

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ABN STRATEGIC
PLAN DEVELOPMENT 2022-2026,
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND PARTNERS/
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**



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 in 11 African countries. 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 is offering a new, 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 to sustain their land and other natural resources. A key part of this restoration is to give a substantial voice to elders' indigenous knowledge.

On partnership, currently, ABN 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 Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). Its partners are also members of other networks and coalitions.

ABN is seeking a Consultant/Consultancy firm to undertake the following three assignments concurrently

2. DEVELOPMENT OF ABN STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

ABN has just concluded its 2019-2021 Strategic Plan period and is in the process of developing the next strategy for the next 5 years. In an effort to jumpstart this process, the biennial meeting of ABN partners that took place at the Bantu Lodge from 30th September to 2nd October 2021 discussed in detail the emerging and contextual issues relating to their respective countries. These emerging issues were consolidated and summarized and will form a basis for further engagement with partners and stakeholders on the next strategy. Over the years, ABN has traditionally worked around three key thematic areas namely Community Ecological Governance, Community Seed Knowledge and Youth and Cultural Biodiversity. With the help of the Consultants ABN will need to make a decision on whether to continue with these 3 traditional thematic areas as per the current Strategic Plan or modify these based on the emerging realities.

2.1 Specific Objectives of the Strategic Plan Development

- i) Consolidate and analyze the context and emerging issues as discussed in the recently concluded ABN Partners biennial meeting
- ii) Carry out consultations with relevant stakeholders for necessary input
- iii) Facilitate the development of the draft Strategy document, logframe and budgets
- iv) Facilitate a Strategy validation Workshop
- v) Incorporate feedback from the Validation Workshop and prepare the Final Strategy Plan.

2.2 The ABN implementing partners by country

- i) Inception Report
- ii) Draft Strategy Report
- iii) Final Strategic Plan 2022-2026

3. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Alongside facilitating the development of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, the Consultant will be expected to conduct ABN stakeholder analysis particularly to meet the requirements of the recently launched SIDA funded Project dubbed 'Conserving Bio-Cultural Diversity Project' running from September 2021 to 31st August 2024.

ABN envisions vibrant and resilient African communities; by building ecosystem resilience and food security in Africa. In line with ABN's mission and vision, the specific goal of this project is to contribute to improved life on land through conservation of bio-cultural diversity, restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Africa. The project will directly or indirectly target 38,500 community members affiliated with the IPs in 14 African countries.

ABN is therefore seeking to engage a consultant/s or consultancy firm to carry out an in-depth study of all relevant stakeholders (INGOs, local NGOs, government, private sector) who will be involved in the implementation of the Conserving Bio-Cultural Diversity Project funded by **SIDA**. The stakeholder analysis will include mapping of NGOs with projects related to biodiversity their interests, location, nature or type of projects and status of implementation. This will include Analysis of the NGOs 'key strategies in conservation/forest protection and livelihoods. The information will be gathered using various tools and methodologies as discussed and agreed between the Consultant and ABN.

3.1 Specific objectives of the Stakeholder analysis:

- i) Identify key stakeholders including civil society, government and private sector stakeholders that impact on conservation, positively and negatively;
- ii) Clarify the stakeholders' interests/goals/objectives and categorize them based on their interest;
- iii) Map where the different stakeholders' activities are located geographically and if possible explore at depth how each of the identified stakeholders involvement will impact the project implementation

The final report will give ABN a better understanding of existing interventions in the locations where the project is expected to be implemented. Further the analysis will guide ABN on where it should focus in the project intervention and provide a basis for long term engagement in the project implementation.

3.2 Expected Deliverables for the Stakeholder Analysis

- i) Inception Report
- ii) Draft Stakeholder Analysis Report
- iii) Final Stakeholder Analysis Report

4. PARTNERS /ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (PCA/OCA)

In line with the requirements of the SIDA funded project described in 3.0 above ABN Secretariat would like the consultant to carry out a comprehensive organizational capacity assessment as well as implementing partners capacity assessment for all the 21 partners who will be implementing this project in order to inform the interventions and support that will be required to ensure project deliverables are realized.

4.1 Specific Objectives of the Organizational and Partners Capacity Assessments

- i) Conduct an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for ABN as an organization
- ii) Conduct a Partners Capacity Assessment for all the 21 ABN partners involved in the SIDA funded project. These partners are based in 14 African countries.
- iii) Develop a specific OCA report for each partner and ABN secretariat as well as a consolidated report with appropriate recommendations

4.2 Expected Deliverables for the OCA & PCA

- iv) Inception Report
- v) Draft OCA/PCA Report
- vi) Final OCA/PCA Report

5. KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCES

The consultant undertaking this assignment will have previous experience with strategic planning, stakeholder analysis as well as organizational capacity assessments with a clear demonstration of similar works conducted in the past 3 years. The consultant will have good analytical and writing skills and will have previous experience with facilitating and conducting focus group discussions and key informant interviews in development contexts within the African context. The consultant should also possess

- i) At least a master's degree in Development Studies, Agriculture/ Agro Biodiversity, Biodiversity, Social Sciences, and or other relevant training.
- ii) Demonstrated knowledge and experience in Organization Development (OD)
- iii) 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 both Anglophone and Francophone African Countries.
- iv) Conversance with participatory methodologies and approaches to project review and evaluation including familiarity with inclusion, gender, and cultural sensitivity analysis
- v) Able to articulate issues objectively and present the reports with utmost clarity and within the agreed timeframe.
- vi) Proven track record of professional execution of similar consultancies/assignments; working with NGO work or Network organization /umbrella bodies.
- vii) Possess strong data collection and analysis skills

6. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed proposals should include:

- i) A cover Letter expressing interest and immediate availability for the assignment
- ii) A technical proposal with clear methodology and approaches to be adopted to carry out the assignment. A proposed work plan should also be included.
- iii) A financial proposal with a detailed budget and a payment schedule based on clear deliverables.
- iv) One Sample report of work previously undertaken for similar assignments in strategy, OCA and Stakeholder analysis within the past 3 years.
- v) Contact details of 3 organizations that have recently (preferably in the last 3 years) contracted the firm/consultants to carry out a similar assignment.

Interested and qualified consultants/firms with capacity to carry out all the three tasks within this assignment should send their application by email addressed to The General Coordinator through abnsecretariat@africanbiodiversity.org cc accounts@africanbiodiversity.org and Fassil@africanbiodiversity.org by **latest 18th October 2021**. **Please show the cost for Each Task separately.**