



African Biodiversity Network (ABN)

Terms of Reference

Regional Capacity Building Workshop on ABN Methodologies Training on Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

1.0 Introduction

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

ABN offers an all-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 works with diverse partner organizations and their communities drawn from 16 African countries¹. For more information, please refer to www.africanbiodiversity.org

Aligned with its 2024 Workplan, ABN plans to host a Capacity Building workshop on advocacy and policy for its partners in the Eastern Africa Sub-Region, focusing on trend monitoring of critical issues related to ABN thematic areas, and coalition building.

The sub-regional approach adopted by ABN is essential in its efforts to decentralize the network's action and anchor it in the practices of partners. To this end, continuous capacity building constitutes a strong lever and a motivating factor for engaging partners in the process of advocacy and policy influencing dialogue. It is not a question here of simply providing technical tools to carry out advocacy actions, but of building a corpus consistent with ABN's strategy, to relay the voices of communities on essential issues such as recognition of Farmers Managed Seed System (FMSS), the role of endogenous conservation practices, the involvement of women and young people in the transmission of knowledge. To do this, ABN wishes to enlist the services of a consultant, to lead a training session on advocacy tools, policy trend analysis practices, and political dialogue. The objective of this training is, ultimately, to enable the ABN Secretariat and partners to develop a strong and relevant advocacy strategy, driven by a clear plan adapted to the context of the network.

2.0 Objectives

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of ABN partners and the Secretariat on evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue practices.

Specific objective:

- To enhance participants knowledge and understanding on advocacy and policy influencing;
- To train participants on best techniques to analyze trends in public policies, on issues relevant to ABN.

3.0 Expected outcomes

- Participants capacities to conduct evidence-based advocacy and influence policies is enhanced;
- Enhanced informed decision-making and strategic evidenced-based advocacy on issues relevant to ABN.

¹ Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Benin, Ghana, Togo, Gabon, Morocco, CAR, Cameroon, Egypt and Congo (the newest partner country from 2023)

4.0 Scope of the assignment

Step 1: The consultant will prepare all necessary materials and training guide line to be used during the training, according to ABN approaches and methodologies. An inception meeting will be held with ABN Secretariat, prior to the training to build a common understanding of the assignment. Documents required by the consultant will be provided by ABN Secretariat. The training materials will be approved by the Advocacy and Policy Coordinator before any proceeding.

Step 2: The consultant will train the participants during the capacity building workshop in Kenya, on Thursday 4rd April 2024. The training methodology and approach must give priority to interactions with participants, with a particular emphasis on peer-to-peer learning.

Step 3: The consultant will also submit a report of the training to the ABN Secretariat.

5.0 Timeline

The training will be held during the regional capacity building workshop, in Kenya, on **4th April 2024**.

6.0 Key qualifications and competencies

The consultant undertaking this assignment should have the following minimum qualifications:

1. At least a Master's degree in any of the following areas; Environmental law, International Relations, advocacy and social justice, public relations or other relevant discipline.
2. Demonstrable knowledge, on advocacy principles strategies and policy dialogue/processes
3. Preferably knowledge on biodiversity and conservation matters in the African context.
4. Conversant with participatory methodologies and approaches to project review and evaluation.
5. Familiarity with public policy analysis and evaluation.
6. At least 10 years of experience handling similar assignments preferably in the last seven (7) years.
7. A good understanding on values of indigenous knowledge, rights of indigenous communities, nature and culture.

7.0 Application process

All interested and qualified individuals or firms should submit a letter expressing their interest, along with details of their budgets. Include a thorough breakdown of your fees and all costs associated with this assignment (E.g., VAT, etc). and availability for the assignment.

Additionally, please provide a concise and coherent technical proposal outlining your understanding of the assignment and proposed timelines.

Applicants are also advised to include Curriculum Vitae of all the teams to be involved in this assignment demonstrating evidence of similar work undertaken five (5) years. Attach at least 3 samples or links to such work. At least two (2) recommendation letters from previous clients on similar assignments is an added advantage..

All applications can be sent addressed to The General Coordinator by email through abnsecretariat@africanbiodiversity.org cc accounts@africanbiodiversity.org with Advocacy and Policy Training Consultancy in the subject line by **Tuesday, 27th March 2024**.

