



Projet REWarD-Volta River :

Inversion de la Dégradation des Ecosystèmes et des Ressources en eaux dans le Bassin de la Volta / Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta River Basin

Terms of Reference for the Recruitment of a Regional Project Coordinator (RPC)

October 2022

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Volta Basin, covering an area of 398 390 km², is shared by six (06) west African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo. Like other river basins in Africa, since the 1970s, the Volta Basin has been facing the combined pressure of climate change and a growing population which is 70% rural, i.e. 35 million by 2025.

The main transboundary environmental and socio-economic issues identified by the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) conducted in the basin in 2014 include the following:

- Reduction/shortage of water resources;
- Land and water degradation;
- Degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Poverty of the population in the basin countries;
- Etc.

It is in this context that the project entitled "*Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta River Basin (REWARD-Volta)*" was developed in close collaboration by UNEP, IUCN, VBA, GWP/WA and national stakeholders to address the transboundary environmental concerns taking into account the importance of natural resources for a sustainable development in the basin.

Pursuant to the regional workshop held in Ouagadougou in November 2019, the final **REWARD-Volta River project** document was submitted in January 2020 to the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and was approved on 24 January 2022 for funding up to **US\$7 122 566**, over five (05) years.

The objective of the **REWARD-Volta River project** is to reverse the degradation of ecosystems and water resources and promote integrated ecosystem-based development in the Volta Basin through strengthening transboundary governance, ecosystem restoration and conservation for sustainable livelihoods, with focus on the following four components:

- ▶ **Component 1:** Improvement of knowledge base and development of management tools for informed decision-making (linked to environmental quality objectives 1, 5 and 7 of the Strategic Action Programme)
- ▶ **Component 2:** Strengthening transboundary planning, coordination and regional and national capacity, also during extreme events of climate change and variability (linked to environmental quality objectives 1, 3, 6 and 7 of the Strategic Action Programme).
- ▶ **Component 3:** Strengthening ecosystem resilience for sustainable livelihoods in the Volta Basin (linked to environmental quality objectives 1, 5 and 7 of the Strategic Action Programme)
- ▶ **Component 4:** Knowledge management and sharing, and effective monitoring and evaluation (linked to environmental quality objectives 5 and 7 of the Strategic Action Programme).

The technical partners for the implementation of the REWARD-Volta River project are the following:

(i) UNEP, (ii) IUCN, (iii) GWP-WA and the beneficiary (iv) VBA (Executive Directorate and the Coordination of the National Focal Structure of each of the six (06) member states). Their brief description is given below:

1. **The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** is a branch of the United Nations Organization (UNO), established in 1972, with the Africa Regional Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, for the following objectives:

- Coordinate the activities of the [United Nations](#) in the field of [environment](#);
 - Assist countries in the implementation of [environmental policies](#).
2. **The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, founded on 5 October 1948 pursuant to an international conference in Fontainebleau, France, is one of the world's leading non-governmental organizations dedicated to nature conservation. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies the world over to conserve the integrity and biodiversity of nature and to ensure equitable and sustainable use of natural resources.
 3. **The West Africa Regional Water Partnership or Global Water Partnership - West Africa (GWP-WA)** is one of the 13 Regional Water Partnerships in the world, created in 1996 to help countries translate the principles of the Dublin (1992) and the Rio (1992) conferences on sustainable water resources management into concrete actions. GWP's vision is a world where water security is assured for all. Its mission is to advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.
 4. **The Volta Basin Authority (VBA)** is an intergovernmental organization founded by the countries sharing the [Volta Basin](#), i.e. [Benin](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Ghana](#), [Mali](#) and [Togo](#). On 19 January 2007, in [Ouagadougou](#), the Heads of State of the countries, moved by a spirit of cooperation, signed the Convention on the Status of the [Volta River](#) and the creation of the VBA. Its mission is to *"promote permanent consultation and sustainable development for an equitable sharing of benefits with a view to reducing poverty and improving socio-economic integration"*.

For the implementation and monitoring of the REWarD-Volta River project activities, a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established at the VBA Executive Directorate headed by a Regional Project Coordinator, under the responsibility of the Deputy Executive Director, in charge of Operations and supervised by the Executive Director.

The VBA in collaboration with IUCN, UNEP and GWP-WA, is calling for applications for the recruitment of the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC)

Implementation Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN • UNEP
Executing Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBA • GWP-WA
Beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBA Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo)
Duration of Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (05) years
Place of assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Directorate of VBA based in Ouaga 2000, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Date of publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 November 2022
Closing date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 November 2022, 18h 00 GMT (Burkina Faso local time)
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Executive Director of VBA
Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director of VBA
Duration of Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year renewable five (05) times
Possible date of entry into service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 January 2023

2. Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the immediate responsibility of the VBA Deputy Executive Director, the Regional Project Coordinator shall assist in the technical implementation and coordination of the Project activities. Specifically, he shall perform the following tasks:

► Implementation and Coordination of the Project:

- Ensure the daily implementation of the Project activities and coordinate the tasks assigned to members of the Project Management Unit (PMU);
- Ensure the implementation of the activities of all the components;
- Maintain functional working relationships with the Focal Structure Coordinators and other external partners in the organization and implementation of the project activities;
- Ensure that deadlines are met for the completion of the activities and the resulting tasks;
- Ensure the production of the expected deliverables within the given deadlines and ensure their good quality;
- Prepare and organize the annual meetings of the Project Steering Committee;
- Provide support in the execution of administrative tasks related to the recruitment of external consultants;
- Contribute to the procurement process for goods and services, while ensuring the observance of the administrative and financial procedures as stipulated in the contract between VBA and the technical and financial partners of the project;
- Encourage team work, openness and honesty within the PMU team as well as among the project partners.
- Carry out any other relevant tasks assigned to him as required by the hierarchy.

► Planning and Operational Monitoring and Evaluation

- Supervise the development and implementation of Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) as well as the quarterly and half-year work plans, based on the approved activities and their related budget;
- Work in close collaboration with the IUCN, UNEP and GWP partners and the countries to ensure the implementation of the activities in accordance with the regional and national priorities and policies;
- Supervise the project expenditure to avoid (non-eligible expenses) under-use and over-use of the budget resources;
- Organise periodic follow-up visits to the countries to monitor the progress and assess the quantitative and qualitative results of the project in accordance with the programme;
- Prepare and ensure quality annual audit missions and classical evaluations;
- Supervise the development and implementation of the monitoring-evaluation plan based on the indicators defined in the project document and Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).

► Reporting and Communication on the Implementation of the Project:

- Ensure and contribute to the preparation of periodic technical and financial progress reports on

the Project activities (quarterly and annual reports) for regular reporting to the Project Implementing Entities.

- Ensure timely compiling and sharing of the results of meetings and workshops held with the partners on the project.
- Promote the visibility of the project by supporting the development, editing and dissemination of communication materials on the project activities.

► **Contribution to the Development of the Volta Basin Authority**

- Contribute to the identification and formulation of new initiatives;
- Contribute to the production of periodic progress reports to provide VBA information about the implementation of the project.
- Carry out any other relevant tasks assigned to him/her by the Hierarchy as part of VBA activities.

3. Experience et qualifications:

- Be a citizen of one of the Volta Basin countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana and Togo;
- Hold an academic degree at least, Master of Science (BAC+5 at least) in water and/or environmental sciences;
- At least 10 years of experience in the management of projects on water and/or environment. Proven experience in managing transboundary water and environmental projects would be an asset;
- Have good knowledge of water resources management and climate change issues as related to water resources or other related fields;
- Strong organizational and strategic planning skills to analyse, prioritize and take initiatives to implement activities in a timely manner;
- Have good understanding of development issues in West Africa, with a deep knowledge of sustainable development issues and challenges;
- Have solid experience in working with regional, sub-regional, national and local organizations in the field of water and environmental planning and management;
- Experience in stakeholder participation processes in organizing policy dialogue at regional, national and local levels;
- Experience in working with GEF or other international donor funded projects would be an asset;
- Have a good command of computer tools (Knowledge of a planning/project management software would be an asset);
- Collaborative and team-work skills in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic environment;
- Excellent communication and diplomatic skills;
- Have good proficiency in French or English and be able to work comfortably in the other language.

4. Working Conditions

The successful candidate will be offered a one (01) year renewable contract with a trial period of three (03) months.

The position is located in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Regional Coordinator may be required to conduct missions outside Burkina Faso as part of his activities. VBA offers a competitive salary and benefits depending on the qualifications and other relevant experience.

NB/ The successful candidate shall be readily available.

5. Submission of Application Package

Interested candidates with the required qualifications and experience are invited to submit their application for this position including the following:

- A cover letter clearly indicating the title of the position, addressed to the Executive Director of VBA;
- A detailed, recent, certified true Curriculum Vitae with the names and contact information of three references, including a recent employer;
- A certified copy of titles, diplomas, certificates of qualification;
- An extract of the birth certificate or legal adoption certificate or valid substitute birth certificate;
- A copy of the nationality certificate or any other document justifying the nationality;
- Two (2) passport-size photos.

The successful candidate shall provide a medical certificate and counter-medical certificate and an extract of criminal record not later than three months.

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application deadline is 25 November 2022, 18h 00 GMT (Burkina Faso local time):

- **Package must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the following:**
 - Exécutive Direction de l'ABV, Ouaga 2000, Avenue Sembéné Ousmane, 10 BP 13621 Ouagadougou 10, Burkina Faso;
 - Secrétariat Exécutif du GWP-AO, Secteur 15, Section GG, Lot 30, Parcelle 6, Avenue Charles Bila KABORE, Poste 1673, 05 B.P. 6552 Ouaga 05, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
 - **Or to the following email addresses:**
 - secretariat.abv@gmail.com;
 - secretariat@abv.int;
 - gwp.westafrica@gwpao.org;

NB: Only short-listed candidates shall be contacted.