

Terms of Reference for the Preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Volta Basin

Position: National Consultants (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali et Togo)

1- Introduction

The “Addressing Transboundary Concerns in the Volta River Basin and its downstream coastal areas” Project is a joint initiative of the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo. The project, which has been designed to facilitate the integrated management, sustainable development and protection of natural resources of the Volta River Basin, plans to achieve its objectives by addressing priority regional transboundary issues and problems as identified through a preliminary transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) for the basin conducted in 2002. The project is expected to promote a more sectorally-coordinated management approach, based on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) principles, both at the national and the regional levels, with a strong emphasis on an expanded role for all stakeholders.

The long-term goal of the project is to enhance the ability of the countries to plan and manage the Volta basin within their territories and its aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

The project has three main components with associated objectives identified by the root cause analysis carried out during the project preparation process and updated during the inception phase as follows:

- Specific Objective n° 1: Build capacity, improve knowledge, enhance stakeholders involvement to support the effective management of the VRB
- Specific Objective n° 2: Develop river basin legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and management instruments for addressing transboundary concerns in the Volta River Basin and its downstream coastal area
- Specific Objective n° 3: Demonstrate national and regional measures to combat transboundary environmental degradation in the Volta Basin

2- Duties and Responsibilities

A preliminary TDA for the Volta River Basin was completed in 2002. The preliminary TDA served as the basis for preparation of the project document and follow up inception report guiding project implementation. The current GEF Volta Project is expected to update and expand the TDA, and develop a regionally agreed Strategic Action Programme (SAP) with corresponding Action Plans for the National Part of the Volta River Basin (APNP-VRB), following clarification of some aspects of the environmental status of the region.

The preliminary TDA identifies a number of shortcomings, notably the lack of adequate data and information for several areas of assessment. Furthermore, changes in the legal and institutional landscape have occurred since 2002, both at basin as well as at national level. A review of the gaps in the preliminary TDA has been carried out and forms the basis for the work to be undertaken for the development of the final TDA.

A regional TDA integration team has been appointed comprising a Team Leader, Water Resources Expert, Ecosystems Expert, Governance Expert and Economic Expert and will be supported by six **National Consultants** (one in each country). The regional TDA integration team will coordinate and

guide the work of the national consultants (in coordination with national focal points) and integrate the national reports into a cohesive basin-wide TDA. The **National Consultants** will work in close association with the TDA core team including national focal points, and the principal activities to be performed by the National Teams include:

- Gathering data and information of areas identified in the Gap Analysis, and decided on by the core TDA team.
- Carrying out specific studies related to Water and Natural Resources Use, Ecosystems, Socio-economic Development and Governance in their respective basin state (including national part of the basin).
- Compiling national reports for submission to the regional TDA integration team.

In particular, studies need to be undertaken in the following fields:

- Bio-geophysical setting and ecosystems: This includes a comprehensive description of, among others, basin relief, geology and soils in the basin area, hydrology and hydrogeology of the basin and climatic conditions as well as vegetation coverage and biodiversity in the basin.
- Socio-economic setting: This includes a comprehensive description of, among others, population, demographic trends, migration patterns, health aspects and main livelihood activities. In particular, it includes an overview and analysis of key economic activities in the basin such as agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries, forestry, industry, mining and tourism and their dependence and impact on sustainable natural resource management.
- Natural resource availability and use: This includes, among others, a comprehensive description of current and predicted future natural resources availability and use, e.g. current and future surface and groundwater use, land use and level of land degradation as well as use of biodiversity. Particular reference needs to be made to the effects of climate change on the availability (and quality) of natural resources and the impact on economic activities and livelihoods.
- Governance: This includes a comprehensive description of the relevant governance framework in the basin with emphasis on governance environment for economic development and natural resources management. Among others, aspects to be included are an overview of regional and national development policies and key sector strategies, applicable international agreements, national legislation and customary law with respect to the management of water, land, biodiversity and other natural resources, relevant regional and national institutions and the linkages between them as well as an overview of key stakeholders for the management of the basin.

In addition to the description of the current situation in the basin in all of the above areas, emphasis needs to be placed on the identification of potential future environmental and social pressures. Root cause analyses need to be undertaken and key problems identified with a view to developing recommendations for improvement.

3- Key Expected Outputs of the Consultancy

Output	Expected Delivery
Stand-alone national report on identified TDA issues and input to respective TDA sections	April 2010

4- Key Considerations for the Study

The consultant shall take into consideration all on-going studies and activities of this and other projects (e.g. IUCN/PAGEV, VBA Projects) in the basin (e.g. on stakeholders involvement, national/regional institution analysis, data management and sharing) in order to achieve the necessary synergies and complementarities at the level of the development of TDA, Strategic Action Program and Action Plan for National Part of the Volta River Basin.

The consultant is expected to maintain regular communication with the PMU, UDC, and VBA, and liaise with the National Project Coordinators and other relevant stakeholders. PMU will make available all related literature at its disposal and provide the consultant with contacts of key stakeholders involved in the GEF-Volta Process.

5- Required Expertise and Qualifications of the national consultants

The assignment shall be conducted by national experts (1 per country) with extensive experience (at least 10 years) in the areas of competence required by the study, i.e.

- Integrated Water Resources Management, Groundwater Management, Hydraulic modelling principles and approaches
- Environmental Services, Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity,
- Community Based Natural Resources Management, Public Health, Sustainable Development,
- Legal, Policy and Institutional Analysis

The consultants should have the following qualifications and experiences:

- A higher university degree in any of the respective field required above, including working knowledge of other areas
- Demonstrated experience in working with a multi-disciplinary scientific team,
- Excellent and demonstrated (through academic journal articles or project/study reports) communication, consultation, editing and drafting skills,
- Considerable experience in carrying out research studies,
- Working experience and production of documents in English. French language skills are an asset,
- Knowledge of transboundary issues in the Volta Region is an asset.

6- Submission of Applications

Qualified candidates should submit their application, including a **letter of interest, proposed methodology and complete Curriculum Vitae** to Ms. Angelika Quaye, via e-mail to angelikaq@unops.org with copy to vacancieskeoc@unops.org by the **10th November 2009**.