



**REGIONAL ELECTRICITY ACCESS AND
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT
(BEST) - P167569
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)**

**RECRUITMENT OF A JUNIOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS
SPECIALIST
NG-ECOWAS-DEM-416842-CS-INDV**

Closing Date: 10th May 2024 at 5:00 pm GMT

Contract: Lump sum

Position: Junior Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist

E-mail for submission: ecowas-reap@ecowas.int; and copy to lkouassi@ecowas.int,
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1. BACKGROUND

ECOWAS has conducted a development policy for the production and transmission of electricity to establish a regional electricity market in its area. In addition to this policy, ECOWAS is now committed to promoting massive access to electricity for its populations. Thus, ECOWAS initiated, with the support of the World Bank, the Regional Electricity Access Project, ECOWAS-REAP, designed with a regional approach. The project is being implemented in several phases to gradually cover 11 countries, including 9 from ECOWAS.

Phase 1 of the project, REAP1, covers The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mali and is being implemented over the period 2019-2023, or even 2024. The objective is to enable 2.04 million people to benefit from the electricity service. The financing is 225 million USD. The components of this phase 1 are (i) the construction of the electricity distribution networks, (ii) the assistance of a consulting engineer for the supervision of the works and (iii) the coordination of the execution by units of implementation of the project (UMOP) in the countries and a regional coordination unit (RCU) at the ECOWAS Directorate of Energy and Mines. Then, phase 2 of the project began with an additional component of installing batteries for energy storage, which led to this phase 2 being designated as BEST for Regional Electricity Access and Technology Project battery energy storage.

The BEST covers Mauritania, Niger and Senegal for electrification and Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger for batteries. The financing is 465 million USD (316 for electrification and 149 for batteries). The components of this BEST project are (i) the construction of electricity distribution networks, (ii) the installation of energy storage batteries, (iii) the assistance of consulting engineers for the supervision of works electrification and installation of batteries and (iv) coordination of the implementation by project implementation units (UMOP)

in the countries and a regional coordination unit (RCU) at the Directorate of Energy and Mines of ECOWAS which remains the RCU of REAP1.

The Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) is made up of a Coordinator, a Senior Assistant, an Accountant and many other Experts based both in Abuja and, on a part-time basis, located outside Nigeria.

Environmental and social safeguards aspects of the project are coordinated by RCU staff:

- a Senior Environmental Safeguards Specialist, part time basis and not based in Abuja, but lead responsible for close monitoring of all environmental activities throughout the implementation of the project;
- a Senior Social Safeguards Specialist, part time basis and not based in Abuja, but lead responsible for close monitoring of all social activities throughout the implementation of the project;
- a Junior Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist, full time duty in Abuja, who will assist for overall monitoring of environmental and social activities of the project, ensuring regional coordination in connection with the Senior Specialists above and providing support to RCU Coordinator.

In line with the above, ECOWAS Commission plans to recruit a **Junior Environmental and Social Specialist for the RCU**. This Specialist will report to the RCU Coordinator.

2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The Junior Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist will work in collaboration with (i) the Senior Environmental and Social Specialists who will provide technical inputs when requested, and (ii) the environmental and social specialists and relevant experts in the PIUs. In the RCU Team, he will generally be responsible for recording and coordinating the environmental and social activities of the project, including monitoring the implementation of the ESMP and RAP, and preparing reports on all environmental and social activities with the inputs from the Senior Environmental and Social specialists. With the orientations of the senior experts, he/she will ensure the compliance of project preparation and implementation activities with environmental and social standards of the World Bank, the countries and ECOWAS. He/she will undertake activities which include but are not limited to the following:

- (i) Oversight of overall environmental and social safeguards in project preparation and implementation under the general management of the RCU Coordinator and guidance of senior experts;
- (ii) Provision of necessary coordination and relevant inputs in preparation of environmental and social studies for the project under preparation and implementation;
- (iii) Support to RCU Coordinator in project management;
- (iv) Assistance in recruitment of environmental and social consultants, including drafting ToR, estimating budget, evaluating consultants, negotiating and preparing contracts;
- (v) Ensuring that bidding documents and contracts include necessary environmental and social provisions;
- (vi) Participation to the review of environmental assessment and social report and report on specific environmental and social issues related to the project to the financing institutions;
- (vii) Preparation of outlines of environmental issues or risks to be addressed in the contracts or the financing documents as appropriate;
- (viii) Regular meetings with the countries' PIUs to record the E&S performance of the projects;
- (ix) Coordinating the Preparation of countries required environmental and social monitoring reports, including reports on ESMP and RAP implementation status;

- (x) Preparation of the RCU E&S monitoring reports;
- (xi) Analysis of project implementation reports to ensure that all work is completed in full compliance with environmental and social policies;
- (xii) Monitoring of grievance process and assessment of comments and complaints from PAPs on issues of resettlement and other relevant environmental and social issues, and recommendation of actions to address properly identified issues;
- (xiii) Coordinating the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan, key Occupational Health and Safety aspects and the Resettlement Action Plan, highlighting gender and vulnerable people support measures;
- (xiv) Participation to the supervision missions and undertake additional E&S missions if necessary;
- (xv) Other activities, as instructed by the RCU Coordinator.

The Junior Environmental and Social Specialist is expected to be prospective and proactive and also have a good response to all commands from the situation overseen or from RCU Coordinator and ECOWAS Directorate of Energy and Mines.

3. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications and skills

- i. Must hold a minimum Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Environmental Science, Social Science or Environmental Engineering;
- ii. Good command of information technology and communication tools;
- iii. Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team;
- iv. Experienced computer user, including excellent knowledge of MS-Office suite;
- v. Excellent written, presentation and reporting skills.

General work experience

- i. At least 5 years of working experience in environmental and social activities preferably in Environmental and Social Impact Evaluation for infrastructure projects.

Specific work experience

- i. Have been involved in at least in two (2) Environmental and Social Impact Evaluation studies on power project specifically in grid extension or reinforcement projects or electrification projects HV/LV or Power generation in the last five (5) years;
- ii. Experience and understanding methodology of environmental and social rules and regulations of the World Bank or any donor funding project;
- iii. Familiarity with country-specific laws and regulations
- iv. Have knowledge and experience in Gender/GBV-SEAH
- v. Experience in power projects of the ECOWAS region will be an advantage.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Candidates must speak and write fluent French and English; and have excellent written, presentation and reporting skill; knowledge of Portuguese will be a plus.

5. CONTRACT

Full Time contract (Lump sum) applies for this position. This position is subjected to the competitive remuneration.

6. DUTY STATION

Abuja Nigeria in ECOWAS Offices.

7. DURATION

One (01) year period extensible based on satisfactory performance, including a probation period of three (03) months.

8. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- a. The application document should be composed of: **Update CV, cover letter and supporting documents all scanned in one single pdf attached file.**
- b. Further information can be obtained only by email at the following address: ecowas-reap@ecowas.int with copy to kouassi@ecowas.int et banwone@ecowas.int,

These addresses are for request of further information. The submission of application shall be made through the email address provided for the REOI in the following paragraph "8.c".

- c. Expressions of interest must be delivered latest by **10th May 2024 at 5:00 pm GMT** at to the address: ecowas-reap@ecowas.int with copy to kouassi@ecowas.int, banwone@ecowas.int, akoumoin@ecowas.int . Any other delivery will not be considered.