



-Terms of Reference -

Nature-Based solutions as an integrated response to multiple hazards with co-benefits for climate adaptation, health, and peace

Title of the study:	Nature-Based solutions as an integrated response to multiple hazards with co-benefits for climate adaptation, health, and peace
Objective of the mission:	Lead the overall process of the study in close collaboration with the headquarter technical specialists and staff of identified programs
Duration of the mission:	Indicative 20 days
Location of the mission:	Home based with missions (Benin/cross-border areas)
ToR last update:	09/07/2024

Glossary

- **Nature-based solutions:** “Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits”
- **Integrated risk reduction:** Integrated risk reduction or the “reduction of multiple risks” is the ability to identify and reduce, simultaneously, different kinds of risk which interact with each other, including in cascade (i.e. one risk may lead to another), and which exacerbate the pre-existing vulnerabilities of individuals, households, communities, organisations or systems (including education).
- **Resilience:** The ability of a household, community, organisation or system to resist, absorb and correct the effects of a hazard, in a timely and effective manner, by preserving or restoring its basic structures, functions and essential identity, as well as physical and mental well-being in the case of an individual.
- **Risk:** Whether we are talking about exposure to a hazard or a threat, we can define risk as the possible occurrence of an event that may cause damage. A risk of natural



origin will be assessed according to the consequences that the hazard may have on individuals and systems, according to their vulnerabilities and their ability to cope with and limit the potential damage of these phenomena. Environmental, societal or behavioural risks can therefore be managed and reduced, provided that the most vulnerable people have been identified and the barriers to their participation in risk-reduction strategies have been removed (whether they fall under Disaster Risk Reduction, Armed Violence Reduction, Protection, WASH etc.).

- **Climate Change** the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its Article 1, defines climate change as: 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.'
- **Climate Change Adaptation** Climate Change Adaptation is defined as the process taken to adjust to the actual or expected climate hazards and their present or future effects. Climate change adaptation includes a range of different actions, that can focus on hard mitigation (infrastructures) or soft mitigation (economic, social measures). Some examples are: building sea walls to protect people against sea level rise, improving water management and irrigation systems to combat water scarcity, planting trees to reduce landslides risks, reduce air pollution and cool urban areas, but also non-physical measures such as protecting livelihoods, to reduce the impact on climate change on incomes and assets.
- **Armed violence reduction** HI defines armed violence as "the intentional or unintentional use of weapons, threatened or actual, to inflict injury, impairment, death or psychological harm".
Armed Violence Reduction combines interventions focused on instruments of violence such as explosive ordnance disposal or small arms and light weapons behavior change, and community engagement activities to promote safer behavior (risk education) and nonviolent conflict management or social cohesion (conflict transformation).
- **Conflict transformation** Conflict transformation addresses asymmetrical power dynamics and structural inequities that often lie at the root of conflict. Our Conflict Transformation model is built on key peace levers that are inclusive governance, nonviolent conflict management, armed violence reduction, and continuous conflict sensitivity.
- **Planetary Health:** Planetary Health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth's natural systems on human health and all life on Earth. Planetary Health is about finding ways to ensure health and health equity (including for non-humans) without harming the planet, because we are our environment. To understand and tackle the complexity of human actions, Planetary Health promotes system thinking and transdisciplinary collaborations. In HI, Planetary Health is a transversal approach that tackles the environmental-health nexus, aiming co-benefits for human activities, for environment, health and prevention.
- **Health risk:** the health risk factor is a qualitative variable expressing the potential for an external element to harm the population's health. The external elements that are (or are likely to be) hazardous to human health or could contribute to a disease or an infectious condition in humans,



Introduction & context

The cross-border area between North Benin, North Togo and Burkina Faso have been affected by armed violence caused by growing contingents of non-state armed groups including jihadist militants and entrepreneurs of violence with diverse motivations. The Sahel-Saharan strip has been fragilized by non-state actors trying to wrest control of areas from sovereign states. Illegal trafficking of all kinds (arms, drugs, human beings) takes place in these areas.

One of the strategies of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) is to take advantage of sources of conflict and potential sources of tension in different countries in order to infiltrate them. The coastal countries bordering Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali, in particular Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, are increasingly threatened by the growing presence of these non-state armed groups on their territory. The Northern parts of each of these countries are experiencing a sudden rise in tensions linked to structural problems, in particular access to and control of land, the phenomenon of transhumance with its corollary of recurring conflicts between herders and farmers in a context of great ethnic diversity. These countries, and the cross-border area in particular, periodically experience conflicts over land tenure and access to and control of grazing land, which, combined with the increasing impacts of climate change and widespread poverty, provide fertile ground for violence and even more important disruption of the development and resilience gains in this area.

[Humanity and Inclusion](#) (HI) – previously known as *Handicap International* - is an independent and impartial aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. HI is working in more than 60 countries over the World.

International organizations, such as Humanity & Inclusion, aim to support vulnerable individuals and communities to strengthen their resilience in the face of those types of events. However, they often fail to assess and build on existing resilience capacities in the face of climate shocks, conflict and other stressors, as well as to meaningfully involve them in identifying local solutions. Moreover, the impacts of crises are intensified for women and persons with disabilities as they encounter several additional barriers to access services and are often excluded. These factors should be considered to ensure participation and adaptation of those solutions to these marginalized populations.

HI would like to conduct a study which would support the organization to improve its resilience building practice by having a better understanding of Nature Based Solutions used locally and their potential to contribute to climate change adaptation, conflict transformation



and environmental health. The Study would allow HI to build on existing practices and strategies adopted by different stakeholders and communities affected by climate change and conflict.

Presentation of the study

Study objectives

The study aims at identifying and documenting local practice, knowledge and knowhow on Nature Based Solutions adopted locally by HI, partners, communities, authorities and how they contribute to climate change adaptation and/or conflict transformation and/or planetary health. The goal is to leverage existing local natural solutions and to inform HI programming.

Specific objectives:

1. **To map, analyze potential impact, and evaluate scalability (considering drivers, barriers, and unintended consequences) of Nature Based Solutions (NbS)** adopted by communities and local stakeholders that contribute to adapt to and mitigate the assessed interrelated hazards and threats (to climate resilience, to conflict transformation, to health and their linkages from a systemic perspective) in Benin (Atakora Department) northern Districts and cross-border areas. Looking closer into solutions that have the potential to produce mutual benefits to climate change adaptation, conflict transformation and health gains, for the most vulnerable groups.
2. **To Identify local or international stakeholders with specific expertise** in ecosystems, natural resource management, Planetary Health/One Health, or similar fields of expertise, for potential partnerships for NBS interventions in Benin.

Example of research questions to orient the study (to be discussed during the briefing) might be:

- a) To which extent are NbS identified as such, accepted, and implemented by local communities in the target area?
- b) How the NbS assessed in the area contribute to (or have the potential to) produce mutual benefits to climate change adaptation, conflict transformation, and health gains, for the most vulnerable groups?
- c) What are the drivers for NbS scaling deep and scaling up, and what are the barriers among actors in charge of their implementation?



Use of findings/ finding's target audience

HI is committed to investing in evidence-based programming. This research will provide an opportunity to identify concrete actions to be implemented by HI, communities, authorities, to adopt effective Nature Based Solutions benefitting climate change adaptation and/or conflict transformation and/or planetary health. The results will be presented and used as a basis for reflection on this topic, as part of HI strategic planning.

Location

The study will focus on communities in the targeted areas (e.g. districts level) where HI has on-going activities or recently concluded , in particular in the Atakora Department in Benin.

Methodology

The consultants are responsible for the methodology design, implementation and follow-up. However, consultants are expected to propose an approach that necessarily includes the following aspects:

- ↳ **Initial assessment of the level of risk incurred by the different vulnerable groups**, considering: exposure to main hazards related to climate change, armed violence, prevalence frequency and intensity, specific vulnerabilities (such as disability, gender, age) and the capacity of groups and the health system to cope and adapt (i.e. overall level of information, awareness, presence of coping strategies, etc.).
- ↳ Methodologies:
 - ✓ **Literature review** to produce an overview of the existing knowledge on the subject of NbS in the target geographical area and the region in response to current and foreseen impacts as well as risk reduction and management strategies.
 - ✓ **Primary data collection**, based on qualitative approaches (face to face interview, key informant interview, focus group discussion, or field observations) to make visible local and traditional knowledge and know-how of communities in understanding, accepting, and implementing NbS.
 - ✓ **Collaboration with HI representatives and partners** to identify key criteria to define if NbS benefitting climate change adaptation or/and social cohesion or/and planetary health are effective and which would be conditions needed to scale them up in similar contexts. The consultancy will involve working closely with several HI departments and programs: the Armed Violence Reduction Department (Conflict Transformation Specialist) ; the Protection and Risk Reduction Department (Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation - Unit Manager); the Inclusive Global Health Department



(Planetary Health Specialist); the Innovation, Impact & Information Division (research specialist) and teams in countries (project managers and field specialists, MEAL manager, other persons of interest).

- p Cross-cutting approaches:
 - ✓ The methodological proposal is expected to be **conflict, gender and disability sensitive**, both in the ways in which information is collected (sampling, tools adaptation...) and in the outcomes observed. Women and persons with disabilities are often unequally affected by conflict and the impacts of climate change, particularly on their health, and often disregarded and excluded in identifying and participating to solutions of their communities.
- p The selection and analysis of NbS will be based on the UICN⁽¹⁾ definition and on following general criteria of its framework:
 - ✓ NbS respond effectively to societal challenge(s) identified and prioritized by those who are or will be directly affected, and must deliver tangible and substantive benefits to human well-being.
 - ✓ The design of NbS is informed by scale and by what stakeholders know about the interactions between different aspects in a given area.
 - ✓ NbS result in biodiversity gains and improve ecosystem integrity.
 - ✓ NbS are economically viable.
 - ✓ NBS are based on inclusive, transparent and accountable governance processes.
 - ✓ NbS equitably balance trade-offs between the achievement of their primary objective(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits (with this study, HI wants to particularly look into benefits for Climate Change Adaptation, Social Cohesion and Planetary Health in the target areas).
 - ✓ They are managed adaptively, based on evidence.
 - ✓ NbS are sustainable and align with sectoral, national and other policy frameworks.

Presentation of the assignment

Expected results

The expected results are:

- (1) A methodology that is sensitive to conflict, disability and gender is developed to address the specific objective ;
- (2) An assessment of multiple risks related to climate change, conflict and health, faced by vulnerable communities in the target area, is produced;



- (3) A mapping and analysis of the NbS adopted by different actors (local communities, national and/or international stakeholders, authorities, etc.) and benefit to Climate Change Adaptation, Conflict Transformation and Health in the selected area, is produced;
- (4) A set of recommendations is delivered in collaboration with HI as promising for replication in future resilience (addressing multiple aspects of risks including Climate Health, Conflict related ones) projects is carried out, including a list of potential partners.

Deliverables

All deliverables must be produced in English and the draft should be shared 2 weeks in advance with HI referent to receive feedback before the final version.

	Deliverables	Delivery deadlines
1	Research protocol validated	Beginning of mission
2	Data collection tools (interview guide, questionnaire, observation grid...)	Beginning of mission
3	1 catalogue of Nature Based Solutions selected according to the criteria of UICN definition	Mid-term
4	Technical report with an analysis of NbS impact on climate change adaptation, social cohesion and health gains for the most vulnerable groups (disaggregated analysis per gender, age, and disabilities)	End of mission
5	Analysis of drivers, barriers, and unintended consequences with recommendations for scaling deep and scaling up NbS	End of mission
6	List of stakeholders with short description of their specific expertise and contacts	Mid-term



7	1 Workshop to present and discuss findings and recommendations for programming potential for scale up	End of mission
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Timeline

The consultant(s) can start at the earliest opportunity. Findings should be available for November 2024 the latest as the workshop to discuss the findings will take place during the last quarter of 2024.

The consultant(s) can be based anywhere, but availability to travel is essential.

Requested availability: indicatively 20 days over the period from September to November 2024, with at least 1 mission on the field in the areas of Atakora Department in Benin and cross-boarder area.

Budget

The financial proposal must include all costs for expertise (consultancy fees), travels and related costs (travels, accommodation...), and fields research related costs (investigator per diems, translator pay, software, etc.).

Requested profile and expertise

This tender is open to individuals or team of consultants.

Required:

- Proficiency in written and oral institutional communication in French and English
- Demonstrated technical expertise on nature-based solutions, climate & biodiversity , climate adaptation, ecosystem management, biodiversity monitoring, natural resource management, Nature based solutions for peace & security ;



- Demonstrated understanding of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, social cohesion, conflict transformation, planetary health, one health ;
- Demonstrated understanding of conflict analysis, armed violence and operating in fragile contexts ;
- Proven and recognized experience in methods of data collection, processing and analysis (quantitative and/or qualitative and/or secondary data),
- Skills and experiences in designing and engaging in disability and gender sensitive qualitative data collection research and analyzing qualitative data;
- Used to produce evidence to support scaling up initiatives at national level,
- Excellent knowledge of ethical standards,
- Ability to work within a transdisciplinary approach
- Previous experience working (directly or collaborating with project teams) in armed violence and fragile contexts

Desired:

- Experience in conducting studies that include people with disabilities (e.g., adapting communication tools or materials);
- Experience in public health or conflict transformation, is an added value.
- Having institutional partnership with local research institutes
- Experience with Humanity & Inclusion is an added value

Application process

Applications must include:

- **In relation to the consultant/ the firm:**
 - ☐ A curriculum vitae (training, experience in the areas mentioned above)
 - ☐ A list of key publications related to the topic of this consultancy with links to documents (when possible)
- **In relation to the technical proposal:**
 - ☐ A methodological proposal to conduct this research, including, a *minima*: Understanding of the study's issues and of the terms of reference; background; presentation of the objectives; presentation of the methodological framework: study design, data collection methods, selection of participants, data processing, data analysis, quality monitoring mechanisms; ethical considerations
 - ☐ A timeline, including research planning, implementation and reporting activities



- A financial proposal including, a *minima*, details of the /research's consultancy fees, travels and related costs (travels, accommodation...), and fields research related costs (investigator per diems, translator pay, software, etc.).

Please, send all required documents before **30/08/2024** to Davide Ziveri Planetary Health Specialist and Fanny Hattery, Conflict Transformation Specialist at the following address: d.ziveri@hi.org and f.hattery@hi.org.

^[1] IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf>