



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

CALL FOR SERVICES

[DEADLINE EXTENDED]

Reference Ref. 04/014

Evaluation of the Developing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Capacity for Ministries Responsible for STI in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) project

Category: Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Type of Contract: Consultant for Service

Language Required: Fluent in English

Contract starting date: February 2014

Contract Duration: One month

Background :

South Africa was mandated by the SADC Ministers responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation to lead with the development of the science, technology and innovation policy training programme for SADC senior officials in 2008. South Africa agreed with UNESCO on the development of the proposed training content, with the specific requirement of allowing different nationals and international partners' participation. The design of the project covered: (i) series of three training workshops for senior government officials involved with Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies in SADC member states; and (ii) carefully selected and supervised STI policy projects have been undertaken by the participants. Further appropriate procedures supportive of improved STI policy work in the various ministries have been agreed upon and their adoption actively promoted. Expected results of this project include:

- Appropriate STI policies; the development of which have been traced to the involvement of senior SADC government officials who were trained in the context of this capacity development project, were adopted in SADC member states;
- The implementation of the said appropriate STI policies were planned, and/or initiated, and/or ongoing in several SADC member states;
- Senior government officials from ministries responsible for STI in SADC member states were trained in the development and implementation of STI policies (at least 2 senior government officials from each SADC member state by month 15 of the project);
- Procedures for reviewing, updating existing STI policies or developing new STI policies agreed upon and their use is actively promoted, as appropriate (at least 2 SADC member states are using such procedures as a result of the STI policy training project by month 18 of the project); and
- A university in the SADC region, identified by SADC and UNESCO with the help of the DST and MBS has the necessary capacity (qualified lecturers, appropriate course materials, venues, etc.) to co-facilitate the STI training and eventually conduct the said training on its own (the said university co-conducting the training by month 6, and solely by month 18).

Overall, the training consisted of major topics within the realm of science and technology policy analysis, formulation and implementation; from the review of science and technology policy; through an analysis of S&T institutional strengths and weaknesses and National Innovation Systems to international cross-country comparisons in the field of STI policy development.

To implement the above, UNESCO Windhoek engaged with relevant universities within and outside SADC. Progress meetings have been held among the partners, at the latest once after each workshop or six months (whichever comes first) making use of teleconferencing facilities if necessary. The management of the project has been formally discussed at such meetings, and appropriate decisions for actions taken. The project strived to promote gender equality, and will have no adverse environmental impact.

Recent years have marked a new era of institutional stability in the SADC region. In keeping with the need to develop competitive capacity and capability as well as a long-term view for the role of science and technology (S&T) in industrial development, SADC Ministers of Science and Technology expressed the need to further develop institutional and S&T policy capacity in the region through training in science and technology policy.

The Consolidated Plan of Action for Science and Technology endorsed by the AU summit in January 2006 underlined the fact that effective science policy is primordial in harnessing scientific knowledge for development. For this reason UNESCO was identified and approached as an appropriate body to facilitate the training. South Africa agreed with UNESCO on the development of the proposed training content, with the specific requirement of allowing different nationals and international partners' participation.

In a letter dated 10 November 2010, to the UNESCO Assistant Director-General Africa Department, the SADC Deputy Executive Secretary, Regional Integration, formally requested UNESCO to facilitate the implementation of the said training. The involvement of UNESCO Windhoek was confirmed in the reply from ADG-Africa Department dated 28 December 2010. The development of this project was thus launched.

After a consultation meeting (03 to 04 July 2012) that took place in South Africa, a detailed workplan for the training workshops plus the necessary follow-up was drafted by UNESCO, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the University of Manchester (MIIR).

The workplan included:

- Finalize and deliver a 5-day training course on STI policies making appropriate use of case studies and other modalities.
- Finalize and deliver a 5-day methodology oriented workshop, by the end of which each SADC participant would have selected one topic on which he/she will have to personally develop a strategic paper and policy options suited to their national environment.
- Support/mentor participants in their work on the said strategy papers and policy options, and,
- Finalize and deliver a final Policy Workshop, in which the strategy papers will be presented and discussed and STI policy options highlighted with regards to the various themes addressed.

It is noted that a basic source of the material is that of the internationally recognized annual course on policies for higher education, research and innovation (STIP) offered by the MIIR. These have been customized to reflect conditions in the SADC in consultation with DST (South Africa), SADC, UNESCO, and University of Zimbabwe (UZ). The partner made available qualified experts for both the content development and course delivery, in addition to providing the necessary mentoring as indicated above.

Tasks and responsibilities:

The contractor/consultant for the proposed evaluation will provide services of one evaluator to assist UNESCO Windhoek office in conducting a due diligence review of the "Developing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Capacity of Ministries Responsible for STI in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)" project run by UNESCO/Windhoek.

The ultimate objective of this evaluation is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the project implementation; the impact of its deliverables; and to study the potential for sustaining its current activities in the future. The sustainability issue is especially important as it is only through it, that the longer term benefits to the SADC Region can be realized. In addition to the above objective, the evaluation report will be used for UNESCO's C5 programming, which will be conducted later in 2014-2015, and could help in formulating

future UNESCO's and SADC Member States' activities that address Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies.

The main objectives of this exercise are:

- To assess how effective and efficient were the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project, and how effective was the facilitation provided by UNESCO;
- To examine the extent to which the collective work undertaken by MBS,UZ, DST and UNESCO, helped in better addressing STI policies issues, the outcomes on the various stakeholders and the project's impact at large;
- To examine whether the methodology of delivering the course was appropriate to meet the objectives and assess the role of the resource persons and facilitators that being MBS and UZ;
- To assess the extent to which the participants gained value from the course to improve capacities in STI policy development and understanding;
- To draw conclusions regarding project's strengths and weaknesses; and
- To recommend methodologies and strategic alternatives that will help in strengthening the STI work of SADC senior officials and selected decision makers.

UNESCO undertakes to promptly provide all information required by the contractor for the completion of the services.

In case of delay in providing information, UNESCO undertakes to inform the contractor and therefore accepts to revise the date of the delivery.

At the end of the evaluation, the contractor shall provide UNESCO Windhoek with a draft and final evaluation reports covering the following;

- An evaluation comprehensive report including the findings, brief description of the process, methodology, strengths, weaknesses, gaps, opportunities and recommendations;
- Overall evaluation conclusion to meet the evaluation objectives;
- Recommendations to improve UNESCO's alignment with best industry practices in the areas of Science, technology and Innovation Policies.

The contractor will also provide well referenced evaluation working papers in support of the report and will present the evaluation findings to the partners in the project; namely: SADC, DST,UNESCO Windhoek, University of Zimbabwe, and MBS.

Contact:

For further information please contact Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi (y.filalimeknassi@unesco.org). Applications should be sent Mrs. Emmarentia Irion / e.irion@unesco.org no later **than 1st February 2014.**