



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO REVIEW THE DRAFT
RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICY
FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA**

PROCUREMENT NUMBER: AUC/DREA/C/027



SECTION I: LETTER OF INVITATION

15th September 2020

Dear Applicants,

Request for Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Services to Review the Draft Rural Infrastructure Development Policy Framework for Africa

1. Rural infrastructure is one of several subsets of activities that are essential elements for African Rural transformation. The existence of poor quality or inadequate infrastructure will inevitably impact negatively on the competitiveness of African agriculture through increasing internal transport costs, reducing levels of value-added at origin and lowering transaction efficiencies in the marketing chains, be they national or international. The provision of adequate and cost-effective rural infrastructure will clearly, therefore, underpin the development of agriculture in general and, in particular, facilitate lower-cost production and marketing.
2. The AUC now invites interested Individual Consultants that are citizens of AU Member States to submit CVs for the assignment as per attached Terms of Reference (TORS). AUC policy requires consultants to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice, and at all times hold the Client's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own interests.
3. CVs and technical proposals and financial proposals must be submitted by e-mail to Tender@africa-union.org Cc hawib@africa-union.org
4. The title of the Procurement and procurement number must appear as subject of e-mail submissions.
5. The Deadline for submission is **06th October 2020 at 15:00 hours Addis Ababa Time**. Late applications will not be considered.
6. This call for CVs comprise of the following:
 - Section I – This Letter of Invitation
 - Section II - Terms of Reference



SECTION II: TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY SERVICES REVIEW THE DRAFT RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA

1. BACKGROUND

African leaders have clearly indicated that among their priorities are infrastructure and agriculture; the two have an interface. Adequate and well-functioning Rural infrastructure is essential for agriculture to be competitive due to reduced costs of delivering inputs to it and of taking produce out to markets, including any storage that this may entail; energy infrastructure is essential for development of agro-industries; information infrastructure is vital for timely technological information to farmers and agro-industrialists but also between producers and markets; water infrastructure is a precondition for irrigation and water-based power generation is the key to adequate and affordable power for Africa. In implementing agricultural development programs, AUC will need to take advantage of major transport corridors for location of production and processing if it is to reach distant markets competitively; in turn, in planning major infrastructure projects.

Rural infrastructure is crucial for agriculture, agro-industries and overall economic development of rural areas. It also, incidentally, provides basic amenities that improve the quality of life. However, infrastructure projects, including those in rural sector, involve huge initial investments, long gestation periods, high incremental capital output ratio, high risk and low rate of returns on investment. All these factors are not conducive for private sector entry into infrastructure. Further there are many attributes of infrastructure that make it difficult for individuals to design, construct, operate and maintain these services effectively and efficiently. As a result of this, infrastructure services, the world over, are largely provided by the public sector. Thus there are often good reasons for public sector involvement in the provision of rural infrastructure services, however in the production of such services there exists a role for others than public sector entities

Rural infrastructure is one of several subsets of activities that are essential elements for African Rural transformation. The existence of poor quality or inadequate infrastructure will inevitably



impact negatively on the competitiveness of African agriculture through increasing internal transport costs, reducing levels of value-added at origin and lowering transaction efficiencies in the marketing chains, be they national or international. The provision of adequate and cost-effective rural infrastructure will clearly, therefore, underpin the development of agriculture in general and, in particular, facilitate lower-cost production and marketing to enable countries in the region to respond to both national and international market demand.

The provision of basic rural infrastructure is also a pre-requisite for enabling African countries to stimulate economic growth and to reach the targets for economic recovery and poverty alleviation through increasing and diversifying agricultural output and employment, promoting domestic market activity and market integration, and facilitating and developing access to export markets. In addition, complementary actions will be required to improve the market access conditions facing African agricultural (including livestock and fisheries) exports in developed country markets. Such infrastructure includes rural roads, storage facilities for crops, livestock and fish products, and related processing and market facilities. Due to the range of country conditions and the lack of precise, up-to-date information regarding the current stock of rural infrastructure in any particular country, the estimates should be viewed as providing preliminary and indicative orders of magnitude only.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The Consultant will provide consultancy services to:

- Establish and revised the framework for the Development of Rural Infrastructure Policy Framework in Africa, based on a short, medium and long-term, social, and economic development vision, strategic objectives in Africa
- Establish Rural infrastructure development programme articulated around priorities and over the short, medium, and long-term horizons; and
- Prepare an implementation strategy and processes including, in particular, the improvement of institutional arrangements (such as regulatory and administrative processes); a Priority Action Plan; and financing options including measures for promoting, attracting and sustaining private sector participation in Rural infrastructure development.



3. SCOPE OF WORK

1. The emphasis of the review should be on strategic thinking, and how to ensure that Rural Infrastructure Development is successfully implemented. The consultant should endeavor to collect some additional data, but, as far as possible, the Consultant should rely on existing sources of information and data. There have also been several studies on regional projects, and on other issues relevant to the review.
2. The ultimate goal of the review is greater regional integration of the continent in terms of rural infrastructure in advancing Agenda 2063 including its flagship projects like the Continental free Trade Area. The Consultant should form and agree the guiding principles relating to continental, regional integration that should inform the decisions during the Review. For example, there should be clarity on concepts of continental, regionalism, national and sub national integration, cooperation and economic integration; and clarity on the concept of subsidiarity (i.e. which aspects of rural infrastructure are best dealt with at the continental, regional, sub-regional or national levels). It may be helpful to draw on successful examples of regional integration elsewhere in the world, such as the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Rural Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA). In addition, the EU may provide valuable guidance on how the concept of subsidiarity can be effectively implemented.
3. It is well known that the efficacy of the physical integration of rural infrastructure networks ultimately depends on the harmonization of regulatory frameworks and administrative procedures so that services can be traded smoothly across national frontiers. Many of the highest impact projects fall within this category of "soft interventions". It will be important for the Consultant to incorporate these regulatory and administrative measures fully into their rural infrastructure development programs.
4. A further factor that limits the efficacy of physical rural infrastructure is 1 asset management and maintenance to ensure effective service delivery. Generally, asset management is more complicated than asset creation even in the national context, and much more complicated in the regional context (due to the involvement of multiple organizations, both national and regional). The proposals that are developed by the



Consultant should have due regard to the institutional structure for both asset creation and asset management/maintenance.

5. Another important cross-cutting issue is the financing of National, regional and continental Rural Infrastructure. The Consultant should develop projections of the likely financial resource envelopes for rural infrastructure, based on an analysis of past trends and other relevant factors. It is desirable to produce scenarios of future financial resources within which development projects and programmes can be prioritized in a realistic manner. For the short-term projections at least the current global COVID-19 crisis is likely to be a relevant factor. In this context, it should be noted that an explicit aim of AUC is the mobilization of private sector participation in rural infrastructure development.
6. Identification of key issues relating to: National, regional and continental Rural infrastructure development in Africa; the potential contribution of Rural Infrastructure to African integration objectives; the constraints encountered in Rural infrastructure development in its integrative role; and any lessons that can be learned from experience in other continents.
7. The major factors that are likely to determine Africa's potential needs for National, regional and continental infrastructure growth paths, demographics, technological trends, emergence of development poles in Africa and the world, changes in international transport routes, economic trends, and impact of climate change.
8. The major rural infrastructure development challenges (regional and continental) in terms of land-locked countries, economic integration, growth, and poverty reduction.
9. The challenges that National, regional and continental African stakeholders must overcome in order to implement a bold National, regional and continental Rural infrastructure development policy, e.g. enabling environment; financing; budgets and trade-offs between national, regional and continental projects; the role of supranational bodies, sector governance.
10. One of the critical outputs of the study is the Priority Action Plan, and how this Plan can be monitored and rolled forward over time. This is another cross-cutting issue with sector-specific characteristics.



4. METHODOLOGY

Inception Phase

The Inception Phase shall outline the consultant's organization and programme of work, methodology, approach and the schedule of inputs, all revised to reflect the result of contract negotiations, and the Consultant's initial findings.

There is already a large amount of data and information available, and it is essential that the Consultant uses existing information and data wherever possible. The Inception Phase should be used to make contact with stakeholders to identify the nature and scope of existing information sources, so that gaps that need to be filled can be more precisely identified, and the Consultant's analysis and strategic thinking can start from information that is already available. Examples of potential sources of information include:

The Inception Report will give:

- A detailed description of tasks to be undertaken, the schedule of activities and resources allocated to each task;
- A detailed identification of data necessary for the analytical work as well as the data collection strategy;
- The proposed analytical framework to be used in the analysis of current policies and strategies, and in the formulation of policies and strategies for this review;
- A proposed methodology for the analysis of on-going and pipeline programmes, and in particular the definition of stages (milestones) defining their development stage;
- A first outline of the methodology to be used for projections, as well as trends and factors underpinning the future sector outlook;
- The decisions to be made by the AUC and the proposed associated schedule;
- A proposed calendar for field visits, meetings and workshops;
- The proposed structure for key reports and
- Any other issue to be brought to the attention of AUC in order to facilitate, monitor and control the Consultant's work.



The Inception Report will be delivered in a weeks after the commencement of work. The Inception Report will be discussed at a kick-off workshop after the commencement of work. After the kick-off workshop the Consultant will finalize their Inception Report to take account of comments made at the workshop.

Phases

The Consultant shall deliver a methodological brief on Analysis of choices and challenges, Review and evaluation of regional and continental policies, institutional and regulatory frameworks and Analysis of existing regional and continental rural infrastructures, those under implementation, and those in the project pipeline, to assess their performance and contribution to the regional and continental policies and strategies in a virtual meetings that shall be scheduled by the AUC.

Under the supervision of the AUC, the Consultant shall consider the remarks and suggestions made during the meetings with the RECs (and any other stakeholders). Subsequently, the Consultant will prepare the final report. This report should summarize all the analyses made during the review, and present the strategic framework for rural infrastructure development, and implementation strategies and processes.

The Consultant shall also, under the supervision of the AUC t, present a synthesized version of their final report. At the end of the Review, the consultant will be requested to hand over to the Client the following:

Collected data: all statistical data and other quantitative information collected or used during the study. This transfer will be made in an electronic format (e.g. CD) and using appropriate software (e.g. Excel). Data will be complemented by a Note describing exhaustively: (i) the nature of transferred data (type, frequency of use, series horizon); (ii) information sources and/or data collection strategy; (iii) remarks on reliability of data; and (iv) any other comments that could help the Client use and update the transferred data. The Consultant will also be required to deliver a list of documents used in the study. A specific form will be agreed with the Client for this purpose.



For the purposes of the Review, the RECs will be grouped into five geographical regions as indicated below. The RECs of each region will agree on the mechanisms for coordinating their participation in the study.

Region	RECS
North Africa	UMA, CEN-SAD
West Africa	ECOWAS(WAEMU), CEN-SAD
Central Africa	ECCAS (CEMAC)
Eastern Africa	COMESA, EAC,IGAD
Southern Africa	COMESA,SADC

6. KEY DELIVERABLES

Under the DREA designated supervisors preferably the Head of Division Rural Development, the consultant shall prepare and submit to the Head of Division Rural Development, the reports. The reports shall be packaged in a format to be agreed with the AUC. All reports shall initially be submitted in draft form for review and comments, and subsequently finalized to reflect as appropriate the comments made. At the request of the Head of Division, the reports will be presented in a PowerPoint format. Comments on draft reports will be submitted to the Consultant within a short period. Final reports, after taking into account any comments, shall be submitted within a weeks after expiry of the deadline for submission of comments.

As far as possible the Consultant’s work programme should continue while draft reports are being reviewed. The continuity of work during such periods shall be agreed with the HOD.

The Consultant shall submit in electronic format the following reports, according to the timetable shown below. The table also indicates the numbers of hard copies required, but the numbers are indications only at this stage. The need for hard copies, and the numbers, will be agreed with the at the inception stage.

Deliverable	Timing
Inception report	TBD
Methodological brief on the establishment of the outlook for the future	TBD
Phase I report including: Report on the Evaluation of regional and continental policies and strategies on Rural Infrastructure, Report on the outlook for the future and challenges in, Rural infrastructure development and a Report on an outline of Rural Infrastructure development	TBD
Phase II report including: Draft strategic framework, Draft infrastructure development programme, Draft implementation strategy and processes	TBD
Final report on: Strategic framework on Rural Infrastructure development, the Implementation strategy/Action Plan and processes	TBD
Synthesis of final report, Data files and methodological, Note(s), Models and methodological Note(s)	TBD

The structure, form and length of the reports will be agreed between the Consultant and the HOD at the inception stage. The Inception Report will be a single report, with annexes as necessary. Many of the subsequent reports may be in the form of a general overarching report with separate subsidiary reports for each of the four sectors. The structure of the reports should be adapted to the intended target. A work schedule compliant with the above milestones and including a schedule of deliverables shall be presented in the Consultant's proposal.

7. QUALIFICATION

This consultant shall have an advanced degree (PhD/Masters or equivalent qualification) in engineering, Rural Development and Innovation or economics and



8. EXPERIENCE AND REQUIRED SKILLS

Minimum 10 years of work experience in the preparation and assessment of Transport sector policies, rural development Policies of economic policies. The consultant must have relevant experience in regional infrastructure. Experience shall include work in Africa, although not exclusively. The consultant shall have conducted at least three assignments similar to this one. Good knowledge of the African context is required.

Excellent writing, conceptual and analytical skills;

9: DURATION AND VENUE

Estimated duration of the consultancy is 40 working days. While the consultancy will primarily be home-based, it could also require the consultant to travel to other countries where the validation workshop and the Session of the consultation with RECS and experts from National Governments will be organized.

10: EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Technical Evaluation		Marks
	Qualification and Experience		
1	Advanced degree (PhD/Masters or equivalent qualification) in engineering, Rural Development and Innovation or economics and Engineering		35
2	Relevant Experience - Substantial experience in reviewing ,preparation and assessment of Transport sector policies, rural development Policies of economic policies or policy advisory services Infrastructure in Africa is required		25
3	Familiarity with African Union Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program CAADP, Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa		10
4	Understanding of the ToRs - Responsiveness to the Terms of Reference, methodology to undertake the assignment and detailed work plan		15



5	Proven ability in preparing robust project proposals and in managing project implementation- Project Management and Contacts of at least 3 organizations previously worked for Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant (s)		15
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The pass mark for Technical proposals shall be 70%.

11. RESPONSE TO THE CALL

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents for AUC's consideration:

- Technical Proposal (Statement about understanding about the assignment)
- Curriculum Vitae of the Consultant
- Propose Daily rate, which should include all of the Consultant's costs and profits. Please send you financial proposal separately in a Pdf format and it shall be password protected. However, the password shall be submitted by the Consultant to the AUC upon request and after concluding the evaluation of CVs.

Applications with technical and financial proposals should be addressed to the following address on or before **06th October 2020 at 15:00** hours Addis Ababa Time.

Address: Tender@africa-union.org Cc hawib@africa-union.org