

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Consultancy for Preparation of AMCOW Strategic Programme on Groundwater for Water Security and Resilience in Africa.

Consultancy Location: Offsite

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1. Introduction

The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) is an intergovernmental institution formed in 2002 as a delivery mechanism on water and sanitation. AMCOW operates under the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) of the African Union (AU). The mission of AMCOW is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and sustainable management of water resources in Africa. This is to ensure equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, social and economic development, regional cooperation, and maintenance of ecosystems. AMCOW also provides political oversight on water resources and sanitation in Africa in line with the Africa Water Vision 2025 and water components of the African Union's Agenda 2063. For more information visit <https://amcow-online.org/>.

There is an interdependence between water availability and socio-economic development at the household or community level. Also, inadequate water resources and access can become a constraint to improved agricultural development and food security under dominant rain-fed production in Africa. In many countries, the provision of water supply, through surface water, is usually part of national development plans due to the fundamental role it plays for national growth and development. However, there is still much untapped potential of groundwater that can further enhance water supplies for growing populations, small-holder irrigated agriculture and other industrial productions. Despite this potential, groundwater only gets little attention in National Water Strategies and Development Plans, resulting in minor and fragmented investments in groundwater. In addition, many countries are struggling to implement sustainable groundwater management practices including protection from overexploitation and contamination. Therefore, there is need for adequate human and institutional capacity among MS to develop and manage groundwater for socio-economic development.

2. Background

In response to "The Libreville Multi-stakeholders' Declaration on Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa", The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) launched the African Groundwater Programme (APAGroP) in Kampala in February 2020. APAGroP provides a platform to share knowledge and support the AMCOW member states to improve water security and livelihoods through sustainable utilization of groundwater.

Through APAGroP, AMCOW has engaged groundwater networks and institutions who have already expressed their strong endorsement and offered their assistance. Among those networks and institutions are the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), British Geological Survey (BGS), International Water management institute (IWMI) and UNESCO-IHP. During this short-term operationalization of the APAGroP, several action groups were formed to address some challenges faced by Member States, including:

- Policy, governance and Institutional strengthening.
- Capacity building and Support Tool and Measures.
- Groundwater mapping and resources assessment.
- Knowledge management & information sharing.
- Unlocking Private and Public finance in the groundwater sector.

The focus of the APAGroP is therefore in line with the Africa Water Vision (AWV) 2025 to ensure an equitable and sustainable management of water resources in Africa. A key approach in achieving this vision is through strengthening human and institutional capacity for sustainable water resources management.

After about 2 years of engagement and collaboration with working group partners, there is need to re-define the direction of the AMCOW groundwater programme. The intent is that the next phase of the AMCOW groundwater programme should focus on delivering impact to the Members States in line with the strategic priorities of AMCOW. Against this backdrop, AMCOW seeks to engage the services of a consultant to articulate a Strategic Programme for Water Security and Resilience in Africa.

The proposed strategic programme is to be in line with AMCOW's strategy, under Strategic Priority 1 and Strategic Priority 3. These strategic priorities cover water security, good water governance and transboundary water cooperation. The proposed strategic programme should focus on these core areas including capacity development and knowledge/information sharing. It should be targeted at accelerating sustainable utilization of groundwater for socio-economic development of member states in line with the Africa Water Vision 2025 and Agenda 2063.

3. Objective of the Consultancy

The main objective of this consultancy is to formulate an AMCOW *Groundwater Strategic Programme for Water Security and Resilience in Africa*. The specific objectives include:

- the development of a framework for the different components of the strategic programme.
- The development of framework for the operationalizing of the strategic programme.

The overall intent is to develop a strategic action plan to improve policy, practice and capacity development in groundwater and transboundary water management in member states.

4. Specific Tasks

- 1) Desk review to identify gaps and capacity need of the MS with respect to groundwater development and management.
- 2) Sector mapping of partners and institutions to support the delivery of the proposed strategic programme on groundwater management.
- 3) Formulate a water resources management programme including groundwater and transboundary water systems.
- 4) Identify and develop a participatory consultative framework for the engagement of the Member States in the delivery process of the programme.

- 5) Formulate an implementation plan and funding strategy to ensure successful roll-out and delivery of the programme.

5. Approach, Scope and Methodology

The consultancy will consist of development and preparation of a *Groundwater Strategic Programme for Water Security and Resilience in Africa*, focusing on groundwater and transboundary waters.

The scope of the work should cover specific thematic aspects of IWRM including groundwater and transboundary water issues vis-à-vis water security and resilience in Africa. In addition, the assignment should clearly address the following components:

- 1) Sustainable development and management of groundwater and transboundary aquifers, especially for shared lake/river basin organisations (L/RBOs), within the framework of integrated water resource management (IWRM).
- 2) Hydrogeological data needs, aquifer mapping, water levels and water quality monitoring assessments within the framework of integrated water resource management (IWRM).
- 3) Impacts of climate change on groundwater and climate resilient innovation and adaptation in sustainable groundwater and transboundary water management.
- 4) Human and institutional capacity development at the national and regional levels in respect of capacity building for institutions and development of knowledge platform.
- 5) Application of innovative technology (space and remote sensing) in mapping of aquifers, sustainable use and management of groundwater including transboundary aquifers.

As part of the tasks above, the consultant will pay due cognizance of:

- Possible key constraints that can militate against successful implementation of recommended strategies and programs.
- Capacity gaps of various stakeholders, including institutional capacity, to support the implementation of the strategies and how to address the needs.
- Identification of best practices suitable for the strategies and programs in order to attract funding to the Member States.

6. Key Deliverables:

S/No.	Specific Tasks	Deliverable/Outcome	Duration
1	Conduct desk study review to identify gaps and capacity needs of the MS to inform the formulation and implementation plan of the programme.	Inception / Preliminary report: outlining, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the review and gap analysis in capacity and data/information needs on groundwater and transboundary water management • Proposed approach to develop AMCOW strategic programme on Groundwater 	15 days
2	Sector mapping of partners and institutions to support the delivery of the proposed strategic programme on water resources management of AMCOW.		

3	Formulate a water resources management programme including groundwater and transboundary water systems.	Draft Report: outlining, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic programme on groundwater and transboundary water management programme components • Strategic action plans including participatory engagement plan • Funding and implementation plan. 	21 days
4	Identify and develop a participatory consultative framework for the engagement of the Member States in the delivery process of the programme.		
5	Formulate implementation plan and funding strategy to ensure successful roll-out and delivery of the programme through short, medium and long-term action or work plan.		
6	Finally, work with AMCOW to organize a consultative stakeholder's engagement with relevant stakeholders and development partners.	Final Report (outlining, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the complete reports of the consultancy service including executive summary and annexes. • standard checklist for implementation and roll-out plan 	15 days

NB: All deliverables are to be presented in English in digital and hard copy formats.

6.1 Major Resources to consult

As part of the preparation, the consultant is expected to acquaint him/herself with, but not limited to the following documents:

- The African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme 2016 – 2025;
- Africa Water Vision 2025
- AMCOW's EXCO/GA Decisions and Declarations (2008-2021)
- AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030 and Strategic Operational Plan 2020-2024
- AMCOW Book of Concept Notes, 2018
- Status Report on the Implementation of IWRM in Africa, 2018
- Status Report on the Implementation of IWRM in Africa, 2021

7. Requirement of the Firms/Consultant(s)

- 1) Experience in conducting policy analysis and development of strategic programmes and action plans related to integrated water resource management plan including groundwater and transboundary aquifers.
- 2) Familiarity with development of Theory of Change and programmatic approaches
- 3) Excellent analytical, communication and report writing skills in English. The ability to communicate in both English and French will be advantageous.

- 4) Track record of delivering on self-managed work on time and familiarity with virtual tools of engagement with partners.
- 5) The consultant or firm should have resource persons with a minimum of MSc. Degree in Hydrogeology/ Groundwater Hydrology, Water Resources Management, and any other Water Resources related disciplines.
- 6) Consultant requiring additional information or clarification, should contact: mtijani@amcow-online.org

8. Consultancy Period

The consultancy is expected to be completed over a period of 2 months beginning from the **1st July 2022**.

9. To apply

- Interested parties, individual consultants or firms are invited to submit technical and financial proposals.
- Against the background of the foregoing, the technical proposals should offer details on the respondents'
 - 1) Brief technical proposal (no longer than ten pages) demonstrating the consultant's understanding of the assignment, approach, methodology
 - 2) academic and professional qualifications (of key staff);
 - 3) relevant experience over the last ten years; and
 - 4) Evidence of similar work experience (i.e., similar work completed, if any)
 - 5) availability to commence immediately after finalization of the contract.

The Selection will be based on Consultant Qualifications:

Only the respondents with combined technical and financial proposals that score 75% or more shall be invited for negotiation meeting;

10. Submission of the Proposals

Proposals should be addressed to the Executive Secretary at the address below not later than 24th June 2022 and send via email to: info@amcow-online.org:

The Executive Secretary
African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
No 11, T.Y Danjuma Street, Asokoro
Abuja

Attention : Bala Taham

info@amcow-online.org