



ECOWAS
CEDEAO



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recruitment of a consultant to support the revision process of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAEP)

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The development of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAEP) was carried out within the framework of the implementation of the regional integrated water resources management (IWRM) process which has involved all States and Basin Organizations in the region since the Regional Conference on IWRM held in Ouagadougou. in March 1998.

The ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government was adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 19 December 2008 in Abuja.

The WARP is a common policy, resulting from an unprecedented participatory and collaborative approach between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS in the development of a single sectoral policy at the regional level.

The Supplementary Act adopting the WAREP expressly mentions, alongside ECOWAS, WAEMU and CILSS as co-responsible for the implementation of the WAREP.

The overall objective of the PREAO is "to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development by orienting the Community and its Member States towards a management of water resources reconciling economic development, social equity and environmental preservation".

The PREAO is structured around three (03) strategic axes, namely:

- Reforming water governance;
- Promote investments in the water sector;
- Promote regional cooperation and integration in the water sector.

The PREAO is implemented through:

- An institutional mechanism that is based on ECOWAS-UEMOA-CILSS coordination. ECOWAS in the lead role;
- The mobilization of financial resources, public and private, according to appropriate mechanisms;
- A monitoring and evaluation mechanism to be set up in consultation with ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS.

To guide and frame the concrete achievement of the intentions contained in the PREAO, an implementation action plan (PAMO-PREAO) 2013-2020 has been developed. In particular, it was accompanied by a 2013-2016 operational plan which was based on 14 programmes.

Among the main results recorded in the implementation of the WAPRE, we can note in particular:

- The implementation of a dissemination programme at the level of the Member States and to the networks of civil society organizations in the different river basins of the region: national popularization workshops were organized in 14 Member States, 4

basin workshops were organized and reached the networks of civil society organizations in the Niger basins, of the Volta, of the Mono and of the Senegal;

- The development of an Action Plan for the Implementation of PREAO (PAMO-PREAO) under the aegis of a Steering Committee including UEMOA, CILSS, ALG, the West African Water Partnership (GWP/WA), IUCN, 2nd and EEA;
- The development of normative texts, including a directive on the management of shared water resources in West Africa and a directive on the development of water infrastructure in West Africa adopted in December 2024;
- The implementation of a program to promote three (3) new transboundary basin organizations in West Africa, particularly around the Comoé-Bia-Tanoé basins (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali), Mono (Benin, Togo) and the transboundary basins of the Mano River Union (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire): the Mono Basin Authority (ABM) was legally constituted on December 30, 2014; the processes for the creation of the Comoé-Bia-Tanoé Basin Authority (ABCBT) and the Mano River Union Transboundary Basin Office (OGBFT) are in the final phase;
- The establishment of a Regional Water Observatory;
- The development of a monitoring and evaluation system for the PREAO;
- The development of a regional strategy for capacity building of IWRM actors in West Africa;
- The production of a guide to financing the water sector

Among the main constraints/shortcomings identified in the implementation of the WAPREP are:

- The lack of synergy between the implementation of the PREAO and that of other related sectoral policies (Agriculture, Environment, Energy);
- The lack of consideration of certain areas such as drinking water, sanitation and groundwater resources;
- The non-operationalization of the monitoring and evaluation system

The 5th Ordinary Session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (CMS) of IWRM in West Africa held on June 24, 2024 in Abuja, adopted a resolution "committing ECOWAS in conjunction with UEMOA and CILSS to conduct an evaluation study with a view to the revision of the West African Water Resources Policy (WAREP) during the year 2025.

It is in this context that it is planned to request the services of a consultant to support the process of revising the WAPRE.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

2.1. Overall objective

The overall objective of the study is to make a critical assessment of the implementation of West Africa's water resources policy and to propose new orientations taking into account the political, institutional, environmental, socio-economic and operational developments that have taken place in the region since its adoption in December 2008.

2.2. Specific objectives

- To take stock of the actions carried out in the implementation of the PREAO;
- Evaluate and analyze the constraints that have hindered the proper implementation of the WAERP;
- To assess and analyse the degree of ownership of WARP by the various institutional actors of IWRM in West Africa (States, OBTs, sub-regional institutions, local authorities, civil society organizations, technical and financial partners);
- To propose new guidelines taking into account the political, legal, institutional, environmental, socio-economic and operational developments that have taken place in the region since December 2008 in the water and sanitation sectors.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

At the end of the study, the main expected results are in particular:

- A critical evaluation of the implementation of the PREAO, highlighting in particular the degree of ownership of the various stakeholders, the constraints encountered, the achievements;
- A proposal for new guidelines taking into account the political, legal, institutional, environmental, socio-economic and operational developments that have taken place in the region since December 2008 in the water and sanitation sector;
- A version of the West African water resources and sanitation policy reviewed in the light of these developments.

IV. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Subject to the detailed methodology that the Consultant will have to propose, the following elements must be taken into account:

- a) document review;
- b) presentation to the Steering Committee of a start-up report specifying in particular the methodological approach and a roadmap;
- c) interviews and surveys with the main institutional actors involved in water resources management in West Africa (states, transboundary basin organizations, local authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, technical and financial partners);
- d) preparation of a draft version of the study report including a critical assessment of the implementation of the WAERP, including the degree of ownership of the various stakeholders, the activities carried out, the achievements, the constraints as well as a draft policy document on water resources and sanitation in West Africa. These documents will also be presented to the Steering Committee before being submitted to a regional validation workshop;
- (e) the production of final documents taking into account the observations of the said validation workshop.

V. AVAILABLE

The expected deliverables of the consultant's mission are:

- **A start-up report** presenting the Consultant's understanding of the terms of the assignment and a detailed methodology for conducting the study. This must be done within 10 calendar days after the contract is signed. This report will be discussed and validated by a Steering Committee comprising the CGRE, UEMOA, CILSS and GWP/WA.
- **A draft report of studies** as well as a draft policy document on water resources and sanitation in West Africa that will be presented at a regional workshop bringing together institutional actors of the regional IWRM process in West Africa and technical and financial partners;
- **A final report**, including a West Africa Water Resources and Sanitation Policy document taking into account the observations of the regional workshop and expected to be validated by the Steering Committee.

VI. DURATION OF THE STUDY

The study will take place over a maximum period of **thirty (30) man-days** spread over eight (8) calendar months from the date of signature of the contract.

VII. PROFILE AND QUALIFICATION OF THE CONSULTANT

For this mission, a firm is sought that demonstrates that it has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The qualifications and relevant experience of consultants should be supported by documents such as copies of contracts, certificates of good performance, etc. The absence of supporting documents is eliminatory.

The selection criteria are as follows:

a) Be a consultancy/firm that has been working in the fields of IWRM (hydrology, sociology, law, socio-economics, environment, rural engineering, sanitation) for at least ten (10) years;

(b) Demonstrate experience in the formulation and analysis of policies and legislation and regulations in the field of water resources management and sanitation in

West Africa.

(c) Demonstrate experience in studies on the legal and institutional environment for water resources and sanitation management in West Africa and issues related to IWRM and sanitation as well as regional cooperation in the field of water and sanitation in West Africa.

d) Justify experience in studies related to the regional IWRM and sanitation process in West Africa and in working with institutional actors in this process (States, Transboundary Basin Organizations, local authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, technical and financial partners).

The design office/Cabinet must justify the realization in the ECOWAS region of at least three (03) missions in the formulation and analysis of policies and legislative/regulatory texts in the field of water resources management and sanitation in West Africa;

(e) Demonstrate the ability to provide key personnel with the following competencies:

- a thorough knowledge of the legal and institutional environment for water resources management and sanitation in West Africa, and of issues related to IWRM and sanitation as well as regional cooperation in the field of water and sanitation in West Africa.
- knowledge of the regional IWRM and sanitation process in West Africa and experience of working with institutional actors in the process (States, Transboundary Basin Organizations, local authorities, civil society organizations, private sector, technical and financial partners);
- Excellent ability to communicate in French and/or English and/or Portuguese, and a good knowledge of one of the other two languages.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

8.1 Services and facilities provided by the ECOWAS-ERMC

The ECOWAS-ERGC in collaboration with WAEMU and CILSS will facilitate the Consultant's contacts with the authorities of the countries and the bodies concerned by the studies. The responsibilities of the ECOWAS ERGC in collaboration with UEMOA and CILSS will also consist of (i) providing the Consultant with the administrative and logistical assistance necessary for the execution of his services (obtaining visas, reservations, etc.), (ii) coordinating with the Consultant the submission of reports, planning and organizing according to an appropriate schedule the consultations relating to the validation of the results of the studies, and (iii) provide the Consultant with all available documentation and necessary data and information.

8.2- Budget, Calls for Tenders and Contracts

The Consultant will be recruited according to the method of selection of individual consultants as provided for in the ECOWAS Commission Procurement Code in its September 2021 version.

Travel and per diem expenses related to the performance of the missions related to the consultation will be borne by the ECOWAS-ERGC.

The organization of the various workshops will be carried out by the ECOWAS-ERGC.

8.3- Composition of the files

Applications will include:

- ❖ **A technical offer including:** (i) A technical note understanding the Consultant's mandate; (ii) A methodological note and a work organization. The minimum technical score to be obtained is 70 out of 100 points.
- ❖ **A detailed financial offer**, which will be established excluding taxes.

8.4 Submission of files

Applications are admissible by email until **August 26, 2025 at 16:00 GMT** to the following address: Secretariat of the ECOWAS Water Resources Management Centre (ECOWAS-CGEL)
- Email: wrm_cgre@ecowas.int