

## **M&E Consultant for Evaluating Community-Led Conservation, Governance, and Sustainability Project**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Background and Context**

The Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP) has been implementing the "Strengthening Community Management, Governance, and Sustainability of MBOMIPA Wildlife Management Area" project since January 2023. This initiative focuses on improving governance, management, and economic sustainability within MBOMIPA WMA, in Iringa District, Tanzania, known for its crucial role in wildlife conservation and its community-based management. The project has been aimed at addressing key challenges such as governance issues, human-wildlife conflicts, and poaching, while also enhancing local community benefits through training, resources, and improved management practices. Collaborating with various non-governmental organizations and supported by local and national stakeholders, STEP has worked to strengthen WMA protection and governance measures and reduce conflicts. The project evaluation is essential to assess its impact, effectiveness, and sustainability, providing valuable insights and lessons to guide future conservation and community development efforts.

#### **2. Objectives of the Project**

##### **2.1 General Objective:**

To strengthen the community management, governance, and sustainability of MBOMIPA Wildlife Management Area (MBOMIPA WMA).

##### **2.2 Specific Objectives:**

- i. Enhance the management and governance capabilities of MBOMIPA WMA by addressing existing limitations and improving transparency and effectiveness.
- ii. Enforce the legal framework necessary for effective biodiversity conservation within the protected area, focusing on addressing challenges such as poaching and habitat encroachment.
- iii. Support local community initiatives to improve livelihoods and ensure active participation in the management of MBOMIPA WMA, fostering sustainable practices and promoting benefits through eco-tourism.

These objectives aim to build on previous efforts by improving governance structures, addressing conservation challenges, and enhancing community benefits, thereby contributing to the overall goal of establishing a sustainable, community-led conservation model that balances ecological, economic, and social outcomes.

#### **3. Purpose of the Project Evaluation**

The purpose of this project evaluation is to assess how effectively the project met its objectives and outcomes, and to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of its interventions. It aims to identify challenges, successes, and best practices that can inform future projects and provide recommendations for STEP, MBOMIPA WMA, and other stakeholders to enhance the impact of similar initiatives. This evaluation will review the activities undertaken since the project's inception, offering insights on relevance, coherence, performance, impact, and sustainability. The findings and lessons learned will guide STEP and MBOMIPA in making well-informed decisions regarding project design, implementation, and organizational setup.

#### 4. Evaluation Scope, Criteria, and Key Questions

##### 4.1 Scope

The evaluation will cover the entire project duration, focusing on activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts within the MBOMIPA WMA in Iringa District, Tanzania. Established in 2007, the 777 km<sup>2</sup> MBOMIPA WMA, also known as the Idodi-Pawaga WMA, is crucial for conservation. It protects the southern bank of the Great Ruaha River, buffers Ruaha National Park, and supports high concentrations of elephants and endangered carnivores like lions, cheetahs, and African wild dogs. The WMA, part of a vital wildlife corridor between Ruaha and Udzungwa Mountains National Parks, is community-owned and managed by 21 villages from Idodi and Pawaga Divisions, home to over 56,000 residents from more than eight ethnic groups primarily engaged in agriculture and pastoralism. The evaluation will also examine the roles of various stakeholders, including but not limited to the Authorised Association (AA) managing the WMA, the Board of Trustees, management, DANRB, investors, and NGOs, and assess the project's alignment with national and local policies. It will evaluate the project's contributions to the governance, management, and sustainability of MBOMIPA WMA, particularly in strengthening the WMA management, enhancing the AA's capacity to manage investments, and increasing community benefits.

##### 4.2 Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

The evaluation will be guided by the following criteria and associated questions:

- **Relevance:** How well did the project align with the needs of the target communities and national priorities? What degree of ownership was exhibited by the target groups, and how scalable or replicable are the projects? Was the design and implementation gender-sensitive?
- **Effectiveness:** To what extent were the project objectives achieved? How effectively did each objective deliver the intended results, and what were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of these results? How well did the project respond to the needs of the beneficiaries?
- **Efficiency:** Were resources, including time, money, and expertise, used efficiently to achieve the desired outcomes? How effective was the collaboration with key implementing partners?
- **Impact:** What significant changes, both positive and negative, occurred as a result of the project? What were the intended and unintended changes produced by the project?
- **Sustainability:** Are the outcomes likely to be sustained after the project's completion? To what extent are the benefits likely to endure post-project? Did the project include a transition and exit strategy to ensure long-term positive effects and minimize dependency risks?

## 5. Methodology

The evaluation will use a mixed-method approach of data collection and analysis. The methodology should include:

- **Document Review:** Analysis of project documents, reports, and relevant literature.
- **Field Visits:** On-site observations in the MBOMIPA WMA to assess the implementation and impact of project activities.
- **Interviews and Focus Group Discussions:** With project staff, beneficiaries, local authorities, and other stakeholders.
- **Surveys:** Conduct surveys with beneficiaries and stakeholders to gather quantitative data.
- **Case Studies:** Development of case studies to highlight specific successes or challenges.

The consultant is expected to propose a detailed methodology in their proposal. Therefore, the proposal among others should strive to fill the table below, with understanding that the evaluator may also propose additional evaluation questions.

Evaluation Questions	Planned data source	Planned data collection method	Planned data analysis method	Judgment criteria/benchmark to be used
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Copy from ToR				
Copy from ToR				
Additional evaluation questions from evaluator				
Additional evaluation questions from evaluator				
Additional evaluation questions from evaluator				

## 6. Expected Outcomes, Deliverables, and Timing

### 6.1 Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive understanding of the project’s impact, successes, and areas for improvement.
- Clear recommendations for future project design and implementation.

### 6.2 Deliverables

- **Inception Report:** Detailed approach, methodology, and work plan, to be submitted within a week.
- **Data Collection and Draft Evaluation Report:** Field data collection and draft evaluation report including project impact, lessons learned, and best practices for review by STEP, to be submitted within 1 month.

- **Final Evaluation Report:** Submission of final evaluation report after incorporating feedback from STEP within a week.
- **Presentation of Findings:** A PowerPoint presentation summarizing key findings and recommendations to STEP management and stakeholders (a day).

**6.3 Timing** The entire evaluation is expected to be completed within 45 days from the start date.

## 7. Minimum Qualification of the Consultant

- Postgraduate degree in Monitoring & Evaluation, Development Studies, or Community Development with a strong foundation in social science studies.
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting project evaluations, preferably in conservation or community development projects.
- Demonstrated experience in using mixed-method approaches for evaluations.
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills.
- Experience working in Tanzania or similar contexts is an advantage.
- Experience with Wildlife Management Area governance, management, baseline surveys, and evaluations.

## 8. Submission of Proposal

Interested consultants are invited to submit a proposal that includes:

- A cover letter outlining their experience and suitability for the assignment.
- Proposed approach and methodology (including sample size calculation and sample selection).
- The evaluator profile and resume, highlighting key qualifications and experience.
- Track records, credentials, and references.
- A detailed technical proposal including the proposed methodology, work plan, and deliverables.
- A detailed budget in Excel format, all inclusive, with fees, travel, and subsistence, communication, taxes, and any other applicable costs, and commitment to provide legal receipt(s).
- CVs of the lead consultant and any team members.
- Any other relevant information.

Proposals should be submitted by 13-Sep-2024 to STEP at [applications@stzelephants.or.tz](mailto:applications@stzelephants.or.tz)

## 9. Budget

The maximum available budget for this evaluation is 19,500,000 TZS, inclusive of all costs such as fees, travel, accommodation, subsistence, communication, taxes, and any other applicable expenses. The consultant is expected to prepare a detailed budget encompassing all these costs and to provide legal receipt(s) for the expenses incurred.



With the financial support of the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme