, ENA organized and coordinated a market linkage platform forum for fish farmers to enhance market access in collaboration with; the State Department for Fisheries, County Governments of Kiambu, Migori, Busia, Kakamega & Vihiga, and 11 cooperative associations representing 1,505 (1372 - Ford, 133- GAIN) fish farmers.

ENA, provided financial access (enterprise loans) to 554 blue movement anchor farmers in four counties, Migori, Kakamega, Busia & Vihiga County through business appraisal for farmers and training, providing a holistic platform for financial access, saving & investment for blue movement growth i.e., integrated fish farming by providing agricultural loans for dairy cows and farming.

ENA supported the establishment of 595 ponds (180 in phase III- 55 new ponds and 125 old ponds re-stocked) covering four counties (Migori, Kakamega, Busia & Vihiga) with 52 anchor cluster farmers. Leveraged fish production cost by Equipping 20 Blue movement Anchors on fish feed formulation preparation and pelletizing at Sagana National Fish Culture Farm.

OBJECTIVES

The consultancy will be done on two levels:

1. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The primary objective of the EIA is to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Echo Network Africa Aquaculture Initiative in the targeted counties. The assessment will identify potential risks, propose mitigation measures, and ensure the project aligns with sustainable development goals.

2. Environmental Audit Assessment

The primary objectives of this Environmental Audit Assessment are as follows:

- To assess the environmental impact of the Echo Network Africa Aquaculture Initiative in the target counties.
- To identify potential environmental risks and vulnerabilities associated with the aquaculture activities.
- To evaluate the compliance of the aquaculture initiative with local and national environmental regulations and standards.
- To provide recommendations for mitigating adverse environmental impacts and enhancing sustainable aquaculture practices.

N/B: The assessment will identify potential risks, propose mitigation measures, and ensure the project aligns with sustainable development goals and is aligned to the regulatory framework.

SCOPE OF WORK

Echo Network Africa wishes to engage a Lead Consultant to conduct an Environmental Impact and Audit Assessment to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts in the 2 Counties (Homa Bay and Siaya). ENA successfully conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment in 2019 for four women groups and received a NEMA license. As per the legal requirement, cage farmers must conduct an Annual environmental Impacts and audit assessment to ascertain the status and effect of cage farming in the site allocated as follows:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the new County of scale-up (Siaya County) and Additional Beaches in Homa Bay County.
- Environmental Audit Assessment (EAA) in the Existing County, Homa Bay, in existing Beaches (Kaugege, Litare, Mrongo, and Wakula).

The EIA will cover the following aspects:

- Assessment of the current environmental conditions of the project sites in Homa Bay and Siaya Counties.
- Identifying and evaluating potential impacts on water quality, soil quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.
- Analysis of potential socio-economic impacts, including job creation, income generation, and local community well-being.
- Examination of the proposed aquaculture techniques, infrastructure, and waste management practices.
- Evaluation of potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with the aquaculture initiative.
- Recommendation of suitable mitigation and monitoring measures.

The EAA will encompass the following key aspects:

a. Review of Project Documentation:

- Study the environmental impact assessment done in the previous year and relevant permits and licenses.

b. On-site Assessment:

- Conduct field visits in Homa Bay and Siaya Counties aquaculture sites to observe and document operational practices.
- Assess the physical environment, water quality, soil conditions, and potential effects on local ecosystems.
- Identify and document waste management practices, including waste and waste water disposal.

c. Stakeholder Consultation:

- Engage with local communities, project staff, relevant government agencies, and environmental NGOs to gather insights and concerns.

d. Compliance Review:

- Evaluate the project's compliance with national and local environmental regulations, standards, and permits.

e. Environmental Assessment:

- Identify and assess potential environmental impacts such as water pollution, habitat disruption, and soil degradation.

- Analyze the social and economic implications of the aquaculture initiative on the local communities.
- f. Recommendations:**
 - Provide actionable recommendations for minimizing adverse environmental impacts and improving the sustainability of aquaculture operations.
- g. Reporting:**
 - Prepare a comprehensive Environmental Audit Assessment report detailing findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

METHODOLOGY FOR EIA & EAA:

The EIA and EAA will be undertaken through the following methodology:

- Desk Review
- Primary Data collection (using questionnaires)
- Stakeholders Analysis:
 - o Using key informant interviews, the County Government, BMU, off-takers, and anchor women
 - o Through FGDs to Women group members and BMUs
- Risk Assessment tool to ensure quality assurance.

DELIVERABLES:

The EIA & EAA is expected to result in the following deliverables:

- Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- Environmental Management Plan outlining mitigation measures.
- Monitoring and Reporting Plan for ongoing environmental monitoring.
- Public consultation documentation, including summaries of stakeholder engagement.
- Presentation of findings to relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- Facilitate acquisition of NEMA Licenses with ENA meeting costs of the relevant fees.

TIMELINE:

- FROM THE CONTRACT SIGNING DATE: The EIA & EAA process is expected to be completed within 15 days of contract signing, with specific milestones for data collection, analysis, report writing, and stakeholder engagement.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The consultant(s) responsible for conducting the assessments should be:

- A Registered and licensed firm by NEMA

The lead consultant in the firm must meet the following qualifications:

- Master's degree or advanced expertise in environmental science, ecology, aquatic sciences, or related fields from a recognized university.
- Five years and above experience conducting environmental audits and impact assessments demonstrate this through a list of evaluations and at least two references from recognized institutions.
- Familiarity with local environmental regulations and aquaculture practices.

- The Lead consultant must be registered by National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)

CORE COMPETENCE

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| i. Report Writing Skills | iv. Understanding of aquaculture |
| ii. Undertaking Research and assessments | v. Demonstrated knowledge of |
| iii. Demonstrated understanding of gender equality | Environmental Impact Assessment work |

BUDGET:

The Environmental Impact & Audit Assessment budget will be negotiated between the ENA and the consultant(s). It will cover all expenses related to the assessment, including travel, data collection, analysis, and report preparation.

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION:

The consultant(s) responsible for conducting the EIA/ EAA will regularly update Echo Network Africa on the progress of the assessment. The final EIA report will be submitted to Echo Network Africa, relevant county authorities, and regulatory bodies.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

The EIA report will be subject to review by Echo Network Africa, relevant government agencies, and stakeholders. Necessary revisions will be made based on feedback before finalization.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All data, information, and findings obtained during the EIA/ EAA process will be treated with confidentiality and used solely for the assessment.

COMPLIANCE:

The EIA/ EAA will adhere to the legal and regulatory requirements of the concerned counties (Homa Bay and Siaya) and national environmental guidelines.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

Interested consultants must submit their proposals & CVs to procurement@enafrika.org by Close of Business Tuesday 7th May 2024.