

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Consultancy: Research and report writing on illicit financial flows and cross-border corruption in Africa (REAP project)

Application Closing Date: 14th July 2024

Consultancy Start and End Date: mid-July to early September 2024

Location of Consultancy: Remote

BACKGROUND

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

The Rallying Efforts to Accelerate Progress – Africa Inequalities Initiative (REAP) is a response to the European Commission’s call to accelerate progress towards reducing income and wealth inequalities in Africa, in order to benefit those most left behind.

Civil society has proven to be a trigger of systematic change, advocating for marginalised sectors, and pushing for transparency reforms across the world. Therefore, this project seeks to empower civil society actors in their endeavour to be stronger governance actors. To achieve this, REAP stands upon three pillars: two are focused on the national level – in Kenya and South Africa –, and a third one focuses on the impact of illicit financial flows on inequality, from a regional and global perspective. At this level, the project aims to foster stronger regional and global action to disrupt mechanisms enabling illicit financial flows (IFFs), tax evasion and tax avoidance undermining the sustainable development of countries in Africa. This will be achieved through strengthening CSOs’ capacities and influence to contribute to policy formulation and to monitoring and supporting the implementation of commitments that consider, reflect, and advance the priorities and needs of those most left behind.

The REAP initiative includes a **research component** carried out in partnership with local organisations, which will generate evidence on

- the extent, types, and impact of IFFs, tax evasion and tax avoidance in the region
- African countries’ capacity to address IFFs
- the progress in implementing commitments made by African countries at the regional level on to corporate transparency (beneficial ownership), country-by country reporting, improved cooperation and asset recovery.

This evidence will establish the groundwork for advocacy endeavours to promote and push for the implementation of strong regional and global commitments that take into consideration the experience and needs of African countries.

OBJECTIVES

The Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) in Berlin is seeking a consultant or a team of consultants to write **three reports related to illicit financial flows (IFFs) linked to corruption in selected African countries**, based on research already conducted by TI national chapters in the region, as part of the REAP project.

The overall objective is to inform TI’s advocacy to disrupt mechanisms and networks that facilitate IFFs connected to corruption.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES

Interested candidates may apply to one or more of the three assignments. Each report has a specific focus.

Report 1: African countries' capacity to address IFFs, analysing more specifically aspects related to beneficial ownership transparency.

This is a comparative analysis of the capacities of the targeted countries to prevent, detect and curb illicit financial flows. It focuses on the adequacy of countries' anti-money laundering framework, with a special emphasis on measures related to beneficial ownership transparency. The report will include 1) a comparative analysis of frameworks; 2) an assessment of the frameworks; 3) best practices / challenges in the region; 4) policy recommendations.

Status of the work:

Data has been collected by 9 TI national chapters (Ethiopia, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia), and a report has been drafted. Some preliminary feedback from TI-S experts on the draft is already available.

Role of the consultant:

The consultant will use the existing draft report and preliminary feedback as a basis to revise the report. As part of the process they will collect further insights from TI-S experts through interviews, in order to produce a final report ready to be edited and published.

Timeline:

- First version of the report by 11th August 2024
- Final version incorporating feedback by 20th August 2024

Report 2: Progress in the implementation of commitments made by African countries under the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR).

The CAPAR is a political commitment by African governments adopted in February 2020 in the framework of the African Union to promote effective and efficient asset recovery. Monitoring and tracking the implementation of the CAPAR is critical to ensuring accountability and transparency in asset recovery processes. The CAPAR sets out a number of recommended measures and actions required to effectively address the continuous loss of African assets; and to effectively identify, recover and manage African assets that are in, or recovered from, foreign jurisdictions, in a manner that respects the development priorities and sovereignty of Member States. It is structured around four pillars: 1) Detection and Identification of Assets; 2) Recovery and Return of Assets; 3) Management of Recovered Assets; and 4) Cooperation and Partnerships.

Status of the work:

The Civil Forum for Asset Recovery (CiFAR) developed an assessment tool designed to guide civil society organizations in monitoring and reporting on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations set out in the CAPAR at the national level. The tool provides relevant indicators around the main CAPAR recommendations and a "traffic light" rating system, which can be used to assess progress in each of the four CAPAR pillars. This assessment was done by national partners in 6 African countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar) and reviewed by CiFAR and TI-S.

Role of the consultant:

The role of the consultant will be to analyse the national results and write a regional overview, in close collaboration with partners at CiFAR, that can help TI advocate for stronger implementation of the commitments.

Timeline:

- First version of the report by 11th August 2024
- Final version incorporating feedback by 20th August 2024

Report 3: Implementation of regional and global commitments related to corporate transparency (beneficial ownership), country-by country reporting and improved cooperation across African countries.

African leaders have been actively engaged in discussions to tackle IFFs, tax evasion and tax avoidance and the issue is a policy priority for the continent. Their commitments to fighting IFFs and tax abuse have been echoed through various declarations of the African Union (AU), including the AU Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows, which endorsed the findings of the Mbeki report, the Yaoundé Declaration (2017) which calls on African States to tackle IFF through tax cooperation, and the African Governance Report (2019) which highlights the need to improve domestic resource mobilisation and curb IFFs to achieve the SDGs. Despite commitments, the implementation has been slow.

Therefore we want to gather more information on the extent of this implementation, especially related to commitments on beneficial ownership transparency and to countries developing beneficial ownership registers. Rather than being comprehensive, the report should focus on the most important issues and commitments, and should aim to inform TI's advocacy.

Status of the work:

Although the work on this report has not started yet, there is some existing knowledge that the consultant can use as a basis, such as reports on corporate transparency and information gathered on commitments made under the AU.

Role of the consultant:

The role of the consultant will be to 1) propose a methodology for the analysis (including which commitments to target), taking into account the short timeframe and in consultation with TI secretariat staff working on the topic; 2) collect relevant data; and 3) draft the report; and 4) incorporate feedback from TI and finalise the document.

Timeline:

- First version of the report by 25th August 2024
- Final version incorporating feedback by 8th September 2024

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Consultant should have the following qualifications:

- University degree in a relevant academic field (political science, social sciences, economics, law or similar)
- Substantive knowledge on illicit financial flows, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering
- Knowledge of this topic in Africa would be an asset
- (for report 2) Expertise in asset recovery would be an advantage
- Excellent research and analysis skills

- Excellent writing/editorial skills
- Experience of working with clients in civil society, particularly advocacy-oriented NGOs, would be an advantage
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)

In addition, due to the European Commission procurement rules, application is open only to:

- Individual consultants (including a team of consultants)
- OR
- Legal persons established in one of the following countries:
 - EU / EEA Member States and the UK
 - IPA II beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Republic of North Macedonia)
 - Developing countries and territories, (included in the OECD-DAC list of ODA recipients), which are not members of the G20 group
 - Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) covered by Council Decision 2013/755/EU of 25 November 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested candidates may apply to one or more of the three assignments described above. The application should state your choice very clearly. You may choose to take on 2 assignments, or all 3 of them, but please make sure that your proposal is realistic in view of the relatively short timelines.

The application should include the following documents in English:

- Proposal including quotes
- Motivation letter and Curriculum Vitae
- One sample of relevant previous work (confidentiality guaranteed).

Please indicate “REAP consultancy” in the subject line of your email application. Applications should be sent in English by email to reap-consultancy@transparency.org by close of business of 14th July 2024.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Transparency International Secretariat is committed to creating an inclusive work environment where diversity is valued and where there is equality of opportunity. We actively seek a diverse applicant pool and therefore welcome applications from qualified candidates of all regions, countries, cultures, and backgrounds.

Selection of candidates is made on a competitive basis and we do not discriminate on the basis of national origin, race, colour or ethnic background, religious belief, sex, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation, marital or family status, age or ability. We kindly ask applicants to refrain from including in their application information relating to the above as well as from attaching photos.

REMUNERATION AND COSTS

The Consultants should provide their estimated total fee as a lump sum or as standard daily or hourly rates as **gross inclusive of taxes and other charges**.

Consultants who are based in Germany and do not charge German VAT must confirm their small entrepreneur status.

OTHER INFORMATION

All presentations and reports should be submitted in English, in electronic form, in accordance with the deadlines stipulated above. The Consultant is responsible for editing and quality control of language. The TI Secretariat retains the sole rights with respect to all distribution, dissemination, and publication of the deliverables.

Data protection

When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to dataprotection@transparency.org

Guidelines for handling overhead and travel expenses

Overhead

Regular overhead expenses associated with the Consultants maintaining their place of business, such as rent, telephone, utilities, or stationery, are included in the Consultant's professional fee, except where explicitly agreed otherwise in the contract.

Travel

Travel and accommodation expenses will as far as possible, and where applicable, be recovered from the institutions and companies hosting events or using the outputs provided by the Consultant.

Where such cost recovery is not possible, all travel is subject to prior approval by TI-S staff responsible for the financial management of the Project or TI Budget Line that will support the costs of travel. TI shall not issue travel advances to the Consultants. For accommodation or travel by air, rail, or coach, they will instead have to contact TI-S that will make travel arrangements on the Consultant's behalf.

All travel booked by TI-S will include **travel health and accident insurance** with worldwide coverage and Economy class only; accommodation will aim to achieve best value for money up to a 4-star category.

Consultants shall be entitled to invoice TI-S **only** for local transportation and visa cost (if applicable).

Subsistence allowance (per diems) and expenses for individual meals cannot be claimed. These are part of Consultant's business expenses.