



Terms of Reference

For

Consultancy for Developing Guidelines for Integrating Transboundary Aquifers (TBAs) Governance and Management into River Basin Organisations (RBOs) Shared Water Management

1. Background

SADC GMI is established as a Section 21 Not-for-Profit Company under South African law, and it is a subsidiary structure of the SADC Secretariat. The vision of the SADC-GMI is to ensure the equitable and sustainable use and protection of groundwater and be a Centre of Excellence in groundwater management and management of groundwater-dependent ecosystems in the region. The role of the SADC-GMI is to:

- Promote sustainable groundwater management and provide solutions to groundwater challenges in the SADC region through building capacity, providing training, advancing research, supporting infrastructure development, and enabling dialogue and exchange of groundwater information
- Conduct and support the SADC Member States in groundwater research, and serve as a focal interlocutor with national, regional, and international groundwater initiatives
- Promote the sustainable conjunctive use of surface and groundwater

After successfully completing the Sustainable Groundwater Management in the SADC Member States Phase 1 project, the SADC-GMI is now implementing phase 2 of the same project under the strategic guidance of the SADC Secretariat. The 4-year phase 2 project is financed by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA), in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the World Bank. It comprises several components:

Component 1: Capacity building for sustainable groundwater management

Component 2: Knowledge development, dissemination, and advocacy

Component 3: Building resilient livelihoods, and inclusive groundwater management

Component 1 intends to build capacity to improve groundwater management, decision-making and use. This includes developing a capacity-building strategy, establishing and training National Focal Groups, launching strategic partnerships, conducting groundwater assessments, basin plans and GESI capacity development. Essential to this component is developing guidelines for integrating the governance of TBAs into RBOs' structures.

RBOs are the preferred institutions to promote transboundary aquifer management and protection. Guidelines need to be put in place to direct RBOs towards the following priority actions (IAH, 2022):



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- Development of conceptual models that are required to reveal the relevance of groundwater bodies in the conservation of river baseflow and aquatic ecosystems
- The establishment of the spatial configuration of groundwater bodies (aquifers) in the land-mass of their basins and their relation with surface water and sea-water
- The development of a clear overview of how groundwater is being managed nationally and locally within the catchment areas of large RBOs
- The promotion and harmonisation of groundwater monitoring for the important aquifer systems in the operational areas of RBOs

The SADC region has about 15 River Basins shared by at least two SADC Member States and an estimated 30 TBAs. Several river basin commissions, such as the Limpopo River Basin Commission (LIMCOM), Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM), ZAMCOM, CUVECOM, and Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM), have been established to manage shared watercourses. Activities in these and other RBOs have primarily focused on surface water, hence the need to integrate surface and groundwater management which these guidelines facilitate.

2. The objective of the assignment

The overall objective of this assignment is to develop guidelines for integrating TBAs governance and management into the management structures of RBOs'. The guidelines need to take into account good practices.

3. Scope of work and specific tasks of the consultant

The tasks to be carried out by the consultant under this assignment include, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- a) Conduct a kick-off meeting with the SADC-GMI staff to get clarification and understanding of the assignment covering the detailed scope of work and specific tasks.
- b) Produce an inception report detailing the various tasks with important milestones, a table of contents of the proposed guidelines and stakeholder analysis to develop the guidelines.
- c) Undertake a desktop review of TBA governance and management modalities in international jurisdictions.
- d) Conduct consultation with RBOs in SADC and other stakeholders to obtain and utilise their views on producing the first draft of the guidelines.
- e) Conduct a half-day online workshop with SADC-GMI staff, RBO stakeholders and interested parties to discuss the first draft of the guidelines.
- f) Produce a final version of the guidelines for approval by SADC-GMI.



4. Timing of the assignment

This is a once-off assignment without any obligation for follow-up work and is expected to run for four (4) months with an estimated aggregate level of effort of 50 person-days for key experts only, all-inclusive of field, travel and office work.

5. Eligibility

- This assignment targets a firm or individuals with a track record of more than 10 years of proven experience in transboundary water governance in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly having at least 5 years of experience in the groundwater sector within the SADC region.
- The proposal must demonstrate experience in at least three projects undertaking detailed work in a TBA context in the SADC region.

6. Team composition with an estimate of key experts' input

KEY EXPERT 1: PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER - TEAM LEADER (ESTIMATED 35 WORKDAYS)

The key expert must have at least a master's degree in Hydrogeology and 15 years of experience working in groundwater. At least 5 years should have been in groundwater governance research and development. Demonstrated team leadership on at least 3 similar research projects, 1 of which should have been in the SADC region at the Member State or regional level. The expert must have proven proficiency with the conjunctive water resources management concept and engagement of multi-country transboundary watercourse stakeholder institutions and issues. The Team Leader should be fluent in English. Professional proficiency in the other SADC Languages (French and Portuguese) is an advantage.

KEY EXPERT 2: RESEARCHER – WATER GOVERNANCE EXPERT/GROUNDWATER INSTITUTIONAL ADVISOR (ESTIMATED 15 WORKDAYS)

The key expert must have at least a master's degree in International/Institutional Development Studies, International Water/Environmental Law or a similar discipline with expertise in water governance and institutional development with 10 or more years of working experience in institutional assessment and organisational development in the public sector or national government ministries, departments and agencies. The candidate should be fluent in English, while additional working knowledge of Portuguese and French is highly desirable. The candidate must have expertise in strengthening governance and institutional capacity for sustainable groundwater management at the national and TBA level.



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NON-KEY/OTHER EXPERT STAFF

The consultant shall select and hire other experts and support staff as required according to the deemed requirement to deliver the Services. CVs for such other experts should not be submitted in the Technical Proposal. Although hiring other expert staff will not be subject to the prior review of the Client, such staff shall otherwise meet the professional standards and possess the adequate experience to conduct their work safely and professionally.

NB:- The Consultant shall include in their submission a refined proposal for the deployment of the key experts and any non-key experts deemed necessary to timely deliver the objectives of the assignment.

7. Deliverables

The stated deadlines require the following deliverables:

- a) Kick-off meeting – 1 week after the project start
- b) Inception Report – 2 weeks after the project start
- c) Report on desktop review – 6 weeks after the project start
- d) First draft report – 12 weeks after the project start
- e) Stakeholder workshop – 14 weeks after the project start
- f) Final report – 16 weeks after the project start

8. Proposals Submission

Interested and qualifying consulting firms are required to submit expression of interest proposals to SADC-GMI on or before **31 March 2023** to procurement@sadc-gmi.org by 12:00 (RSA Time). The same e-mail address above can be used if further information is required – enquiries can be submitted during working hours, 8:00 – 17:00, Monday to Friday.