

UNOPS helps its partners in the United Nations system meet the world's needs for building peace, recovering from disaster, and creating sustainable development. UNOPS is known for its ability to implement complex projects in all types of environments around the globe. In an effort to promote organizational excellence, UNOPS seeks highly qualified individuals for the following position:

### **Vacancy Details**

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Vacancy Code	<b>VA/UNOPS/2009/KEOC/VRBP/05</b>
Post Title	<b>Ecosystems Management Expert for the Preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Volta Basin</b>
Post Level	<b>ICA Specialist Level 2</b>
Org Unit	<b>KEOC/GEF Volta River project</b>
Duty Station	<b>Home-based with travels to the project areas</b>
Duration	<b>25 days are foreseen to be provided</b>
Closing Date	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2009</b>

### **Background**

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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 is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Support (UNOPS).

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 and 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

## Duties and Responsibilities

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A preliminary TDA for the Volta River Basin has been completed in 2002. The preliminary TDA serves as the basis for preparation of the project document and follow up inception report guiding the project implementation. The TDA is a scientific-technical baseline document, on the basis of the findings of which the SAP will be developed.

The current GEF Volta Project is therefore expected to update and expand the TDA, and develop a regionally agreed SAP, following clarification of some aspects of the environmental status of the region as well as building grounds for SAP implementation.

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.

The current ToR outlines the roles and responsibilities of an **Ecosystems Management Expert** to contribute to the preparation of the final TDA for the Volta River basin. For the preparation of the final TDA it is envisaged that a core team of regional or international experts takes responsibility on a basin-wide scale individually or as part of a consultancy consortium. National experts from the basin states, contributing data and performing studies on specific issues on a national basis, will complement this team. The core project team will comprise:

- TDA Coordinator (Team Leader)
- Water Resources expert
- **Ecosystems Management expert**
- Economic development expert
- Governance expert

The **Ecosystems Management Expert** will work in close association with the TDA Coordinator, as well as the other core team members, in developing an approach to the assignment. They will contribute to the identification of further studies, which need to be performed to address gaps in the preliminary TDA as well as developing a structured approach to gaining the input of other stakeholders in the basin. They will also be responsible for providing input to the TDA on the ecosystems in the Volta Basin – biodiversity, landuse impacts, core drivers, threats, as appropriate.

The principal activities to be performed by the Ecosystems Management Expert include:

- In collaboration with the other TDA core team members assess the gap analysis of the preliminary TDA and contribute to the preparation of a workplan for activities needed to address identified gaps, related to ecosystems, in each basin state.
- For each of the basin states, data and information on ecosystems need to be developed. The Ecosystems Management Expert will provide input to the TDA Coordinator to prepare a detailed overview of the skills needed in consultancy teams within each of the basin states to address the above area.
- In collaboration with country teams gather data and information of areas related to ecosystems management identified in the Gap Analysis, including ecotones, biodiversity, protected areas threatened/endangered species, ecosystem drivers (such as sediment transport), ecosystems services and responses to global change.
- Assess the quality of and assist in editing and integrating the national studies related to ecosystems management.
- Participate in a number of regional stakeholder workshops to reach agreement on major perceived problems and issues (MPPIs) as well as to identify their root causes through performing a causal chain analysis.

- Contribute to the preparation of the first draft TDA, taking responsibility for ecosystem aspects of the basin.
- Integrate comments and inputs from external technical reviewers and relevant stakeholder, gathered at the respective national and regional workshops, into a final TDA.
- Provide input from the TDA into the Strategic Action Programme development as necessary.

**Key Expected Outputs of the Consultancy:**

The Ecosystem Management expert is expected to make substantial inputs and contribute thematic documents and reports towards the delivery and where necessary the finalisation of the followings:

- Workplan for completion of the TDA
- Guidelines for carrying out national studies
- Causal chain analysis
- First draft of TDA – covering ecosystems aspect of the basin
- Final draft of TDA

**Key Considerations for the Study**

The consultant shall take into consideration all on-going studies and activities, particularly the results of studies (stakeholders involvement, national/regional institution analysis, data management and sharing) and project (IUCN/PAGEV, VBA Projects, etc.), in order to achieve the necessary synergies and complementarities at the level of the development of TDA, SAP and APNP-VRB.

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

**Required Selection Criteria**

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The assignment shall be conducted by a regional or international expert individually or as part of a consultancy consortium with extensive experience in the areas of competence required by the study. Equally, the consultant must have conducted activities of similar nature and complexity, especially in the framework of other GEF financed projects.

The consultant should have the following qualifications and experiences:

- Considerable experience in TDA/SAP development,
- A higher university degree in ecology, environmental management, geography, biology or other directly related physical science field,
- Extensive, with at least 10 years of proven experience in working with and relating to governments and international agencies,
- Sound understanding of Integrated Ecosystem Management, International River Basin Management, Environmental Services, Protected Areas Management and Biodiversity,
- Demonstrated experience in working with a multi-disciplinary scientific team,
- Excellent and demonstrated (through academic journal articles or project reports) communication, consultation, editing and drafting skills,
- 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.

## **Submission of Applications**

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Qualified candidates may submit their application, including a letter of interest, methodology, complete Curriculum Vitae and an updated United Nations Personal History Form (P.11) [English Version](#) or [French Version](#), via e-mail to [angelikag@unops.org](mailto:angelikag@unops.org) with copy to [vacancieskeoc@unops.org](mailto:vacancieskeoc@unops.org). Kindly indicate the vacancy number and the post title in the subject line when applying by email.

## **Additional Considerations**

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- Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates that are short-listed for interviews will be notified.
- Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
- UNOPS reserves the right to appoint a candidate at a level below the advertised level of the post.

For more information on UNOPS, including its core values and competencies, please visit the UNOPS website at [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org).