BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF THE
ORANGE – SENQU RIVER MOUTH
REHABILITATION DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT IN
SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

December 2019
1. Background

1.1 The Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)

The Orange-Senqu River originates in the Lesotho Highlands, from where it flows westwards to its mouth at Alexander Bay/Oranjemund on the Atlantic West Coast. The river basin is the third largest in Southern Africa, after the Zambezi and the Congo, covering a total area of 1,000,000 km² of which almost 600,000 km² is inside the Republic of South Africa. Four countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa - share the Basin, and the river forms the border between South Africa and Namibia at its lower reaches.

Lesotho, the upstream country falls entirely within the basin and contributes over 40% of the stream flow from only 3.4% of the total basin area but is one of the smallest users of water from the basin. South Africa is by far the biggest user of water from the Orange-Senqu River Basin, and this use drives the economic heartland of South Africa. The Botswana part of the Basin is entirely covered by the Kalahari Desert with very little surface runoff, but groundwater contributes to the water demands in this portion of the basin.

The water requirements in the lower reaches of the river are driven primarily by irrigation demands from both Namibia and South Africa, and the need to maintain environmental flows to the estuary. As the most downstream portion of a heavily used basin, water resources quality in this stretch is a concern. Similarly, the middle and lower reaches of the river are subject to periodic and often devastating floods. The Orange River estuary is ranked as one of the most important wetland systems in Southern Africa but has experienced environmental degradation. This wetland system was re-designated as a Ramsar Site, but because of its threatened status it was placed on Montreux Record in 1995.

The effective management of the Orange-Senqu River Basin is, therefore, particularly complex, but is also vital to the economy of the region. As a result, the riparian States prioritised this basin for the establishment of a Shared Watercourse Institution under the revised Southern African Development Community (SADC) Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses. ORASECOM was one of the first of the Shared Watercourses Institutions to be established in SADC.

ORASECOM is an advisory body, issuing recommendations to its Member States (The Parties) aimed at optimizing the development and management of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu River Basin for the benefit of all the people in the Parties.
1.2 The ORASECOM Agreement

The Agreement establishes Council as a technical advisor to the Parties on matters relating to the development, utilization, and conservation of the water resources in the River System. The Parties may also assign other functions pertaining to the development and utilisation of water resources to the Commission. Article 5 of the Agreement empowers Council to take all measures to make recommendations on *inter alia*; water availability in the basin, equitable and reasonable sharing of water, studies on the development of the River System, the extent to which stakeholders should be involved in management of the system, the prevention of pollution and the control of aquatic weeds, and plans for emergency situations.

All recommendations provided by Council to Parties must be contained in a report, signed by the leader of each Delegation. These reports must also include estimates of the cost of implementing the recommendation and may suggest how these costs may be apportioned between the Parties. Recommendations to Parties must therefore not only indicate what must be done, but also how it must be done.

1.3 The ORASECOM UNDP-GEF Project to support the Strategic Action Programme Implementation

ORASECOM, with support from UNDP, managed to secure further financial support from GEF to implement selected priority activities of SAP. The UNDP-GEF project titled, Support to the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme Implementation, will be implemented by UNDP and executed by ORASECOM in the next 5 years to support ORASECOM and its member states to implement SAP. The project has been built on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which has carried out the necessary causal chain analyses in order to identify the transboundary threats to the sustainable development and management of the water resources of the Orange-Senqu Basin. Having identified and understood the threats and their causes, it was possible to identify the barriers which are preventing the removal of these threats, so that sustainable development/management of the basins water and related resources can proceed.

The overall objective of the SAP Implementation project is the strengthening of joint management capacity for implementation of the basin-wide IWRM Plan and demonstrating environmental and socioeconomic benefits of ecosystem-based approach to water resources management through the implementation of SAP priority actions in the Orange-Senqu River basin.

The project is supporting the Governments of South Africa and Namibia through ensuring that critical ecosystem of the Orange-Senqu River Mouth rehabilitated and sustainably managed. The focus of this support will be on local interventions that: (i) improve the condition of the Orange–Senqu River mouth salt marshes; (ii) enhance the estuary nursery function to improve the stock status of collapsed/over-exploited fish species; and (iii) improve the water quality of the river flowing into the system. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

- Natural flood plain functions restored and marked improvement in estuarine habitat condition achieved;
- Status of over-exploited/collapsed estuarine species improved and;
- Nutrient input from agricultural areas below Vioolsdrift reduced.

2. Objective
The objective of this assignment is to procure the services of a Consultant or team of consultants to undertake a baseline study on a framework for the implementation of the demonstration project in South Africa and Namibia.

3. Scope
This Consultancy will include (but may not be limited to) the following tasks:

i. Drafting of an Inception Report, which will contain a clearly defined programme of work and methodology to be used to undertake this assignment.

ii. Establish the way in which the Orange – Senqu River Mouth is managed in each of the two countries of South Africa and Namibia with a view of promoting transboundary management. This will include identifying the instruments that are being used for management of the River Mouth as well as gaps that exist and how they can be addressed. In addressing the gaps, the promotion a transboundary approach should be key and built off previous initiatives;

iii. Working hand in hand with the mandated institutions, Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa, the Consultant will develop a priority implementation plan of the Estuary Management Plan for the Orange River mouth. The priority actions will be within the mandate and budget of this ORASECOM UNDP-GEF SAP Project. Consultations on the priority implementation plan, will include all stakeholders such Department of Water Affairs, private sector, agriculture and other stakeholders;

iv. Quantify nutrient input as a result of agricultural areas around Vioolsdrift. This will include carrying out situational analysis, including sampling and setting up of monitoring stations for quality and quantity and identify priority hotspots (based on return flows);

v. Carry out analysis of farming practices on command areas draining to hotspots and compile situational/diagnostic analysis report highlighting existing practices;

vi. Propose best practices to reduce nutrient load for implementation. This is also to use experience of the GEF-SAP Vioolsdrift/Noordoewer project;

vii. Produce maps indicating presence/non-presence of causeway, old earth-moving equipment, alien invasive plants in flood plain;
4. Deliverables

It is envisaged that this Consultancy will produce and submit the following deliverables:

a) An Inception Report

b) A management of the Orange-Senqu River Mouth including institutional arrangements, management tools, priority actions to be implemented and maps indicating presence of causeway, old earth-moving equipment, alien invasive species in flood plain;

c) Situational Analysis of the nutrient load including monitoring situation, farming practices and best practices that reduce nutrient input from agricultural sector

5. Time Schedule

The Consultancy is expected to start on 15 February 2020 and be completed by no later than 31st May 2020.

6. Submission of the tender

The Team Leader should submit separate Technical and Financial Proposals clearly detailing total number of days to complete work and daily rates inclusive of all anticipated costs in South African Rands (ZAR) during the period of assignment. The term “all-inclusive” implies that all costs (professional fees, communications, consumables, etc.) that could be incurred by the consultant in completing the assignment are already factored into the daily fee submitted in the proposal. Travel costs and daily allowance cost should be identified separately in line with allocated consulting days.

Electronic Technical and Financial proposals should be submitted with a subject line clearly titled: "Orange-Senqu River Mouth rehabilitation baseline consultancy" through email to Mr Michael Ramaano (mike.ramaano@orasecom.org) with a copy to communication.orasecom@gmail.com and info@orasecom.org no later than 1600hrs on Wednesday 22 January 2020.

Request for clarifications should be emailed to the above contacts or through telephone (+27 84 3051002 or +267 71891945) no later than 1200hrs on Wednesday 15 January 2020.

7. Requirements

The Consultancy Team must have at least the following:

The Consultant or Consulting Team should comprise of the following profiles:
• The Lead Consultant: A Chemist or another expert with strong background in knowledge of nutrient load from different land uses such as agriculture and designing interventions that could redress the situation. He must have a minimum 10 years’ experience conducting similar work within developing countries / economies in transition.

• The lead consultant should be complemented by the following specialists preferably from the riparian states with speciality in the following fields: A Water Hydrologist, A Natural Resources Expert and a Social Scientist to facilitate a social economic assessment of the area; identify beneficiaries for the project. The Socio-Scientist should also have experience working with community-based organisations, international development cooperation partners, and the private sector.

• The Lead Consultant should have conducted similar work in the last 5 years, of which three (3) recent references of previous similar consultancy work should accompany the proposal.

• All consultants’ in the group should have relevant tertiary qualifications.

8. Institutional Arrangements

The Consulting Team is expected to commence work as soon as possible after concluding all necessary contractual arrangements with UNDP GEF ORASECOM SAP Implementation Project.

The successful Consultant will work under direct supervision of the Environment/Water Quality Expert. The Project shall be responsible for arranging meeting venues as well as transport, meals and accommodation (if required) for participants (including the consultant(s) during national workshop consultations). Unforeseen costs incurred may be reimbursed based on acceptable justification and documentation. However, the Consultant(s) shall be responsible for supplying own office facilities, equipment, transport, meals and accommodation during fieldwork.

ORASECOM and its partners will not be responsible to arrange visa requirements for Consultant/s; however, can facilitate where necessary by giving supporting letters and will oversee arranging translation services during workshops only.