



Norad



Supporting Africa's Blue Economy

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY SEVEN VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG14 #OCEANACTION16374

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT OF DEEP-SEABED EXPLORATION/EXPLOITATION FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (the Convention) and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the 1994 Agreement). The ISA is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the Convention, organize and control activities in the Area¹, particularly with a view to administering the resources of the Area.
2. The ISA is seeking a Consultant² with requisite experience in economics, environmental economics and/or related fields to undertake a study in line with the Terms of Reference of work in the Annex to the present call and invites proposals to be submitted via email to eosg@isa.org.jm no later than **1 April 2021**.
3. Proposals should not exceed 1,500 words and should thoroughly and sufficiently demonstrate the competence and expertise of the applicant to meet the requirements contained in the Annex. Proposals should equally reflect a clear methodology on the deliverables for the study as well as proposed costs. All proposals will be reviewed by a committee and the outcome will be communicated to applicants using the contact details provided.

¹ "Area" means the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

² Under ISBA/ST/AI/2003/01, ISA can recruit both companies (Institutional consultant) or individuals (Independent consultant).

Annex

Terms of Reference

for a consultancy to undertake a study on the principal potential benefits of development of deep-seabed exploration/exploitation for the African continent

Background

4. At the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, ISA in cooperation with the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC) of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (since transferred to the African Union) registered a joint Voluntary Commitment to foster international and regional cooperation in support of the sustainable development of Africa's Blue Economy ([#OceanAction16374](#)). This commitment has led to the development of the Africa's Deep Seabed Resources (ADSR) Project which is implemented in partnership with the African Union and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

5. The ADSR Project is implemented pursuant to the Strategic Directions contained in the ISA's Strategic Plan³ and has been designed to contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and to the sustainable development priorities of African countries as reflected in "Agenda 2063: The Africa we want."

6. The overall goal of the ADSR project is to provide the enabling conditions for African countries to fully benefit from the Blue Economy through sustainable development of their deep-seabed resources. The expected outcomes of the ADSR Project are:

- (a) Increased awareness of potential benefits for the African States to participate in activities undertaken in the Area;
- (b) Promotion of Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the preparation of an application for a plan of work for exploration in the Area by African nationals;
- (c) Complete understanding by African countries on the existing legal, strategic and policy frameworks for the sustainable management of deep seabed resources;
- (d) Strengthened technical capacity of national experts in relation to activities undertaken in the Area; and
- (e) Facilitate the development of appropriate institutions that would enable Africa to actively participate in this vital regime of the sea, particularly the operationalization of the AMDC and promotion of the African Mining Vision (AMV).

Objective

7. The objective of the current assignment is to contribute towards improved understanding of the potential benefits for the African region from the development of activities related to sustainable deep-seabed exploration/exploitation.

Scope of Work

8. The consultant shall produce an assessment report on the potential benefits for the African continent from development of activities related to sustainable deep-seabed exploration/exploitation. The assessment shall include but not be limited to the following matters:

³ See ISBA/24/A/10.

- (a) Baseline assessment: Current status of Blue Economy development in the African region and the positioning of national and international seabed mining within Africa's Blue Economy strategy⁴. This will include assessment of regulatory, institutional, socio-economic, political, land-based and marine industry, environmental management, scientific and technical capacities relevant for potential participation of African countries in seabed mining related activities in the Area. The scope of baseline assessment regional with selected national level case studies where relevant.
- (b) Analysis of potential benefits: Building on the comparative analysis of the financial aspects of seabed mining and land-based mining commissioned by the ISA Secretariat in 2020⁵, the consultant shall undertake an environmental, social and economic cost-benefit analysis of the participation of African countries in seabed exploration and exploitation activities. Monetary and non-monetary benefits for the African region from sustainable development of seabed mineral resources in the Area such as, but not limited to, capacity development, scientific research advancement, access to data, knowledge resource development, transfer of technology, environmental management capacity, regional and geopolitical strengthening, etc. to be considered in the assessment. Role of deep-seabed resource exploration/exploitation in the achievement of Africa's Agenda 2063, Africa's Blue Economy goals, 2030 Agenda etc. should be analysed. The scope of assessment is regional with selected national level case studies where relevant.
- (c) Gap analysis and outlook: Challenges and gaps identified during the assessment should be documented and analysed for recommendation of further works.
9. The report shall be informed by both secondary and primary research through relevant stakeholder consultations. At the onset of the assignment, a stakeholder mapping and consultation plan should be prepared by the consultant. An indicative list of stakeholders includes relevant representation from the different regions of Africa (East, West, Central, North and South), Land Locked Countries (LLCs), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the African Union, major land-based mining states, land-based and marine industries, regional organizations, domestic/local civil society organizations based in Africa and scientific and technical expertise from the academia. The report shall also be informed through stakeholder consultations with African member States active in the ISA especially in the Council, the Legal and Technical Commission and the Financial Committee. The assessment shall also refer to where relevant, workshop proceedings under the ADSR project in South Africa (2019) and Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (2018) etc.

Deliverables and Timeline

10. The consultant will be required to produce a report covering the above matters. The report should not exceed 10,000 words in length (approx.) and should include an executive summary and references, although supporting material may be provided in annexes.

⁴ Including but not limited to "U-IBAR, 2019. Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Nairobi, Kenya"

⁵ See https://isa.org.jm/files/files/documents/4thMeet-DocList_0.pdf.

11. The work will be undertaken based on the following anticipated timelines:

	Deliverable	Timeline (Day)
D1	Submission of preliminary report structure/extended outline by consultant	7
D2	Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by ISA Secretariat	12
D3	Submission of first draft by consultant	40
D4	Submission and approval of the revised draft, after incorporating comments provided by ISA Secretariat	55

Qualifications

12. The selected consultant(s) should have the following qualifications:

- a) Masters in economics/environmental economics/resources economics or a related field is required
- b) Demonstrated experience in developing and implementing economic/resources assessments based on cost-benefit analysis principles
- c) Strong experience and publications in the field of economic assessments of industrial projects is desirable
- d) Knowledge and experience of working in the African region on sustainable development projects, industry or related sectors is desirable
- e) Knowledge of seabed mineral resources, international law of the sea, management of seabed mineral resources in the international seabed area and/or land-based mining, functions and mandate of ISA is desirable.

Modalities of work

13. The Consultant will report and receive guidance from the Senior Policy Officer who, after close consultation and cooperation with the relevant offices within the Secretariat will review and approve the deliverables/outputs.

14. All deliverables should be submitted in English.

15. The work shall be performed at the Consultant's home base; the Consultant will be required to meet remotely with ISA Secretariat staff on issues related to the deliverables. Where travel is deemed necessary, a round trip airline ticket (economy) as per prevailing ISA policies on official travel and DSA at the prevailing ICSC rates established on the travel days would be provided to the Consultant.

16. The Secretariat will make reasonable and practical efforts to facilitate the production of timely, accurate and useful outcomes by promptly responding to the Consultant's queries and providing the necessary reference material as identified by the consultant where feasible.

Application

17. Applications should be submitted no later than **1 April 2021** by sending CV and cover letter to eosg@isa.org.jm.