



Call for expressions of interest for consulting firms

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Brief Project title, Country	Water Resources Quality Joint Basin Survey 2 - Transboundary Water Management in SADC
Country of assignment	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
Period of assignment	Mid June – mid July 2015
Project description	<p>The Orange-Senqu River originates in the Lesotho Highlands, from where it flows westwards to its mouth at Alexander Bay/Oranjemund on the Atlantic West Coast. The river basin is the third largest in southern Africa, after the Zambezi and the Congo, covering a total area of 1 million square kilometres. Four countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa share the basin. The Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM), established in 2000, was one of the first of the joint basin commissions to be established under the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses.</p> <p>The Orange-Senqu River Water Resources Quality 1st Joint Basin Survey (JBS1) was undertaken by the Commission in 2010, to establish and set the baseline conditions against which ORASECOM could measure progress with regard to water resources quality throughout the basin. In line with ORASECOM's Decision to implement these 5-yearly Water Resources Quality Joint Basin Surveys (JBSs), the second in the series (JBS2) is planned for 2015.</p> <p>The findings of the second Water Resources Quality Joint Basin Survey (JBS2) will be benchmarked against the findings of the JBS1, as well as available data from the intervening period, and will enable the Commission to a) establish the current status of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu River Basin, b) note changes in water resource quality since 2010, and c) thereby contribute to</p>

advice to the Parties regarding measures needed to maintain or improve the status of the water resources quality.

The Joint Basin Surveys (JBSs) are also intended to provide a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences among water resources quality specialists from the four State Parties, hence advancing the aim of establishing common approaches to monitoring water resources quality and transparency in transboundary water cooperation as a whole.

The goal of JBS2 will be to contribute towards the achievement of the Commission's mandate of providing technical advice to the Parties on matters relating to the development, utilisation and conservation of the water resources in the River System as well as establishing standardised forms of collecting, processing and disseminating data. The development objective of JBS2 will be to determine the current state of the quality of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu River System based on the baseline resource quality identified and set in 2010 during the JBS1.

ORASECOM is therefore seeking consultancy services to undertake the following inter-related tasks as part of the JBS2:

- i) **Aquatic Ecosystem Health (AEH) assessment** of the Orange-Senqu River Basin at (a) sites determined during the JBS1 Survey as a minimum, and (b) additional sites that may be identified and which would provide an improved assessment of the state of the Basin. The successful tenderer will use the protocols established for JBS1.
- ii) **Chemical and microbial water quality assessment**, including a detailed sampling programme using and reviewing the 2010 water quality manual, identifying and incorporating relevant water quality and microbial data/surveys conducted after 2010;
- iii) **Benchmarking of capacities of selected laboratories**, including identifying and approaching laboratories selected for benchmarking purposes, with a view to an inter-laboratory calibration exercise.

The interested PSPs should be aware that time for doing field work has been planned for only four (4) weeks, and as such they should be aware of this when proposing field teams, etc in their tenders and/or EOIs.

The successful tenderer will be expected to produce the following reports;

An inception report outlining the overall approach to the survey, for discussion with ORASECOM;

A review of the sampling manual produced in 2010, with a view to developing a detailed sampling programme for JBS 2;

A final report outlining the results of the survey including an analysis of the data, and the inclusion of the data on the

	<p>ORASECOM database.</p> <p>Knowledge transfer is extremely important in terms of providing ORASECOM and specialists in each of the Parties with sufficient knowledge to assume a greater responsibility for future surveys.</p> <p>In line with most Initiatives, the JBS2 also has potential risks associated with it, for instance, <i>ensuring sustainability</i> of JBSs in the medium to long term, and <i>unforeseen weather variability</i>. The field survey is planned to be undertaken during June and July 2015. Unforeseen weather variability such as late floods may impact on the execution of the field sampling/surveys. Nevertheless measures such as close monitoring of weather forecasts (long- and short-term) will be used to mitigate such risks, as well as availability of the consulting team throughout this period, in order to conduct the field work at short notice.</p> <p>Data analysis, reporting and delivery of final deliverables are to be completed by end of August 2015.</p> <p>Proper design, buy-in and participation by State Parties and stakeholders must be ensured to address the issue of sustainability of JBSs including JBS2.</p>
<p>Personnel: specifications of inputs and necessary qualifications</p>	<p>The consulting team will include a <i>Project Manager</i> with experience in managing large, multi-disciplinary projects, financial management, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation; a <i>Technical Manager</i> with expertise in ecological monitoring and evaluation, and client liaison;</p> <p>The contractor will need to include professionals covering the following disciplines as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macroinvertebrate specialists • Fish specialists • Riparian vegetation specialists • Water quality specialist <p>The required qualifications of the contractor include:</p> <p>Sector and regional competences: The implementing agent undertaking this assignment shall have a proven track record in following sectors:</p> <p>i) Working in transboundary river basins, particularly the Orange-Senqu Basin, ii) Working with the relevant Ecosatus models, iii) Accreditation of relevant methods is essential, iv) Experience in managing large multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>International experiences: The implementing agent shall have proven track record in</p>

	<p>conducting similar projects in the context of international development and/or multilateral cooperation.</p> <p>General backstopping capacities: The implementing agent shall have the capacity to fully backstop the above subject-matter and sector areas. The implementing agent shall also have management and backstopping capacity of cross-cutting issues, in particular the administrative and financial management of (large) projects.</p> <p>Inclusion of specialists from several of the ORASECOM State Parties in the team would be an advantage.</p>
<p>If you are interested in tendering for this work, please complete the Expression of Interest reply form document and return it to Ms Bonolo Modiba (email details indicated above) by no later than 31 January 2015. Submission of the Expression of Interest will indicate to ORASECOM that the proposed team is available throughout the project period and is able to apply relevant monitoring protocols, include accredited practitioners and have the necessary equipment to undertake the survey.</p> <p>The evaluation of the Expressions of Interest received is expected to be completed by 16 February 2015. You will receive notification regarding the status of your submission.</p>	