

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR
BASELINE SURVEY FOR THE CONSERVING
BIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY PROJECT**



1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The African Biodiversity Network (ABN) is a regional network that aims to ignite and nurture a growing network of individuals and organizations across Africa. It envisages vibrant and resilient African communities rooted in their biological, cultural, and spiritual diversity, governing their lives, livelihoods and living harmoniously with healthy ecosystems.

ABN offers a very African approach to sustainability and community resilience, closely linked to and growing out of traditional practices. The premise is that cultural and ecological diversity are intricately bound together and that only through restoring people's strong and deep sense of connectedness to nature and all that lies within it will people in Africa find ways to be resilient and sustain their land and other natural resources. A key part of this restoration is to give a substantial voice to elders' indigenous knowledge.

ABN currently has 30 partners and allies ranging from small Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to large coalitions of CBOs and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), drawn from eleven African countries¹. ABN is also a founder and member of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). Its partners are also members of other networks and coalitions. For more information refer to our website: www.africanbiodiversity.org

Through funding support from SIDA, through Embassy of Sweden, Addis Ababa, The ABN Secretariat will be implementing the above 3-year project in collaboration with 21 partner organizations spread across 14 African countries. Five (5) of the partners in the MENA and Central Africa region are new. The ABN Secretariat, which is based in Kenya will be the lead partner and ensure harmonious coordination of all project activities across the countries.

ABN is seeking a Consultant/Consultancy firm to undertake a baseline survey to identify the status and document the project benchmarks before implementing the project activities. The consultant should be readily available to complete the assignment by 25th November 2021.

2. THE PROJECT SUMMARY

The Conserving Bio-Cultural Diversity Project is a three-year project running from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2024. The specific goal for the project is to contribute to improved life on land through Conservation of Bio-Cultural Diversity and the Restoration of Terrestrial and Marine Ecosystems in Africa. The primary target groups for this project will be the 38,500 community members working with 21 partners who are affiliated to the Partners in 14 African countries categorized in Sub-regional nodes as shown in section 2.2 below:

2.1 What does the project seek to accomplish?

In line with the project goal and priorities set out in the ABN current strategic plan and the SDG 15, the project will focus on achieving the following long-term outcomes:

- i) Strengthened and diversified community livelihood options based on good bio-cultural diversity and seed governance.

- ii) Community ecological governance system revived, based on time-tested community knowledge and practices
- iii) A strong proactive youth movement established that celebrates and engages bio-cultural diversity issues across Africa.
- iv) Increased support for community-led advocacy as a prerequisite for building coalitions for policy influence on prioritized issues.
- v) ABN networking and practice of methodologies among communities, partners and allies improved, including Francophone and MENA speaking countries.

ABN will support the following activities towards the desired change.

- i) **Community dialogues and meetings**- These provide an opportunity for communities to reflect on their knowledge and practices around seed, food diversity, farming practices, and customary governance to analyse their challenges and suggest workable solutions.
- ii) **Seed biodiversity conservation**- This ensures that community perception on seed management is aligned with different contexts, including the soils, water, gender-disaggregated knowledge, cultural practices around seeds, spirituality and threats to seeds.
- iii) **Bridging the inter-generational Knowledge gap between the young and elders**- This aims to engage the younger generation with ideas of bio-cultural diversity and associated local knowledge about building resilient livelihoods.
- iv) **Action learning through Nature experiential knowledge and exchanges**-This is aimed at encouraging community solidarity and learning from each other as peers
- v) **Community mappings**-This gives communities the foundation from which they explore the areas to collectively work on to strengthen their local economy while sustaining the foundations of life for current and the next generation without creating inequities
- vi) **Networking, Communication and Advocacy**- Use of various communication platforms to enhance vibrant partnerships within the network.

2.2 The ABN implementing partners by country

21 partners organisations spread in 14 Countries and categorized into four sub-regional nodes as follows

Country & No. of the partner organisation

a) EASTERN SUB-REGIONAL NODE - (A total of Eight Partner organisations)

1. Kenya	Four (4)
2. Ethiopia	Two (2)
3. Tanzania	One (1)
4. Rwanda	One (1)

b) SOUTHERN SUB-REGIONAL NODE - (A total of Three Partner organisations)

5. Zimbabwe	Two (2)
6. South Africa	One (1)

c) WESTERN SUB-REGIONAL NODE (Two partners)

7. Benin	One (1)
8. Togo	One (1)

d) MENA & CENTRAL AFRICA REGION - (Five New partners)

9. Gabon	One (1)
10. Cameroon	One (1)
11. Central African Republic	One (1)
12. Morocco	One (1)
13. Egypt	One (1)

Total- 21 partner Organisations

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE BASELINE SURVEY

The objective of the baseline survey is to gather relevant baseline data and information to enable the project to assess its performance, measure results and impacts throughout the project period. Specifically, the baseline report is expected to gather data on:

- i. Indicators for all outcomes and outputs as detailed in the project document.
- ii. Inclusion of women, youth and the marginalized - establish their level of involvement and in what areas.
- iii. Socio-economic, cultural and environmental contexts of communities involved in the project.
- iv. Identify community livelihood options available.
- v. Document Community's ecological governance system in place.
- vi. Data related to advocacy and communication of key issues in the project document and the network at large; Identify areas where advocacy and public awareness is needed.
- vii. Level of networking among and between ABN partners.

4. METHODOLOGY / APPROACH

The Consultant is expected to develop an appropriate baseline survey approach/methodology to address the survey objectives. The baseline survey strategy should demonstrate a close link between the data collected and the methodology used to ensure credibility of the findings. The survey methodology developed by the consultant will be reviewed and approved by ABN before the rollout of data collection. The survey methodology will include and not be limited to:

- i) Review of relevant documents.
- ii) Methods of data collection. Indicate clearly details for quantitative and qualitative methods to be used.
- iii) Data collection approaches and tools.
- iv) Data analysis techniques.

Sources of primary information will include but not limited to the following persons:

- i. ABN Secretariat Staff.
- ii. Staff from the implementing partner organizations who are working directly with the project.
- iii. Smallholder who will be working directly in the project.
- iv. Elders and custodians of community governance and other systems.
- v. Country's statistical data and relevant government institutions.
- vi. Other relevant stakeholders.

SPECIFIC TASK FOR THE CONSULTANT

- i. Literature review on key documents such as project document,
- ii. reports from targeted member organizations,
- iii. ABN strategic plan and relevant data from the government departments.
- iv. Preliminary discussion about the focus of the baseline survey
- v. Develop an inception baseline report to be discussed and agreed upon by the consultant and the ABN team Baseline
- vi. Collect qualitative and quantitative data from the targeted community members and /or member organizations through agreed data collection tools and actual field visits/ Focus Group Discussions/Key Informant Interviews including secondary data.
- vii. Analyze the collected data and prepare a report of the findings.
- viii. Present draft results of the key baseline findings during a validation workshop.
- ix. Incorporate comments from the validation workshop and incorporate into the final report to present in soft and hard copy.

5. KEY DELIVERABLES

The expected key outputs of the survey are:

- i. An inception report: Elaboration of the baseline approach, methodology and tools including a detailed schedule of activities to be undertaken across the four sub-regional nodes;
- ii. The Baseline survey Draft Report; and
- iii. Final Baseline Report:

The report should be logically structured, including the executive summary, intervention description, assessment purpose, assessment methodology, key baseline findings, review of project indicators, conclusions, lessons learned, observations, recommendations and annexes (Key officials interviewed, documents consulted and data collection instruments). The report should include a set of specific and clear recommendations.

6. KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCES OF THE EVALUATORS

The consultant undertaking the baseline survey will have previous experience with baseline studies, social, agricultural or environmental analysis and other related experiences. The consultant will have good analytical and writing skills. Previous experience facilitating, conducting focus group discussions and key informant interviews is mandatory.

The survey will be conducted by a consultant or team of consultants with the team leader having the following main qualifications:

- i) At least a master's degree in Development Studies, Agriculture/ Agro-Biodiversity, Biodiversity, Social Sciences, cultural and or other relevant training and experiences.
- ii) Demonstrable knowledge and experience in working with civil society, culture, biodiversity, farming/agro biodiversity and seed systems, agricultural seed policies, working with diverse cultural/rural communities, governance, human rights and advocacy issues in an African Context.
- iii) Conversance with participatory methodologies and approaches to project review and evaluation including familiarity with inclusion, gender and cultural sensitivity analysis.
- iv) Available for baseline surveys from 22nd October 2021 to 25th November 2021.

- v) Able to articulate issues objectively and present the baseline report with utmost clarity and within the agreed timeframe.
- vi) A proven track record of professional execution of similar consultancies/assignments; working with NGO work or Network organization /umbrella body; strong data collection skills.
- vii) e) Substantive knowledge of participatory monitoring and evaluation processes and experience with multi-stakeholder/community development interventions.
- viii) At least three (3) years of experience conducting baseline surveys, impact assessments or similar assignments in agricultural development programmes and projects.
- ix) Proven in-depth understanding and consulting experiences on institutional set-up of complex development programmes.

7. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed proposals should include:

- i) A **cover Letter** expressing interest and availability for the assignment.
- ii) A precise and clear **technical and financial proposals** with a detailed budget and a payment schedule based on clear deliverables.
- iii) Sample report of similar assignments undertaken in the last three (3) years.
- iv) Contact details of at least three (3) organizations that the firm/ consultants have been contracted to carry out a similar assignment preferably in the last three (3) years.

Interested and qualified consultants/firms should send their application by email addressed to The General Coordinator through the abnsecretariat@africanbiodiversity.org cc accounts@africanbiodiversity.org and Fassil@africanbiodiversity.org by 18th October 2021.

