



*Amend & Return
medically
26/6/2021*

**Recruitment of one (01) individual consultant to
develop a strategic plan for the ECOWAS Member
Countries' Regional Biobank Network**

Termes of References

Mai 2021

1. Contexte et justification

To enhance national and regional capacities for the conservation of biological resources, the Biological Resource Centre at the Pasteur Institute of Côte-d'Ivoire (IPCI) in Abidjan, which already has extensive conservation capacities and uses state-of-the-art techniques (Cryo freezing, freeze-drying, etc.), was designated as the Regional Biobank of ECOWAS member countries. The establishment of the Regional Biobank aims to strengthen regional capacity for the conservation of biological resources by using innovative techniques suitable to our context, improve scientific cooperation between various reference laboratories and support biomedical research on infectious diseases.

Thus, at the 19th Assembly of Health Ministers of ECOWAS Member States, held in June 2018 in Banjul, the Regulations establishing and defining operating procedures of the Regional Biobank were validated by the Ministers of Health of the 15 ECOWAS Member States.

The objectives assigned by the region to the ECOWAS Regional Biobank are to i) Strengthen national and regional capacities for the conservation of biological resources in accordance with international standards ii) Promote collaboration and scientific research in the ECOWAS region to improve disease diagnosis, control and prevention strategies iii) Provide laboratories and researchers with reference strains iv) Establish optimal biosafety standards for storage and use of dangerous pathogens v) Establish an ethical and legal framework for the management of biological resources in the West African region vi) Develop guides for the use of biological resources and Biobank data in accordance with ethical and regulatory standards for the protection of personal data and intellectual property vii) Develop and disseminate guides (SOPs, procedures, modus operandi etc.) use of the Biobank resources and data, ix) Develop resource management tools for the acquisition, storage, use and sharing of resources and data (x) and build capacity in the areas of bioinformatics, data analysis, bioethics, biosafety and biosecurity in biobanks for professionals.

In addition, one of the main recommendations of the mission to assess the technical and organizational capacity of the Regional Biobank according to international standards, led by experts from the University of Cape Town and the Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET consortium), was to develop a strategic plan for the Regional Biobank. This strategic plan will include the establishment of the results-based budgeting management committee, as well as a roadmap and action plan that clearly define and describe their vision, mission and objectives, as well as how they intend to achieve their objectives and align with the ECOWAS mission. This should be accompanied by a KPI (key performance indicators) diagram framework for all categories of staff in the results-based budgeting hierarchy.

The objective of this strategic plan is to guide ECOWAS countries and the region in their efforts to promote excellence in biosecurity facility and biomedical research by operationalizing the RBB Network in accordance with international standards and to foster the emergence of a regional bio-economy.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the consultation is to develop a strategic plan for the ECOWAS Regional Biobank Network for the period 2022-2025.

More specifically, the mission aims to:

- Review the regional regulatory framework for strategic orientation of ECOWAS member countries,
- Review the technical, institutional and material constraints for the operationalization of the Regional Biobank Network,
- Develop a detailed roadmap and action plan to ensure the functionality of the RBB Network,
- Conduct a cost and risk analysis of the Regional Biobank,
- Guide member countries in the establishment of their own National Biobank,
- Assess the training needs of the Regional Biobank staff,
- Assess investment needs to upgrade biosecurity facilities,
- Define a Logical Framework as well as Action Plan and Budget estimate for priority actions of regional scope over 5 years (2021-2025),
- Define detailed monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

3. Livrables

Upon completion of the consultancy, the Consultants shall submit to WAHO:

- A Mission report
- A review report on Biosecurity facility in the region and a proposal to upgrade them
- A proposal for a Strategic Plan for the Regional Biobank,
- A roadmap and a detailed and budgeted Action Plan for the operationalization of the Regional Biobank Network
- Draft of paper on the networking to improve ECOWAS Member Countries' Regional Biobank

4. Mission commencement Date and duration

Duration of Mission: 90 days.

Commencement Date: September 2021

5. Consultant profile

The Consultant:

- Degree (holder at least a PhD from a recognized university in biomedical sciences, epidemiology or in a related field)

- Must have at least 15 years' experience in the field of laboratories, particularly in the development of biosafety or biosecurity policies and standards,
- Must have proven experience in genomics, bioethics research,
- Have proven experience in managing a Biobank,
- Must have sound knowledge of the context of Public Health Laboratory Systems in West Africa,
- Must have proven oral and written communication skills including writing scientific reports and articles,
- Must be able to work in a multinational environment, with a variety of partners at national, regional and global levels,
- Must have time management skills, including the ability to meet deadlines and handle multiple tasks at a time with a high degree of autonomy,
- Must have a command of at least one official language in the ECOWAS region; a command of another ECOWAS language would be an advantage,
- Must have excellent skills in information and communication technology.

9. BUDGET

This activity will be financed by West African Health Organization (WAHO).