



## Terms of reference for carrying out a study to strengthen collaboration between African Centers of Excellence (ACE) and the socio-economic sector

### Context

The result of an institutional collaboration between IRD, AFD, the World Bank and the Association of African Universities (AUA), the ACE Partner project is part of the ACE-IMPACT regional funding program, financed by the World Bank and AFD. The ACEPartner project supports the creation of thematic networks between African centers of excellence. It is funded to the tune of € 6M by AFD and € 1M by IRD for 4 years (February 2020 to February 2024).

The general objective of the project is to create and ensure the influence and sustainability of the supported networks, and through this its members, in order to position them as leading actors in research of excellence for the development in Africa of the west. This is how four thematic networks were created:

- Sustainable water management
- Sustainable mining activity
- Digital sciences and technologies
- West African Network for Infectious Diseases ACE (WANIDA)

### Presentation of the Sustainable Water Management Network (NET-WATER)

One of the important lessons learned from the implementation of the World Bank's African Center of Excellence (ECA) project since 2014 remains the weak collaboration between the Centers of Excellence and the limited academic and scientific exchanges. Based on this observation, the ACEs working in the water theme initiated discussions from the ACE workshop in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in 2018. These exchanges continued during the various meetings of the ACEs that followed (Djibouti, Senegal, Morocco, Abuja), and led to the establishment of this thematic network on sustainable water management called NET-WATER / NET-WATER as part of the initiative funded by the French Development Agency (AFD). The first phase (2020-2021) of this initiative will focus its funding on a hard core of five (5) ACEs who will be the main actors in the implementation of the ACEPATNERS project. A second circle of so-called "associated" partners will also be set up and involved in the activities developed by NET-WATER. These partners may also carry out certain activities involving NET-WATER members with support from IRD / AFD.

The ACE constituting the hard core of NET-WATER are as follows:

- **International Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (ACE-2iE), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso:**



The 2iE Institute is an African Center of Excellence for training and research of international standard located in Burkina Faso whose main mission is to train competent and innovative engineer-entrepreneurs capable of responding to the challenges of the development of the African continent, of offer continuing professional training options to executives and technicians in the private and public sectors, and conduct research / development programs serving the private and public sectors and contribute to the development of scientific knowledge. 2iE's areas of expertise are Water and Sanitation, Civil Engineering and Hydraulics, Electrical and Energy Engineering, Environment and Sustainable Development, Management and Entrepreneurship.... The Institute 2iE brings together teachers,

- **African Center of Excellence for Water and Sanitation (C2EA-INE), Abomey Calavi, Benin:**

The African Center of Excellence for Water and Sanitation (C2EA-INE) of the National Water Institute of the University of Abomey-Calavi is a Public Establishment for scientific and technical research, training, engineering and expertise in the fields of Water, Sanitation and Climate change. It is the scientific arm of the state in its field of activity.

It aims to play the role of regional leadership in the development of skills and capacity building of public and private administration executives in the various sectors of water and sanitation, water governance, hydromechanics. , hydro informatics and climate change. Its dynamism and the interdisciplinarity of its teaching staff have enabled it to forge solid relationships with national and international institutions that support it scientifically, technically and financially.

The C2EA-INE therefore aims to provide Africa with a center of competence, expertise and innovation in water and sanitation. This pole intends to take up the challenge of training highly qualified competent personnel able to solve the various operational problems that arise in the various countries of West and Central Africa while taking into account the specific climatic, geological and spaces of each country. It thus responds to its vision, namely "By 2030, C2EA-INE is a center of excellence in terms of training, research, expertise and engineering in the water and water sector. sanitation for sustainable development at national and regional levels".

- **Regional Water and Environmental Sanitation Center Kumasi (RWESCK), Kumasi, Ghana:**

The Kumasi Regional Water and Sanitation Center (RWESCK) seeks to build high quality human resource capacity in Ghana and the sub-region to meet the critical mass of human resources needed to meet the challenges of water and sanitation development highlighted in the Africa Water Vision document for 2025 and post-MDG sustainable development goals. This project aims to promote regional specialization in areas that respond to specific regional development challenges and to strengthen the capacities of universities to provide high quality training and applied research, as well as related outreach activities with industry. and university partners. The center offers initial Masters training and PhD programs on the themes of Water Resources Management, Environment and Waste Management, Drinking Water Supply and Water-related Technologies.

- **West African Center for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA), Tamale, Ghana:**

WACWISA is a semi-autonomous center of excellence specializing in education and research in water resources, irrigation science and engineering, sustainable agriculture and climate change.

Its vision is "to be a world-class academic and research center specializing in irrigation, water resources, sustainable agriculture and climate change" and, a mission to "develop the skills and



knowledge of young men and women to provide practical and sustainable services, solutions to the challenges of water resources, irrigation, agricultural development and climate change in Africa ”.

It undertakes the training of high-level personnel at master's and doctoral level, short career-based courses and conducts cutting-edge research through postdoctoral training in its thematic areas.

The Center aims to fill the training gap that exists for the workforce in the field of water resources, irrigation, sustainable agriculture and climate change, particularly in the western sub-region. African. The center draws on already existing relationships and experiences of industry, national, regional and international partners in developing programs tailored to regional needs. Current programs include; Integrated water resources management, irrigation and drainage engineering, soil and water conservation and management, environmental management and sustainability, and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

WACWISA also undertakes applied and advanced research that contributes to new and emerging knowledge and technologies to create opportunities for particularly resource-poor people and develop localized and sustainable solutions and technologies for the development and growth of society.

- **African Center of Excellence on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Agriculture (ACE-CCBAD), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire:**

The mission of the ACE-CCBAD on climate change is to provide training and research on issues related to ecosystems, biodiversity, food production (plant, animal and fishery), water, and productive forestry. and sustainable in the context of climate change affecting the region. This includes the training of graduates, the production and enhancement of knowledge related to: (i) (the protection of water resources, the fight against soil erosion, the protection and better use of biodiversity, the adoption of resistance crops projects, protection of forest production through, for example, bio-indicators such as pollinators, earthworms and coprophagous insects.

The African Center of Excellence on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture of the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB) mainly aims to train master and postgraduate students. It focuses on biodiversity, and is part of a pre-existing regional network of 10 institutions focused on climate change (WASCAL). Since 2018, ACE -CCBAD has been one of the host institutions of PASET (Partnership for the Development of Competencies in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technologies) for the training of doctoral students in the field of food safety.

### **Primary objective**

One of the main objectives of the ACE Impact project and the ACE Partners project is to ensure the sustainability of the ACEs and the networks formed through the generation of income. To do this, the ACEs within NET-WATER must forge technical and financial partnerships with the public and private sectors. This study therefore aims to **establish a plan to consolidate relations between members of NET-WATER and the socio-economic sector in order to strengthen the partnership between the ACEs and the sector, and increase the income generated by the ACEs.**

### **Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the mission are defined as follows:

1. Identify and map the potential socio-economic actors collaborating with each ACE in the NET-WATER in each country and in the sub-region;



2. Determine the areas of potential collaboration between NET-WATER and the various actors identified;
3. Set up mechanisms to facilitate collaboration between NET-WATER and the identified actors
4. Propose the terms of reference for the first workshop / consultation framework between NET-WATER members and socio-economic actors

### **Study methodology**

To achieve the objectives mentioned above, the consultant must make a Technical offer in which a clear working methodology and the tools used will be presented. The methodology should take into account the following elements without being limited to it:

- field surveys with socio-economic actors, and NET-WATER ACE.
- Exchanges with partners and resource persons of the ACE;
- Exchanges with sectoral state structures in the countries concerned.

Resource persons for the implementation of the ACE Partner project at IRD and AFD level may be called upon to contribute.

### **Consultant profile**

The consultant must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- be specialized in the field of entrepreneurship and relations with the socio-economic sector;
- justify at least five (5) years of experience in business development and resource mobilization;
- have a good knowledge of the French and English higher education environment;
- be perfectly bilingual (French / English);
- be able to travel in the sub-region (Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast and Ghana)

### **Deadlines**

Proposals can be submitted until February 28, 2021, after which date no submission will be valid.

The consultant should make a proposal for a timetable for the implementation of this study. The maximum period for all activities is set at two (2) months from the official signing of the consulting contract.

### **Content of the offer to be made**

Proposals should include the following:

- Description of the entity
- Past and similar experiences
- Proposed methodology
- Staff and qualifications (include CVs in annex)
- Detailed budget



- Implementation schedule
- List of deliverables
- Appendices

## Contact

Please send offers and any questions to the e-mail address: [brocard.jeremy@ird.fr](mailto:brocard.jeremy@ird.fr), [faissal.ouedraogo@ird.fr](mailto:faissal.ouedraogo@ird.fr)