



Terms of Reference For Developing a Technical Guidance Note for Micro catchment-based Planning

Background

Since 2019, CARE together with her partners under the Partners for Resilience Alliance (PfR) have been implementing a project on “Upscaling Community Resilience through Ecosystem Based Disaster Risk Reduction” (ECODRR) in micro catchments of Aswa River, specifically in the 5 districts of Otuke, Agago, Alebtong, Abim, and Kotido. The project aimed at strengthening Integrated risk management and governance, through Implementing models around Ecosystem management and Restoration, Climate change adaptation/livelihoods and Disaster Risk reduction. As a means to upscale the models, the different partners embraced the Catchment based Integrated Water Resources Management (CbiWRM) approach, including processes to bring local stakeholders together to develop micro-catchment plans, aimed at integrating local vision into long term plans that can be carried by the local beneficiaries, and that are owned and understood at the local level.

Through the micro catchment planning processes undertaken by the ECODRR project teams, lessons were learned, and the experiences from the project were shared with stakeholders during the 2nd Aswa catchment stakeholders Forum and Dialogue meeting that took place on the 28th of April 2022. Key among the lessons was the limitation in application of the current Catchment management planning guidelines at Micro catchment level. The Catchment Management planning guidelines were found to be a little complex for local stakeholders, and not easily adopted at the local scale (micro catchment/Sub catchment), particularly the application of scientific models in situational analysis processes. Secondly, while aspects of ecosystem management & restoration, and Climate change adaptation are clearly captured in the planning guidelines, there is no clear methodology for the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction.

We also learn that the methods to develop local action plans can differ depending on the type of program, the location and even the persons (within the specific organization) who are in charge of the planning activities. In the available literature different methods are described and lead to different outcomes including Wetland Management and Conservation Plans, community restoration action plans, Community Forestry management plans, Water and Sanitation Plans among others. In order to achieve the coordinated management of water and related resources at the local level, it is prudent to have clear guidance on how the local stakeholders at the micro and sub catchment levels can leverage planning based on hydrologic boundaries of their smallest possible units. This will empower the local leadership and enhance the coordination from micro catchment to sub catchment and catchment levels, which is the desired functioning of the Catchment Management Organization, as reflected in the figure below;

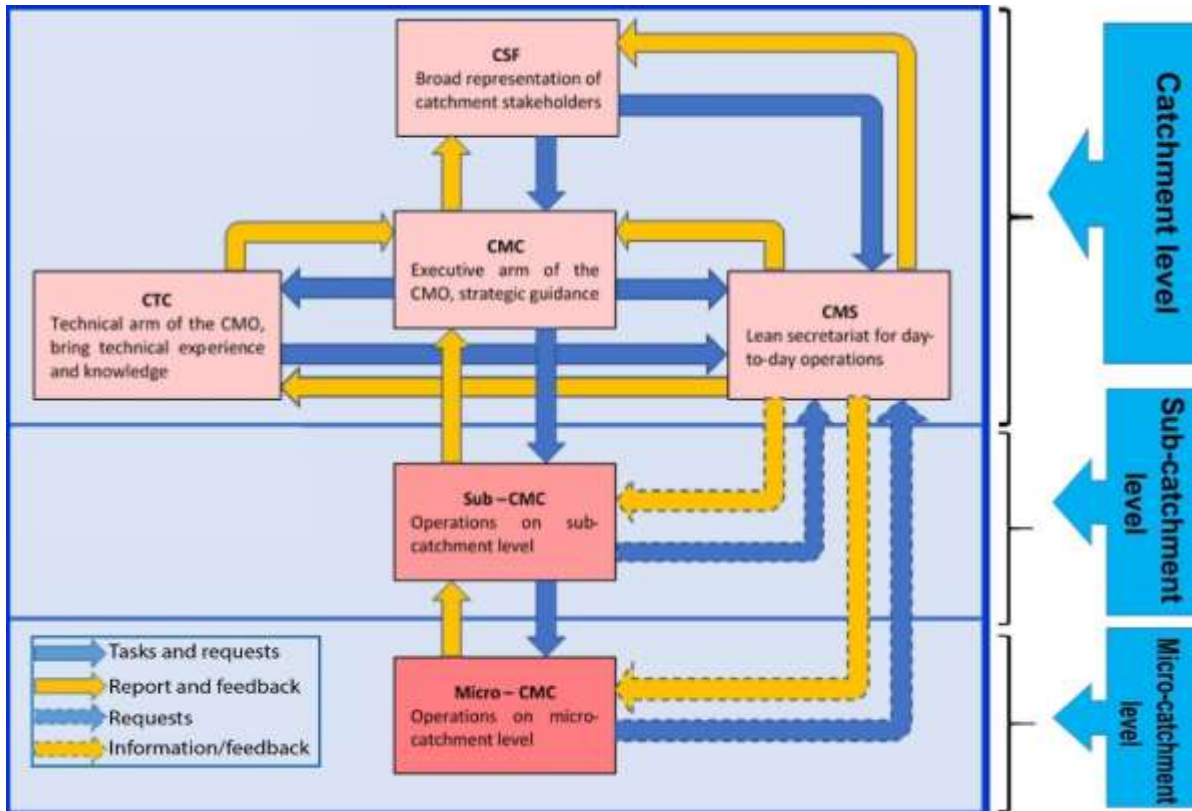


Figure 1: Catchment Management Organization structure (DWRM, 2016)

Justification

Projects that plan to integrate Catchment based Integrated Water Resources Management (CbIWRM) are often complicated and need to – as per definition – integrate at different dimensions. This is not only the dimensions within the catchment (scale and geography), the dimensions of users (private households, private sector, and local up to National Governments) but also time dimensions.

Decentralized government structures are in place and play a key role in the implementation of planning processes and eventually in the roll out of catchment management plans. These processes tend often to be mainly top down oriented.

When it comes down to bottom-up planning, the needs and wishes of local communities are not always easily captured and merged into these larger scale planning processes. Local communities have often lesser capacity to defend their interest, make and understand their own problem analysis and see the different interactions. Therefore, intensive guidance is needed to make plans that fully fit the expectations of grass root communities and assure that indeed the plans can and will be followed. This challenge is shown to be directly linked with the potential of the impact of IWRM measures and largely affects its sustainability.

Alignment to the Project design and proposal

This task specifically contributes to outcomes 1 and 4 of the ECODRR project, which is Building community resilience through improved planning, and developing ECODRR knowledge packages for upscaling respectively.

Specific objectives of the assignment.

1. To have a more detailed overview of the currently used planning methods by organizations and stakeholders at the local level, (using Otuke and Alebtong areas as pilots), how these methods are being implemented, how effective and integrated they are, and finally how they are being used and which results they deliver.
2. To present the preliminary findings to the Aswa catchment management committee for their reflection and input
3. Based on the findings and learning, develop a simple and locally appropriate technical guidance in a brochure for micro catchment level planning that takes into account Disaster Risk Reduction and gender aspects.

Main Audience

CARE will share the products from this work with Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) as proposals to be formalized by Ministry into an easy-to-use brochure for organizations that perform similar activities. This brochure will be used as guidance, but at the same time as a tool to advocate for integration of Disaster Risk Reduction as well as more and better emphasis on bottom-up planning processes within IWRM efforts.

Methodology

The consultant will perform a desk study to verify which easy to use methods are available for micro catchment level planning, and what their characteristics are. The desk review will also be relevant in assessing the current Catchment management planning guidelines to what extent they integrate Disaster Risk Reduction, and the relevance for local level planning.

The consultant will prepare appropriate tools, and organize interviews with the ECODRR consortium staff including CARE Eco-DRR staff, and some Staff from the implementing organizations, a staff from Wetlands International and a staff from Cordaid to verify which methods are being used in the roll out of programs and which specific outcomes they have generated. In addition, the consultant will interact with Local government staff from the District Natural Resources departments of Otuke and Alebtong. In order to ensure that community voices and insights are captured in the process, the consultant will conduct a focused group Discussion (FGD) with the Micro catchment management committee of Okee. The micro-catchment committee represents the local stakeholders across the micro catchment, including the farmers, pastoralists, fisher folk among others

The consultant will also interact with the decentralized structure of government charged with Catchment planning and management at zonal level, to appreciate the existing current approaches used by the government to plan and roll out catchment management in hotspots identified, and the conclusions they have made.

Last but not the least, the consultant will prepare and organize a reflection moment with a feedback panel (the Aswa catchment management committee) on the intermediate findings and will gather feedback and ideas

The consultant will prepare a document as a guide for bottom-up planning processes for micro catchment planning in line with catchment based IWRM.

The document should at least contain but not limited to;

- General introduction and statement on importance of well guided bottom-up planning processes
- The possible approaches that can be used and the factors that will decide on selection
- The general principles of proposed method and basic principles to put into practice
- Practical examples of how the different methods are being used.

Scope of Work

The assignment will take a total of 13 working days including 10 days for data collection, 1 day for a validation meeting with Aswa CMC representatives, and 2 days for final reporting . The assignment is planned to commence on the 13th of June and concluded no later than 29th of June.

Key Deliverables:

- A detailed Final report of the process, with clear findings, and recommendations or outcomes
- A simple brochure with technical guidance for micro catchment level planning, for CARE to submit to Ministry of Water and Environment for consideration and approval.
- A validation meeting with Aswa Catchment Management Committee representatives

Competencies:

The type of consultant we are looking for;

- Experience and Knowledge of Catchment based Integrated Water Resources management (CbWRM) in Uganda is essential. Next to this all experiences with participatory planning processes and the analysis of their on-ground impact and working methods is considered as added value.
- Knowledge in Gender Integration is desirable
- Preferably the consultant has good working contacts within the sector and will therefore easily be able to make contacts, plan for interviews and feedback moments.
- Good communication and facilitation skills

CARE's role;

- Avail contact details of the targeted participants to the consultant including ECODRR Consortium Staff, Partner staff, District natural resources office staff, micro catchment and sub catchment committee chair persons, Upper Nile water management Zone staff, Chairperson and secretary of the Aswa catchment management committee.
- Participate in some of the interview sessions, and in the validation meeting
- Provide project information and any other relevant literature within the project to the consultant
- The cost for a vehicle and fuel will be borne by CARE

Prepared by Marion Iceduna

Sign: 

Date: 25/05/2022

Approved by Cotilda Nakyeyune

Sign: for 

Date: 26th May 2021