

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST FRANCOPHONE AT REGIONAL FACILITATION UNIT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES.

A. Background

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is home to the largest share of the global poor of any region and demonstrates the widest poverty gap. On average, more of the poor in Africa live below the \$1.90 per day threshold for extreme poverty compared to other regions. Of the 767 million people living below the extreme poverty line, 389 million (51 percent) are in SSA. Three of the predominant attributes of the profile of the poor are that they are poorly educated, young, and employed in the agricultural sector. The common drivers of inequality which need to be addressed to reduce the poverty gap are: gaps in human capital accumulation; varying access to jobs and income generating opportunities; and government interventions to address market-based inequalities.

SSA experienced remarkable average annual real GDP growth rate of 5.3 percent between 2003 and 2013, driven largely by a commodity price boom. This growth, however, did not translate into significant poverty reduction, in part due to high population growth, limited creation of jobs and unequal distribution of the benefits of such economic growth. In 2017, economic growth in SSA picked up again increasing from 1.5 percent in 2016 to 2.6 percent, although this remains the lowest level of economic growth observed in the sub-region in more than two decades. While SSA has tremendous potential for growth, contemporary trends and a modest outlook moving forward in part reflect insufficient progress on structural reforms.

To achieve strong economic growth and reduce poverty, increased productivity across the various priority sectors, economic diversification, and implementation of structural reforms are needed. Human capital development is essential for increasing productivity and economic diversification. Currently, SSA economies are highly dependent on unskilled labor and natural resources, preventing the region from moving up the value chain and becoming more specialized in knowledge-intensive, high value-added activities. In addition, of importance is the low institutional capacity in the region to train enough skilled professionals with the required technical and critical thinking skills to incorporate new knowledge and technologies into products and services. For development projects, this results in a reliance on expatriate international consultants for the design and implementation of projects.

A range of priority economic sectors face shortages in high-level (postgraduate level) skills and applied research to increase productivity. While this list is not comprehensive, some of these priority sectors key to the region's development include: energy (generation, transmission, and mini-grids for solar energy); extractives (mining, oil, gas); sustainable urban planning and transport; sustainable agriculture; health; environment (coastal resilience, climate change, and assessments related to infrastructure and mining); education (teacher training in science and math); and information and communication technology (ICT) (both in the ICT sector and cross-cutting into other sectors). Other important areas where high-level skills are needed are those fields focusing on more policy-relevant research on African development challenges that can inform policymakers and public debate, for example in statistics and quantitative economics.

Human resource capacity in SSA remains particularly low in the science and technology fields. A survey of executives shows that for the indicator “Availability of scientists and engineers” Nigeria and Mauritania rank globally 79th and 137th, respectively, out of 137 countries. The share of researchers engaged in engineering and technology-related research in 2010 for Senegal and Ghana were 2 and 13 percent, respectively, compared to 62 percent (2013) in Singapore. In 2014, the number of researchers per million inhabitants in South Korea in 2014 was 6,899 and only 88 in SSA. Although home to 14 percent of the world’s population, SSA’s share of the global expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) in 2014 was only 0.8 percent and had remained flat for the prior 5 years.

Improved productivity will come from equipping the workforce with the scientific and technological (S&T) skills required for today’s jobs and in-demand competencies necessary to develop, adapt and apply solutions to the specific sectoral challenges in Africa (supporting industries in producing higher value-added products and services). If African higher education institutions were transformed to deliver international-quality training and applied research, become more dynamic and be internationally connected, this training and research could take place in Africa. Thus, African talent would stay in the region and increase institutional capacity to adapt more technology, deliver innovative services and support evidence-based policy making.

B. Project Description

The proposed project consists of three components: Component 1: Establishing new Africa Centers of Excellence and scaling-up well-performing existing ACEs (from ACE I) for development impact; **Component 2:** Fostering Regional Partnerships and Scholarships; and **Component 3:** Enhancing Regional Policymaking as well as Project Facilitation and Monitoring.

Component 1 will aim to strengthen capacity in the ACEs and their host institutions (supply-side), while Component 2 will aim to strengthen non-ACE institutions in the region and allow students to benefit from the capacity in the ACEs (demand-side).

C. Implementation and Management of Overall Project

The proposed project would be implemented in 11 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, Togo).

The proposed project will finance construction of facilities, renovation and upgrading of existing facilities, equipping of science laboratories and equipping of computer laboratories, all on existing sites within selected universities. The activities are not expected to have significant potential environmental and social impacts, when these investments materialize. Part of the project activities will be to introduce environmental and social assessment and management systems, which comply with good practice and would result in a range of safeguards instruments.

The Project has triggered World Bank’s environmental and social policies, specifically OP 4.01 on environmental assessment, and OP 4.11 on Physical cultural resources and particularly on the chance finds. These terms of reference represent the environmental/social due diligence instrument

to be submitted before appraisal of the Project, and will thus be subject to public disclosure, review and comments.

Regarding the chance finds - OP 4.11, contracts for civil works involving excavations which should incorporate procedures for dealing with situations in which buried physical cultural resources (PCR) are unexpectedly encountered. As a precautionary measure, the chance finds procedures guidance note will be included as an annex to the ESMFs.

D. Objectives of consultancy assignment

The main objective the consultancy is to support and strengthen Safeguards due diligence of the Regional Facilitating Unit in ensuring compliance with World Banks Safeguards Policies and relevant National Environmental and social laws of participating **francophone countries of the ACE Impact Project**.

The consultant shall provide clear, comprehensive and practical guidance to the ACE country focal points (government representatives responsible for coordinating at the national level) and universities on integrating an environmental / social due diligence process from the prepared ESMF and site specific ESMPs during the specific ACE project implementation..

E. Scope of work for this consultancy assignment

The Environmental Safeguards Consultant shall be a consultant hired by the RFU to provide sufficient support and guidance to the safeguards focal points in the selection, preparation and implementation of activities to avoid or minimize environmental and social risks and negative impacts, and enhance the environmental and social performance through the use of the appropriate safeguards instrument – site specific ESMPs for each ACE project. Furthermore, he/she will coordinate the implementation of World Bank safeguards policies and environmental and social policies, laws and regulations of participating countries and ensure technical consistency of the safeguards implementation in all ACEs in the project.

The specific responsibilities are:

1. He / She shall be the main contact person with overall responsibility for action and reporting on Safeguards activities for the ACEs and liaise with the World Bank safeguards team;
2. He / She will ensure timely and appropriate liaison between RFU, participating country PIUs, ACE focal points and contractors where necessary;
3. Ensure distribution of all relevant project documents and documents related to safeguards and safeguards compliance in **French** to the respective ACEs focal points and other relevant stakeholders in the participating countries and ensure their application;
4. Review Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) reports from consultants/ACEs in collaboration with the participating country environmental and social policies, laws and regulations;
5. Ensure that all safeguards reports ESMPs are reviewed and cleared by appropriate institutions in participating countries and the World Bank;
6. Facilitate the disclosure of ESMPs in participating countries;

7. Support the implementation of the Safeguards requirement as contained in the prepared site specific ESMPs;
8. Be responsible for facilitating training of ACE focal points on World Bank E&S policies as they relate to the project;
9. Ensure that E&S safeguard issues are incorporated into standard bidding documents and specification documents for major sub-project types as necessary and that ACE focal points and contractors are using these documents appropriately;
10. Work out coordination arrangements with ACE focal points for monitoring of the contractors and works as related to E&S compliance;
11. Compile and prepare consolidated bi-annual E&S impacts monitoring reports covering all ACE project activities in the participating institutions and countries for inclusion in quarterly progress report;
12. Monitor compliance with ESMF and ESMP requirements by taking periodic audits of all sub-project files to ensure that all ESMF and ESMP required documentation is available and up-to-date;
13. Put in place arrangements for monitoring the social impacts of the project on local residents and lead discussions between the contractors and SPIUs on project related issues as and when they emerge;
14. Undertaking field visits to ascertain if the grievance redress mechanisms established for the project are functioning appropriately and the individual projects are implemented in an environmentally and social sustainable manner;
15. Collation of appropriate performance and monitoring indicators to input into the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework of the project;
16. Quarterly/Annual E&S Monitoring and Evaluation reports;
17. Monitor the progress in the implementation of E&S management plans;
18. Conduct ACE project inspections, monitor and give technical advice to RFU, ACEs and focal points and;
19. Perform any other E&S safeguards duty assigned by the RFU coordinator.
20. Support the project to ensure environmental due diligence in project implementation
21. Support the FPMU in providing technical support to the participating states in the area environmental safeguards.
22. Review and provide comments where necessary on all relevant safeguards documents and reports.
23. Review and provide comments where necessary on ESMPs prepared for ACE projects.
24. Review and provide comments on all ESMPs arising from detailed engineering.;
25. Support the project in the establishment of grievances and redress mechanism in all the participating states and FPMU.
26. Participate in meetings and workshops relating to Environmental safeguards for participating ACEs;
27. Recommend appropriate trainings for ACE focal points.

This scope of this assignment will entail provision of sufficient support and guidance is provided to safeguards focal points in the selection, preparation and implementation of activities to avoid or minimize environmental and social risks and negative impacts, and enhance the environmental and social performance. This will be accomplished through the development and application of proper selection criteria for specific activities, planning that considers environmental and social criteria, sound implementation and monitoring, and disclosure, consultation and feedback.

1. Disclose the draft ESMF to all interested stakeholder through appropriate channels and invite their feedback and suggestions on the scope and adequacy of the proposed assessments, mitigation and benefit enhancement measures.
2. Describe how social conflicts would be resolved through the establishment of a Grievance Redress System.

F. Duration of Assignment and remuneration

The assignment will be for a period of twenty-four (24) months and renewable annually subject to performance.

G. Payments

Payments to the Environmental and Safeguards Specialist Francophone will be made based on agreed daily fees for the number of days carried out in a month and subject to completion of core reporting responsibilities as laid out in the Assignment Work plan.

H. Qualifications of Consultant

A suitably qualified and experienced individual consultant with at least masters' degree in Environment or Natural Resources Management or Social Sciences or related disciplines, with at least ten (10) years' working experience in environmental and social assessment for development projects, and familiarity World Bank's safeguard policies and procedures. **He/she must be fluent in English and French and ability to write and present in these languages.** Possession of relevant professional qualifications in Environmental issues and evidence of similar jobs undertaken will be an added advantage

I. Reporting and Coordination

The consultant will work under and report to the RFU Coordinator and in close collaboration with the safeguards focal point ACE centers and participating countries.

J. Services, Facilities and Materials to be provided by the Client

The Client will provide the following services to the Consultant(s):

1. All relevant documents including the draft Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and other relevant report to the projects;
2. All available and relevant background documentation and studies;
3. Unrestricted access to project areas and sites;
4. Making all necessary arrangements for supporting the work of the Consultant(s), by e.g. facilitating access to government authorities and other Project stakeholders.
5. Disclosure of draft documents, sending out of invitations, organization of venues for public hearings, and being present as necessary at all public hearings.