

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Consultancy to Assess the Impacts of Improved Stoves on Wood Use in the Rufiji Delta to Advance Clean Energy Targets in Tanzania

1. Introduction

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organization focused on the conservation and restoration of wetlands for the benefit of both people and nature. Established in 1937 as the International Wildfowl Inquiry, the organization initially concentrated on protecting water birds. In 1954, it broadened its focus to include wetland protection and became the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB). Over time, it merged with the Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) and Wetlands for the Americas (WA). In 1991, these efforts culminated in the formation of Wetlands International, a single global organization headquartered in the Netherlands.

Today, Wetlands International operates more than 20 sub-regional, national, or project offices across all continents, working in over 100 countries. In Eastern Africa, the organization established a country office in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2011. Since then, Wetlands International Eastern Africa has expanded its operations throughout the region, focusing on the conservation and restoration of both coastal and marine as well as inland wetlands. The organization has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with governments and organisations in Kenya, South Sudan, and Tanzania, and has opened offices in Ethiopia (2019), Uganda (2019), and Tanzania (2021).

MCA Programme

The Mangrove Capital Africa (MCA) program, implemented by Wetlands International, promotes healthy mangroves, biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods, and climate resilience through four building blocks: **ACT** (supporting mangrove management, rehabilitation, and sustainable livelihoods in threatened sites), **KNOW** (generating and sharing knowledge on mangrove values and threats), **LEARN** (strengthening the capacity of CSOs, government, and private sector stakeholders), and **PLAN** (influencing policies to prevent mangrove loss and ensure sustainable use).

Mangroves, among the world's most valuable ecosystems, provide wood and non-wood products, nursery and breeding grounds for species, detritus-based food for marine life, shoreline protection, and nutrient and sediment retention. Despite their importance, mangroves are highly endangered, declining at 2–8% per year due to agriculture, unsustainable harvesting, irrigation, and climate change, necessitating solutions grounded in science, economics, and traditional knowledge. To reduce this pressure, Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) have been introduced in delta communities to lower wood consumption, enhance household energy efficiency, and support forest conservation. Under the **KNOW** component, this study focuses on the Rufiji Delta to assess ICS impacts on wood use, adoption dynamics, and socio-economic and environmental benefits, contributing to Tanzania's clean energy goals.

2. Objectives of the Consultancy

The overall objective of this consultancy is to assess the impact of improved stoves on household wood consumption and community dependence on mangroves in the Rufiji Delta.

Specific objectives:

- a) Quantify household wood consumption among users of improved stoves compared to traditional stoves.
- b) Assess household perceptions, adoption rates, and usage practices related to improved stoves.
- c) Identify socio-economic benefits and challenges associated with the adoption of improved stoves.
- d) Evaluate the contribution of improved stoves to reducing pressure on mangroves and other forest resources in the Rufiji Delta.
- e) Provide evidence-based, practical recommendations for scaling up improved stove interventions to further reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

3. Scope of Work

The consultant will undertake the following tasks, which are indicative and not exhaustive:

- a) Review relevant literature, reports, and previous studies on household energy use and stove interventions in the Rufiji Delta.
- b) Design and implement household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews in selected communities.
- c) Collect both quantitative and qualitative data on household wood consumption, stove performance, and user experiences.
- d) Conduct a comparative analysis of wood use and dependence on mangroves between improved stove users and traditional stove users.
- e) Analyze and interpret data to identify socio-economic and ecological impacts of improved stove adoption.
- f) Prepare a comprehensive report presenting findings, lessons learned, and actionable recommendations for future interventions.

4. Required Qualifications

- a) Advanced degree (master's or PhD) in Environmental Science, Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Energy Engineering, Development Studies, Social Sciences, or a related field.
- b) At least 5–7 years of proven experience in socio-economic and environmental impact assessments or wood-based cooking energy.
- c) Strong skills in survey design, mixed-methods research, data analysis (using SPSS, STATA, or R), and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools.
- d) Excellent analytical, report writing, and presentation skills in English.
- e) Demonstrated ability to work effectively with rural communities and government stakeholders in Tanzania.
- f) Fluency in both English and Swahili is required.

5. Reporting and Supervision

The consultant will work under the supervision of **Wetlands International Tanzania** and in close collaboration with local government authorities, communities, and the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS).

6. Application Process

Interested candidates/consultants should submit the following:

- a) A cover letter describing their suitability for the assignment.

- b) A technical proposal outlining methodology and work plan.
- c) A financial proposal in Tanzanian Shillings (TZS).
- d) CV(s) of the consultant(s), highlighting relevant experience.

7. Deliverables

- a) Inception report with a clear timetable of deliverables, including the phases of inception (literature review & consultations), formulation and validation.
- b) A draft report
- c) At least 10 high-resolution Photos of different types of cooking stoves

8. Reporting

The consultant shall work closely with Wetlands International Tanzania staff under the supervision of the Country Programme Coordinator.

9. Duration of assignment

The assignment is expected to commence as soon as the contract is awarded, and project deliverables are expected by 3rd December 2025. The consultant will remain available to address any reasonable feedback one (1) month after the end of the duration of the assignment. The assignment will be undertaken in Dar es Salaam.

10. Application timeline

The proposal should be submitted to hreastafrica@wetlands-eafrica.org with the subject line “Consultancy to Assess the Impacts of Improved Stoves on Wood Use-Rufiji Delta” The deadline for submission of proposals (Technical and Financial) is 29th October 2025. We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.