Terms of Reference for a Documentary

Stories from the margins: The Visible and Invisible impacts of Carbon market projects in Africa

If you believe everyone has the right to a life of opportunity and justice, no matter where they live, and if you believe ordinary people can change the world, then join us¹, as we amplify women’s voices for climate justice!

1.0 Introduction

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), under the auspices of the project “Radical Hope: Women's Leadership in Economic Justice and Climate Action in Africa” wishes to record and publish a documentary titled ‘Stories from the margins: The Visible and Invisible impacts of Carbon market projects in Africa’¹ The documentary will seek to amplify the stories and experiences of individuals and communities particularly, women in their diversity, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous communities, people living with disabilities in Uganda, Zambia and Kenya, whose livelihoods have been transformed by carbon markets projects implemented in their communities. It is hoped that the documentary will bring to the fore, the untold stories of how carbon markets are systematically being promulgated in communities in Africa, and especially in climate affected communities that are also facing intersectional forms of marginalization.

1.1 About Akina Mama wa Afrika

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) is a feminist Pan-African leadership development organization founded in 1985 by a group of African women living in the diaspora who remained keenly aware of their African roots and the need to organize autonomously. AMwA later relocated her headquarters to Kampala, Uganda in 1996. AMwA’s work is rooted in feminist principles and beliefs guided by the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists, which define our leadership development program and movement-building activities. We envision a dignified and equitable feminist society for African women, girls, and gender-expansive persons. Our mission is to build feminist leadership and collective power to deconstruct intersectional systems of oppression to advance gender and social justice. Our thematic focus areas include Women’s Political Leadership, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Economic Justice and Climate Action. Our work is advanced through feminist and transformational leadership development, feminist research and knowledge building, policy influencing and movement building, and arts and creatives. AMwA provides strategic direction in key Pan-African networks, including NGO CSW Africa,

¹ https://www.one.org/stories/amazing-african-proverbs-that-can-be-linked-to-the-new-global-goals/
Solidarity for African Women’s Rights, and the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign. AMwA also has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

2.0 Background

Current efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C or a maximum of 2°C are falling short and the planned climate actions are so far inadequate to reach this goal\(^2\). Carbon markets are being promoted by corporations, corporate lobbyists, and governments\(^3\) as a predominant way to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and therefore address climate change - as they claim. In fact, they are also being promulgated as a quadruple win narrative for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, human livelihoods, and climate finance.

To facilitate the operationalisation of the carbon markets in Africa through the Voluntary Carbon Mechanism (VCM), the Africa Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI) was launched at COP27 being sold as a “major opportunity to accelerate economic development and simultaneously curb greenhouse gas emissions.” Its proponents claim that it will generate an estimated US$6 billion in revenue by 2030 and over US$120 billion by 2050 to the continent through the VCM; and that it will create up to 100 million desperately needed jobs\(^4\). This new market is envisioned to finance the establishment of energy, agriculture, ecosystems, and waste management projects across the continent\(^5\). By and large, carbon markets have come with a promise to be a new mechanism for sustainable development and climate action.

However, it is important to note that critical scholarship on carbon markets has also brought attention to their disappointing climate performance. An intersectional feminist analysis\(^6\) of this decarbonization agenda has revealed that it’s not all glitz and glamour. Carbon markets are a neo-colonial framework that are facilitated by patriarchal and neoliberal influence and seek to perpetuate the continued exploitation of global south countries, their resources, and their people. Environmentalists have also argued that carbon markets enable developed countries to appear to be reducing emissions, while passing on the abatement task to the developing world\(^7\). Like carbon offsetting, which is a central feature of carbon markets, they are a loophole and an unjust form of mitigation that distracts from the central task of transitioning away from fossil fuel extraction in the North – where emissions abatement is most politically crucial\(^8\).

At community level, the reality that they can drive social and geopolitical inequalities while distracting the world from the imperative of changing current extractivist modes of capitalist production and consumption\(^9\), has been noted. Often untold and unrecognized is the role that women play as caretakers and nurturers of the earth, tending to trees and forests because of the responsibility of care and domestic work


\(^3\) https://continent.substack.com/p/rutos-carbon-dream-is-a-nightmare


\(^7\) Ten reasons why carbon markets will not bring about radical emissions reduction (tandfonline.com)

\(^8\) Ten reasons why carbon markets will not bring about radical emissions reduction (tandfonline.com)

that society has assigned to them. Yet, when initiatives like carbon markets are introduced, and forests are financialized, their connection and reliance on these environmental assets is ignored.

3.0 Justification

In 2024, the demand for nature-based carbon credits is set to skyrocket with more than 50% of the carbon credit demand in the financial services sector to be for nature-based credits. Carbon markets have increasingly become a key financialization mechanism for development in Africa. Yet, efforts to center people also dominate the climate conversation, with many conservation NGOs seeking to change their way of work by connecting people and nature. Therefore, it has become increasingly critical to evidently assess each climate action as many of them are increasingly promoting the commodification of the climate crisis and nature, while ignoring the impact of these actions on people.

Using stories and experiences shared by communities and individual people in Uganda, Zambia and Kenya, we hope to uncover the inconsistencies therein carbon markets projects and contribute to reshaping the climate finance architecture to encompass a true afrocentric feminist vision of climate finance that is centred around climate justice and shifting power to marginalised communities and their countries. African countries need to urgently take agency of their own development and investment future especially as they are home to the most marginalized groups of people globally, have some of the most diverse and pristine ecosystems and natural resources, and the youngest population world over.

4.0 Goal

The goal of the documentary is to document and amplify the diverse range of real life stories by people living at the intersections of societal challenges amidst ongoing and emerging carbon markets projects in Uganda, Zambia, and Kenya.

4.1 Objectives

- To garner evidence and document the experiences and lived realities of communities, particularly women, youth, indigenous people, people living with disabilities, who are directly affected or impacted by carbon markets projects/initiatives in Uganda, Zambia, and Kenya.
- To expose the visible and invisible drivers of carbon markets projects including the barriers to guaranteeing that the rights, interests and livelihoods of vulnerable communities are protected.
- To garner recommendations that are shaped and inspired by the lived experiences and realities of communities and individuals in communities where carbon markets projects have been implemented.

6.0 Specific deliverables/specific tasks

The consultant will ensure the delivery of professional, comprehensible, and empirical information presented as a video highlighting the impacts of carbon markets projects on communities in Uganda, Kenya, and Zambia as outlined in the background of the ToRs. The consultant will be responsible for the following:

- Reading and understanding the overall documentary concept note.

● Developing an inception report to demonstrate their understanding of the assignment, including a well researched proposition on the potential areas/ projects/ communities to focus the documentary

● Developing a production work plan for the assignment including a list of communities and individuals to be interviewed. These should be diverse including women, youth, elderly, people living with disabilities, indigenous communities, among others.

● Developing a script of the documentary that details a clear and concise interview guide

● Interviewing selected participants for the documentary as outlined in the concept note and TOR.

● Visiting the selected shooting sites and interacting with the local communities/beneficiaries who have been impacted by carbon market interventions

● Developing the documentary script and storyboard to be used in the filming.

● Performing appropriate video filming and shooting interviews with stakeholders to produce a high quality video documentary.

● Presenting a draft documentary film and photographs to AMwA and its partners for comments on content.

● Producing one final documentary integrating comments with English subtitles.

● Incorporating relevant audio-visual material such as background music and scenic videos sourced from public domains.

● Delivering the final products through agreed storage format as well as raw files.

● Submitting a storyboard and script for the documentary to AMwA for approval before filming.

● Presenting draft documentary to AMwA and its partners and incorporating comments.

● Producing an edited video recording of the scenarios captured, and the footage of the recorded stories.

● Presenting a complete video documentary version, and handing over master copies of each version to AMwA.

● Submitting high resolution photographs with captions.

7.0 **Required Qualification, Skills and Competencies.**

AMwA is seeking eligible and qualified individuals to express their interest in providing expertise for this assignment. The consultant must possess the following qualifications, skills and competencies

● Have and demonstrate more than 10 years experience working in a similar field with an understanding and appreciation of the disproportionate impact of climate change and in many cases, climate action on communities at the frontline of the intersecting development challenges.

● Experience interacting, working with and interviewing communities at the grassroots/ local level.
• Knowledge and tact of documenting and telling stories of communities and individuals affected and or impacted by projects driven and or financed by powerful actors with the aim of reaching both local and international audiences.

• Local knowledge of the districts/provinces/counties and languages in the target countries.

• Excellent photography and video editing skills

• Commitment to engage and involve women, youth, elderly, people living with disabilities, indigenous communities, among others in the assignment as target groups.

8.0 Duration of the Assignment

The assignment is expected to take 30 non consecutive working days from the date of signing the contract.

9.0 Application Process

Applications must be sent to consultant@akinamamawaafrika.org by Sunday, 30th June 2024. The subject line of the email should state: Consultant to Develop a Documentary on Carbon Markets in Africa.

Applications should include:

• A cover letter stating your motivation and summarizing relevant experience

• Applicant’s profile and a sample of previous work in a related field

• Narrative and financial proposal

• Contact details of at least two independent referees with in-depth and proven knowledge of the applicant’s expertise in the field.

Please note: Only candidates who have been selected will be contacted for interviews.