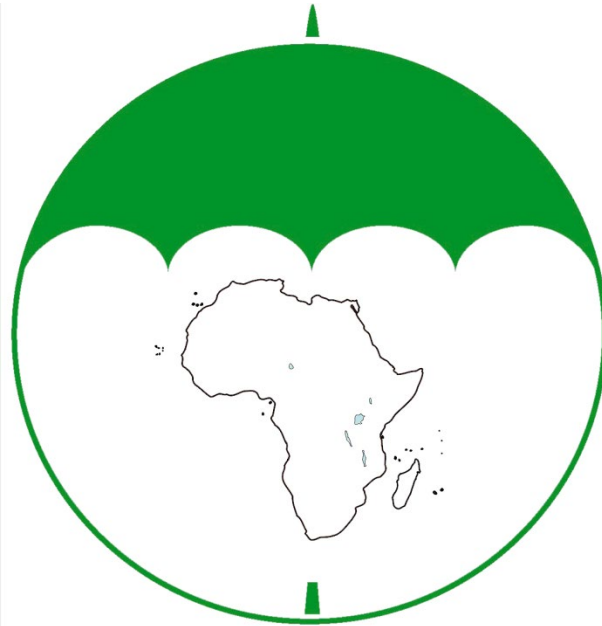


Terms of Reference



Terms of Reference for Consultancy to undertake a comprehensive review of the scopes of the Eco mark Africa scheme with similar scopes of other schemes with a view to benchmarking with them.

**ARSO Central Secretariat
Nairobi, Kenya
JULY 2022**



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORS) FOR CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SCOPES OF THE ECOMARK AFRICA SCHEME WITH SIMILAR SCOPES OF OTHER SCHEMES WITH A VIEW TO BENCHMARKING WITH THEM.

1. Introduction:

The African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO) is an African intergovernmental organization established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Organization of African Unity (currently AU) in 1977. The fundamental mandate of ARSO is to develop and harmonize African Standards (ARS) and an African Conformity Assessment System for the purpose of enhancing Africa's internal trading capacity, increase Africa's product and service competitiveness globally and uplift the welfare of African communities. The work of preparing African Standards is normally carried out through ARSO technical committees, in liaison with international organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), governmental and non-governmental organizations. Each Member State interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee., This could entail undertaking relevant research with a view to identifying issues that require interventions in order to improve the quality of goods and services and facilitate trade in the continent.

UNECA was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) in 1958 as one of the UN's five regional commissions. ECA's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development.

2. The Project

ARSO and UNECA are jointly implementing a project on "**Promoting the adoption of environmental standards to support globally competitive African value chains in the context of the AfCFTA**".

This is premised on the fact that African economies are among those most severely affected by climate change phenomena, such as flooding and prolonged droughts. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be vital for the continent. Sustainable production methods are one way of adjusting, and key economic sectors in Africa, such as agriculture and forestry, offer potential for reducing greenhouse gas. At the same time, for African products to succeed on world markets they will have to meet the growing demand among consumers for sustainably produced goods and services. So far, most African economies have been missing out on these market opportunities.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which became operational on 1st January 2021 is being implemented in a new "green" world. Europe has introduced a Green Deal that aims to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. The current US administration has committed to an ambitious environmental strategy that outlines a total of \$2 trillion in investments in clean energy, jobs and infrastructure. COVID-19 has shed greater light on the fragility of global supply chains, highlighting more than ever the urgency for greater resilience and sustainability. These developments mean that regional and global supply chains will be increasingly required to respond to consumer preferences for environment-friendly and sustainable production processes, and as penalties increase, non-compliance will not be a viable option. Further protection of the environment through production of goods and services through application of sustainability standards will mitigate air pollution, ensure soil health that will support food production and also conservation of water, forest cover and biodiversity. Sustainable production of goods and services will also have economic benefits to the producer as well as ensuring that the worker is well taken care of in terms of wages, health and other social issues.

There is however an opportunity for the AfCFTA to be implemented in a way that supports the enhancement of environmental standards throughout African economies, including the wide-scale adoption and implementation of the Eco-Mark Africa eco-label. ARSO developed the Eco-Mark Africa, an eco-label under a certification programme that aims to encourage intra-African trade through a labelling scheme that promotes environmental and socio-economic benefits. The Eco-Mark Africa mandate is to promote the marketing of sustainable goods and services in Africa, certify these goods and services based on African sustainability/ Eco-Labeling Standards and offer support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with certification. However, it also supports large enterprises.

The EMA is operating in an environment where there are several other sustainability certification schemes such as FTA, Global Gap, ASC, FSC, IFOAM that focus on the same metrics of sustainability (environment, social and economic). There is therefore need to study the standards being implemented under these schemes and the rules governing their certification with a view to benchmarking with them and get insights on best practices, inter alia.

Against this backdrop, this project entails carrying out comprehensive review of the scopes covered under EMA and similar scopes being implemented under the other schemes, in order to identify similarities and gaps and recommend where possible for benchmarking with the scheme and recommend for EMA based on the results/outcome of benchmarking with other schemes

3. Objective of the review

The main objective of the consultancy is to carry out a comprehensive review of the scopes covered under EMA and similar scopes being implemented under the other schemes, identify similarities and gaps and recommend where possible for benchmarking with the scheme and recommend for EMA based on the results/outcome of benchmarking with other schemes

4. Duties and responsibilities

Under the supervision and guidance of representatives from both ARSO and UNECA, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- (i) Review comprehensively the seven African Sustainability Standards being implemented under EMA (Scheme D of the ACAP).
- (ii) Assess the EMA certification process and rules therein from application to certification of a product or service and award of the EMA label
- (iii) Comprehensively review similar standards where applicable in at least 3 schemes identified
- (iv) Study the identified scheme's certification process and rules therein from application to certification of a product or service and award of their label
- (v) Identify similarities and gaps in the scopes and schemes
- (vi) Recommend an applicable scheme for benchmarking based on other schemes

5. Deliverables

The consultancy shall be for a period of 4 months and the key deliverables are outlined below:

1. Output 1: Inception report outlining the understanding of the task, issues to be addressed, methodology and sources of information; an annotated outline of the study (within 2 weeks after signing the contract)
2. Output 2: Draft report (by the end of month 3)
3. Output 3: Final report and slide deck giving the similarities, gaps and recommendations for benchmarking with applicable schemes

3.3. Qualifications:

- At least a Master's degree or equivalent in science or a related area/discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years practicing as lead auditor in sustainability schemes
- Trained in sustainability standards from any of the schemes
- Knowledge of various certification schemes

- For this specific job opening fluency in English and/or French is required. Knowledge of the other languages an asset.

