

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DOCUMENTARY BOOK ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

Terms of Reference

[AC/OSS/Climat_LivreDocumentaire/210725-32]

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1- CONTEXT

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Its impacts are becoming increasingly visible across the planet, manifesting through extreme weather events, rising sea levels, ecosystem degradation, and growing food insecurity. These consequences threaten the living conditions of populations worldwide and demand urgent and coordinated action.

In response, the global community, through the Paris Agreement, committed to limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to continue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. This objective is essential to avoid the most severe consequences of climate change and to safeguard a fragile ecological balance.

It challenges our models of production, consumption, and social organization. Yet, it offers an opportunity to rethink our economic and environmental systems in order to build a future that is more resilient, more equitable, and more sustainable. The global response to this crisis will shape the quality of life for current and future generations.

Africa finds itself at the heart of this global challenge. Although the continent contributes less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is among the most vulnerable to climate impacts. This vulnerability is linked to its geographic exposure, dependence on natural resources, and limited adaptive capacity. These concerns are recognized by major international frameworks, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report underscores the severity of climate impacts across Africa — affecting natural systems, human populations, and economic structures. Increasing rainfall variability affects water availability for agriculture, domestic use, and ecosystems. The frequency and intensity of extreme events such as droughts and floods are rising, with devastating consequences for the most vulnerable communities.

Despite these vulnerabilities, Africa holds huge potential to become a key contributor to the global climate response. The continent's vast geography and diverse topography give rise to a wide range of climate conditions. This diversity, shaped by solar movement and cold ocean currents, supports an extraordinary variety of ecosystems and development opportunities — especially in renewable energy and climate-resilient agriculture.

Africa's (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal) abundant renewable energy resources and carbon-rich ecosystems make it a vital actor in global mitigation efforts. Across the continent, local knowledge, innovative practices, and a mobilized youth are driving adaptation strategies that respond directly to local realities. From land restoration in the Sahel to sustainable agriculture, early warning systems, and the revitalization of traditional knowledge, African countries are implementing solutions that are concrete, locally driven, and often pioneering. These efforts — supported by engaged local actors — are strengthening territorial resilience and paving the way for a low-carbon, inclusive development model.

These challenges, priorities, and opportunities have long been embedded in the strategic work of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). As an African intergovernmental Organization, the OSS is aware of the climate-induced pressures on ecosystems and communities, while also recognizing the potential and efforts already underway on the continent. Through its mandate as a platform for coordination and dialogue, the OSS is committed to supporting African countries by providing accessible, relevant information to inform decision-making and strengthen climate action.



Since 2020, the OSS has initiated a biannual editorial series aimed at documenting Africa's major environmental issues. Each volume serves as a reference tool to support informed decision-making and to promote African perspectives and knowledge. After "Water in Our Regions" (2020)¹, "African Ecosystems: Between Degradation and Restoration" (2022)², and "African Land: The degradation and the absolute requirement of Sustainable Management" (2024)³, a new volume on climate change in Africa will be developed.

This upcoming book seeks to offer a fresh perspective, second to no existing global publications, by emphasizing the specific challenges, responses, and opportunities found in African contexts. It is designed to serve as a strategic reference for policymakers, international Organizations, development partners, and the wider public — shaping inclusive, actionable, and context-driven climate strategies.

By showcasing Africa's strengths, resilience, and innovative approaches, the book aims to challenge reductive narratives and reposition the continent as a proactive and capable leader in addressing global climate challenges.

These ToRs outline the process and methodology for the development of this book, which will be carried out with the support of an expert consultant.

2- PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

These Terms of Reference aim to recruit a consultant who will give a hand in the design, layout and drafting of the content of the book, in close collaboration with the OSS coordination team.

The assignment will involve the collection of reliable data, the identification of relevant examples of adaptation and mitigation actions, the mapping of African initiatives, strategies, and programs, and the proposal of a clear and engaging narrative framework suited to a wide audience.

The consultant is expected to develop a coherent and accessible editorial approach, capable of reaching a broad readership including policymakers, researchers, youth, and civil society actors. The work must strike the right balance between scientific depth and a readable, visually engaging presentation.

The book should showcase African realities, innovations, and specificities, while offering insightful perspectives on climate change and the continent's responses to it.

3- SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT

The assignment of the consultant will cover the full content development process — from literature review and thematic analysis to the final drafting of the manuscript. The consultant's contribution will focus on the following components:

- **Literature Review and Scoping:** Collection, analysis, and summary of relevant reports, datasets, case studies, and existing releases on climate-related challenges in Africa. The consultant will also identify the key themes to be addressed in the book, such as governance, climate impacts, mitigation, adaptation, innovation, and African-led initiatives.

¹ https://www.oss-online.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/OSS-Monographie_Eau.pdf

² <https://www.oss-online.org/fr/ld-ecosystemes-afrique>

³ https://www.oss-online.org/fr/ld_terres-dafrique



- **Content Structure and Orientation:** Design of a clear, consistent outline for the book (sections, chapters, narrative formats, etc.), with editorial decisions that grasp the attention of a diverse audience. The structure should balance scientific accuracy with readability and visual appeal.
- **Collection and Highlighting of African Initiatives:** Identification and showcasing of flagship projects, innovative practices, and locally-driven climate solutions across the continent. This will involve interviews, profiling, and gathering testimonials from key actors to illustrate regional dynamics and success stories.
- **Content Writing:** Drafting of the manuscript in accordance with the structure validated by the OSS, using an informative, engaging, and readable style. The consultant will also propose visual elements (text boxes, graphs, maps, photos) to enrich the content and enhance its clarity and impact.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Participation in coordination meetings and feedback sessions with the OSS and key partners. These interactions will ensure alignment with the expectations and help integrate the comments at key validation stages.
- **Draft and Final Deliverables:** Submission of both draft and final versions of the manuscript, ready for layout, publication, and/or digital distribution.

3.2 DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO THE CONSULTANT

- A preliminary outline of the key themes to be addressed in the book (Annex 1), developed by the OSS. The consultant will be responsible for refining and structuring this proposal into a coherent framework for validation. Based on this outline, the consultant will critically assess the content and propose any necessary adjustments to align with the book's overall objective.
- The data collection questionnaire designed by the OSS to gather information from key stakeholders.
- A set of recommended sources for literature review and documentary research (Annex 2).
- A documentation database.
- A list of stakeholder categories to be interviewed (Annex 3), provided as guidance for engagement planning.

All logistical aspects related to validation workshops, partner outreach, data collection meetings, and dissemination activities will be handled by the OSS.

4- DELIVERABLES

In accordance with the steps outlined in the table below, the consultant will have to submit the following deliverables to the OSS at the end of the assignment:

- Inception report and work plan, including the methodology, timeline, and proposed table of the contents;
- Full manuscript of the documentary book, in French, as validated with the OSS, and integrating all developed chapters, relevant visuals, thematic boxes, and a clear, accessible executive summary;
- Strategic summary brief (maximum 20 pages), for decision-makers, highlighting key findings, core messages, and actionable recommendations drawn from the book;

- Professional PowerPoint presentation, reflecting the book's content and designed to support dissemination during the meetings, workshops, and outreach events.

The consultant's tasks, along with the associated efforts and timelines, are detailed in the table below.

Expected Outputs	Estimation of M/D effort	Delivery times in working/calendar days
Final Summary and Timeline	2	10 days from the contract conclusion
Methodology	6	30 days from the contract conclusion
Questionnaire and Interviews	8	40 days from the contract conclusion
Draft Book	10	50 days from the contract conclusion
Final Document	5	60 days from the contract conclusion
A Summary Note	2	80 days from the contract conclusion
A Professional PowerPoint Presentation	1	100 days from the contract conclusion
Data Collection and Analysis, Meetings, and Consultations	2	120 days from the contract conclusion
Total		120 days

P.N. Time dedicated to the OSS validation of the deliverables is not considered.

5- EFFORT, DURATION AND REMUNERATION

The estimated effort for the preparation of this document is 36 man-days spread over 120 calendar days. Five hundred Euros per day (€500/man-day) is the daily rate for the assignment. Payment will be made in three installments as follows:

Installments	Payment Terms	Amount
Installment 1	Validation of the inception report (methodology, timetable, summary, questionnaire template)	10% of the total contract amount
Installment 2	Validation of the complete manuscript of the book (mid-term report – main final deliverable) on hard and soft copies (English and French)	40 % of the total contract amount
Installment 3	Validation of the complete final version, integrating the OSS comments, as well as the summary note and the PowerPoint presentation	50 % of the total contract amount

6- QUALIFICATIONS

The consultant must:

- Hold at least a postgraduate degree (National Engineer, Master's, or PhD) in environment, climate, geography, ecology, sustainable development, social sciences, or a related discipline;
- Have at least 10 years of proven experience in the fields of environment, climate change, natural resource management, or sustainable development in Africa;
- Have participated in the design or writing of technical publications, expert reports, scientific works, or capitalization documents;
- Have proven experience collaborating with regional or international institutions, scientific Organizations, or research centers working on the environment and natural resource management in Africa;
- Understand climate change issues in Africa, particularly in terms of vulnerability, impacts, adaptation, mitigation, and climate policies;



- Have knowledge of the main international and African climate-related frameworks (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, NDCs, NAP, etc.);
- Demonstrate an ability to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams and with various institutional partners.

7- APPLICATION FILE

The bidder's file must include:

1. A concise methodological note describing how the consultant intends to produce the deliverables, along with a timeline;
2. A draft summary;
3. Improvements on the ToRs;
4. The consultant's detailed CV using the standard OSS template, downloadable from the following link: [\[OSS CV template\]](#);
5. Copies of diplomas and any references deemed useful.

8- TECHNICAL EVALUATION

Here follows a table of the candidate assessment scales:

Categories	PTS
1. Academic background	10
2. General experience	20
3. Specific experience	35
4. Proposed methodology	20
5. Quality of the bid and presentation of the file	15
Total	100

9- SUBMISSION METHOD AND DEADLINE

Applications must be sent to the OSS by email at the following address: procurement@oss.org.tn

Emails must contain the following subject line: Call for submissions: Development of the "Climate Change in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities" documentary book **[AC/OSSClimat_LivreDocumentaire/210725-32]**

Deadline: August 11, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (Tunis time).

Annex 1 - Proposed aspects for the organization and content of the work

Preamble

General introduction

Part I – General presentation of Africa

This section will be presented according to Africa's zones (North, South, West, East, and Centre).

By reviewing Africa's main biophysical and socioeconomic indicators, this section will describe and highlight the continent's potential. Here are the main themes to be addressed:

- Physical characteristics and environments;
- Vulnerability
- Socioeconomic characteristics, population growth, urbanization, socioeconomic changes
- Development objectives and priorities.

Part 2 – Vulnerability and impacts of climate change in Africa

Based on the climate risks in the different regions of the continent, the exposure units will be presented in their state of degradation. Projections will also be made over time horizons. The development sectors to be presented as exposure units may include:

- Agriculture and food security;
- Water resources;
- Biodiversity and forestry;
- Coastline/coastal areas;
- Human health;
- Infrastructure and human settlements;
- Energy resources;
- Costs of impacts and inaction.

§/sections can be dedicated for: observed impacts, most vulnerable areas.

Part 3 – Africa's position in terms of greenhouse gas emissions

This section will address the status of greenhouse gas inventories, gaps and challenges related to the data used, including methodologies as appropriate. It will also highlight Africa's potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Key topics to develop include:

- Climate justice and historical responsibility;
- Current status of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Challenges and issues related to greenhouse gas inventories;
- Potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Where does Africa stand in relation to the provisions/principles of the Paris Agreement (common/differentiated responsibility, MRVs, etc.), the commitments of northern countries, etc.:

Africa: the continent contributing the least to global emissions, yet suffering the most from their impacts?



Part 4: Climate change management in Africa

The strategies, policies, programs, initiatives, including institutional and legislative aspects put in place to address climate change will be presented in this section.

It will therefore speak of the:

- Climate change governance, policies, and strategies;
- Adaptation and resilience measures;
- Mitigation measures;
- Other measures and initiatives to address climate change;
- Mobilization of the financial resources.
- African initiatives (boxes.)

Part 5: OSS feedback in the region

This section will be dedicated to sharing the OSS experiences in relation to various actions in the field of Climate Change and will highlight the lessons learned and good practices achieved and recorded through the projects and programs implemented by the OSS.

Should we add testimonies from beneficiaries (institutions, populations ...)?

Part 6: Conclusion, perspectives and recommendations

Following a conclusion, recommendations and suggestions will be formulated to contribute to strengthening the continent's actions to address climate change. It is possible to chart the course for Africa based on prospective scenarios? The OSS role as a platform: positioning in global negotiations, optimizing access to financial resources, knowledge transfer and capacity building ...

Annex 2 - Literature review

This action will be carried out throughout the process and will focus on the following types of documents and information sources (for guidance only):

- IPCC assessment reports;
- Relevant scientific articles on climate change in Africa;
- Relevant reports on climate change in Africa, published by UNEP, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, etc.;
- Regulatory, policy, and strategic documents related to climate change, developed by African regional institutions;
- International legal documents on climate change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement);
- Relevant decisions and reports from the COPs;
- African national communications on climate change;
- Biennial update reports/transparency frameworks from African countries;
- African Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- African National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Annex 3 - Contact points for data and information

These are the stakeholders or people to be identified and to take straight forward contact with. The developed questionnaire will be shared with them to gather their responses, meetings will also be organized with them for deeper opinions on certain aspects or topics of interest. The OSS participation in various national, regional and international meetings will give room for consultations with these stakeholders.

The people or actors to contact will be:

At the regional and international level:

- Climate change negotiators (particularly African);
- Scientists who have conducted research on climate change in Africa;
- IPCC resource persons;
- Officials or experts working in African regional institutions, including civil society and private sector Organizations.

In the African countries:

- Climate Change Focal Points;
- NDAs of the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund;
- Operational and Political Focal Points of the Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- Officials of multilateral and national institutions accredited to the AF, GCF, and GEF;
- Coordinators of climate change projects/programs;
- Other important African national stakeholders in the field of climate change.