



Terms of Reference

Consultancy: Matchmaking Platform

Introduction and Background

The youth must be a part of transforming the African conservation agenda, yet they remain marginalized, poor, uninformed, and disenfranchised. Unemployment has relegated African youth to social, political, and economic exclusion. This has also increased youth vulnerability to political, ecological, and health crises at global and local levels, driving the continued exploitation of natural resources.

A 2019 Ibrahim Forum Report found that over 30 million youth are expected to enter the African labor market annually, yet between 2010-2020 only 4 percent of new entrants between found waged work in industry and 21 percent in waged services. This means that over 18 million jobs need to be generated annually to accommodate young workers instead of the current rate of 3 million jobs per year. At the same time, increased educational and economic opportunities for young people are pivotal to achieving sustainable development. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires a deliberate strategy that puts African youth at the forefront building their capacity to secure jobs and establishing sustainable enterprises.

This is why AWF wants to develop a platform that will be mainly used for:

- 1) **Professional networking**- allowing job seekers to post their CVs and employers to post jobs. The platform will allow members both workers and employers to create profiles and connect to each other in an online social network which may represent real-world professional relationships.
- 2) **Accessing conservation project grants**- Allowing funding institutions to post calls for applications and interested candidates to apply
- 3) **Accessing conservation enterprise investments**- Allowing youth owned enterprises to create business profiles with products and services they offer, and interested investors or customers can view these

Purpose

To achieve this, AWF is seeking the services of an experienced Consultant to help conduct research on some of the available platforms with the similar user interface both in conservation and non-conservation sectors.

Proposed Roles and Responsibilities

The consultant will be expected to perform the following roles or purpose:

1. Conduct a desk research, review and assess existing and potential platforms that advertise job opportunities in Africa, grant opportunities as well as matching small businesses with investors/customers.
2. Conduct an assessment and scoping of the external environment outside Africa.
3. On the basis of the above review, assess, recommend and facilitate a coherent framework that builds on existing platforms while giving focus to AWFs unique leverage points in developing a new platform or creating synergies with existing platforms.
4. Prepare a report of the findings.

Other Requirements

Confidentiality. The Consultant will safeguard any policies that come to his attention by virtue of this engagement.

Work Methodology & Duration

The work will involve working virtually/remotely in communication with AWF. Meetings, skype calls or zoom calls will be frequently organized.

Required Qualifications

The assignment will require a consultant with demonstrable competencies and experiences in:

1. Background in Research, Political Science, Business, Public Policy, International Relations. Master's degree in related disciplines (or) significant international experience can be substituted for degree relevance.
2. Experience with electronic databases and conducting desk research.
3. Experience writing annotated bibliographies is a plus. Knowledge of APA reference/citation style.
4. Excellent English writing skills.
5. Knowledge of and experience in conservation is desirable.

Time Schedule

The prospective consultant needs to provide a tabulated timeframe/work plan for conducting the research. The expected execution time for the assignment including the final report will not exceed one month after contract signing.

Budget and Resources Required

The budget to be submitted should only cover the consultancy fees. The consultant is responsible for government taxes and insurances.

How to apply

proposal should be sent to SMsweli@awf.org with a copy to procurement@awf.org before 30 July 2021 5pm, with the subject line Consultancy-Matchmaking Platform.