



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

**ADVANCING AGROECOLOGY,
CARBON MARKET SAFEGUARDS,
AND CLIMATE FINANCE
INTEGRATION FOR LIVELIHOOD
AND FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE**

Scope: Consultancy on Assessment of Agroecological Priorities, Carbon Market Safeguards, Climate Finance Mapping, and Development of Training Manual & Advocacy Plan for Bungoma and Machakos Counties

Project: Advocacy for Integration of Agroecology in Climate Action for Agriculture and Food Systems (AI-CARs)

Commissioned by: Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG) – a platform of PACJA

Duration: 15 August 2025 – 30 October 2025

Location: Bungoma and Machakos Counties, and Nairobi Kenya

1. BACKGROUND

The agriculture sector remains central to Kenya's economy, contributing over 21% to the national GDP and employing more than 70% of rural households. However, the sector is highly vulnerable to climate change, with adverse impacts such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and land degradation threatening food security, livelihoods, and sustainable development—particularly in counties like **Bungoma and Machakos**.

In response to these challenges, the **Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)**, through its national designated platform in Kenya, the **Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG)**, is implementing the project titled “**Advocacy for Integration of Agroecology in Climate Action for the Resilience of the Agriculture Sector and Smallholder Farmers in Kenya**” (**AI-CARs**). This initiative is part of the broader **Fastenaktion Agroecology and Climate Change Program**, and spans from July 2025 to July 2026.

The **AI-CARs project** seeks to advance agroecology as a holistic, ecosystem-based solution to climate vulnerabilities in agriculture by:

- ◆ Advocating for its incorporation in climate policy frameworks at subnational national and global levels,
- ◆ Strengthening community capacities to access climate finance, and
- ◆ Promoting inclusive and rights-based approaches to agricultural carbon trading.

Agroecology is anchored in Kenya's **National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033)**, which prioritizes sustainable farming systems, traditional knowledge, biodiversity, and participatory governance. Internationally, agroecology is gaining traction through instruments such as the **Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA)** under the UNFCCC, and decisions taken during the 2024 Rio Convention COPs that emphasize the role of agroecology in resilience, biodiversity, and land restoration.

Despite these policy advancements, several systemic barriers persist—including fragmented institutional support, limited financing mechanisms, and inequities in emerging **agriculture-based carbon markets**. In Kenya, initiatives such as the Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project (KACP) have demonstrated both the potential and pitfalls of carbon finance. Issues around **benefit-sharing, transparency, community exclusion, and lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** have raised concerns regarding the social justice dimensions of carbon trading in smallholder contexts.

The AI-CARs project aims to respond to these gaps by operationalizing county-level interventions that are community-driven and policy-responsive. Bungoma and Machakos were selected due to their agroecological importance, exposure to climate-related risks, and presence of vibrant smallholder farmer networks.

A central entry point for this work is the **Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA)** program—a Government of Kenya flagship initiative that channels adaptation financing to communities through structured, inclusive governance processes. Leveraging FLLoCA and related platforms, the AI-CARs project supports policy dialogues, safeguards development, and knowledge generation to enhance county readiness for agroecological transformation.

This Terms of Reference is therefore developed in the context of AI-CARs' strategic objective to ensure that **evidence-based priorities, strong safeguards, clear access to climate finance, and local capacity** coalesce to form a sustainable, just, and climate-resilient agricultural future in Bungoma and Machakos.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY

1. Assess agroecological needs, practices, and policy gaps in Bungoma and Machakos.
2. Understand scope and current status of carbon market activities in agriculture and propose robust social safeguards including FPIC.
3. Map existing and potential **climate finance flows** for agroecology (incl. FLLoCA, CSR funds, carbon credits).
4. Develop a **policy advocacy strategy** to elevate agroecology and farmer rights in county and national planning.
5. Design and pilot a **farmer training manual** addressing climate finance access for agroecology including FLLoCA options and carbon trading safeguards.

3. SCOPE OF WORK AND KEY TASKS

TASK	DESCRIPTION
1. Inception	Develop situation analysis, methodology and detailed work plan in alignment with AI-CARs project and FLLoCA framework.
2. Literature and Policy Review	Review national policies (NCCAP, NAS-FST, Agriculture Policies and Frameworks, Climate Change Act, and related regulations, Climate Finance Landscape with relation to agriculture and agroecology, FLLoCA Approach and Guidelines, Carbon Market frameworks—inclusive and community justice lens), County agriculture plans and CIDPs, CCAPs, SJWA documents, and agroecology strategies.

TASK	DESCRIPTION
3. Agroecological Field Assessment	<p>Identify priority agroecological practices and constraints; map out the climate risk assessment, analyse policy gaps, gender dynamics, land tenure, crop diversity, and food security in Bungoma & Machakos.</p> <p>Assess agroecological needs, practices, and policy gaps in Bungoma and Machakos counties by identifying and documenting existing agroecological initiatives, traditional knowledge systems, and farming practices. The assessment should apply standard agroecological performance indicators such as: Soil health and fertility management, Crop and seed diversity, Use and preservation of indigenous knowledge and local seed systems, Agroecosystem resilience to climate-related shocks, Reduced reliance on synthetic inputs, On-farm biodiversity and integrated pest management and Community-led resource governance</p> <p>These indicators should guide both qualitative and quantitative data collection and ensure alignment with Kenya’s National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033).</p>
4. Carbon Safeguards Assessment	<p>Document past/present agricultural carbon initiatives (e.g., KACP), including different types and methodologies applied in agricultural carbon initiatives, highlight power and gender asymmetries, examine national and regional policy and legal framework linked to it (what supports/hinders safeguards for communities), and co-develop proposals on how to ensure social safeguards (FPIC, benefit sharing) and how to strengthen the existing ones in the Kenyan legal framework.</p>
5. Climate Finance Mapping	<p>Identify current and potential funders and agricultura and agroecology carbon buyers (FLLoCA, GCF, voluntary markets); compile access and eligibility information.</p>
6. Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Conduct FGDs and KIs with subject matter experts, farmer solidarity groups, CSOs, CBOs, and county officers; ensure gender/ youth inclusivity.</p>
7. Advocacy Engagement Matrix and Plan	<p>Co-develop advocacy matrix and plan with PACJA/KPCG, Act4Change, and farmer groups, with technical input from FA CP, for influencing county planning and COP-related milestones.</p>

TASK	DESCRIPTION
8. Training Manual & TOT Workshop	<p>Design and deliver an illustrated training manual in Kiswahili and English; using a modular format to address key thematic areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Agroecology foundations and evolving practices "Agroecology 101" – (drawing from FA CP Team module)</i> ◆ <i>Accessing climate finance and county-level funding opportunities (e.g Climate financing options for Agroecology including , FLoCCA)</i> ◆ <i>Understanding agricultural carbon trading and markets social safeguards, including FPIC and benefit-sharing</i> <p>The manual must be pre-tested/piloted with a small group of farmers in each target county (Machakos and Bungoma) to assess clarity, cultural relevance, and usability. The consultant shall incorporate the feedback into the final version.</p> <p>Co-conduct 3-day Training-of-Trainers (TOT) sessions in each county together with PACJA/KPCG, Act4Change.</p>
9. Validation and Final Reporting	<p>Present findings in validation meetings; incorporate feedback into final deliverables and submit digital copies of all outputs.</p>

4. DELIVERABLES & TIMELINE

Deliverable	Due Date
D1. Inception Report	22 August 2025
D2. Draft Agroecology & Safeguards Reports (Machakos & Bungoma)	17 September 2025
D3. Agroecology Climate Finance Mapping Report + Stakeholder Database	20 September 2025
D4. Draft Policy Advocacy Matrix	24 September 2025
D5. Farmer Training Manual (EN/KIS)	30 th September 2025
D6. Stakeholder Consultations and Validation Workshop Reports (x2)	10 th October 2025
D7. TOT Training Reports (Bungoma & Machakos)	Between 22–25 October 2025
D8. Final Consolidated Report & Knowledge Products	30 October 2025

5. METHODOLOGY

- ◆ Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools
- ◆ Mixed-methods data collection
- ◆ FPIC-guided community engagement
- ◆ Expert Consultations
- ◆ Gender-responsive and youth-inclusive analysis
- ◆ Integration of PACJA/FA CP strategy indicators
- ◆ Policy and finance flow tracking aligned with FLoCA/County budgets

6. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ The assignment must be undertaken by a **consortium** with proven interdisciplinary capacity in:
 - ▶ Agroecology and sustainable agriculture
 - ▶ Climate finance and public sector budgeting
 - ▶ Carbon markets and safeguards (including FPIC)
 - ▶ Community organizing and smallholder farmer engagement
 - ▶ Minimum 8 years of relevant experience for lead experts
 - ▶ Fluency in English and Kiswahili; local language skills (Luhya/Kamba) an added advantage

7. REPORTING & OVERSIGHT

The consultant consortium will report to **KPCG Secretariat**, with technical oversight from FA CP, county focal points, and representatives from CSO and farmer networks under the FA CP in the two counties. Progress will be reviewed through structured reporting and virtual/in-person briefings.

8. BUDGET & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Milestone	% Payment
Approved Inception Report	20%
Draft Reports (D2–D5) Submitted	30%
Final Training & Validation Reports (D6–D7)	30%
Final Consolidated Report & Knowledge Products	20%

9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Qualified consortia are invited to submit:

1. Technical proposal (max 15 pages)
2. Financial proposal (inclusive of all taxes/logistics)
3. CVs of core experts
4. Two sample reports/manuals from similar work
5. Three referees of similar work undertaken

Deadline: 5 August 2025 – 5:00 PM EAT

Submit to: kpcg@pacja.org copy procurement@pacja.org

Subject line: “Agroecology + Carbon Safeguards Consortium Bid – Bungoma & Machakos”

End of Terms of Reference



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