



LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho. Tel: 22246000 Fax: 2231062

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND RIVERINE & TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY EXPERTS – MEMBERS OF THE PANEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS (POEs) TO THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT (LHWP)

1.0. BACKGROUND

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is a multi-phased project entailing construction of dams, tunnels and road infrastructure implemented pursuant to the Treaty between the Government of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. The Treaty binds both governments to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the LHWP is implemented and operated taking into consideration protection of the existing quality of the environment. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is the implementing Authority reporting to the Board of Directors.

In complying with the Treaty, the LHDA developed the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) with the purpose of improving on the positive impacts and mitigating the negative impacts of the LHWP activities. The EAP is made up of three (3) key action plans: Compensation, Resettlement and Development Action Plan, Public Health Action Plan and Natural Environment and Heritage (NEH) Action Plan.

The now completed Phase I of the LHWP comprised of Katse and Muela dams, inter-connecting tunnels, Matsoku Weir and 'Muela Hydropower Station. The LHDA is now implementing Phase II of the LHWP that includes construction of a 165m high CFR dam on the Senqu River at Polihali in the Mokhotlong district, a transfer tunnel from the Polihali Reservoir to the Katse Reservoir, associated advance infrastructure, such as access roads, power and telecommunication transmission lines to the Project sites as well as public health, socio-economic development and livelihoods restoration & improvement projects/programmes

Environmental and social baseline studies including the public health baseline were completed in 2015/16. The Public health, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) for the advance infrastructure and the Polihali Dam for Phase II have also been completed and are already being implemented. Construction of the



main works (the Transfer tunnel and Polihali Dam) has started and is also on-going.

2.0. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

2.1. Introduction

To ensure continuity of operations, technical back-stopping and expert review of the respective environmental and social programmes and projects under the LHWP Phases, LHDA has just procured a new Panel of Environmental Experts to cover two (2) portfolios of Biophysical Environment and Socio-economic & Resettlement.

2.2. Required Expertise

LHDA now invites interested, eligible and suitably qualified and experienced external experts to serve as the Panel of Environmental Experts (POEs) for the following two (2) additional portfolios:

- **Public Health; and**
- **Terrestrial & Riverine Ecology.**

The successful candidates will be contracted to LHDA for a period of three (3) years. Subject to LHDA procedures and requirements, the Panel members will be required to attend between one (1) and four (4) missions to Lesotho per year.

During missions, the experts will be expected to provide independent assessment on the planning and implementation of the public health and terrestrial & riverine ecology components under Phase I and Phase II programmes/projects of the LHWP. As part of being the POEs, the experts will take direction from LHDA Management in preparation for and during missions and present reviews/assessments consistent with relevant international best practice. Generally, the POEs primarily act in an advisory capacity to the LHDA and its social and environmental consultants.

2.3. The Scope of Services for the Panel of Environmental Experts (POEs)s

To serve as strategic independent quality review experts as members of the POEs to the LHWP. Generally, the POEs are required to conduct comprehensive and independent peer review of the adequacy, technical quality, suitability and rigor of the social and environmental programmes and projects.



The key duties of the Public Health and Riverine and Terrestrial Ecology experts as members of the POEs will be informed by specific and detailed Terms of Reference (TORs). The TORs for each Mission are communicated to the Panel at least one (1) month before the proposed visit of the POEs.

The review and assessment of documents provided in the TORs shall broadly cover, but not be limited to the following:

- 2.3.1 The processes towards Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental Impact Management and Environmental and Social Plans and programmes of Phase I and Phase II of the Project. This includes the planning and implementation of the Environment Action Plan (EAP) of Phase 1 and other processes relating to the planning and implementation of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), considering the best interests of LHDA and the affected communities. The assessment must be consistent with applicable international best practices.
- 2.3.2 Implementation of the Social and biophysical environment (EAP) programmes/projects in achieving the Treaty obligation of maintaining the living standards of those communities and individuals affected by the project.
- 2.3.3 The development of social and environmental actions plans to mitigate the negative impacts of construction of both the natural environment and the affected communities.
- 2.3.4 The processes towards the planning and implementation of environmental and social programmes (Public Health, Development, livelihood restoration & improvement) for Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).
- 2.3.5 Assessment of implementation of the Public Health mitigations measures as recommended by the Public Health Impact Assessment and the Public Health Action Plans to ensure that the LHWP has minimum negative public health impacts.
- 2.3.6 Quality of the environment with respect to effective protection and management of local catchments including reservoir water management.
- 2.3.7 Effectiveness of implemented mitigation measures aimed at the protection and conservation of natural resources.
- 2.3.8 Assessment of the implementation of Bio-physical monitoring in accordance with the IFR Policy; and



2.3.9 Inputs into the process and quality assurance with respect to programmes and any projects and/or studies being implemented.

2.4 OBLIGATIONS OF THE PANEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS (POEs)

The Panel shall within the aforesaid period perform the following obligations:

- 2.4.1 Carry out services with diligence, efficiency and economy, following generally accepted techniques, practices, professionalism and consulting standards recognized by international professional bodies.
- 2.4.2 Cooperate with other POEs team members in reviewing and providing an independent assessment.
- 2.4.3 Always act in respect of any matter relating to this Contract or the Services, in good faith and shall always support and safeguard the Client's legitimate interests.
- 2.4.4 Review relevant documents relating to the LHWP, both while present in Lesotho and from time to time in the home office when requested in writing by LHDA.
- 2.4.5 Participate in briefings, meetings and site visits to obtain a good insight into the LHWP and to discuss aspects of the LHWP with LHDA site staff and other interested parties that the LHDA may introduce to the expert panel.
- 2.4.6 Participate in preparing monitoring and evaluation reports (POE Reports) in Lesotho, presenting the expert panelist's independent assessment of the LHWP initiatives and work programmes, consistent with current international best practices, with conclusions as to the present state of project implementation and make recommendations on ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency of project implementation; and
- 2.4.7 The Panelist shall prior to departure from Lesotho, jointly with other panel members, provide an oral presentation of the Report findings to the LHDA Management, relevant staff and other interested parties that the LHDA may invite, and respond to questions raised by those present.



The experts should be recognized experts within their fields and have a comprehensive breadth of experience in large engineering projects, especially in the water sector.

2.5 Key Qualifications and Experience

- a) A Public Health Expert should possess at least master's degree qualifications in Public Health or epidemiology or equivalent medical qualification, but preferably a PhD or Doctorate Degree in the respective fields;
- b) A Riverine and Terrestrial Ecology Expert should possess at least a master's degree qualifications in aquatic ecology, specifically riverine systems, and/or in terrestrial ecosystems, but preferably a PhD or Doctorate Degree in the respective fields
- c) The Public Health expert should be an expert in the scientific discipline of public health, epidemiology and/or impact health surveys. The Riverine and Terrestrial Ecology expert should be an expert in the scientific field of aquatic ecology, especially riverine systems and/or in terrestrial ecology.
- d) Applicants should have at least fifteen (15) years of experience in planning, scheduling, design of public health and terrestrial & riverine programmes/projects and implementation as well as setting up monitoring and evaluation systems of such programmes/projects for large engineering projects in the water sector, internationally and regionally;
- e) Experience in similar assignments (e.g. as expert advisor, member of external review panel, etc.) will be an added advantage (to authenticate the required level of experience, specific projects, dates and roles should be clearly stated); and
- f) Applicants should provide a detailed CV plus a minimum of three (3) references based on the specific projects mentioned in (e) above.

2.6 Evaluation Criteria

The EOIs will be evaluated using the Evaluation Criteria as shown below.

S/N	CRITERIA	SCORES	ASSIGNED SCORES	MAX. ASSESSMENT SCORE
1	QUALIFICATIONS			
	a) Professor	5	20	100
	b) PhD	4		



S/N	CRITERIA	SCORES	ASSIGNED SCORES	MAX. ASSESSMENT SCORE
	c) Masters	3		
	d) Honours	2		
	e) Other	1		
2	EXPERIENCE		30	150
	a) 15 or more years	5		
	b) 13 to 15 years	4		
	c) 10 to 13 years	3		
	d) 5 – 10 years	2		
	e) 0 – 5 years	1		
3	EXPOSURE (INDEPENDENT ADVISOR/EXPERT)		30	150
	a) International	5		
	b) Regional	4		
	c) Sub-regional	3		
	d) Local	2		
	e) Other	1		
4	WORK IN SIMILAR PROJECTS		20	100
	a) Multi-Purpose Water project	6		
	b) Mid-Level water project	4		
	c) Low-level Water project	2		
	d) Non-Water Project	2		
	e) Other	1		
TOTAL			100	500

2.7 Submission of Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked “**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PANEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS (POEs) FOR THE LHWP**” to the Offices of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) on the 7th Floor, LHDA Tower Building, not later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday the 30th May 2025** or electronically using the following email address procurement@lhda.org.ls.

Pls note that a register of submissions will be kept.

2.8 Feedback to Applicants

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an oral interview to determine their suitability. Unsuccessful applicants will be responded to upon conclusion of contracts with the successful members.

ALL ENQUIRIES MAY BE ADDRESSED BY EMAIL TO THE LHDA PROCUREMENT SECTION: Email: procurement@lhda.org.ls