**Terms of reference
and technical Specifications**

1. **General information**

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| Assignment name | **Recruitment of Short Term expert to develop frameworks and guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment and Data collection for Marine and Fresh Water** |
| 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 Environmental Impact Assessment**

The African Union Commission (AUC) recognizes the significant potential of the blue economy as a catalyst for sustainable development in Africa. The blue economy encompasses a range of economic activities related to inland water, oceans, seas, and coastal areas, including fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, maritime transport, and energy. To ensure these activities contribute positively to environmental sustainability and socio-economic development, the AUC is seeking an expert to **develop a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) framework and enhance data collection mechanisms for the Blue Economy Division.**

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

The primary objective of this consultancy is to **develop a robust EIA framework and data collection methodology that will enable the Blue Economy Division of the AUC to assess, monitor, and manage the environmental impacts of blue economy activities across member states effectively.**

***Major duties and responsibilities:***

The specific objectives will be to:

1. Conduct a review of existing EIA frameworks and data collection practices related to the Blue Economy in Africa;
2. Identify gaps, challenges, and best practices from both African and international contexts;
3. Develop a comprehensive EIA framework tailored to the Blue Economy sector;
4. Ensure the framework aligns with international standards and best practices while addressing specific African contexts and needs;
5. Develop guidelines for assessing impacts on inland water body, marine and coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, socio-economic factors, and climate change resilience;
6. Develop tools and templates for data gathering, including indicators and metrics for monitoring environmental impacts;
7. Propose mechanisms for data validation, storage, and sharing among Member States;
8. Develop training materials and conduct workshops for AUC staff and relevant stakeholders on the use and implementation of the EIA framework and data collection methodology;
9. Facilitate consultations with key stakeholders, including government agencies, Member States, RECs, academia, and the private sector;
10. Link with the ongoing blue economy dash-board activity (more specifically its “governance” pillar);
11. Connection should also be made with the other blue economy projects implemented by Expertise France;
12. Incorporate stakeholder feedback into the final EIA framework and data collection methodology.
	1. **Outcome**

The consultant should provide the following:

1. **An Inception report** within ten working days of signing the contract. The inception report should demonstrate a clear understanding of the assignment by the consultant(s). The report should also include a detailed work plan, timeline and deliverables of the assignment.

2. **A baseline assessment and plan** to address any information gaps through survey or other relevant data collection tools.

3. **First draft of the Environmental Impact Assessment** is to be submitted after **30 working days**.

4. **The second draft** to be submitted after **45 Working days** incorporating all comments and suggestions made by stakeholders.

5. **The final draft to be submitted after 60 days and no** **later than 4 months following the signature of the contract.**

6. **A comprehensive report** on the consultancy with lessons and best practices.

7. **Participate and present the draft EIA** at a consultative meeting with Technical Working Group and overall stakeholders.

1. **Description of the assignment**
	1. **Anticipated deliverables**

The Consultant will deliver an inception report, an interim report including the final draft of the EIA guidelines and a validated version by the stakeholders, AUC and French-AU Technical Facility.

1. Inception Report outlining the approach, methodology, and work plan.
2. Baseline Assessment Report.
3. Draft EIA Framework and Data Collection Methodology.
4. Final EIA Framework and Data Collection Methodology.
5. Workshop reports.
6. Final Comprehensive Report with recommendations.

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| **Name of report** | **Content** | **Time of submission** |
| Inception report | The report should also include a detailed work plan, timeline and deliverables of the assignment. | To be submitted within 10 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 15 days of signing the contract |
| First draft of the final report | EIA guidelines for Marine and Freshwater | To be submitted after 30 days |
| Second draft of the final report | EIA guidelines for Marine and Freshwater | To be submitted after 45 days of signing the contract and upon conclusion of the consultative meeting with Stakeholders (AUC, RECs, Member States, etc.) and incorporation of their inputs.  |
| Final draft of the final report | EIA guidelines on marine and Freshwater and a 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 (June).
* 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 implementation of the Blue Economy strategy. 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.

***1) Expertise and Qualifications***

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

***Qualifications and skills:***

* Advanced degree in Environmental Science, Marine Biology, Environmental Management, or a related field;
* At least 8 years of experience in conducting Environmental Impact Assessments, preferably in the context of marine and coastal environments.

***Specific Professional Experience:***

* Proven experience in developing data collection methodologies and tools;
* Familiarity with the blue economy concept and its relevance to sustainable development;
* Strong analytical, report-writing, communication, and stakeholder 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.