

AFRICAN UNION
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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION TOOL OF THE
AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY STRATEGY**

PROCUREMENT NUMBER: AUC/DARBE/C/058



SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

08th June 2022

Dear Applicants,

Request for Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Services for The Development of The Monitoring and Evaluation Tool of The Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

1. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) was adopted in 2019 with the objective of allowing Africa to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, based on SDG14: Life Below Water, and the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The implementation of the ABES will play an important role in the development of communities, AU member states, regions and Regional Economic Communities.
2. The AUC now invites interested and eligible consultants to submit CVs for the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS). AUC policy requires consultants to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, and at all times hold the Client's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests.
3. The consultant will be selected under the Fixed Budget selection method where the Consultant who has submitted the highest ranked technical proposal within the set pass mark and within the budget will be selected for award of contract. The consultant will be paid a total amount of USD 30,000.00.
4. CVs and technical proposals must be submitted by e-mail to Tender@africa-union.org Cc hawib@africa-union.org
5. The title of the Procurement and procurement number must appear as subject of e-mail submissions.
6. The Deadline for submission is **27th June 2022 at 15:00 hours Addis Ababa Time**. Late applications will not be considered.
7. This call for CVs comprise of the following:
 - Section I – This Letter of Invitation
 - Section II - Terms of Reference



SECTION II: TERMS OF REFERENCE

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE AFRICAN UNION
EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES**

1. BACKGROUND

The African continent is endowed with massive aquatic and marine resources including oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes which offer the potential for socio-economic growth combined with environmental sustainability. As a continent blessed with a coastline of over 30,000 kilometers, 38 out of 55 African Union Member States are coastal or island states, and over 60% of its land mass is covered by a network of freshwater resources. In recognition of these resources, African Union Heads of State and Government took the decision to entrench the blue economy within the process of institutional reform of the African Union.

The Blue Economy is an evolving term which comprises the protection, understanding, sustainable management and utilization of aquatic resources, and encompasses a range of sectors. Oceans, seas and rivers, lakes and estuaries provide important ecosystem services and enormous potential in natural capital, including through blue carbon initiatives. Traditional sectors such as fisheries, seafood production, coastal tourism and shipping have been central to many African Union members' economies and livelihoods. Emerging sectors such as biotechnology, bioprospecting, ocean innovation, application of 4IR technologies, deep-sea exploration, marine renewable energy, *inter alia*, offer member states an important opportunity to diversify their economies while fostering innovation, climate solutions and promoting ocean science.

CONTEXT

Africa's blue world is made of vast lakes and rivers and an extensive ocean resource base. The Blue Economy can play a major role in Africa's structural transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development. Africa's Ocean, sea and inland water provide significant benefits to the continent in terms of i) food and nutrition security from fisheries and aquaculture, ii) economic and social development from fisheries and aquaculture, marine and coastal tourism, shipping, mining, energy and iii) ecosystem services such as water filtration, atmospheric and temperature regulation, *inter alia*

In recognition of the centrality of aquatic resources to Africa's development, the African Union decided to entrench the blue economy within the mandate of the African Union Commission during the process of institutional reform, through the 11th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in November 2018. A



blue economy division was established within the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) was adopted in 2019 with the objective of allowing Africa to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, based on SDG14: Life Below Water, and the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The strategy rests on the following thematic areas: 1. Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation, and sustainable aquatic ecosystems 2. Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety, and enforcement 3. Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure 4. Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries 5. Policies, institutional frameworks and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing.

The implementation of the ABES will play an important role in the development of communities, AU member states, regions and Regional Economic Communities. It has the potential to drive job creation, innovation, security, and protection of key aquatic assets. However, the implementation process is complex, multi-sectoral, multi-level and encompasses a broad range of stakeholders.

As part of the implementation process, a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to fulfil both learning and accountability purpose while ensuring inclusivity, sustainability, and impact. This framework will guide the work of implementing parties of the ABES, including the African Union commission as well as AU MS and RECs. The M&E tool must take into consideration the following desired outputs of the ABES:

- (i) Economic output: the blue economy must increase revenue, value addition, sustainable income, and contribute to the creation of decent, dignified jobs on the continent, especially for youth and women, while fostering industrialization and the creation of knowledge-based economies;
- (ii) Environmental sustainability: the creation of the aforementioned economic outputs is indissociable from the health of the environment. Furthermore, the blue economy must also achieve conservation and environmental protection aims;
- (iii) Social capital: the blue economy must mainstream gender concerns and achieve principles of equity and access, as well as include youth in a meaningful way;
- (iv) Policy outcomes: the blue economy is also interlinked with safety, security and good governance measures, frameworks, instruments and strategies at continental, regional, sub-regional and national levels.
- (v)

A consultant is sought to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework including an information management system or tool The consultant will build on existing project log frames, performance monitoring plans and outputs-based work plans.



Objective of the Assignment

An individual consultant will be contracted to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and implementation plan to be used for assessing and understanding the progress of the strategy outputs and outcomes. The exercise will also establish baselines.

The consultant will provide the roadmap to monitor and evaluate the deliverable to achieving the desired impact, utilizing a broad-based approach to capture social, environmental, economic and policy outcomes.

The success of the implementation of the ABES, will depend heavily on tracking progress towards the expected results using reliable indicators. An ongoing process of monitoring, evaluation will be needed to improve delivery processes, document results, inform stakeholders about the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency of the ABES and to mobilize political support for sustaining and expanding the programs and action therein.

Major duties and responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Director of SEBE, along with the Blue Economy division, the responsibilities and duties of the incumbent shall be but not limited to:

- a. Review projects documents including the log frame, annual targets and indicators, theory of change and existing monitoring tools
- b. Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework and road map for the implementation of the strategy:
 - The framework should outline performance indicators (output and outcomes) with clear definitions, milestones, data collection strategies. It should include methodologies for measuring these and who is responsible for collection.
 - The framework should take into consideration national M&E systems, draw on existing data available
- c. Keep constant communication with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States and evaluate progress
- d. Facilitate a consultative process with relevant stakeholders to develop inclusive indicators;
- e. Set and measure the baseline
- f. Lead and provide overall management for the design and implementation of an M&E system to monitor progress and performance of the strategy
- g. Develop draft terms of reference for conducting the independent mid-term review and final evaluation.
- h. Scope and develop an information management system or tool to manage an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework for approval by the Director
- i. Mentor, coach and support the national coordinators(M&E) to implement the new monitoring and evaluation framework and information system



Deliverables

The consultant will provide a final report that includes

1. A comprehensive M&E framework for the strategy including a detailed implementation plan for monitoring activities, an evaluation strategy as well as design and information requirements for the evaluation
2. A baseline assessment and plan to address any information gaps through survey or other relevant data collection tools.
3. Terms of Reference for independent and external mid-term and final evaluation
4. Findings gathered during the framework development and review of existing M&E systems with recommendations

Timeframe	Deliverables
First Month	Review existing M&E systems
Second Month	Share the first M&E framework draft with counterparts for inputs and comments. Facilitate validation workshop
Third Month	Adjust and finalize the M&E framework and associated guidelines

Skills and Qualifications

The consultant should have knowledge and experience in the following areas:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation of large, complex, long term programmes;
2. Review and evaluation in the African region and a demonstrated understanding of political economy issues in the region;
3. Experience of review and evaluation of Maritime and/or aquatic sectors, at national level, or international level;
4. Fluency in written and spoken English; Knowledge in another African Union language is an advantage
5. Good communication skills, both orally and in writing;
6. Ability to source and manage fragmented, multi-sectoral data sets.

Required Qualification and Experience

1. At least a Master degree in Marine Biology, Environmental Studies, Statistics, Economics, or related field.
2. At least 10 years of proven professional experience in project/program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, Statistics preferably in the marine/maritime and environment sector.
3. M&E relevant experience with a record of successfully experience in designing and implementation of M&E manual and framework



4. Previous working experience in M&E with intergovernmental or international organization
5. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Payment Procedures

Payments of fees to the consultant are performed based upon arrival of deliverables and submission of the invoices.

DURATION AND SCHEDULING OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The duration of the assignment is approximated to be three Months after signing of the contract. The consultant will be paid a 30,000 USD for 3 Months.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

For evaluation following criteria will be applied:

S/N	Description	Weighting
	Main Criteria (60 Marks total)	
a	At least a master's degree in development related field, social science, Economics of related field	20
b	Adherence to ToR's specifications and related requirements: a clear understanding of required deliverables and appropriate proposed approach	25
c	Work Plan	30
d	Communication, Writing skills and language proficiency	5
e	Technical approach and methodology	20
	Total Points	100

The pass mark for Technical proposals shall be 70%.

RESPONSE TO THE CALL

CVs and technical proposals must be delivered by e-mail to Tender@africa-union.org and Cc hawib@africa-union.org

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