

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE MULTINATIONAL PROJECT FOR BUILDING CAPACITY ON MANAGING FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS IN THE REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES (RMCs) AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECs). GRANT No.: 2100150023544

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Immeuble du CCIA, Rue Jean-Paul II – PLATEAU
01 Boite Postale 1387, ABIDJAN 01, COTE D'IVOIRE
Email: afcop-mfdr@afdb.org

INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Expressions of interest are being requested for a Mid-Term Evaluation Consultant Position.

Department issuing the request:	AfCoP Secretariat/ORQR
Place of assignment:	Home-based, with missions
Period of the assignment:	March 2015 to June 2015
Duration of the assignment	60 work days
Tentative Date of commencement:	1 March 2015
Deadline for applications:	26 February 2015
Documents requested to apply:	Curriculum Vitae, information on qualifications and experience
Expressions of interest to be submitted to:	afcop-mfdr@afdb.org
Requests for clarifications may be sent to:	afcop-mfdr@afdb.org
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.	

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

1. The African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results (AfCoP-MfDR) aims to mainstream MfDR into the policies and strategies of the RMCs. It also strengthens the capacity of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their member countries to accelerate the implementation of regional policies and programs by using the MfDR approach, to promote regional integration. Its focus is threefold:
 - I. Knowledge sharing on MfDR, through moderating online discussions, facilitating the delivery of case studies and organizing knowledge events focused on challenging development areas;
 - II. Linking MfDR knowledge to regional processes, through establishing two regional communities of practices (WAEMU and COMESA) on results, launching regional thematic clusters (public administration, private sector, parliamentarian and civil society) and organizing regional peer review meetings;
 - III. Synergies between regional and national processes, through partnerships with seventeen countries around a series of activities, including establishing country communities of practices, validating

assessment reports and action plans, holding high level events, conducting large-scale learning workshops, and coaching the implementation of action plans.

2. This project builds on and expands AfCoP achievements from 2007-2011 which focused on knowledge exchange activities in managing for development results. The AfCoP offers a bilingual (francophone/anglophone) online platform for networking and building learning relationships, at: www.afrik4r.org. Over 4,000 members joined the community, from governments, civil society, private sector and as independent experts. The AfCoP is led by a volunteer Core Management Team (CMT) of twelve AfCoP members, with contributions of an Advisory Board.

3. The AfCoP is primarily supported by a small Secretariat housed at the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) since 2012. The Secretariat at the AfDB is responsible for the overall project coordination and components 2 and 3, while the ACBF is responsible for the delivery of component 1. It is primarily financed by a grant from the African Development Fund, with contributions from organizations partnering with the initiative.

4. As the AfCoP is mid-way in its project implementation, an opportunity exists to retrospectively evaluate the effectiveness of the community, its products, results and impact on the ground and setting evidence-based priorities for the full delivery of its planned activities as well as for a potential next phase. This evaluation will assist the AfCoP as it moves forward and identify lessons learned for future similar initiatives.

Objectives of the consultancy

5. The objective of the proposed assignment is to carry out a retrospective evaluation of the AfCoP as a whole – based on its objectives set out in 2012 and results of an evaluation undertaken in 2011 – focusing on its usefulness to members, its impact in countries and RECs, and remedial actions where the program might not be on track. Specifically, the review will identify how successful AfCoP has been in meeting its goals and objectives, what worked and what did not work including country and REC ownership and interest for the AfCoP, its impact on national and regional development processes (such as development strategies and plans, budgeting tools, M&E and statistics work and capacity building, accountability and partnership mechanisms), and its leverage to scale up good practices. Additionally, the consultant should consider areas where resources need to be re-assigned and proffer solutions as well as reviewing the targets of the indicators and outputs in the log-frame to assess how the project is meeting them including the gender perspective. The consultant will provide and implement a sound and rigorous methodology for evaluating AfCoP impact.

Scope of the work

6. Specifically, the consultant will review the targets of the performance indicators in the project's logical framework in light of actual achievements, including the gender perspective. The consultant will be responsible to conduct an in-depth evaluation to test the following 4 hypothesis:

- AfCoP has improved the implementation of regional policies in WAEMU and COMESA member states.
- AfCoP has strengthened MfDR processes and capacity of COMESA and WAEMU and their member states.
- AfCoP has been successful in generating REC and country ownership, and in leveraging the establishment of communities of practices.
- AfCoP's knowledge activities have contributed to individual learning and the adoption of MfDR good practices.

7. In addition, the evaluation report will also document key lessons learned from developing and implementing a community of practice on MfDR with key deliverables, and lessons that should be considered toward the final implementation phase of the project, and for a next phase of AfCoP, including reassignment of resources and solutions.

Methodology

8. The consultant will use the following methodology: (i) desk review of materials; (ii) interviews (email, phone & in person) with key beneficiaries, heads of CoPs, country and REC focal points, and relevant AfCoP stakeholders ensuring balanced representation of members diversity; and (iii) consultation with CMT during its 7th annual meeting in 2015.

Deliverables

9. The consultant will be responsible for the following three deliverables: (i) Inception report including the evaluation methodology to test the four hypothesis mentioned above; (ii) Preliminary report specifying evidence (data/information) available and gaps based on desk review and conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders, preferably for discussion by CMT and during the 7th Annual meeting, and (iii) Finalized report based on the feedback.

10. The consultant will ensure that evidence gathered to support the analysis is well documented and referenced in the evaluation. The mid-term evaluation report should be fifty-page long.

Payment

11. The consultant(s) will be paid in three tranches upon submission of the agreed deliverables
- Upon submission and approval of the inception report (20% of the agreed fee);
 - Upon satisfactory submission and approval of first draft (30% of the agreed fee);
 - Upon satisfactory submission and approval of the final draft. (50% of the agreed fee).

Profile/Experience

12. The tasks require the following qualifications for the consultant/evaluator:
- A Master's degree or PhD in Economics, Business Administration, Evaluation and/or Statistics with strong quantitative and qualitative skills;
 - Ten years of experience in monitoring and/or evaluation;
 - Ability and experience to design instruments for data collection and conduct surveys;
 - Ability and experience to identify facts and use them for analysis and driving conclusions;
 - A solid knowledge of monitoring and evaluation concepts, tools, methods, and strategies including a strong knowledge of retrospective evaluations. Knowledge and experience of evaluating capacity development and knowledge generation will be highly desirable;
 - Proven ability to undertake program/project evaluations;
 - Strong report writing and analytical skills;
 - Internet-savvy; experience in online discussions, and web-based community building;
 - Understanding of regional integration challenges, the global development community and partners on results focused development; and
 - Strong facilitation and communications skills.

- Bilingual in French and English a must.

Timeline

The consultancy will start in March 2015 and the final product should be delivered by June 2015. The consultant is expected to travel on missions at WAEMU and COMESA headquarters. S/he will also meet with representatives from a minimum of four country communities of practice. The consultant will present the report findings at the next AfCoP Annual Meeting.

Reporting Responsibilities

The consultant will report to the AfCoP Secretariat Coordinator within the Quality Assurance and Results Department (ORQR) of the AfDB.

Eligibility criteria

Establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants" edition May 2008, revised July 2012, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. The AfCoP Secretariat is under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.