

**Terms of Reference (TOR) for conducting a Climate Risk Assessment and develop a Climate Risk Management Plan for Transforming Household Resilience Through Inclusive Economic Development in South Sudan (THRIVE) Consortium Programme in the eight (8) counties of Greater Upper Nile (GUN) in Ulang, Renk, Fashoda, Panyikang, Nasir, Akobo, Rubkona & Panyijiar, in South Sudan.**

## **1. Introduction**

This Terms of Reference (TOR) serves as a request for Expression of Interest (EOI) and proposals from potential firms or individual consultants interested in conducting a Climate Risk Assessment and Climate Risk Management Plan in the above earmarked counties in South Sudan. The purpose, scope and requirements of the planned study are herein explained.

## **2. THRIVE Background information.**

The THRIVE programme aims to bolster resilience in conflict and climate-affected communities in the Greater Upper Nile (GUN) region. Targeting eight (8) priority counties in Upper Nile (Ulang, Renk, Fashoda, Panyikang, Nasir), Unity (Rubkona & Panyijiar), and Jonglei (Akobo) States over four years, THRIVE will reach approximately 120,000 households (105,000 direct beneficiaries and 15,000 indirect beneficiaries) with gender-responsive and inclusive livelihoods development, market system strengthening, financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, climate change adaptation, and social cohesion activities.

Led by GOAL, in partnership with Mercy Corps, CAFOD, and VSF Swiss, and our local implementing partners, the consortium boasts over ten decades of combined experience in GUN. We focus on fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development and building household resilience by leveraging our core expertise and experience in community-centred approaches, market systems development, financial inclusion, peacebuilding & social cohesion, DRR & climate change adaptation, and women's economic empowerment.

THRIVE's programme design is grounded in evidence from the consortium's deep experience and understanding of the South Sudan and other global operating contexts. The complex and interconnected challenges faced by communities in the target locations will be addressed through tailored and integrated interventions which foster community ownership. Combining market systems development with locally led participatory approaches, THRIVE offers a unique solution to address the root causes of systemic challenges within target pastoral and agro-pastoral value chains, creating long-term and sustainable improvements in household resilience.

THRIVE's overall goal is for target households to achieve economic and food security, and improved resilience to conflict and climate shocks and stresses. Key outcomes envisaged as a result of the integrated intervention strategies include:

- Increased incomes among individuals and micro/small-scale businesses engaged in the fishing, livestock, and agro/non-timber forestry sectors.
- Improved food security among households targeted with livelihoods and women/youth empowerment activities.
- Strengthened disaster preparedness and coping capacities for climate and conflict shocks and stresses.
- Improved social cohesion and conflict resolution capacities among target communities.
- Women and youth economic empowerment, including financial inclusion and improved gender equality.

Aligning with the broader South Sudan Humanitarian & Resilience Programme (SSHARP) Theory of Change, THRIVE's Theory Of Change envisages that: IF markets in target agricultural systems critical to the target population are thriving, inclusive, diverse, competitive, and serve users, and IF women and youth are economically empowered to access sustainable market-oriented livelihoods opportunities within those systems, and their participation is valued by their communities, and IF communities dependent on those systems are able to mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of climate change and conflict shocks and stresses, and resolve conflicts peacefully, THEN target households and communities will be more resilient, live in harmony, have improved economic and food security, and reduced need for humanitarian assistance.

### **3. The main objective of the Climate Risk Assessment and Climate Management Plan**

The main objective of conducting the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) during the inception phase of the THRIVE project is to examine climate risks in terms of project exposure, potential climate impacts and risk mitigation capacity in the THRIVE project locations. A climate risk management plan (CRMP) is to be drawn up and to monitor risk mitigating actions during the implementation of the THRIVE programme.

### **4. The specific objectives are as follows**

#### **4.1) To conduct a comprehensive climate risk assessment (CRA) in 8 counties of the THRIVE programme operational locations.**

A CRA consists of the following typical components: (A) scoping; (B) identification of potential climate risks to the project; (C) identification of potential risks of the project increasing climate vulnerability of human populations and natural systems; (D) CRA report;

#### **4.2. Preparation of a Climate Risk Management Plan (CRMP) -**

The CRA should also include development of recommendations concerning measures that can be taken at household, community and organizational levels to reduce a variety of climate-related risks and optimise opportunities for ensuring that the THRIVE Programme contributes to environmental and economic sustainability in the face of climate change. Public participation should be integrated throughout the process.

### **5. Scope of work.**

The Climate Risk Assessment of the THRIVE Consortium Programme will cover eight counties of Greater Upper Nile (GUN). Geographically, the assessment will be conducted in the counties of Ulang, Renk, Fashoda, Panyikang, Nasir, Akobo, Rubkona, and Panyijiar.

### 5.1. Scoping

Identify, collect and compile relevant documents, data and information (historical and updated), stakeholders, describe the hazards, vulnerabilities and resulting risks to be assessed. These include:

- Stock take of past and ongoing risk and vulnerability assessments identifying gaps
- A description of clear climate-related risks to be addressed in the climate risk and vulnerability assessment
- Summary of existing baseline data and information and scope of the expansion of the baseline
- Provide details of the assessment methodology to be used in the climate risk and vulnerability assessment
- Provide an indicative timeframe, costs and resources to carry out the assessment

### 5.2. Climate Risk Assessment

Describe the existing conditions

- Hazard Characteristics** – The historical, current, and potential climate-induced hazards that has affected and could negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of the target communities and project outcomes should be identified. This includes assessing their frequency, severity, and likelihood both within the project timeline and beyond. The assessment should also involve visualizing future hazards based on their historical patterns through participatory approaches and a review of secondary sources, including meteorological data. Clear connections should be made between the prioritized hazards and their potential impacts on the different components of the THRIVE project.
- Exposure:** Identify physical elements exposed to climate induced hazards including infrastructure, public service facilities and markets among others in relation to their potential implication on the project success.
- Vulnerability** - context in which hazards are translated in to disasters/losses i.e., which populations, areas, groups, systems or sectors are most affected by climate hazards, and what are the drivers (e.g., social, economic, geographic, policy, etc.) of their vulnerability?
- The level(s) of adaptive capacity in the relevant populations, groups, systems, sectors, and institutions. What options are there for effective responses to manage and reduce existing risks, and what are the constraints that prevent action to reduce risk being taken. Assessment will spotlight indigenous knowledge, early adaptation strategies and traditional early warning systems and should clearly indicate gaps in community/household level systems and adaptation strategies that needs to be strengthened to reduce the impact of disaster risks.

### 5.3 Development of Climate Risk Management Plan

- Development of climate risk focused **matrix** and an **action plan** with suggested prevention or mitigation actions to be considered/embedded in project implementation.

- b) Development of component specific risk reduction strategies (i.e for markets, livelihoods, social cohesion and women economic empowerment elements of the THRIVE project)
- c) Recommend community-based disaster risk reduction strategies, actions, and interventions that can mitigate the risk of climate-induced disasters for prioritized hazards, either by decreasing vulnerability and exposure or by enhancing systems for predicting, preparing for, and responding to disasters.
- d) Recommendations to improve/establish **effective early warning systems**, preparedness and response capabilities at local level.

## 6. Deliverables

The deliverables for this assignment, are derived from the scope of work as outlined in this Terms of Reference (TOR), are designed to ensure a comprehensive and coherent CRA and development of CRMP that is well-documented and actionable.

**6.1)** The consultant is expected to produce a **preliminary Inception report** and attend an **in-person inception meeting** based on the understanding of the TOR and desk review. This report will inform the primary field **research methodology** and aims, providing a foundation for the subsequent phases of analysis. Following this, **a detailed work plan** must be developed. This work plan will outline the expected timeframes align methodological approaches, security and ethical considerations, and data collection tools to be employed in each planned activity.

**6.2)** A **draft report and power point presentation**. The draft should be structured according to an agreed-upon format and should reflect the comments and feedback received from THRIVE consortium management team and other relevant stakeholders. This ensures that all key insights and observations are considered and incorporated. In particular the report will have dedicated analysis for each of the eight counties and common issues across all counties.

**6.3)** Finally, the consultant will submit a **4-page executive summary** and the **final report** in both digital and four hard copies (no more than twenty-five pages) to present the findings and methodology used in a language that is clear and accessible to non-research audience. The final report should be thoroughly edited, well-structured, and designed, ensuring clarity and conciseness by limiting itself to essential points. Detailed materials should be included as appendices. The report will be presented in English and should clearly articulate the main findings of the study, with clear unambiguous and actionable recommendations.

## 7. Methodology

Methodological thoroughness in this assignment will be highly valued to ensure the assessment is comprehensive and robust. The consultant is expected to develop an appropriate study design for the CRA as part of the inception report. The THRIVE management committee will set up agreed key stages and milestones for timely feedback: validation and approval of the inception report, data collection tools, the final work plan, and methodology before the fieldwork phase.

Additionally, there should be a briefing by the consultant on the preliminary results and an opportunity for providing comments on the draft report and recommendations by THRIVE management before final approval. This will be agreed after the adoption of the methodology and workplan.

The THRIVE management team, provide relevant reference documents and other logistical support, access to structures and communities that the consultant (s) may need during the analysis.

In line with a participatory methodological approach and the scope for meaningful participation, opportunities for the involvement of partner organisations with lived experience in each county, and community members directly involved in the project, will be explored to complement the consultant methodology. This will be discussed and agreed at the inception meeting and aligned to the consultants work plan.

Selected consultant(s) will be expected to sign and abide by CAFOD values and key policies on Safeguarding. Selected consultant(s) will also be expected to make a commitment to the work over the full term of the project and to maintain their availability at key times.

All materials from the analysis will remain the property of THRIVE.

### 8. Timing and Reporting

The Climate Risk Assessment is expected to start not later than **15<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. The final report must be submitted by **20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. It is foreseen that the analysis can take maximum of 45 days from the time of signing the contract and this is inclusive of inception, data collection and analysis, validation, and report finalization.

The following staff members of THRIVE will coordinate the consultancy.

Name	Position	Organisation	Email
Tichaona Mashodo	(Lead)	CAFOD	<a href="mailto:tmashodo@cafod.org.uk">tmashodo@cafod.org.uk</a>

The Consultant will report to and is accountable to **Tichaona Mashodo (CAFOD – Head of Programmes)**.

Quality assurance will be provided through THRIVE internal mechanisms. Quality assurance of evaluation products will take place for: Terms of Reference, Inception Report, methodology, draft, and final report.

### 9. Consultant's Competencies

The lead consultant is expected to hold a master's/ doctorate degree in Environment , Climate Sciences, Climate Change , Development Studies, Social Sciences, or a related field, or equivalent experience, is required. The candidate must have a minimum of 7 years of progressively responsible experience in similar consultancies with demonstrable results. They should possess extensive and proven knowledge of gender, conflict, security, livelihoods, and environmental issues in South Sudan or comparable fragile contexts. The candidate must have a successful record in coordinating complex research processes across multiple locations in various counties. Strong expertise in qualitative research methods and qualitative data analysis is essential, along with a solid understanding of conflict analysis approaches in fragile environments and community participatory methodologies.

## 10 Application Procedure

Interested consultants should submit their proposal (both technical and financial) as (detailed below ) including updated CVs, Copies of certified sample reports for similar work and references in soft copy to [ctpsupply@cafod.org.uk](mailto:ctpsupply@cafod.org.uk) and cc [syiey-puol@cafod.org.uk](mailto:syiey-puol@cafod.org.uk) with subject line “Climate Risk Assessment ” by the **7<sup>th</sup> of February 2025** not later than **4:00 PM (Central African time)**. Proposals received after the deadline shall not be considered.

### 10.1 Technical Proposal

The **Technical Proposal** (not exceeding fifteen pages) should include:

- Organisational profile.
- Detail of previous experience of similar assignments with traceable references
- Proposed methodology for the delivery of assignment as outlined in the ToR.
- Proposed team composition, including qualifications and relevant experience of the audit team (please attach CVs).
- Proposed workplan with timelines
- Contact details of key persons.

### 10.2 The Financial Proposal should include:

- The all-inclusive fixed total professional fees supported by a breakdown of costs: daily rates and number of days to be spent on the consultancy; disbursements if any; any other related costs contributing to the overall total cost.
- The cost must include VAT price and payment terms. The financial proposal must be stated in USD (\$). The consultant proposal will be evaluated based on the technical proposal, financial proposal, and general understanding of the TOR requirements.

### Confidentiality

All the information and approaches outlined in the proposal including the personal information of the consultant will be treated in strict confidence and remains the property of THRIVE.