**Terms of reference
and technical Specifications**

1. **General information**

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| Assignment name | **Recruitment of a short Term Expert to analyse and develop an action plan that will help establish a mechanism or platform to engage the private sector entities involved in the Blue Economy sector** |
| Beneficiary | **African Union Commission** |
| Country | **Ethiopia** |
| Total estimated number of days | **60 days** |

1. **Context and justification of the need**

Expertise France is a French public international cooperation agency. It designs and implements projects which aim to contribute to the balanced development of partner countries, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the priorities of France’s external action. Expertise France’s mission is to meet the demand of partner countries seeking to enhance the quality of their public policies in order to address the environmental, social, economic and security challenges they are facing. The agency achieves this goal by implementing projects in the main areas of public action:

- Democratic, economic and financial governance;

- Stability, international security and peace Stability, international security and peace;

- Sustainable development, climate and agriculture;

- Health and human development.

In order to give substance to this dialogue and to enshrine it in the long term and with a specific focus on the second theme of its declaration of intent, a total of EUR 3.25 Million in funding (in 3 Phases) have been granted by the French Development Agency (AFD) to Expertise France in the form of a technical assistance and capacity-building facility to support the African Union (AU) on issues within its area of expertise.

Based on a request from different departments from the African Union Commission (AUC), the French Facility for Technical Assistance to the AU facilitated the conduct of a number of studies, strategy and policy papers aimed at supporting the AUC on topics related to economy and commerce.

**The Africa Blue Economy Strategy**

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.

(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 value addition within the continent and the creation of knowledge-based economies;

(ii)   Environmental sustainability: the creation of the aforementioned economic outputs is in dissociable 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.

1. **Objectives and desired results**
	1. **General objective**

The primary objective of this assignment is to recruit a short-term expert **to analyze the current landscape of private sector involvement in the blue economy and develop a comprehensive action plan to establish a Public-Private Sector Dialogue mechanism or platform for networking and engaging these entities effectively.**

***Major duties and responsibilities:***

The specific objectives will be to:

1. Review existing literature, reports, and data on the blue economy and private sector engagement;
2. Conduct stakeholder consultations with key private sector entities, government agencies, and relevant organizations;
3. Identify challenges, opportunities, and best practices in engaging the private sector in the Blue Economy;
4. Assess the current mechanisms or platforms for private sector engagement in the Blue Economy;
5. Develop a strategic action plan to establish a dialogue mechanism or platform for engaging private sector entities in the Blue Economy and identify potential private sector partners to support the development of project and or programmes;
6. Outline specific objectives, activities, timelines, and resources required;
7. Propose a light governance structure and operational model for the dialogue mechanism or platform with specifications of stakeholders’ roles (AUC, RECs, Members States, Private Sector, Development Partners, etc.);
8. Provide actionable recommendations for enhancing private sector participation and collaboration in the Blue Economy;
9. Suggest innovative approaches and tools to facilitate private sector engagement;
10. Prepare a comprehensive report detailing the findings, action plan, and recommendations;
11. Link with the ongoing blue economy dash-board activity (more specifically its “governance” pillar);
12. Connection should also be made with the other blue economy projects implemented by Expertise France;
13. Present the report to relevant stakeholders for feedback and validation.
	1. **Outcome**

The consultant should provide the following:

* **An Inception Report:** An initial report outlining the methodology, work plan, and timelines within two weeks of commencement.
* **A Situation Analysis Report:** A detailed report on the current landscape and stakeholder consultations.
* **A Gap Analysis Report:** A comprehensive analysis of the existing mechanisms and identified gaps.
* **A Draft Dialogue mechanism and Action Plan:** A preliminary action plan for stakeholder review and feedback.
* **Final Report:** A complete report including the finalized Dialogue mechanism and action plan and recommendations, incorporating stakeholder inputs.
* **Participate and present the draft Public-Private Sector Dialogue Mechanism and Action plan** at a consultative meeting with stakeholders.
1. **Description of the assignment**
	1. **Anticipated deliverables**

The Consultant will deliver an inception report, an interim report including the final draft by the stakeholders, AUC and French-AU Technical Facility.

1. Inception Report outlining the approach, methodology, and work plan.
2. Situational Analysis Report.
3. Draft Dialogue mechanism and Action plan.
4. Final Dialogue mechanism and Action plan.
5. Workshop reports.
6. Final Comprehensive Report with recommendations.

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| **Name of report** | **Content** | **Time of submission** |
| Draft Inception report | The report should also include a detailed work plan, timeline and deliverables of the assignment. | To be submitted within 15 days of signing the contract. |
| Needs/ Baseline Assessment | A baseline assessment and plan to address any information gaps through survey or other relevant data collection tools  | To be submitted within 30 days of signing the contract |
| First draft of final report | Dialogue mechanism and Action plan | To be submitted after 45 days of signing the contract |
| Second draft of final report | Dialogue mechanism and Action plan | To be submitted after 55 days of signing the contract and upon conclusion of the consultative meeting with Stakeholders (AUC, RECs, Members States, etc.) and incorporation of their inputs.  |
| Final draft of final report | Comprehensive report on the consultancy with lessons and best practices | No later than 4 months following the signature of the contract and upon a conclusion of the validation workshops by all relevant stakeholders and incorporation of their inputs.  |

* 1. **Submission and approval of reports**

Electronic versions of the reports referred to above must be submitted to the Coordinator of the French-AU Technical Facility and African Union Commission (Blue Economy Division). The reports must be written in English. The coordinator and the Blue Economy Division of the AUC are responsible for approving the reports.

* 1. **Language requirement**

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages, knowledge of two or more other working language(s) would be an added value.

* 1. **Evaluation criteria**

Interested candidates must provide information demonstrating that she/he has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. Consulting firms may propose individual consultant/s, but only the experience and qualifications of individuals shall be used in the selection process, and that his or her corporate experience shall not be considered, and the contract would be signed with the proposed individual.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV together with the copies of their diploma, and possibly the references.

* 1. **Coordination**
* The service provider shall designate a single contact person for project implementation purposes. M. Kervin Kumapley, Project Coordinator of the Expertise France AU Facility, will be the service provider’s contact persons. Name: **Mr. Kervin Kumapley** - E-mail: kervin.kumapley@expertisefrance.fr
* AUC Blue Economy’ contact address: **Mr. Georges H. Mba Asseko,** HoD, Blue Economy - Email: mbaassekog@africa-union.org
1. **Place, duration and terms of performance**
* Implementation period: From the date the contract is awarded to latest **4 months** following the signature of the contract.
* Start date: from the date the contract is awarded (early July).
* Latest end date: **4 months** following the signature of the contract.
* Mission location: The mission is home based with travel when required.
* The duration of the assignment is **60 days**, starting from the date of contract signing.
1. **Required expertise and profile**
	1. **Number of experts per assignment:** 1
	2. **Profile of the designated expert responsible for contract execution**

**The Consultant: 60 days**

The Consultant will provide advice and technical support to the French-AU Technical Facility and African Union Commission (Blue Economy Division) stakeholders on the elaboration of the Action plan for the private sector. In addition, she/he will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the mission, including planning, coordination of inputs, ensuring that outcomes are delivered, and that the overall quality of the services provided is maintained. The Consultant will have overall responsibility for the smooth running and timely implementation of the project. She/he will be responsible for coordination with the main stakeholders and networks approached during the mission.

***Expertise and Qualifications***

***The ideal candidate should possess the following qualifications and experience:***

***Qualifications and skills:***

* Advanced degree in Environmental Science, Marine Science, Business Administration, Environmental Management, or a related field;
* At least 10 years of experience in project/Program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, preferably in the marine/ maritime and environment sector.

***Specific Professional Experience:***

* Proven track record in conducting strategic analysis and developing action plans.
* Strong understanding of private sector dynamics and stakeholder engagement.
* Excellent analytical, communication, report-writing, and stakeholders engagement skills.
* Ability to work independently and deliver high-quality outputs within stipulated timelines.
* Experience working in Africa and knowledge of regional environmental policies and frameworks is an advantage.

***Required Skills:***

* At least one African Union language; knowledge of additional African Union languages would be beneficial.
* Demonstrates focus on achieving quality results and impact.
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.