**Terms of reference
and technical Specifications**

1. **General information**

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| Assignment name | **Development of the national Blue economy Strategies for SADC Member States – Eswatini, Malawi, and Zambia** |
| Beneficiary | **AU Commission** |
| Country | **Ethiopia** |
| Total estimated number of days | **3-months implementation period** |

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 his declaration of intent, a total of EUR 2.75 Million in funding 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 AU on issues within its area of expertise.

Based on a request from different departments from the AU Commission, the French Facility for Technical Assistance to the African Union facilitated the conduct of a number of studies, strategy and policy papers aimed at supporting the African Union Commission 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

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.

In view of the above, consultancy services are required to develop the national blue economy strategy of 3 land-linked SADC countries, and produce the final strategy document. The following countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are targeted:

***1. The Kingdom of Eswatini***

***2. Republic of Malawi***

***3. Republic of Zambia***

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

The main objective of the consultancy is to develop a National Strategy and implementation plan for the highlighted Member Stats on blue economy through a national consultative process, based on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and the SADC Strategy on Blue Economy.

***Major duties and responsibilities:***

The specific objectives will be:

a. To develop a draft national blue economy strategy and implementation plan for the Selected Member States and their implementation plans, based on the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, regional strategies, and relevant international frameworks;

b. To conduct review of existing instruments, institutions relevant to blue economy in the selected Member States;

c. To engage with local stakeholders and national institutions;

d. To develop specific frameworks for setting up national blue economy strategies and blue governance coordination mechanisms as well as a tool to supervise the level/extent of implementation;

e. Support and Facilitate stakeholder consultation in the region;

f. Facilitate regional stakeholder consultative sessions and discussions;

g. Facilitate the process of validation of the final draft.

* 1. **Outcome**

The consultant should provide the following:

1. A draft 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 to be submitted of the national blue economy strategy to be submitted after 60 working days.

4. The second draft to be submitted after 90 Working days incorporating all comments and suggestions made by stakeholders.

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

6. Participate and present the draft at a consultative meeting with stakeholders

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

The mission will deliver an inception report, an interim report including the draft of the study and a final version validated the Beneficiary and French-AU Technical Facility.

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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 10 working days |
| Needs Assessment | A baseline assessment and plan to address any information gaps through survey or other relevant data collection tools | To be submitted within 30 working days |
| First draft | National blue economy strategies | To be submitted after 60 working days |
| Second draft | National blue economy strategies | To be submitted after 90 working days |
| Final draft | Comprehensive report on the consultancy with lessons and best practices | No later than 5 months following the signature of the contract |

* 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. The reports must be written in English. The coordinator is responsible for approving the reports.

AUC (ARBE Department) will be involved in commenting on and approving the reports. In the absence of comments or approval by the partner country 15 working days, the reports are deemed to be approved.

* 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. The ability to communicate in both English and French (oral and written) will be an asset.

* 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 AU Facility, will be the service provider’s contact persons.

Name: **Kervin Kumapley**

Tel: +251 902 420 250

E-mail: kervin.kumapley@expertisefrance.fr

Ms. Barkha Mossae

Email: MossaeB@africa-union.org

1. **Place, duration and terms of performance**
	1. **Implementation period**: From the date the contract is awarded to latest 31/07/2023
	2. **Start date:** From the date the contract is awarded
	3. **Latest end date:** 31/07/2023

Mission location: The mission is home based.

The duration of the assignment is three (3) months, 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**

**Team leader: 90 days**

The Team Leader will provide advice and technical support to the French-AU Technical Facility stakeholders on the elaboration of the study. 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 Team Leader 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.

***Qualifications and skills:***

* At least a Master degree in Marine Biology, Environmental Studies, Statistics, Economics, Water sciences or related field;
* 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.

***General professional experience:***

* At least one African Union language; knowledge of additional African Union languages and/or local languages from Eswatini, Malawi and Zambia would be beneficial;
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

***Specific professional experience:***

* In-depth knowledge of and experience in development and strategy in an African country;
* Good record of working with relevant national, continental institutions and specialized regional intuitions on blue economy;
* Record of interaction with relevant blue economy institutions in AU Member States and/or Regional Economic Communities.